



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 401 August 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 21 August, 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 SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 21 AUGUST

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 to be held on Wednesday 10 September 2025. Anyone wishing to be considered for this vacancy should write a letter to the Clerk to arrive before noon on Tuesday 9 September 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.

VILLAGE FEAST

This year the Village Feast will take place on Market Hill on the evening of Saturday 23 August. The evening will start at 6.30pm and end at 10pm with live music by Rock 2 Pop, alongside a bar by the Barmann and hog roast by the Meat Shed. Seating will be limited, so please do bring a chair if you can. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us this year.

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 14 August: bike meet night from 6pm, bar and BBQ available, bike not essential
- Thursday 11 September: the final bike meet night of the year
- 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

FRIEND'S GARAGE – AN UPDATE...

It is now over six years since Friends Garage ceased trading and we would like to assure you that we are as disappointed and fed up as you are with the lack of progress with the development of the site.

August dates for your diary

- 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 Friday: pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm (please note that there will be no Country Market on Saturday 23 August)
- Saturday 2 August: Dr Bike cycle repairs - New Room of Orford Town Hall, 9am-2pm
- Sunday 3 August: annual Quay Service - Orford Quay, 6pm
- Sunday 10 August: clarinet and piano recital - Orford Church, 2pm
- Monday 11 August: ladies tennis tournament - Orford tennis courts, 9am-12noon
- Tuesday 12 August: mixed doubles tennis tournament - Orford tennis courts, 2pm
- Thursday 14 August: Luceat chamber choir concert - Orford Church, 6.30pm
- Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 August: Sandlings Art Group exhibition - New Room of Orford Town Hall, 10am-5pm (Saturday), and 10am-4.30pm (Sunday)
- Thursday 21 to Monday 25 August: Maria Brenchley art exhibition - New Room of Orford Town Hall, 10am-5pm
- Saturday 23 August: Orford Flower Show - Orford Recreation Ground, 1pm
- Saturday 23 August: Village Feast - Market Square, from 6.30pm
- Tuesday 26 August: Orford Museum at Butley Priory, Three Inch Fools presents A Midsummer Night's Dream - Butley Priory, 6.30pm
- Saturday 30 August: Quay Street Whalers perform at The Jolly Sailor, 9pm

We had no idea that it would remain an eyesore for such an extended period of time.

The process was not helped by the wasted four years spent trying to work with the locally formed Community Interest Company before they withdrew from the project. Since that time, there has been a failed sale of the Seaforth House site and Mike, our developer, has suffered some serious health issues. However, by far the biggest delay to the redevelopment has been due to the East Suffolk Council Planning Department.

The planning application was submitted in August last year and it should have been determined by Christmas. Unfortunately the case officer handling the scheme has been on long-term sick leave since March this year. ESC Planning have readily admitted that they are desperately short staffed and the rapid turnaround of employees within the department has resulted in the garage planning application being passed from pillar to post with no one working on it long enough to issue a decision. Mike and his Planning Consultant have tried to keep things moving forward by continuing to answer any queries raised and satisfying any required actions. Having waited over ten months for a decision on the current submission, this week Mike has been advised that the planning officer who started to deal with the application has returned from sick leave and the decision will be issued by 18 July. Time will tell.

Orford Parish Council and the local District Councillor have been asked to apply pressure on ESC Planning in an attempt to expedite a decision. If you, as an Orford resident, are displeased at the length of time the garage site has been allowed to deteriorate and blight the entrance to your village, then please contact Ben Woolnough, Head of Planning and Building Control – Ben.Woolnough@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

Tom Massey

HOUSING FOR LOCALS - YOU CAN HELP

The NOTT project to provide, and support, affordable housing in Orford continues. We thank everyone who has expressed their support.

As you will be aware the national housing crisis is ongoing and here, in Orford, many local people face difficulties finding affordable local accommodation.

Over the last couple of years a number of social housing properties in this village have been placed on the market. These would have made ideal additions to this project and would have helped maintain the existing level of affordable rental housing, but additional funds were needed to have made this achievable. With this in mind, if anyone knows of a charitable trust that might have the funds to support this ongoing project, or are able to suggest any alternative potential funding sources, please do let us know - it would be gratefully appreciated.

Please don't let us be the generation that allows this village to be turned into an empty shell. Our continued thanks to the many people who have helped in the past, including Edward Greenwell, Charles Goddard, Hugh Homan, Tony Lingard, Geoffrey Smeed, Neville Walton, Lady Bridges, Michael Flint, Kathy Murphy, Esmond Smith, Derek Forbes and Margaret Smith.

We are very grateful to the many people who have supported the various village affordable housing projects (including land-owners Michael Cordle and John Grimsey) and continue to help with this work in progress.

Margaret Green, Mary Iliff, Karen King, Anne Macro, Sheila Stoker

THANK YOU

On behalf of the crew of Orford fire station I would like to thank all who visited Orford Fire Station to support The Chief's Challenge for the Firefighter Charity car wash on Saturday 28 June. An amazing total of £610.60 was collected, thank you.

I would like to thank everyone who helped on the day providing refreshments while their cars were being cleaned and to everyone who very kindly donated cakes.

Neil Jacobs, Orford Fire Station, Suffolk Fire and Rescue

OSLOF FIRST SUMMER FAIR

What a wonderful afternoon we had on 11 July! The children had an amazing time playing archery and throwing sponges at Mr Head (a massive thank you to the Flower Show for lending their stand) as well as tasting fabulous cakes made by their friends and peers.

Each year OSLOF hosts the Christmas Fair and Easter Egg Hunt and now the Summer Fair - all three of these events help us pay

for the children of Orford Primary School to take a whole school trip somewhere new each summer, plus aiding educational trips for each year group.

We cannot thank the local businesses enough for their support for our raffle prizes: Orford General Store, Orford Castle, Orford Sailing Club, LA Brewery, Sovereign Turf and The Jolly Sailor. On top of that thank you for your support in buying raffle tickets, and thanks to Jeremy and Paula Rugge-Price, the governors and the Parish Council, and of course our wonderful Headteacher, without whose help and support none of this would have been possible.

We raised a cracking £609. From us all thank you, and we hope you have a wonderful summer in our beautiful village

Daisy Fellowes, OSLOF

BOOKS FOR CHURCH

Many thanks to everyone for generous donations. Books are running low this summer, if you have any to give, please place in the side pew or under it in the boxes.

Nicola Atchley

ORFORD TENNIS TOURNAMENTS AUGUST 2025

Monday 11 August: Ladies Doubles, 9am– 12pm

Just come and play - you don't need a partner, we all play as individuals and the partnerships for the finals is made up with the four highest scores. I will need names by 8 August.

Tuesday 12 August Mixed Doubles, starting at 2pm.

Enter as a couple before Saturday 9 August: dianampaterson@btinternet.com or 01394 450771.

Diana Grayburn

SUDBOURNE HALL CRICKET CLUB

A highly positive and rewarding month for Sudbourne Hall Cricket Club. The highlights: glorious sunny weather as we welcomed our vice-presidents and supporters to the club on the afternoon of Saturday 12 July; a good turnout, a typically sumptuous tea supplied by Michelle from The Mixing Bowl and a win for our Saturday team made the day very special.

A big thank you to all who continue to support the club. Life as a rural village club can be tough. The financial and in person support we get is not taken for granted.

Our Saturday league team are now on a winning roll with victories over Walsham le Willows, Long Melford, Stowmarket and Melton. We've climbed out of the relegation zone, but the bottom half of the table remains very tight.

Last, but not least, Jack Pynn's junior cricket sessions continue to go from strength to strength on Sunday mornings at the club. The eight weeks of formal sessions have now finished with over thirty local youngsters in attendance.

With the cricket season going into the third week of September, we look forward to the ever-popular Presidents Day. This year the annual fixture will be on Sunday 7 September. More info in the September edition, but please do put the date in the diary.

For all things Sudbourne cricket, please see our website. sudbournehallcc.com

Andy Halliday

ART EXHIBITION IN ORFORD

The Sandlings Art Group, based in Sudbourne, are pleased to confirm that we will be exhibiting some of our work again this year in the Town Hall. Our display will be available on Saturday 16 August from 10am till 5pm and again on Sunday 17 August from 10am till 4.30pm. The display will showcase the wide variety of artwork we produce, some serious and some where we have had fun!

Contact: jean@buttonbarn.co.uk

Jean Button

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY ART EXHIBITION

Orford Town Hall, New Room. Thursday 21 to Monday 25 August, open daily 10am to 5pm. Paintings by Susie Miller, Susie

Hammond and Maria Brenchley, accompanied by Carole Smith art glass and Alison McKenzie, The Candle Yard.

Drawings, paintings, ceramic tiles and coasters, cards, room fragrances and much more. Come and give us a look!

Contact mariabrenchley7@gmail.com,
www.suisiehammondart.com

ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS AT BUTLEY PRIORY

Orford Museum is delighted to welcome the travelling theatre group Three Inch Fools (www.threeinchfools.com) to Butley Priory on Tuesday, 26 August 2025 to present a musical version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Formed in 2015 by brothers James and Stephen Hyde the idea for the Three Inch Fools is simple – to stage a production that is inventive and fast-paced and to use music to bring to life Shakespeare's timeless stories. Over the past seven years the company has staged fourteen plays around the UK including *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night*. The performance will start at 6.30pm (doors open at 6pm) and will take place outside, so please bring chairs, rugs and a picnic. There will be a twenty-minute interval.

Tickets cost £20 for Orford Museum Friends, £25 for non-Friends, children under 16 £14 and children under 8 free. Friends and guests, please use our online booking system. For non-Friends, please use our booking form. If you have any queries, please email us at info@orfordmuseum.org.uk.

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 master-minded the 'Great Escape' in 1944 and was played by Richard Attenborough in the famous film twenty years later.

On Monday 24 November Iain Murison will give a talk entitled 'Afghanistan – a genuine and personal insight'. Iain joined the Corps of Royal Engineers in 1984 where he served for thirty years spending time in a variety of conflicts including Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Sierra Leone. He was shaped by his experiences and retired in 2014. This presentation is an insightful personal account of the most challenging and fulfilling campaign in recent years, a true testament of leadership through the most intense adversity.

'Of what use is decisive victory in battle if we bleed to death as a result of it'

B.H. Liddell Hart

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.

We have an exciting programme of talks and events for 2026 currently in the planning stage. Watch our website to find out more!

Elizabeth Spinney

AUGUST AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Sunday 3 August, seventh Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Robin Alderson

Sunday 10 August, eighth Sunday after Trinity

8am, BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall

Sunday 17 August, ninth Sunday after Trinity

11am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 24 August, St Bartholomew's Day

11am Cluster United Holy Communion at Orford - Revd Mandy Reynolds

Thursday 4 September

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

Diana Grayburn, Church Warden, 450771

AUGUST AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 3 August 10.30am Stephen Caley

6pm, thirty-sixth Annual Quay Service

For the first time, supporting the CIRDAN SAILING TRUST

Sunday 10 August 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 17 August 10.30am Rev Saul Tadzaushe - Communion Service

Sunday 24 August 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 31 August 10.30am Café worship

You will be most welcome to join with us for any of our services and meetings. Young people stay in church and often assist with the service. Refreshments are served afterwards.

Chapel tea room is open every Monday and Wednesday from 11am–4pm and also on Saturdays from 2pm–5pm (afternoon tea) but not Saturday 23 August. There is a full 'summer' lunch menu and delicious scones and cakes. Many of our visitors also browse, and buy from, the excellent selection of books, CDs, local art and crafts, cards, preserves and much more.

Suffolk Epilepsy Support Group fundraising day – all day on Saturday 13 September at the Chapel tea room – it's also Suffolk Churches Heritage Ride and Stride day. We already have a number of cyclists who are supporting the fundraising for which half comes back to Orford Methodist Church (last year was an excellent year for sponsors!)

Stephen Caley

NEW TALENT AND OLDER MUSIC

The popularity of St Bartholomew's Church as a music venue continues. At 2pm on Sunday 10 August we shall be treated to a 'French Fête' of music by Debussy, Poulenc, Saint-Saëns and others. Two established chamber musicians - pianist Maciej Kasak from Britten Pears Arts and clarinettist James Meldrum – will join together to perform a programme both witty and impressionistic. It lasts ninety minutes (including a twenty-minute interval) and £15 tickets can be had from Snape Maltings box office or online (www.brittenpearsarts.org) or at the door on the day.

If you enjoy choral music you will want to hear the magnificent Luceat chamber choir as they mark the anniversaries of the birth of Palestrina in 1525 and the death of Orlando Gibbons in 1625. Their special summer tour visits the church on Thursday 14 August at 6.30pm. The concert is free, but donations are welcome.

Jacki Maslin

OPERATION: RADAR, NEW PLAY AT ORFORD TOWN HALL

To celebrate the eightieth anniversary of VE/VJ Day Black & White Productions revisit how RDF (or RADAR as it came to be known) was developed at Orfordness and Bawdsey Manor with a new play *Operation RADAR*, written by Suzanne Hawkes.

It's a race against time as boffins Robert Watson Watt and Skip Wilkins work on solutions to the impossible problems of detecting aircraft and IFF (identifying friend or foe) before they succumb to the bleak conditions on Orfordness – or Hitler unleashes the might of the Luftwaffe and wipes out the RAF 'before the flying boys have got their socks on!'

But as they re-establish operations at Bawdsey Manor and Churchill piles on the pressure will Air Marshall Dowding retain his sanity long enough to be any help? And who will operate the new Chain Home Stations? Surely not women?

With live music featuring specially written songs and old favourites of the period.

Orford Town Hall, Friday 19 September, 7.45pm, tickets £15/£13 available from the box office 01394 279613, ticketsource.co.uk/black-white-productions

Black & White Productions

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Do join us for half price at £7.50 for the remainder of this calendar year...

Our next events: Orford and Gedgrave Flower Show Stall - 23 August 2025

Well, that time of year comes around very quickly doesn't it? We will be having a stall at the Flower Show again this year thanks to the support from our Committee and our members!!!

We know that many of you will be picking and selecting plants and produce for entry to the various categories in the Show so please can we have the 'not up to scratch' rejects to sell in aid of Perennial. Please just drop them off at our stall at any time...

Perennial is a charity which supports gardeners in so many ways: money management, health and well-being, careers advice and coaching, digital support for carers, managing grief, money and debt advice, legal helpline, physiotherapy, relationship advice. There are many examples of how they help on their website: perennial.org.uk

Perennial's gardens include Fullers Mill over near Bury St Edmunds, York Gate, The Laskett, and East Ruston Old Vicarage, one of our favourites in Norfolk, is being gifted to them eventually.

Also come and say 'hello' and meet some of our members and have a chat. It's also an opportunity for new members to join us!!

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

Anna, who is on TV with Alan Titchmarsh and running courses with Sarah Raven, will be talking to us in a jargon-free way about growing vegetables and using onions as a starting point!! She has a large 'garden' of her own growing fruit, veg and edible flowers... Join us and be inspired as you were when she came to us a couple of years ago!

Many events still to come in 2025!!

- 17 September: Westleton garden visit to designer Sue Townsend
- 2 October: Kerry Austen 'Roses: from Wisley to Persica'
- 22 November: Demonstration: Seasonal Floral Design - 'Garden to Bouquet'
- 4 December: AGM and social supper

Polly Sharkey, creativefutures98@btinternet.com

ENGLAND, THEIR ENGLAND

The sun was shining, the sky was blue, the field an emerald green, the ball was battered red, and the twenty-two players were all in white. It was Saturday afternoon and our local team were playing Stowmarket on the Sudbourne Hall cricket ground.

From my distant viewing position, under a small shady tree on the boundary line, the only sound was that of the crack of willow on leather, each time one of our batsmen hit the ball, interspersed with the occasional 'Owzat' from appealing visiting players.

There were thirteen players on the ground, our team, the local lads of the Sudbourne cricket team and two batsmen from the visiting Stowmarket team. Some were slim and agile boys, others were a tad older and a wee bit larger in girth but all played with the utmost attention and zeal.

Many of the larger batsmen swung many a sweeping daisy cutter, called a cow shot in my day I seem to remember, at any ball not pitched at the correct length; sometimes the ball was sent scuttling off to the boundary, and at other times the massive strength of the swipe sent the batsman wobbling around the

crease, and in one erstwhile case I watched, laid him out completely, prone and flat on his back.

Nevertheless, runs between the wickets continued to add to the score as wickets fell. One young bowler, probably the smallest player on the pitch, removed the centre stump to a roar of applause, while the wicket keeper took his revenge on a daisy cutting batsman, and in between, there were some magical catches to be appreciated and applauded.

Then came the tea interval and Pimm's, and what a spread there was for everyone, the teams, umpires, the scorers, Uncle Tom Cobley and all in the archetypal Sudbourne pavilion of his Lordship; the idea of having to run between the wickets after such a spread was a mere passing thought!

Then it was back onto the field for the visitors to bat. The final score had Sudbourne beating Stowmarket by thirty-two runs, a victory indeed, however, it was playing the game which mattered most.

The great Lords Cricket Ground, with Old Father Time watching over the game, it was not, but AG Macdonnell's 'England, their England' it certainly was, and long may it last.

Jeremy Rugge-Price

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.

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

AUGUST AT THE PENINSULA PRACTICE

Staff training is important for our practice. On the following days, surgery sites close from 1pm until the following day. All calls are redirected to 111. The specified site is open for booking future appointments and accessing repeat prescriptions.

Wednesday 17 September 2025 - Alderton • Thursday 16 October 2025 - Aldeburgh

Flu and Covid Vaccination Campaign 2025 – Dates for Your Diary!

We are currently busy planning this year's Flu and Covid Vaccination Campaign and anticipate the flu vaccinations will be delivered alongside the Autumn Covid booster. We're planning to host our main flu and covid clinic days on the following dates:

- Wednesday 8 October – Aldeburgh Old Generator Station
- Tuesday 14 October – Orford Surgery
- Thursday 23 October – Hollesley Village Hall

Booking will open in early September, and we'll be sending out booking links directly to our eligible patients. This will allow you to book online at any time that suits you, without needing to call or wait on the phone to speak to our team.

If you are housebound, please don't worry – we will be in touch nearer the time to let you know when we will visit you at home with your vaccine.

www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk or 01394 411641

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