



**The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave**

**Issue No. 395 February 2025**

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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 20 February, preferably by email to:

[orfordtrust@outlook.com](mailto: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](http://www.orfordparishandtrust.onesuffolk.net))

## **COPY DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY**

### **COFFEE AND CHAT**

Coffee and Chat returns again on Monday 17 February from 10.30am-12.30pm at the Rec Hut. All welcome.

*Anne Macro*

### **CHRISTMAS THANK YOUS CHRISTMAS TREES**

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council would like to thank New Orford Town Trust for providing the Christmas trees on the Town Hall and village green outside the village shop again this year. Both the Parish Council and the Trust would like to thank the local firemen for erecting and taking down the trees – we really do appreciate everything they do for the village.

### **CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

Well, we just about managed to get the carols finished before the rain started! We would very much like to thank the King's Head for the lovely hot drinks, Pump Street Bakery for the sausage rolls, Derick and Maria Brenchley for mince pies, Woodbridge Excelsior Band for accompanying us, and lastly you, the parishioners for turning out on what was not a very nice evening.

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The children's party was attended by twenty-eight local children. They were entertained by The Tricky Twister with magic tricks, games and reindeer-shaped balloons. We would like to thank the Flower Show for sponsoring that. We had a lovely visit from Father Christmas who brought a present for each child, and we thank him very much for making the time to visit us here in Orford. The children's presents were sponsored by Greenwell Farms, so many thanks go to them. Thanks also to The Mixing Bowl for donating cakes for the event. A very good time was had by all!

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

### **VILLAGE FUND**

The New Orford Town Trust has already made grants to several local organisations from its Village Fund. The next applications will be considered in February and should be submitted to the Clerk,

### **February 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: Coffee and chat - Rec Hut, 10.30am-12.30pm (starts up again on Monday 17 February)
- Each Monday and Wednesday: Methodist Chapel tea room, lunch, afternoon tea, 11am-2.30pm
- 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: Friday Soup - Bart's Hall, 12.30-2pm
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm
- Saturday 8 February: Gardening Club talk - Orford Town Hall, 3pm
- Sunday 16 February: TMEF's Valentine's Tea - Orford Town Hall, from 3pm (more details on p2)
- Friday 21 February: Talks for Thomas - Orford Town Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm
- Thursday 27 February to Saturday 1 March: Orford Museum History Festival 2025. Talks as follows (more details on pp3-4:
  - Thursday 27 February, 4pm: 'An Elizabethan Tragedy at Butley'
  - Thursday 27 February, 6pm: 'Orford's Atlantic Wallbreakers'
  - Friday 28 February, 4pm: 'WG Sebald: East Anglian Wanderer'
  - Friday 28 February, 6pm: 'Who do you REALLY think you are?'
  - Saturday 1 March, 4pm: 'What Revolution? What Republic?'
  - Saturday 1 March, 6pm: 'Colditz: The Definitive History'

preferably by email, by 9am on Tuesday 18 February. Please contact the Clerk for more information and an application form

*Kara Reed, Clerk to New Orford Town Trust,*  
[orfordtrust@outlook.com](mailto:orfordtrust@outlook.com), 01394 459172

### **ORFORD SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB**

A big thank you to everyone who supported our recent live music nights – it just shows that there is still an active interest in supporting live music. Don't forget the Club is open on Friday evenings for pool, snooker and wifi and company, and keep an eye on the board and Facebook page for bingo and darts nights.

Membership is still £10 for adults and reduced rates for children, and the hall hire remains at £30 for members and £50 for non-members.

See you soon.

**Mark Smy**, Secretary, 450358

## HOUSING IN ORFORD

Further to our letter in September's Village Voice and The Link regarding affordable housing in this village we'd like to thank those who have taken an interest in this ongoing project.

We also would like to remember and thank those who have so generously helped us in the past. It was the foresight and hard work of these Orford/Gedgrave residents, both full-time and second home owners, that made possible the building of affordable properties in Peacock's Pyghtle, Barons Meadow and Mill Close. These include, amongst many other kind contributors: Edward Greenwell, Charles Goddard, Hugh Homan, Tony Lingard, Geoffrey Smeed, Neville Walton, Lady Bridges, Michael Flint, 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 landowners Michael Cordle and John Grimsey) and continue to help with this work in progress.

**Margaret Green, Karen King, Mary Iliff and Anne Macro**

## DAWN DIARY CALENDAR 2025

A huge thankyou to everyone who bought a Dawn Diary calendar 2025 in aid of Parkinson's research. I do hope you enjoy looking at it throughout the year! Over 400 copies were sold; the resulting proceeds were then donated via the Big Give raising an astonishing £5200 for the Cure Parkinson's Trust. This money will go towards funding the dapansutrile trial (a 'novel molecule' with anti-inflammatory properties) being headed by Dr Caroline Williams-Gray at Addenbrookes/Cambridge University. The trial will kick off early 2025. The reason I chose the Cure Parkinson's charity is because all the money raised actually goes directly to research and not spent on merchandise, admin etc.

Have a great year!

**Audrey Boyle**

## TEA AND TALK WITH TMEF IN FEBRUARY

On Sunday 16 February in Orford Town Hall, the trustees of TMEF invite you to join them for a Valentine's Tea where you can experience our version of 'Tea at The Ritz' – the exception being no Ritz but it will be a cracker! This genteel occasion is not just for couples, everyone is welcome whether on your own or with a larger group. This will be an unhurried experience enjoying the delights of a 3-tier cake stand filled with a selection of delicious sandwiches, delectable cakes and dainty scones all accompanied with pots of tea.

The cost is £14 per person. 'Tea' starts from 3 to 3.30pm. Booking in advance is essential as this event always sells out. For places, please call Wendy on 01394 450090 or email [contact@tmef.org.uk](mailto:contact@tmef.org.uk)

Then on Friday 21 February we have the next talk in our series of Talks for Thomas – Mike Warner will be presenting '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 fishmongers 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 but underpinned with a special reference to the Suffolk Heritage Coast and Orford in particular.

The evening starts at 6.30pm with wine and nibbles and the talk will commence at 7pm.

Please book your tickets (£10) in advance from Wendy Marshall on 01394 450090 or email [contact@tmef.org.uk](mailto:contact@tmef.org.uk)

**Wendy Marshall**

## BART'S HALL HIRE FEES

From 1 February we are changing the pricing structure for hiring Bart's Hall from a sessional rate to an hourly rate. It is hoped that the new flexible pricing will enable the hall to be used for meetings and other shorter lets, while still being attractive for those hiring for an evening or half day. The hall will be let on an hourly rate of £6 an hour and there is a charge for the heating used at £2 per hour. For use of the kitchen for food preparation and cooking there is a £10 fixed charge.

To hire the hall please contact Caroline Gill. [carolinedechairgill@gmail.com](mailto:carolinedechairgill@gmail.com) 07799 655825.

**Caroline Gill**

## FEBRUARY AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

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

Sunday 2 February	9.30am	Holy Communion – Rev Dr Stephen Thompson
	6pm	Choral Evensong for Candlemas – Rev Dr Stephen Thompson
Sunday 9 February	10am	Family Service – Guy Marshall
Sunday 16 February	11am	BCP Holy Communion – Rev Dr Stephen Thompson

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

**Jacki Maslin**, Churchwarden

## FEBRUARY AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 2 February	10.30am	Informal Café Worship
Sunday 9 February	10.30am	Service arranged locally
Sunday 16 February	10.30am	An Agape Service
Sunday 23 February	10.30am	Stephen Caley
Sunday 2 March	10.30am	Service arranged locally

Our young people stay in church with their own activity and often taking a lead in the service. Refreshments are service after each service.

The ever-popular Chapel Tea Room is open every Monday and Wednesday from 11am–2.30pm serving a warming winter lunch including homemade soup and with plenty of cake, coffee and tea – no need to book, just turn up and enjoy. Whilst with us browse the many craft items, including handmade hats and scarves to keep the winter chill at bay, also cards and preserves and much more.

Shrove Tuesday is soon with us (4 March) and we hope to be in the Tea Room serving pancakes. More details later.

Thank you to the friends who joined with us for all our Christmas Services and events supporting charities and church funds, including the Saturday Christmas Music and Carols with lunch and afternoon tea (thank you Tansy, Darren and Louise). The much-anticipated Rap Nativity so wonderfully performed by our young people, closely followed by the traditional Christmas lunch when we welcomed James as our chef and Douglas, from his work company, supporting and who mastered the raffle (thank you both). The Sunday afternoon Carols, Candles and Cake was much appreciated, not to mention the delicious cakes! The Christmas Day Service and celebration of Epiphany, on 5 January, with our Christingle Service which was a lovely time to reflect on Jesus, the Light of the world.

**Stephen Caley**

## ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Welcome! To all our new members and thank you to all those already with us for returning.

In 2025 there will still be seven talks, and our Garden Party included in the membership fee of £15 plus a few bookable trips and visits with additional charge. Come along and sign up!

*Next Event: Saturday 8 February, 3pm, Tim Walker – Why Gardening Can Count as Fine Art*

This is his write up:

'In 1882 Gertrude Jekyll wrote a short but seminal article in *The Garden* in which she urged the readers to "remember that in a garden we are painting a picture". As an accomplished watercolour artist, Miss Jekyll was familiar with the principles of using colours, but she felt that in gardens these principles "had been greatly neglected". This talk looks at how to apply these principles in designing a border, but it also looks at the ways in which a border is different from a painting. However, it goes further than this and looks at how contemporary work of the likes of Turner, Monet, Rothko, Jackson Pollock evolved in parallel with ideas about what a garden or border should look like.'

Tea and cakes too!

*Roger Harvey – Chelsea Award-winning grower: Hellebores and Snowdrops*

Roger was a delightful speaker who illustrated his talk with beautiful slides and made us all feel we wanted everyone of them. He told us how he has developed his own range of Hellebores, the Bradfield Hybrids and won many Chelsea Medals. His nursery grows an extensive range of Galanthus (Snowdrops) and he showed us many early flowering ones, from October onwards, as well as some very expensive examples. He brought plants for us to purchase and also Aconites and Cyclamen to cheer up our winter gardens. Over 60 members and guests attended.

*Trailer for 2025 Programme...*

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 Azealeas

**Polly Sharkey** (Chair), [creativefutures98@btinternet.com](mailto:creativefutures98@btinternet.com), 01394 450959

## ORFORD MUSEUM HISTORY FESTIVAL 2025

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

On Thursday 27 February at 4pm, Ralph Houlbrooke will speak on 'An Elizabethan Tragedy at Butley: The ill-fated marriage of Charles Forth and Elizabeth Jerningham'.

The story told in this talk involves two families: the long-established Jerninghams of Somerleyton, conservative in their religious allegiance, and the newly emergent Forths of Butley Priory, whose head, Robert, was strongly Protestant. When his eldest son Charles was allegedly allured into marrying Elizabeth Jerningham, Robert was scandalized. He reluctantly accepted the marriage, but it failed nonetheless. This talk will recount its sad ending and explore the interactions between social expectations and religious loyalties during the later years of Elizabeth I's reign.

Ralph Houlbrooke is Emeritus Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Reading with a particular interest in social history and the Reformation. He has written several books, including *The Family in England, 1450-1700* (1984), *Death, Religion and the Family in England, 1480-1760* (1998), and *Love and Dishonour in Elizabethan England* (2018). He is also Chairman of the Berkshire Records Society.

Following this, at 6pm John Ogden will give a talk entitled: 'Orford's Atlantic Wall Breakers'

In 1942, over 400 inhabitants of the countryside between Orford, Snape and Slaughden were compulsorily evicted from their homes by the War Office and not allowed to return until 1947/8. In the interim, these twelve square miles of the Suffolk Sandlings were used as a testing ground for armoured equipment and assault techniques that would be used to great effect on D Day and beyond. John Ogden tells the story of this remarkable and little understood intervention in the recent history of the local area which had ramifications far beyond its more normally tranquil heaths, marshes, woods and shores.

After reading history at Durham and a brief flirtation with the wine trade, John Ogden joined the Army on a short service commission and, unlike most of his contemporaries, he then forgot to leave for the subsequent thirty-four years. He now pursues a broad portfolio of roles and interests which include business consultancy, professional and recreational skippering, and military history. He lives in Walsingham and is currently Rear Commodore of its sailing club, a member of the nascent Southwold Harbour Board, and a trustee of Landguard Fort. He was until recently the Armed Forces Commissioner for Suffolk.

On Friday 28 February at 4pm, Alex Preston will talk on 'WG Sebald: East Anglian Wanderer'

Author and journalist Alex Preston took to writing and teaching after a career in the city. He wrote his PhD on the great WG Sebald, author of *Austerlitz* and *The Rings of Saturn* first published in Germany in 1955, about the author's solitary and melancholy walks around East Anglia and the Suffolk coast. Alex plays cricket for the Authors' Cricket Club founded in 1892. Authors who have played for the team included PG Wodehouse, AA Milne, JM Barrie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

This will be followed at 6pm by Adam Rutherford who will speak on 'Who do you REALLY think you are?'

The tree of life is the most wondrous demonstration of evolution in all its magnificent splendour. Except it's not a tree at all. Genealogy and family trees are the ties that bind us to our ancestors, descendants and local history. They're not trees either. And the story of human evolution is our species' family tree: guess what? Also not a tree. In this talk Adam will take his genetics shears and history axe, and pollard, prune and chop down some of these trees, and plant much better ones. The whole of life on Earth is a tangled bank, and he guarantees that in this talk, you *will* discover your Royal heritage. Warning: contains a small bit of maths.

Adam is a scientist, writer, broadcaster and, most importantly, a Suffolk boy. He is the host of BBC Radio 4's flagship culture programme *Start the Week* as well as many other radio shows. He has written several books including the Sunday Times best-sellers *How to Argue With a Racist*, *A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived* and, most recently, his first children's book *Where Are You Really From?* Adam is also a lecturer in Genetics and Society at UCL where he teaches about eugenics, race science, genetics and science communication. He won the Royal Society's David Attenborough award in 2022 and is a season ticket holder at Portman Road.

On Saturday, 1 March at 4pm Paul Lay will give a talk entitled 'What Revolution? What Republic? Oliver Cromwell and his Times'

Paul Lay is the author of *Providence Lost: the Rise and Fall of the Cromwellian Protectorate*, which was shortlisted for the Cundill History Prize. He is Senior Editor of [www.engelsbergideas.com](http://www.engelsbergideas.com) and a former Editor of *History Today*. He is a Research Fellow in History at the University of St Andrews, Senior Research Fellow in Early Modern History at the University of Buckingham, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Following this, at 6pm, our final talk will be by Henry Chancellor who will speak about 'Colditz: The Definitive History'

During the Second World War this medieval fortress served as the only high security camp in Germany. Its massive walls contained every persistent escaper, troublemaker and valuable hostage captured by the Germans. There were as many guards as there were prisoners. Colditz was considered escape proof; it proved to be the very opposite. The prisoners pooled their collected talents to create the greatest escape academy of the war. Over three hundred attempted to escape and thirty achieved a 'home run', returning to their mother country.

Henry Chancellor is an author and film maker. His first book, the best-selling *Colditz: The Definitive History*, came out of his award-winning series for Channel Four. Described by Ben Macintyre as 'by far the best general account of the camp... a remark-

able repository of human memory that I have used extensively...'. Colditz remains a peculiarly British fascination to this day. Henry will explore the facts and fiction as told to him by seventy-six inmates, all now dead. He has also written the official companion to Ian Fleming's 007 and several children's fiction series published in fifteen languages. He grew up in East Anglia and lives in Suffolk with his family.

Tickets for all these talks cost £15 for Friends of Orford Museum and £20 for non-Friends and include refreshments. Please go to our website at [www.orfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.orfordmuseum.org.uk) to book.

Our usual monthly talks continue in March on a date yet to be confirmed with a talk by Sir Alex Younger KCMG 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, among other things. Alex led MI6 during a period of unprecedented technological change, when both digital threats and opportunities intensified.

On Wednesday 2 April Baillie Gifford prize-winning author Lucy Hughes Hallett will talk about her biography of king James I's favourite, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham: 'The Scapegoat: The Brilliant Brief Life of the Duke of Buckingham'

Buckingham was James I's gatekeeper, right hand man and lover and when Charles I succeeded his father, he was similarly enthralled and made Buckingham his best friend and first minister. Buckingham's story was part of a great political drama. After a spectacular fall from grace, he came to represent everything that was wrong with the country. 'The Scapegoat' navigates love, war-fever and pacifism in a society on the brink of cataclysmic change and in this authoritative account of his life, Hughes Hallett summons an era that still resonates today.

All the above talks start at 6pm and last about an hour. Tickets cost £15.00 for Friends of Orford Museum, £20.00 for guests and include a complimentary glass of wine. Please book through our website at [www.orfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.orfordmuseum.org.uk)

Looking ahead to the summer, the travelling theatre group Three Inch Fools ([www.threeinchfools.com](http://www.threeinchfools.com)) will come to Butley Priory on Tuesday 26 August 2025 to present a musical version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Watch our website for booking details.

**Elizabeth Spinney**

#### **ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB PRESENTS ETERNAL LIGHT**

A concert at Orford Church, Saturday 29 March 2025.

Aldeburgh Music Club's first concert of 2025 takes place at St Bartholomew's Church, Orford, on Saturday 29 March at 7pm. Under the title *Eternal Light*, the concert by Aldeburgh Music Club

Choir includes a performance of Joseph Haydn's 'Nelson' Mass and Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*.

Haydn wrote his 'Mass for Troubled Times', perhaps his greatest single composition, in 1798, but it was only two years later when Lord Nelson, who had defeated Napoleon at the Battle of the Nile in the year of its composition, is believed to have met the composer and attended a performance, that the work acquired the title 'Nelson' Mass. It remains one of Haydn's most popular works.

Morten Lauridsen, who was born in the Pacific Northwest of the USA in 1943, is a prolific composer of choral music, and was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 2007. Amongst his many works is *O Magnum Mysterium*, which Aldeburgh Music Club performed at their Christmas 2024 concert. *Lux Aeterna* is now considered a classic, a beautiful and serene cycle of lyrical movements inspired by Gregorian chant as well as Medieval and Renaissance music.

The professional soloists for the Mass, all based in the East region, will be Laura Morgan (soprano), Ashley Harries (counter tenor), Richard Edgar-Wilson (tenor) and Matthew Crowe (bass), and the performance will be accompanied by the Prometheus Chamber Orchestra, and conducted by Tom Appleton. *Lux Aeterna* will be accompanied by Jonathan Rutherford on the piano.

In addition to the two choral works, the concert will include a performance of Benjamin Britten's *Canticle II: Abraham and Isaac*, performed by Ashley Harries and Richard Edgar-Wilson, accompanied by Jonathan Rutherford. *Abraham and Isaac* was written by Britten in the same year that he founded Aldeburgh Music Club, following representations that there were insufficient opportunities for amateur music making in the town. Aldeburgh Music Club has been going ever since, and is now one of the most highly respected choral groups in the region.

Tickets are £20, half price for those under 18, and can be obtained by going online to [www.aldeburghmusic.club](http://www.aldeburghmusic.club)

For more information, please contact David Edwards [dwe450@gmail.com](mailto:dwe450@gmail.com)

**David Edwards**

#### **UPDATE FROM THE JOLLY SAILOR**

2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year for The Jolly Sailor! We've already had our busiest January on record, and with plenty of plans in the pipeline, we're looking for talented individuals to join our team. Whether you're a seasoned professional or simply looking for weekend work, whether it's in the kitchen or on the restaurant floor, if you have a warm, friendly demeanour and a passion for great service, we'd love to hear from you.

Current and Ongoing Roles Available: front of house staff, chefs, kitchen porters, weekend housekeeper and breakfast host

Contact Details: Luke Bishton-White, General Manager, Email: [Luke@innventure.co.uk](mailto:Luke@innventure.co.uk), Phone: 01394 450 243

Alternatively, feel free to drop in for a chat!

**Luke Bishton-White**

#### **FEBRUARY AT 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 • Thursday 10 April – Alderton

#### **Dementia service**

Peninsula Practice is collaborating with the Alzheimer's Society to develop an in-house service for our patients who are worried about their memory. We know there are many people nationally with dementia who have not been assessed for dementia and are therefore unaware of their condition. However, there are treatments and support that can significantly help delay progression if it is identified sooner than later.

If you or a loved one has concerns about your memory, please contact the surgery to arrange a full memory assessment.

**[www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk](http://www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk) or 01394 411641**  
<https://www.facebook.com/ThePeninsulaPracticeGPSurgery/>