



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 348 March 2021

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All copy must be received by midday on Thursday 18 March 2021, preferably by email to:

orfordtrust@btconnect.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 APRIL 2021 ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021

Richard Roberts

We were very sad to hear of the death of Richard Roberts on 15 February. Richard spent two periods serving as a Parish Councillor and Trustee of the New Orford Town Trust, firstly in the late 1980s for over a decade, and then from 2010-2015. During these times he served as Vice Chairman and then Chairman of the PC/NOTT, and also as Chairman of the Riverside and Highways Committees.

Richard was also the first editor of Village Voice, a role which he carried out for 10 years, and the publication continues to keep parishioners and visitors informed about the goings on in the village. Richard brought to the PC/NOTT a huge amount of experience and common sense, and he will be missed very much by the village. Our thoughts are with his wife Wendy, their sons Jamie, Ralph and Don, and their families.

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and Trustees of New Orford Town Trust

MARCH AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

During the current Covid 19 pandemic, church services are subject to alteration at short notice. You will find up-to-date information about our March services and church opening for private prayer on the noticeboard by the church gate. Alternatively visit the A Church Near You website (www.achurchnearyou.com) which is updated daily with details of all church services in the local area. During Lent there are Compline services broadcast on Zoom on 4, 11 and 25 March at 7pm. Sunday 9am Holy Communion Services and Wednesday 6pm Evening prayer are available on Zoom. You are welcome to join us. For further details contact **Rev Giles Tulk**, 01394 450610 or revgileswtr@gmail.com

MARCH AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

We have cancelled all in-person services, however we have resumed our 'Keeping in Touch' during this third lockdown with printed services for those who don't access on line.

For Sunday live streamed services and daily 'Thought for the Day' plus much more, visit www.methodistic.org.uk

The church is very much 'alive' through care, concern and prayer. Until further notice no weekly activities at present.

Stephen Caley

Richard Roberts

I would like to write a little about the time I spent with Richard on the Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and NOTT. I do this not in the capacity of a Councillor but as a member of the public.

I guess the Iliffs/Pickthorns and the Roberts go back nearly a century. My mother and Richard spent their early years before the war in the village, my sister Ginny decamping to the Smithy during the Summer Holidays in the 70s, and my brother and Richard with others disappearing on cruising adventures over a c20-year period.

I really got to know Richard when I joined the PC and NOTT. Richard had been on the PC in the 90s and had left in 1999 having been the Chairman. When I joined in around 2007 the PC and NOTT were entering a tumultuous period with NOTT having to carry out huge repair work on the Quay and Town Hall windows. By 2010 the NOTT was in a weak state. Most mid-term councillor vacancies are filled by co-option but in 2010 a by-election was forced and Richard romped home and became a Councillor/Trustee again. Under his and Michael Pearce's guidance the Trust underwent changes to ensure mistakes of the past were not repeated. This included the Trust and Parish Council being further separated each with its own Clerk (they already had separate Chairmen), with meetings firmly held on different days so their remits could not be muddled. Designated funds were put in place to safeguard the Trust's assets against any future major expenses. A Village Fund was created (a project particularly championed by Richard) where the Trustee considers applications for funding from local people or organisations. Since its inception 7 years ago NOTT has given out c£70,000 in grants (this is on top of NOTT donations given outside the Village Fund).

Richard had so many wise qualities which made him an ideal Parish Councillor and Trustee: he was thorough, hard-working, willing to listen, and able to express ideas and opinions with great clarity. For me he was a true friend, sharing his wealth of experience and not appearing to mind, even after he had left the PC/NOTT for the second time in 2015, my constant e-mails, phone calls and requests to meet wanting advice. He undertook many challenges on behalf of the village, using gentle diplomacy and quiet firmness to defuse many a crisis, and we must all be very grateful to him for this because believe me when I say some of the issues were not straightforward and needed specialist skills to resolve. In the words of a fellow Trustee 'he had a better feel than most for the character of Orford. He loved this village'.

He was a true gentleman and it was a privilege to have known him and to have worked (albeit in a civic capacity) with him. My sincere condolences go to his wife Wendy, sons Jamie, Ralph, Don,

grandchildren Eloise, Joe, Dylan, Daisy, Beth, Rose, Lily, Arthur, Louis and great grandchildren Aurelia and Ezra.

Richard's family has asked me to say that they are sorry that the numbers in Church for Richard's funeral are very limited, but if anyone would like to give a donation to one of these, they are what Richard would have supported: St Bartholomew's Church, Orford and 'Farms for City Children' which is an educational charity founded by Michael Morpurgo which enables children from Urban areas of the UK to stay on a farm and learn about country life and do some farming work.

Mary Iliff

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

As you might imagine, the Good Neighbour Scheme has been busy over the past weeks, and we'd like to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work.

We would also very much like to thank John, Scott and Zoe Backhouse as now on two occasions they have helped us out by firstly securing a property where the emergency services had to break in, and then when we were snowed in an elderly couple were concerned that they could not get out of their driveway if there was an emergency so again they arrived at the property and cleared it for them. The GNS is very grateful for all their help.

Anne Macro, Orford, Gedgrave and Sudbourne Park Good Neighbour Scheme

ORFORD & DISTRICT SURGERY CHARITABLE TRUST AGM, Thursday 11 March, 7.15pm

The Orford and District Surgery Charitable Trust owns Chapman House and works with the Doctors to fund services and equipment for the benefit of users of the Surgery. Funding is also available to help maintain the independence of the frail, elderly and disabled of Butley, Chillesford, Iken, Orford and Gedgrave, and Sudbourne. If you would like to know more, to hear about our plans or have suggestions for improvements to the surgery please come along. All are welcome.

Due to the pandemic we shall be holding the AGM via Zoom this year. If you would like to attend please contact Corinne who will send you the details. If Zoom is not practical for you Corinne can send you an update of the meeting and answer any questions you have.

Corinne Lusher (corinne.lusher@btinternet.com 01394 450849), Secretary, ODSCT Management Committee

TOP: THANKS ORFORD PEOPLE

....and Gedgrave as well... it's just that I couldn't get an appropriate acronym.

To say the least, the last twelve months have been weird. And yet despite everything, the people of Orford and Gedgrave have been amazing. This short piece is a thank you to them... and it probably includes you!

In the main, there is no specific reference by name but you know who you are. Sorry if you think you have been missed out. There are too many to remember and thank.

- Thanks to all the local businesses who have managed to do some trade and stay open for us.
- Thanks to our Postie who has been a lifeline and keeps on smiling.
- Thanks to all involved with the Store and Post Office. A bit of the 'above and beyond', when we all needed you.
- Thanks to all those involved with keeping us safe and healthy including the carers and all those at the surgery.
- Thanks to all those who self-isolated when necessary. They supported everybody else.
- Thanks to those weekenders who kept away in case they infected us.
- Thanks to everybody who kept their 2m distance and yet still found the time to say 'hello' or take the opportunity to chat.
- Thanks to all those supporting and contributing to the Good Neighbour Scheme at a time when it was really needed.

- Thanks to all those involved with constructing and contributing to the Community Larder and the free school meal needs.
- Thanks to all of you who stay put in Orford. At least it's a lovely place to be locked down.
- And finally, Thanks to all of you who will show support to our local pubs and restaurants, the club and Store/Post Office and the other businesses in Orford and Gedgrave who with a bit of luck will soon be trying to get back to normal. Support them. They are all part of Orford.

Mike Sharkey

ORFORD MUSEUM

In common with the rest of the world, life at Orford Museum has been very difficult this year but in spite of this we have managed to carry on with the basic work of the Museum and from time to time we have even been able to get into the Castle to continue work on refreshing the cases.

One excellent piece of news is that we have at last obtained permission from English Heritage to display the Orford stocks in the Museum in the Castle. These were for many years kept in St. Bartholomew's Church but were removed at the beginning of this century during re-decoration work and stored in the Town Hall. They actually belong to the New Orford Town Trust. They were in a very poor state and, in 2016, they were taken down to Dick Murphy's workshop in Sudbourne Park for restoration, much of which consisted of reversing previous, very poor, work done many years ago. We did our best to persuade the Church to take them back as we felt very strongly that residents of Orford had a right to see them free of charge but, sadly, permission for this was refused and we therefore turned to English Heritage. We are currently in the process of organising the construction of a protective Perspex case and as soon as this is ready the stocks will be transported to what we hope will be their final resting place. The cost of all this will be shared equally between the NOTT and Orford Museum.

Friends of Orford Museum have for many years enjoyed talks and other events organised by the Museum and – above all – they have received twice-yearly copies of our renowned Orford & District History Bulletin, the brain-child of the late Jane Allen. For the last few years, they have also benefitted from free entry to the Castle. However, I have to report with much sadness that, due to a lack of voluntary help with both the administration of the Friends and the editing and production of the Bulletin, we have had to close down that side of the Museum organisation. I must strongly emphasise that this does not mean that the Museum itself will close – far from it. We will continue to employ a Curator (which we are able to do thanks to the great generosity of the late David Andren and the late Rosemary Unwin) and the work of recording and caring for our very large collection will continue in Potkins Lane from where we also respond to requests for information and photographs from all over the world. We also have a website at www.orfordmuseum.org which we are planning to update and improve. In due course, this will be installed, together with a virtual representation of the Museum in the Castle, on a new touch-screen kiosk in the Church which we hope will be of particular help to disabled visitors. We also intend to include a regular Newsletter on this website. I am really hopeful that, one day, we may be able to revive both the Friends and the Bulletin but unless and until more, younger, people come forward to help us this is simply not going to be possible. If anyone out there feels that they would like to get involved, do please get in touch with me, Elizabeth Spinney.

If you would like any of our publications – books or Bulletins – we hold a large stock and I am happy to send or deliver them. If you would like more details of these or a list of the topics covered in the Bulletins, please contact:

Elizabeth Spinney, Chairman, Orford Museum
a.spinney43@btinternet.com

OPEN GARDENS IN ORFORD ON MONDAY 31 MAY

We are planning to organise the Open Gardens in Orford on Monday 31 May, from 11am–4pm, the proceeds will go to St Bartholomew's Church. If there is anyone I have not contacted who would like their garden to be included I would be delighted to hear from them, either by phone or email. It is lovely to have a large variety of gardens for visitors to see. If we are permitted to do so we will be organising refreshments all day in the Church and if this is not possible, in the churchyard. We will need plenty of cakes and biscuits and I hope to have lots of offers of these and also help with serving on the day. Please contact me on 01394 450771 or Sally Walton on 01394 450656.

Diana Grayburn, email: dianampaterson@btinternet.com

TENNIS COURTS IN ORFORD

The Government decreed at the beginning of January that all tennis courts should be closed and accordingly the Orford courts were secured with cable ties and a notice was put up to explain why this was done. I was very disappointed to discover that someone had cut the ties, removed the notice and even unlocked the gate and left it open. We have now secured the gate and trust that this anti-social behaviour will not be repeated.

Diana Grayburn, Secretary to Recreation Ground Committee

NATIONAL TRUST ORFORD NESS

While Covid scuppered our plans for 2020, we're now busy making plans to reopen in 2021. We plan to open from Easter but in a slightly changed pattern to previous years. Apart from the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend we will remain closed for the rest of April. In May and October we will open on Saturdays, for June and September Saturdays and Sundays and for July and August Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. All of these dates are, of course, subject to government guidance. Up to date information can always be found on our website and social media. We will be looking to run a residents open day in 2021 but will wait until later in the year when restrictions ease.

The team on Orford Ness has undergone some structure changes in the last six months as part of the Trust's nationwide restructuring. David Mason has now left Orford Ness to work elsewhere within the Trust and Glen Pearce is the new Site Manager. The team here are always happy to answer any enquiries about the Ness and can be reached on 01394 450900 or orfordness@nationaltrust.org.uk. We are also happy to come and give a talk (in person or via Zoom if restrictions remain) to organisations on our work on Orford Ness, just contact us to find out more. We hope to see you on the Ness in our twenty-sixth year.

Glen Pearce, Site Manager Orford Ness

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

'Cutting out the middleman – A guide to growing your own cut flowers'

On Thursday 4 March Ben Pope, who is Head Gardener for a private garden in West Sussex and who regularly teaches at the Chelsea Physic

Garden and West Dean College, will be presenting a Zoom talk. He donates his fees to Perennial who raise funds to help people in horticulture. Ben will speak to us about how we can grow our own cut flowers successfully – something which I think we all want to know about for the coming months...

'Gardening Women – The story of women in horticulture'

Catherine Horwood returned to give us an enlightening talk. She told us how women were only involved in the most menial tasks in the garden before the sixteenth century but how in the twelfth century an Abbess grew roses in Covent Garden and how three Queen Eleanors – including the wife of Henry II – were all very interested in gardens. Catherine spoke of other significant women including Lady Dorothy Neville (1826–1913), wife of the Third Earl of Orford, who had a huge impact. She employed a Head Gardener and 33 under gardeners, had thirteen greenhouses and grew 300 ferns, some of which were not known even to Kew! She concluded with speaking about Vita Sackville-West amongst others and her favourite, Beth Chatto.

Our Online Gallery

Susanne, our Programme Secretary, and her daughter Laura set up a gallery for our members to contribute to on the following topics:

- A garden image from your home
- Today in my garden
- Snowdrops in any media

Thirty-five images were sent in and members wrote to say how much they had appreciated it.

Snowdrop Map

This was much appreciated by members who have walked it and appreciated these lovely Spring flowers.

Future events...

- Thursday 1 April, Janet Buist: 'All you ever wanted to know about Salvias'
- Wednesday afternoon, 28 April: Spring trip to Ulting Wick for their Tulip Display
- Thursday 6 May: 'Butterflies' Peter Madison
- Thursday 13 May: 'Planting Containers for the summer' Matt Tatton Brown

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

LOCKDOWN – JIGSAW PUZZLES

As we have all been in lockdown for some considerable time I suspect many people may have jigsaw puzzles that they no longer want and are waiting to get rid of them or donate them somewhere. I would be more than happy to take them out of your way and store them ready for selling (hopefully) at the Christmas bazaar to raise much needed funds. However, if I receive a substantial amount I would consider having a table top sale during the warmer weather (if I can find somewhere to set up a table!)

Please ring me on 01394 459959 to arrange collection/delivery. Thank you everyone and stay safe.

Sheila Stoker

DAY	ALDERTON	ORFORD	ALDEBURGH	HOLLESLEY
Monday	8.00 to 14.30	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 18.30	13.30 to 17.30
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	

THE PENINSULA PRACTICE

Staff training closure afternoon

The surgery will be closed for staff training on Wednesday 10 March from 13.00. All calls will be diverted to NHS 111

We would like to thank all our patients for their support and words of kindness over the past few months it really does help boost staff morale.

We realise that the coronavirus pandemic has caused exceptionally challenging and worrying times for each and every one of us and we all need to remember that we are in this together.

www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk, tel 01394 411641

Orford, Gedgrave & Sudbourne Hall Good Neighbour Scheme 01394 450235

During the Covid-19 pandemic we are offering the following services to the residents of Orford, Gedgrave and Sudbourne Hall:

- Friendship and companionship over the telephone
- Collection of medication
- Shopping
- For those hospitalised, dropping off items at the hospital
- Dog walking / feeding pets
- Form filling and help with technology over the telephone
- One-off garden tidy
- A healthy meal
- Transport to Covid-19 vaccination appointments
- Other activities as requested and agreed

We also have a Community Larder, available round the clock in the entrance to the Kings Head car park.

Safety in your Home

In December 2020, an Orford resident fell at home and was unable to reach a telephone to summon help. After several hours, a volunteer with the Good Neighbour Scheme noticed that something was amiss and rang the emergency services. No one had a key to the property, so the police broke into the house and paramedics took the person into Ipswich hospital for assessment. The resident's door then had to be repaired.

Had the resident worn and activated a personal alarm, help would have been available quickly. Had a key safe been in place, and the combination known to a neighbour or volunteer, the police would not have needed to attend the incident to break into the house.

The Good Neighbour Scheme recommend that everyone living on their own who might fall or otherwise become incapacitated has a personal alarm and key safe. We can help you choose and order the best alarm for your needs. A local person can be assigned to your contact list to be called in the event of trouble.

The Orford & District Surgery Charitable Trust, whose remit includes helping to maintain the independence of the disabled, frail and elderly in their home, has kindly agreed to support the provision of an alarm and key safe for anyone who genuinely needs them. Call us to discuss.

National Census 2021

The National Census is happening this month and completion is required by law. 2021 is the first year the census will be online and there are Census Support centres to help you to do this. The GNS volunteers are also offering to help you complete your online census form over the phone. If you would like our help just leave a message on the helpline.