



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

**Issue No. 386 May 2024**

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All copy must be received by midday on Thursday 20 May 2024, 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](http://www.orfordparishandtrust.onesuffolk.net))

## **COPY DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 20 MAY**

### **D-DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council will be marking the D-Day 80 Commemoration with a fish and chip supper and steamed pudding dessert in the Town Hall on the evening of Thursday 6 June. The evening will end with the lighting of the beacon on the Castle Knoll. More details of the evening and cost will follow, but should you wish to attend could you PLEASE could you contact the Clerk as we will have a food van coming and really need to have an idea about the number of people who might be attending.

**Marie Backhouse**, Clerk/RFO to Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council, 459172, [orfordtownhall@outlook.com](mailto:orfordtownhall@outlook.com)

### **RICHARD MALLET**

We were very sad to hear of the passing of Richard Mallett on 24 March 2024.

Richard served as a Parish Councillor and Trustee of New Orford Town Trust for nearly 14 years and was always the person we went to first to talk about trees in the village. He was an invaluable member of NOTT's Estates and Highways Committees, before moving to the Riverside Committee where his knowledge of the river was greatly appreciated.

Our thoughts are with his fiancée Hannah, their two children Alice and Alfie, his older children Lucy and Richard, and the rest of Richard's family.

**Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and Trustees of New Orford Town Trust**

### **RICHARD MALLET**

It is with great sadness we share the news that our good friend Richard Mallett (Mal) lost his brave battle with cancer on 24 March 2024, leaving behind four children, his youngest two with his fiancée Hannah who he was planning to marry in September. Now Hannah finds herself planning his funeral. I've set up a go fund me page to help Hannah with the funeral costs:

<https://www.gofundme.com/richard-mallett>

If anyone would like to donate, any amount will be appreciated. Richard was an Orford boy to the core and proud of it. He was involved in many aspects of village life having been in the fire service for many years, working on commercial fishing boats starting on Aldeburgh beach then onto the boats in Orford.

### **May dates for your diary**

- Each Monday: badminton - Orford Town Hall - 10am-12noon
- Each Monday (except bank holidays): Coffee and Chat - Orford Sports and Recreation Club, 10.30am-12.30pm
- Each Tuesday: pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 7-9pm
- Each Wednesday: chair pilates - Orford Sports and Recreation Club, 11am-12noon
- Each Monday and Wednesday: Methodist Chapel tea room, lunch, afternoon tea, 11am-4pm
- Each Wednesday: badminton - Orford Town Hall, 7-9pm
- Each Friday: pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon
- Each Friday: Bart's Hall - Friday Soup - 12.30-2pm
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm
- Thursday 2 May: Gardening Club - Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Thursday 23 May: Suffolk Records Society, AGM and book launch - Orford Town Hall, 7pm
- Sunday 26 May: Orford Open Gardens (see p2 for more details)

He also served on the Parish Council for many years, as well as being on the recreation ground committee – often serving behind the bar with his six-inch spiked Mohican. He was also involved with organising the village bonfire and fireworks each year with this last year being the best yet. Cancer wasn't going to stop him building the bonfire and putting on a display! He was involved in so many aspects of village life and was a valued member of the community and a good friend to many. He is already greatly missed.

By the time this goes to print Mal will have had his funeral but I will keep the Gofundme page open a few weeks longer if anyone wants to donate.

**Nicola and Matthew Smy**

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

Many thanks for making the first bike meet night another success, the weather was kind, and visitors plenty, don't forget the next one on Thursday 9 May, and the second Thursday of every month until September. All evenings start at 6pm.

On Saturday 25 May from 8pm we have the Ahrico Roadshow, 80s and 90s disco

Also, don't forget the members coach trips to Norwich and Great Yarmouth on 15 June and 19 September respectively.

Keep an eye on the Facebook page and the board for any forthcoming events.

**Mark Smy**, Secretary, 450358

## SUDBOURNE HALL CRICKET CLUB

As you read this, the Sudbourne Hall Cricket Club Saturday league season will be underway as the new cricket season arrives in earnest. After four weeks of indoor nets at Thomas Mills School in Framlingham and a couple of weeks of outdoor nets at Sudbourne Hall, the team are set up for the long season ahead.

New skipper Ian Foll is optimistic, 'Division 7 of the two counties league is a tough league to be in this summer with four teams from eleven being relegated. However, I'm confident we'll have a decent summer, we've prepared well, there is plenty of positivity around the club for the 2024 season.' Saturday league fixtures for May are below. All support is very welcome.

Away from league cricket, youth activity will start again at the club on Saturday 1 June, 11am – 12noon. We will be running the successful Allstars and Dynamos programme once again.

Registration for these courses that run through the summer is now open, please visit <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/> for more details. We introduced Women's softball cricket in 2023 and we are excited to be able to grow this activity again in 2024. We plan to start on Tuesday 4 June from 6.30pm onwards at the club.

Please contact [nick.joel@me.com](mailto:nick.joel@me.com) if you would like to attend.

Sudbourne Hall fixtures May (all 1pm start):

- Saturday 4 May, Tendring (home)
- Saturday 11 May, Braintree (away)
- Saturday 18 May, IpsCol (home)
- Saturday 25 May Boxted (away)

**Andy Halliday**

## ORFORD OPEN GARDENS 2024 – SUNDAY 26 MAY

Orford Open Gardens will be on Sunday 26 May with a range of beautiful private gardens to visit, some open for the first time. Tickets with a map of the gardens will be on sale in St. Bartholomew's Church from 10.30am to 3pm, along with home-made cakes and hot and cold drinks, a raffle for a chance to win a £100 National Garden Gift Voucher and a plant sale. The gardens will be open from 11am to 3.30pm.

Donations of cakes/baked goods and plants for the plant sale would be very welcome. Please bring them to the church between 9.30am and 10.30am on the day, or contact Libby on the number below for advance collection from you.

All proceeds from Open Gardens are for St. Bartholomew's Church. For any questions about Open Gardens or becoming a Friend of St Bartholomew's, please do get in touch.

**Libby Archer, 0771 341 3494**

## ORFORD, SUDBOURNE & GEDGRAVE FLOWER SHOW & FETE – SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 2024

Despite the rather wet spring, arrangements for this year's Flower Show are well underway. The class list and recipe sheet are available in the Orford newspaper kiosk and the Orford Village shop, as well as online at [www.orfordflowershow.org](http://www.orfordflowershow.org)

It is also that time of year where we ask for volunteers for a variety of jobs: setting things up on the days before the show and taking them back down again on Saturday late afternoon; running the gates for a short period on the day or helping out on the day on some of the fun stalls that we have. Please contact our new Field Manager Keith Burns at [keithburns1@me.com](mailto:keithburns1@me.com) or at [orfordflowershow@gmail.com](mailto:orfordflowershow@gmail.com) if you interested in helping, even if you are one of our regular volunteers.

Become a Friend of the flower show:

As with everything the cost of putting on the show is increasing and while we do not charge an entry fee, we do ask for voluntary contributions, however the main funding for the show is provided by the Friends of the Flower Show scheme.

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](mailto:orfordflowershow@gmail.com)

**The Flower Show Committee**

## T4THOMAS 2024 – SUNDAY 9 JUNE

Well it is onwards and upwards for team TMEF following the successful series of 'Talks for Thomas'. These talks proved to be very popular, so much so that we had to swap venues from Bart's Hall to the Town Hall to accommodate everyone! The total amount raised from all the talks was just over £4000 which has allowed us to send out £16,000 this year to Mozambique, providing the means to support even more students and children who would otherwise have been unable to access education.

Our annual flagship fund raising event – T4Thomas, will be held this year on Sunday 9 June (from 11am to 4pm) when our garden at Chantry Cottage will be open to everyone to come and enjoy coffee and cakes, bacon rolls, light lunches and tea and cakes whilst helping to raise the much-needed funds.

Make a note on your calendars and in your diaries to come along with friends and family and support the Thomas Marshall Education Fund and allow us to continue our work helping the poor and disadvantaged children in rural Mozambique in receiving education and therefore the means to make a better life for themselves, their families and their wider community.

See you all on 9 June!

**Wendy Marshall**

## MAY AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

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

Sunday 5 May	9.30am Sung Holy Communion, Rev Dr Stephen Thompson
Sunday 12 May	10am Family Service, Guy Marshall
Sunday 19 May	9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Rev Dr Stephen Thompson
	6pm Choral Evensong with choir, Janet Bishop

A CHURCH NEAR YOU WEBSITE [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) provides details of all church services and events in the local area. For further information during the interregnum, please contact Churchwardens Guy Marshall (450090) or Jacki Maslin (450799).

*Date for your Diary*

Sunday 26 May, Open Gardens Event

**Jacki Maslin**

## MAY AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 5 May	10.30am Rev Stephen Yelland. Lunch follows
Sunday 12 May	10.30am Service arranged locally
Sunday 19 May	10.30am Stephen Caley
Sunday 26 May	10.30am Rev Stephen Yelland – Holy Communion
Sunday 2 June	10.30am Café Worship

You are welcome to join with us. Children stay in church and often contribute toward the service. Refreshments are served afterwards.

Chapel Tea Room – open every Monday and Wednesday from 11am–4pm. Call in and enjoy coffee, lunch or afternoon tea – we have a great lunch menu and a variety of locally made cake – all at very reasonable prices!

After Good Friday and the laying of stones at the Cross, hot cross buns and lunch then came the flowers and the empty tomb for the Easter Garden, Easter eggs, chocolate cake and our Acclamation, Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, Alleluia. Together we rejoiced as Easter people as we worshipped, shared fellowship and went out in to 'the world' continuing to live as Easter people in the light and love of the living Lord Jesus, alleluia! Many thanks to all friends and visitors who happily supported the Easter raffle,

distributing some great Easter treats far and wide. Thanks too, to those who lovingly created and brought together the Easter garden

**Stephen Caley**

### **CRACKIN' WEATHER FOR EGG HUNT**

The OSLOF Easter egg hunt was lucky to be blessed with the perfect weather – no wind or rain!

Thank you to all those who came along to support the event which raised £217. The welly-wanging was a fun addition with plenty of people having a throw. We had three winners of the cash prizes with Stuart Moss throwing an impressive 27.7 metres, Dylan Smy throwing 18.7 metres and Florrie F throwing 14 metres! Well done to them!

We would like to thank Orford Sports and Recreation Club for letting us use the club free of charge, New Orford Town Trust for the kind cash prize donation, Orford General Stores, The Mixing Bowl, all the helpers on the day and everyone who donated eggs and contributed in some way, we appreciate your continued support.

**Tracy Worne**, on behalf of Orford School League of Friends

### **CHAPMAN HOUSE SURGERY**

Did you know that this building is owned by the Orford and District Surgery Charitable Incorporated Organisation (ODSCIO)? This organisation was set up forty-four years ago to secure and build a surgery in Orford for the benefit of the Orford and Gedgrave, Iken, Chillesford, Sudbourne and Butley parishes. It was originally known as the Orford and District Surgery Trust. The lease has just been renewed with the Peninsula Practice which works so hard to support the health and care needs of Chapman House patients. We, the trustees of the ODSCIO, look forward to working with the medical team to maintain and equip the surgery for the future.

For more information, please contact Corinne Lusher on 01394 450849.

**Corinne Lusher**

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

Next Event: Thursday evening 2 May, 7.30pm, Orford Town Hall  
*Peter Blake 'Knowing and Growing Ferns'*

Peter is the Regional Lead and Treasurer for the British Pteridological Society in East Anglia and his personal interest is in growing tropical ferns. He has several hundred different species of them both inside and in his garden. He also collects fern books. This looks to be a most interesting evening about a plant which most of us know little about, I suspect, and which we hope to find the best one for our own conditions.

*Old Rectory Spring Visit*

We are very grateful to Tim and Lizzie Fargher for allowing us to share their delightful garden again. We were able to see masses of narcissi, fritillarias, snowflakes and euphorbia and explore their greenhouse and wonderful conservatory with its clivias and orchids to name but a few of the plants.

We all then went to the King's Head for delicious afternoon tea and a bit of time to socialise and we were excited to know that the Crafty Cuppa will be opening there by the time you read this! *Luci Skinner 'Pelargoniums, an exploration of this Diverse Genus'*

Luci gave a beautifully illustrated talk about all the different genus and species of pelargoniums and the parts of the world where they originated. She passed plants around for us to smell, touch and feel to help understand her explanations. She also talked to us about how to propagate and care for pelargoniums including successful overwintering. You can start up your own collection by taking a visit to Woottens and have some wonderful scents and flowers in your summer garden. Woottens are holding a Plant and Garden Fair on Sunday 5 May, 10am-3pm. Luci has now set up a new business 'Greenways Beds and Borders.'

New members welcome £15 pa Guests £5 per event

**Coming in 2024:**

- Thursday afternoon, 6 June, Garden Party at Gedgrave Hall
- Wednesday afternoon, 10 July, visit to Parham Hall
- Stall at the Flower Show

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

### **TASTER SAILING**

On 15 May Orford Sailing Club will be coming to Orford School to talk about the taster sessions on offer to all children. It will take place at the end of the school day in the playground and provide an opportunity for children and parents to ask questions. It will be a chance to meet one of the instructors and see the dinghy the children will be sailing in. If there are children who don't attend the school but are interested, please contact Sheena Barrow, email [sheenamargaretbarrow@gmail.com](mailto:sheenamargaretbarrow@gmail.com) or mobile 07867 978770. Children should be over eight years old and be able to swim. Taster sessions take place on Wednesdays at 5pm starting on 29 May.

**Sheena Barrow**

### **SUFFOLK RECORDS SOCIETY, AGM AND BOOK LAUNCH**

The Great Sea Floods of 1953, The Records of PJO (John) Trist

You are invited to the launch of volume 67 of Suffolk Records Society's General Series introduced by the Editor, Denise Parkinson. The book will be available at a reduced price on the night.

Thursday 23 May 2024 at 7.00pm in Orford Town Hall

The talk will be preceded by a very brief AGM. Entry is free. Light refreshments

### **ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB RETURNS TO ORFORD WITH BRAHMS' GERMAN REQUIEM**

Aldeburgh Music Club Choir returns to Orford Church on Sunday 2 June for their next concert, when they will be singing Brahms' German Requiem. The performance starts at 7pm.

The highly regarded Aldeburgh-based choir will be singing Brahms' choral masterpiece in the original German, to the accompaniment of Jonathan Rutherford and Patrick Hemmerlé on piano. The soloists are Sarah Gallop (soprano) and Rob Gildon (baritone), both Suffolk-based professional singers. The performance will be conducted by the choir's music director, Tom Appleton.

The German Requiem, dating from 1868, is unlike most other requiems in the choral repertoire, in that rather than using the traditional Latin church liturgy, it uses texts from the Lutheran translation of the Bible. It is lyrical and dramatic in equal measure. The version being performed at Orford is the version for 'four hands' on one piano, specially created by the composer in 1869 as an alternative to his full orchestral version.

In addition to the Requiem, the concert will include some of Brahms' Hungarian Dances, arranged by the composer for the piano.

Aldeburgh Music Club really enjoys performing at Orford Church and hopes that as many people as possible will take advantage of hearing these wonderful works on their doorstep.

Tickets – £20 for unreserved seats, £10 for under-18s – may be obtained from the Club's website [www.aldeburghmusic.club](http://www.aldeburghmusic.club).

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

**David Edwards**

### **RED HEAVEN PODCAST & THE FIRST PERFORMANCE OF NOYE'S FLUDDE, ST BARTHOLOMEW'S 1958**

I am an oral historian and podcaster who is planning an episode about the performances of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde* at St Bartholomew's Church Orford in 1958 and at its fiftieth anniversary in 2008. My plan is to interview together a small number of people who participated in each of the performances to compare and contrast their experiences. Ideally the audio

recording would take place in person at a suitable venue in Orford at some agreed time over the spring or summer of 2024.

The episode is part of a series called Red Heaven about utopian socialists who aimed, as my website states, to build Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land. Several episodes deal with a similar East Anglian experiment: the partnership between the composer, Gustav Holst, and the Red Vicar of Thaxted, Conrad Noel on church festivals in the beautiful Parish Church of Thaxted.

Please visit <https://www.redheavenproject.com/> for more details. For the planned episode about Benjamin Britten and *Noye's Fludde* I am interested in hearing from participants in either of the two performances who would be prepared to be interviewed and from any others who could provide background information about the performances. I can be contacted via the contact page on the Red Heaven website or directly to my personal email, or via Village Voice.

**Dr Simon Machin**, [machinsimon@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:machinsimon@tiscali.co.uk)

## THE HISTORY BEHIND THE SHELTER ON ORFORD QUAY

At the end of Quay Street, on the right, as you walk onto the Quay you will see a shelter with a plaque noting: 'This Shelter is given in memory of William G Figg 19 Nov 48'. Who was he?

William George Figg was born in London in 1880 to a family who had been 'tea brokers' for a couple of generations. But William Figg became an 'East India merchant' and grew wealthy on the trade between India and England. In 1918 he married Violet Tew in Nowshera, in what is now Pakistan but was then India. By 1939, William G Figg and his wife Violet had retired to live in Orford in a cottage in Quay Street with the name Quay Cottage. It was about two doors from 'Ferry Cottage' that still exists today. During WW2 whilst living in Orford, William Figg was in the 'Observer Corps: Air Ministry' despite being in his sixties.

As the shelter plaque notes, he died in November 1948. He left only his widow, Violet Figg nee Tew, together with a probate worth over £3 million in today's money. It is most probable that Violet paid for this shelter to be erected in his memory. Violet remained in Orford for the rest of her long life and died in 1963 aged 84.

The family history of this long resident of Orford is fascinating. Fully named at birth as Violet Mary Alexandra Tew, Violet was born, likely in Portsmouth, but certainly on Portsea Island, Hampshire in 1879 to an Australian mother, Ellen Jamieson from Melbourne and an Irishman from Dublin named Joseph

Napier Tew, who at the time of his marriage to Ellen was a Lieutenant in the 21st Royal North Fusiliers. Their marriage in 1872, incredibly, was at St Simon's Church on the island of Jersey.

How did Violet's mother, Ellen Jamieson, born in Melbourne during the gold rush of the 1850s get to be on Jersey by 1872 to marry? Because Ellen's widowed mother, Rachel Jamieson nee McLeod, brought her to Jersey. Ellen grew up on Jersey with her mother and sister Mary. This was how Ellen would have met the young Lieutenant Joseph Napier Tew on Jersey.

Lieutenant Joseph Napier Tew was soon posted to India and was accompanied by his wife Ellen (the Aussie). A child was born to them in 1875 in Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India. It is doubtful that Joseph Napier Tew ever left there but clearly his wife Ellen did for their next child was Violet who was born Portsea Island, Hampshire in 1879.

However, it is here that there was a parting. Maybe Violet was a sickly child, for she was left in the care of her grandmother, Rachael Jamieson, on Jersey while her mother Ellen (the Aussie) returned to India to bear two more children to her husband Joseph Napier Tew in Secunderabad in 1884 and 1892. What is known is that Joseph Napier Tew was Court Martialled in 1885 for misappropriating funds (he was a paymaster for the army). Because of extenuating circumstances and a period of pre-trial detention, he was simply dismissed from army service. Violet would have been 10 years old at this time so maybe she was aware of her father's disgrace even though she was in Jersey with grandma while dad was in India.

Dad bounced back career-wise in that when he died in 1900 he was Superintendent of the 'Central Jail' in Warangal, about 140km NE of Secunderabad, India.

By this time Violet's grandma, Rachel had died on Jersey the year before, leaving Violet's aunt Mary on Jersey. But Violet's mum Ellen (the Aussie), now a widow, returned from India with her youngest and settled near Portsmouth where she can be located on the 1911 census, aged 56, living with her married son.

By the start of 1916, Violet's aunt Mary dies on Jersey. Where Violet Tew has been living the past 20 years is not known but what happens next is that on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 1916, Violet, now aged 37, sails First Class on the ship Kaiser-I-Hind from London to Bombay, India. Two years later she marries William G Figg in in Nowshera, in then India. Hence, we get back to the start of this story and plaque in the shelter on Orford Quay!

**Martin T Figg**

## MAY 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 15 May – Aldeburgh

Thursday 13 June – Alderton

Wednesday 11 September – Aldeburgh

All calls will be redirected to 111.

### **Peninsula Practice Patient Participation Group – The Patient's Voice**

The Peninsula Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a group of volunteer patients, carers and practice staff who meet four times a year to discuss and support the running of the practice. If you are over sixteen and a patient of Peninsula Practice, you are welcome to join the PPG. For more information about becoming a member, please contact Natalie on 01394 411461. If you have any suggestions, ideas or concerns then please do get in touch with the group via email: [peninsulapracticeppg@gmail.com](mailto:peninsulapracticeppg@gmail.com)

### **Bereavement café in Aldeburgh**

Attend the beautiful and peaceful surroundings of The Red House, Aldeburgh for a monthly Bereavement Café. Offering a welcoming space for those coping with loss to gather, meet, talk, and find comfort and support in shared experiences. Run by trained volunteers, with the support of St. Elizabeth's Hospice, it is a social space for people who are facing bereavement to talk about their experience of loss in a safe, relaxed environment. See more details at: [brittenpearsarts.org/events/bereavement-café](http://brittenpearsarts.org/events/bereavement-café).

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