



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 407 February 2026

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Although published and funded by Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and New Orford Town Trust, Village Voice is totally unbiased in its reporting.

The Council therefore holds no responsibility for its content except that submitted by and on behalf of the Council or Trust.

All copy must be received by midday on Thursday 19 February, 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 MARCH ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Following the recent resignation of a Parish Councillor there is currently a vacancy on Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council. If no by election is called, then we anticipate that the vacancy will be filled by co-option at the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 11 March.

Anyone wishing to be considered for this vacancy should write a letter to the Clerk to arrive before noon on Tuesday 10 March 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

VILLAGE FUND

The New Orford Town Trust has already made grants to several local organisations from its Village Fund. The next applications will be considered in February and should be submitted to the Clerk, preferably by email, by 9am on Tuesday 17 February. Please contact the Clerk for more information and an application form.

Kara Reed, Clerk to New Orford Town Trust, orfordtrust@outlook.com, 01394 459172

PARISH COUNCIL THANK YOUS!

Thanks to the New Orford Town Trust for the purchasing of the Christmas trees and thank you to the local firemen for erecting and taking away of the trees.

Thank you to Orford & District Flower Show for providing the entertainment for the children's Christmas party. This was a really successful event and enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to New Orford Town Trust who provided the funding for the gifts and thank you for Father Christmas for taking the time to join us. The food was also kindly donated by The Mixing Bowl, and this was enjoyed by all attending.

The Carol Service on the village green event was well supported, and thanks go to Woodbridge Excelsior Band for

February 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-2pm
- 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: pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon
- Each Friday: Friday Soup - Bart's Hall, 12.30-2pm
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm
- Wednesday 4 February: Alzheimer's Society drop in - Sports and Recreation Club, 10.30am-12.30pm
- Saturday 7 February: Gardening Club talk - Orford Town Hall, 3pm
- Thursday 12 February: meeting with PC Jacqueline Abbott - New Room of Orford Town Hall, 2pm
- Thursday 19 February: Bridge Club - Orford Town Hall, 4-6.30pm
- Friday 20 February: Talks for Thomas - Orford Town Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm
- Saturday 21 February: Quay Street Whalers - Jolly Sailor, 9pm

Orford Museum History Festival at Butley Priory

- Thursday 26 February: Richard Barber - Henry II and Orford Castle, 4-5pm
- Thursday 26 February: Frances Welch - The Lives and Deaths of the Princesses of Hesse, 6-7pm
- Friday 27 February: Mike Lowndes - Frederick Barnes, the man who made Victorian Orford, 4-5pm
- Friday 27 February: Nick Robinson - Politics and the Media: the power struggle from Dickens to Churchill to Trump, 6-7pm
- Saturday 28 February: Philip Webster in conversation with Martin Fletcher - From Heath to Brexit: a Look back at four tumultuous decades of British politics, 2-3pm
- Saturday 28 February: William Whyte - Unlocking the Church: the lost secrets of Victorian sacred space, 4-5pm
- Saturday 28 February: Ben Machell - Chasing the Dark: a 140-year investigation of paranormal activity, 6-7pm

keeping us all in tune, and The King's Head, Pump Street Bakery and the Brenchleys for all the refreshments.

Anne Macro, Chairman, Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council

BURGLARIES IN ORFORD

We are aware that there has been a spate of thefts from sheds and outbuildings in Orford as well as surrounding villages. Please do keep an eye out for anything unusual and do report any thefts to the police.

With this in mind PC Jacqueline Abbott has arranged to come to Orford on Thursday 12 February, at 2pm in the New Room of Orford Town Hall to speak to residents and allotment holders about their concerns over the recent spate of burglaries. She will have information and advice on how to secure and mark your property. She hopes to be able to provide a brief update on the investigation to date and can hopefully answer any questions or concerns raised, so please do come along.

Kara Reed, Clerk to New Orford Town Trust, 01394 459172, orfordtrust@outlook.com

ORFORD SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB

There's a slight change to the forthcoming events. 'Aricho Roadshow' is now on Saturday 2 May.

Live music, Saturday 4 April, 'Dr and the Epics' from 8pm. As always, everyone welcome and free entry.

Don't forget Friday night club nights and keep an eye on the board and Facebook page for bingo and darts nights.

Many thanks for your support.

Mark Smy, Secretary, 450358

LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY 2025

You will remember that Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council carried out a local housing needs survey in June 2025 and we are now able to give an update on the results and the planned next steps.

460 surveys were distributed and 135 were completed and returned, which is a healthy 29% return rate. Of the 135 surveys returned, thirteen respondents identified a housing need within Orford and Gedgrave. The majority were looking for social or affordable rent, but others were looking to buy either at market price, or at a discounted price. This response also corresponds with applications on the local housing register.

In general terms 93% of all respondents were in favour of a small development of affordable homes for local people. A copy of the report's executive summary can be found at www.orfordandgedgrave-pc.gov.uk

Given the need identified and the positive responses received, the Parish Council has agreed to move to the next stage. This would involve looking to identify a suitable site, including rural exception sites, and to identify a local housing association who ultimately would be responsible for delivering the project should suitable and affordable land be found.

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council

FORMER NEWSPAPER KIOSK

We have recently had the former newspaper kiosk spruced up. We wondered if there is anybody in the village who might be interested in using that area for something like a pop-up shop or something similar which we haven't thought of! If so, please do get in touch.

Kara Reed, Clerk to New Orford Town Trust, orfordtrust@outlook.com, 01394 459172

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY DROP IN SESSIONS

The Alzheimer's Society will be ending this service on 31 March so the last one in Orford, held at Orford Sports and Recreation Club, will take place on Wednesday 4 March 2026.

THANKS

Many, many thank yous to all those who bought this year's Dawn Diaries calendar in aid of Parkinson's UK. I'm delighted to say

that a total of £5,783 was raised and will go towards funding Parkinson's Nurse posts throughout the country. These specialists are a lifeline for the 166,000 people living with the condition in the UK, but currently over 30,000 of those diagnosed are without this support. That means around one in five people are missing out on the expert care they desperately need.

Parkinson's is a complex brain condition with over forty symptoms that gets worse over time. It is the fastest growing neurological condition in the world with someone being diagnosed every twenty minutes in the UK today. The cause is currently unknown.

Audrey Boyle

TMEF - TALKS FOR THOMAS

Continuing our current series of talks, Andy Halliday, former Specialist Firearms Officer, will be returning to deliver another of his talks on Friday 20 February titled 'No Plan Survives Contact!'. (Please note the change of date from the one previously advertised!)

Andy reflects on his experiences during the resurgent outbreak of terrorism in the late 90s and the fight against serious armed crime, including, intriguingly, how the ingenious use of a bottle of Fairy Liquid nearly led to the biggest cash robbery ever!

Mike Finney will be back on Friday 20 March with 'A Submariner in Kabul - out of his depth?

A talk about Mike's time in Kabul in 2008 running the NATO press office. 2008 was a year when Afghanistan's fragile security deteriorated, marked by bold terrorist attacks and growing signs that the conflict was intensifying, even within the capital city. The year saw increased Taliban activity, with attacks reaching closer to Kabul, challenging NATO's control and affecting everyday life. Interesting times!

And our last talk in this series will be on Friday 24 April when Bill Crow will be returning with '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 will present us with his take on the dazzling taste to be seen in the fabulous London Wallace Collection.

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

Wendy Marshall

ORFORD BRIDGE CLUB

We are reviving the Orford Bridge Club, meeting monthly, starting Thursday 19 February.

Venue: Orford Town Hall, New Room.

Time: 4-6.30pm

Cost: £2 per person to cover room hire, heating, and light refreshments.

We will play Chicago Bridge, with one couple moving on every four hands. You can play as a pair or as an individual (preferred). The objective is light hearted social bridge for 'intermediate' players. Longer term we hope to organise training for beginners too. Please forward this information to anyone else who might be interested.

Please let us know if you'd like to:

- 1) receive information updates by email?
- 2) come on Thursday 19 February?
- 3) join a beginners class at a future date?

Nick Edgerton and James Grogono, all communications by email please to orfordbridgeclub@btinternet.com

SUBBOURNE HALL CRICKET CLUB – PLAYERS WANTED!

The cricket season is only three months away. Now that's a thought to cheer us all up in January!

Sudbourne Hall Cricket Club are keen to recruit players for the new season. Once again the Saturday team will be competing in the Two Counties League. Junior cricket and T20 games will start later in June.

The Saturday league is competitive yet friendly. As with many rural teams, fielding eleven players every week can be a challenge so we are on a recruitment drive...

All are welcome to attend our winter nets. They begin in earnest on Sunday 15 February, 2-3pm. Venue: Thomas Mills School, Saxtead Road, Framlingham. IP13 9HE. Nets will then be at the same time and location every two weeks on 1, 15, 29 March and 12 April.

If you are interested in playing, coming to nets or supporting the club, please contact Andy on andyhalliday1@me.com

Andy Halliday

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 - our fiftieth anniversary of the Gardening Club!!

We're making it a very special year... We're welcoming many new members this year, as we did in 2025 so there is still the opportunity for you to join! It is £15 for a calendar year to include all the regular Town Hall events and our Garden Party. We make an extra charge for some events but always aim only to cover our costs. £5 for guests. Please contact me if you are interested...

Saturday 7 February:

Frances Tophill – 'Rewild your Garden: Create a haven for Birds, Bees and Butterflies'

As I write, I am very pleased to be able to say that we have now sold out of tickets for the above. I look forward to telling you about the event in my next edition!

Our 2026 Programme

- 5 March, Thursday evening: Jaime Blake - Chair of Norfolk and Suffolk Hardy Plant Society: 'Around the World in 80 Plants'
- 9 April, Thursday evening: Luci Skinner – Greenways Beds and Borders: 'Auriculas and the Primrose Family'
- Mid April – date to be arranged: Wednesday afternoon visit to 'Ramblers', Benhall Low Road to see Magnolias. In aid of Parkinsons
- 7 May, Thursday evening: Transition Woodbridge - 'Creating Wildlife Ponds and Water Features in Your Garden'
- 11 June, Thursday early evening:fiftieth anniversary celebration. Garden Party at High House, Orford with fizz, canapés and live music
- 8 July, Wednesday day coach trip. East Ruston Old Vicarage with stop at the Urban Jungle Norwich en route
- Saturday 29 August: Orford and Gedgrave Flower Show
- 10 September, Thursday evening: Andrew Brogan – Henstead Exotic Gardens - 'Exotic plants, cacti and succulents in my garden', plants for sale
- 8 October, Thursday evening: Richard Allenby-Pratt of the The Suffolk Project based at The Art Station, Saxmundham: 'Making the Most of your Flower and Garden Photographs'
- 7 November, Saturday afternoon, 3pm: Nick Bailey – Award Winning TV Presenter, author, garden designer and speaker, '365 Days of Colour in your Garden', following the success of our 2024 Event
- Thursday evening, 3 December: AGM and Social Supper

Polly Sharkey, Chair, creativefutures98@btinternet.com

FEBRUARY AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Sunday 1 February: Presentation of Christ in the Temple –

Candlemas

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

6pm BCP Choral Evensong for Candlemas – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 8 February: Second Sunday before Lent

8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall

Sunday 15 February: Sunday next before Lent

11am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Wednesday 18 February: Ash Wednesday

5pm Holy Communion with Ashes at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 1 March: second Sunday of Lent

9.30 am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Diana Grayburn, Church Warden, 450771

FEBRUARY AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 1 February 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 8 February 10.30am café-style Service

Sunday 15 February 10.30am An Agape Service

Sunday 22 February 1st Sunday in Lent

10.30am Service arranged locally

Sunday 1 March 10.30am Stephen Caley

You will be very welcome to join with us for any or all of these services. Refreshments are shared afterwards.

CHAPEL TEA ROOM – open every Monday and Wednesday from 11am, when you will find a warm space to relax and enjoy good food and browse the excellent range of arts and crafts, cards and preserves and much more.

SHROVE TUESDAY, 17 February. Soup and pancake lunch from 11am–2.30pm. Join with us for a lovely way to prepare for Lent!

The Bible Society's 'Bible Course – explore the BIG story' continues with sessions 3–6 each Wednesday through February at 3.30pm, with session 7 and the concluding session Wednesdays 4 and 11 March.

Saturday all-age Church commenced at the end of January and we hope to continue monthly with an informal time of worship also activities and including a light lunch from 11am–3pm.

With much rejoicing, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services were a real blessing. Lots of visitors sharing with us especially the (safe) Candlelight and Christingle Service followed with tea and cake, also the young people's very modern Nativity 'A Trip to the Theatre' (written and produced by themselves) and well presented. During the same service we happily received four friends, young and older, into Membership of the Methodist Church. Christmas Day and following services were all well attended. Many thanks to those who gave much time to decorate the Church and Tea Room with Christmas trees and lights.

Stephen Caley

ORFORD MUSEUM HISTORY FESTIVAL AT BUTLEY PRIORY

26 to 28 FEBRUARY 2026

- Thursday 26 February, 4–5pm: Richard Barber – Henry II and Orford Castle
- Thursday 26 February, 6–7pm: Frances Welch – The Lives and Deaths of the Princesses of Hesse
- Friday, 27 February, 4–5pm: Mike Lowndes – Frederick Barnes, the man who made Victorian Orford
- Friday 27 February, 6–7pm: Nick Robinson – Politics and the Media: the power struggle from Dickens to Churchill to Trump (Please note that this talk is now waiting list only)
- Saturday 28 February, 2–3pm: Philip Webster in conversation with Martin Fletcher – From Heath to Brexit: A Look Back at Four Tumultuous Decades of British Politics.
- Saturday, 28 February 4–5pm: William Whyte – Unlocking the Church: the lost secrets of Victorian sacred space.
- Saturday 28 February, 6–7pm: Ben Machell: Chasing the Dark: a 140-year investigation of paranormal activity.

Looking ahead to the spring and summer, we have a full programme of events planned, the first of which is: Thursday 16 April at 6pm: Simon Pearson and Fiona Gorman: A Surgeon and a Maverick: The Life and Pioneering Work of Magdi Yacoub.

Tickets for each of these talks cost £15 for Friends of Orford Museum and guests, and £20 for non-Friends. Please book through our website at www.orfordmuseum.org.uk where you will find full details of the talks and speakers.

Elizabeth Spinney

PILATES STUDIO

The Studio opened last September and we offer group mat Pilates classes as well as private/semi- private sessions. We also have two reformer machines so can offer sessions on the reformer too.

I'm at Unit 5 Bothy Yard, Sudbourne Park, IP12 2AJ and can be reached at www.movemoremovewell.co.uk, tel 07899 716920

Dawn Fazackerly-King

Memory and Information Activity Group

Would you like to know how to improve your memory? Do you have memory concerns or a dementia diagnosis?

Alzheimer's Society, working in partnership with Peninsula Practice, have a monthly group offering information, advice and peer support. A warm welcome and free refreshments provided.

Orford Sports and Recreation Club,
First Wednesday of every month 10:30 - 12:30
Free of charge and no appointment needed



 **The Peninsula Practice**



You will automatically receive an appointment for your long-term condition much like the Hospital does, by Email, NHS App, or letter.

You will automatically receive an appointment for your long-term condition in a **timely and organised** way, **without** you having to remember to contact the Surgery to book it.

All necessary **blood tests** will be done before your reviews. Your actual review appointment will usually be a **telephone consultation** with a member of our nursing team, but if you prefer, you can request a face-to-face appointment at the Surgery.

From April 2026 onwards, appointments will be automatically **scheduled in the month of your birth**.

To ensure you are reviewed at the correct time, you may notice this change before April if your birth month falls within the early part of the rollout.

We are excited about this change and expect it to provide better care, reduce delays in long-term condition reviews and make the process efficient.

01394 411641

 peninsula.practice@nhs.net

 <https://www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk>

FEBRUARY 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