



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 398 May 2025

Edited by: James Kennedy and NOTT Clerk **Published by:** Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and New Orford Town Trust **Printed by:** Leiston Press Ltd

Although published and funded by Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and New Orford Town Trust, Village Voice is totally unbiased in its reporting.

The Council therefore holds no responsibility for its content except that submitted by and on behalf of the Council or Trust.

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

orfordtrust@outlook.com or put through the Town Hall letterbox

Priority for inclusion is given to articles that are about or directly affect the community of Orford and Gedgrave and inclusion is subject to editing and availability of space. Contributors should be aware that this newsletter is published on the website of Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and the New Orford Town Trust (www.orfordparishandtrust.onesuffolk.net)

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 22 MAY

VE DAY COMMEMORATION

The Parish Council is organising a commemoration event for VE Day. This will be held on Thursday 8 May in the Town Hall. There will be a fish and chip supper supplied by The Moving Plaiice and a fruit crumble dessert supplied by The Mixing Bowl. Funding is being sourced for the event. The evening will end with the lighting of the beacon at 9.30pm. Please contact me on the contact details below to let us know if you think you'll be able to join us.

Marie Backhouse, Clerk to Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council, orfordtownhall@outlook.com, 01394 459172

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE – HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

We need your help.

For some time, the Parish Council has been concerned that the lack of affordable housing in the parish is preventing local people from continuing to live in the parish that they have long called their home. As such, we are working with Community Action Suffolk – an independent charity – to carry out a Housing Needs Survey. This would provide the evidence that would either support or otherwise, our concern and potentially provide a pathway towards the delivery of a small local affordable housing scheme. The survey will also seek to establish what type of homes would be required by local people.

Housing needs can be varied and are not just about affordability. You might be looking for your first home, you might need a larger home, or you may be looking to downsize to somewhere easier to manage over the next few years. The survey should also pick up hidden needs, for example, people living outside the village with a connection to Orford and Gedgrave, working for a local business or organization for example, or who would like to return, or move here, if the right kind of housing was available.

Part One of the survey is for ALL residents to complete. It will seek views from every household about housing.

Part Two is for completion by households or individuals who consider themselves to be in need of housing.

A paper copy of the survey will be delivered to your home and local businesses. The survey must be returned directly to Community Action Suffolk using the pre-paid envelope provided, however where possible we would like surveys to be completed online using the unique code that will be provided.

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 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 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 1 May: Gardening Club - Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Wednesday 7 May: Alzheimer's Society drop in session - Orford's Sports and Recreation Club, 10.30am-12.30pm
- Thursday 8 May: VE Day Commemoration event - Orford Town Hall, 5.30pm
- Saturday 24 to Monday 26 May: art exhibition - Great House Gallery, 11am-4pm
- Sunday 25 May: Orford open gardens - gardens open 11am-3.30pm (Church open 10.30am-3pm for drinks etc)
- Saturday 31 May: Aldeburgh Music Club concert - Orford Church, 7pm

Although commissioned by the Parish Council, the survey will be completely independent, and your privacy will be respected. The results will be analysed by Community Action Suffolk and at no stage will any personal information be shared with the Parish Council or any third parties. Surveys will be delivered in the first week of June 2025 and the closing date for returns will be 1 July 2025.

Finally, if you are interested in occupying an Affordable house and feel that you might be eligible, we would encourage you to register with www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk as that will further evidence of an affordable housing need in the parish.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to your valuable input.

Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council

ORFORD SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

Coming up:

- Thursday 8 May, bike meet night from 6pm, bar and bbq available, bike not essential.

- Saturday 17 May, live music from *Handle With Care*.
Normal club nights: Friday nights from 7pm, darts, snooker WiFi pool etc.
 - 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. Don't forget bingo nights, keep an eye on the board.
Mark Smy, Secretary, 450358

OSLOF ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Thank you to everyone who supported us through Orford General Stores in the donation box.

We had a successful transaction back to the Castle grounds with funds going towards school supplies and trips and year six leavers activities.

Also thanks to the English Heritage for letting us back on the Castle grounds, making it an amazing venue after several years. Many thanks to The Mixing bowl, Kate's Treats, Orford Sports & Recreation Club and Kate and Patrick O'Connell for supporting us.

We can't forget the ex-pupils Dan Davies, Dylan Smy, Emily Worne and James Charity helping Ayden Smy (year 6) and Zack Felton (year 5) in being the Easter Bunnies.

Orford School League of Friends (OSLOF), supporting Orford Primary School

DEMENTIA DROP IN SESSIONS

Looking to prioritise your health in 2025? Would you like to learn how to improve your memory? Do you have memory concerns or a dementia diagnosis? Alzheimer's Society, working in partnership with Peninsula Practice, will be holding drop-in sessions at Orford Sports and Recreation Club once a month. Refreshments will be provided. On the first Wednesday of each month 10:30am-12:30pm. Starts Wednesday 2 April 2025, no appointment needed.

ORFORD OPEN GARDENS 2025

Orford Open Gardens will be on Sunday 25 May with a range of beautiful private gardens to visit, several 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 plant sale and a raffle for a chance to win a £100 National Garden Gift Voucher. 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 if you would like them collected 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

MAY AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Sunday 4 May, third Sunday of Easter

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Robin Alderson

11am Holy Communion at Butley – Revd Canon Kevan McCormack

Sunday 11 May, fourth Sunday of Easter

8am BCP Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Robin Alderson

9.30am Holy Communion at Iken with Sudbourne – Revd Robin Alderson

10am Family Service at Orford – Guy Marshall

7pm Compline at Chillesford – Lay Led

Sunday 18 May, fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Chillesford – Revd Dr Stephen Thompson

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

Sunday 25 May, sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Holy Communion at Sudbourne with Iken – Revd Robin Alderson

4pm BCP Evensong at Chillesford – Janet Bishop

6pm BCP Choral Evensong at Orford

Sunday 1 June, seventh Sunday of Easter

9.30am Holy Communion at Orford – Revd Dr Stephen Thompson

11am Holy Communion at Butley – Revd Canon Kevan McCormack

We always had an 8am BCP Holy Communion Service in the St Nicholas Chapel every Sunday over many decades. This is now returning on 11 May 2025 and we hope to attract back the many parishioners who were regular attendees. It is a short, peaceful service and a wonderful beginning to the day. The first service will be taken by Revd Robin Alderson.

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

Diana Grayburn, Churchwarden

MAY AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 4 May 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 11 May 10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 18 May 10.30am Café worship

Sunday 25 May 10.30am Rev Saul – Holy Communion

Sunday 1 June 10.30am Stephen Caley

As always you will be very welcome to join with us at any of our services – children/young people stay in church for the service, often assisting. Refreshments are served afterwards.

Chapel Tea Room is open every Monday and Wednesday from 11am–4pm (and some Saturdays) with a great lunch menu and locally made cakes – we have a very welcoming and pleasant tearoom with tables outside too. There is also a huge selection of art, local crafts, cards and preserves. No need to reserve a table – come along and enjoy!

CHANGE OF DATE for the VE Day celebration – now Saturday 10 May with an outside tea party (inside, if poor weather) at 3pm – join with us and bring along a plate of food to share.

As a church, we have been encouraged with a weekly 'Images of Jesus' Lent Course – celebrated Mothering Sunday with flowers for all in attendance. Joined with the biblical crowd on Palm Sunday with our 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord'. The Good Friday's 'Seven words from the Cross' with hymns preceded a fish and chip lunch and then to the glorious Easter morning Resurrection Praise with our acclamation 'Alleluia, Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia' resounding through the vicinity at the commencement of rejoicing and singing the great Easter hymns, songs and music, reading Luke's account of the empty tomb and greatly blest with an Easter Rap by our young people. Everyone received an Easter egg, shared chocolate cake and coffee afterwards and then the long-awaited Easter Egg Hunt! Many thanks for donations received to purchase pot plants/flowers to enable the creation of the wonderful Easter Garden

Annual Quay service, Sunday 3 August – keep a note of the date!

Stephen Caley

ALDEBURGH MUSIC CLUB – A NIGHT AT THE THEATRE

Saturday 31 May 2025 at 7pm: an evening of Theatre Songs from Purcell to Sondheim

Aldeburgh Music Club Choir returns to Orford Church on Saturday 31 May for an evening of songs from the world of the theatre, ranging from Purcell to Vaughan Williams, from the Sherman Brothers to Disney and from Lloyd Webber to Stephen Sondheim.

Included in the programme are songs from Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, the Sherman Brothers' *Mary Poppins*, and a selection of hits from the works of Andrew Lloyd Webber, along with songs by Vaughan Williams and excerpts from Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*.

The evening will be introduced and narrated by Graeme Kay and feature soloists Daniel Bartlette and Ilana Bartlette, accompanied by Jonathan Rutherford and friends, and conducted by Tom Appleton.

Tickets are available at £20 (half price for those under 18) and are available from the Club website, www.aldeburghmusic.club. For further information, please visit the website or contact David Edwards on dwe450@gmail.com

David Edwards

GREAT HOUSE GALLERY EXHIBITION

We are pleased to announce another 'Pop Up' exhibition at The Great House and garden over the late May Bank holiday weekend. Open daily from 11-4pm Saturday 24 to Monday 26 May.

Our exhibitors are local Suffolk artists, sculptors from the Butley foundry, ceramics, hand-made chairs and silver jewellery - all artwork is for sale. Entry is free, we are asking for donations towards renovations planned by the Friends of St Bartholomew's church. The Great House is also participating in the Orford Open Garden day on Sunday 25 May. We look forward to seeing you all.

Fiona Gerard, 07779 593366

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

We hope your Spring flowers are thriving and that you have done some succession planning with your range of bulbs and plants...

Our Next Events:

Thursday evening, 1 May, 7.30pm, Orford Town Hall

'Creating a Container Garden in a Year'

Fiona Cumberbatch – Gardener and freelance journalist for Modern Gardens, Kew Gardens and Landscape Magazines. Fiona recently appeared on Gardeners' World telling us all about how she found the soil conditions in her new garden an issue and so decided to plant her whole plot using pots! We were fortunate to secure her to speak to us before this event took place! She will tell us about this experience and answer all our questions to help us optimise our plants we choose to grow in this same way. This event is a must for all of us!

Wednesday afternoon, 14 May, 2pm

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

...to see Mr and Mrs Humphries' Rhododendrons and Azaleas. In aid of The Parkinsons Charity. Booking essential £5 additional fee. *Stour Valley Organic Lavender Company*

'The Growing and use of Lavender as a Plant and in Essential Oil Production'

Mark and Adrienne De Roy told us the story of how they decided to turn their farm into growing lavender following a trip to Jersey. Mark used anecdotes and folklore to tell us about the history of using lavender as a medication, in food and wine and in many other ways. Also, how they hand process their lavender into the range of essentials oils, balms, lavender water and insect bite products which we were all able to buy and did! He also gave us some tips on looking after our own plants and pruning them.

Many events still to come in 2025! New members and guests always very welcome.

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

T4THOMAS - SUNDAY 8 JUNE

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 MUSEUM UPDATE

Orford Museum is delighted to welcome the travelling theatre group Three Inch Fools (www.threeinchfools.com) to Butley

Priory on Tuesday 26 August 2025 to present a musical version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Formed in 2015 by brothers James and Stephen Hyde, the idea for the Three-Inch Fools is simple – to stage a production that is inventive and fast-paced and to use music to bring to life Shakespeare's timeless stories. Over the past seven years the company has staged fourteen plays around the UK including *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night*. The performance will start at 6.30pm (doors open at 6pm) and will take place outside, so please bring chairs, rugs and a picnic. There will be a twenty-minute interval.

Tickets cost £20 for Orford Museum Friends, £25 for non-Friends, children under 16 £14, and children under 8 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

Looking ahead to autumn, 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. Ian Collins has drawn on decades of friendship for an intimate and candid biography. Ian Collins is a radio and television presenter, author, comedy writer and journalist. He was for many years arts writer for the Eastern Daily Press. His numerous biographies and monographs include *John Craxton: A life of Gifts* and *James Dodds: The Blue Boat*.

On Thursday 2 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', and 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*, published by Hodder in 2013 – after being given exclusive access to his papers and letters by Bushell's family.

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

Elizabeth Spinney

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 14 May – Alderton • Thursday 12 June – Aldeburgh

Your practice team

When you contact us, you are triaged to the most appropriate healthcare professional, which can include our pharmacists and paramedic. Depending on your health concern, they may be more suited to support you than the GP and are able to direct you to appropriate care if more specialist treatment is required. This enables us to ensure that everyone gets treated at the right time, by the right healthcare professional.

Missing your appointments

If you cannot attend your appointment, please call to inform us so that we can offer it to other patients and reschedule your appointment. Between 01/10/2024 and 31/12/2024, twenty-eight hours of clinical time were lost to missed appointments.

Dementia project

Are you worried about your memory? Come and have a free memory check, as well as learn about brain health. Contact us to find out more and make an appointment.

www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk or 01394 411641

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



Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council

would like to invite you to our

VE-Day Commemoration Event

On Thursday 8th May 2025 at 5.30pm in the Town Hall, where there will be Fish & Chips, with a dessert of fruit crumble and cream. Music from the 1940's will also be playing. Finishing the evening off at 9.30pm with the lighting of the beacon.



Please contact the office on 01394 459172 or email

orfordtownhall@outlook.com

if you think you are able to join us. Thank you.

Looking to prioritise your health in 2025?

Would you like to learn how to improve your memory? Do you have memory concerns or a dementia diagnosis?

Alzheimer's Society, working in partnership with Peninsula Practice, will be holding drop-in sessions at **Orford Sports and Recreation Club** once a month. Refreshments will be provided.

On the first Wednesday of each month 10:30 - 12:30

Starts Wednesday 2nd April 2025, no appointment needed



PETER
SOWERBY
FOUNDATION



**Alzheimer's
Society**
Together we are help & hope
for everyone living with dementia

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

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



Or Scan QR Code