

The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave **Issue No. 416 November 2026**

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All copy must be received by midday on Thursday 19 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)

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2026.

FRIENDS GARAGE UPDATE

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council continue to be in regular contact with the various parties involved in the redevelopment of the garage site and are as frustrated as anyone as to the time it has taken for East Suffolk planning to grant all the necessary permissions. However, planning permission, the ground remediation and demolition strategy and the Section 106 agreement have now been verbally agreed and the developer is waiting for the final written confirmation. Once that written permission is received the developer will complete the purchase of the site from the current owner and then demolition will start hopefully early in the new year.

As part of the planning conditions, two of the proposed new homes need to be of an 'affordable' nature and to that end, two of the three two-bed terrace homes at the front of the development will be 'first time buyer' homes in perpetuity. These homes will be the first to be completed. These will be offered for sale at 80% of market value and it has been agreed that for the first three months these will only be marketed to residents of Orford or people with a family or business connection to Orford, much like the rules used by New Orford Town Trust for their residential lettings. Following that, they will be marketed to East Suffolk only, and then finally will go on the open market. It is hoped that marketing for the 'first time buyer' homes will start locally early in the new year.

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council

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, 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: 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

- Monday 2 November: Orford Museum Talk - Butley Priory, 6pm
- Friday 6 November: The Turning Tide - Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Saturday 7 November: Gardening Club - Orford Town Hall, 3pm
- Thursday 12 November: Orford Museum film screening - Riverside Cinema, Woodbridge, 7.30pm
- Friday 20 November: A Christmas Miracle - St Bartholomew's Church, 6.30pm
- Saturday 21 November: A Christmas Miracle - St Bartholomew's Church, 3pm and 6.30pm
- Thursday 26 November: Alde and Ore Community Partnership meeting - New Room of Orford Town Hall, 6.30pm
- Saturday 28 November: Aldeburgh Music Club concert - Snape Maltings Concert Hall, 7pm
- Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November: Festive Makers Market - Orford Town Hall, 10am-4pm

ORFORD SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

Forthcoming events:

- Saturday 5 December - Aricho Disco Roadshow
- New Year's Eve, live music with Rob from Game on

Keep an eye on the board and Facebook page for bingo and darts nights, and don't forget Friday night club nights.

***Mark Smy**, Secretary, 450358*

ALDE AND ORE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The next meeting of the Alde and Ore Community Partnership will be held on Thursday 26 November 2026 at 6.30pm in Orford Town Hall (New Room).

The meeting will have the latest update on the progress towards a five-year rolling programme of prioritised works aimed at repairing and strengthening the river defence wall which are planned to start in 2027.

Members of the public are welcome: please let the Honorary Secretary know that you would like to come: email: aldeblackburn@aol.com

***Alison Andrews**, Honorary Secretary to Alde and Ore Community Partnership*

THOMAS MARSHALL EDUCATION FUND

Dear Friends,

The Thomas Marshall Education Fund (TMEF) was set up nearly eighteen years ago. With your support and generosity, we have been able to help hundreds of babies and children grow into confident adults with positive futures and attain relevant skills to support themselves and others within their communities.

In recent months however, it has become more and more difficult to find the appropriate and resilient charitable channels on the ground in Mozambique to help those in need. Wars, natural disasters and civil unrest have exacerbated this problem. Because of these challenges, alongside busy lives and competing activities, the trustees have decided, unanimously, to close the TMEF charity. This has not been an easy, quick or unconsidered decision, but is one that we believe is right at this time and in these circumstances.

We are working now to find an appropriate charity who can take over the remaining assets and funds we have, so that the legacy of TMEF and all your kindnesses can continue in the spirit in which it began. We will let you know which charity this will be.

On behalf of all the trustees - and on behalf of all those we have been able to help - we thank you most sincerely for all your personal and financial kindnesses to TMEF over the years. We are proud of the good that came from a tragedy and appreciate all your support and good wishes.

Wendy and Guy Marshall

ORFORD FESTIVE MAKERS MARKET 2026

The popular Orford Festive Makers Market returns this year with another delightful gathering of local artists, makers and artisans. Orford Town Hall is our wonderful venue again, 10am-4pm on both Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November. We're welcoming back some well-known traders and some new so it's a perfect opportunity to shop local, shop independent and shop early! With ceramics, jewellery, stationery, textiles, candles, interiors, art, sculpture, clothing, soaps and skincare we really do have a fabulous (and different!) selection each day. If you're on Instagram you can now follow @orfordfestivemakersmarket for all the info, behind the scenes and spotlights on our traders. Hope to see you there!

Lydia Finney and Heather Carroll

THE TURNING TIDE at ORFORD TOWN HALL

Friday 6 November, Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm

George Crabbe, Aldeburgh poet, published his major work *The Borough* in 1810 – reflecting on his experiences growing up on the Suffolk coast with a violent father and limited prospects – an upbringing that impacted his subsequent relationships and career.

Benjamin Britten, Aldeburgh composer, discovers the poem in a bookshop while in exile in the US and writes one of his best loved works, *Peter Grimes*, in 1943 when he returns to England. The main protagonist is a fisherman with a questionable past ostracised by the village – a character Britten felt he could relate to.

John Flood, Suffolk prisoner, grapples with isolation and bullying from fellow inmates in the present day, for a crime he may or may not have committed.

Reverend Carol, Prison chaplain, is himself a victim of wrongdoing in the past. Can he help Flood find his way back through his empathy with Crabbe, Britten and Grimes before he is lost forever to his demons?

With live music from The Three Codettes, and original footage by Hawkes Films taken on Aldeburgh beach.

Tickets are available from the box office on 01394 279613, or from ticketsource.co.uk/black-white-productions

Suzanne Hawkes

THE ORFORD, SUDBOURNE & GEDGRAVE FLOWER SHOW AND FETE 2026

Well, would you believe it? After months of dry, hot weather it decided to rain on Flower Show Saturday! However, the good people of Orford, Gedgrave and Sudbourne are made of strong stuff and so the crowds still flocked in and the feedback we've received has been great, with the overwhelming sentiment still being that we should continue to put on a traditional village flower show and fete. Despite the dry hot summer entries were plentiful, albeit the giant veg categories did suffer.

A massive thank you to the Committee who work tirelessly over many months to get the show organised and of course, we could not put on such a great show if it were not for the numerous volunteers who help build the showground over Friday and Saturday, look after the gates, run the stalls on the day and tidy away at the end, not to mention those who manage the show entries and the judges. It was lovely to see many new faces amongst the volunteers and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

A special thank you to all the Friends of the show, without whose generous donations the event could not run, and to Greenwell Farm Estate for the loan of men and machines to help build the show and take it down again. Also, to our First Aiders for keeping us safe. And thank you to everyone who donated prizes to our two most popular stalls - the raffle and the tombola.

Finally thank you to Nick Robinson for stepping in at the last minute with only minor arm twisting to judge the dog fancy dress, and to the Orford Meat Shed for providing the very important bone for the dog races!

Apologies if I have missed anyone, but thank you all again, it is very much appreciated.

It has always been the case that after deducting the costs of running the show and retaining some funds to help run next year's show, any surplus would be made available for local projects and good causes. We already donate to the Orford community larder and help sponsor the Orford children's Christmas party but are looking to help more local charities, societies, clubs or events so if you would like to nominate a good cause, or apply for some funding, then please contact us on orfordflowershow@gmail.com

Please visit us at www.orfordflowershow.org and on Instagram at #orfordflowershow to see what is being planned for next year's show on Saturday 28 August 2027.

***Gary Wingrove**, Chairman*

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 - our fiftieth anniversary of the Gardening Club!!

We always welcome new members and guests… Do join us...

Our next events:

Still a few places left!!

Saturday 7 November, 3pm. Nick Bailey – award-winning TV presenter, author, garden designer and speaker. '365 Days of Colour in your Garden'. Afternoon tea included.

Following the success of Nick's previous event with us, he will be returning with the above topic, on which he has written a book, which will be for sale. Nick, is a TV presenter, contributor to Gardeners' World, and garden designer working on four continents. He is Director of the University of Leicester Botanic Garden and was Head Gardener at Chelsea Physic Garden for seven years.

For bookings – Contact Susanne: nb71126odgc@gmail.com

Saturday 16 January 2027, Saturday afternoon talk and tea, Dr Mark Spencer, Forensic Botanist: 'Murder most florid'

Plants are silent witnesses to crimes. Their presence in many crime scenes can help an investigator to identify a suspect or to locate a victim. Apparently mundane plants such as brambles and nettles can provide valuable insights into when a crime was committed. Fragments of leaves and seeds embedded in soil on the footwear of a suspect can place them at the scene.

Plants have played a role in solving major cases for decades, including the infamous murder of the infant son of aviator Charles Lindbergh. Mark shows how his work, knowledge, and acute attention to detail, can assist police forces and crime scene investigators.

Richard Allenby-Pratt of the Suffolk Project based at the Art Station, Saxmundham: 'Making the Most of your Flower and Garden Photography'

In October Richard came and gave us a very illuminating talk with lots of technical tips. He is a commercial and documentary photographer, based in Suffolk, who is best known for 'The Suffolk Project' which is a long-term study of the county: its landscapes, ecology, people, history and industries. He runs Photoshed which offers free photography sessions at Saxmundham Art Station

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

A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

It's so wonderful to be writing this update whilst there are quiet and not so quiet final preparations happening all over; we have studio rehearsals in the Britten Studio at Snape, carols ringing through school corridors, dancers leaping in church halls, costumes piling up in front rooms, foliage gathering in the woods, dining rooms turning into dressing rooms and ticket holders rummaging for where they put them.

Come join us all at Orford Church.

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 of this once-in-a-generation new opera by Master of The King's Music Errollyn Wallen, inspired by Britten's unrealised community opera *A Christmas Sequence*.

A dramatic story of lives that transcend time and generations with much-loved Christmas carols for everyone to sing along with. The world premiere performances will take place in Orford Church on Friday 20 November at 6.30pm, and on Saturday 21 November at 3pm and 6.30pm, where, in 1958, Britten's visionary community opera Noye's Fludde was premiered.

Tickets on sale at www.brittenpearsarts.org/events/a-christmas-miracle

Anna Gregg

ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS

On Monday 2 November 2026, 6pm, Alison Weir is returning to Butley Priory to talk about her *novel The Cardinal: The Secret Life of Thomas Wolsey*. This talk is now waiting list only. Please see our website www.orfordmuseum.org.uk/event.

On Thursday 12 November 2026 at 7.30pm at the Riverside Cinema in Woodbridge there will be a special screening of Orford Museum's film *Cobra Mist: CIA, Seals & Orford*. At the height of the Cold War, a secret CIA base was built on the Suffolk coast at Orford Ness.

Over $1billion was spent trying to spy on the Soviets. Today Cobra Mist is off limits and not open to the public. In this special film, Ralph Cochrane goes behind the scenes to find out what really happened and how a small dedicated team is helping to keep this fascinating piece of history alive for future generations. Featuring rare footage of Orford Ness lighthouse, which was pulled down in 2020 due to coastal erosion, and the new seal colony that has formed there, this film is beautifully shot by the Orford Museum event video team. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Ralph and Mike Finney, the star of the film. Tickets cost £10 but there is a 10% discount for members of Orford, Bawdsey Manor and Woodbridge Museums. You can book either directly from the Riverside Cinema or through our website as above where you will find further details about this film. A portion of the proceeds will go the Orford Museum.

On Tuesday 8 December 2026, we will be showing two short Suffolk films, each fifteen minutes long: *Merman*, written and directed by Madeleine Wynn, and *The Dog That Couldn't Bark*, directed by Henry Tomlinson

On Tuesday 12 January 2027 Simon Sturgis, a leading expert on carbon emissions will give a talk entitled 'Architecture and the Climate Crisis: how the past can save the future', and on Thursday 4 February 2027 Tobias Capwell will return to Butley Priory to talk about the Bayeux tapestry which, as the result of an historic agreement with France, will form the centrepiece of a major exhibition which opened at the British Museum in September (until July 2027).

Booking for the above two talks is now open on our website. Tickets cost £18 for Friends of Orford Museum and £26 for non-Friends. Please book through our website.

Our annual three-day History Festival will take place at Butley Priory on Thursday 25, Friday 26 and Saturday 27 February 2027. The Festival will start on Thursday 25 February with two showings in Orford Town Hall at 5pm and 6.30pm of the Orford Castle Son et Lumière. This will be followed on Friday 26 February with talks from Minoo Dinshaw on the English Civil War followed by Mike Lowndes on Orford and the Norman Grid. On Saturday, 27 February, Sebastian Faulks will talk about his new novel, *Farewell to Eden*, followed by Stephen Sackur, presenter of *Hardtalk* talking about his book *Hard Truth*. The Festival will conclude with William Whyte talking about Oxford University.

With the exception of the *Son et Lumière* showings, all the Festival talks take place at Butley Priory. Booking and full details of all these talks will open shortly on our website.

Elizabeth Spinney

ONLINE SHOPPING – A CAUTIONARY TALE

As we approach Christmas many of us will be buying items online and more adverts will try to tempt us by popping up in our social media and other sites we regularly use. When we are busy it is easy to throw caution to the wind and buy something with insufficient due diligence.

This happened to me recently when I wanted to buy shoes. Having searched for shoes my system decided to insert shoe adverts in almost everything I was looking at. I got drawn to https://averylanebrighton.com which showed an English boutique with many items for sale. I didn't check the company out and placed an order. Several weeks later a parcel from China arrived with shoes of poor quality that bore no resemblance to what I had ordered. The hassle-free thirty-day returns did not exist.

What I should have done was check customer reviews (using Trustpilot) and the contact details on the website (a telephone number of 123456 is a red flag and no such shop exists in Marine Parade, Brighton).

There are numerous such 'family run businesses'. Avoid many of them by ignoring ads on social media or those that come up as Ad or Sponsored in a Google search.

I also suggest paying via a credit card or Pay Pal which gives you protection against fraud, non-delivery, or faulty items and reading Trading Standards' weekly email bulletin of current frauds and scams to which you can sign up by searching 'Become a Trading Standards Champion - Suffolk County Council'.

***Corinne Lusher**, Orford, Gedgrave & Sudbourne Hall Good Neighbour Scheme, 01394 450235*

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 5 December, 2–4pm

Yes, it's that time of year again folks! Despite the unseasonal warmth that we have been having, think cold wind, frosts or even snow to get you in the mood!

Always a great start to Christmas, the popular annual Christmas bazaar will be held in Orford Church from 2pm on Saturday 5 December. This year with full working lights and heating!

Come along with your family and friends and have some fun on the bottle tombola and the raffle and have a go on the riotous Human Christmas Machine to try to get three in a row!

Pick up those 'must have' gifts from the Christmas Stall which will be full of edible Christmas goodies and other Christmas fare. There will also be a new Christmas decorations stall.

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.

For a change there will not be a Bric-a-Brac stall this year. Instead, for the children, there will be an activity area with various festive games such as Pin the Nose on the Snowman and Ring a Reindeer, and a 'Lucky Dip tub' to delve into.

Orford School will be running a craft table and also selling some children's games and toys with the proceeds going to the school. Donations of cakes for the teas and cake stall, bottles for the bottle tombola, raffle prizes, Christmas decorations and children's toys and games would be greatly appreciated.

Please bring all items to the Church ideally on the Friday afternoon (4th) or on the morning of the bazaar or contact the people below.

As the church is still in 'ye olden' times, good old-fashioned cash will be preferable at most of the stalls.

We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday 5 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 FISH AND CHIP SHOP

Hot off the press at the Jolly Sailor!

There's finally good news in newspapers in Orford this winter — and it comes wrapped around your supper. From November through March, the Jolly Sailor Fish & Chip Shop is serving up our favourites as a takeaway, lunch or supper. Take your pick from traditional Petershead fish and chips, scampi and chips, sausage and chips, pie and chips, seafood chowder and our brownie, with takeaway prices from £7.95. For more details visit our website at www.jollysailororford.co.uk

We're bringing back the charm of a newspaper-wrapped fish-and-chip supper, with food-safe paper inside and a newspaper outside. Whether you favour the *Financial Times* or the *Daily Mail*, we hope everyone can agree: a hot supper at a great price is very good news. The Chowder is served leak proof!

TAKEAWAY ONLY

Thursday to Saturday: 12 noon–2.30pm and 5.30–8.30pm

Sunday: 12 noon–4pm

Order ahead on 01394 450243 or online at jollysailororford.co.uk. Or simply pop into the Jolly Sailor, place your order and enjoy a glass of beer whilst we cook your supper. A warm welcome, a cold beer and lunch or supper sorted. See you soon.

Peter Gillander

NOVEMBER AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Sunday 1 November, All Saints Day

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford - Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 8 November, Remembrance Sunday, third Sunday before Advent

8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford - Revd Mandy Reynolds

10.45am Remembrance Service at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 15 November, second Sunday before Advent

11am Holy Communion at Orford - Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 29 November, Advent Sunday

6pm Choral Evensong for Advent at Orford – Janet Bishop

Sunday 6 December, second Sunday after Advent

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

***Diana Grayburn**, Church Warden, 01394 450771*

NOVEMBER AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 1 November	10.30am Informal Café Worship
Sunday 8 November	10.30am REMEMBRANCE SERVICE with eleventh hour silence
Sunday 15 November	10.30am Rev Saul - Communion
Sunday 22 November	10.30am Service Arranged Locally - *David & Goliath'*
Sunday 29 November	ADVENT SUNDAY 10.30am Stephen Caley
Sunday 6 December	10.30am Service of Readings and Carols for Advent

You will be welcome to join with us at any of the services and meetings – our young people often assist with the service. Refreshments are served afterwards

Chapel Tea Room welcomes local friends and visitors. We are open every Monday and Wednesday from 11am–2pm(ish) Winter timing. There's always good food available and lots of local crafts art, cards, preserves etc for sale. No need to book a table – just arrive to be accommodated!

Saturday Christmas Market, 21 and 28 November, from 11–3pm – Christmas craft gifts and raffle – coffee, lunch and tea.

Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride Day – well done to our cyclists and walkers who raised £414 – half of this comes back to our church.

Thank you for another anonymous and generous donation received toward the upkeep of the church building which will help defray the cost of the planned internal redecoration ahead of our 125th year in 2027.

Our Harvest Festival Service, celebrated in traditional style, was well received and afterwards we enjoyed refreshments and a seasonal warming lunch. Once again the church looked splendid with sheaves of wheat (thank you Jeremy), flowers and tinned and packet produce displayed which enabled several boxes of food to be added to the Orford and District Community Larder. Thank you to all who contributed and time given to decorate the Sanctuary.

Stephen Caley

ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB

Presents JS Bach's CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Saturday 28 November at 7pm

Following their sell-out performance of *Messiah* at Snape Maltings Concert Hall last year, Aldeburgh Music Club return to Snape on 28 November with another great choral masterwork for Christmas, JS Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

Written in 1734, the Oratorio tells the story of Christmas - the birth of Jesus in a manger, the announcement of the birth by the Angels, the visit of the shepherds, and the arrival of the Wise Men with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Telling this eternal story, the choir will be accompanied by the Suffolk Baroque Players, and conducted by their musical director, Tom Appleton, with a great line up of professional soloists - Elenor Bowers-Jolley (soprano), Diana Moore (mezzo soprano), Jonathan Hanley (tenor) and Mark Saberton (bass).

Tickets for the concert, which starts at 7pm, are available from Snape Maltings Box Office, or online at www.brittenpearsarts.org. Tickets for under-18s are half price.

David Edwards