



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 399 June 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 **Tuesday 24 June** (please note earlier deadline), 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 JULY ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON TUESDAY 24 JUNE (PLEASE NOTE EARLIER DEADLINE)**

**VE DAY**

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council would like to thank the New Orford Town Trust for the use of the Town Hall and a donation towards the cost of the food; The Mixing Bowl for the delicious fruit crumbles; The Moving Plaice for the fish and chips; Orford Fire Fighters for the beacon lighting; Nick Edgerton for the music; and Mike Finney and Nick Jones for the readings at the beacon. I am sure you will all agree the evening was a success and enjoyed by all those who attended.

**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.

**Marie Backhouse**, Clerk/RFO to 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 June and should be submitted to the Clerk, preferably by email, by 9am on Tuesday 17 June. 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**

Coming up:

- Thursday 12 June, bike meet night from 6pm, bar and bbq available, bike not essential.
- Saturday 14 June, members coach trip to Bury St Edmunds.
- Thursday 18 September, members coach trip to Great Yarmouth incorporating the races.

For both trips enquire at the club or contact Sam Davis.

The club AGM will be held at the club on Wednesday 25 June at 7.30pm, all welcome, also anyone interested in joining the committee. Don't forget Friday night club nights and keep an eye on the board and Facebook page for bingo night.

Thanks for your support.

**Mark Smy**, Secretary, 450358

**June 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
- Sunday 8 June: T4Thomas - Chantry Cottage, 10.30am-4.30pm
- Thursday 12 June: Gardening Club Garden Party (members only)
- Tuesday 17 June: organ recital - St Bartholomew's Church, 11am
- Wednesday 25 June: Orford Sports & Recreation Club AGM - Rec Hut, 7.30pm
- Saturday 28 June: Charity car wash - Orford Fire Station, 10am-2pm

**T4THOMAS - SUNDAY 8 JUNE, 10.30am-4.30pm**

The delights of our popular annual T4T will be presented again at Chantry Cottage on Sunday 8 June. All the normal treats will be available, starting with bacon rolls as well as coffee and cakes from 10.30am, through to lunches and afternoon teas and more cakes of course! There will be a selection of home-produced goods to buy and news of our latest projects and triumphs in Mozambique. The marquee will be up, gazebos ready, but we are sure the weather will cooperate to make a splendid day with good company and the inner feeling of virtue that comes from helping others! Everyone is welcome, so please do come and join us and bring all your family and friends for another day to enjoy and remember with TMEF. If you are not sure where we are, just follow the red T4T signs on the day!

**Wendy and Guy Marshall**

**ORFORD, SUDBOURNE & GEDGRAVE FLOWER SHOW & FETE – SATURDAY 23 AUGUST 2025**

Planning for this year's Flower Show is well underway and despite a very wet winter and a very dry spring, we look forward to bumper entries again this year. You may already have picked up the class list and recipe sheet but if not, you'll find it on-line at [www.orfordflowershow.org](http://www.orfordflowershow.org)

There will be a few changes this year: the show will open slightly earlier at 1pm; we are refreshing some of the sports activities, so

look out for the full programme in July; we will also be adding a children's tombola to our regular side shows, and we will have a specialist Dahlia judge joining us so we will be offering a £10 prize for the 'best in show' Dahlia exhibit.

The Flower Show relies for its success on the efforts of a large number of volunteers, both in helping out on the day, and with setting up/taking down in the day before and immediately after the show. While we have a dedicated group of regular volunteers, we are always looking for new offers of assistance. 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.

#### ***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. If you would like to become a Friend of the Show then contact us at orfordflowershow@gmail.com

***The Flower Show Committee***

#### **ORFORD TENNIS**

Please note for anyone who wants to book a Tennis Court at Orford that they are now available for booking from The Crafty Cuppa café which is situated by The King's Head Pub. The café is open from 10am–4pm, seven days a week.

***Diana Grayburn***

#### **ORFORD, GEDGRAVE & SUDBOURNE HALL GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME**

ELECTRICITY METERS USING RADIO TELESWITCH SERVICE (RTS)

We have been advised that some older electricity meters work on a system called a Radio Teleswitch Service, which is being switched off at the end of June.

These meters might have a 'radio teleswitch' or 'radio telemeter' label. If you are not sure what type of meter you have contact your electricity supplier using the telephone number on your bill. If you do not replace your RTS meter you may find the heating and/or hot water provision in your home could be affected. Your heating and/or hot water could be continually left on or off, or the charging-up happen at the wrong time of day.

Your supplier should contact you to arrange to replace your RTS meter with a new smart meter. If they haven't or you have any questions about this change, contact them using the details on your bill.

***Corinne Lusher***

#### **VIRTUOSO ORGANIST FOR ORFORD**

This year's Catherine Ennis Memorial Recital will be given by Francesca Massey in Orford Church on Tuesday 17 June at 11am, as part of the Aldeburgh Festival Extra programme.

Orford Church's 3-manual Peter Collins organ, designed tonally along Baroque North German lines, is one of the most significant instruments in East Anglia. The annual recital is given in memory of the late Catherine Ennis, former president of the Royal College Organists and Patron of Orford Organ Project. The recital always features a top international organist: previous performers include Thomas Trotter, Olivier Latry and David Briggs.

Francesca Massey worked as a cathedral musician for twenty years at St George's Chapel, Windsor, Manchester, Peterborough and Durham Cathedrals and latterly as Director of Music at Rochester Cathedral; her recordings have garnered much acclaim; she has been hailed as 'a phenomenal player and regarded as probably the foremost female organist in the UK'. She will perform organ masterworks by JS Bach, Mozart, de Grigny, Sweelinck, Saint-Saëns, Jehan Alain, Cecilia McDowall, Peter Racine Fricker and Matthew Martin.

Tickets priced £15 are available now from brittenpearsarts.org, tel: 01728 687110

***Graeme Kay, Director of Music, Orford Church***

#### **SUDBOURNE HALL CRICKET**

You certainly would have thought we were experiencing August rather than May! Wall to wall sunshine has greeted the new cricket season. Although a little chilly for the season opener with the wind whipping across the ground, the Saturday league team have enjoyed uninterrupted cricket. Sadly, after a tight two-run win over Long Melford in the opener, Sudbourne have been struggling of late, and as I write in mid-May are still looking for their second win following defeats to Stowmarket, Melton and Copdock.

We are pleased that our junior cricket will be starting on Sunday 1 June, 10–11am and will run on consecutive Sundays for eight weeks through until late July. Jack Pynn is managing, but please do drop me an email on andyhalliday1@me.com if you are interested. The other option is to simply turn up on the day at the club. You are guaranteed a warm welcome.

***Andy Halliday***

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

Our Next Events:

*Garden Party – Thursday afternoon, 12 June*

Members only but you can still join for £10 for the remainder of the calendar year!

This is to be held in a delightful Orford garden with wonderful views across to Orfordness. This is a great opportunity to meet likeminded people from the village and surrounding areas. It is free to members, many of whom who contribute by making cakes and savouries for us all to share and donating plants! We also have a Plant Stall in aid of the charity Perennial.

*'Creating a Container Garden in a Year'*

Fiona Cumberbatch, who was recently on *Gardeners' World*, gave us a very, very interesting talk about her container garden journey with lots of tips about how to utilise the best plants, shrubs and trees for containers successfully. She answered our many questions and we were able to buy some of her planted vintage containers and hand painted products.

*Visit to 'Ramblers' garden in Benhall Low Road*

We had a delightful visit to the garden of Mr and Mrs Humphries, seeing not only Rhododendrons and Azaleas but many magnolias still in bloom along with wisteria, cornus and tree peonies. The acers also looked wonderful. Our grateful thanks to them both.

*Orford School Garden*

We have continued our work on the school garden, planting a beautiful Malus toringo Scarlett and two low growing junipers surrounded by cyclamen, grasses, ferns, hellebores, saxifrage, hardy wallflowers and aquilegia. It's beginning to look lovely with shades of pink, white and blue flowers. Mr Head, the Headteacher, sends a big thank you to all concerned. We are grateful to Ladybird Nurseries who supplied many of the plants with a generous discount.

*Many events still to come in 2025!*

- 23 August, stall at Flower Show
- 11 September, Anna Greenland 'Know your Onions and other Vegetables'
- 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** (Chair), [creativefutures98@btinternet.com](mailto:creativefutures98@btinternet.com), 01394 450959

## JUNE AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Sunday 1 June, seventh Sunday of Easter

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Dr Stephen Thompson

Sunday 8 June, Pentecost

8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Mandy Reynolds

10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall

Sunday 15 June, Trinity Sunday

11am BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Dr Stephen Thompson

Sunday 6 July, third Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Dr Stephen Thompson

For further information during interregnum, please contact Churchwardens Guy Marshall (450090) or Diana Grayburn (450771).

**Diana Grayburn**, Churchwarden

## JUNE AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 1 June 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 8 June Pentecost and 123rd CHURCH ANNIVERSARY 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 15 June 10.30am Rec Saul – COMMUNION

Sunday 22 June 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 29 June 10.30am Angus Smythe

Sunday 6 July 10.30am Stephen Caley

You are very welcome to join with us at any of our services – children stay in church with their own activities and often assist with the service. Refreshments are shared afterwards.

On Sunday 8 June we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the church and world – also we mark the 123rd year of the opening of the church building which replaced the former chapel (opened in 1837 and demolished in the early 1960s).

Don't forget the Chapel Tea Room is open every Monday and Wednesday (now with some Saturdays too), 11am–4pm. We have an extensive lunch menu and delicious cakes all served with coffee tea or cordials. The craft stalls have been extended and now include folk art painted items. A greater variety of preserves and 'Sweetie Time' jars have recently arrived too. The second-hand bookstall continues to attract with many interesting books donated every week, as does the young people's stall with proceeds this year for the Leprosy Mission – bric-a-brac is welcome for this stall, in fact anything that is saleable.

The eightieth Anniversary of Victory in Europe didn't pass us by without a Tea Party, held on Saturday 10 May when a goodly crowd of friends from near and far enjoyed the afternoon tea amidst Union Jack bunting and tableware. There was a huge spread of food, sandwiches, sausage rolls and quiche, and mouthwatering cakes of every kind. 1940s music and songs entertained us as we sat in the breezy sunshine. A jolly good time was had by all!

We recently experienced Café Worship with Messy Church Sunday Service. We watched the *City of the Bees* (honey bees) DVD, followed by a quiz and painted honey bee fridge magnets. Pancakes and honey, coffee, tea and cakes were all consumed and everyone, homeward bound, received a small jar of honey. We gave thanks for creation with our songs and prayers.

Thirty-sixth annual Quay Service, 6pm on Sunday 3 August. Preacher: Rev. Helen Hollands, supporting the Cirdan Sailing Trust

**Stephen Caley**

## ORFORD MUSEUM UPDATE

Orford Museum is delighted to welcome the travelling theatre group Three Inch Fools ([www.threeinchfools.com](http://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](mailto: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 masterminded the 'Great Escape' in 1944 and was played by Richard Attenborough in the famous film twenty years later.

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](http://www.orfordmuseum.org.uk) where you will also find more details about the talks and the speakers.

**Elizabeth Spinney**

## JULY 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.

Thursday 12 June – Aldeburgh • Wednesday 17 September 2025 – Alderton • Thursday 16 October 2025 – Aldeburgh

### Get up to date with your health

June is chock-a-block with awareness days and weeks – let's have a look at a few:

- Men's Health Week – check in with your physical and mental health; you could schedule a health check-up, complete a screening test for prostate cancer, join a local Men's Shed.
- Diabetes Awareness Week – staying on top of your diabetes can help prevent damaging changes to your bodies, make sure you schedule and attend your check-ups.
- World Blood Donor Day – with 4,300 donations needed each day on average, each person donating makes a big difference. Have a look online to see if you can donate.
- Cervical Screening Awareness Week – nearly 33% of people don't attend their cervical screening tests – let's change that stat! Whatever your concern, please speak to us if you are hesitant about the cervical screen.

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

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



# T4T HOMAS

All Day Garden Party  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Chantry Cottage  
Orford  
From 10.30 am




## Join us for a charity car wash



**Saturday 28 June**  
**10:00 - 14:00**

The Chief's Challenge — Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service car wash on Saturday 28 June to raise money for the Fire fighters Charity at your local fire station.

**ORFORD FIRE STATION**

[@SuffolkFire](#) [@suffolkfrs](#)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR EAST SUFFOLK COMMUNITIES & VISITORS

**THIS IS NOT ABOUT SIZEWELL C**

**THIS IS ABOUT NATIONAL GRID'S SEA LINK PROJECT**

**THE NATIONAL GRID ENERGY ONSLAUGHT IS NOT A DONE DEAL!**

**National Grid PLC** — an international company, with mainly American investors, **not a British government body** — has yet to receive approval for its proposed onshore energy infrastructure along the Suffolk coast.

These plans threaten to industrialise our unique Heritage Coast, destroying landscapes, communities and biodiversity.

But the good news is:

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ACT**

**A BETTER, SMARTER ALTERNATIVE EXISTS**

Other North Sea countries have developed a cheaper, faster, less destructive offshore grid alternative.

This is our best chance to oppose the unnecessary onshore developments proposed for Friston, Saxmundham, and surrounding areas. *Over 80 football pitches of concrete structures up to 26 m high are proposed along with multiple cable trenches criss-crossing the countryside.*

**WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW**

Please **sign up** as an **Interested Party (IP)** from **24 April** or thereabouts.

Once the Inspectors have formally approved the application ready for examination.

We have **only four weeks to sign up** from the announcement date.

At the **Development Consent Order (DCO) Examination**, independent Inspectors will scrutinise the merits of the application and we will have the right to object



*Your help will ensure our voices are heard.*

Go to:

**[www.sign-up.uk](http://www.sign-up.uk)**

Please share this message with others in your community. **Numbers matter!**



Or Scan QR Code