



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 349 April 2021

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All copy must be received by midday on Thursday 22 April 2021, preferably by email to:

orfordtrust@btconnect.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](http://www.orfordparishandtrust.onesuffolk.net))

## **COPY DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 2021 ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2021**

### **NEW ORFORD TOWN TRUST**

I write further to the entry in Village Voice in January 2020 which informed everyone that:

*"NOTT has set up a Designated Fund to purchase houses or land on which to build houses, with the aim of adding to the Trust's stock of houses to rent to people with a strong local connection.*

*A survey conducted in 2019 confirmed that there is a demand for local housing including for single people, for young couples hoping to start a family and for parents with children needing two- and three-bedroom homes. It will take time to build up the Designated Fund in order to purchase houses (the current balance of the fund is around £136,500), but we anticipate that over time, and making very careful use of NOTT's income and investments along with any outside help we can get, we will be able to make a real difference to the availability of affordable rental homes in the village."*

Since then the Trustees have managed to purchase a property in Town Farm Estate which led to the entry in the September edition of Village Voice announcing that:

*"A young local family is to move in, freeing up a cottage in Bakers Lane and thereby allowing a young couple to move back into the village. We have found there is a housing need and it is vital for the long-term wellbeing of Orford that we carry on with this endeavour, which will be expedited with the help of people making donations or leaving a charitable gift."*

Thanks to a very generous benefactor and other donations we are delighted to announce that we may soon be in a position to purchase a further property. These sponsors wish to remain anonymous but on behalf of The New Orford Town Trust – thank you very much.

Should anyone wish to make a contribution to this important and necessary fund please email the Clerk to the NOTT on [orfordtrust@btconnect.com](mailto:orfordtrust@btconnect.com) or contact myself on 01394 450882.

**Ian Thornton**, Chairman, New Orford Town Trust

### **ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council (OGPC) would like to thank the working party that completed the task on the Recreation Ground of replacing the dragon's teeth. Members of the working party, who were volunteers, comprised John, Scott and Zoe Backhouse, and Nathan Smy. Thanks also to County Councillor Andrew Reid for

donating the money that paid for the cost of the dragon's teeth wood.

### **Parking Enforcement in Orford**

East Suffolk Council has informed OGPC that during this coming Spring, Summer and Autumn, East Suffolk Council Traffic Enforcement Officers will be patrolling Orford and strictly enforcing the parking restrictions in the village in order to mitigate traffic congestion and optimise traffic flow associated with an anticipated large volume of visitors in the coming months. We believe these Traffic Enforcement Officers will particularly be in the village at times when visitor numbers may be expected to peak (bank holidays, weekends and at half term holidays). We anticipate this will be similar to traffic enforcement that will be taking place in other local coastal tourist destinations e.g. Aldeburgh and Southwold.

**Anne Macro**, Chairman, Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council

### **EASTER AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S**

#### **On Easter Eve – a Service of Light at Sunset**

All are welcome to a special open air sunset Service of Light on Easter Eve – Saturday 3 April at 7.30pm. The short service will feature the Christian Easter symbols of Light in the form of a bonfire and fireworks. We hope families will join us to start a new tradition for Easter in Orford.

If you are joining us, please plan to arrive before the service begins at 7.30pm. You should bring a torch, wear warm clothes and suitable footwear and children need gloves if they wish to wave a sparkler. Stewards will be at the church gates to direct you and dispense service sheets and hand sanitiser. We ask you to abide by current government regulations, wear a face mask, stand in household/bubble groups and keep a 2-metre distance from other groups. As this is an open-air service, it will be weather dependent.

#### **Easter services**

- Good Friday, 2 April, 3pm Devotional service (available also on Zoom)
- Service of Light Easter Eve, Saturday 3 April, 7.30pm in the churchyard
- Easter Sunday, 9am Holy Communion with Rev. Robin Alderson (available also on Zoom)

#### **April services**

At the time of going to press, Sunday 9am Holy Communion Services and Wednesday 6pm Evening Prayer BCP are both available at Orford in person and on Zoom. You are very welcome to join us.

We will update changing information about our services and church opening for private prayer on the noticeboard by the church gate.

Alternatively, you can visit the A Church Near You website [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) to find details of all church services and events in the local area.

For further details about services and a Zoom link contact **Rev Giles Tulk**, 01394 450610 or [revgileswtr@gmail.com](mailto:revgileswtr@gmail.com)

#### **APRIL AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH**

Good Friday, 2 April at 10.30am

Easter Day, 4 April – Resurrection Praise, 10.30am

Sundays 11, 18 and 25 April: Services will be held at the usual of time of 10.30am

CHAPEL TEA ROOM will be open each Monday from 12 April for OUTSIDE seating/take away only from 12 noon, and again on Wednesdays. Indoor hospitality will have to wait until 17 May.

Join with us – keeping to regulations: mask wearing, hand sanitising, keeping distance – and as yet no singing or refreshments (hopefully soon)!

Our first 'in-person Service' since 3 January was held on Mothering Sunday, 14 March when all those in attendance received gifts of potted flowers, cakes/biscuits and bookmarks for the occasion.

For anyone unable to attend find the Sunday Service, Thought for the Day and much more on [www.methodistic.org.uk](http://www.methodistic.org.uk) (local web site). All best wishes,

**Stephen Caley**

#### **FRIENDS OF ORFORD COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY – AN UPDATE ON THE GARAGE**

It is just over a year since we last reported on the state of negotiations on Friends Garage and, very sadly, it is now well over two years since the garage closed.

As you may be aware, a group has had protracted negotiations with Tom Massey and a proposed developer, who has an option over the land, to try to purchase part of the site to be developed as a fuel outlet and an area for a much more spacious village shop. The rest of the site would be used for residential housing. Detailed plans for the retail site have been agreed with East Suffolk Council, SCC Highways, the Fire Officer and Petroleum Officer. An architect and contractor have also been briefed.

By way of background, most of the garage site is designated as 'commercial' for planning purposes. It has also been registered by the Parish Council as an Asset of Community Value, to be used for the benefit of the village. East Suffolk Council is adamant that, as the site is protected by two key planning policies, being a community asset and a site of local employment, it will only consider an application for a change of use for some of the land to be used for residential purposes if part of it is developed as a retail site for community purposes.

'Friends of Orford Community Interest Company', which is a special type of entity that exists only to benefit the community rather than private shareholders, has been set up specifically for this purpose.

We would dearly love to get moving on this but we need to be sure that the project can go ahead within a reasonable time frame so that we can make a start on both the substantial fundraising needed and the development itself.

It has recently become clear that we would not be able to do anything until the developer has obtained the residential planning permission for the rest of the site, dealt with the demolition of the existing buildings and decontaminated the whole site. All this could take up to another eighteen months before building work could actually start, and we cannot start fundraising until resolutions of all these issues are certain. ESC has also made it clear that it requires certainty that the retail development will actually happen before granting full residential permission for the rest of the site.

Although difficult, we still believe that it is possible to find an alternative solution which would benefit the community while at the same time allowing everyone else to achieve their objectives.

We remain hopeful that at the end of it all, the village will have a garage and greatly improved shop.

**Ian Watkins, Edward Greenwell, Harry Cole, Nicholas Gold and Mary-Anne Gribbon**

#### **THOMAS MARSHALL EDUCATION FUND**

2020 was a difficult year for fundraising and we were limited to the remarkably successful Lockdown T4Thomas plus contributions from regular donors and various online based funding systems.

Hopefully, the actions taken by the government and the development and distribution of vaccines should result in more opportunities in 2021 to reach out to our regular supporters as well as new ones to generate more funds for our vital work in Mozambique.

Our traditional T4Thomas Garden Party is usually scheduled for early June to coincide with Thomas' birthday but that would be before the date set in the Prime Minister's roadmap for easing the restrictions on large events and performances. We have, therefore, set a provisional date of Sunday, 1 August to welcome everyone back to the lovely garden at Chantry Cottage.

Fumble in the Jumble was scheduled for the first Saturday in August last year, but we have set a target date of Saturday 23 October during half-term this year for the opportunity to ferret out bargains at this top quality bric a brac sale. Venue to be decided.

The Rust and Stardust puppet project with Orford and Bawdsey Schools was postponed last year but we hope to reschedule *The Marsh Demons of Iken* sometime between 28 June and 9 July after the SATs but not too close to the end of the summer term.

Later in the year we hope to welcome the return of Leiston's Band of the Royal British Legion and the St Bartholomew's Church Christmas Bazaar to Orford Church. Then in late winter or early spring next year we hope to hold a musical evening in the same venue. We look forward to welcoming friends, old and new, to these events.

**Roger Hipwell, TMEF – Trustee**

#### **ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**

*Growing your own Cut Flowers*

In March we sourced our Zoom speaker from Perennial, who raise funds to help people of all ages in horticulture. They have been exceptionally busy over this last year in supporting those with mental health, financial, bereavement and illness issues. The speakers donate their fees.

The numbers participating in Zoom events has grown over these last few months to include around half of our members at the range of events and particularly those new to our club.

Ben Pope gave us an overview of how to develop a cutting garden both in your allotment or designated space or around your garden. He shared the plants, climbers, shrubs and trees that he has found to be successful and illustrated his talk beautifully using seasonal arrangements. He looked at annuals, perennials and bulbs, including such as Cosmos, Zinnia and Nigella, Dahlias and Chrysanthemums, Peonies and his favourite Aster, Lady in Black to name a few!

*All you ever wanted to know about Salvias – Janet Buist – 1 April*

This is our third time of trying to hear Janet who was recommended to us by William Dyson of Great Comp and will be by Zoom.

Janet had her own RHS Partner Garden in Cambridgeshire for many years and will be telling us all about choosing the right Salvia for your garden, how to care for them, how to propagate and her own very special tips.

*Ulting Wick NGS Open Garden for Tulips*

At the end of April, we are very excited to be able to make our private trip to the wonderful garden above. It is renowned for its tulips. We had hoped to go last year and now we can! Still keeping to Covid guidelines, of course.

*Vegetable Gardening*

On 6 May we will have a Zoom, again sourced by Perennial, about the above topic. We are hoping to have Lou, The Head Gardener from Ulting Wick but details have yet to be finalised.

*Matt Tatton-Brown – The Place for Plants*

Matt's May talk and demonstration on containers will have to be moved to October and be on Autumn and Winter Container Planting.

*Mannington Hall Gardens Norfolk – Rose specialists*

On Wednesday, 7 July we are hoping still to be able to do last year's postponed coach trip as above but details have yet to be finalised.

*New Members*

We always welcome people to join us - full member at £15 or £4 as a guest. No particular experience or knowledge is needed, just an interest in gardening and how it can enhance your life! Do contact me...

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

### **OPEN GARDENS IN ORFORD ON MONDAY 31 MAY**

We are planning to organise the Open Gardens in Orford on Monday 31 May, from 11am–4pm. The proceeds will go to St Bartholomew's Church. If there is anyone I have not contacted who would like their garden to be included I would be delighted to hear from them, either by phone or email. It is lovely to have a large variety of gardens for visitors to see.

There will also be 2 stalls for the sale of plants, vegetables etc. It looks as if we will be permitted to organise refreshments all day in the Church and if this is not possible, in the churchyard. We will need plenty of cakes and biscuits and I hope to have lots of offers of these and also help with serving on the day. Please contact me on 01394 450771 or Sally Walton on 01394 450656.

**Diana Grayburn**, email: *dianampaterson@btinternet.com*

### **SUDBOURNE HALL CRICKET CLUB**

After last season's almost write-off, things look a lot brighter for the coming season due to start on the first Saturday in May. We will have to wait for guidance as to how close to normal things will be. It is at this point that we appeal to our loyal band of Vice Presidents and ball sponsors asking for their support. It is especially important this year as the Club's finances took a serious hit last season as the Club still had to maintain the pavilion, grounds and pay insurances, water bills etc. without having much income. But for a very generous donation from a cricket-loving Orford resident which nearly halved our losses, things could have been much worse! Vice Presidents and ball sponsors can make their donations to Robert Jenkin, 450099 or Club Treasurer David Foreman, 450867 or *Foreman867@aol.com*. Many thanks in advance and we hope to see as many of you as possible at the matches on Saturday afternoons in the sunshine (hopefully).

**David Foreman**

### **UPDATE FROM THE KING'S HEAD**

If everything goes along to Boris's Route Map out of Lockdown, we will be able to re-open again – HOORAY.

We plan to re-open on Thursday 15 April, OUTSIDE only with some revised opening hours.

	Bar	Food
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	Closed	
Wednesday	12 to 7	12 to 6
Thursday	12 to 7	12 to 6
Friday	12 to 7	12 to 6
Saturday	12 to 7	12 to 6
Sunday	12 to 7	12 to 6

This of course subject to the obvious caveat of no alterations to the lockdown and weather permitting. We will update our Facebook page to advise on days we are weather affected.

We will not be taking reservations for the outside tables and it will be on a first come, first served basis. Please note that the rule of six or two households will apply. In addition, we would ask that you wear a face covering if using the toilets and in circulation areas outside.

Our outside seating area has all tables and benches spaced out and we ask that you do not move any of them. Be aware that it is an uneven surface and take due care when entering and moving around. Our online ordering and payment system works outside, and you will be expected to use this for everyone's safety. Our food menu will be slightly different to our previous menu as Suzanne and Brendan bring a few changes to help us adapt to the new norm.

We are delighted to have been accredited as "Good to Go" by Visit England and proud of the work involved in attaining and achieving this status and the steps required to ensure the safety of staff and customers.

The next step in the Route Map shows 17 May as the next potential step to allow indoor use of the pub and letting of our bed and breakfast rooms. We will review opening hours on or before this date and are already planning towards this, again subject to the obvious caveats.

**TAKE AWAY FOOD.** We are planning on carrying on our Friday Night Take Away between 6 and 8, on a pre-order basis, with menus being published and orders being handled in the same way we have been operating since lockdown 1. This will include our Heat at Home options.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to, or back to, The King's Head and excited to move things forward again.

Our grateful thanks to all the support we have had in this very difficult past year and the continual encouragement you generously voice to us. It really has been an amazing pick-you-up, just when it is required. Thank you.

Continue to keep safe and keep well and we look forward to seeing you from 15 April onwards.

**Ian & Suzanne Ballantine**, *thekingsheadorford@gmail.com*

### **SAVE OUR SUFFOLK SWIFTS**

Swifts are one of the most recognisable and iconic birds of summer, returning to the UK to breed in early May each year. But Swifts are disappearing from our skies – in the last 20 years the UK population has halved with a lack of nest sites considered to be one of the principal causes. However, you can help – Swifts readily take to nest boxes and for information and advice on putting up a Swift nest box or preserving the entrance to their natural homes under the roof tiles, please contact your Local Volunteer Swift Advisor – **Mark Linsley** on *marklinsley60@gmail.com*

### **CITIZENS ADVICE LEISTON & SAXMUNDHAM**

As the country comes out of lockdown (again!) we are expecting to see more changes for many people in our area with their employment and finances.

Citizens Advice Leiston Saxmundham and District works closely with organisations in the community. We are therefore aware of support available to people who have financial worries. So, for example, with schools now back, no doubt many children have grown out of their uniforms during this lockdown period. If you are struggling to get your secondary school children equipped, do get in contact as we may be able to help.

Citizens Advice also helps clients with a financial health check to review your income and outgoings. It means checking that you are receiving all the income you should be and that you aren't paying more for services you need – or even paying for services you don't need at all.

We continue to remain open but with no face-to-face meetings - you can reach us by phone, email or post. We remain open for advice by phone and email (Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri, 10am-2pm). Call us on 01728 832193 or Freephone 0800 278 7868. Or email: *supervisor@leistoncab.cabnet.org.uk* to make contact.



## 01394 450235

We are currently offering the following services to the residents of Orford, Gedgrave and Sudbourne Hall:

- Friendship and companionship over the telephone
- Collection of medication
- Shopping
- For those hospitalised, dropping off items at the hospital
- Dog walking / feeding pets
- Form filling and help with technology over the telephone
- One-off garden tidy
- A healthy meal
- Transport to Covid-19 vaccination appointments
- Other activities as requested and agreed
- Provision of a personal care alarm with key safe, supported by the Orford & District Surgery Charitable Trust
- A Community Larder, available round the clock in the entrance to the King's Head car park.

DAY	ALDERTON	ORFORD	ALDEBURGH	HOLLESLEY
Monday	8.00 to 14.30	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 18.30	13.30 to 17.30
Tuesday	8.00 to 18.30	CLOSED	8.00 to 18.30	
Wednesday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 13.00	8.00 to 18.30	
Thursday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 13.00	8.00 to 18.30	
Friday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 13.00	8.00 to 18.30	

### THE PENINSULA PRACTICE

#### BANK HOLIDAY and STAFF TRAINING CLOSURE DATES

The surgery will be closed on Good Friday, 2 April and Easter Monday, 5 April, and for staff training on Wednesday 22 April from 13.00. All calls will be diverted to NHS 111

We are looking forward to welcoming you back into the surgery. As soon as we receive government advice that is safe to do so we will be opening our doors again fully, using our waiting rooms, and patients will be able to collect medications from inside the surgery.

If you are planning on travelling overseas this year, please remember to book your appointment for travel vaccinations in plenty of time.

**Nicola Thompson**, Medical Administrator, Peninsula Practice, 01394 412926

**[www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk](http://www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk), tel 01394 411641**