



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 411 June 2026

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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 18 June, 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 JULY ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 18 JUNE.**

#### **HOUSING IN ORFORD**

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and New Orford Town Trust are working together to address the housing situation in Orford, and are asking for your help in resolving a fundamental problem, which is to ensure that people who have huge local connections, who were born and brought up here, are not forced to leave through lack of housing. Surely that is something we should all be responsible for preventing?

Back in 2020 New Orford Town Trust purchased a bungalow in Town Farm Estate in Orford where a local family is now living. In 2021, kind and generous donations made it possible for another property to be purchased in Potkins Lane, Orford, where another local family lives. It is a project that continues. As we all know there is a national housing crisis and here, in Orford and in the surrounding villages, many local people are facing difficulties finding affordable local accommodation due to high demand and market prices. Many of these people come from families that have lived here for generations and who will have been instrumental in building a place we all care about. We all enjoy reading about its history, and a way of showing our gratitude is to ensure there is adequate housing for the future.

Lately a number of social housing properties in this village have been placed on the market. These would have been ideal for this project and would ensure the existing level of affordable housing is maintained without a single brick needing to be built on a field, but it just lacks money, and you can imagine our frustration with the state of affairs. We all care about this village and surely, we all want to address this unfair balance and ensure that local families can remain in the village they created?

If you would like to support this ongoing project, NOTT would be extremely grateful for any donations – and if you are able to suggest any potential funding sources, please do let us know – it would be greatly appreciated.

You can help us make sure that we are not the generation that allows our village to lose its heart and heritage, when we have the ability to remedy the situation.

For further information please contact the Town Hall 01394 450172 or e-mail [orfordtrust@outlook.com](mailto:orfordtrust@outlook.com).

**Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and New Orford Town Trust**

#### **June dates for your diary**

- 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
- Sunday 7 June: T4Thomas - Chantry Cottage, Orford, 10.30am-4.30pm
- Thursday 11 June: Gardening Club Garden Party - High House, High Street, Orford, 6-8pm

#### **ORFORD SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB**

Events coming up:

- Thursday 11 June, bike meet night from 6pm, bar and BBQ available, bike not essential
- Saturday 27 June, members coach trip to Cambridge, enquire at the club or contact Sam Davis
- Saturday 18 July, live music with *Game On*, from 8pm
- Thursday 17 September, members coach trip to Great Yarmouth incorporating the races

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

**Mark Smy, Secretary, 450358**

#### **T4THOMAS 2026**

**Sunday 7 June, 10.30am–4.30pm**

My goodness, it's that time of the year again everyone!

T4T is now onto its seventeenth year and will be held on Sunday 7 June which is actually Thomas's birthday.

The menu is being created and the troops have been alerted and a plea has been made to the weather gods for a lovely warm and sunny day. There will be the usual varied and interesting selection of delicious meals to cater for all tastes and appetites. The kettle

will be on for the teas and coffees and for those not satisfied with this, something stronger will be available from the 'bar'.

And as for the **cakes...**! Well, we can't have a T4Thomas without cake can we? The cake table will be groaning with a wide and wonderful mouth-watering selection of our very best bakes. Truly something for everyone. Dairy- and gluten-free options will also be on show, but the calorie-free option is currently unavailable.

Everyone is welcome! So, make a note of the date and please do come along to Chantry Cottage with your family and friends and enjoy some good food in great company with lovely views whilst helping to raise funds for The Thomas Marshall Education Fund. Just follow the T4T signs.

We will have the latest news on the progress of our students and youngsters despite them facing so much adversity and living in some very challenging conditions in rural Mozambique. All their success stories have been made possible through your ongoing support.

See you all on Sunday 7 June.

**Wendy and Guy Marshall and all the TMEF trustees**

### **CALLING ALL DESIGNERS!**

#### **The Orford Surgery needs your help!**

Did you know the Chapman House Surgery in Rectory Road, Orford was built with funds raised from the communities of Butley, Chillesford, Iken, Orford and Gedgrave and Sudbourne? In 1980 the then Orford Parish Council chairman, Percy Chapman, led the project to buy first a bungalow in Ferry Road, and then the land in Rectory Road, to build the health centre for the doctors' practice to rent. Chapman House opened in 1989 and is owned by the Orford and District Surgery Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a charity run by volunteers.

The original vision of supporting the health care needs of the users of Chapman House and to ensure a surgery remains in Orford for use by the community are fundamental to the aims of the CIO. Once the mortgage was paid the CIO uses the rent and other donations or legacies received, to fund equipment, support staffing and projects as well as maintaining the grounds and the building itself.

Now we need your help to devise a logo or symbol to represent us. Can you design a simple, recognisable and attractive image for the CIO that can be used for example on paperwork, signage and stickers or equipment?

Your designs don't have to be completed and polished – it's the ideas that we'd love to see.

If you are an amateur or a professional artist, young or old, reach for your paper and pens and draw away.

Please email your ideas to k.silver487@btinternet.com by 19 June. The trustees will select a design and the person who creates the chosen one will receive a special prize!

We look forward to receiving your ideas – and if you have any queries don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you!

**Katherine Silver-Murphy**, Chair of the Orford and District Surgery Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity Number 1194742

### **SUDBOURNE HALL CRICKET CLUB**

Sudbourne Hall Cricket Club have enjoyed one of the most positive starts to the season in recent years. Currently sitting fourth in the table after three wins and two losses in their league campaign.

Wins over Ipswich and East Suffolk, Horringer and Stradbroke have been sandwiched by defeats to Walsham le Willows and BT Waldringfield.

The club have been inspired by some outstanding bowling performances from Peter Mark who has taken a remarkable 22 wickets, taking his career tally to over 150 wickets for the club. Supported by strong batting performances from Harry Morton, Rowan Kent and vice captain, Ian Foll, the club find themselves looking upwards rather than downwards in the league table.

Off the field, supporters are always welcome and events are planned for July and August including Vice Presidents day and Presidents Day across the weekend of 15 and 16 August. Do make a note in your diaries. For further information about the club and fixtures please go to sudbournehallcc.com

Junior Cricket is getting back into full swing with sessions for ages from five upwards on Sunday mornings running through June and July. Jack Pynn is managing the programmes and all are welcome. Please contact Jack if you are interested: jackpynn@yahoo.co.uk

**Andy Halliday**

### **ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**

2026, our fiftieth anniversary of the Gardening Club!!

*We always welcome new members and guests...*

Our next events:

Fiftieth anniversary Garden Party

Thursday 11 June, 6–8 pm

Garden Party, courtesy of Penny and Richard Murley

High House, High Street, Orford, IP12 2NW

This is always the most popular event in our calendar, but extra special this year being in the early evening with fizz and canapés. Music will be provided by Duncan, one of our Gardening Club members new to the village!!

*We would like to invite all the local people who have been involved with the Gardening Club in so many ways, perhaps as members or on the Committee, over these past years. They have, therefore, contributed to the fact that we are having a fiftieth Anniversary Party!! Long may it continue.*

*Please do just come along and we will be very pleased to see you or contact me, Polly, if you would like assistance in order to get there...*

Fiftieth anniversary Commemorative Bench outside the Town Hall

We are currently fund raising in order to replace the above bench with one marking 2026 as our special year. At our AGM members agreed that this would be a great idea.

If you would like to make a donation, this can be done at the above Garden Party or you can contact me.

Wednesday 8 July, leaving Orford at 8.30am, returning 6.30pm  
Visit to East Ruston Old Vicarage by coach, stopping at Green Pastures Nursery *en route*.

This is an amazing and memorable garden and a must if you haven't been, and a place to return for inspiration if you have!

£40 members £45 non-members

Thursday, 7 May, Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm

Transition Woodbridge - Creating Wildlife Ponds and Water Features in your Garden

Our many questions about the above were answered in the above talk which was enthusiastically attended by our members. They went away with practical ideas to implement with water ranging from ponds in washing up bowls to more adventurous plans.

**Polly Sharkey**, Chair, *creativefutures98@btinternet.com 01394 450959*

### **BE A PART OF AN INTERGENERATION COMMUNITY OPERA THIS CHRISTMAS**

Do you love singing, music making or arts and crafts?

Come and take part in *A Christmas Miracle*, a new opera for children and adults by The Master of the King's Music, Errollyn Wallen. It has been developed by Mahogany Opera, co-produced by Britten Pears Arts and supported by Jubilee Opera.

The world premiere performances will take place in Orford Church on 20 and 21 November, where, in 1958, Britten's visionary community opera *Noye's Fludde* was premiered.

Following some wonderful workshops at Orford Town Hall in May further singing auditions will take place on 6 and 7 July, and

making introduction sessions for costumes and props on 11 July in Orford.

Find out more about the project and how to sign up to the July sessions at: [mahoganyopera.co.uk/explore-more/call-out-for-performers-and-volunteers-a-christmas-miracle](http://mahoganyopera.co.uk/explore-more/call-out-for-performers-and-volunteers-a-christmas-miracle)

**Anna Gregg**

### ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS

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, Georgia 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. Full details of all these events can be found on our website.

Go to our website at [www.orfordmuseum.org](http://www.orfordmuseum.org) to book tickets for all these events.

The proceeds from all our events go to Orford Museum.

**Elizabeth Spinney**

### JUNE AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Sunday 7 June, first Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 14 June, second Sunday after Trinity

8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford– Revd Robin Alderson

10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall

Sunday 21 June, third Sunday after Trinity

11am Holy Communion at Orford - Revd Mandy Reynolds

5 July, fifth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

**Diana Grayburn, Church Warden, 450771**

### JUNE AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 7 June 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 14 June 10.30am Café and Cake Service to celebrate 124 years of the opening of the present building

Sunday 21 June 10.30am Rev Saul – COMMUNION

Sunday 28 June 10.30am Service Arranged Locally

Sunday 5 July 10.30am Stephen Caley

You are welcome to join with us for any or all of our services and meetings – we would love to see you. Refreshments are served after each service.

The ever-popular Chapel Tea Room is open every Monday and Wednesday and some Saturdays too, from 11am–4pm. Visitors are pleasantly surprised to find a welcome Tea Room with plenty of good food and locally made/created arts and crafts, with books galore, jigsaws, preserves and much more! Come along and enjoy – no need to book, just turn up – we look forward to seeing you.

Our recent Café-style worship with croissants and cake, introduced us to 'Invitations' to various events and places and our response to these concluding with the invitation to Jesus.

We held an informative and generous lunch time 'Spring Church Council', after Sunday service, to receive reports and discuss the good news of the 'life and mission' of the church within the community and surrounding area, as was the report to the Orford Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Quay Service will be held on Sunday 2 August at 6pm supporting the RNLI – hopefully the sun will shine!

**Stephen Caley**

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



**HOMAS**

**GOOD FOOD  
RELAXED COMPANY**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June  
Chantry Cottage**

Just follow the  signs in the village

**10.30 - 4.30**

