



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 402 September 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 18 September, 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 OCTOBER ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

There is currently one vacancy for a Councillor to represent Orford on the Parish Council. This vacancy is a voluntary role and will be filled by co-option at the monthly Parish Council meeting in October. Anyone wishing to be considered for this vacancy should write a letter to the Clerk to arrive before noon on Tuesday 7 October 2025.

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.

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

ORFORD SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB

Coming up: Thursday 11 September, last bike meet night of the year, from 6pm. Bar and BBQ available, bike not essential. Thursday 18 September: members coach trip to Great Yarmouth incorporating the races, enquire at the club or contact Matthew.

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

Mark Smy, Secretary, 450358

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL QUAY SERVICE

For almost the first time in its thirty-six years, the well-attended service came to an end abruptly with heavy rain – which stopped as soon as the Quay was empty! Thank you to the many who gathered and for all the help given, especially and once again, the Phoenix Brass Band, Nathan and family with the chairs which all needed drying, Nick with the sound system and others assisting the Service. Charles Anderson, under the protection of a large umbrella, introduced us to The Cirdan Sailing Trust. The Trust gratefully received the collection which amounted to £530.

Stephen Caley

September dates for your diary

- Each Monday: badminton - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon (restarts on Monday 15 September)
- 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 (restarts on Wednesday 17 September)
- Each Thursday: bellringing - Orford Church, 7.30pm (learners always welcome)
- Each Friday: pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm
- Monday 8 September: Orford Museum talk - Butley Priory, 6pm
- Thursday 11 September: Gardening Club - Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Saturday 13 September: Epilepsy Support Group fundraiser - Orford Methodist Church, 11am-4pm
- Saturday 20 September: Dr Bike cycle repairs - New Room of Orford Town Hall, 9am-2pm (please see p2 For more information)
- Saturday 20 September: Rumble in the Jumble - Orford Church, 10am-2pm

FAREWELL TO THE CRAFTY CUPPA

On the afternoon of Friday 25 July my grandson and I had arranged to meet at the Crafty Cuppa for some very excellent ice cream. It was with great sadness we discovered it had closed the day before.

We would like to thank Leah for lovely chats and first-class friendly service on the many occasions we visited for coffee or ice cream. It had been an after school or weekend treat we really looked forward to. My grandchildren and I will miss our visits to Leah for ice cream and wish her well. Thank you. Leah.

Karen Robinson and family

ORFORD TENNIS TOURNAMENTS AUGUST 2025

The ladies doubles tournament was held on 11 August. It was a perfect sunny day and there were eleven entrants. We had nearly

three hours of constant matches with a final to decide the winners. Susie Callaghan and Jeanette Pearce were the triumphant couple.

The mixed doubles tournament was played the next day 12 August in the afternoon. We only had four couples playing but they were able to all play against each other. It was extremely hot that afternoon but everyone played with enormous enthusiasm and good fun. After a set in the final the winner were Kate O'Connell and Richard Wald. We all enjoyed a refreshing glass of Pimms to toast Kate and Richard who were the defending champions. They will all receive their cups at the Flower Show.

Diana Grayburn

NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Thank you to everyone who came, played and supported the inaugural Netball Tournament on the multisport court on the Recreation Ground on 8 August. Huge fun was had by all – more than fifty people competed – and it was amazing to see the mixed ages and abilities playing, some of whom had not played the sport before!

The new netball lines and posts were generously donated and paid for by Lyn Homan, who died in June after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She had a life-long love of the village since her childhood, and huge thanks to Diana Grayburn too for helping us organise the new lines. We hope that they can be used for many years to come by the local community and also by the school. An amazing £1000 was raised from the event for The Alzheimer's Society, so thank you to all who generously donated.

When the courts were originally built and set up back in 1987 – orchestrated and fundraised by my late father Hugh Homan along with Neville Walton and Jack Robinson, it was always the wish that the courts would be used for multi sports as well as tennis, and I know that he, and my mother, would have loved to see their grandchildren, and old friends' children and grandchildren playing netball together! And we do hope that it will be an annual event.

Olivia Orr (née Homan)

FUMBLE IN THE JUMBLE

Saturday 20 September

After a brief summer break in activities, TMEF are revving up for Autumn's fun-filled events. So, up to your attics, down to your cellars, out to your sheds and dig out those treasures which you no longer love but still have life in them yet.

On Saturday 20 September sees the return of Fumble in the Jumble in St Bartholomew's Church, Orford from 10am to 2pm, and we will be delighted to see you on the Friday afternoon at the Church to receive your troves of pre-loved gems to be sold and so help provide funds for children living in poor, rural parts of Mozambique to access much-needed education.

Please remember we don't want the three-legged pottery donkey, the only 'slightly broken' tea service or the electrical equipment made by that nice Mr Thomas Edison!

And, of course, we will then all be overjoyed to see you again on the Saturday for you to restock with those items that you didn't realise until then that you needed or wanted!

Teas, coffees and delicious cakes will also be available to give you a boost with your shopping spree.

Everyone is welcome. So make a note to keep Saturday 20 September free to be able to come along with all your family, friends and neighbours and experience a TMEF Fumble in the Jumble!

Wendy Marshall

DR BIKE – free cycle repair events

My name is Martin Smith, I am a local bicycle mechanic. I am running in conjunction with the charity Cycling UK a couple of Dr Bike sessions in the New Room of Orford Town Hall.

I am doing sessions like this in a number of villages local to me. This is part of their 'Big Bike Revival' where we repair/tune up

adult bicycles for free, including some spare parts, inner tubes, brake pads etc, this is to encourage people to cycle more with all the benefits that brings. All I ask is that you complete a short online survey about you and your bike, this gives Cycling UK data and evidence to secure more funding for these free events.

I have booked the New Room of Orford Town Hall for Saturday 20 September (please note change of date). I will open up at 9am and be there until 2pm, I can take bookings for ten bikes, approximately half an hour per bike.

It will be first come first served, maximum two bikes per household (no children's bikes). I would be happy to offer advice on a child's bike but won't be able to do any work on it. Please email me for a slot - or text on 07966 089 881.

Martin Smith

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

'The love of gardening is a seed once sown, that never dies'

Gertrude Jekyll

I saw this quote once at one of the Chelsea Flower Shows!

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 upcoming events:

Thursday 11 September: Anna Greenland 'Know your Onions and other Vegetables'

We are very excited to have Anna to speak to us again about how she grows vegetables. We gained many tips from her last time with her innovative ideas!! I'm sure some of you will remember her! She is on TV with Alan Tichmarsh and is running courses with Sarah Raven. She was Head Gardener at Le Manoir aux quatre Saisons for Raymond Blanc. She will be talking to us in a jargon-free way about how she grows fruit, veg and edible flowers.

Wednesday Afternoon 24 September (date change from 17 September): Westleton garden visit to garden designer Sue Townsend. Members only as restricted numbers. We have been very fortunate to secure a visit to Sue's large garden of eleven acres where she will 'walk and talk' to us about the design and planting. This will include time for her to explain her thinking about it all.

Orford and Gedgrave Flower Show Stall

We had a great turnout for this event as usual and a very big 'thank you' to everyone who contributed plants, produce and flowers in aid of Perennial, the gardeners support charity. It was really good to meet new people and our members who staffed the stall, really enjoyed being able to spend a bit of time chatting about what we do in the Club and why they might want to join us. Thank you to those who gave up some of their Flower Show time to do this.

Still to come in 2025!!

- 2 October: Kerry Austen 'Roses: from Wisley to Persica' – change of programme
- 22 November: demonstration: seasonal floral design – 'Garden to Bouquet'
- 4 December: AGM and social supper

Polly Sharkey, creativefutures98@btinternet.com

ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS AT BUTLEY PRIORY

On Monday 8 September, Ian Collins will talk about his book *Blythe Spirit: The Remarkable Life of Ronald Blythe*. Ronald Blythe (1922–2023), author of the inimitable *Akenfield*, was a prolific and poetic chronicler of rural and spiritual life, nature and literature. He spent a joyful century close to his Suffolk roots, time-travelling in his imagination and publishing forty-five books and thousands of essays.

Following this 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 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

All the talks start at 6pm and last about an hour. Tickets cost £15 for Friends of Orford Museum, £20 for guests and include a complimentary 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 26–28 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

SEPTEMBER AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Thursday 4 September

7.30pm Installation of Revd Mandy Reynolds as Team Rector at Orford - Bishop Graeme

Sunday 7 September: twelfth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Bishop Graeme

Sunday 14 September: thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

10am Family Service at Orford – Jacki Maslin

Sunday 21 September: fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Harvest Thanksgiving Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Robin Alderson

Sunday 5 October: sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Diana Grayburn, Church Warden, 450771

SEPTEMBER AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 7 September 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 14 September 10.30am Leprosy Mission Service

Sunday 21 September 10.30am Rev Saul Tadzaushe – Communion

Sunday 28 September 10.30am HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Sunday 5 October 10.30am Stephen Caley

Ellen, Sofia and Felicity are planning the service dedicated to the Leprosy Mission and are looking forward to leading the Sunday morning service on 14 September.

You are always welcome to join us for any of our Sunday Services which are for all ages. Refreshments are served after each service with an informal lunch after Harvest Thanksgiving.

Chapel Tea Room open every Monday and Wednesday from 11am–4pm and also on Saturday 6, 13 and 21 September. Monday and Wednesday have an extensive lunch menu with afternoon tea and Saturday opening time on 6 and 20 is from 2pm–5pm for tea and cake. There's also some fine local art and crafts, cards, books, CDs preserves and honey for sale – you will be welcome to come along and browse.

On Saturday 13 September a fundraising day for the Suffolk Epilepsy Support Group will be held from 11am–4pm at the Chapel Tea Room – it's also Suffolk Historical Churches Ride and Stride Day – so the Chapel will be open from 9am to sign in any cyclists/striders.

With depleted stock, we are looking for any good books that you may have to donate to keep the book stall refreshed. Jigsaws too are in great demand and these will be gratefully received – you can bring them along on a Monday or Wednesday – thank you.

Stephen Caley

FRIENDS OF ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Quiz and supper evening – Book now!

The ever-popular Quiz and Supper Evening arranged by the Friends of St Bartholomew's Church is back! Quizmaster Graeme Kay will tease everyone's little grey cells with new rounds of interesting and entertaining questions, and guests will enjoy a two-course supper including a hot main course.

There will be a cash bar (cash or card payments), a raffle with three great prizes, and prizes for the first, second and third placed quiz teams.

Date: Saturday 15 November 2025

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

Where: Town Hall, Orford

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

To book, please email Richard Murley murleyfamily@btopenworld.com. When booking, please let us know of 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

SEPTEMBER AT THE PENINSULA PRACTICE

DAY	ALDERTON	ORFORD	ALDEBURGH
Monday	8.00 to 14.30	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 18.30
Tuesday	8.00 to 18.30	CLOSED	8.00 to 18.30
Wednesday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 13.00	8.00 to 18.30
Thursday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 13.00	8.00 to 18.30
Friday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 13.00	8.00 to 18.30

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 17th September 2025 • Thursday 16th October 2025

Flu and covid vaccination campaign 2025

We have our vaccination clinics planned for Autumn 2025! We will be having our main flu and covid clinics on the following dates: Wednesday 8 October – Aldeburgh Old Generator Station • Tuesday 14 October – Orford Surgery • Thursday 23 October – Hollesley Village Hall

Please see the eligibility criteria below (contact us for precise clarification of eligibility):

Flu

Adults aged 65+ or 18–64 with eligible health conditions • Long-stay residential care home residents • Unpaid carers • Close contacts of severely immunocompromised individuals • Frontline health and social care workers (if not employer-covered)

Covid

Adults aged 75 and over • Individuals aged 6 months and older who are immunosuppressed • Residents of care homes for older adults

www.thepeninsulappractice.co.uk or **01394 411641**

<https://www.facebook.com/ThePeninsulaPracticeGPSurgery/>

**TOP QUALITY
BRIC A BRAC**
**SATURDAY
20TH SEPTEMBER**
St Bartholomew's Church
Orford
10.00am to 2.00pm



All proceeds to Thomas Marshall Education Fund
Registered Charity No. 1154635

Epilepsy Support Group



Fund Raising

At

The Orford Methodist Church

Saturday 13 September 2025

11am til 4pm

Cakes & Coffee

Afternoon Teas

Light Lunches

Please support us to

Help Others

Helpline: 01473 461407