



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 403 October 2025

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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 23 October, 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 NOVEMBER ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER

VILLAGE FEAST

Thank you to the Orford Meat Shed, the BarMann, and Rock 2 Pop for a wonderful evening. Thank you also to Guy Marshall for the loan of the gazebo and the New Orford Town Trust for the use of the tables and chairs. The evening was a great success and the weather was a great improvement on last year! A special thank you to all that helped with the putting out of the tables and chairs, and more importantly the clearing away. Ideas are already underway for next year...

Benches – the Parish Council is looking to replace a couple of the benches on the Village Green near to the shop. If anyone would like to sponsor or contribute to a bench please contact the Clerk.

Marie Backhouse, Clerk/RFO to Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council, 01394 459172, clerk@orfordandgedgrave-pc.gov.uk (please note new email address)

VILLAGE FUND

The New Orford Town Trust has already made grants to several local organisations from its Village Fund. The next applications will be considered in October and should be submitted to the Clerk, preferably by email, by 9am on Tuesday 7 October. Please contact the Clerk for more information and an application form.

Kara Reed, Clerk to New Orford Town Trust, orfordtrust@outlook.com, 01394 459172

ORFORD SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB

The bike meet night season has drawn to a close, and thanks to all involved in making each night a success. The members coach trip to Great Yarmouth was a good day (including the bookmakers). Special thanks to Matthew for the organisation.

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

Mark Smy, Secretary, 450358

FRIDAY SOUP LUNCHES IN BART'S HALL

Restarting 3 October

All are welcome to drop in for a light lunch and company on Fridays between 12.30 and 2pm. We serve bread and soup, tea and coffee and home baked goodies. There is no charge, but donations are

October 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 (from 3 October)
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm
- Thursday 2 October: Gardening Club - Orford Town Hall, 7pm
- Thursday 9 October: Orford Museum talk - Butley Priory, 6pm
- Friday 24 October: Talks for Thomas - Orford Town Hall, 6.30 for 7pm

welcome. Bart's Hall is in Broad Street, at the bottom of Bakers Lane. If you or someone you know would like to come, but would find getting to us difficult, please get in touch about transport.

The event is run during the winter months with the support of St Bartholomew's Church and the Good Neighbour Scheme. If you are new to Orford it's a great way to meet people. We would welcome some volunteers to serve and wash up.

For further information contact Caroline Gill on 07799 655825 or email carolinedechairgill@gmail.com

Caroline Gill

THE ORFORD, SUDBOURNE & GEDGRAVE FLOWER SHOW AND FETE 2025

We were back in favour with the weather gods this year and the crowds flocked in. 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 fête as they are becoming very rare and so it was wonderful to see an increase in entries this year on previous years.

A massive thank you to the Committee who work tirelessly over months to get the show organised – enjoy your time off before we start again for the 2026 show! 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. There are far too many to name individually but you, and more importantly we, know who you are...

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. Two of our most popular stalls are the raffle and the tombola, so thank you to everyone who donated prizes or produce. Finally thank you 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

We had official photographers this year, Glyndwr Lee and Sam Harvey and if you go to our website www.orfordflowershow.org you will find a link to their site where you can view and download photos for free from this year's show.

Please visit us at www.orfordflowershow.org and on Instagram #orfordflowershow to see what is being planned for next year.

Gary Wingrove, *Chairman*

ORFORD FLOWER SHOW REFRESHMENTS

I would like to thank everyone who donated cakes for the refreshments at the flower show, especially Michelle of The Mixing Bowl who donated lovely gluten free and vegan cakes which we are often asked for but usually have to say 'sorry, we don't have any'.

I would also like to thank the band of helpers who turn up every year to wash and dry up - you are wonderful. We made over £1200 which is fantastic.

Again many thanks to you all.

Anne Macro

THE KING'S HEAD, ORFORD

Dearest Orford Community,

We'd like to thank everyone who has reached out with warm wishes on our purchase of The King's Head Inn - it has been very encouraging and helpful to hear many reflections on people's affinity with the pub, the lived history of the buildings, and hopes and aspirations for what might come in the future.

Our intentions in purchasing the pub have always been twofold; to secure the operation of the main building as a community-oriented pub first and foremost, and secondly to renovate the additional outbuildings and revitalise the courtyard space. This will hopefully restore the sense of the whole premises being a hub for the village.

We are so very grateful to Ian and Suzanne and the King's Head team who have been very accommodating and supportive through an uncertain transition as we awaited clarity on the sale timeline. We had hoped to complete much earlier and to operate an ice cream business over the summer months, but unfortunately those plans were scuppered by delays in the sale outside of our control.

At present we are changing very little. Ian has taken the opportunity to introduce some new beers and wines and those have been very popular. We have begun to remove the courtyard pebbles and clear the outbuildings so that we can restore them. We will be slowly renovating and adapting the pub offer season-

ally to try to meet the needs of Orford residents and visitors alike; hopefully developing a thriving local business.

While you may begin to see Pump Street bread on the menu in the future, we are going to keep the two businesses separate in their purpose and operation, and we have no intention of painting the pub pink!

Finally, we would love to keep hearing from you as to your thoughts and wishes for the pub, and feedback - both positive and constructive - is welcome too. While we can't promise to be able to act on every suggestion, it will help us to ensure we are pleasing as many people as possible.

Joanna and Chris Brennan, *thekingsheadinnorford@gmail.com*

ORFORD BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

The Orford Annual Bonfire and Fireworks will take place on Saturday 1 November 2025 (weather permitting) on the field behind Orford Primary School. Access will be via the entrance near to the School, which is off the track that runs in front of the school. Bonfire to be lit at 6pm with the fireworks taking place at approximately 7pm. There will be a BBQ selling burgers, hot dogs, hot and cold drinks - cash only please.

The bonfire will be available for garden waste, cardboard and untreated wood from 4 October - please leave your contributions in the designated space so that the bonfire can be built appropriately. There are numerous restrictions on what can be burnt so to allow us to continue this tradition please observe our request on what can be placed on the bonfire.

We need support in the form of volunteers during the day and on the night such as donation collectors, fire marshals etc. If you feel you could help, please contact Hannah Backhouse via Facebook, email hansblix123@outlook.com or mobile 07920 884762.

The Committee would like to thank Michael Cordle for the use of his field again this year.

Finally, this is a not-for-profit event and cash donations collected on the night will secure and fund the event for 2026 - please give generously.

Orford Bonfire and Fireworks Committee

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

TMEF are pleased to announce the first three speakers in the line-up of our third series of entertaining and interesting monthly Friday evening short talks.

On Friday 24 October Jeremy Rugge-Price is back with his own version of 'Upstairs Downstairs' - which should prove to be a very amusing account of his childhood growing up in Suffolk with his brothers and their 'best mates', the butler, the chauffeur and the various nannies! An immaculate conception, a Chinese spy and a royal visit feature in just part of some of the tales Jeremy will recount.

Our second talk 'The Bailey, Bar and Bench' 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'. Alex Worrall has a lot of Beatles memorabilia which he will bring along and he 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 the Dali Lama in Paris. Alex will also recall his meeting with John and Yoko and then Andy Warhol on the same day in 1973.

All talks will be held at the Town Hall, Orford. The evenings start at 6.30pm with wine and nibbles.

The talks begin at 7 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

Wendy Marshall

SUDBOURNE HALL CRICKET CLUB

The annual Presidents Day game brought the curtain down on a season of mixed fortunes for Sudbourne Hall Cricket Club. One of the highlights of the social calendar, Sir Edward Greenwell was able to field a strong team against the local club who were hit by late injury withdrawals following a league game the day before. The result was a comfortable win for the Presidents XI as they chased down a meagre 94 to win in the thirty-over game. Both teams enjoyed an excellent post-game tea (for many, the highlight!) in the September sunshine.

Our Saturday league team finished in eighth place in the eleven-team league, a comfortable and respectable finish after propping up the table in June. Excellent batting from John Moore and consistent bowling from Peter Mark, the two standout performers of the season. With league cricket beginning over Easter weekend and running through to the second Saturday in September, the Club have done well to field a team every Saturday. Many rural cricket clubs are struggling and the Club is indebted to a small band of volunteers and our vice presidents and supporters who keep the Club afloat.

The Club is currently in the process of adopting a charitable status to support fund raising. With this in mind, we are looking for a local person to assist with some simple accountancy work. This will amount to a couple of hours work every month maximum and sits aside from the normal work carried out by our Treasurer Stephen Kirby. If anybody is interested in supporting the Club with this role, please do contact andyhalliday1@me.com

As the days get shorter and those heady days of summer become a memory, the Club would like to say a massive thank you to all who have supported during the 2025 season. With plans for junior cricket already in place for 2026, the focus is on developing a Club that serves the community and the local villages.

Andy Halliday

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

'The more one gardens, the more one learns; and the more one learns, the more one realises how little one knows' Vita Sackville-West

Do join us for half price at £7.50 for the remainder of the calendar year... Please contact me or come along to our next event.

Our next event: Thursday 2 October: Kerry Austen, 'Roses: from Wisley to Persica'

Kerry has spent her life with roses and will talk about how she established the Bowes Lyon Rose Garden at Wisley through to everything you need to know about growing and maintaining your Roses. She was also involved with the St Albans Rose Garden which you may know. She will also talk about the new *Rosa Persica* which has taken the rose world by storm and is perfect for wildlife. We hope she will bring bare root roses for us to buy!!

Anna Greenland: 'Know your Onions and other Vegetables', September event

Anna gave us a very well-illustrated talk and a quick whizz through her career to date. It is great to have such a wonderful young gardener living locally to us. She was extremely knowledgeable about cost effective and 'organic' gardening. She gave us tips about composting, having beds which are four feet wide

so that you can access them easily from both sides without walking on the soil and talked about her 'no dig' approach. It was also interesting to hear her approach to using green manure in the garden.

She talked about what she grows and brought along examples of her own vegetables including a range of garlic and beetroot, a blue potato and a small red cabbage. She shared her seed merchants' details with us. Her husband, Hugo, served us with a delightful drink called 'Blackcurrant Shrub' which included cider vinegar as an ingredient and was an example of the type of recipes included in her book.

Still to come in 2025!!

- Saturday 22 November: Demonstration, Seasonal Floral Design – 'Garden to Bouquet'
- Thursday 4 December AGM and Social Supper

Polly Sharkey, creativefutures98@btinternet.com

ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS AT BUTLEY PRIORY

On Thursday 9 October Peter Gutteridge returns to Butley Priory to continue his very popular series of talks on Nelson with one entitled 'Nelson – Disaster at Tenerife and the Battle of the Nile'.

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 master-minded 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*. 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 80 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 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

QUIZ AND SUPPER EVENING

Saturday 15 November, Orford Town Hall

Don't forget to book your place(s) or table for the Quiz with Supper Evening hosted by the Friends of St Bartholomew's Church. As well as an interesting and entertaining quiz with quizmaster Graeme Kay and prizes for the top three teams, there will be a two-course supper, cash bar and raffle.

Tables are for eight people. You can make up your own table of eight, or we will place you on a table with other guests if you wish.

Date: Saturday 15 November 2025

Time: Doors open 6pm, quiz starts 6.30pm. Evening ends by 9.30pm.

Where: Town Hall, Orford

Tickets: £25 a head for Friends and £28 for non-Friends.

To book: email Richard Murley murleyfamily@btopenworld.com
Include any special dietary requirements and the name of your Quiz team.

Profits from the evening will go to the Friends of St Bartholomew's Church charity (Registered Charity number 1194884).

Libby Archer

OCTOBER AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Sunday 5 October: sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 12 October: seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall

Sunday 19 October: eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 2 November: twentieth Sunday after Trinity/All Saints

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Diana Grayburn, Church Warden, 450771

OCTOBER AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 5 October 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 12 October 10.30am Informal Café Style Service

Sunday 19 October 10.30am Rev Saul – Communion

Sunday 26 October 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 2 November 10.30am Service Arranged Locally

You are always welcome to join with us for any of our Sunday services which are for all ages. Refreshments are served at the end of each service.

We were delighted that Ellen, Sofia and Felicity led our service on 14 September focusing on the Leprosy Mission, which was their chosen (supporting) charity throughout the summer, and continuing, with fundraising for this charity.

The Suffolk Epilepsy Support Group held a fabulous day on Saturday 13 September at the church, raising vital funds for its work. A huge selection of home made quiche, sausage rolls, scotch eggs, scones and cakes all available with or without lunch. The tombola had some great prizes. What a shame there was only two supporters from the village! Thanks to those that came along for a very happy day.

Five very energetic cyclists visited many churches from Woodbridge and Leiston and inbetween, through to Orford, for the Suffolk Historical Churches Ride and Stride Day sponsored and supporting our church – we signed in several other visiting cyclists too. We are rounding up the sponsorship money!

We continue with the open Chapel Tea Room on Mondays and Wednesdays – but with the successful summer Saturday afternoon opening now finished at present, but hopeful for extra 'half term' opening. We receive many compliments for 'a wonderful tea room find.' A great lunch menu plus tea and cake with local art, crafts, cards, preserves and much more always available. Do check the opening times and come along for a visit.

Stephen Caley

OCTOBER 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.

Thursday 16 October 2025 • Wednesday 12 November 2025 • Thursday 12 February 2026

Social prescribing

Social prescribing allows clinicians and medical professionals to support patients with non-clinical services by referring them to local specialists. This is known locally as Connect for Health and can support people with long-term conditions, welfare benefits, isolation, lifestyle and other needs. It is free and confidential, and for anyone 18+. To find out more, please call the surgery on 01394 411641 or email Connect for Health at c4h.suffolk@nhs.net or call them on 01394 332265.

Contacting us

Have you tried to contact us using the NHS app?

You can now share information and upload images about your health concern through the app. A healthcare professional at Peninsula Practice will review your request and get in touch with you.

No need to call at 8am for an appointment. Keep track of your queries in the app. Another convenient way to reach us. You can still contact us in the usual way, but this offers a new option that may suit you. To get started, please visit our website and select 'Contact Us Online'.

www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk or **01394 411641**
<https://www.facebook.com/ThePeninsulaPracticeGPSurgery/>



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
- Identification of scams and scammers and support for those affected
- Friday Soup at Bart's Hall
- Other activities as requested and agreed