



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 394 January 2025

Edited by: James Kennedy and NOTT Clerk **Published by:** Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and New Orford Town Trust **Printed by:** Leiston Press Ltd

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 23 January 2025, 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 FEBRUARY ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2025

EMERGENCY GROUP

On the back page of this issue of Village Voice you will find the Emergency Group poster, which has contact numbers for members of the group and some advice as to what assistance may be given, and which you might want to keep to hand in case it is useful. There are some additional phone numbers that may be useful in an emergency: Suffolk Police (non-emergency) – 101, NHS (non-emergency) – 111, and a Power Cut – 105. It may also be useful to listen to local radio stations such as BBC Radio Suffolk (103.9FM). If you happen to live in the flood zone it may be an advantage to have a bag packed in preparedness should you need to be evacuated.

John Backhouse, *Chairman, Emergency Group*

ORFORD SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

Happy New Year from all at the Club.

Don't forget we have live music on New Year's Eve with Dave and John who will bounce you into the new year.

Also live music Saturday 18 January from Rock Solid Alibi.

All events are free entry, and everyone is welcome. Also don't forget Friday night club nights and keep an eye on the board for bingo and darts nights.

Mark Smy, *Secretary, 450358*

ORFORD BELLS

Thanks to everybody who went to the Christmas Bazaar and were brave enough to have a brief ring of the church bells. After those few minutes everyone realised that bell ringing is not scary and certainly does not require any superhero-type strength. The ringing volunteers hopefully also realised that bell ringing is an interesting and absorbing activity giving its ringers both mild exercise and a degree of mental stimulation. Ringing also gives the satisfaction of knowing we are continuing the long tradition of ringing bells to celebrate both local events and major national occasions.

Although watching bell ringers makes the process look straightforward, developing the initial necessary controlled skills takes a little time to master and keeps new ringers busy for some time after they first start learning. Some ringers start young (we had some 8-9-year-olds trying at the Bazaar) whilst others take up the activity a little later and many continue their ringing skills in different

January 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-2.30pm (re-opens Monday 6 January)
- 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 Friday: pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon
- Each Friday: Bart's Hall - Friday Soup - 12.30-2pm
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm
- Thursday 9 January: Gardening Club - Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Friday 17 January: Talks for Thomas - Orford Town Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm
- Monday 27 January: Orford Museum talk - Butley Priory, 6pm

churches in the places they may move to as their circumstances change. Some bell ringers continue to ring for decades.

Our current band of ringers started about fifteen months ago and are coming along really well from a scratch start, but our numbers are low. We have 6 regular ringers who would really appreciate (and encourage) any new recruits to increase our numbers. With eight bells to ring, we currently call upon neighbouring towers to lend us a few ringers for any events that arise. It would be great if we were self-sufficient.

Our bells are in excellent condition; they were totally overhauled in 2000 and are in great running order. Just for your information, our oldest bell was cast in 1639 (nearly 400 years old), and our bells weigh between 3 and 10 cwt (that's 150 to 500kg).

We practice most Thursday evenings, with new learners starting at around 7pm. Anyone is welcome to come along and start to learn (or to rediscover) this traditional pastime. Just drop me an email before you want to come at orford@suffolkbells.org.uk and I can make sure that all the necessary arrangements are in place.

There's some more detailed information on learning to ring here at the Suffolk Guild of Ringers website - [SGRLearningToRingLeaflet2019-1.pdf](#)

Hopefully see some of you soon.

Richard Moody

BART'S HALL IS OPEN FOR FRIDAY SOUP LUNCH IN CHRISTMAS WEEK

We are serving soup lunches on 20 and 27 December and as usual all are welcome to join us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported this community venture through this winter – soup and cake makers and servers and diners and wish them a very happy New Year.

Caroline Gill

A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM TMF

Thank you for all the support you have given us during 2024. We had a very successful year and hope that you enjoyed the various events we ran. We have planned a selection of events for 2025, the first of which is the third in our Talks for Thomas – 'One thousand years of Masterpieces in East Suffolk' will be on Friday 17 January in Orford Town Hall at 6.30pm. Art historian Bill Crow will give a presentation about medieval manuscripts, sculptures and paintings created by artists working and living in East Suffolk, particularly in our coastal region. His intention is to show that our precious corner of the British Isles punches way above its weight when it comes to a fantastic level of creativity. Bill has an MA in Art History and has written six books, and he also lectures on the history of art in Aldeburgh.

And here is something a bit different to look forward to in February: 'A touch of T at the Ritz' but much closer to home as in the Town Hall! Our biennial Valentine's Tea will be on Sunday 16 February and as a slight change there will be just one but larger sitting and this time in the Town Hall. As this is always a popular event, please book early to ensure your place.

The following week on Friday 21 March, there is another entertaining and educating talk with Mike Warner – 'Passionate about fish'. Mike is, among many things, a food writer with a deep-rooted passion for seafood and fish. He is a seafood ambassador and has loved the sea and seafood all his life. He continues to work directly with local fishermen and now has his own fishmonger and wholesale fish merchants shop at Grange Farm in Hasketon. We are delighted to welcome Mike and look forward to him passing on his knowledge and tips to encourage you to discover all that our coastline has to offer throughout the year, his life in seafood and the fishing industry and all underpinned with a special reference to the Suffolk Heritage Coast and Orford in particular.

Jeremy Rugge-Price is then back to finish our series of talks in late March/ early April, this time talking about his life and escapades on the high seas. The date of this talk is to be confirmed and more details about it will follow.

Later in the year in June we will be having our annual T for Thomas. Details of this and other events will be posted nearer the time. As always if you are interested in booking for any of the events please call me on 01394 450090 or contact@tmef.org.uk

Wendy Marshall

JANUARY AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

All are welcome to join us at St Bartholomew's, Orford for the following services in January:

Sunday 5 January	9.30am, Holy Communion at Orford – Rev Robin Alderson
Sunday 12 January	10am, Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall
Sunday 19 January	11am, BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Rev Robin Alderson
Sunday 2 February	9.30am, Holy Communion at Orford – Rev Dr Stephen Thompson

For further information during interregnum, please contact Churchwardens Guy Marshall (450090) or Jacki Maslin (450799).

Jacki Maslin, Churchwarden

JANUARY AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 5 January	Christingle Service for Epiphany 10.30am, Stephen Caley
Sunday 12 January	10.30am, Service arranged locally
Sunday 19 January	10.30am, Bryan Nichols
Sunday 28 January	Annual Covenant Service – Communion 10.30am Rev Saul Tadzaushe
Sunday 2 February	10.30am Café Worship

You are welcome to join with us – children stay in church with their own activities and often assist with the service. Refreshments are served afterwards.

Chapel Tea Room – Reopening from 6 January and every Monday and Wednesday from 11am–2.30pm (winter timing). Serving a warming lunch and/or delicious cakes and scones. Call in and enjoy! There's always plenty of homemade crafts and cards for sale along with preserves. We look forward to seeing you through 2025, together with the many regular visitors who support the Tea Room.

A happy and peaceful New Year to you all!

Stephen Caley

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Happy New Year everyone! Let's make it a green and floriferous one!

In 2025 there will be eight talks and our delightful Garden Party included in the membership fee of £15, plus a few bookable trips and visits where there will be an additional charge which is passed on to the host or their charity. Come along to our first event and sign up!! Or contact me on the email below.

Next Event:

Thursday 9 January, 7.30pm, Orford Town Hall: *Roger Harvey – Chelsea Award winning grower: Hellebores and Snowdrops*
Roger has developed his own range of Hellebores, the Bradfield Hybrids, which are strong, vigorous plants in a range of good colours. His nursery also grows an extensive range of Galanthus (snowdrops). He will give us tips on how to choose the plants which are right for our conditions and how to make the most of them. We hope he will be bringing plants for sale.

AGM and Social Supper

Around fifty of us enjoyed a very sociable evening and were pleased to welcome new members. Over the year our membership has increased to over ninety and we enjoyed talks ranging from hearing about the progress at Benton End, 'Creating a Wild Garden' through to 'Pelargoniums', 'Knowing and Growing Ferns'. We enjoyed canapés from the Supper Club 'Husk' who told us about how their business started up. We had a private snowdrop tour at Anglesey Abbey, a visit to the Old Rectory, a delightful Garden Party at Gedgrave Hall, a summer visit to Parham Hall and a trip to the Southwold Flower Company. We had a wonderful 'Pop up garden' by members from Sudbourne and held our first quiz!

Trailer for 2025 Programme...

- Saturday afternoon, 8 February: Tim Walker – Why Gardening Can Count as Fine Art
- Thursday evening, 6 March: Luci Skinner – Iris all the Year Round
- Thursday evening, 3 April: Mark and Adrienne De Roy – The Growing and use of Lavender as a Plant and Essential Oil Production
- Wednesday afternoon, 14 May: Visit to Ramblers for Rhododendrons and Azaleas

Polly Sharkey (Chair), creativefutures98@btinternet.com, 01394 450959

ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS AT BUTLEY PRIORY

Agincourt: The Legend of England

On Monday 27 January 2025, Jamie Lowther Pinkerton, Suffolk born and bred with a deep interest in its past, will come to Butley Priory to talk about the battle of Agincourt. He will describe the campaign and the battle and will attempt to view it from

something of a soldier's perspective, however remote, and – thankfully! – different his military experience was from those who fought at Agincourt. Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton grew up at Alderton and now lives across the fields from Sutton Hoo. For twenty years he was an officer in the British Army and subsequently Principal Private Secretary to the then Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. He is an ambassador for the HALO Trust, the world's largest humanitarian mine-clearance charity, and Waterloo Uncovered, a charity engaged in the excavation of the battlefield of Waterloo by world-class archaeologists working alongside military veterans recovering from wounds and injuries.

On a date in March yet to be confirmed due to other commitments, Sir Alex Younger KCMG will give a talk entitled: *Divergence, Hyper Connection and Chaos: a spy's view of the world.*

Sir Alex Younger was for thirty years a career intelligence officer in Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, MI6. He served in Europe, the Middle East and Afghanistan. He was appointed as Director of Counter Terrorism from 2009 to 2012, Head of Operations from 2012 to 2014 and then Chief of the Service from 2014 to 2020. Prior to SIS, Alex served in the British Army as an infantry officer. He attended St Andrews University where he read computer science amongst other things. Alex led MI6 during a period of unprecedented technological change when both digital threats and opportunities intensified.

Wednesday 2 April: Lucy Hughes Hallett will talk about her book The Scapegoat: the brilliant life of the Duke of Buckingham

All the above 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. Please book through our website at www.orfordmuseum.org.uk

Orford Museum History Festival 2025

From 27 February 2025 to 1 March 2025, we are planning to repeat our very successful History Festival with talks throughout the three days.

- Thursday 27 February
An Elizabethan Tragedy at Butley at 4pm
Orford's Atlantic Wall Breakers at 6pm
- Friday 28 February
WG Sebald: East Anglian Wanderer at 4pm
Who do you really think you are at 6pm

- Saturday 1 March
What Revolution? What Republic? Oliver Cromwell and his times at 4pm
Colditz: the Definitive History at 6pm
Tickets for all the Festival talks cost £15 for Friends of Orford Museum and £20 for non-Friends and include refreshments. Please book through our website at www.orfordmuseum.org.uk

Advance Warning!

A Midsummer Night's Dream at Butley Priory on Tuesday 26 August 2025

Following our immensely successful *Son et Lumière* at Butley Priory in August 2024, we are presenting a musical performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by the travelling theatre group Three Inch Fools (www.threeinchfools.com). Watch our website for booking details.

Elizabeth Spinney

JANUARY UPDATE FROM THE PENINSULA PRACTICE

Staff training is important for our practice. On the following days, surgery sites are closed from 13:00 until the following day. The specified site is open for booking future appointments and accessing repeat prescriptions. Wednesday 12 February – Alderton. All calls will be redirected to 111.

Happy New Year

We hope all our patients and their friends and families had a lovely winter break. We hope for 2025 to be a wonderful year for all. If you have concerns about your health or wellbeing, please contact us for an appointment and we will ensure you see the appropriate professional.

Strength and Balance

If you have recently fallen or feel unsteady on your feet, and you are 65 or older, you may benefit from a Strength and Balance programme. To find out more, go to: www.activesuffolk.org/strength-and-balance

Winter Fuel Payment

If you receive pension credit, you may be eligible for the winter fuel payment. You can find out more by calling 0800 99 1234, or by visiting gov.uk/pension-credit.

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 | - Provision of a personal care alarm and key safe |
| - Collection of medication | - A Community Larder located in the entrance to the King's Head car park |
| - Shopping | - Support for anyone who is impacted by a scam |
| - Dog walking / feeding pets | - Friday Soup at Bart's Hall |
| - Form filling and help with technology | - Other activities as requested and agreed |
| - One-off garden tidy | |
| - Minor household repairs | |
| - A healthy meal | |
| - Transport to hospital and GP appointments | |

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and the local organisations who support us: The King's Head; Orford & District Surgery CIO; Orford General Stores, Orford Sports & Recreation Club; New Orford Town Trust; Pump Street Bakery; Saint Bartholomew's Church

ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN



...FLOOD, TIDAL SURGE, STORM, FIRE, POWER LOSS, EXTREME WEATHER,
VILLAGE ISOLATION...



IN THE EVENT OF A LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY CALL 999 AND ADVISE A MEMBER OF THE EMERGENCY GROUP. FOR ANY OTHER COMMUNITY EMERGENCY CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE EMERGENCY GROUP

The first member of the **EMERGENCY GROUP** to become aware of an emergency will immediately convene a meeting of all members of the **GROUP** at the Town Hall.

The **EMERGENCY GROUP** will assess the risk posed to the community and use the map in the Hall to identify persons at risk.

They will ensure that the appropriate emergency services (fire, police, ambulance, red cross) have been alerted.

They will plan the action needed and contact the **COMFORT GROUP** to prepare the Town Hall, the **ATLAS GROUP** for physical assistance, and other resources as necessary.

The Town Hall will be made ready to receive those in need of refuge (who should bring blankets, duvets, food, drink and personal medication).

If evacuation is required urgently then whistles and horns will be sounded in the risk areas to identify an emergency.

EMERGENCY GROUP

John Backhouse	01394 450919	07912 317778	johnabackhouse@icloud.com
Anne Macro	01394 450741	07704 310910	annemacro123@gmail.com
Sue Johnston	01394 450469	07928 099293	suejohnston1@gmail.com
Suki Pearce	01394 450011	07729 184875	suki.pearce@yahoo.co.uk
Harbour Office	01394 459950		orfordquayuk@gmail.com
James Robinson	01394 450056	07710 717632	ensighouse@gmail.com
Town Hall	01394 459172		orfordtownhall@outlook.com orfordtrust@outlook.com
Adrian Harper-Grassing	01394 450985	07751 352882	
Chris Gill	01394 450302	07951 382763	chrisgill60@gmail.com
Michael Finney	01394 450093	07783 994157	mikefinney118@hotmail.co.uk

May 2024

RESIDENTS MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO KEEP THE ABOVE TO HAND IN CASE OF EMERGENCY