



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 410 May 2026

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All copy must be received by midday on Thursday 21 May, 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 JUNE ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 21 MAY

ORFORD SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB

The bike meet night in April was a great success, especially for the first one, and not being particularly warm. The total number of bikes was quite a surprise.

The next bike meet night is Thursday 14 May, everyone welcome, bike or no bike, bar and BBQ available from 6pm.

Following on from 'Epix', which was also a great night, we have the 'Aricho Roadshow' on Saturday 2 May.

Don't forget the members coach trip to Cambridge on Saturday 27 June and Great Yarmouth on Thursday 17 September, incorporating the races.

Further ahead, Saturday 18 July, live music with 'Game on'. Don't forget Friday night club nights and keep an eye on the board and Facebook page for bingo nights.

Mark Smy, Secretary, 450358

ANTHONY GOLDER (ANCY)

Judith, Michelle and David would like to thank everyone for the help and support that you have given us during Ancy's illness and since his death. It was comforting to see so many people in the church on 23 March. So many of you had a tale to tell or a memory to share, which helped to raise a smile on a very emotional day. Your kind words and thoughts have helped us to negotiate an extremely difficult time. Thank you.

RONALD MELLOR

We were sad to hear from Rosie Mellor that former Parish Councillor Ron Mellor passed away peacefully on 15 April at his home at 49 Westminster Road, York. He was 95. Our thoughts are with Rosie, and with her and Ron's families. For information regarding funeral arrangements, once they are finalised, please contact the Town Hall office.

Kara Reed, Clerk to New Orford Town Trust, 01394 459172

ORFORD OPEN GARDENS, SUNDAY 24 MAY

Orford Open Gardens will be on Sunday 24 May with a variety of beautiful private gardens to visit, from large to small to hidden, from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Tickets with a map of the gardens will be on sale in St Bartholomew's Church, along with home-made cakes and

May 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-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: 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
- Thursday 7 May: Gardening Club - Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Wednesday 13 May: Annual Parish Meeting - New Room of Orford Town Hall, 6pm
- Thursday 21 May: Orford Bridge Club - Orford Town Hall, 4-6.30pm
- Sunday 24 May: Orford Open Gardens - gardens open 10.30am-3.30pm, tickets from St Bartholomew's Church
- Thursday 28 May: Orford Museum presents *King Arthur and the Holy Grail* - Butley Priory, 5pm
- Saturday 30 May: Aldeburgh Music Club concert 'Folk Songs from around the World' - St Bartholomew's Church, 7.30pm

savouries, hot and cold drinks, a plant sale and a raffle for a chance to win a £100 National Garden gift voucher.

Donations of cakes/baked goods and plants for the plant sale would be very welcome. Please bring them to the church between 9am and 10am on the day, or contact Libby on the number below if you would like them collected from you.

All proceeds from Open Gardens are for St Bartholomew's Church. For any questions about Open Gardens or becoming a Friend of St Bartholomew's, please do get in touch.

Libby Archer, 0771 341 3494

ORFORD BRIDGE CLUB UPDATE

We have now had three successful meetings of the revived Orford Bridge Club. We meet monthly on Thursdays 4pm till 6.30pm in the

back room of Orford Town Hall. We play Chicago Bridge in a relaxed, friendly way and provide light refreshments.

Our next meetings for established bridge players will be held on:

- Thursday 21 May
- Thursday 18 June
- Thursday 16 July

We will be starting classes for beginners, wanting to learn bridge, on Wednesdays 4pm till 6.15pm in the back room of Orford Town Hall. The classes will occur once a fortnight running through to July, starting on a date to be confirmed.

Please let us know, by email, if you would like further information or would like to join us either as an established player or as a beginner.

Nick Edgerton and James Grogono,
orfordbridgeclub@btinternet.com

TASTER SAILING SESSIONS 2026

Orford Sailing Club would like to offer taster sailing sessions which are open to everyone. Children should be at least eight years old. These sessions are aimed at local families and particularly Orford School children. These short fun sessions create an opportunity to experience sailing on the river and to meet others who enjoy sailing. They are free of charge. There is no further commitment.

The first session will be held on Wednesday 27 May at 5pm, then on subsequent Wednesdays until and including Wednesday 1 July. There will also be sessions on Saturday 13 and 20 June at 10.30am.

Should you be interested, please contact Sheena Barrow - *sheenamargaretbarrow@gmail.com* or 07867978770.

Sheena Barrow

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026: our fiftieth anniversary of the Gardening Club!!

We always welcome new members and guests...

Our next events:

Thursday 7 May, Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm

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

If you have never been tempted to dig a pond, or create one in a bucket, now might be the time to change all that. Transition Woodbridge is a charity established to make positive change in our environment and improve biodiversity. One way we can do that is to provide more habitats for pond creatures and plants. There will be plenty of time for Q and A if you think you might be persuaded and want to know how to go about it.

Thursday 11 June, 6pm to 8 pm

Garden Party, courtesy of Penny and Richard Murley
High House, High Street, Orford, IP12 2NW

Our Garden Party is different this year as it's our fiftieth anniversary! Fizz and canapés replace the usual tea and cake. There will be soft drinks available for those who prefer. There will be live music too. Members and their guests only.

Wednesday 8 July, leaving Orford at 8.30am, returning 6.30 pm
Visit to East Ruston Old Vicarage by coach

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

Visit to Ramblers, 1 April

Magnolias and Camellias were the stars of the show in Barry Humphrey's garden at Ramblers when we visited on 1 April. Barry was on hand to welcome us and to name a few of the huge collection of Magnolias. The colours were magnificent and the shapes and forms many and varied. The funds collected were donated to Parkinson's

Luci Skinner, 'Auriculas and Primroses', 9 April

Luci Skinner returned to talk about auriculas and the primrose family. Always full of detail, and with an extensive knowledge of them as she used to propagate them at Woottens, Luci delighted our audience with facts about auriculas and primroses.

Polly Sharkey, Chair, creativefutures98@btinternet.com

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

DO YOU REMEMBER ORFORD NESS?

Hi, I'm a master's student in Architecture at the Royal College of Art, researching the history of Orford Ness, with a focus on how its years of military use affected life in the area.

I'm especially interested in understanding how the presence of these operations, often hidden from the public, affected the residents of Orford. Were there notable sounds, disturbances, or shared local narratives surrounding these activities? What was heard but not seen?

I'd love to hear from anyone who remembers that period, or who may have heard stories from others. These personal memories are incredibly valuable and often capture things that don't appear in official records.

If you'd be happy to share your memories, or know someone who might, I'd be very grateful to hear from you.

Thanks so much for your time, I look forward to hearing from you!

Nuria Yagoubi, 10053506@network.rca.ac.uk, 07548 838245

ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS

The Three Inch Fools will return to Butley Priory after their highly successful performance last August of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with an epic tale of Arthurian adventure and medieval mayhem entitled *King Arthur and the Holy Fail*. In a land of daring quests, dashing knights, and endless jousting, there lived a would-be hero (waiting in the wings) who went by the name of Arthur. When Camelot is rocked to its core by a tragic – and frankly improbable – incident involving a large table of an undisclosed shape, Arthur is thrust into the quest of a lifetime. Will he bravely battle through blistering cold and scorching fire to save his beloved realm, or will he crumble as fate refuses to cooperate? Destiny awaits, chivalry calls, and the quest to end all quests begins. Saddle up – things are about to get legendary.

The performance on Thursday 28 May will start at 5pm and last until 7pm (doors open at 4.45pm). It will take place outdoors, so please bring chairs, rugs and a picnic. There will be a twenty-minute interval. The show will go on unless the weather forces a postponement in which case it will be re-scheduled to a future date.

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 to book.

All talks and events held at Butley Priory take place there by kind permission of Edward and Clare Greenwell to whom Orford Museum is very grateful. The proceeds from all our events go to Orford Museum.

Our Silent Auction is active on our website and amazing prizes can be had! Go to www.orfordmuseum.org/events to join in.

Elizabeth Spinney

MAY AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Sunday 3 May, Fifth Sunday after Easter

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 10 May, Sixth Sunday after Easter

8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford– Revd Mandy Reynolds

10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall

Sunday 17 May, Sunday after Ascension Day

11am Holy Communion at Orford - Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 24 May, Pentecost

6.30pm Choral Evensong at Orford – Revd Robin Alderson

Sunday 7 June, Trinity 1

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

MAY AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 3 May 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 10 May 10.30am Informal Café Worship

Sunday 17 May 10.30am Rev Saul Tadzaushe – Communion

Sunday 24 May PENETCOST (Wesley Day)

10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 31 May Service arranged locally

Sunday 7 June 10.30am Stephen Caley

You will be very welcome to join with us for any or all of these services. Refreshments served after each service.

Chapel Tea Room – open every Monday and Wednesday from 11am–4pm and also Saturday 2 and 23 May. Good food all day also local art and crafts and plenty of cards. We have an extensive second-hand book stall, jigsaws and now with music score too!

Good Friday's service, (where the cross was with crown of thorns, sign above and with hammer and nails), with hymns and readings concluded with a fish and chips lunch. The traditional Easter Garden with empty tomb was again created in preparation for Easter morning. The Easter Day service, with many visitors, was a tremendous acclimation of faith 'Christ is Risen, Alleluiah'. Everyone present received a boxed Easter egg and the young people also enjoyed an Easter egg hunt. Delicious cake and coffee was soon consumed!

Stephen Caley



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
- Support for anyone who is impacted by a scam
- Friday Soup at Bart's Hall
- Other activities as requested and agreed

Thank you 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; Saint Bartholomew's Church



HOMAS

**GOOD FOOD
RELAXED COMPANY**

**Sunday 7th June
Chantry Cottage**

Just follow the  signs in the village

10.30 - 4.30

