



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 409 April 2026

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All copy must be received by midday on Thursday 23 April, preferably by email to:

orfordtrust@outlook.com or put through the Town Hall letterbox

Priority for inclusion is given to articles that are about or directly affect the community of Orford and Gedgrave and inclusion is subject to editing and availability of space. Contributors should be aware that this newsletter is published on the website of Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and the New Orford Town Trust (www.orfordparishandtrust.onesuffolk.net)

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 23 APRIL.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Following the recent resignation of a Parish Councillor there is currently a vacancy on Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and this will be filled by co-option at the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 15 April. Anyone wishing to be considered for this vacancy should write a letter to the Clerk to arrive before noon on Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Applicants must be eighteen years of age or over and have had their main residence or place of work in Orford, or within three miles of Orford, for the past twelve months. The Parish Council as a body also acts as the Trustee for the New Orford Town Trust. If you wish to discuss details of the role of a Parish Councillor, please call me at the office on 459172.

Marie Backhouse, Clerk/RFO to Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council, 01394 459172, clerk@orfordandgedgrave-pc.gov.uk

ORFORD SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

Coming up:

- Saturday 4 April, live music with Dr and the Epics
- Bike meet night, Thursday 9 April from 6pm
- Saturday 2 May, Aricho Roadshow disco
- Members coach trips to Cambridge Saturday 27 June, and Thursday 17 September Great Yarmouth
- Friday night club nights

Mark Smy, Secretary, 450358

TOMMY STANDEN

Tommy sadly died on Saturday, 14 March. His funeral will take place at Sudbourne Church on Friday, 17 April at 3pm and afterwards at Sudbourne Village Hall. Everybody is welcome.

IVY CALEY

The family of the Late Ivy Caley acknowledge, with thanks, the many messages of condolence in the loss of Ivy, an Orford resident for seventy-five years.

SUDBOURNE HALL CRICKET CLUB

Our beautiful ground in Sudbourne Park is looking resplendent in the spring sunshine, the daffodils have arrived and the outfield has had its first cut. With the cricket season beginning in the next couple of weeks, Rob Jenkin and his ground team have been hard at work

April dates for your diary

- Each Monday: badminton - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon
- Each Monday: art class - Bart's Hall, 10am-1pm, all welcome (tel 07714 644584 for more details)
- Each Monday and Wednesday: Methodist Chapel tea room, lunch, afternoon tea, 11am-4pm
- Each Tuesday: chair pilates - Orford Sports and Recreation Club, 11.30am-12.30pm (tel Suzanne Kearney for more details, 07944 991138)
- Each Tuesday: pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 7-9pm
- Each Wednesday: badminton - Orford Town Hall, 7-9pm
- Each Thursday: bellringing - Orford Church, 7.30pm
- Each Friday: Let's Dance for Goodness Sake - Orford Town Hall, 8.30-9.30am
- Each Friday: pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm
- Wednesday 1 April: Gardening Club - Garden visit, 2.30-4pm
- Saturday 4 April: Easter Egg Hunt - Orford Recreation Ground, 10am-12noon (see poster on the back page)
- Thursday 16 April: Bridge Club, Orford Town Hall, 4-6.30pm
- Thursday 16 April: Orford Museum Talk - Butley Priory, 6pm
- Friday 24 April: Talks for Thomas - Orford Town Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm

preparing the ground ahead of the first two league games at home against Ipswich and East Suffolk on Saturday 18 April and Walsham Le Willows on Saturday 25 April. (both 12.30pm start). Sudbourne's Saturday league team will again be competing in the Two Counties League Division 8 in the 2026 season. With Ian Lockyer again leading the side supported by a leadership team comprising Ed Robson, Ian Foll and John Moore.

Off the field, the committee have met regularly through the off season. Player recruitment has been at the top of the agenda. Rural clubs face a perennial struggle to exist and with the majority of the Sudbourne Hall playing group facing maturity rather than exuberant youth, the club are always on the lookout for new players who are committed to Saturday league cricket.

Jack Pynn will again be leading the junior cricket due to start in June. The club will also be running a number of social T20 fixtures on Thursday evenings in June and July and hope to run some social Women's softball cricket in July and August.

The Club is eternally grateful to all local supporters and Vice Presidents. The ever-popular Presidents Day will be on Sunday 19 July and VPs day will be on Saturday 15 August.

For further details please see www.sudbournhallcc.com. If you are interested in playing please contact andyhalliday1@me.com
Andy Halliday

ORFORD BRIDGE CLUB

The first meeting of the revived Orford Bridge Club, on 19 February, got us off to a great start with nineteen players on five tables.

Our third meeting is planned for Thursday 16 April, from 4-6.30pm, in the New Room of Orford Town Hall, light refreshments provided.

Thanks to the people who lent their card tables for the first evening. If anyone has a spare table they'd like to donate to the Club we'll be very happy to collect them.

Nine people have registered their interest in learning to play Bridge and we hope to start sessions for them very soon.

Please send us an email if you'd like to come to the next meeting/s or join the learners group: orfordbridgeclub@btinternet.com

Nick Edgerton and James Grogono

LET'S DANCE FOR GOODNESS SAKE

If you feel like a very high energy, upbeat and aerobic dance workout with guaranteed end-of-the-week 'feel good Friday energy' then join us every Friday morning 8.30-9.30am at Orford Town Hall.

Nothing too serious, no skills required, just be prepared to sweat it out to some great tunes with a fantastic trained dance instructor to show us the way.

The aim of setting up this group is not only for a Friday morning fitness dance gathering that gets us all smiling together into the weekend, but also to raise money for charities close to our hearts as we go - all profits made after venue hire, power and dance instructor fee, will go directly to selected charities chosen over the year.

So not only will we be doing ourselves good (getting the blood pumping, bringing on the endorphins, learning and remembering great dance moves — giving our brains a workout too — all with a serious focus on light-hearted fitness!!!) we'll also over the year be 'dancing for goodness sake!' Raising money while we raise our heart rates! What's there not to love!!!! A win win!

Come help us contribute to some local and national good causes while we - strut our stuff, get fit and have a laugh!

£10 a session for an hour of fun, toning, and doing good. Can't wait to see you!

Do contact me to let me know if you want more info or if you'd like to be added to the growing WhatsApp group and I'll add you - come give it a try. Your Fridays may never be the same again!!!

Jeannette Pearce, 07711 429312

TALKS FOR THOMAS

Our last talk in this series will be on Friday 24 April when Bill Crow, our local renown art historian, will be returning with 'More Tea Wallace?' From the exquisite Sevres porcelain tea sets loved by Madame de Pompadour to the luscious portrayals of the most beautiful women in England and France, Bill will present us with his take on the dazzling taste to be seen in the fabulous London Wallace Collection.

This talk will be held in the Town Hall in Orford. The evening starts at 6.30 pm with a glass of wine and some nibbles. The talk will commence at 7pm and last about an hour. Tickets cost £10. Contact Wendy Marshall on 01394 450090 or email contact@tmef.org.uk for places.

Wendy Marshall

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026, our fiftieth anniversary of the Gardening Club!!

We always welcome new members and guests...

Our next events...

Wednesday afternoon, 1 April, 2.30-4 pm, visit to 'Ramblers', Benhall Low Road, IP17 1JE, in aid of Parkinson's

Last year we had a wonderful visit to this garden and Brian Humphrey and his wife have invited us back to see their amazing magnolias which are coming into bloom out as I write. This is a month earlier than usual. Brian is now retired but worked for Hilliers and Notcutts before setting up his own business in Benhall and creating this magical garden. We can't wait to see this fascinating display.

Please book with me and pay £5 for members and £10 for guests Thursday evening, 9 April, 7.30pm, Orford Town Hall 'Auriculas and the Primrose Family', Luci Skinner of Greenways Beds and Borders

This will be Luci's fourth time coming to share her expert knowledge gained whilst at Woottens of Wenhaston. She propagated auriculas there for many years and helped build up their amazing range which is widely known in plant circles.

You may have heard of 'Auricula Theatres' which are used to display the plants to full advantage! If you are not familiar with them, now is the time to find out about this amazing plant and its fascinating story. She will be bringing plants for sale.

Jaime Blake 'Around the World in eighty Plants'

In March Jaime came to talk to us about his time at Blooms of Bressingham where he helped develop new cultivars from plants sourced around the world. These included crocosmias, agapanthus and a wide range of grasses. You will have seen many of them with 'Bressingham' in the title in local nurseries.

He also gave us some wonderful ideas of plant combinations such as Trilliums with Tulipa Sylvestris amongst others. Jaime's talk was illustrated with beautiful clear slides and he used anecdotes to make his talk more interesting.

Polly Sharkey, Chair, creativefutures98@btinternet.com

ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS AT BUTLEY PRIORY

Thursday 16 April, 6pm

Simon Pearson and Fiona Gorman: A Surgeon and a Maverick: The Life and Pioneering Work of Magdi Yacoub

Magdi Yacoub has been at the forefront of cardiac surgery for more than fifty years and, at the age of ninety, is still leading research in Britain and Egypt where his teams are developing heart valves from stem cells and pioneering new treatments. He was born and brought up in Egypt, where he studied medicine as a teenage prodigy and set out to become a cardiac specialist after a young aunt died from heart disease. In the early 1960s Yacoub moved to London to work with Professor Sir Russell Brock, one of the great pioneers of open-heart surgery. Ten years later, he joined the medical team at Harefield Hospital, a small rural hospital that he transformed into one of the world's leading cardiac centres. He performed some of the first heart transplants in Britain, the first heart-lung transplant in Europe, and developed new operations that improved the lives of millions of people, particularly children, across the globe.

Simon Pearson and Fiona Gorman are a husband-and-wife team of author/editors who both worked for *The Times* in London for more than thirty years. Their biography of Yacoub – published by the American University in Cairo Press – involved more than fifty interviews over two years with former patients, their families, Yacoub's colleagues, friends and rivals, not to mention many hours spent with Yacoub himself.

Simon has written three books, including *The Great Escaper: The Life and Death of Roger Bushell*, which was edited by Fiona, and became a *Sunday Times* bestseller.

Thursday 28 May, The Three Inch Fools will return to Butley Priory after their highly successful performance last August of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with an epic tale of Arthurian adventure and medieval mayhem entitled *King Arthur and the Holy Fail*. In a land of daring quests, dashing knights, and endless jousting, there lived a would-be hero (waiting in the wings) who went by the name of Arthur. When Camelot is rocked to its core by a tragic - and frankly improbable - incident involving a large table of an undisclosed shape, Arthur is thrust into the quest of a lifetime. Will he bravely battle through blistering cold and

scorching fire to save his beloved realm, or will he crumble as fate refuses to cooperate? Destiny awaits, chivalry calls, and the quest to end all quests begins. Saddle up - things are about to get legendary.

The performance will start at 5pm and last until 7pm (doors open at 4.45pm). It will take place outdoors, so please bring chairs, rugs and a picnic. There will be a twenty-minute interval. The show will go on unless the weather forces a postponement in which case it will be re-scheduled to a future date.

After the resounding success of the first *Son et Lumière* at Butley Priory in August 2025, Orford Museum is delighted to announce a *Son et Lumière* at Orford Castle on Friday 14 August 2026. In collaboration with English Heritage, the historical drama is set over nine centuries and is an extravaganza of music and lights retelling the Castle's turbulent history. From Henry II's iron fist to Queen Eleanor's fiery defiance, Becket's tragedy to a mysterious sea creature, flaming arrows to the Home Guard and from the Marquess of Hertford's lavish parties to moonlit ghosts... It's all there.

Actors with a deep affection and affinity for Suffolk including David Morrissey (narrator), Mackenzie Crook, Toby Jones, Anna Maxwell Martin, Miranda Raison, Diana Quick, Harry Michell, Paul Casar, Max Norman, Geogia Mann and Steve Peck play a cast of memorable characters. Music over the centuries is arranged by Graeme Kay and, of course, will include that of our very own Benjamin Britten and Ed Sheeran.

Events for autumn 2026 include a concert of medieval music in September, a talk by John Goodall, Architectural Editor of *Country Life* in October and, in November, a return visit by renowned historian, Alison Weir. In December, we will be showing two Suffolk films, *Merman* and *The Dog that Couldn't Bark*, followed by question and answer sessions with the directors/producers.

Go to our website at www.orfordmuseum.org for details of all our events and how to book.

All talks and events held at Butley Priory take place there by kind permission of Edward and Clare Greenwell to whom Orford Museum is very grateful. The proceeds from all our events go to Orford Museum.

Watch out also for details of our Silent Auction – amazing prizes to be had!

Elizabeth Spinney

APRIL AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Friday 3 April: Good Friday
 4pm Stations of the Cross at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds
 Sunday 5 April: Easter Day
 8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds
 10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall
 Sunday 12 April: Second Sunday of Easter
 10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall
 Sunday 19 April: third Sunday of Easter
 11am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Diana Grayburn, Church Warden, 450771

APRIL AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Friday 3 April Good Friday Service at 11am followed by lunch
 Sunday 5 April Easter Resurrection Praise at 10.30am – followed by an Easter Egg Hunt
 Sunday 12 April 10.30am Stephen Caley
 Sunday 19 April 10.30am Rev Saul
 Sunday 26 April 10.30am Rev Vivienne Smith – Communion Service
 Sunday 3 May 10.30am Stephen Caley

You are invited to join with us for any of our services or meeting – refreshments are served after the morning services.

Chapel Tea Room – now open from 11am–4pm every Monday and Wednesday. Some Saturday openings will soon appear! We have a varied lunch time menu plus lots of cake, scones etc. and plenty of tea and coffee.

The completion of the eight sessions of the 'Big Story' Bible Course with a time of reflection gave us an insight of the timeline of the Bible and with both historical and future understandings. And with good news, we plan to commence the Alpha Course as soon as possible.

The young people and older folk enjoyed a 'Birthday' Saturday recently with lunch and birthday cake. Plenty of 'brain teasing' games added to the fun. Pot plants were distributed to the congregation at the Mothering Sunday Communion service concluding with scones and cake.

Stephen Caley

APRIL AT THE PENINSULA PRACTICE

DAY	ALDERTON	ORFORD	ALDEBURGH
Monday	8.00 to 14.30	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 18.30
Tuesday	8.00 to 18.30	CLOSED	8.00 to 18.30
Wednesday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 13.00	8.00 to 18.30
Thursday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 13.00	8.00 to 18.30
Friday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 13.00	8.00 to 18.30

www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk or **01394 411641**
<https://www.facebook.com/ThePeninsulaPracticeGPSurgery/>

OSLOF invites you to our

EASTER EGG HUNT!

In aid of Orford Primary School

Saturday 4th April

Orford Recreation Ground

£3 per child

10:00 – 12:00
(Egg Hunt at 10:30)

Refreshments • Tombola • Raffle • Games
Welly Throwing • Lucky Dip!

A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE. TOGETHER.

We all want to live in a safe and strong community

JOIN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Go to ourwatch.org.uk or scan the QR code.

Take three steps for a safer you, your family and your community:

1. It's **FREE** to sign up and receive the important local **Suffolk Connected** Police and Neighbourhood Watch messages. So you are in the know!
2. Try the postcode search "Find your local NW" and join your local Neighbourhood Watch.
3. If no local scheme you can set up a new one where you live by clicking on "Start a new scheme". We will be in touch to help and provide free materials including street-signs and membership leaflets.

Contact enquiries@suffolknwa.co.uk for additional advice and guidance.

Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

We are grateful for financial support from Tim Passmore, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk

www.suffolknwa.co.uk

Contact Suffolk Constabulary
Non-emergency: 101
Emergency: 999
Report Online: suffolk.police.uk

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.
crimestoppers-uk.org

► THOMAS ► MARSHALL ► EDUCATION ► FUND

TALKS FOR THOMAS

Thomas Marshall Education Fund is delighted to host another talk in the latest season of entertaining and enlightening presentations with

BILL CROW

More Tea Wallace?

From the exquisite Sevres porcelain tea sets loved by Madame Pompadour to the luscious portrayals of the most beautiful women in England and France, Bill presents us with his take on the dazzling taste to be seen in the fabulous London Wallace Collection.

He also touches on the links between the Wallace Collection, Sudbourne Hall and Orford Town Hall.

Friday 24th April 2026
Town Hall Market Hill Orford

The evening starts at 6.30pm with wine and nibbles.
The talk will begin at 7.00pm
and the evening will finish around 8.00pm

Please book your tickets, £10 in advance, from Wendy Marshall on 01394 450090 or email contact@tmef.org.uk

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

WE NEED YOU!

Do you work from home or locally?
Are you looking for a new challenge?
Your local fire station needs people like you to become On-Call Firefighters.

Visit: suffolk-firefighters.co.uk/careers or scan the QR code to find out more! Rise to the challenge - join our team!