



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 381 December 2023

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All copy must be received by midday on Wednesday 13 December 2023, 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 JANUARY 2024 ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER. PLEASE NOTE EARLY COPY DATE

TOWN HALL OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Clerk will be working until 11am on Tuesday 19 December, and the Trust Clerk until 11am on Thursday 21 December. The office will then be closed for the Christmas break. Normal hours will resume from 9am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

We'd like to thank all the Parish Council and Trust staff for their work over the past year, and on behalf of the Parish Council and Trust would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Anne Macro and Ian Thornton, Chairmen, OGPC and NOTT

REQUEST FROM ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council have been made aware of some issues regarding the provision and cost of Secondary School transport. We would therefore be very interested to hear any personal views and experiences you may have regarding this service, via email to Marie Backhouse, Clerk to Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council (email: orfordtownhall@outlook.com).

Marie Backhouse

CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The annual Carols around the Christmas tree will take place on Wednesday 20 December at 6.30pm on the village green outside Orford General Store. Music will be provided by the Woodbridge Excelsior Band, so please do come and join in with the singing and enjoy what is always a great start to the festive season.

Anne Macro, Chairman, Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council

FRIENDS OF ORFORD COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

The Friends of Orford Community Interest Company (the CIC) was formed with the sole aim that the village of Orford should retain a village store and post office in perpetuity. The Parish Council registered the Friends Garage site as an Asset of Community Value in 2019, and we hope that it will be possible to retain part of it as a commercial site for the permanent benefit of the village. We have developed a plan in consultation with the Parish Council and the prospective developer and it is now for the developer to take this forward to planning. The CIC will now be dissolved, and any ongoing consultation will be with the Parish Council.

The Parish Council would like to publicly thank the CIC for all of their hard work over several years to ensure that part of this development is retained with a community benefit.

CIC/Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council

December dates for your diary

- Each Monday: badminton - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon
- Each Monday (except bank holidays): Coffee and Chat - Orford Sports and Recreation Club, 10.30am-12.30pm (meeting on Monday 4, 11 and 18 December)
- Each Wednesday: chair pilates - Orford Sports and Recreation Club, 11am-12noon
- Each Monday and Wednesday: Methodist Chapel tea room, lunch, 11am-2pm (for more info see Methodist Chapel entry on p2)
- Each Wednesday: badminton - Orford Town Hall, 7-9pm
- Each Friday: Bart's Hall warm room, hot soup lunch - Bart's Hall, 12.30-2.30pm, continuing throughout December (lunch on 15 December will be in the New Room of Orford Town Hall)
- Friday, now **EVERY WEEK** : pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm
- Saturday 2 December: Church Bazaar - St Bartholomew's Church, from 2pm
- Sunday 3 December: Orford Festive Makers Market - Orford Town Hall, 10am-4pm
- Sunday 3 December: Brass band concert in aid of TMEF - St Bartholomew's Church, 3pm
- Thursday 7 December: Gardening Club AGM and Social Supper - Orford Town Hall
- Friday 8 December: Talks for Thomas: Bart's Hall, 6.30 for 7pm
- Friday 15 December: Orford School Christmas Fair - Orford School, 3-6pm
- Saturday 16 December: Aldeburgh Music Club concert - St Bartholomew's Church, 3pm
- Wednesday 20 December: carols around the Christmas tree - village green outside Orford General Store, 6.30pm

WARM ROOM: FRIDAY SOUP AT ST BART'S HALL, 12.30-2pm

All are welcome to join us for a simple soup lunch followed by coffee and cake. There is no charge but donations are welcome.

Christmas Warm Room Openings: The warm room will be open as usual on Friday 22 December and Friday 29 December. Please note that there is an event in Bart's Hall on December 15, so the Warm Room will be in the Town Hall New Room.

For further information contact Caroline Gill 07799 655825.

Caroline Gill

ORFORD SCHOOL: ORFORD CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 15 December at Orford School, 3pm to 6pm.

Raffle (with some incredible prizes), tombola, lucky dip, cakes and refreshments, crafts, face painting and much more! Please come and join us to help raise money for our beloved Orford School. Last year we successfully raised £1800, and this year we have set a target of £2000. If we succeed reaching this target, a group of fathers of Orford School children will surprise us with a special performance in the school playground before the term ends. Please come along, have fun and help us hit our target for the school.

Daisy Fellowes, Chairman, Orford School League of Friends (OSLOF)

ORFORD COUNTRY MARKET

The last market of 2023 will be on Saturday 23 December and we will reopen on 13 January 2024.

There will be a raffle in aid of Cancer research UK and free refreshments (mince pies mulled wine etc.) The raffle will be drawn at 11am on 23 December. If anyone would like to make a donation for raffle prizes or buy tickets, please pop into the market on Saturday mornings, or contact Maria on 450661.

Maria Brenchley

ORFORD BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

What a night! All of us on the committee would like to send out a massive thank you to everyone who helped make this year's event a real success. Whether you helped in the lead-up to the night or on the night it all counted and helped it be what it was. We would like to send out an extra special thank you to Orford Meat Shed, The Mixing Bowl, Raydon Hall Farm, Sewell Hewitt Farm, 3 Ms at Bentwaters, Pinneys of Orford, New Orford Town Trust, Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council, Fireworks Crazy and GAH of Bentwaters.

I know most of you are wanting to know how much we raised on Saturday 11 November, so here it is... we raised a massive £1150. We cannot thank enough those who donated, and all the proceeds will go into making next year that much better.

Again, a massive thank you to every single one of you.

Orford Bonfire and Fireworks Committee

TALKS FOR THOMAS

A packed Bart's Hall in October was the location for the first of the Talks for Thomas, a Thomas Marshall Education Fund event, arranged to raise much-needed funds to advance the education, training and life skills of young people of Mozambique.

Graeme Kay was our first speaker. With the immortal words 'what is said in Bart's Hall stays in Bart's Hall' we were certainly entertained. Graeme talked us through his experience of a Scottish childhood through to singing, music publishing and working at the BBC – at a lively tempo. Thank you, Graeme, for a marvellous start to the talks.

By the time you read this our November talk will have taken place – local author Jack Cooke discussing his view from the treetops and inviting us to leave the earthbound world.

Our December Talk for Thomas is on Friday 8 December and Sarah Hardy, another local author, will talk about her novel *The Walled Garden*. It is set in 1946 on the Suffolk coast. Men returning from war may have healing bodies, but their psychological wounds run deep. Yet it is everyone who is scarred by war – those who fought as well as those left behind. It's a wonderful book about love, the trauma of war, and the miracle of human resilience. Sarah writes beautifully, in a gentle and powerful way and these issues are very much part of our world today.

In January 2024, take a deep dip into the oceans with Mike Finney and listen to a few tales of derring-do... and others... from a Cold War submariner. He will cover a brief synopsis of his career, what they did in boats, why they did and how they did it. From joining submarine school as a teenager to commanding a nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarine some 15 years later, and serving in all classes of Royal Navy submarine in between, Mike's 'Life in Steel Tubing' is presented on Friday 5 January, 2024.

And save the date of Friday 23 February 2024 for Andy Halliday's talk on 'Bombs, Bullets and Banter' which will cover his thirty years in the Metropolitan Police alongside a career in international hockey as an athlete and coach. More details next month.

All talks take place in Bart's Hall, Broad Street, Orford. They begin at 6.30pm with wine and nibbles, will start at 7pm and finish around 8pm.

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

Katherine Silver-Murphy

DECEMBER AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

All are warmly welcomed to join is at St Bartholomew's, Orford and our neighbouring churches for:

Sunday 3 December

Sung Holy Communion, 9.30am Rev Giles Tulk

Carols by Candlelight, 6pm at Chillesford Church

Sunday 10 December

11am Holy Communion, Rev Giles

4pm Family Christingle Service at Sudbourne - Rev Giles

Christingle oranges given to all children and refreshments after the service

Christmas at St Bartholomew's:

Sunday 17 December

6pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols with choir and organ

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service

10pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25 December, Christmas Day

10am Family Service with Guy Marshall

9.30am Holy Communion at Sudbourne - Rev Dr Stephen

January

Sunday 7 January

Epiphany, 9.30am Sung Holy Communion - Rev Giles

A CHURCH NEAR YOU WEBSITE www.achurchnearyou.com provides details of all church services and events in the local area. For further information contact the Team Rector: Rev Giles Tulk, 01394 450610, revgileswtr@gmail.com

Events in church

- Saturday 2 December, 2pm, Church Bazaar
- Sunday 3 December, 3pm, Brass Band Concert in aid of TMEF
- Saturday 16 December, 3pm, Aldeburgh Music Club Carols including Britten's A Ceremony of Carols. Tickets available from the Aldeburgh Music Club website. Unreserved £10, and under 18s £8. Further information from Caroline Gill 07799 655825.

Looking ahead

- Saturday 2 March 2024: Friends of St Bartholomew's Church Quiz Night and Supper in the Town Hall.

Rev Giles Tulk

DECEMBER AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 3 December ADVENT SUNDAY

10.30am Stephen Caley – monthly Sunday

Lunch follows

Sunday 10 December 10.30am Service arranged locally

Sunday 17 December 10.30am The Dr Who Nativity with carols

Christmas Eve Communion 10.30am – Rev Saul

Christmas Day service 10.30am

New Year's Eve Service of Light, 10.30am

There's always a warm invitation to everyone to join us – children are welcome too with their own 'Sunday morning' activity. Refreshments are served afterwards.

Chapel Tea Room December opening: Monday 4 and 11, Wednesday 6 and 13 December. Reopens at 11am on 8 January 2024. Christmas Lunch will be served on Wednesday 13 December at 12.30pm – let us know if you wish to join us for this festive meal. A Grand Raffle will be held throughout December. There are always plenty of crafts for sale – for that extra special Christmas gift!

The Remembrance Sunday Service was thought-provoking and called to mind family members who have served in world conflicts. Billy Doy (Framlingham) gave the Exhortation and the sounds of Big Ben striking the eleventh hour gathered us for silence. The names from the War Memorials of Orford and Sudbourne were displayed amongst an array of poppies. After the service a warming Autumn lunch was much appreciated and gave us time to 'catch up' with friends.

Our seasonal and many THANKS to all our supporters, near and far.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Stephen Caley

ORFORD SAILING CLUB

Another year almost over, the dinghies are packed away and the cruisers have left their moorings. The place looks bare when compared with the hive of activity over the summer. Looking back, it has been an enjoyable and successful sailing season, starting with the Spring series of races on 1 April and ending with the last Frostbite race on 29 October. The Club caters for a wide variety of boats and sailors of all abilities and ages. There could be a traditional gaff rigged Mirror racing against a fast streamlined single-handed Laser or a Topper with a young sailor, but a handicap system applied to their overall times reveals the best sailor - David Pegg and Tom Nash this year.

However, the highlight for many was seeing the Orford Primary School children out on the river in our boats with our instructors on Wednesday evenings in the summer, learning to sail, having a great time and screaming with delight as they practised capsizing drill. Several went on to do RYA courses at the Club and gain certificates. We hope to see them back next year- with lots more local children.

We welcome new members so if interested, please contact Jill Robinson, davidandjillosc@btinternet.com

Penelope Murley

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Crocuses in Orford

On a very wet October morning, members of the gardening club planted 1000 crocus bulbs on the triangle of ground opposite the school. They are the same variety – Tommasianus Barr's Purple – that were planted in the churchyard a couple of years ago and should spread and naturalise. Besides cheering up the village in February and March, they will provide nectar for bees waking early from hibernation.

Soirée with Jevan Watkins-Jones 'Groundness'

Whilst Jevan was holding his exhibition at The Watch House down by the Quay, we gathered together a few members for an impromptu get together to discuss the relationship between art and gardening which was the basis of his work. We had an interesting twilight session.

Xa Tollemache 'A garden well placed: A designer's harmony between house and garden'

As I write, tickets are going well for the above event on 18 November and I will report back in the next edition.

AGM and Social Supper, 7 December 2023

This is always a lively event for members wrapping up the past year and looking forward to the next one!

Trailer for 2024 Programme

- 11 January: James Horner, Head Gardener at Benton End, 'Reviving Cedric Morris' Garden at Benton End'
- 8 February: Katy and Joey of Husk Supper Club about using local ingredients, especially fruit and vegetables and preserving with tastings!
- 13 February: Private Snowdrop Tour at Anglesey Abbey
- 16 March: Jon Mason 'Creating a Wild Garden at Little Orchard'
- 27 March: Spring Visit to The Old Rectory
- 4 April: Luci Skinner 'Pelargoniums, an Exploration of the Genus' and plants for sale!
- 2 May: Peter Blake 'Knowing and Growing Ferns'
- 6 June: Garden Party at Gedgrave Hall

We welcome new members at any time of the year, but January 2024 is a great time to join us!

£15 annual fee with additional costs to cover some trips or £5 as a guest at an event

Polly Sharkey, (Chair), creativefutures98@btinternet.com, 01394 450959

KAREN DOWNING PORCELAIN 'STUDIO SALE'

Come do your Christmas shopping – hand thrown porcelain tableware perfect for presents. All are welcome, it would be lovely to see you! Bart's Hall, Broad Street, IP12 2LG. Friday 15 December 5.30–7.30pm and Saturday 16 December, 10am–4pm

karen@karendowning.co, www.karendowning.co





01394 450235

We can help with any of the following:

- Friendship and companionship
- Collection of medication
- Shopping
- Dog walking / feeding pets
- Form filling and help with technology
- One-off garden tidy
- Minor household repairs
- A healthy meal
- Transport to hospital and GP appointments
- Provision of a personal care alarm and key safe
- A Community Larder located in the entrance to the King's Head car park
- Weekly trip to Woodbridge (£2 charge)
- Support for anyone who is impacted by a scam
- Monday Coffee & Chat and Friday Soup
- Other activities as requested and agreed

Thank you and Happy Christmas to our wonderful volunteers and the local organisations who support us: The King's Head; Orford & District Surgery CIO; Orford General Stores, Orford Sports & Recreation Club; New Orford Town Trust; Pump Street Bakery; St Bartholomew's Church

Christmas Bazaar

St Bartholomew's Church Orford

Saturday 2nd December 2023 from 2.00pm

OSLOF activity table

Christmas Stall

Guess the weight of the cake

Refreshments

Bric-a-Brac

Cakes

Raffle

Mulled Wine

Fun for all the family

Bottle Tombola

Refresh yourselves with delicious mulled wine, mince pies, tea and cakes and enjoy Nick Raison playing your seasonal favourites on the piano

Proceeds to St Bartholomew's Church and the Thomas Marshall Education Fund

DECEMBER UPDATE FROM 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

Staff training is important for our practice. On the following days, surgery sites are closed from 13:00 until the following day. The specified site is open for booking future appointments and accessing repeat prescriptions: Wednesday 6 December 2023 – Aldeburgh; Thursday 8 February 2024 – Alderton. All calls will be redirected to 111.

Wishing you a happy winter holiday

On behalf of the staff at Peninsula Practice, we would like to wish you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

We will be closed on the bank holidays over Christmas and the New Year (25 and 26 December 2023, 1 January 2024) – please call 111 if you need medical help, or 999 in an emergency. We will be open as usual over the rest of the festive period; you can call us for an appointment, or log into your online account – please see our appointments page on our website for more information about these options.

www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk or 01394 411641

<https://www.facebook.com/ThePeninsulaPracticeGPSurgery/>

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

ORFORD GENERAL STORE

Usual hours except for
Christmas Eve: 9am-3pm
Christmas Day: CLOSED
Boxing Day: CLOSED
New Years Day: CLOSED

Last customer order dates:

Butchery: Friday 1 December
Delicatessen: Monday 18 December
Bread and Rolls, Bakehouse: Thursday 21 December
Harvey's: Wednesday 20 December
Milk and cream: Thursday 21 December by 2pm
Vegetables: Friday 22 December
All other requests - as soon as possible.

ROYAL MAIL LAST POSTING DATES, UK

Monday 18 December: second class and Signed For second class
Wednesday 20 December: first class and Signed For first class
Thursday 21 December: Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed by 1pm
Friday 22 December: Royal Mail Special Delivery by 1pm with Saturday Guarantee

ROYAL MAIL LAST POSTING DATES, INTERNATIONAL

Orford General Store is aware that there are many delays with customs so early posting is advised.
Each item has to be declared, including multiple items in one parcel. For each item a detailed description is required with weight and value.
Wednesday 6 December: Africa, Asia (inc China), Australia, Caribbean (except British Virgin Islands, Dominica and Anguilla), Central America, Hong Kong, Japan, Middle East, New Zealand, South America
Thursday 7 December: Cyprus, Malta
Friday 8 December: Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia), Greece, Hungary
Monday 11 December: Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, USA
Wednesday 13 December: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, Switzerland

PUMP STREET BAKERY

Usual hours except for
Christmas Eve: 10am-1pm for collection of pre-orders only
Christmas Day-Wednesday 27 December: CLOSED
Then usual hours

ORFORD COUNTRY MARKET

The Market will be open as usual on Saturday 23 December, before closing for a few weeks and reopening on Saturday 13 January 2024.

ORFORD MEAT SHED

Tuesday 19 December: 9am-3pm
Wednesday 20 December: 9am-3pm
Thursday 21 December: 9am-3pm
Friday 22 December: 9am-3pm
Saturday 23 December: 9am-1pm
Sunday 24-Thursday 28 December: CLOSED
Friday 29 December: 9am-1pm
Saturday 30 December: 9am-1pm
Then CLOSED, re-opening on Wednesday 24 January 2024

WARM ROOMS

Monday's Coffee and Chat will be open on Monday 4, 11 and 18 December (this one with a festive theme!), and will then close for a break, restarting on Monday 5 February.

Friday's hot soup lunch will continue on each Friday through December at Bart's Hall (except for the lunch on Friday 15 December which will take place in the New Room of Orford Town Hall).

THE KING'S HEAD

	Bar	Food
Monday 18 December	CLOSED ALL DAY	
Tuesday 19 December	12-3pm 5.30-10pm	12-2.30pm 6-8.30pm
Wednesday 20 December	12-3pm 5.30-10pm	12-2.30pm 6-8.30pm
Thursday 21 December	12-3pm 5.30-10pm	12-2.30pm 6-8.30pm
Friday 22 December	12-11pm	12-2.30pm 6-8.30pm
Saturday 23 December	12-11pm	12-2.30pm 6-8.30pm
Christmas Eve	12 to late	12-4pm
Christmas Day	12-2pm	NO FOOD
Boxing Day	12-5pm	12-3pm Boxing Day Brunch Menu
Wednesday 27 December	CLOSED ALL DAY	
Thursday 28 December	12-3pm 5.30-10pm	12-2.30pm Twixmas Quiz & Nibbles
Friday 29 December	12-11pm	12-2.30pm 6-8.30pm
Saturday 30 December	12-11pm	12-2.30pm 6-8.30pm
New Year's Eve	12 to late	12-2.30pm 6-8pm
	LIVE MUSIC	Pre-booked only
New Year's Day	12-5pm	12-3pm New Year Brunch Menu
Tuesday 2 January	CLOSED ALL DAY	
Wednesday 3 January	NORMAL HOURS RESUME	

JOLLY SAILOR

Generally normal hours (from 12 daily until at least 10pm every night except for Sundays where we operate 12-9pm: food served from 12-3pm and 5.30-8.30pm weekdays, food served from 12-9pm on Saturdays and 12-7.30pm on Sundays).

Christmas Day: drinks 12-4pm and pre-booked dining only
Boxing Day: 12-6pm for drinks and dining 12-4pm (booking recommended)
New Year's Eve: food pre-booked only 6-8pm, and then a ticketed dinner and dance (buffet with live music) and a glass of fizz from 8pm. Open from 12-late on New Year's Eve for drinks.
New Year's Day: open for drinks 12-6pm and food served 12-4pm (booking recommended)



The editors and Leiston Press
wish all readers of Village Voice
a Merry Christmas and a happy
and healthy New Year

