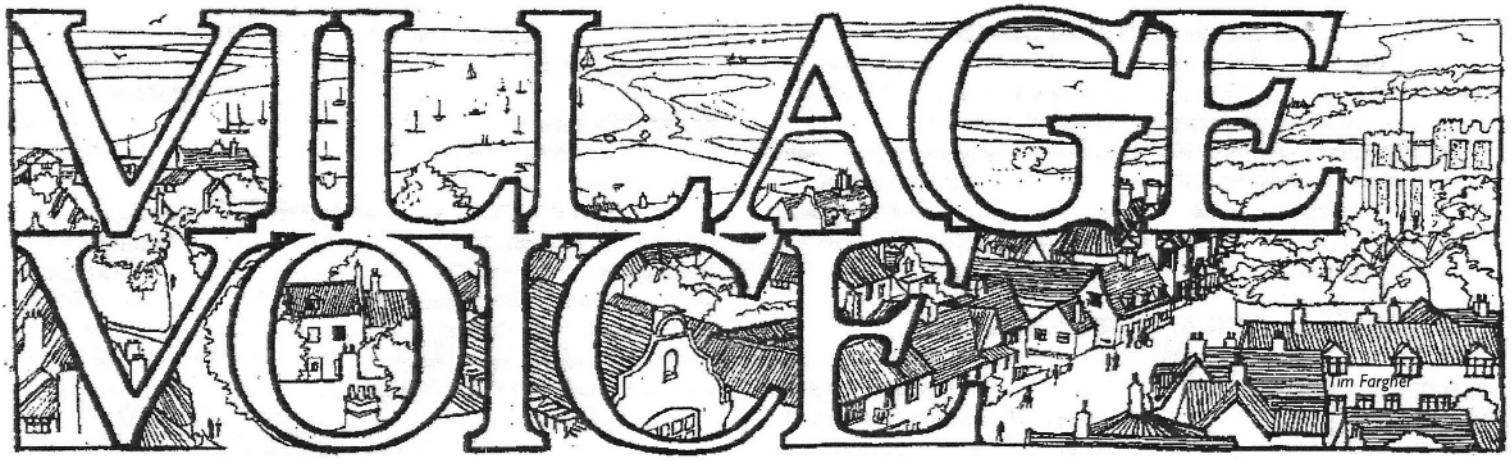


The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave **Issue No. 415 October 2026**

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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 22 October 2026, 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 22 OCTOBER 2026.

FROM ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

There are currently two vacancies for Councillors to represent Orford on the Parish Council. These are voluntary roles and will be filled by co-option at the monthly Parish Council meeting in October. Anyone wishing to be considered for these vacancies should write a letter to the Clerk to arrive before noon on Tuesday 13 October 2026. Applicants must be eighteen years of age or over and have had their main residence or place of work in Orford, or within three miles of Orford, for the past twelve months. The Parish Council as a body also acts as the Trustee for the New Orford Town Trust. If you wish to discuss details of the role of a Parish Councillor, please call me at the office on 459172 or email clerk@orfordandgedgrave-pc.gov.uk

Dates for your diary: children's Christmas party, 3.30–5.30pm on Wednesday 16 December; Carols around the Christmas tree, at 6.30–7.30, also on Wednesday 16 December.

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

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: 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

- Thursday 8 October: Gardening Club - Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Tuesday 20 October: Orford Museum talk - Butley Priory, 6pm

ORFORD SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

A good turnout for the final bike meet night, making the events very successful this season. Many thanks, especially to the bar and BBQ team for all your hard work.

Events coming up:

- Saturday 3 October: live music from Rock Solid Alibi, from 8.30pm
- Saturday 5 December: Aricho Roadshow disco
- New Year's Eve: live music with Rob from Game On

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

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

ORFORD BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS 2026

Due to unforeseen circumstances and the unavailability of key volunteers, the Committee has made the sad decision to cancel plans for the Orford bonfire and fireworks 2026.

The Committee is fully engaged in planning a return next year and if you would like to be a part of the 2027 team, please contact Hannah Backhouse on 07920 884762 or by email: hansblix123@outlook.com

Orford Fireworks Committee

ORFORD FLOWER SHOW REFRESHMENTS

I would like to thank everyone who donated cakes for the Flower Show refreshments - we had a really lovely selection of cakes. A big thank you to Michelle at The Mixing Bowl who donated gluten-free and vegan cakes as they are asked for more and more these days and it is lovely to say that we have these. It was a quieter afternoon, but we still raised £725 which will be spent at the Club, replacing the cooker and looking at the main room floor, so again many thanks as without your donations and without the lovely team of helpers I just could not do all of this.

Anne Macro

JOLLY ORE

The twenty-eighth Jolly Ore rowing race was a great spectacle on the Bank Holiday Sunday. Fifteen vessels battled it out for the highly-prized Jolly Oar and other prizes. With a growing canoe participation, a category was created for them for we are a nautically-politically correct race with a diversity of boat.

On a low tide and warm morning, the fifteen competitors set off from the muddy beach and all managed to get round two markers, back to the pontoon before one crew member raced back to the quay to hit the finish bell. We had international entrants from the Netherlands (who came last despite being called the 'flying Dutchman'!) so it was some familiar names who took to the podium.

Tenders: First place – William Kemp in For Your Eyes Only. Second place – Spinneys in Molly's Magic. Third place – Tina and Fiona in Dynamic Duo.

Canoes: first place – Nicholas Price in Expression. Second place – the Fletchers in HMS Victory. Third place – Charles Price in Tango.

Prizes included a Jolly Sailor meal for two, Riverside voucher, Meat Shed voucher, Pump Street chocolates, tulips (kindly donated by the Walds) and 1 x Tennis Mental Strength lesson for Martin Fletcher (kindly donated by Nick Pearce). On a serious note, thank you to all prize givers as they no doubt get asked a lot for prizes and we really appreciate their support. It is a very happy Orford event open to everyone and we are all ears if people want to suggest additional categories for 2027.

Special mention must go the Kemp family who won the fancy dress category with a most superb Greatest Showman boat structure and supporting costumes – quite a sight at 9.30am on a Sunday morning.

We will be back next year on Bank Holiday Sunday and we have some new ideas so please do make a date of it. Thanks to everyone for their support and helping raise £135 for the RNLI.

Nick Pearce

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 - our fiftieth anniversary of the Gardening Club!!

We always welcome new members and guests… Now £7.50 for the remainder of the calendar year!

Our next events:

Thursday 8 October, 7.30pm, Orford Town Hall

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

Richard 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: it's landscapes, ecology, people, history and industries.

I'm sure we will learn many tips on how to improve our photos and maybe win in the 2027 Flower Show!!!

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… We can't wait to hear him enlighten us about our gardens of the future.

Bookings open now – Contact Susanne: nb71126odgc@gmail.com

Andrew Brogan – Henstead Exotic Gardens, 'Exotic plants, cacti and succulents in my garden'

Andrew gave us a memorable and humorous talk about how he went from being a rock star with no gardening experience to having an exotic garden which is known world-wide, featured many times on TV programmes with Alan Titchmarsh and in many magazines and newspapers.

He brought a wide range of small plants, many of which were succulents or hardy begonias, as most of his are too gigantic for us to buy. Many members and guests took advantage of this opportunity and also to discuss the plants with Andrew.

His garden is open every Sunday until the end of October!!

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

VICTORY OVER ALDEBURGH!

In mid-August Orford's (self selecting!) men's tennis team, consisting of Martin Fletcher (Captain) Richard Wald, Ian Hollingsworth (née Price) and Nick Pearce challenged Aldeburgh to a match. And for the second year running, under the inspiring Churchillian leadership of Martin Fletcher, Orford emerged victorious.

Some tough matches with Aldeburgh cunningly deft at the art of the looping lob on their home courts, however Orford held on for a precious victory and the even more precious Hagstone necklace trophy. To be fair to Aldeburgh their combined age may have been double Orford's but as the adage goes '*you can only beat what is in front of you'* and that Orford did.

We look forward to the re-match in 2027.

Nick Pearce

A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

We have been bowled over by everyone's support for *A Christmas Miracle*, from singers to costume makers, bell ringers to foliage dressers, flyer droppers to set builders.

It's not too late to join in. We have adult choir sessions on Sunday 4 October 2-5pm, and Sunday 8 November 2-5pm at the Peter Pears Recital Room, Snape – come on down and find out more.

Want to join the costume and prop making team, help out front of house, meet folks and make friends? Just email enquires@mahonganyopera.co.uk and follow us @mahoganyopera

The performances are on sale on the Britten Pears Arts website: www.brittenpearsarts.org/events/a-christmas-miracle

A Christmas Miracle

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 transcends 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 20 and 21 November, where, in 1958, Britten's visionary community opera *Noye's Fludde* was premiered.

Anna Gregg

ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS

Tuesday, 20 October, 6pm to 7pm at Butley Priory

John Goodall - *Country Life* at 130 years

The first issue of *Country Life* appeared on 8 January 1897. As the magazine approaches its 130th year as a successful weekly publication, John Goodall will look at its early history and the figures involved with its foundation. In particular he will consider the evolution of its coverage of country houses and the distinctive tradition of architectural photography that it has developed.

John Goodall is the architectural editor of *Country Life*. His books include *God's House at Ewelme* (2001), *The English Castle* (2011) and *Parish Church Treasures* (2015). He is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and sits on the fabric advisory committees of several great churches.

Monday, 2 November 2026, 6pm to 7pm, Butley Priory

Alison Weir: Cardinal Wolsey: his extraordinary rise to power and tragic fall from grace

We regret that this event is now fully booked but a waiting list is open on our website.

On Tuesday, 8 December 2026 at 6pm at Butley Priory, 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.

The films will be followed by a Q&A session with the directors and other members of the production staff. Will humanity ever be accepting of an outsider? *Merman* weaves medieval myth around issues of present-day prejudice. Haunted by what she has seen while carrying out humanitarian work with refugees in the Mediterranean and traumatised by her experiences, Mari returns to her parent's coastal home in Suffolk. There, through an unlikely acquaintance, she discovers the medieval legend of the Merman in Orford. The truth behind this seemingly innocent myth is darker than Mari could imagine. Are those who are 'other' destined to suffer as the merman did hundreds of years ago? The message the myth bears across the centuries restores her resolve.

Starring Phil Davis and Alistair Petrie. It has been screened across America and the UK, at the Academy Award, Canadian Screen Award and at British Independent Film Award qualifying film festivals. Nominated in several categories, it has won a number of international awards including Best Female Director and best First Time Filmmaker at London Art Film Awards 2025.

Madeleine Wynn is a director, writer, producer and founded Astrea Productions set up in 2020 to stimulate and share new creative initiatives in film and theatre. Her first award winning short film *Merman* (2024), which she wrote and directed, was described by Benjamin Zephaniah as 'a well imagined, poetic and important film', and by Hugh Bonneville as 'tight and evocative'.

In *The Dog that Couldn't Bark*, Rebecca is a bitter woman on her deathbed. Angelica, her new nurse, seems to have an uncanny ability to draw out Rebecca's hidden secrets. The film explores themes of betrayal, secrecy and the psychological impact of a lifetime of manipulation.

It was written by Wenhaston resident Paul Rainbird and was filmed at Glemham Hall by director/producer Henry Tomlinson and director of photography Steven Hall, both of whom also live in Suffolk. It stars Dame Maureen Lipman and tells the story of an elderly lady at the end of her life sharing a secret from her childhood with her palliative care nurse.

Henry Tomlinson has over thirty-three years' experience in the entertainment industry as a director, assistant director and producer in the theatre, television and film on forty titles and counting. He worked in the theatre, stage managing over twenty theatre productions of which at least ten were in the West End and then ventured into film and television. Henry has worked with some of the UK's A list film companies and actors including Dame Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright, Sir Alec Guiness, Stephen Fry, George Clooney, Matt Damon, James McAvoy, Derek Jacobi, Sir Peter Hall, Merchant Ivory, Left Bank, Roland Joffe and, more recently, with Stephen Merchant and Peter Capaldi. He is the son of the actor David Tomlinson who played Mr Banks in *Mary Poppins*.

Unless otherwise stated, tickets for these talks cost £15 for Friends and £20 for guests. Doors will be open at 5.15pm for a prompt 6pm start. Please book through our website at www.orfordmuseum.org

Looking ahead to 2027, Simon Sturgis will give a talk on Tuesday, 12 January on Architecture and the Climate Crisis and on Thursday, 4 February Toby Capwell is returning to Butley Priory to talk about the Bayeux Tapestry which, as a result of an historic agreement with France, is now on display in the British Museum.

Our annual History Festival will take place on Thursday 25, Friday 26 and Saturday 27 February. We will start this with a repeat showing of the Orford Castle *Son et Lumière* in Orford Town Hall on the Thursday evening, to be followed by a distinguished line-up of speakers at Butley Priory including Minoo Dinshaw, Mike Lowndes, Sebastian Faulkes, Stephen Sackur and William Whyte on the Friday and Saturday.

Full details of all the 2027 talks and events are now available on our website. Please book through our website at www.orfordmuseum.org.uk

All proceeds from our talks and other events go to support Orford Museum.

Elizabeth Spinney

OCTOBER AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Sunday 4 October, eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
- 9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 11 October, nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
- 8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford– Revd Mandy Reynolds
- 10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall

Sunday 18 October, twentieth Sunday after Trinity
- 11am Harvest Holy Communion at Orford - Revd Mandy Reynolds (followed by lunch)

Sunday 1 November, All Saints Day
- 9.30am Holy Communion at Orford - Revd Mandy Reynolds

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

ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 4 October
- 10.30am Informal café worship

Sunday 11 October
- 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 18 October
- 10.30am An AGAPE Service

Sunday 25 October
- 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 1 November
- 10.30am Informal Café Worship

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–4pm and 11am–2pm(ish) after the clocks change! 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!

Our final summer Saturday opening on 19 September concluded very successful sessions of Saturday openings – hopefully we will be able to reopen on Saturdays during the school's October half term holiday. It's lovely to meet, again, many holiday and day visitors returning to enjoy Tea Room food and company. Thank you, once again, to our volunteers who assist in the Tea Room. You are all amazing!

Our five youngest members took up the challenge to cycle or stride for the Suffolk Historical Churches Ride and Stride Day, visiting many churches and finally back to the Tea Room church for some well-deserved refreshments – we await the final sponsorship total of several hundred pounds!

We're planning another Saturday Church in October/November which will be a great day for fun and reflection – young and old, join with us!

Stephen Caley

ORFORD, GEDGRAVE & SUDBOURNE HALL GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

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

- Other activities as requested and agreed