



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 400 July 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 24 July, 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 AUGUST ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 24 JULY

THANK YOU

I would like to thank James Kennedy for all his help with Village Voice as he steps down as co-editor after over ten years. NOTT and the Parish Council are very grateful for the help given to what we hope is valuable newsletter for the whole village and beyond!

Kara Reed, Clerk to New Orford Town Trust and Editor, Village Voice

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. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us this year.

HEDGES

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that there is a number of overgrown hedges around the village. If your hedge is on a footpath or on a highway, please could we ask that you cut it back. People are having to walk in the road instead of the footpath as the hedges are so overgrown. Thank you.

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

ORFORD SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

The members coach trip to Bury St Edmunds was a great success, and many thanks to Sam for the organising. The next trip is Great Yarmouth on Thursday 18 September incorporating the races. Enquire at the club or see Matthew.

The next bike meet nights are Thursday 10 July, 14 August, and 11 September, from 6pm. BBQ and bar available, bike not essential. Don't forget Friday night club nights and keep an eye on the board and Facebook page for bingo.

Mark Smy, Secretary, 450358

ORFORD, SUDBOURNE & GEDGRAVE FLOWER SHOW STOP PRESS!

New dog show class announced – FANCY DRESS

Please enter your dog into the new dog fancy dress class at the Flower Show this year. Judges will be looking out for the most

July 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
- Saturday 5 July: Flower Show meeting for potential volunteers - King's Head, 3-5pm
- Saturday 5 July: Quay Street Whalers perform at the Jolly Sailor, 9pm
- Friday 11 July: Orford Primary School summer fair - Orford School playground, from 3pm
- Saturday 12 July: cricket match and tea - Sudbourne Hall Cricket Club, from 3pm

original, easy to wear and becoming outfits. First prize for best in show and rosettes for the runners up.

Become a Friend of the Flower Show

The cost of putting on the show is ever increasing and while we do not charge an entry fee, we do ask for voluntary contributions on the gate, however the main funding for the Show is provided by the Friends of the Flower Show. Anyone can become a Friend of the Flower Show. We ask for a minimum contribution of £40 per person per annum, but there is no upper limit! Apart from knowing that you are helping to secure the future of the show and support local charities, you will be invited to the exclusive Friends reception and preview, where you will be able to wander the marquee before it is open to the general public, with a glass of fizz in hand, enjoy some excellent food, and debate the judges decisions. Please contact us at orfordflowershow@gmail.com

Remember, If you are interested in volunteering to help with the show, Keith, our field and marquee manager, will be in the King's Head, with a tab running, from 3pm to 5pm on Saturday 5 July, so please do come and meet him to hear more about how you can support us. Alternatively, you can contact us at orfordflowershow@gmail.com and Keith will get in touch with you.

Gary Wingrove, Chairman

SUDBOURNE HALL CRICKET

Save the date: Saturday 12 July. As a thank you, we'd like to welcome all our Vice-Presidents, supporters and members down to the club from 3pm onwards. The Saturday league team will be playing at home to Stowmarket. There'll be tea, nibbles and drinks available. Please do come down to the club to experience that unique and quintessentially English thing, village cricket!

Aside from the weekend when the storms came in mid-June (we lost our first fixture to the weather), it feels a little like Groundhog Day at Sudbourne Hall Cricket club with plenty of sunshine, but no sign of victories for our Saturday league team. With the school holidays approaching, we are hoping availability will improve and we can start winning a few games to haul ourselves up the league with the added injection of youth across July and August!

Jack Pynn's junior cricket continues to thrive on a Sunday morning. With twenty-five youngsters attending the club every Sunday, it's wonderful to see so many youngsters enjoying the wonderful setting and facility.

If you are reading this and interested in either playing, supporting or have children who would like to play, please do email Jack at jackpynn@yahoo.co.uk for further details. Sessions are on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11am.

Andy Halliday

DR BIKE – FREE CYCLE REPAIR EVENTS

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

I am doing sessions like this in a number of villages local to me. This is part of their 'Big Bike Revival' where we repair/tune up adult bicycles for free, including some spare parts, inner tubes, brake pads etc, this is to encourage people to cycle more with all the benefits that brings. All I ask is that you complete a short online survey about you and your bike, this gives Cycling UK data and evidence to secure more funding for these free events.

I have booked the New Room of Orford Town Hall for Saturday 2 August and Saturday 13 September. I will open up at 9am and be there until 2pm, I can take bookings for ten bikes, approximately half an hour per bike.

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

Martin Smith

FRIENDS OF ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH: OPEN GARDENS AND UPCOMING QUIZ

Sunday 25 May started clear if blustery for this year's Open Gardens and, within minutes of opening time, visitors were queuing to buy tickets in Church. Even two sharp downpours of rain didn't put people off; still they kept coming, the queue at times stretching out of the church porch.

This year, there were thirteen wonderful gardens to visit, including four open for the first time; these were in Toller Close, Mundays Lane and Quay Street. The refreshments stall in church selling drinks and delicious home-made cakes and scones was popular as ever, and the plant sale and raffle for a £100 National Garden Gift voucher did brisk business. Congratulations to the raffle winners, Orford couple Gwen and Gary Wingrove.

Altogether, it was a record-breaking day with over 550 visitors and a total of £5,250 raised to benefit the Church, the highest-ever amount to our knowledge.

Thank you so much to those who generously opened their gardens and worked so hard to present them in lovely condition, and to everyone else involved in making the day such a success – whether producing artwork, baking cakes and scones, providing plants for sale, and working on the tickets, raffle, refreshments and plant stalls – a true team effort. And to everyone who visited – thank you for your support, and we hope you enjoyed it.

Looking ahead, if you are interested in opening your garden for the first time in future, please call Libby on 0771 341 3494.

The Friends' next event is a Quiz Night with Supper and bar in the Town Hall on Saturday 15 November. Please save the date in your diary and watch out for another article with further details in the coming months.

Libby Archer and Sally Walton, *Friends of St. Bartholomew's Church*

T4THOMAS 2025

Finally, the weather gods relented and another very successful T4T was held on Sunday 8 June. The sun shone, the winds were not as bad as forecast and no rain fell! And so many people, both old faces and new, came to show their love and support for TMEF. So much so that at one point there weren't enough tables and an improvised 'waiting bay' was formed.

We ran out of bacon rolls by 12noon and Guy's treacle glazed ham salad soon followed. The mountain of 40+ cakes were also dwindling fast with all the extra 'take-aways' and it was touch and go whether my signature Chocolate Guinness cakes would last out – there was even a mini squabble about who was having the last slice! (Note to self – make six not four next time!)

All in all, it was a brilliant day, and it was great to see so many lovely people in our garden enjoying themselves and the food and meeting up with old friends. A huge thank you to my fabulous band of helpers who helped set everything up, ran around non-stop on the day and then stayed on to help dismantle everything. A big thank you too to Piers and Suvi Pool at High House Farm for donating a box of their delicious apple juice and also to Jo Brennan at Pump Street Bakery for generously donating the bread and the rolls. With some very generous donations, T4T 2025 raised over £3800 which is a record! So, I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone for your continued support of TMEF.

Our next event is 'Fumble in the Jumble' on Saturday 20 September in St Bartholomew's Church. So now is the time to start sorting out those cupboards and sheds and generally having a declutter and then bringing your very best preloved items to the church on the Friday afternoon for us to sell, with the knowledge that you are helping so many disadvantaged children gain access to life-changing education. Obviously, we also expect you to return on the Saturday to then buy more treasures that you didn't realise you either needed or wanted.

Also, the third season of our popular Talks for Thomas will commence in October – details of speakers and dates to follow. Thank you again for your support.

Wendy Marshall

ART EXHIBITION IN ORFORD

The Sandlings Art Group, based in Sudbourne, are pleased to confirm that 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

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our next event: Orford and Gedgrave Flower Show, 23 August

We will be having a stall at the Flower Show again this year thanks to the support from our Committee and our members!!! Please bring any plants, produce or flowers in the morning – we will be selling them in aid of Perennial, the charity which supports gardeners in a wide range of ways.

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 – we've had a good number this year including many from the Chantry Meadow development.

Garden Party

This was held in the delightful Orford Garden of Sue and Ben Johnston – the weather was very kind to us and over forty members and guests joined us to enjoy the wonderful views across to the Ness and the fantastic cakes and savouries donated by our members. We also had a plant stall in aid of the charity Perennial which raised around £35.

It was a good opportunity for many of us to meet those new to the village who are also interested in plants and the environment. Our grateful thanks to Sue and Ben.

Pop Up Garden

One of our members who lives in Friston offered to open her garden for us with donations to Lymphoma Research. This took place at the end of June and was a delightful opportunity to share her environment and to chat about various gardening ideas.

Many events still to come in 2025!!

- Saturday 23 August: stall at Flower Show
- Thursday 11 September: Anna Greenland 'Know your Onions and other Vegetables'
- Wednesday 17 September: Westleton garden visit to designer Sue Townsend
- Thursday 2 October: Kerry Austen 'Roses: from Wisley to Persica'
- Saturday 22 November: Demonstration: Seasonal Floral Design – 'Garden to Bouquet'
- Thursday 4 December: AGM and Social Supper

Polly Sharkey, *creativefutures98@btinternet.com*

CAKE SHED

Kate's Treats is opening a cake shed! Located outside 18 Peacocks Pyghtle, Orford, it will be open Friday to Sunday 10am-7pm from 4 July. There will be an honesty cash tin and bank details for transfers. Please follow @orfordcakeshed on Instagram to keep up to date with opening times and available treats!

Kate Thacker

JULY AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Sunday 6 July, third Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Dr Stephen Thompson

Sunday 13 July, fourth Sunday after Trinity

8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Dr Stephen Thompson

10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall

Sunday 20 July, fifth Sunday after Trinity

11am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 3 August, seventh Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Robin Alderson

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

Diana Grayburn, *Churchwarden*

JULY AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 6 July 10.30am Stephen Caley – informal café service

Sunday 13 July 10.30am Service arranged locally

Sunday 20 July 10.30am Rev Saul Tadzaushe – Communion service

Sunday 27 July 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 3 August 10.30am Stephen Caley

6pm Annual Quay Service – see poster on the back page

You are always welcome to join with us at any of the Sunday services and various meetings. Our young people happily share the service helping to read from the Bible and prayers. Refreshments are served after each service.

Chapel Tea Room – good news! As usual we are open every Monday and Wednesday from 11am–4pm with a great lunch menu and afternoon tea with plenty of scones, cake and tea/coffee. We will also be open every Saturday throughout July from 2pm–5pm serving afternoon tea. Do come along and enjoy

all of this with us. There's also a huge selection of local crafts and art for sale, second-hand books and now a big collection of CDs with something for everyone's taste in music and much more, including preserves of every kind. There's a stall supporting the Leprosy Mission too.

We held a very special service marking the 123rd Anniversary of the opening of the present building – and as it was Pentecost Sunday too (8 June) worship was lively with music, songs and dance, and much to lead us on into this 'new' year. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch – good food, good company!

Those who are observant will see that the Chapel building is in the midst of an exterior repaint with some minor repairs – perhaps taking a little longer than anticipated!

Stephen Caley

ORFORD MUSEUM UPDATE

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 sixteen £14, and children under eight 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 45 books and thousands of essays.

Following this on Thursday 9 October, Peter Gutteridge returns to Butley Priory to continue his very popular series of talks on Nelson with one entitled 'Nelson – Disaster at Tenerife and the Battle of the Nile'.

On Thursday 6 November, well-known journalist and Woodbridge resident, Simon Pearson, will talk about his book *The Great Escaper: the Life and Death of Roger Bushell* which tells the story of Roger Bushell – aka 'Big X' – the man who masterminded the 'Great Escape' in 1944 and was played by Richard Attenborough in the famous film twenty years later.

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

'Of what use is decisive victory in battle if we bleed to death as a result of it': B.H. Liddell Hart

All the talks start at 6pm and last about an hour. Tickets cost £15 for Friends of Orford Museum, £20 for guests and include a complimentary glass of wine (served from 5.30pm). Please book through our website at www.orfordmuseum.org.uk where you will also find more details about the talks and the speakers.

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

CONCERT IN ORFORD CHURCH

The vibrant spirit of French music runs through this lush programme, featuring captivating works by Debussy, Françaix, Poulenc and others. Clarinettist James Meldrum and pianist Maciej Kassak present music that's impressionistic and sparkingly witty by turn. A delightful afternoon in the company of two established chamber musicians.

Sunday 10 August at 2pm in Orford Church. Tickets £15 available from www.brittenpearsarts.org or on the day at the church.

Maciej Kassak

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – RESIDENT'S SURVEY

As part of our extensive community engagement over local government reorganisation, Suffolk County Council is launching an eight-week residents' survey which is available on the council's website www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution. You can find the survey under the Have Your Say section, or via this direct link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SuffolkLGRReview/>

It only takes about ten minutes to complete, and can be done online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution, by emailing devolution@suffolk.gov.uk or by calling 0345 603 1842 where the customer services team can help residents to complete the survey. People can also visit any of our libraries to complete the survey online.

The survey asks questions about local democracy – such as how you raise issues that need addressing, local decision making – such as how you might want to get involved and about the specifics of council reorganisation itself.

The responses will help us to develop our plan so that we can be confident it addresses the issues that matter most. The survey closes on 4 August 2025.

Suffolk County Council

JULY 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 17 September 2025 – Alderton • Thursday 16 October 2025 – Aldeburgh

East Anglian Air Ambulance

We are very proud to be supporting East Anglian Air Ambulance with collection points for clothes and shoes. We have these points available at our Alderton and Aldeburgh surgeries where you can bring bagged clothes and shoes to donate. They are visible in bright yellow. East Anglian Air Ambulance are our partners in providing care to our patient population and we are happy to continue to be supporting them in this way.

Clinician and appointment availability

We continue to offer a wide range of appointments and try to prioritise patient choice. This includes face-to-face, video, telephone, online, early morning, later evening and weekends (extended hours GP+) appointments. As a multi-site practice, we will also offer the next available appointment even if it is not the closest site to you.

www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk or 01394 411641

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



ORFORD ANNUAL QUAY SERVICE



6pm

Sunday 3rd August 2025

**Preacher: Rev Helen Hollands, Chair of the
East Anglian Methodist District**

**Supporting The CIRDAN SAILING TRUST
Refreshments at the Methodist Church**