



**The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave**

**Issue No. 404 November 2025**

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

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 20 November, 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 DECEMBER ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER**

### **PROPERTY TO LET**

New Orford Town Trust has a house to let at 4 Bakers Lane, Orford, IP12 2LG. The property has a front garden and rear yard, and 1 bedroom with an additional landing room. The rent will be £443.33 per calendar month.

When considering applicants NOTT will look at their housing need, local connection and the suitability of the accommodation available. Further information, including NOTT's Housing Allocation Policy and an Application Form, is available from the Trust Clerk, or a pack with all the information can be collected from the Town Hall office on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, between 9am and 11am. Documents can also be downloaded from our website at [www.orfordparishandtrust.onesuffolk.net](http://www.orfordparishandtrust.onesuffolk.net) (look under New Orford Town Trust, then Housing).

Completed applications will need to be emailed or returned to the office (details above) by 9am on Monday 17 November 2025. All information submitted will be treated in strict confidence.

**Kara Reed**, Clerk to New Orford Town Trust, [orfordtrust@outlook.com](mailto:orfordtrust@outlook.com), 01394 459172

### **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 eleven 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: midday on Wednesday 26 November.

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

**Kara Reed**, Clerk, New Orford Town Trust, [orfordtrust@outlook.com](mailto:orfordtrust@outlook.com), Tel 01394 459172

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

A party will be held on Wednesday 17 December from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in Orford Town Hall. This is for children of primary school

### **November 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
- Saturday 1 November: Orford Bonfire and Fireworks - field behind Orford Primary School, bonfire lit at 6pm, fireworks at 7pm
- Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 November: Slow Living Market - Orford Town Hall, 10am-5pm Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday
- Thursday 6 November: Orford Museum talk - Butley Priory, 6pm
- Friday 21 November: Talks 4 Thomas - Orford Town Hall, 6.30 for 7pm
- Saturday 22 November: Gardening Club demonstration - Orford Town Hall 3pm
- Monday 24 November: Orford Museum talk - Butley Priory, 6pm
- Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November: Christmas Makers Market - Orford Town Hall, 10am-4pm

age and younger who live in Orford and Gedgrave. If you have a child that fits that age range and would like to attend, please contact Anne Macro on 01394 450741.

### **CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

The annual Carols around the Christmas tree will take place on Wednesday 17 December at 6.30pm on the village green outside Orford General Store. Music will be provided by the Woodbridge Excelsior Brass Band so please do come and join in with the singing and enjoy what is always a great start to the festive season.

### **BENCHES**

The Parish Council is looking to replace some of the benches in the village. Some lovely memorial or commemorative benches have already been placed around the village, and it would be great to see a few more. If you feel you would like to sponsor a bench, give a

donation towards a bench, or just like a bit more information, please contact the Clerk.

**Marie Backhouse**, Clerk to Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council, clerk@orfordandgedgrave-pc.gov.uk, 01394 459172

## ORFORD SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

Coming up...

- live music, Saturday 13 December, 'Game on', 90s indie tribute band from 8pm
- New Year's Eve, live music with Dave and John

Keep an eye on the board and Facebook page for bingo and darts nights on the Friday club nights.

**Mark Smy**, Secretary, 01394 450358

## THANK YOU

Mandy, Kerri and Harry would sincerely like to thank everyone for their condolences, all the lovely cards and letters, flowers, food parcels and all the help we have received after the very sudden and tragic passing of Philip. We have been utterly overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and generosity.

We especially want to thank Teresa and Maria for the beautiful black and white flower display they made in honour of Philip and his beloved Newcastle United. Special thanks too Suvi and Anna McCreadie for all their hard work making the church look so wonderful with all the beautiful flower displays.

We got so much comfort from seeing just how many people attended Philip's funeral, so thank you to everyone that came.

Lastly a massive thank you to my niece Michelle and her team for providing the wonderful buffet for everyone to enjoy while they remembered and paid their respects to my wonderful husband and dad to Kerri and Harry.

**Mandy, Kerri and Harry**

## THANK YOU

On behalf of the village we would like to thank Ron and Linda Scarce for all their work for over forty years supplying newspapers and magazines, and we wish them well in their retirement.

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

## SUDBOURNE THANK YOU

A big thank you to all who came and supported our Macmillan Coffee morning at Sudbourne on Friday 26 September. An amazing total of £1279 was raised on the day and also by the Just Giving page on Facebook.

Thank you to all who made cakes, donated raffle prizes and came along on the day. Thank you to the local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes; Orford Stores, Pump Street Chocolate in Orford, Lady Florence River Cruises, Crown and Castle, King's Head, Friday Street Farm shop and Yoga Jane.

Thank you all once again.

**Sue Hudson and Pat Tricker**

## DAWN DIARIES CALENDAR 2026

After the success of last year's *Dawn Diaries from Orford Quay* I've expanded my focus a little and captured early mornings from the riverbank. Every dawn was so different and each had a new story to tell! As before all profits will go to Parkinson's – this year the beneficiary will be Parkinson's UK.

*The Dawn Diaries from Orford River 2026* makes a great present and for those of you with friends and family abroad, can be easily sent overseas as a letter. RRP is £12.99 (slightly less if you buy direct from me). Copies available from Audrey.Boyle99@gmail.com or give me a call on 07876 633942.

**Audrey Boyle**

## TALKS FOR THOMAS – SEASON THREE

Our second talk is 'The Bailey, Bar and Bench' and will be held on Friday 21 November with John Bevan regaling us with further

stories and interesting cases from the Bar. Acid baths and punctuation marks are just part of it... Intrigued? Come along and find out more on the night!

Then on Friday 12 December our third talk is 'The Beatles' with Alex Worrall. Alex has a lot of Beatles memorabilia which he will be bringing along. He has recently set up an interactive Beatles experience in Gibraltar. Part of his talk will be about John Lennon's peace journey from Gibraltar to Amsterdam via a meeting with Dali in Paris. Alex will also recount his meeting with John and Yoko Ono and then Andy Warhol on the same day in 1973.

All talks will be held in the Town Hall, Orford.

The evenings will start at 6.30pm with wine and nibbles. The talks begin at 7pm and the evenings will finish around 8pm.

Please book your tickets, £10 in advance from Wendy Marshall on either 01394 450090 or email contact@tmef.org.uk

Also, in December TMEF are pleased to present the Band of The Royal British Legion Leiston Christmas Concert in Orford.

This fabulous brass band will begin the run up to the Christmas festivities with their entertaining and musical Christmas concert which will be held in St Bartholomew's Church, Orford on Sunday 7 December at 2.30pm. This will be a genuine family friendly and uplifting afternoon. So gather together all your family and friends and come and be amazed at the sheer range of the performances. Tickets cost £10 per adult and £2.50 per child and includes a cup of tea and a slice of delicious cake.

To book your tickets please ring Wendy on 01394 450090 or email contact@tmef.org.uk

**Wendy Marshall**

## ORFORD MAKERS MARKET

Christmas at Orford festive Makers Market returns with an exciting line up.

For those trying to buy with intention this festive season, Orford Festive Makers Market is an ideal opportunity to buy from small, local independent makers and artists. Returning to Orford Town hall on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November, 10am-4pm, we're welcoming back some popular traders from previous years as well as some new faces. You'll find ceramics, candles, jewellery, stationery, textiles, clothing, interiors, art, sculpture, woodwork, soaps and skincare. Yes, it is worth popping in both days and we have a different line up of hand-picked traders each day.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Lydia Finney and Heather Carroll**

## ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

*We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses; Abraham Lincoln*

Our next event:

Saturday 22 November, 3pm, Orford Town Hall

Naturals by Donna Roche. Demonstration: Seasonal Floral Design – 'Garden to Bouquet'. Including a break for mulled apple juice and mince pies!!

Free to members, and guests £5 on the door – just come along.

Donna who is a florist and also a member of the team at The Southwold Flower company which we visited last year, will show us how to make wreaths, swags and arrangements using foliage supplied by herself and by us. The floral displays will be raffled in aid of Perennial, the charity which supports gardeners having difficult times in a range of ways....

Visit to The Barn, Westleton

In September Sue Townsend invited us to explore the wonderfully quirky wooded garden created by her late father-in-law and in recent years adapted by herself and her husband.

It covers several acres and Sue dedicated her time to us showing us around and explaining the thinking behind sculpture areas, follies and experimental beds made out of concrete residue to test how a range of plants and grasses adapted to the conditions and will work in our changing climate. The visit

culminated in us seeing the wonderful natural swimming pool and pool house.

We all came away feeling awe-inspired and amazed knowing we had enjoyed a very special place and with lessons to interpret in our own gardens. The funding raised was donated to the RNLI for whom Sue opens every year through the National Gardens Scheme. So put it in your diary for 2026!!

Kerry Austen 'Roses: from Wisley to Persica': in October Kerry, a very enthusiastic young woman with a vast knowledge gained from working in a range of famous gardens, spoke to us about all the things you ever wanted to know about roses!! She was very well received by a large group of our members who all went away with new resolutions about how to improve their roses.

**Polly Sharkey**, *creativefutures98@btinternet.com*

## ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS AT BUTLEY PRIORY

On Thursday 6 November, well-known journalist and Woodbridge resident, Simon Pearson, will talk about his book 'The Great Escaper: the Life and Death of Roger Bushell' which tells the story of Roger Bushell – aka 'Big X' – the man who masterminded the 'Great Escape' in 1944 and was played by Richard Attenborough in the famous film twenty years later.

On Monday 24 November Iain Murison will give a talk entitled 'Afghanistan – a genuine and personal insight'. Iain joined the Corps of Royal Engineers in 1984 where he served for thirty years spending time in a variety of conflicts including Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Sierra Leone. He was shaped by his experiences and retired in 2014. This presentation is an insightful personal account of the most challenging and fulfilling campaign in recent years, a true testament of leadership through the most intense adversity.

*'Of what use is decisive victory in battle if we bleed to death as a result of it'. B.H. Liddell Hart*

On Monday 8 December, Alison Weir will talk about her international best-seller 'Eleanor of Aquitaine, By the Wrath of God Queen of England'. (This talk is now waiting list only.) Eleanor of Aquitaine was one of the leading personalities of the Middle Ages and one of the most controversial. She was beautiful, intelligent and wilful and in her lifetime there were scandalous rumours about her that were not without substance. She had been reared in a relaxed and licentious court where the arts of the troubadours flourished and was even said to have presided over the fabled Courts of Love. Eleanor married in turn Louis VII of France and Henry II of England and was the mother of Richard the Lionheart and King John. She lived to be eighty, but it was only in old age that she triumphed over the adversities and tragedies of her earlier years and became the virtual ruler of England.

Eleanor has exerted a fascination over writers and biographers for 800 years but the prevailing myths and legends that attach to her name still tend to obscure the truth. Drawing on extensive research and her best-selling biography, Alison Weir offers vivid, fresh and provocative perspective on this extraordinary woman.

All the talks start at 6pm and last about an hour. Tickets for Alison Weir's talk on Eleanor of Aquitaine cost £20 for Friends of Orford Museum and £25 for guests as they will include mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets for all the other talks 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) where you will also find more details about the talks and the speakers.

Advance notice: our next series of Orford Museum History Talks will take place from 26 to 28 February 2026. Speakers include Richard Barber on Henry II, Nick Robinson on the history of political reporting, Mike Lownes discussing Suffolk architect Frederick Barnes, Philip Webster (Political Editor of *The Times* for eighteen years) in conversation with Martin Fletcher and William Whyte, Professor of Architectural History at Oxford University. Make a note of the dates in your diary now and details of how to book will follow shortly. Unless otherwise

stated, all events take place at Butley Priory, The Clumps, Woodbridge, IP12 3NR.

**Elizabeth Spinney**

## ART CLASS

Would you like to unlock your creativity in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere? Then join our friendly art class in Orford led by Marjoke Henrichs, children's book writer and illustrator, artist and award-winning theatre designer. Classes are every Monday 10am-1pm at Bart's Hall, £35 a session, includes all materials and refreshments. Pay as you go. Introductory session £15.

Beginners and experienced equally welcome. We cover painting, drawing, collage, printing etc. Get in touch for more information or to sign up by phone, email or website contact form.

Mob: 0771 4644584, email: [marjoke.henrichs@btinternet.com](mailto:marjoke.henrichs@btinternet.com), [www.marjokehenrichs.co.uk](http://www.marjokehenrichs.co.uk)

Next monthly workshop (please contact me to sign up): 17 November 'Making Christmas cards using collage'.

**Marjoke Henrichs**

## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 6 December 2025, 2–4pm

Yes, it's that time of year again folks! The popular annual Christmas bazaar will be held in the Church from 2pm on Saturday 6 December with proceeds going to both the Church Fabric and the Thomas Marshall Education Fund. Always a great start to Christmas.

Come along with your family and friends and have some fun on the bottle tombola and the raffle and grab bargains galore from the bric-a-brac stall.

Pick up those 'must have' gifts from the Christmas stall which will be full of edible Christmas goodies and other Christmas fare, including TMEF's new Brighter Future alternative gift ideas!

Have a go on the riotous Human Christmas Machine and try to get three in a row! Refresh yourselves with a glass of delicious, mulled wine and a mince pie and/or a cup of tea and a slice of cake and listen to Nick Raison playing your seasonal favourites on the piano.

Cakes for both the teas and cake stall, bottles for the bottle tombola, raffle prizes, games, and any items of good quality and in good working order that you can offer to be sold on the bric-a-brac stall, would be greatly appreciated.

Please bring all items to the Church ideally on the Friday afternoon (5 December) or on the morning of the bazaar or contact the people below.

Look forward to seeing you all on Saturday 6 December!

Bottle Tombola	Tina Mackie	07947 721036
Cakes	Libby Archer	07713 413494
Christmas Stall	Wendy Marshall	01394 450090
Raffle	John & Veronica Bevan	01394 450631

**Wendy Marshall**

## THE JOLLY SAILOR

What's New and Not to Miss!

Takeaway Friday Feasts: skip the washing up and enjoy our 'ready for the oven' takeaway, now available every Friday from 5:30-8pm. Order your feast, pick your time, and we'll have it hot and ready for collection!

Menu highlights include: Rich Venison Stew with Fluffy Cheese Scones: comfort in a bowl; The Jolly Orford Chowder: packed with local seafood and our kitchen's secret twist; Brisket and Chuck Double Stacked Burger: big, juicy and loaded with flavour.

Friday Night Quiz: put your knowledge to the test — our weekly quiz is every Friday at 7:30pm. Bring a team or join in!

All-British Cheese Night: meet the Cheesemonger and enjoy a 'Tour of Britain' cheese tasting — 7pm, Friday 21 November

Back by popular demand: Wednesday Supper Club

A three-course feast for just £20! Cosy up by candlelight with a roaring log fire. Last Wednesday of the month, 7:30pm (next up: 26 November).

Join our team: Chef's apprentice wanted

Fancy learning from one of the best? Head Chef Rook is searching for an enthusiastic apprentice to join the kitchen. No experience, just passion! This full-time apprenticeship is fully supported by Innventure. Know someone with a love for food? Email [info@jollysailororford.co.uk](mailto:info@jollysailororford.co.uk)

**Charlie Gerard**

### NOVEMBER AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Sunday 2 November: twentieth Sunday after Trinity/All Saints  
9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 9 November: Remembrance Sunday  
8.00am BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Mandy Reynolds  
10.45am Cluster Remembrance Service at Orford - Archdeacon Rich Henderson

Sunday 16 November: second Sunday before Advent  
11am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds  
6pm Choral Evensong at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 7 December: Second Sunday after Advent  
9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

**Diana Grayburn**, Church Warden, 450771

### NOVEMBER AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 2 November 10.30am Service arranged locally  
Sunday 9 November Traditional Remembrance Sunday Service

10.30am Stephen Caley  
Sunday 16 November 10.30am Rev Saul Tadzaushe – Holy Communion

Sunday 23 November 10.30am Informal café worship  
Sunday 30 November first Sunday in Advent

10.30am Advent carols and readings  
Sunday 7 December 10.30am Stephen Caley

There's always a welcome to join with us for any of our services and meetings. Our young people often help lead the services and are busy planning a Christmas Service for 21 December. Refreshments are served afterwards.

Harvest Thanksgiving, with a wonderfully decorated church, and lunch was appreciated by all those who came along. All the tinned and packed food displayed was contributed to the Orford Community Larder.

Chapel Tea Room, open every Monday and Wednesday – *now on winter Timing*, 11am–2pm (*ish*) serving warming casserole, pies, etc. and delicious desserts. With Christmas only a few weeks away why not browse the many crafts and art for those individual gifts.

Thank you for many s/h books received in the last few weeks helping to stock the book tables – books to appeal to all readers and jigsaws too, for that winter evening.

Chapel Tea Room and Church: Christmas crafts, coffee, tea, cake and lunches and sometimes music from 10.30am–3pm Saturdays 22 and 29 November, and 6 December. Call in for Christmas shopping and enjoy lunch.

**Stephen Caley**

### ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB CONCERT: HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Saturday 29 November 2025 at 7pm  
Aldeburgh Music Club – founded by Benjamin Britten in 1952 - returns to Britten's Snape Maltings Concert Hall on 29 November 29 with one of the greatest choral works of all time – Handel's *Messiah*.

First performed in 1742, *Messiah* has since become one of the best loved of all choral works, especially in its retelling of the Christmas story, a perfect start to the festive season. Amongst the many famous choruses are 'For unto us a child is born', 'Glory

to God', and of course the Hallelujah chorus, in which the audience traditionally stands and is invited to join in.

Aldeburgh Music Club Choir will be accompanied by the Suffolk Baroque Players, led by Kathryn Parry, and be joined by a brilliant quartet of locally-based professional soloists – Elenor Bowers-Jolley (soprano), Diana Moore (mezzo-soprano), Jonathan Hanley (tenor) and Rob Gildon (baritone). The performance will be conducted by the Club's Director of Music, Tom Appleton.

The performance starts at 7pm, and tickets, priced at £35, £25, £20 and £15, are available from the Snape Maltings Box Office or online at [www.brittenpearsarts.org](http://www.brittenpearsarts.org). People under the age of 18 can get in at half price.

For further information regarding the Club or this concert, please contact David Edwards [dwe450@gmail.com](mailto:dwe450@gmail.com)

**David Edwards**

### CONCERT IN ORFORD CHURCH

Saturday 13 December, 4pm

In September 2024 Hayden Thorpe released *Ness*. An album inspired by Orford Ness, a former Ministry of Defence site during both World Wars and the Cold War, it was acquired by the National Trust in 1993 and left to re-wild. To this day, it remains a place of paradox, mystery and constant evolution. Using a process of redaction, Thorpe brings the songs to life from the words of pioneering, best-selling place writer Robert Macfarlane's book of the same name. The album was launched with four powerful performances on the site itself as part of 'Ness Speaks', in collaboration with the National Trust, where Thorpe and his collaborators Propellor Ensemble delivered the music live for the first time to an audience, in a room containing a de-commissioned nuclear bomb.

Thorpe returns to Orford in December 2025 to deliver a final performance of the work, with a brand-new choral collaboration. He will perform the work in its entirety with London's SYRINX Choir in St Bartholomew's Church. With this bespoke new choral arrangement, the final chapter of *Ness* beautifully bookends its journey, coming home to Orford where it all began. Tickets are available from the Britten Pears Arts box office, [www.brittenpearsarts.org](http://www.brittenpearsarts.org)

### NOVEMBER AT THE PENINSULA PRACTICE

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.

- Wednesday 12 November 2025
- Thursday 12 February 2026

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

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

*Contact details*

Have you given us your current mobile number? This allows you to get information directly and quickly from us.

We can send you appointment reminders, results, and information via your phone if you share your up-to-date mobile number (but you can also opt out of these if you wish).

To check if we have your current number, and to update, go to your account at <https://systmonline.tpp-uk.com/> or call the surgery after 11am.

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