

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
The Town Hall, Market Hill, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 2NZ
Tel: 01394 459172, E-mail: orfordtownhall@outlook.com

**Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on day Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7:00pm in
The New Room of Orford Town Hall**

There were 9 Parish Councillors present. Marie Backhouse – Parish Clerk was in attendance. There was 1 member of the public present plus 7 people giving reports.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Cllr A Macro welcomed all who attended and provided details regarding emergency exits.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from County Councillor Andrew Reid, Cllr J Howard, Cllr Ian Thornton, Miss Cannon, Elizabeth Spinney, James Tomlinson, Tim Beach and Corinne Lusher.

3. To Approve the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th May 2023

These were Approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of this meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th May 2023.

None

5. Report from MP Therese Coffey

No report received.

6. Report from Suffolk County Council

A written report had been submitted. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document)

7. Report from Suffolk Coastal District Council

Tim Wilson submitted a written report and verbally summarised this report. (Full copy of the report available at the back

Tim Wilson left the meeting at 7.11pm.

8. Reports from Chairman – Cllr Anne Macro (Parish Council)

Cllr Ian Thornton (NOTT)

Cllr A Macro gave a verbal report. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document).

A written report from the New Orford Town Trust had been submitted. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document)

9. Responsible Financial Officer – Marie Backhouse

Marie Backhouse gave a verbal report. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document).

10. Orford Primary School & Pre-School Report

A written report was submitted by Miss Cannon. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document)

11. Church Report

A written report was given and read by Jacki Maslin. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Jacki Maslin.

21. Village Recorder

A written report was given and read by Nigel Maslin. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document.)

The Chair thanked Nigel Maslin for his report.

12. Friends of Saint Bartholomew's

No report received.

13. Orford Methodist Church

A verbal report was given by Stephen Caley. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Mr Caley.

14. Orford Recreation Ground Trust Report

A written report had been submitted by Diana Grayburn for the Tennis Club. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document).

15. Orford & District Surgery Charitable Trust

A verbal report was given by Katherine Silver-Murphy. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document). The Chair thanked Katherine Silver-Murphy.

Jacki & Nigel Maslin left the meeting at 7.35pm.

16. Orford Museum Report

A written report was submitted by Elizabeth Spinney. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document).

17. Orford Sports & Social Club

No report submitted.

18. Orford Sailing Club

A written report was submitted by James Tomlinson. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document).

19. Alde & Ore Community Partnership

A written report was submitted and summarised by Frances Barnwell. (Full copy of the report available at the back of this document.)

20. Orford, Gedgrave & Sudbourne Park Good Neighbour Scheme.

A written report was submitted by Corinne Lusher. (Full copy available at the back of this document).

22. Questions from the floor

Alison Andrews (AOCP) commented that she wished to thank the NOTT for the kind donation, which has enabled the quality of water checks to take place for the area of river by the Quay. The water is in a reasonable condition.

There being no further reports or questions asked, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting at 7:41pm

Signed:....., Chairman

Date:.....

**Orford & Gedgrave Annual Parish Meeting
Suffolk County Council Report 2023-24**

Over the last 3 years since 2021, **the county council’s priorities have been to:**

- promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk
- strengthen the local economy
- protect and enhance the environment
- provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer.

Below are just some of the initiatives taken by SCC in the last year. More details may be found on the county council’s website www.suffolk.gov.uk .

April 2023	99% of pupils received a preferred primary school place in September on National Offer Day and just under 96% were offered a place at their first choice school.
May 2023	<p>Suffolk County Council has underlined its commitment to library services in Suffolk, as it approved plans to increase its funding to Suffolk Libraries by £720k per year, to enable the service to continue operating at its current level, until the end of the contract in July 2024.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council has set out its plan for improving air quality in Suffolk following results from a recent air quality survey, as its county-wide Air Quality Strategy is published.</p>
June 2023	<p>Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has announced plans to create a new fire control centre here in Suffolk. Currently SFRS shares its control room with Cambridge and Peterborough, but a new IT control system has run into difficulties making a tried and tested system focussed on Suffolk a better alternative.</p> <p>More than 400 years of historical documents held at Suffolk Archives are to be digitised and made available online, thanks to an agreement between Suffolk County Council and Ancestry.</p>
July 2023	<p>National Grid has opened its consultation to anyone wishing to comment on its Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposal. Suffolk County Council is being consulted on the proposals as statutory consultee and have already raised concerns about the initial consultation undertaken last year.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council has received more than £1.4m million from the government to fund participation in a national pilot scheme to promote cycling and walking as part of a more active lifestyle.</p>
August 2023	<p>SFRS Training Centre at Wattisham Flying Station near Stowmarket has recently undergone a £1.3 million upgrade. The Training Centre is a state-of the art facility used by other Fire Services when not in Suffolk’s use.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council is disappointed to learn that the LionLink interconnector project from National Grid Ventures has identified an alternative landfall at Walberswick, with cable routing making its way to the north of Southwold.</p>
September 2023	Inflation, school transport for children with SEND, and looking after children in care are the main factors for SCC forecasting to spend £22.3m over its £688.1m budget for this year. Demand increases have also been experienced in Adult Care.

	<p>In a joint letter to National Grid, the leaders of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk county councils address the extensive impact on landscapes and local communities that the National Grid Pylon scheme would bring.</p>
October 2023	<p>The new Highways contract, which is worth in the region of £800 million - £1 billion, will deliver highway projects and improvements across Suffolk for up to 20 years, including maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, improving drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting and much more.</p> <p>The Government has announced funding for upgrades to Ely and Haughley rail junctions. This will increase freight movements to and from Felixstowe by rail and ease congestion on our roads.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council is preparing its response to proposals for a significant off-shore electricity connection which could affect Saxmundham and Aldeburgh. It is encouraging local residents and businesses to do the same. Sea Link is a proposal for a new 2 gigawatt subsea high voltage direct current electricity connection developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission. It is approximately 140km in length and predominately offshore.</p>
November 2023	<p>At Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet meeting in November, Cabinet approved an extra £10 million to repair and resurface local roads in villages and residential areas across Suffolk.</p> <p>The government has (on 31st October) confirmed funding for a transformative package of improvements as part of Suffolk County Council’s A12 Major Road Network scheme. The improvements will be between 7 Hills roundabout and Melton roundabout.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council has welcomed the Government announcement - which is part of a Department for Transport plan to pump £609 million into highway maintenance in the East of England. £107,590,000 has been ringfenced for Suffolk over the next decade, including £3.4 million in this financial year.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council has been awarded an indicative overall rating of “Good” for the quality of its Adult Social Care services.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council has committed almost £1 million of funds to bring in additional flood investigation specialists following the response to Storm Babet in October.</p>
January 2024	<p>Sizewell C triggered its Development Consent Order, meaning that work can begin to build the new 3.2GW nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council is announced its intention to create a new funding pot open to all arts and heritage organisations in the county.</p>
February 2024	<p>A 10-week public consultation on Suffolk County Council’s proposed devolution deal with the Government will start on 18th March and run through until 26th May.</p> <p>A new Cabinet structure will strengthen SEND reform following a highly critical report from Ofsted/CQC.</p> <p>Suffolk Highways has welcomed the new pothole-repairing machine to help fix the growing number of potholes experienced nationally during the winter season, with a trial set to initially target defects in rural Suffolk.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council has confirmed its £750m financial budget for 2024-25 with a focus on</p>

	<p>protecting the vulnerable. 77p in each £1 raised goes to Adult Care and Children and Young People</p> <p>Regular weed treatment on SCC's highway network will continue using a variety of methods, with plans for glyphosate being considered when appropriate – the ambition still remains to reduce the use of glyphosate as far as possible.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council's Cabinet confirmed that 60 new members of staff will be recruited to drive forward important reform to the way special educational needs and disability (SEND) services are delivered in Suffolk.</p>
March 2024	<p>A new campaign urging Suffolk's drivers to switch off their engines when parked has launched (1 March 2024). The campaign against Idling particularly focuses on turning off engines outside schools to protect children's growing lungs from unnecessary pollution.</p> <p>The final section of the Gull Wing Bridge in Lowestoft has arrived bringing the completion of this significant infrastructure project one step closer. The bridge is due to be opened later this year.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council is to spend £3.6 million of Government funding over the next two years on strengthening and expanding Suffolk's bus network.</p> <p>The County Council has secured £7.3 million of funding to help develop electric vehicle (EV) charging across the county.</p>

**April 2024 Parish Report
East Suffolk Council GLI – Councillor Tim Wilson Update**

With many of our Annual Parish Meetings coming up, I want to preface April's report with a more general update of the first year of our administration.

We're in a strong financial position, unlike many other UK councils. It means we can respond to County-level turbulence with flexibility and confidence, and one aspect of this is the new £500k Resilience Fund, which will allocate funds to either town or parish councils within 48 hours of an event like Storm Babet, for must-have items like blankets, waste removal, pumping services, food and transport.

Another new Fund is our Strategic Reserve, which allocates nearly £13m to our four new 'Directions' over the rest of the term. These are: Environmental Impact, Sustainable Housing, Thriving Economy and Tackling Inequalities. As Deputy Cabinet Member for Resources, I'm leading the spending plans on these four themes. We're revising the business plan for East Suffolk Services Ltd, the arms-length company that's taken over from Norse. It's been a difficult transition and the company is not performing as well as it should be, in a financial sense but also operationally for residents. Much work remains to be done to get it into shape.

I am heartened by the unity of response between District and County councils to the proposed energy developments across the district; however, our expectations aren't high that we're going to be able to redirect the plans. We will continue fighting.

On a more local level, I've been very involved in advocating at County level on villages behalf for attention from Highways and from School Transport. I've spent a lot of time with you all discussing floods, river health, proposed developments, housing and more, and have attended just over half of the parish council meetings across all 8 parishes this last year.

I'm really, really enjoying the work, enjoying meeting new people all the time, and trying to help out with the issues, big or small. Please do feel free to dole out my email address or phone number to anyone who wants it – the door is always open.

I can't make all the APM's unfortunately but I'm sure I'll see you all soon.

Tim

East Suffolk Blooms community wildflower growing scheme returns

A flourishing environmental scheme, encouraging people in East Suffolk to grow beautiful, pollinator-friendly wildflowers, is returning for 2024.

Each year, East Suffolk Council distributes free packs of bulbs to town and parish councils, community groups and organisations to plant locally as part of the East Suffolk Blooms campaign. The planting efforts of last year's successful applicants are already being rewarded with colourful narcissus displays.

This time, in tandem with the East Suffolk's Amazing project to promote an all-round effort to keeping the district clean and attractive, and in order to provide greater benefit to pollinators, East Suffolk Council will be offering blends of native bulbs that appeal particularly to bees and butterflies.

Packs of bulbs will be available to collect in the autumn, around October, from two locations in the district.

A 'Bees Mix' of bulbs flowers from February to May and includes crocuses, chionodoxas, scillas, muscaris and naturalising tulips, while the 'Butterfly Mix' flowers between May and July and comprises camassias, nectaroscordums, irises and alliums.

An application form will be available to complete online until 30 June, before a judging panel meets to decide the successful applicants, with additional consideration given to groups reapplying after missing out last year. Applicants will then be informed of the decision by August.

To view the application form, visit: my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/east_suffolk_blooms

East Suffolk's Amazing

We invest every single penny we can in services to help maintain the beauty and cleanliness of East Suffolk but sometimes admit that it can never necessarily be enough.

A cross-party working group of councillors is already working on different ways we can work to maintain the beauty of East Suffolk, which includes encouraging more residents to take active pride in their local area.

This includes reducing fly-tipping, recycling properly and even, where possible, looking after the spaces outside your own property. We are also working closely and collaboratively with Suffolk County Council who have responsibility for weeds on roads and pavements, potholes and road signs.

There is already an incredible network of volunteers who work to help keep our district beautiful, with regular litter-picks, planting, and an all-round effort to keep their local area clean. If East Suffolk matters to you, if you want to play your part we would love you to get involved. East Suffolk's Amazing... let's keep it that way!

For information on community litter picks, recycling, community composting schemes and reporting issues, please visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/amazing/

Ease the Squeeze on cost of living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living?

We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 15TH MAY 2024 **PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRS REPORT**

Welcome by the Chairman

I would like to welcome members of the public and representatives to the Annual Parish Meeting. We do have a long agenda therefore I would appreciate it if all questions could be covered under item 22. Please note the fire exits are.....

Chairs Report

Thank you for attending the Annual Parish Meeting this year. Firstly, I would like to pass on my condolences to the family of Cllr Richard Mallett, he was a valued member of the Council. Secondly, I would like to welcome two new Councillors, Alec Greenwell and Valerie Dunlop. There is one remaining vacancy which will be filled at the meeting in June.

The council has held 10 normal monthly meetings. These meetings include a report from the County Councillor and the District Councillor, when they are available, also a Public Forum in which residents from time-to-time raise concerns or queries. Our agenda almost always includes planning applications and letters from residents with various concerns.

There are other routine items like financial reports and general Parish Council business. Some items have been discussed more than once, including Village Green issues, parking, traffic management and enforcement, and the recreation ground.

Perhaps the Parish Council's biggest responsibility is to set a precept to meet its expenses which is then reflected in the Council Tax bill sent to residents in March. In 2024/25 it was agreed to increase the precept request by £419.

Parking issues remain a concern, with areas of the village jammed with parked cars. The Parish Council are to be placing new signage directing vehicles to the car park in Quay Street. East Suffolk Council is responsible for civil parking enforcement and a warden is present in the village on occasions and has issued parking fines to those parked illegally. Ways in which Munday Lane may be improved are also being discussed with the Highways Department.

The Parish Council is currently investigating ways of improving the footpath in Quay Street. It has been mentioned that this footpath is not wide enough for people to pass. Meetings are being held with the Highways Department and the County Councillor.

Community Speedwatch is well supported with a group of 8 volunteers. 3 volunteers need to be present at every Speedwatch session, which can sometimes prove to be difficult. If you would like to volunteer for this more members are always welcome.

Planning applications are presented at nearly every Parish Council meeting. We have a small group of Councillors that assess the applications before the meeting takes place. There have been several instances of the parish being frustrated by East Suffolk Council planning procedures, whilst we comment on all plans that are presented to us, we have very little power over final decisions. This means that even though the PC may object to an application, it may still be permitted. The Parish Council urges residents that have a concern about any planning application to write to East Suffolk Council directly and copy in the Parish Council.

There is to be a village event held on the 6th June to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day. This event will end with the lighting of the beacon.

The Village Feast is also happening this year on the 24th August, when a good evening will be enjoyed by all. We have live music, a local band called Flaming Cheek, BBQ and a bar. Look out for further details in the Village Voice over the coming months. That ends my report as Chairman, reports from the New Orford Town Trust Chairman, the RFO to the Parish Council and various community groups will follow.

**NEW ORFORD TOWN TRUST
REGISTERED CHARITY 1053729**

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New Orford Town Trust report for Annual Parish Meeting, 15 May 2024

During the financial year to 31 March 2024 Trustee gave grants from its Village Fund amounting to over £3,000, supporting the newly formed pickleball club, the Orford Community larder, the Orford Fireworks, Orford Emergency Group and community events. NOTT also continues to support the Good Neighbour Scheme. The NOTT Chairman would like to thank all of the trustees and staff for their work and support over the past year, and would like to remember the late Councillor Richard Mallett who sadly passed away recently, and was a valuable member of the Trustee.

The accounts are still being finalised and will be available once they have been approved by the Trustee. Income for the year stands at around £250K, with expenditure of just under £180K. The surplus will be distributed by the Trustee into various designated accounts to ensure that NOTT's assets can be looked after in years to come.

Down at the riverside the Trustee purchased a tractor for use by the Harbour Master to help to launch Chantry and other vessels from time to time.

The Estates Committee continues to look after the 8 properties owned by NOTT and let out to local people. The allotments are still popular with local people keen to supplement their shopping with some home-grown fruit and vegetables, and with those who want to try their hand in the various classes at the Flower Show. If

anyone is interested on going on the waiting list for a plot, please get in touch with the Clerk. We thank Ian Castle and Philip Tricker with their invaluable help with these.

Quay Meadow and Millennium Wood continue to act as a small oasis of green, popular with dog walkers and people who wish to sit or picnic in this quiet spot.

The Quay Street car park continues to be well used by visitors and is a great asset to NOTT and to the village.

RFO REPORT

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 15.5.24

OGPC

The accounts for the year 2023/24 were approved by the Council at their April meeting. The balance at the start of the financial year was £68,115.86. There was an income from Community Infrastructure Levy of £18,490.98, which has been set aside in an account for future village projects. At the end of the year the CIL funding was at £33,076.49. Some of this funding has been used to provide a pump for the Emergency Group and the refurbishment of the Bus Shelter.

The Parish Council had little major expenditure last year, just the day to day running costs, staff wages, grass cutting, play equipment maintenance and inspection, tree work. The Council continues to look at ways to manage traffic in the village and continues to set aside an annual amount for this purpose.

At 31st March 2024 the PC had just over £94,759 in cash reserves. It is considered prudent to hold the equivalent of one year's precept (currently £29,500) also we have included in that sum £33,076 of CIL money. The Council stands on a firm financial footing moving forwards with well in excess of this amount in hand. The Parish Council are considering ways in which the CIL funding may be used to benefit the village.

The accounts and supporting documentation have been passed on to SALC for an internal audit, followed by an external audit by PKF Littlejohn as required by Local Government legislation. All the reports will be available on the website when received.

If anyone has any questions please contact me.

Orford Primary School.

April 2024

This time last year, Orford CofE Primary School was in the midst of a two day OFSTED inspection; we were thrilled to receive a very strong 'Good' with an 'Outstanding' grade for our personal development. The Kitchen Garden Project, church ethos, extra curricular opportunities and dedication from the staff to support individuals and families all contributed to this grade. We were also incredibly proud of our Year 6 children, who scored very well in their end of Key Stage 2 SATS: Orford had the highest results in the whole of Suffolk for 2023!

Later in the summer term, a select group of Class 2 and 3 children were lucky enough to perform 'The Knucker of Knodishall' at the town hall under the expert guidance of Rust and Stardust, with the enthusiastic and generous support of Roger Hipwell and the Thomas Marshall Education Fund. We could not have been prouder of the children that weekend they spoke and sang clearly, followed stage directions with professionalism beyond their years, and most important of all, enjoyed themselves. The school year concluded with the usual fun and frivolities including a gloriously hot Sports Day and picnic on the recreation ground, swimming lessons at Deben pool, the lively Class 3 production of 'Troy Story' and our heartwarming end of year Church Service. We are so fortunate to have the support of our local community who let us use these areas to enhance the children's experiences.

Autumn came and went in a flash: we hosted our annual Harvest Festival at the church and were very proud to donate a large quantity of goods to the Orford Community Larder. Class 2 took part in a workshop with a professional photographer called 'Letters in the Landscape' using DSLR

cameras to capture nature in and around the Castle. In the lead up to Christmas, Class 1 performed a lovely Nativity play; the whole school shared a delicious Christmas lunch and village walk together; and Mrs McCart worked with school council to host a very special Christmas 'movie night' in the hall, in the dark, in pyjamas! Mrs Nicholls, our Literacy Lead, has introduced a monthly Books, Buddies and Biscuits session, which is exactly what is advertised: children choose a buddy, a book and a biscuit, then everyone snuggles together to share the joy of reading for half an hour. These events have been very well attended by our school community, and it has been lovely to see so many relationships building over stories old and new!

December 1st 2023 saw a very important change at the school: Orford CEVA Primary School closed forever, and reopened as Orford Church of England Primary School and Nursery part of the Tilian Partnership Multi Academy Trust. This means we are no longer a Suffolk County Council maintained school, but we do remain a church school offering the caring family ethos we

are so proud of. For our families, there has been no change to what or how we educate and the offer we give the children, other than a refreshed logo on uniform and official communication.

Spring Term 2024's events you may well be up to date with, as the Link have very kindly given half a page to the school each month. Our team of budding 'Junior Reporters' from Class 3 have been sharing goings on each term, from Lego Engineering Trips, Science Week celebrations, dressing up for World Book Day and Chinese New Year themed cooking sessions. We have continued to offer a wide range of clubs, including art (where the children produced a stunning sketch of Orford Church as part of our leaving gift to Reverend Giles) and gardening, which is being generously supported (both in terms of time and plants!) by Orford Gardening Club.

As this school year comes to an end, we will be saying goodbye to two long standing members of staff: Karen Smy who is taking a well deserved retirement having been an invaluable member of the teaching assistant team for over 20 years; and Gemma Cannon, who will be moving to a new role as Headteacher of Rattlesden Church of England Primary Academy after 12 years at the school as a class teacher, senior leader and, more recently, headteacher. The governors are working hard to recruit a replacement who will continue to support our school, its staff, pupils and families to flourish.

St Bartholomew's Church Annual Report 2023-24 for the Parish Council

The Revd Giles Tulk (resigned April 2024) and the Parochial Church Council are committed to enabling as many people as possible to use our church and to become part of our parish community at St Bartholomew's. Holy Communion services are held the first three Sundays of the month, joining with All Saints Sudbourne on the fourth Sunday of the month. At Christmas and Easter, the special family services tend to attract a large congregation, as does the outside Act of Remembrance around the War Memorial. The Easter Palm Sunday included a procession around the village with a donkey. The church is open every day of the year to provide a quiet place of reflection from 9am to 5pm.

As well as holding regular and festival services, we enable our community to mark the milestones of the journey through life. This year we held two baptisms, three weddings and six funerals. The choir of up to twenty singers provide support for the congregation on the first Sunday of the month, weddings, funerals, and music for special services such as Nine Lessons and Carols and Choral Evensong services, which are very well supported from people across the community.

Other community events have included the August Bank Holiday Teddy Bear Parachute Jump and Tea which was a great success and provided low-cost family fun for locals and visitors alike. Our used book stall has proved a popular addition to the church with generous donations from local people ensuring there is always a good stock available and sales income from visitors. The church also hosts a range of concerts, especially with Britten Pears Arts, during the year.

We opened a warm room in 2022 and continued in 2023 and is still ongoing. It is open from January to April, then October to December. Lunch was free but donations are collected and in 2023 they helped upgrade the crockery in Bart's Hall and contributed to the cost of heating the Hall.

We installed seven chandelier infra-red heat and light systems in November 2022. This has made a difference to how we use the church – the heaters warm up as soon as they are switched on and have transformed winter services and events. However, two parties complained and we await a decision from the Chancellor of the Diocese whether the church will continue with the existing set-up.

We are in interregnum period now, with no team vicar, but we are supported with the immense help from Archdeacon Rich Henderson, our church wardens and respective PCC members, and with gratitude our retirees who are taking the services in our cluster of churches.

Jacki Maslin – Church Warden

Orford Methodist Church

Report to the Orford Annual Parish Meeting - 15th May 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to present this report.

This church is part of the six churches of the Rural Mission area of the Ipswich Circuit under the care of the Rev Saul Tadzaushe, with our former Minister, the Rev Stephen Yelland also conducting services from time to time, however the majority of our weekly Sunday services are conducted by myself as Lay Minister.

The great events/festivals of Harvest Thanksgiving, Remembrance, Advent, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter, looked forward to in the life of the church have often concluded with lunch – as is, on the first Sunday in the month when a free lunch is available for anyone attending. In good tradition a successful midweek Christmas Lunch was also enjoyed.

During last summer our young people, as part of their faith journey, organised a 'trading stall' and successfully raised £330 for JMA (Junior Mission Association) and recently through a similar venture raised money for 'Embrace The Middle East', reflecting on the Israeli/Gaza conflict.

The all year round twice weekly Chapel Tea Room continues to be a welcome place for visitors and local friends as they enjoy a friendly 'gathering place', appreciative of an extensive lunch and tea menu. Throughout the winter we have encouraged folk to attend this warm and inviting place. We are indebted to staff who freely give their time in the Tea Room.

Repairs and renewals to the fabric of the building have taken place throughout the last twelve months – with more to come as we await the Quinquennial inspection. To date, funding for this work is made possible through local support as no grants are received. We are grateful too for an invested legacy given for the upkeep of the building which hopefully will allow external and some internal redecoration. Fundraising continues toward the many general expenses.

As part of our wider mission and concern we have supported various national and international charities who have an empathy with compassion and healing for young and old, as well as paying our Assessment to the Circuit Ministry funds.

Last year the 34th Quay Service supporting the RNLI was well received by a large congregation in reasonable sunshine despite the earlier gloomy weather.

We continue to attract a small congregation from a wide geographical area. Unfortunately due to poor health some friends have been unable to join with us for Sunday services for some time, however visitors attending find us in good heart.

Stephen Caley - ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 15 MAY 2024

REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE ORFORD RECREATION GROUND CHARITY

Last year was a particularly exciting and busy time. The Multi Tennis Court was becoming cracked and developing holes so renovation was getting urgent in order that we didn't need to close it permanently. I began fundraising for this in January 2023 with publicity in both The Village Voice and The Link, which is the Church magazine. I was overwhelmed by the financial support I received from tennis players and other residents in the area. I also applied to outside organisations and received donations from East Suffolk's Enabling Budget Scheme, Adnams, The P L Cooke Charitable Fund, Cobra Mist, Orford Flower Show Funds, The John Laing Charitable Trust and The Tezmae Charitable Trust.

Jeanette Pearce and a few others organised an all-day tennis marathon on 1 April 2023. This involved non-stop tennis matches from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. Unfortunately the drizzle continued all day but nevertheless everyone kept playing. They also ran a silent auction and magnificent raffle and donated over £4,000 to the Tennis Funds. The court was finished by the beginning of September 2023. There are quite a few new season ticket holders and I am hoping to get arrangements sorted for booking the courts again in the near future.

The Pavilion on the Recreation Ground has had insulation put into the roof after it was discovered that none had been included when the building was refurbished a few years earlier. After it was realised, following an inspection of the electrical work in the kitchen, that modernisation was needed in order to be able to allow proper use when the building was rented out. This work was promptly carried out.

Unfortunately there was some vandalism experienced at the Pavilion last summer. Some of the tables were found chopped up at the side of the building and there were signs that fires were attempted. It was decided by the Recreation Ground Committee that CCT lighting was essential on the outside of the building. These were installed in conjunction with the Sports and Social Club.

Diana Grayburn
Secretary to The Recreation Ground Charity

Chairman's 2023 report to Annual Parish Meeting of the Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council 15th
May 2024

The Orford and District Surgery Charitable Incorporated Organisation, formerly known as the Orford and District Surgery Charitable Trust is now 44 years old, set up by Trustees in 1980 to secure and build a surgery building in Orford for the benefit of the Orford & Gedgrave, Iken, Chillesford, Sudbourne and Butley parishes.

During 2023 we have continued to follow through the plan so that it is fit for purpose and able to respond to the needs of the community it covers.

As a group of volunteer Trustees all the work we do is to underpin the delivery of the original vision of supporting the health and care needs of the users of Chapman House surgery and to ensure a surgery remains in Orford for use by the community for the future.

We oversee two charitable elements:

1. The Surgery CIO which can fund the provision of medical equipment and facilities for the surgery and
2. The Esmond House Legacy Care Fund which can fund facilities, equipment and services for frail, older persons and disabled people resident in our five parishes to support them to live independently at home.

The current CIO Trustees are John Bevan, David Goldin, Sue Johnston (Treasurer) Corinne Lusher (Secretary), Peter Smith, Mandi Syrett and we welcomed Louise Wells as a new Trustee. I am the current Chair. Mary-Ann Gribbon and Steve Joels both resigned, as did Edward Greenwell although he kindly stayed on to see the new lease into place.

In fact Sir Edward Greenwell needs a special mention. He has made such a great contribution to the charity over the 44 years. As Trustees we are grateful that he negotiated the new lease for Chapman House with the Peninsula Practice. Indeed the whole community owes him great thanks.

Last year, 2023, was a continuation of difficult circumstances arising from not only the impact Covid 19 but other economic pressures on the NHS generally. As a committee and on behalf of those in the community the surgery covers, we would like to thank the Doctors and the medical team at Chapman House for their work and support during these times.

In the 2023 calendar year the full management committee met three times in March, June, and in September, and all meetings were held in person.

Throughout 2023 through the Surgery CIO has supported:

- Extra nursing hours
- Water cooler in the surgery

- Professional fees for the change of the Trust to a CIO and lease negotiation
- Property maintenance
- Patient treatments



At the end of the year the CIO received a legacy for £10,000. This is so kind and the doctors have identified ways in which to support the care of patients in Chapman House using this money.

In 2023 we continued to support, from the Esmond House Care fund, pendant alarms and key safes for vulnerable people in the surgery's catchment area sourced and supplied by the very excellent Good Neighbour Scheme of Orford, Gedgrave and Sudbourne Hall.

We do all this activity to continue in our vision of supporting a healthy and well population and to help improve the lives of the patients of Chapman House.

I would like to thank the Trustees of the CIO for their hard work on behalf of the surgery's patients – and of course Edward for his work over the years.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Doctors and their colleagues for all their efforts during another difficult year and to assure them that they have our full and focussed support.

Report from Orford Museum to the Orford & Gedgrave Annual Parish Meeting

For Wednesday, 15 May 2024

Since my last report to this meeting, Orford Museum continues to flourish and attract a much wider circle of Friends of the Museum and talented volunteers – some of whom are new to the area. A great deal of this is due to the history talks we have been holding on a regular basis throughout the autumn, winter and spring at Butley Priory thanks to the generosity of Edward and Clare Greenwell (a Trustee of the Museum). One offshoot of these talks was the offer from a local collector of the opportunity to exhibit, on a temporary basis, his wonderful collection of Celtic artefacts in our cases on the first floor of Orford Castle. This was installed last August just before the Bank Holiday weekend and removed on 15 March this year. We are now in the process of re-installing our permanent exhibition and to this end, are taking the opportunity to re-furbish and improve the arrangement and appearance of all six cases with major input from Dickon Whitewood of English Heritage and his assistants. Dickon is Curator of Collections & Interiors (East) and we are deeply indebted to him for all his help. We couldn't have done it without him. The work is taking longer than we had hoped but should be finished by the end of this month. I think visitors will be impressed by the result. In the past, relations between the Museum and English Heritage have sometimes been difficult but I am happy to say that this is no longer the case though I am only too aware that Orford Museum must maintain its independent status. However, we are a small group of mainly elderly Trustees and volunteers and we have to accept help where we can get it. We are always anxious to recruit more, younger Trustees and volunteers and I hope that some of the many new people coming to live in this village and the surrounding area will wish to be involved in the preservation of local historical knowledge. We will be starting our talks at Butley Priory again in the autumn but, meanwhile, we are hoping to hold a *Son et Lumiere* at the Priory in August. Plans for this are well advanced and publicity should start soon. It should be a spectacular and unusual event – weather permitting! Our office in Potkins Lane Craft Centre is now very well organised thanks to the work of Stephen Mael, our Curator, whom we share with Aldeburgh Museum. He is now being assisted by new Trustee Dr. Joanna Martin, a well-known historian who, together with her husband Edward, also a local historian of note has come to live locally. I am most grateful to both of them for their help. Jack Cooke continues as editor of *The Orford Historian*, our annual journal of historical stories and information and we hope that Issue 3 will come out in the early autumn. We have been contacted via the Orford Town Hall office by a M. Sebastien

Schoeffter of Soufflenheim in eastern France about Hubert Martin, born in Orford, who was killed when his Lancaster bomber crashed there in 1944. Soufflenheim wished to commemorate the crew, all of whom were killed, by a ceremony during which a board would be erected in their memory. They only lacked Hubert's date of birth and we were able to supply this. Jack and M. Schoeffter have been in contact and we are hoping that an article about this tragedy will be included in Issue 3. I feel very touched by this recognition of the heroism of our young men – Hubert was only 20 – and quite a friendship has sprung up. We were invited to the ceremony but, unfortunately, no-one was able to go at such short notice but I have suggested that M. Schoeffter should visit Orford when next in England.

Elizabeth Spinney,
Chairman
Museum CIO

Orford

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Orford Sailing Club Report May 2024

I am very pleased to say we number the thick end of 500 members in this the club's Centenary year. Amongst many bits of maintenance undertaken in the winter we have refurbished the dinghy park and replaced the roof on the club house.

As I write this report it seems that some overdue warm weather is finally inbound.

2023 was a special year for our teaching. The majority of our Instructors are home grown. Together with our RYA courses we also ran weekly taster sessions. In late May 2024 our first School Sailing & Taster Session will be run. Last year nearly 100 children, including some adults, attended RYA courses and some local children were offered places on these courses having come through the tasters. The training team has expanded the activities for this year. Our junior base is going from strength to strength.

Both our Senior and Junior Regattas were again well attended, and the Junior Regatta was much more successful for being run by our Dinghy Instructors.

We have several new Cruising members to add to the solid base of our sailors who put to sea on a regular basis. Some of our members again sailed some fair distances in 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Matt Smy yet again. All those who take to the water benefit from his huge experience as a mariner. That together with Matt's kindness and patience is such a plus to us all and a credit to Orford. We are all very lucky to have him.

Thank you very much.

James Tomlinson
Commodore

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council-Annual Parish Meeting 2024 Report on behalf of the Alde and Ore Community Partnership-

The AOCP has representatives from every parish which borders on or contains part of the Alde and Ore Estuary including of course Orford and Gedgrave. It is the guardian of the Estuary Plan to safeguard the area from extreme flooding and provides, via its representatives, a route to communicate plans and views about them. It meets quarterly and members of the public are always welcome to attend. *(for details see www.aocp.co.uk)*

The Alde and Ore Estuary is very important to the wellbeing of the Orford and its surrounding area, its residents, businesses and the wonderful natural surroundings. The river wall embankments have to be improved every 70 years or so. A major open day for the public was held at Snape Maltings last October setting out the plans and why they are needed: more details can be found on the Virtual Visitor Centre icon on the AOCP website.

Now after 10 years hard work, the vital plans to improve the river walls are coming into operation to bring these to a standard to withstand sea surges, our greatest threat, until at least the year 2050 and beyond. The approval of the plans to do Phase 1 in the upper estuary (Snape down river to Aldeburgh) and the substantial government grant to go with it, £11 million, was announced a year ago. After a huge amount of essential preparatory work, this autumn should see the start of wall improvements at Tunstall and Snape Maltings, in 2025 Snape Village and in 2026 moving the upper part of the Aldeburgh marshes near Brick Dock, with the

lower part near Slaughden in 2027 and also it is hoped in 2027 the upper end of Flood Cell 4, which runs for 15 miles from Ferry Point into the north to the southern part of Gedgrave.

The work to complete preparing the plans for Phase 2, the Lower Estuary which includes Orford and Gedgrave Parish, is in hand to secure technical approval for what is proposed. The aim is for these embankment improvement works to begin towards the end of 2027 taking 3-4 years to complete. The technical approval opens the way to securing more funding. It is hoped to get another £10 million from the government for the lower estuary, but in these times of reduced government funding the whole estuary community needs to find about £20 million. The Alde and Ore Estuary Trust is leading on this. Much of it will come from trusts, foundations, the Heritage Lottery Fund, philanthropists and donors but this summer you will see the third fund raising flotilla from Aldeburgh arriving around mid-day at Orford Quay on 28 July - do join in or come and see it. (www.aoetrust.org for details)

Alison Andrews Hon Secretary 8 May 2024

Orford, Gedgrave & Sudbourne Hall Good Neighbour Scheme Summary of Activity for May 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

Activities

The helpline mainly receives calls for transport to hospital or GP appointments. We occasionally collect medication for clients and handle several queries throughout the year. We remain open to new ideas try to address the challenges faced by Orford residents.

We have installed 16 pendant alarms and manage the renewal of these contracts annually.

The community larder has been in place since October 2020. We aim to keep it stocked and volunteers check its contents daily.

We have two warm rooms: Coffee & Chat at the Club which has been going since January 2020 and Barts Warm Room which started in October 2022. Corinne is stepping down from organising Coffee & Chat at the end of May and will place a notice in the VV asking if anyone would like to replace her and continue the meetings.

Volunteers

Without our volunteers we would not be able to do what we do. We have 28 on our list and try to spread the work as much as possible. Many of our volunteers are elderly and we will seek to recruit younger residents to ensure the future viability of the Scheme.

Thank you We are supported by the following village organisations: The King's Head; Orford & District Surgery CIO; Orford General Stores, Orford Sports & Recreation Club; Orford Town Trust; Pump Street Bakery; Saint Bartholomew Church.

We have several residents who contribute to the Larder, by donating goods or money and by checking its contents and sorting donations.

SLHC Recorder's Report for 2023 ORFORD with GEDGRAVE (May 2024)

In mid-February last year, the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Rt. Rev. Martin Seeley, planted a hornbeam seedling - which he had grown himself - in the churchyard of St Bartholomew's, part of the late Queen Elizabeth II's 'Green Canopy' initiative.

In mid-March. Orford Museum held a weekend of seven one-hour history and archaeology talks at Butley Priory, courtesy of trustee and Priory chatelaine Clare Greenwell.

On Sunday 18 May, the afternoon following the Coronation of King Charles, there was a street party in Market Square. The Village Events Committee organised a children's fancy dress competition with a royal theme, a balloon modeller and magician, pony and trap rides, face painting, as well as live music and tea. Children from the primary school made paintings to go on the fencing outside the still-derelict site of Friends Garage.

Social bread-and-soup lunches were held regularly every Friday up to 12 May – and again in the autumn – in

Bart's Hall, with contributions from Pump Street Bakery.

Olivier Latry, the organist of Notre Dame in Paris, may have been left professionally homeless by the disastrous cathedral fire, but it meant he was free to present the Catherine Ennis Memorial Concert on the Collins organ in St. Bartholomew's Church Orford on 2 June, performing Bach, Couperin and an unforgettable improvisation of his own.

The Arts Council and local charities funded a co-production between the primary school and the touring company Rust and Stardust. Called *The Knucker of Knodishall*, it was performed in the Town Hall on 17 June and raised funds for The Thomas Marshall Education Fund on behalf of development in Mozambique.

From August Bank Holiday, Orford Museum mounted an exhibition in the castle of the Barrow Collection of Celtic Iron Age artefacts entitled *The Celtic Spirit*. Though hardly a local subject, the collection was nevertheless made locally, and the exhibition ran through the winter till nearly Easter 2024. It was accompanied by a glossy, lavishly illustrated, large-format catalogue by Noël Adams.

The Flower Show was held as usual on the Recreation Ground on August Bank Holiday, with its prize vegetables, art and photography and children's and dogs' races. There were also the usual summer activities throughout the season – tennis and sailing and gardening as well as an open gardens day, and an annual garden party in aid of The Thomas Marshall Education Fund. Following an overwhelmingly successful fund-raising campaign, it was announced that the multi-court - used for 5-a-side as well as tennis and so on - could be renovated by Suffolk Tennis Courts.

The end of the year saw the disappearance of the last two boats fishing commercially from Orford Quay – a phenomenon evident around all our coasts, reportedly due to continental over-fishing and the resulting economic effects. Autumn saw consultations by the various river authorities, local government as well as private, on planned improvements to the flood defences of the Alde and Ore Estuary.

The extensive refurbishing and re-landscaping of Smokey House on the Woodbridge Road continued, as did the landscaping of the newly built houses in Chantry Meadow at the entrance to the village. The Friends Garage site remained undeveloped.

Nigel Maslin