



## The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 406 January 2026

**Edited by:** NOTT Clerk and OGPC Clerk    **Published by:** Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and New Orford Town Trust    **Printed by:** Leiston Press Ltd

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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 22 January, 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](http://www.orfordparishandtrust.onesuffolk.net))

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2026**

### TREASURER WANTED

New Orford Town Trust (a registered charity) is looking for a new Treasurer. The successful applicant must have a proven accounts background with experience in handling payroll, VAT, year-end procedures, and using Sage software. Excellent computer and administration skills are also a prerequisite. Knowledge of the charity world is desirable but not essential. Around 11 hours per week, salary negotiable according to experience. While some time in the office in Orford will be required, we see this as a hybrid role. Application deadline: 9am on Monday 12 January 2026.

For a role description and further information, or to apply with a CV and covering letter, contact:

Kara Reed, Clerk, New Orford Town Trust, Town Hall, Market Hill, Orford IP12 2NZ, email [orfordtrust@outlook.com](mailto:orfordtrust@outlook.com), Tel 01394 459172.

### FROM ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

It has been pointed out to us that someone has been putting bagged dog waste into other people's grey waste bins (sometimes newly emptied). There are plenty of dog waste bins in the village so please can dog walkers make sure they put the dog waste in the appropriate bins, as these are emptied regularly. Thank you.

**Marie Backhouse**, Clerk to Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council, 01394 459172, [clerk@orfordandgedgrave-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@orfordandgedgrave-pc.gov.uk)

### ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE EMERGENCY GROUP

The aim of the group is to help a community to prepare for local crises (like floods, power cuts, severe weather, cyber-attacks, pandemic, etc) by identifying risks, vulnerable people and local resources (halls, vehicles, volunteers) to support residents until professional help arrives. Local volunteers are key as they will have the knowledge of the village, as well as who is vulnerable and requires assistance. It is important to have a variety of talents within the group, people who have access to vital equipment, such as tractors, chain saws, 4X4 vehicles, generators, gas stoves, first aid equipment, etc. Residents are advised to have their own plan should an emergency occur. This may be in the form of bottled water, tinned food, cash, medication etc.

### January dates for your diary

- Each Monday: badminton - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon (not until late January)
- 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 (not until late January)
- Each Wednesday: badminton - Orford Town Hall, 7-9pm (not until late January)
- Each Thursday: bellringing - Orford Church, 7.30pm
- Each Friday: pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon (not until late January)
- Each Friday: Friday Soup - Bart's Hall, 12.30-2pm
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm (not until late January)

### A December date:

- Saturday 20 December: Quay Street Whalers - Jolly Sailor, 9pm

### January

- Wednesday 28 January: Orford Museum talk - Butley Priory, 6pm

If anyone would be interested in joining the group and can do anything from making a cup of tea to moving a fallen tree, then the group needs you. The group consists of volunteers, people who give up their time to help others in need.

For further information please contact Marie Backhouse, [clerk@orfordandgedgrave-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@orfordandgedgrave-pc.gov.uk) or the Chair, John Backhouse, [johnabackhouse@icloud.com](mailto:johnabackhouse@icloud.com)

### ORFORD SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB

Happy New Year from all at the Club, and don't forget we have live music New Year's Eve from 'Dave and John' from 8pm. Keep an eye on the board and Facebook page for bingo and darts nights, and don't forget Friday night club nights.

Further ahead, Saturday 21 February, Aricho Roadshow  
**Mark Smy**, Secretary, 450358

## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Well, talk about a very bizarre Bazaar for 2025! This was the first for our new vicar Mandy, who just took all the ups and downs in her stride. All had been going swimmingly with all the setting up and starting off of the Christmas Bazaar, then half an hour into it the lights went out and because of the interesting burning smell coming from the tower, we felt it prudent that the heating ought to be switched off as well just in case...

Thanks to Mike and Lydia Finney for then whizzing around the church stringing up extra runs of fairy lights and turning the church into a magical Christmas grotto.

I admit that it was a bit challenging for the stall holders to then see what they were doing, especially as the daylight faded outside, leading to a worrying moment on the Christmas Stall when a £50 note was mistakenly dispensed as a £10 note in change! But all was well, the note was recovered and everyone cheerfully soldiered on!

So thank you to all who helped on the various stalls or who came along and supported despite the lack of heating and lighting. Special thanks also must go to Piers and Suvi Pool from High House Farm for generously donating three large boxes of apples to sell. We raised about £1400 for the church funds and about £500 for the Thomas Marshall Education Fund, which is a great result.

The electrical problems were sorted out by the following afternoon by various electricians culminating in a gang of three from UK Power Networks coming and replacing several very elderly fuses and holders. They could not have been more helpful. Unfortunately, they could not get the work finished in time for the afternoon Brass Band Christmas concert which then had to be cancelled at the last minute. This was very disappointing for both the Band members and the TMEF trustees and also for everyone who had bought tickets or were planning on coming along.

Let's see what 2026 has in store for us all.

Happy New Year!

**Wendy Marshall**

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM TMEF

A very Happy New Year to all our friends and supporters.

We will be kicking off events for 2026 in February with the fourth in our current popular series of Talks for Thomas which are held in the Town Hall, starting at 6.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and include a glass of wine.

Andy Halliday, former Specialist Firearms Officer will be returning to deliver another of his talks on Friday 27 February – 'No Plan Survives Contact!'

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!

The March talk is still to be confirmed, so watch this space!

On Friday 24 April, Bill Crow will be returning with 'More Tea Wallace?' Bill's subject will be about his personal favourites from the Wallace Collection.

Looking further ahead in the year, T4Thomas will be on Sunday 7 June. So, make a note in your diaries to keep the day free to come along with friends and family and enjoy some delicious cakes, lunches and teas plus the odd glass of wine or beer if the mood takes you. The day will, of course, be gloriously sunny and dry!

For talk tickets contact Wendy on 01394 450090 or email [contact@tmef.org.uk](mailto:contact@tmef.org.uk)

**Wendy Marshall**

## ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Launching 2026, our fiftieth anniversary of the Gardening Club! We're making it a very special year...

Saturday 7 February, 3pm, Orford Town Hall

Frances Tophill – creator of a 2026 Chelsea Flower Show Garden for the King's Foundation – her first. 'Rewild your Garden: Create a haven for Birds, Bees and Butterflies'

Frances is a well-known young horticulturalist, author and TV personality. She is now coming to Orford to talk about rewilding a garden and she will suggest ways to increase biodiversity in our own gardens by using planting to encourage more birds, bees and butterflies. This is exemplified in her book 'Rewild Your Garden' which will be available to purchase along with her latest one 'A Wildflower Year'. She will also answer questions and we will all have afternoon tea.

Members £20 and Non-members £25 – book with Polly as below if places are still available

*The 2026 Programme will be available for collection too.*

Naturals by Donna Roche

Demonstration: Seasonal Floral Design – 'Garden to Bouquet'

In November Donna gave us a really informative afternoon about how to create swags and arrangements of seasonal flowers, seed heads and foliage. She shared her enthusiasm for being sustainable and gave us lots of tips and tricks including how to make the best of our daffodils and tulips and using environmentally friendly bases for arrangements. Also to change the water in our vases every few days to keep it fresh. Five floral displays were raffled in aid of Perennial and collected £82.

Thursday Evening 4 December 2025 – AGM and Social Supper

More than fifty of us enjoyed a delightful evening catching up with what has happened over the last year, enjoying a scrumptious meal provided by the Committee and socialising with each other, members new and old and their guests. Thank you to everyone for making it such a success.

Some of what is coming soon:

- Around the World in eighty Plants
- Auriculas and the Primrose Family
- Summer Garden Party
- Trip to East Ruston Old Vicarage
- Nick Bailey 365 days of colour in your garden

**Polly Sharkey**, Chair, [creativefutures98@btinternet.com](mailto:creativefutures98@btinternet.com)

## ORFORD MUSEUM

Monthly talks at Butley Priory

Wednesday 28 January: Gordon Corner - The Battle of Naseby 1645: The Starting Point of Modern Democracy

Victory for the parliamentary army at Naseby on 14 June 1645 brought about a shift in power that unleashed political, economic and social changes. These changes arguably propelled Britain to world hegemony over the next hundred years. It gave birth to the parliamentary democracy from which much of the world drew inspiration. It paved the way for the freer generation and flow of capital and ideas that fostered scientific and industrial revolutions.

Gordon Corner was a career naval officer for thirty-three years, half at sea in frigates, destroyers and HMY Britannia, then staff jobs in the MOD and NATO as a communications and intelligence specialist.

This talk will start at 6pm and last about an hour. Tickets cost £15 for Friends, £20 for guests and include a glass of wine (served from 5.30pm). Please book through our website at [www.orfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.orfordmuseum.org.uk)

Orford Museum History Festival at Butley Priory

26-28 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

- 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.

Tickets for each of these talks cost £15 for Friends of Orford Museum and £20.00 for guests. Please book through our website at [www.orfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.orfordmuseum.org.uk) where you will find full details of the talks and speakers.

**Elizabeth Spinney**

### JANUARY AT ST BATHOLEMEW'S

Sunday 4 January 2026: second Sunday after Christmas  
9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 11 January: Sunday of Epiphany  
8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds  
10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall

Sunday 18 January: second Sunday after Epiphany  
11am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 1 February: Presentation of Christ in the Temple – Candlemas  
9.30 am Holy Communion at Orford – 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

**Diana Grayburn**, Church Warden, 450771

### JANUARY AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 4 January EPIPHANY - Enter the Wise men  
10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 11 January 10.30am Informal café service

Sunday 18 January 10.30am Annual Covenant service with Communion – Rev Saul

Sunday 25 January 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 1 February 10.30am Stephen Caley

You will be very welcome to join with us for any of these all-age services with refreshments afterwards.

Chapel Tea Room – open every Monday and Wednesday from 11am with a 'winter lunch' menu including homemade soup and there's plenty of coffee, tea, scones and cake too. Call in and enjoy a relaxing time – there's many craft items, art, cards and preserves available to purchase!

The Bible Course – whether you're new to the Bible or want to go deeper, The Bible Course is for you. It shows how all the books, characters and events fit together to form one BIG story from Genesis to Revelation – you will be very welcome to join with us as we commence this course on Wednesday afternoons at 3pm starting on Wednesday 21 January.

We held three successful all-day Saturday, 'Crafts for Christmas' with many display stalls and with all the usual food available amidst the wonderfully decorated Christmas trees. Our many thanks to several volunteers and crafters who assisted.

Liz has been knitting hats in many different colours complete with pom-poms, and with the sale of these, together with some other items, has raised so far over £300 for Heart Research UK. Hats are still being knitted and are available, for a modest sum, at the tea room.

Recently our many electrical items have been PAT tested to bring us up to date with regulations and safe practice – we ponder further electrical measures when funds allow, which, hopefully, will enhance the church.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

**Stephen Caley**

### JANUARY AT THE PENINSULA PRACTICE

#### Welcoming the New Year

We hope that you had a restful winter break and enjoyed the bank holidays. As 2026 begins, please remember that your health is important and we're here to help – please contact us if you have any concerns about your health.

Staff training is important for our practice. On the following days, all surgery sites close from 1pm until the following day. All calls are redirected to 111: Thursday 12 February 2026

We offer an increasingly wide range of NHS services to our patients:

- In-person and telephone appointments
- Daytime, evening and weekend appointments
- Memory checks (if worried about dementia)
- Menopause management
- Same-day physiotherapy for acute musculoskeletal symptoms
- Full contraception services (eg coils) and sexual health
- Minor surgery including moles & lesions
- Steroid joint injections
- Ultrasound (by referral)
- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Single skin lesion clinic
- Social prescriber – support for non-clinical health and wellbeing needs
- Compassionate Companion service – to support end of life choices and care

*Also available at our practice are non-NHS services (charged):*  
Chiropody – foot care appointments & home visits • Ear care – wax removal (see website)

**[www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk](http://www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk) or 01394 411641**  
<https://www.facebook.com/ThePeninsulaPracticeGPSurgery/>

## Looking to prioritise your health in 2025?

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

Alzheimer's Society, working in partnership with Peninsula Practice, will be holding drop-in sessions at **Orford Sports and Recreation Club** once a month. Refreshments will be provided.

On the first Wednesday of each month 10:30 – 12:30  
Starts Wednesday 2nd April 2025, no appointment needed



Together we are help & hope  
for everyone living with dementia

# ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN



...FLOOD, TIDAL SURGE, STORM, FIRE, POWER LOSS, EXTREME WEATHER,  
VILLAGE ISOLATION...



**IN THE EVENT OF A LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY CALL 999 AND  
ADVISE A MEMBER OF THE EMERGENCY GROUP. FOR ANY OTHER  
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE  
EMERGENCY GROUP**

The first member of the **EMERGENCY GROUP** to become aware of an emergency will immediately convene a meeting of all members of the **GROUP** at the Town Hall.

The **EMERGENCY GROUP** will assess the risk posed to the community and use the map in the Hall to identify persons at risk.

They will ensure that the appropriate emergency services (fire, police, ambulance, red cross) have been alerted.

They will plan the action needed and contact the **COMFORT GROUP** to prepare the Town Hall, the **ATLAS GROUP** for physical assistance, and other resources as necessary.

The Town Hall will be made ready to receive those in need of refuge (who should bring blankets, duvets, food, drink and personal medication).

If evacuation is required urgently then whistles and horns will be sounded in the risk areas to identify an emergency.

## EMERGENCY GROUP

John Backhouse (Chair)	01394 450919	07912 317778	johnabackhouse@icloud.com
Anne Macro	01394 450741	07704 310910	annemacro123@gmail.com
Sue Johnston	01394 450469	07928 099293	suejohnston1@gmail.com
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Michael Finney	01394 450093	07783 994157	mikefinney118@hotmail.co.uk

November 2025

RESIDENTS MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO KEEP THE ABOVE TO HAND IN CASE OF EMERGENCY