

MELFORD

Issue 19 April/May 2024

Matters



Photo: Holly Jones-Warren

Spring is in the Air

Open Gardens, Long Melford
in Bloom, the Library
Spring Fair

Pages 4 and 22

Feasts and Festivals

St George's Day Parade, Taste of
East Anglia Food and Drink and the
Nethergate Easter Beer Festival

Pages 5, 11 and 20

A Helping Hand

Help from Good Grief
Bereavement Support, Project
Seven and Good Neighbours

Pages 4, 6 and 8



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EASTER BEER FESTIVAL

Join us as we reopen our beer tent this Easter! Enjoy some of the finest beers and ciders Suffolk has to offer, dishes from our favourite local food vans, and immerse yourself in the enchanting tunes of live music in our taproom and garden.

MARCH
28TH-
1ST
2024



SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Kick off the summer on a high note by joining us for our solstice celebration, featuring live music, delectable food, and a selection of exquisite beer, cider, and gin choices!

JUNE
21ST-
23RD
2024



OKTOBERFEST

Relive the festival and carnival spirit in Long Melford! Experience the charm of German beers, lively brass bands, and traditional lederhosen as we bring the vibrant Bavarian celebrations to Suffolk!

SEPT
27TH-
29TH
2024

welcome!



Welcome to issue 19 of your village magazine. There are several new members to the team which creates it and we have made some changes to the content and style. We hope you like them and we would be delighted to receive any feedback you wish to give and suggestions for other content you would like to see included. We aim to include as many different styles and voices as possible. Don't hesitate to get in touch at our new email address content@melfordmatters.org.uk.

Our seasonal selection for this issue includes a fascinating request from the Long Melford Historical and Archaeological Society to help with their detective work (p.19), news about a

range of exciting activities for young people in the village (pp.16/17) and an introduction to the new proprietors of The Swan (p.20). We also particularly recommend the picture quiz (p.26) – can you work out where all these sights in Melford are to be found?

We are, as ever, grateful to all our advertisers for their support for this magazine. If you would like to enquire about placing an advertisement, please contact us at advertising@melfordmatters.org.uk.

PHILIP WINDSOR, RIP

We are all saddened by the loss of our colleague, Philip Windsor, who passed away in February. He has been a central part of the Melford Matters team since it was formed. We will greatly miss his wise, calm and sensible contribution to the life of the magazine. He was involved in many different aspects of village life and there is a more detailed tribute on p.7.

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Community Matters

A Glimmer of Hope

The new Branch Committee met in January and February, trying to find a way through the maze of rules and regulations regarding Trust documents and finding the right contacts to progress the issue of the RBL building in Cordell Road.

It seems there may be a way forward for us to keep the building as an RBL facility. There is a mountain of paperwork to review and many hoops to jump through but at least we have a chance to fight.

We now have details of all RBL members in Long Melford area and were able to contact them in February and March. We currently have 60 members and will be hoping to increase this number.

Our plan is to rejuvenate the branch, then prove that the building is required for RBL activities, which would include providing a social space for members and their families. There would not be a return to the idea of a social club, but we may save our building and car park for use by RBL members and families. We have not lost this battle yet!

Our Standard Bearer will be present at the Suffolk Show on 29th and 30th May. Our first event will take place in June, celebrating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Rosey Eade

Bookbinding Day – Saturday 27th April 9.30am to 12.30pm

Join us for a free bookbinding workshop at Long Melford Library, in association with the Society of Bookbinders! Learn how to make a notebook to take home with you, watch a demonstration, or learn how to repair a book at the Book Clinic. Suitable for all ages. This event is free to attend but donations are welcome.



Friends of Long Melford Library Spring Fair

Good news – the Library Spring Fair is back, this year at the library's new home in St Catherine's. It will be on Saturday 18th May from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and will include a fabulous selection of plants, such as amazing hostas, herbaceous perennials, herbs, tomatoes and plenty more. There will also be a wide selection of preserves, a stall of totally delicious cakes and a ritzy raffle. Everybody is welcome, please come along and join in the fun. All proceeds will be invested in the village library.



Fire Station Recruitment Drive

Did you know that we have a range of fire safety information leaflets on our website? Take a look – you just might learn something new that will help keep you and your loved ones safe <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-safety-in-the-home/fire-safety-information-leaflets>

Long Melford has availability for new staff

Need more for 2024? Become an on-call firefighter. Challenge yourself and protect your community with a rewarding career! Find out more about how it works and apply through the website <https://suffolk-firefighters.co.uk/>.



Good Grief

We have just marked the first anniversary of Good Grief, our bereavement support drop-in, which runs the third Wednesday of the month from 10.00am to 12.30pm in The Old School, Long Melford.

We have welcomed many people who are living with grief, some whose bereavement has been very recent and others who may have suffered a loss years ago. Everyone has had something to share and also to offer, by way of insight, such as encouragement and friendship through difficult and dark times.

We have found that the very relaxed way in which we meet, with a coffee and snack, and no structure to the time together, works very well. Some have come many times and others perhaps only once or as and when they feel that it will help to be with others who understand their ongoing struggles and the ups and downs of a grief journey.

June Whitehead

Community Matters

Burlesque at the Melford Poppies

Our WI meeting at the Bull on 8th February was certainly a change from our usual meetings. We were treated to an excellent talk by the president of one of the Chelmsford WIs.

Ms Cherry Bombe, as shown in the photo, runs a Burlesque group of women from her WI. They have raised thousands of pounds performing around East Anglia, including a sold-out performance at Chelmsford Cathedral!



Things certainly are not what they used to be. No jam in sight, but still singing Jerusalem, and lots of laughter and friendships.

Rosey Eade



MELFORD MOVIES



Many thanks to everyone who has attended our screenings during our 2023-24 season. We hope you enjoyed the films, refreshments, raffle and – most importantly – the chance to chat and catch up. We've raised funds for the village hall and through your generosity our raffles have raised over £600 for local charities and good causes. Suggestions for local charities we could support are always welcome.

The season isn't quite over yet! On **19th April**, we will be back at the Village Hall screening **Calendar Girls** (12A) as part of the **Long Melford Poppies' Ladies Night**, in aid of St Nicholas Hospice Care. Doors open at 7.00pm and the screening starts at 7.30pm. All ladies are welcome. Tickets are £7 including a glass of prosecco on arrival – to reserve please email us at melfordmovies@icloud.com.



Our 2024-25 season will run on the second Friday of each month from August through to March. We'd love to hear your suggestions for films that you would like us to include in the programme – please email us at the above address and save the date for our 'Trailer Night' on 14th June, when you can help us select our programme.

St George's Day parade

Sudbury District Scouts' annual St George's Day Parade and Church Service will be taking place on **21st April**. Please turn out to watch this marvellous occasion and support the young people as they march from the Scout and Guide HQ to Holy Trinity Church and retrace their steps after the Service.

The Sudbury Community Wardens will be managing the approved road closure from 14.30pm to 16.30pm and will lift the restrictions during the service to minimise disruption.

Vincent Quattrucci, District Chairman



Community Matters

Project Seven – Good news!

2023 was a very busy year for Project Seven. The Big Night Out, after a last-minute cancellation in 2022, returned in 2023, undeterred by three weeks of continuous rain in the lead-up to the event, which made preparations something of a challenge. We have learnt a lot from last year, and will be back in 2024 bigger and better with the help of our volunteers.

After three years of being unable to make donations – the main purpose of our group – Project Seven has been able to help 27 local good causes with cheques to the value of £14,750. The funds were widely distributed, the beneficiaries ranging from local youth groups, such as the Scouts, to more senior recipients, such as the Over-60s Club and Hazel Court Care Home.

Although Project Seven didn't have its usual annual presentation evening, during which we present cheques to the chosen community groups and local charities, we are planning a social event in the summer.



Andrew Hagger,
Project Seven

Silver Band

The Band has resumed practice after the Christmas break, welcoming some new players and one returning player. We continue to move forward under our Musical Director Frankie Ayres and are busy preparing for the forthcoming concert and fete season.



Confirmed dates for the rest of the year:

- 11th May at 7.30pm
Spring Concert, Acton Church
- 2nd June at 2.00pm
"Brass on the Grass", Clare Country Park
- 8th November at 7.30pm
Festival of Remembrance concert, Clare Parish Church (we are indebted to our president, Richard Kemp, for his support for this event)
- 30th November, afternoon
Festive Long Melford
- 20th December at 7.30pm
Band's Christmas Concert, Melford Village Hall

Mike Murkin, band member

THE FRIENDS OF LONG MELFORD CHURCH BUILDING TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1069008

The Friends of Long Melford Church Building Trust began as an ad hoc group to raise and administer funds to assist the Church with financing work needed on the fabric of the building. In 1998 the FLMCBT became an independent charity, and have donated to major works such as the West End Project providing kitchen and a WC in the Tower, refurbishment of the Vestries and lighting the Church path.

The Trustees administer 2 generous personal gifts from the late William B. Clopton, of Virginia, one for the restoration of the Medieval Windows and one for the maintenance of the Clopton Chapel. The principal sums have to be invested in perpetuity and only the interest or growth of the investments used. Using this and other donations the Friends have assisted the PCC with the **MEDIEVAL WINDOWS** restoration, 3 windows have now been re-installed in the Church after having been cleaned, repaired and protected with iso-thermal glazing by Canterbury Glass. The total cost of these 3 windows was circa £281,000 of which we, The Friends, have donated to the PCC £200,000 from the William B. Clopton Fund and other earmarked donations for the windows. There are 8 windows, so still 5 to do; we should have sufficient funds to cover 1 of these.

CLERESTORY. In 2023 the PCC began work replacing the iron glazing supports and repairing the damaged masonry. The Friends donated £15,000 towards this work.

CLOPTON FAMILY ASSOCIATION are returning to Long Melford in June, organised by members of the Friends. The first reunion in Long Melford was in 1984, so this will be the **RUBY ANNIVERSARY** of these reunions. During the Reunion the Clopton Rose Ceremony takes place, when the "rent of one red rose" is presented to the Clopton Family by the Mayor of Hadleigh. This is an annual event in which the Chairman of the Friends participates.

Since 1998 the Friends have donated over £300,000 to the PCC towards the fabric of the Church.

John Watts
Hon. Chairman

Richard Michette
Hon. Secretary



The Lily Crucifix Window
Photo: Richard Michette

Community Matters

WWGD – What Would My Granny Do?

I know as a vicar I am rightly meant to consider WWJD – What Would Jesus Do? When I am struggling to decide what to do in a situation I often ask myself which course of action would please Jesus the most ... and I encourage you to do likewise. Nevertheless, there are still times when I think of my granny! She was a down-to-earth, sensible, no-nonsense, practical person who lived through the Blitz with a young family; she abounded in common sense and community spirit.

I recently thought of her when considering the relationship between rights and responsibilities. Rights are important. In the Bible there are stories of people, such as the persistent widow, demanding their rights. At the same time having rights is a privilege that not everyone enjoys. In order to have *rights*, in general people must also fulfil *responsibilities* to the wider community and seek the common good. I sometimes wonder what my granny would make of things today where rights are often demanded but responsibilities are sometimes overlooked. Let us honour the many good examples of people who gave up their rights in order to serve others, and be encouraged to do likewise.

Good Friday Walk with the Cross – 12.00 noon

On Good Friday the Rector will be walking from St Catherine's Church up to Holy Trinity as we remember the dramatic events of Easter. You are welcome to pause and reflect, or to walk alongside.

With best wishes
for Easter.



Revd Lawson

Your Generosity

I am always so very grateful for the way people give their time, talents and money towards the church. As explained in the last issue, through the incredible generosity of many, including the Clopton family, local benefactors and donations, the Friends (see p.6), and the hard work of our church fundraising team, we are nearly halfway through the million-pound project to restore the priceless medieval stained glass at our amazing village church. We still have several hundred thousand pounds to raise, so please don't get the impression that this has been a breeze! We are also grateful for those who give to our more regular running costs, such as supporting our toddler and youth group, routine maintenance, and other 'less sexy' but important things. Thank you all.

If you wish to give or to leave a legacy, please click on the 'donate' tab on our website (<https://www.longmelfordchurch.com/donate74777/>) or call our treasurer on 01787 379 236.

Holy Week in the Chadbrook Benefice

Sun 24th Mar

10.30am
6.30pm

PALM SUNDAY

Holy Communion (with Donkey) at Holy Trinity
Passiontide Evensong at Holy Trinity

Thurs 28th Mar

7.00pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Simple meal & Communion at Holy Trinity **

Fri 29th Mar

2.00pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Devotional Service at Holy Trinity

Sat 30th Mar

8.30pm

EASTER EVE

Service of Light at Holy Trinity

Sun 31st Mar

10.30am
6.30pm

EASTER DAY

Easter Celebration with Confirmations & Communion
Evening Communion at Lawshall

**Please let Vicky know if you would like attend on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com

www.longmelfordchurch.com
www.alphetonandshimplingchurches.org.uk
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/1952/ (Lawshall)

PHILIP WINDSOR, 1949-2024

Recently, the members of the Village Hall management committee were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of one of their former colleagues, Philip Windsor. Philip was heavily involved in village life, volunteering for the National Trust at Melford Hall and serving for 14 years on the Scout and Guide management committee including six years as its chair.

He was also a member of the Village Hall committee for over 12 years, and a vital part of the Melford Matters editorial team. His wise counsel – given with humility and good humour – was invaluable. His experience as export sales manager for Philips Avent in Glemsford made him the ideal person to oversee our advertising sales and invoicing, for which he set up an efficient and effective system.

He brought equal rigour to proofreading – his eye for a superfluous double space or a missing apostrophe was unrivalled. Despite a diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease, Philip continued to work on the magazine. The steps he took to ensure that others could take over, as and when he had to step back, were a demonstration of the dignity with which he bore his illness. He will be sorely missed by us all.



Community Matters

Another Busy Year for the Good Neighbours

The team of 35 regular volunteers that form Long Melford Good Neighbours

Scheme had another busy year in 2023 supporting 91 fellow residents in the Village. Our activities included:

- making 399 medical supporting trips (e.g. taking people to appointments)
- completing 281 trips to social activities (e.g. coffee mornings)
- giving 230 hours of face-to-face befriending and making 60 telephone calls to those living alone
- carrying out seven shopping trips for people unable to get out
- helping with nine small DIY tasks and two gardening jobs
- holding 25 coffee mornings (supported by the Friends of Long Melford Library) at the Old School – each with an average attendance of 25 people. Lots of homemade cake was consumed!

We love to meet new people – whether you come to a coffee morning, are in need of assistance or can spare an hour or two to join the volunteer team. Just call 07504 249149 and leave your details.



Strictly Swing Comes to Melford

Come and join us, Ken and Sarah, at Long Melford Football Club on Thursday and Sunday evenings to learn to swing jive. Don't worry if you think you have two left feet, we can get you to dance! It's a great way to start



the new year: exercising, meeting new friends and having fun. Classes are £5, including a short break for tea/coffee and a chance to socialise and/or practise, or take two classes in one evening for £8.

See Diary Matters on p.13 for details of the class times, or email Sarah on sboldock05@gmail.com or telephone 07956 614824 for all the info, to ask any questions, or book your place.

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6.30pm
Village
Hall

Friday
26th
April

QUIZ NIGHT

WITH SUPPER & WINE

Hosted by TalkSport's GUY SWINDELLS

£15 per head, min 4 per team (max 6)

Price includes chilli con carne* and soft drinks

Wine available by the glass or bottle

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To raise funds to restore Long Melford's
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— a unique national treasure

*Vegetarian option available



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Culture Matters

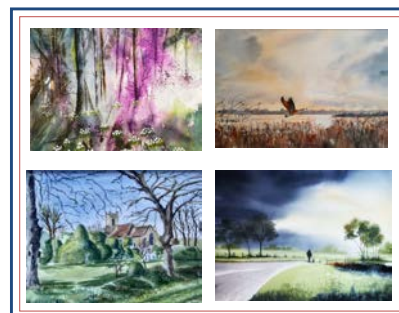
Spring Exhibitions

Class Arts

The art collective Class Arts is delighted to return to Borley Church on 6th and 7th April, with one of the first exhibitions of 2024, which promises some exciting new work by 10 local artists. The exhibition will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free.

The exhibition is raising funds for Borley Church, which will also be offering refreshments and a raffle. Work on sale will include framed and unframed art as well as greetings cards. Free parking is available at the side of the church.

CLASS ARTS ART EXHIBITION BORLEY CHURCH



SAT/SUN APRIL 6TH & 7TH
BORLEY CHURCH
OPEN 10-4

FREE ENTRY
REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE

Suffolk Art Society

Suffolk Art Society will be holding their first exhibition of 2024 at The Church of St

Peter and St Paul, in Lavenham, from Saturday 25th May to Sunday 9th June. This year, the Society is supporting St Nicholas Hospice, with 20% of the net profit being given to this worthy cause. The exhibition will showcase some wonderful new pieces from artists across the county. Framed and unframed works will be for sale and can be removed on the day of purchase. On Sunday 9th June, the final day will run alongside Lavenham Open Gardens, a popular event. Opening hours: 9.00am to 6.00pm, except Sundays: 12 noon to 6.00pm.

The Suffolk Art Society

ART EXHIBITION

at
The Church of St Peter & St Paul
LAVENHAM



SATURDAY 25TH MAY – SUNDAY 9TH JUNE
Saturday 25th May 1pm – 6pm, Sundays 12noon – 6pm
Monday 27th May - Saturday 8th June 9am - 6pm
Sunday 9th June 12noon – 4.30pm

FREE ADMISSION

www.suffolkartsociety.co.uk



It's Not All Fine Art and Northern Renaissance!

While the main attractions of The Arts Society Stour Valley are its programme of monthly **Talks** on diverse subjects and its **Special Interest Events**, the society also offers guided **Visits** to places of interest. This year, a trip to Houghton Hall provides a chance to see Anthony Gormley's exhibition of 100 Iron Men. In addition, there will be a **Spring Social** of a musical soirée in Lavenham Church with fizz, canapés and music by members of the Lavenham Sinfonia.

TASSV continues to provide funding for Melford Music's concert programme and to make grants to local projects under their Community Arts budget. Last year, these included a grant to Boxford Primary School enabling pupils to learn a brass instrument for a year (which led to several children continuing their musical journey). The sponsorship of Nethergate Brewery provided logo'd T-shirts for Acton Primary School pupils participating in a Young Voices concert at the O2. Current funding has enabled art sessions for adults with learning disabilities attending the Museum Club at Gainsborough's House.

Other exciting plans are afoot to engage with the community on a variety of arts projects. Perhaps you know of a deserving arts activity needing funding? If so, get in touch with them via info@theartsocietystourvalley.org.uk and your organisation could just benefit.

MELFORD FORGET-ME-NOTS

Film Club Lectures continue at the Village Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month starting at 10.30am. Upcoming topics are:



- 24th April – Italian Cinema from the late 1970s Until Now
- 22nd May – Matt Damon

See www.filmclublectures.co.uk for more information.

Don't forget the **LeeStock Festival** is at Kentwell Hall on **25/26 May**.

Thanks to the residents of the village for embracing and supporting the **Long Melford Farmers and Makers Market**. Another thank you to the local traders who have been involved and for their commitment to the event. The market is held on the **first Saturday of each month at the Old School**, bringing quality, choice and locally produced products to you. If you wish to have a stall or require more information, please contact max@connect2arc.com.



Easter Egg Hunts are the order of the day at Melford Hall from 29th March to 7th April, along with plenty of other fun outdoor activities. Full details are available on their website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/suffolk/melford-hall.



The **Litter Pickers** are looking for a volunteer to help create signs to display their new slogan. Contact details in the directory. Also, money from Project 7 will be invested in extra butt bins for the village.



TASTE OF EAST ANGLIA FOOD and DRINK FESTIVAL RETURNS! 15th JUNE 2024 10.00am to 5.00pm



Same great event and venue with a new name

The festival has grown substantially over the years and now showcases over 70 producers from across the region, as well as a number of local chefs and a large kitchen theatre.

Tickets are just £6 for adults, children go free (17 years and under). **FREE** parking.

Tickets can be bought on the festival website – www.tasteofeastanglia.co.uk

Long Melford Walking Group

If you like walking and talking, the Long Melford Walking Group might be just the ticket!

We're informal, social, and friendly group of people who love walking in Suffolk and Essex. It's free with no obligation to participate. Guided walks are posted on a WhatsApp group, usually 5 to 15 miles, mid-week or weekends, with local pubs on the way or at the end. A safe way to explore our beautiful countryside. You are responsible for your own well-being.

Contact Mike Turner on 07733 102229

The **Funfair** will be back on the Green from **Thursday 30th May to Sunday 2nd June**.



Please save the date of **Saturday 13th July** for the **Village Fete**. It will run from 12 noon to 4pm in the field opposite Melford Hall. Full details in the next issue.

Diary Matters

April	Event	Venue	Time
Wednesday 3rd	Antiques Fair	Village Hall	9.00am to 3.30pm
Thursday 4th	Parish Council – Full Meeting including Planning	Old School	7.00pm
Saturday 6th	My Long Melford Farmers and Makers Market	Old School	9.00am to 1.00pm
Saturday 6th	Live Music – JimBob Due – £5 Door Entry	Stoneylands	7.00pm
Saturday 6th	Rockhouse	Working Men's Club	8.00pm
Thursday 11th	Good Neighbours/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00am to 11.30am
Thursday 11th	LM Poppies (WI) – Valerie Butler – valeriejbutler@btinternet.com	Bull Hotel	7.30pm to 9.30pm
Friday 12th	Folk and Acoustic Club	Cock and Bell	8.00pm
Saturday 13th	Wellness Fair and Healing Kitchen	Old School	9.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday 14th	Pre-loved children's clothes and toy market	Village Hall	10.00am to 12 noon
Wednesday 17th	The Arts Society Stour Valley – Hogarth at the hustings	Village Hall	11.00am to 12 noon
Wednesday 17th	"What's On in Long Melford" followed by "Parish Assembly"	Village Hall	2.00pm to 8.00pm
Thursday 18th	LM Historical and Archaeological Society – AGM, then talk by Dr Geoffrey Kay "Overpaid, Oversexed and Over Here"	Old School	7.30pm
Friday 19th	WI Ladies Night at Melford Movies – Calendar Girls	Village Hall	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 20th	Flower Workshop – Anne Brown – www.justanneflowers.co.uk	Old School	10.00am to 12 noon
Sunday 21st	St George's Day Parade	Scout Hut to Church	2.30pm
Thursday 25th	Good Neighbours/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00am to 11.30am
Thursday 25th	Long Melford Litter Pickers		1.45pm
Friday 26th	Quiz Fundraiser for the Holy Trinity Stained Glass Windows with Supper and Wine	Village Hall	6.30pm
Saturday 27th	Bookbinding Day at the Library	St Catherine's	9.30am to 12.30pm
Saturday 27th	Brian Stringer's Tribute Trophy Dart Match	Working Men's Club	5.00pm
Sat. 27th/Sun. 28th	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Old School	9.30am to 4.00pm
Sunday 28th	Car Boot Sale	Stoneylands	9.00am
Sunday 28th	Long Melford Litter Pickers		10.00am
May	Event	Venue	Time
Wednesday 1st	Antiques Fair	Village Hall	9.00am to 3.30pm
Saturday 4th	My Long Melford Farmers and Makers Market	Old School	9.00am to 1.00pm
Saturday 4th	April's Karaoke	Working Men's Club	8.00pm
Monday 6th	Guided Birdsong Walk	Country Park	6.30am
Monday 6th	Long Melford Cricket Club – Suffolk Under 15s Girls Match	Cricket Club	
Thursday 9th	Good Neighbours/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00am to 11.30am
Thursday 9th	Parish Council – Full Meeting including Planning	Old School	7.00pm
Thursday 9th	LM Poppies (WI) – Valerie Butler – valeriejbutler@btinternet.com	Bull Hotel	7.30pm to 9.30pm
Friday 10th	Folk and Acoustic Club	Cock and Bell	8.00pm
Friday 10th	Quiz night - £10 per team, max 6 per team	Stoneylands	7.00pm



Melford Matters is a not-for-profit community initiative funded through advertising and donations. It is produced and distributed by volunteers. Accounting and other support is provided by the Village Hall Committee, but editorial decisions and any opinions expressed are independent of the Committee. The magazine welcomes contributions from everyone in the village. For further information please refer to the Long Melford Village Hall website, longmelfordvillagehall.co.uk/melford-matters, or email us at content@melfordmatters.org.uk, or the advertising team, advertising@melfordmatters.org.uk. Printed by Indigo Ross Design and Print Ltd.

Diary Matters

May (cont.)			
Saturday 11th	Long Melford Book Fair – Quality second-hand/out of print books	Village Hall	10.00am to 3.30pm
Saturday 11th	Flower Workshop – Anne Brown – www.justanneflowers.co.uk	Old School	10.00am to 12 noon
Wednesday 15th	The Arts Society Stour Valley – The woman who told us where to go	Village Hall	11.00am to 12 noon
Saturday 18th	Library Spring Fair	St Catherine's	10.00am to 12 noon
Sat. 18th/Sun. 19th	R&R Auctions – Paula Mills randrsuffolkauctions@gmail.com	Old School	9.00am to 6.00pm
Thursday 23rd	Good Neighbours/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00am to 11.30am
Thursday 23rd	Long Melford Litter Pickers		1.45pm
Thursday 23rd	Psychic Night: Ronnie Buckingham	Stoneylands	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 25th	Canine First Aid Course – ian@bluehatdogtraining.com	Village Hall	9.45am to 4.00pm
Sat. 25th/Sun. 26th	Antiques and Vintage Fair	Old School	9.30am to 4.00pm
Sat. 25th/Sun. 26th	LeeStock Music Festival	Kentwell Estate	All day
Sunday 26th	Car Boot Sale	Football Club	9.00am
Sunday 26th	Long Melford Litter Pickers		10.00am
Monday 27th	Long Melford Open Gardens	Long Melford	10.00am to 4.00pm
Thu. 30th-Sun. 2nd	Funfair	Upper Green	TBC
Regular classes and workshops at Long Melford Village Memorial Hall			
Mondays	Strollercise – Marina St Leger – www.strollercise.co.uk 07917 333712		9.30am to 10.30am
Mondays	Song Circle, Choir for Women – first session free, £7 thereafter – Anna 07957 484812		11.15am to 12.45pm
Tuesdays	Pilates – Michelle Cowcher – michellecowcher@gmail.com		10.00am to 11.00am
Tuesdays	Bounce – Jules Cooper – www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford		6.00pm to 8.00pm
Thursdays	Mum & Tot Fitness – JTD_fitness – jo.h.thornley@gmail.com		9.45am to 11.30am
Thursdays	Indoor Kurling (1st and 3rd Thursday) – Drop in for a free taster session		2.00pm to 4.00pm
Thursdays	Bounce – Jules Cooper – www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford		6.00pm to 8.00pm
Fridays	Baby Ballet – sudbury@babyballet.co.uk 07580 693747		9.30am to 12.00 noon
Monthly	Lecture series (4th Tuesday) – Suffolk Family History Society (Sudbury)		2.30pm to 4.00pm
Monthly	Tea & Tech (2nd Wednesday) – Communities Together East Anglia – 01449 707030		2.00pm to 4.00pm
Monthly	Lecture series (3rd Wednesday) – Arts Society of Stour Valley		10.30am to 12.30pm
Monthly	Lecture series (4th Wednesday) – Film Club Lectures – www.filmclublectures.co.uk		10.30am
Regular classes and workshops at the Football Club			
Mondays	Bingo age 18+ all welcome, no need to book		7.00pm to 10.00pm
Wednesdays	Men's Shed – Colin – sudburymensshed@gmail.com 07772 870052		10.00am
Thursdays	Strictly Swing – Swing Jive: Complete Beginners – Sarah Buldock 07956 614824		7.00pm to 7.45pm
Thursdays	Strictly Swing – Swing Jive: Improvers – Sarah Buldock 07956 614824		8.00pm to 8.45pm
Thursdays	Strictly Swing – Lindy Bop: Improvers – Sarah Buldock 07956 614824		9.00pm to 9.45pm
Sat/Sun	Colts and Fillies Junior Football – Ian Ambrose – 07970 384576		Call for details
Sundays	LM Veterans Football – Dan Bull – 07925 867247		Call for details
Sundays	Strictly Swing – Balboa – Sarah Buldock 07956 614824		7.00pm to 7.50pm
Sundays	Strictly Swing – Collegiate Shag – Sarah Buldock 07956 614824		8.00pm to 8.50pm
Monthly	Pete the Feet (last Friday) – 1950s music, free jive and stroll tuition – Pete 07974 201878		7.30pm to 10.30pm
Monthly	Bygones – first Friday of the month – Beverley Walker – beverleyjdringl@gmail.com		8.00pm for 8.30pm
Monthly	Car Boot Sale – last Sunday of the month – £5 cars, £10 vans		Sellers 8.00am Buyers 9.00am

PTO for regular classes and workshops at the Old School and at the Library →

Diary Matters

Regular classes and workshops at the Old School

Daily	Yoga Studio – Clare Turner – www.longmelfordyoga.co.uk 07377 068885	See website
Mondays	Card making – Pauline Andow – 01787 228790	12.30pm to 2.30pm
Mondays	Slimming World – Vicky Stebbings – vickystebbing@gmail.com	5.00pm to 8.00pm
Tuesdays	Upbeat (Heart Support Group) – Hilary Neeves – 01359 232678	9.00am to 1.00pm
Tuesdays	U3A Art – Vernon Lever – 01787 310511	1.30pm to 4.00pm
Tuesdays	Sophia Paper Kite Yoga – Sophia – 07968 165185	6.00pm to 9.00pm
Tuesdays	Yoga with Clare Turner – clareturneryoga@gmail.com	5.45pm to 7.15pm
Wednesdays	Life Drawing – John Garbett – 01787 378798	10.00am to 12.30pm
Wednesdays	Friendship Dancers – Robin Hart – 01787 269613	3.00pm to 5.00pm
Wednesdays	Silver Band – Mike Murkin – 01787 312605	7.30pm to 9.30pm
Fridays	Contemporary Dance – Maddie Cottee – maddiecottee21@gmail.com 07719 034950	7.00pm to 8.00pm
Monthly	Photography Group (1st Monday) – Derek Challis – 01787 373738	Mornings
Monthly	Good Grief Bereavement Support (3rd Wed.) – june@ggbereavementsupport.com	10.00am to 12.30pm

Regular classes and workshops at the Library

Tuesdays	Wordplay	2.00pm to 2.30pm
Wednesdays	Top Time	2.30pm to 4.00pm
Saturdays	Family Crafts and Lego Club	9.30am to 12.30pm

If you would like your activity or event listed here, let us know the details by emailing content@melfordmatters.org.uk. Details for June/July need to reach us by **1st May**.



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Parish Recording Matters

A Year of Parish Recording

First, I would like to thank everyone responsible for making Melford such a fantastic place to live, work and visit, the downside is the number of things I need to record! I have met some amazing people and listened to some fantastic stories; we are truly blessed to live in such a wonderful, vibrant village.

So much happened during the year it was impossible to record everything. What I have learnt from meeting and talking with other village recorders is you can't record everything. Each report is unique, there's no wrong or right way to document events, some reports consist of a few pages, others are large tomes. What I have tried to record are key happenings so in future years people can look back and gain an insight into how the residents of Melford rejoiced and celebrated some momentous and historic events.

The notable highlight was undoubtedly the King's Coronation: there have been some fabulous recorders in Suffolk, many of whom have never had the opportunity to record such a historic occasion. To record so many people having picnics and getting together with friends and neighbours on the village green was truly memorable.

The 2023 report also focussed on the new openings and change of proprietors to some of the village businesses along with reports into the highs and lows of village sport and a section related to the local elections. If there are any events that you think require a special mention this year, please contact melfordparishrecorder@hotmail.com. All Parish reports are currently in the process of being collated by the person who oversees the recorder program and then will be placed in the archive.

Parish Recorder, Geoff Randall



The Picnic on the Green to mark the King's Coronation was an event to remember – and include in the records
Photo: Geoff Randall



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(17 April) HOGARTH AT THE HUSTINGS:

the Election series & the birth of Political Satire
Hogarth's ruthless exposure of electoral corruption and hypocrisy sets the stage for Private Eye and digital artist Cold War Steve. Surprisingly topical themes emerge like voter identification and immigration.

(15 May) THE WOMAN WHO TOLD US WHERE TO GO

Margaret Calvert, working with Jock Kinneir, transformed Britain with their road sign system, and created the look of British Rail, the NHS and airports through typeface, colours and shapes.

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Fox Cub Nursery

At Long Melford Church of England Primary School we believe that all our children are special, but the Fox Cubs – the youngest children who attend our Nursery – are very special.

Children can join Nursery in the term in which they are three years old. From that moment, we begin to prepare them to ensure that they are 'school ready' for the start of their Reception year.

Parents can choose to send their children to school for mornings, afternoons or full days. We also support working parents with wrap-around care from 7.30am to 6.00pm. This is held on school premises and run by school staff.

At Long Melford, we are very lucky to have our Nursery and Reception Classes next to each other, with a shared space in the middle. Being next to each other, the two classes work closely together, and the children soon become familiar with the school environment as well as the staff and children across both classes.

Nursery join in with the rest of the school in activities such as celebration assemblies, school plays, World Book



Day and Sports Day. This helps them integrate with older children and learn some routines in readiness for starting Reception.

The children in our nursery class follow the curriculum for the Early Years (EYFS). Children take part in a range of learning activities, such as listening to stories, beginning to learn phonics, counting and measuring, singing and making music, drawing and painting, along

Junior Bell Ringers at Holy Trinity Church

On Tuesday 1st August 2023 we began a Junior Bell Ringers summer camp at Holy Trinity, where we had 10 young ringers aged between 7 and 12 begin a six-week course learning the art of campanology and understanding how the bells work. This was so successful, and the youngsters so enthusiastic, that we continued after summer, meeting each week on Tuesdays 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

Our young ringers are coming on in leaps and bounds, with the five older ringers all able to ring independently and one (Morgan) being accepted into the Suffolk Guild of Ringers on 27th January 2024. We anticipate that the other four older ringers will also make it into the guild by the end of March, making them fully qualified ringers.

All five older ringers also join our adult team at Wednesday practice and Morgan now regularly rings for Sunday services and events. We look forward to Ewan, Seth, Kimberley and Danny joining us soon.

If you would like to know more about bell ringing, please contact Linda Goodban (Tower Captain) on 07786 151650/email linda@rodbridge.com, or Theresa Munford (Deputy) on 07979 918027/email theresamunford1@aol.com.



We have
Spring
earn

number of badges, with some of them achieving their Bronze and Silver as a result of much hard work. Goodness and leadership are part of the Girlguiding educational framework, and our girls have been learning about these aspects and putting them into practice. Activities have included making Mother's Day pots and cards, but also having some Easter egg painting, playing games and building great

Our Model Railway Exhibition was a great success: thank you to the Guides who worked hard all that day, and to the parents who came and supported us. We were able to raise much-needed funds for our planned trip to Switzerland – we now have a mix of Guides and Leaders.

Summer term will end with an end-of-term camp: Guides will have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including board games and raft making to obstacle courses and abseiling.

with PE and a lot of free play. They learn through a combination of child-led and adult-led activities. They investigate and experience things and are always encouraged to 'have a go'.

Our fabulous staff observe what children are doing and shape their learning experiences based on their interests and level of development and achievement, before reporting the observations to parents using Tapestry, our online platform.

My favourite area in Nursery is the role-play area where this year I have been to the hairdressers, been bandaged in the hospital, visited the vet, had tea in the house, built walls and listened to singing! I can recommend 20 minutes in Nursery role-play as an excellent break from any paperwork!

If you have a Nursery-aged child and would like to come and look at our Fox Cub Nursery, please contact the school (01787 379929) to arrange a tour.

Amanda Woolmer, Headteacher



St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Diocesan Multi Academy Trust

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Scouts and Cubs – Help Given and Help Needed

Helping wildlife, fighting pollution and supporting vulnerable people have been on the agenda for the Long Melford Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs. They have been making bird feeders, with the Cubs building a feeding station at the local HQ. In March, guided by scout leader Hayley, Cubs and Scouts took part in The Big Plastic Count, tallying their plastic waste alongside thousands of people around the country, and Beavers and Squirrels participated in the fundraising drive for Red Nose Day. Squirrels and Beavers have also had lots of fun with the Chinese Year of the Dragon and enjoyed a wonderful pancake night.

The Beavers have completed their digital citizen badge with help from Farley at Breakout, as the Scouts have no Wifi at HQ. The Long Melford Scouts would like to extend their thanks and best wishes for the future to William Bradley, who for the last three years has helped as a young leader at Cubs.

On 21st April, St George's Day, Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be celebrating their patron saint.

Guide Headquarters are looking for help on the management Committee: they need a new treasurer and secretary, as well as a chairperson by the end of 2024. Meetings take place four times a year, and no fundraising is required. In addition, the Long Melford Scouts need leaders and help across all sections. If you would like to help, please email Carolyn Spraggons at Carolyn.spraggons@suffolkscouts.org.uk.



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Heritage Matters

The Long Melford Historical & Archaeological Society are delighted to be asked to contribute to the Heritage Matters section of Melford Matters.

**LONG MELFORD HISTORICAL
& ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Since we were established 55 years ago, we have accrued a substantial collection of photographs, documents and books etc. and have recently set up an Archive Group to sort through and catalogue these. Once we have listed the first 100 items, the catalogue will be available to view on our website: lmhas.co.uk. If anyone wishes to see the actual item or obtain a digital copy, this can be arranged for a small donation by contacting the Society.

Among the material donated over the years, we have already found some unique and extremely interesting items, including a fantastic map dating from the 1700s. The map is hand coloured and the beautifully drawn trees even have shadows next to them. Unfortunately, that map wasn't actually of Long Melford, but we have arranged to take it to the relevant history group for them to view, before we deposit it with Suffolk Archives, where it will be safe and available for future generations to use for historical research.

We are a small but perfectly formed group that meets once a month at the Old School Community Centre. The team is made up of a mix of people: some have lived in the village all their lives and others are more recent arrivals, but all have one thing in common – a love of local history.

Even with our shared knowledge, we are not always able to identify everything that we find in our archive: we thought that Melford Matters would be the perfect way to involve the community and get help with some of the more challenging items we come across. So, this is where we ask you...

Can you help us to tell their story?

At one of our recent meetings where we spend time cataloguing items, David Gevaux discovered this picture of six Long Melford postmen, taken some time in the 1930s. Many, if not all, would have seen service during the 1914-1918 War and lived through the traumas of the Second World War.

We would greatly appreciate your help in identifying these men and keeping their names alive for future generations.

If you know who they are or would like to join our group, please contact us by email: lmhas1969@outlook.com or telephone: 01787 375329.





THE SWAN
LONG MELFORD

Welcome to the Addisons, New Publicans at The Swan!

The Swan pub reopened its doors on 3rd February and what was supposed to be a “soft” opening turned into a hugely busy and successful night, with drinks flowing and live acoustic music playing. The new publicans of The Swan are Ashley and Gary Addison, who come with a wealth of experience running pubs.

The pair met in London when they were working in a busy West End pub together. Ashley, an Australian, had come over to London and after dipping her toes in nannying and the care sector, realised that hospitality was her future. The tenants of the West End pub had so much faith in the pair that they put them in charge at weekends and in time invested financially in them, acquiring the White Horse pub in Sudbury five years ago. With lots of hard work and determination, the Addisons bought their investors out after three years. Despite the lockdowns, their love for the community and resourcefulness got them through: the White Horse is today a great traditional pub.

Their dream was always to run two pubs, one with rooms for B&B – planning for their semi-retirement! As Ashley was scrolling on her phone one day, she noticed that The Swan was up for rent. All it took was a message to Gary and they got in touch with Greene King to arrange a visit. Before they knew it, they had a foundation agreement in place. There have been a few changes, particularly the pub sign that now looks like a pub, rather than a restaurant, sign. The couple have a tied agreement with Greene King, which means they buy their beer, spirits and minerals from them, but are also CIBA-affiliated and can rotate guest ales. Timothy Taylor Landlord is their main ale and every two weeks they swap their two guest ales.

Now Ashley runs The Swan and Gary The White Horse, and Ashley describes them jokingly as “rather like ships passing in the night at the moment!” Ashley is also expecting their fourth child and is training up a manager to take over when she is on maternity leave.

Ashley’s aspirations for The Swan are “a traditional pub with good family values and welcoming to all, including kids and dogs”, offering “traditional pub fare with honest food”. As with all new ventures, she’s experienced some teething issues with the kitchen but it is her priority to “get it right”.

There is a bar billiards table and they plan to set up a league playing on Thursday evenings. Anyone can join, experienced or not – it’s all for fun. Ashley also hopes to get a monthly quiz going. In the summer, weather permitting, there will be live acoustic music sessions. Already, St Patrick’s Day was very jolly with a wonderful singer.

The B&B is next on her list: they have four rooms with potential for five, with a launch date currently set for the end of March if possible.

When asked how she feels about being in Melford, Ashley said “the trade is far better than expected and so many have been welcoming. I can’t believe how much wine the Melfordians drink!” She adds “we’re hardworking people and want to create a nice environment for everyone...”

Easter Beer Festival – 28th March to 1st April

Nethergate Brewery of Long Melford are hosting their Annual Beer Festival again this Easter Bank Holiday Weekend. Enjoy over 20 of the finest beers and ciders Suffolk has to offer, dishes from our favourite local food vans, and immerse yourself in the enchanting tunes of live music in our taproom and garden. Best of all, entry is free, and kids are welcome! With ample indoor and outdoor cover, we’re ready for any weather. Rain or shine, join us for a weekend filled with fun and festivities! A Members’ Early Preview is taking place on Wednesday 27th March.



Business Matters

Antiques Fair Reaches 400 Not Out

On Wednesday 3rd April, the Long Melford Antiques Fair will be celebrating its 400th event. The organiser, Graham Turner, has attended every single one. He tells us: "The Fair has been held at the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of every month for the past 33 years. The only months we've missed were due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions."

Long before dawn on that day each month, Graham starts from his home on the Suffolk/Norfolk border to set up for the Fair. Once in Melford, he puts up signs around the village and prepares the hall. Then at 6.00am, over 40 professional dealers begin laying out their stalls. Doors open at 9.00am for trade buyers, who arrive promptly in order to snap up tempting pieces to sell in their shops. Admission for the general public runs from 9.30am to 3.00pm. The fair attracts exhibitors not just from East Anglia but from across the UK – Scotland, Yorkshire, Rutland, Kent and the Home Counties – and draws in over 200 visitors to the village each month.

"We have a 'dateline' policy of allowing our dealers to sell only genuine antiques dating from before 1930," says Graham, "so our visitors can be assured that they are getting quality items." There are pieces to suit every budget, from curios and jewellery to prints and engravings. So why not take a look round – the £1 entrance fee will easily be justified by the treasures you will find within.

Calling all Budding (!) Flower Arrangers

Anne Dickson is sharing her love of and expertise in floristry at a series of workshops at the Old School (see Diary for details). She encourages people to forget the day job and immerse themselves in creating beautiful floral designs as wreaths and other varied displays. She is keen to promote eco-friendly designs using sustainable mechanics and provides all the materials you will need for a session. At the April workshop, you can make a delightful handheld posy which could make a charming present or even be used by a bride. Full details of what is available and how to book can be found at www.justanneflowers.co.uk.



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so that your business can
be included in a feature in
Issue 20.

Nature Matters

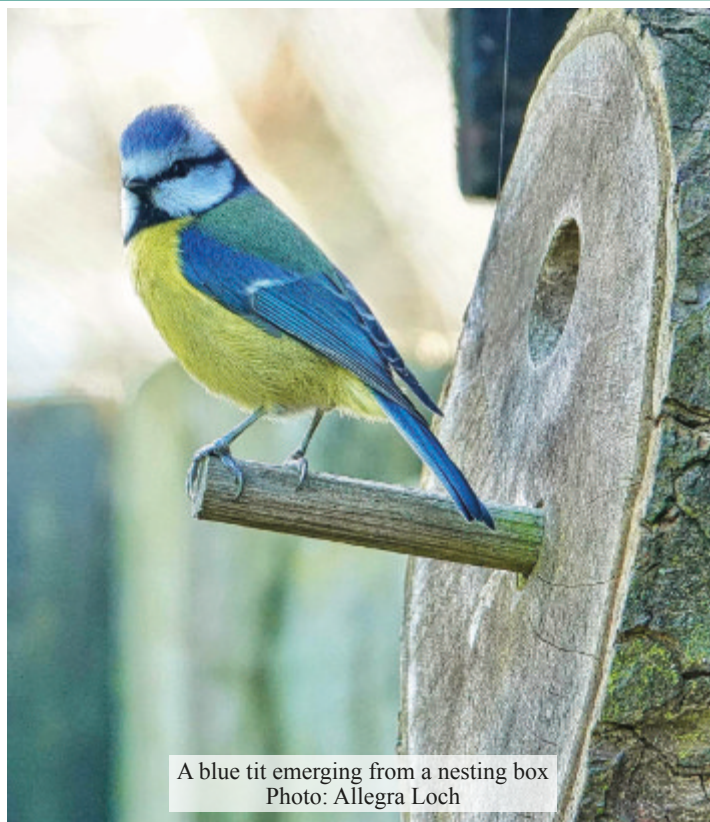
Country Park: May Bank Holiday Dawn Chorus Walk

For the third year, we are organising a guided Dawn Chorus Walk at the Country Park. Much volunteer work has gone into improving the environment for birds in the park. There are now areas of longer grass, more insect-friendly wildflowers, and dead trees are left to rot down, creating inviting habitats for many invertebrates. We have also erected 35 bird boxes, for great/blue tits, marsh tits, treecreepers and barn owls.

An annual record of the breeding birds surveyed each spring is posted on the toilet block wall near the café.

Why not join us for a wonderful Dawn Chorus Walk at 6.30am on Monday 6th May? We will help you to identify the birds of the park, both by sight and sound, and finish off the walk with a bacon roll and hot drink (veggie option available). The cost is £12.50.

Advance booking essential, please contact: jonathanewbank145@gmail.com.



A blue tit emerging from a nesting box
Photo: Allegra Loch



In May, we switch to summer plants: Begonias, Bidens, Calibrachoa, Sanvitalia, trailing geraniums and more, in a flaming red, yellow and orange theme. Let's hope we don't jinx the weather! We have some 90 barrels/planters etc. around the village and we provide displays all year round, so our volunteers do a great job. It's not all about flowers as we include grasses, perennials and small shrubs in some displays, for year-round leaf colour and to encourage insects.

2024 is our fifth anniversary and our aims are simple: to add to Melford's attraction for residents and visitors alike, to cheer people up and to improve the local environment. This will also be our fifth year working with the Constitution Hill Nursery and our second year with peat-free compost.

Why not help us? We need new volunteers. Contact: jonathanewbank145@gmail.com. No great experience is needed and we are a friendly bunch.

Long Melford Open Gardens

Showcasing what the village has to offer, Long Melford Open Gardens is the first major event of the year.

Gardeners have been really busy, fastidiously planting, weeding and trimming for the charity event.

With over 20 gardens on display, we are hoping the weather will be kind to us as ticket holders visit some of the hidden green gems behind the houses!

We have some lovely new gardens this year, as well as the tried and tested. Melford Hall will be opening their gardens for the event, in addition to Holy Trinity Church with its well-tended roses. Many gardens will be serving refreshments: these will be listed on the map printed on the ticket.

Why not grab a ticket from one of the retailers across the village and join in on Monday 27th May between 10.00am and 4.00pm? All proceeds to charity, so dig deep, and a big thanks to all our sponsors this year!

Adults: £7.50, children: free.



Nature Matters

Welcoming Nature into Long Melford

Spring is the busiest time of the year in nature's calendar. Hedgehogs have emerged, so please put out food and water to help them prepare for the breeding season. Kitten food (not fish based) or proprietary hedgehog food is ideal.

Most of the practical work of the Biodiversity Group has ended, as we mustn't disturb any wildlife busy raising families. Led by Cliff Dark, we worked with the Scouts to create more bird boxes, sited near the Village Hall. Existing boxes at the Country Park and Melford Walk are being well used, with signs that barn owls have been using the boxes at the park and in the churchyard to roost.

The wet and windy winter created work clearing fallen trees and keeping the drains on the Melford Walk flowing, but at times the water overwhelmed everything. We had the digger for another session this year at the Braithwaite Road end of the walk.



Henry the Hedgehog tucks in to dinner

We are hoping that this year the swifts, who return in May, will make use of the 70+ nest boxes that we erected over the past two years. We do not plan to increase the number of boxes this year, but welcome anyone who would like one to put up. Please get in touch.

Our latest exciting project is to create a Community Orchard, starting with the land behind Old Court this spring. As well as fruit trees, we hope to plant a few of the rare Black Poplars along the Chad Brook. The area will still be accessible for walking. Volunteers will work with Babergh District Council to plant and care for the trees. Anyone wanting to get involved and in return benefit from the delicious produce, please get in touch.

All our work requires the dedication of volunteers and we need more! Whilst some of what we do is physical, we also need people to help with flower and bird surveys over the summer months – no expertise needed as apps on mobile phones are used for identification!

Please get in touch if you would like to get involved with any of our activities.

Jane Burch, jane_burch@yahoo.co.uk



long melford
biodiversity
group



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Gardening Matters – Notes from the potting shed

First of all, can we thank everyone who supported the Seed Swap in so many ways? There were more village gardening groups represented than ever before and so many gardeners kindly donating and sharing seeds. We're very optimistic about Melford looking lovelier than ever if those seeds germinate well.

Meanwhile, we have had a query from a gardener about why he has such trouble getting sweetcorn to germinate. How frustrating that is because, let's face it, few things are more delicious than fresh home-grown sweetcorn. We have a reliable technique to suggest which a good gardener shared with us a few years ago: place the dry kernels in a plastic box on very damp tissue or kitchen paper. Seal the box with a tight fitting lid and leave it somewhere dark with some warmth, such as an airing cupboard. Within a week, you should see germination of all kernels. As soon as you can see both a curly white root and a

straight cream shoot emerge, pot each one on and grow until they reach sufficient size to plant out. As with all seedlings, it is well worth hardening them off before planting out by gradually exposing them to outdoor conditions by day and still protecting them overnight. As a young plant, sweetcorn needs plenty of moisture whilst the extensive root structure forms to support the giant it will become. We have found, however, that extensive mulching round the young plants will significantly reduce their need for any subsequent watering.

If you're a lily lover (and who wouldn't be?) you are probably familiar with the damage those exotic looking red lily beetles can cause, both the adults chomping on the leaves and then the larvae feasting too. They have the most amazing instinct for self-preservation and will drop to the ground upside down if they feel threatened and, since their underside is black, they are then almost invisible. How you deal with them is, of course, a matter of personal choice but you might be interested to know that the RHS is monitoring their presence closely. If you find lily beetles, you can report the details by going to the RHS website at www.rhs.org.uk and completing a lily beetle report form. Our experience is certainly that they are increasing in number and appetite.

Looking forward to another splendid Open Gardens Day, celebrating so much beauty and gardening talent in our lovely village.

Don't forget to send your queries and tips in to gardening@melfordmatters.org.uk.

Happy Gardening!



Lily beetles and their distinctive bite mark in the leaf

Long Melford Village Memorial Hall

Situated in our beautiful village, the hall is the perfect venue for your event, however large or small. It offers a large function room with a stage area and a fully equipped kitchen. Tables and chairs are available free of charge if you need them and there is a large car park for the use of your guests. Whether your event is a family party, a wedding reception, a fundraising evening, an exercise class, a regular community event or a simple meeting we are sure the Memorial Hall will suit your needs.

	Monday - Thursday	Friday - Sunday
Commercial rate	£16 per hour	£19 per hour
Standard rate	£13 per hour	£16 per hour
Melford resident rate	£10 per hour	£13 per hour

Audio visual equipment available @ £25 per session

To book Long Melford Village Memorial Hall for your event visit our website
<https://www.longmelfordvillagehall.co.uk/how-to-book/>
or call 07379 894325

Parish Council Matters

Parking Bollards

Phase 1 of the replacement parking bollards is now complete. Thank you for your patience when the contractors had to close off some of the parking bays while the work was carried out. Phase 2 will begin in the second week of April and will continue where they left off, outside the Crown public house.

Hot off the Press is the Cordell Place Play Area upgrade – on 4th March the Babergh Cabinet met to discuss, among others, Long Melford's application for funding for the play area. I am extremely pleased to say that this application was successful; a formal letter confirming this will be sent out to us as soon as the lease on the land has been formalised and signed. Watch this space for future updates!

Another Council project is the **Country Park toilet block renovation**. A scope of the work involved has now been sent to contractors and I hope to be receiving the tenders back in soon.

A New Parish Councillor

At its March meeting, the Parish Council unanimously voted to co-opt Jeremy Fry to fill a vacancy. Jeremy (see right) has been a resident of Long Melford for the past seven years and I am certain that he will be an asset to the Council and the residents of the village.

Babergh Parking Charges Proposal

The Parish Council were asked to engage with Babergh District Council on their parking strategy proposal. The Council's response will be published along with that of neighbouring councils and the results communicated on Babergh's website. The



New Parish Councillor Jeremy Fry

"I'm 61 years old and have lived in Suffolk almost all of those. I'm married to Jan and we have one daughter and a grandson. We have recently retired having run our own business for over 30 years. I'm looking forward to supporting the residents of Long Melford as much as I can."

feedback will be reflected in proposals to be examined by Babergh's Overview and Scrutiny Committee before going to Cabinet for a final decision.

What's On in Long Melford

The first "What's On in Long Melford" event is happening in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 17th April between 2.00pm and 6.00pm**. This event will be a showcase of what Long Melford has to offer. Many local clubs, societies and interest groups will be there so it's your chance to find out what there is to do in the village and how you can get involved. This is the first of hopefully many events, so please come along, show your support and let us know what you think and want to see next time. For more information please visit <https://mylongmelford.co.uk>.



Parish Assembly

The event then leads into the Parish Assembly; many of the organisations and local groups will still be in attendance for anyone that wishes to attend in the evening. Running from **6.30pm to 8.00pm**, the Parish Assembly is your opportunity to meet your Parish Councillors, have your say and help us make a difference to your village.

Clare Lee, Parish Clerk

Richard Kemp
County Councillor

01787 378149
richard.kemp@suffolk.gov.uk

Adam Kemp

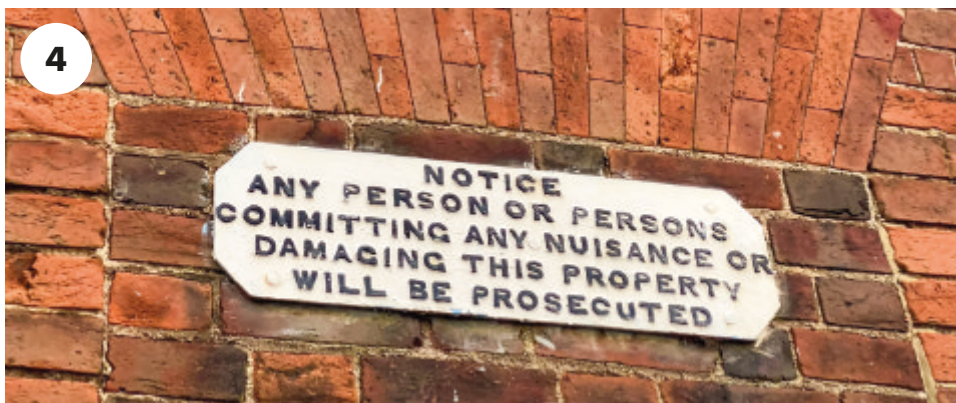
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Brain Matters



A Melford Picture Quiz

Can you work out where all these sights in Melford are to be found?

Answers on page 30.



Health Matters

Long Melford and Lavenham Surgeries Patient Participation Group

As a requirement by the National Health Service (NHS), all surgeries are encouraged to have a Patient Participation Group (PPG), which meets to discuss practice issues and the patient experience, with a view to improving the service.

Now two years old, the PPG for our surgeries meets regularly with the practice to discuss relevant matters. We have produced an information leaflet about such topics as e-consults, missed appointments or joining the PPG, which will soon be available in the surgeries, pharmacies and the library. We hope that you will find it useful and welcome any feedback.

We are currently working with the Long Melford practice to have the defibrillator moved to the wall of the surgery from the former British Legion building, and looking at what can be done to ensure that any proposals for the latter's site are beneficial for the surgery and the wider community.

If you are interested in joining us, please email scott.hanson@nhs.net, or fill out our form online.

Anne Hinds, PPG Chair



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News from the Skyline Networks Stadium

It certainly proved a good Christmas and New Year for Long Melford FC, the tenth oldest football club in the country. At the time of writing, they have lost just once in the last seven games, including holding the league leaders Mildenhall to a draw. If this run of form continues, they should be able to climb up the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division. Success too in the League Cup, where they beat Hutton 4-0 and now travel to Harlow Town for a tough semi-final match.

The Under-23 team have experienced a difficult time of late due to injuries and academic studies with a resultant dip in form. A recent win at Halstead has raised spirits and they hope to progress in the Suffolk Reserve Cup.

Forthcoming home fixtures include Saturday 30th March against Dereham, Wednesday evening 3rd April Under-23s against Holland, Saturday 6th April against Soham Town, Saturday 13th April Under-23s against Woodbridge, Saturday 20th April against Downham.

Long Melford Cricket Club

The new season has begun, with club sponsor Granville Developments starting a new three-year deal. Smart new shirts for the adult teams now show squad numbers on the back as well.



The club is fielding four adult teams again this season, two on a Saturday and two on a Sunday. New members are very welcome.

We hope to start a women's softball cricket team this year. If this is of interest to you, why not come along and join in?

On bank holiday Monday 6th May, LMCC are hosting a Suffolk under-15 girls' match. This 40-over game against Norfolk will include our very own Lexi.

Juniors (up to age 15) train every Thursday evening: please come down to Meeting Field and support them.

If you just fancy a pint or a glass of wine on a weekend afternoon, why not pop along and enjoy Melford's largest beer garden whilst watching some cricket? Chairs can be provided and feel free to bring a picnic. The bar will be open with a full selection of Nethergate's finest ales.

On the evening of Saturday 4th May, we host the Long Melford Charity Ball with a full Indian buffet and great entertainment (tickets through Chris Mathews on 07885 366412) and on Sunday 5th May a charity football match kicks off at 1.00pm, raising funds for the charity Children with Cancer – great fun for a good cause.



Our partners Stour Valley Men's Shed meet at the stadium every Wednesday morning from 10.00am (07772 870052), providing a safe space to connect, converse and create.

Follow us on Facebook for details of all events: Skyline Network Stadium – venue for hire and home of Long Melford FC.

Finally, a big thank you to all our volunteers who help to provide a supportive base for sport and community events.

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Directory of Clubs and Societies

Group	Contact	Phone/email
Beading (Suffex Bead Club)	Victoria Power	07866 996124
Beaver Scouts	Carolyn Spraggons	carolyn.spraggons@suffolkscouts.org.uk
Chadbrook Guides	Rebecca Cox	chadbrookguides@gmail.com
Coffee & Cake @ St Catherine's	Margaret Taylor	01787 880875
Connect Toddler Group	Pam Tonks	07890 880976
Cricket Club	Ivan Newman	07944 893167
Folk and Acoustic Club	Pauline O'Brien	poboap123@gmail.com
Football Club	Richard Kemp	01787 378149
Friends of LM Church Building Fund	Richard Michette	01787 377164
Friends of Long Melford Library	Nick Castell	help@suffolklibraries.co.uk
Good Neighbours' Scheme	Helen Eaton	07504 249179
Historical and Archaeological Society	Ian Sandham	07586 354414 Lmhas1969@outlook.com
Holy Trinity and St Catherine's Church	Rev. Matthew Lawson	01787 310845
Keep Fit	Heather Mahony	01449 736662
Long Melford Community Sports Trust	Peter Turner	01787 468536
Long Melford Cub Scouts	David Lawrance	melford.cubs@suffolkscouts.org.uk
Long Melford Group Scout Leader	Stephen Spraggons	melfordgsl@aol.com
Long Melford Museum and Heritage Centre	John Nunn	01787 313496
Long Melford Litter Pickers	Claire Hargreaves	07899 696491
Long Melford Photographic Group	Derek Challis	01787 373738
Long Melford CE Primary School	Mrs Woolmer	01787 379929
Long Melford Scout Group Waiting List	Carolyn Spraggons	carolyn.spraggons@suffolkscouts.org.uk
Long Melford Squirrel Scouts	Lynda Badger	lyncarvell@hotmail.com
Long Melford Walking Group	Mike Turner	07733 102229
Long Melford Poppies (Women's Institute)	Valerie Butler	valeriejbutler@btinternet.com
Melford Music	John Watts	01787 310373
Neighbourhood Watch	Stuart Finch	07967 472488
Over Sixties Club	Mrs Albon and Mrs Woodgate	371413/376711
Old School bookings	Rosey Eade	schoolbooking1860@gmail.com
Parish Recorder	Geoff Randall	07519 626842 Melfordparishrecorder@hotmail.com
Project Seven	Andrew Hagger	07980 526067
Royal British Legion	John Nunn	nunnjohn@btinternet.com
Scout and Guide HQ bookings	Vicki Ramdhanie	lmsglettings@gmail.com
Silver Band	Mike Murkin	01787 312605
The Arts Society Stour Valley	John Ashton	07899 872222
Upbeat Heart Support	Hilary Neeves	01359 232678
Village Hall bookings	lettings.longmelfordvillagehall@hotmail.com	07379 894325

Please notify us of any additions or changes by emailing content@melfordmatters.org.uk. Amendments must be received by **1st May** to be included in Issue 20 – June/July.

Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1. St Catherine's Church | 5. Almacks, Hall Street (near Chips 'n' Chopstix) | 8. A hedgehog crossing at the entrance to the cricket pitch |
| 2. Behind the fire station | 6. Chemists Lane, near the Village Hall | 9. The Spigot, a WWII gun emplacement, in Skylarks Way |
| 3. The cricket pavilion | 7. Magpie Cottage, Hall Street | 10. A hole in the wall, in Little St Mary's, opposite Roman Way |
| 4. Cock and Bell Lane | | |



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