

MELFORD

Issue 28 October/November 2025

Matters



A goldfinch
Photo: Jerry Ridout

Tea and Tiaras

Enjoy a fascinating talk devoted to glamour and fashion, plus afternoon tea and a raffle

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Wildlife Report

How this summer's unusually hot weather has affected our local birds, moths and butterflies

Page 23

Nethergate Grows

Local brewery to expand with new café, landscaped gardens and electric car chargers

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welcome!



Welcome to issue 28 of your village magazine. As we move into autumn, there is plenty going on in our lovely village. There will be lots of information about Festive Long Melford in the next issue but please do make a note in your diary now that it will be on Saturday 29th November, all day, throughout the village.

We are particularly pleased to include a diary produced by three Melford pupils, covering their activities during their first year of having an allotment, see p.24. Our Scouts and Guides have also been having a very busy summer and they have kindly shared some of their adventures with us, see pp.16-17 for all of that. Also, you can find the inside story of

the West Suffolk branch of the Campaign for Real Ale, as well as our local brewery's exciting expansion plans, see pp.20-21.

If you are looking for a way to volunteer in the village, there are appeals from the Old School (p.4) and Good Neighbours (p.5).

By the way, did you know that the full magazine, in colour throughout, is available online at

longmelfordvillagehall.co.uk/melford-matters

(or scan the QR code below)? If you know someone who would like to read the content but is not based in Melford, please let them know about the digital version. We welcome and value all comments on the magazine and its contents.

Please do keep getting in touch at content@melfordmatters.org.uk



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Community Matters

Old School

It's been a busy few months at The Old School where, following a successful Big Lottery grant application, we've begun renovation work on the Partridge Room. The windows have been beautifully restored, and a full refresh and redecoration will complete its transformation to make the Old School an even more inviting community space for all.



Of course, creating vibrant community spaces doesn't happen by accident. It's made possible by the input and efforts of our committee members, volunteers and hirers, and it is their commitment that keeps the doors open so people have spaces to gather and activities to invigorate the body and soul.

At the moment, we're seeking new input and ideas to benefit our wonderful village further. So, whether you have professional expertise, practical skills or just a passion you want to share, we would love to hear from you. Our committee meets for two hours every other month and is a great way to meet people, share ideas and shape the future of The Old School – a space which has been a part of our village for generations.

If you'd like to use the space to share a skill or host an event, you'll find a very welcoming team to support your dream. We already have a lively selection of yoga, fitness, community and art classes, and a mobile sauna will be joining our roster soon!

So, if you want to add to that, or do something completely different (supper club anyone?), please get in touch via email (schoolbookings1860@gmail.com) or Facebook (The Old School Long Melford).



Music on the Green 2025

Well what can I say, Melford, you were amazing. I was truly blown away by the numbers that turned up for the Parish Council's event and there was I, worrying right up until the day that no one would turn up. How wrong I was. I'm not sure there was much grass left for people to sit on. Thank you, thank you, thank you for supporting this fantastic event, such a wonderful display of the village coming together to enjoy the local bands and solo artists, and supporting the local food and drink vendors. You ate and drank them dry! The free children's entertainment proved to be a massive hit with children and parents alike. This event really would not have been possible without the support of the parish councillors, so a big thank you from me. Anyone up for another one next year?

Clare Lee, Parish Clerk

Long Melford Walking Group

The Long Melford Walking Group is a safe, sociable, free and hopefully fun way to explore walks around Melford and further afield. We tend to walk between 4 and 15 miles and there is usually a pub involved somewhere. It's guided, but as there are no formally trained first aiders, it's 'walk at your own risk'. Just contact Mike Turner on 07733 102229 if you would like to join.

In May 2026, some members of the walking group are attempting 'The Portuguese Coastal Camino'. It's a 275km, fairly flat, walk over 14 days from Porto to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. A professional support company arranges the accommodation and luggage transfer. Please contact Mike for more details.





Online Learning

Did you know that the Women's Institute provides flexible access to education via online courses and workshops for all?

WI members can enjoy most of the courses free of charge. Non-members are also welcome: most of the courses are open to everyone for just a small fee.

No matter who you are or where you're starting from, learning has the power to open doors, build confidence and spark new passions. The WI Learning Hub is a friendly, inclusive space designed to support you at every step, whether you're looking to try something new, grow a skill, or simply enjoy learning at your own pace. With a wide range of engaging, flexible courses, there's something for everyone.

The sessions are live online and most of the courses are recorded, so that you can catch up at a time convenient to you.

Some examples of sessions available during September:

- Crafting – Crochet a Christmas Bauble; Learn to Sketch; Journalling; Digital Art.
- Talks – The Great Apes; Tunisia; Digital Journalism; Vegetables that Thrive in Pots.
- Exercise and Wellbeing – Introduction to Aromatherapy; Yoga and Pilates; Seated Strength Training.

While most courses are open to everyone regardless of gender, some topics may occasionally be offered as women-only sessions (these will be clearly marked in the description). Some specialised courses may be exclusive to WI members.

Find out more at the WI Learning Hub:

<https://learninghub.thewi.org.uk>

Local Activities

After a busy summer, **Long Melford WI** is now focussing on autumn activities.

• Thursday 2nd October

We will be doing a **Sewing Bee Transformation Challenge**. Groups of six ladies – with one being the model – will choose from a selection of old clothing, cut it up and transform it into a garment to be revealed on the night. Judging will be based on creativity and the use of selected fabrics, and there will be a prize for the winning team.

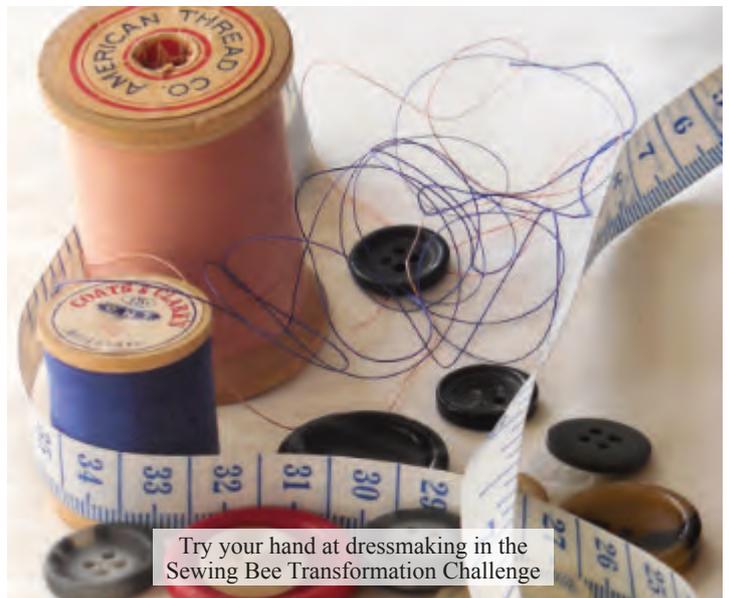
• Thursday 6th November

This meeting will be a **Craft Evening**, making handmade gift tags for your Christmas presents.

Meetings are held in The Bull Hotel from 7.15pm. Come along and try us out. The meetings are fun, friendly and you will be made welcome.

We also have a coffee morning group, a book club, supper club and a walking group – lots of ways to meet up with your WI friends.

Considering joining Long Melford WI? Contact amy@melfordestate.co.uk for more information.



Try your hand at dressmaking in the Sewing Bee Transformation Challenge



As we move into Autumn, are you thinking 'new term, new venture'? If so, we would love to welcome you onto our volunteer team.

Our drivers provide transport to other villagers who need to get to various medical appointments in the area. We also have regular coffee mornings, provide befrienders, complete small household jobs and collect prescriptions or shopping. There is no specific commitment – just help out as and when you can.

If this is something you could be interested in, please call 07504 249179 and leave your contact details. We will get back to you for a further chat. We look forward to hearing from you.

Helen, Chair LMGNS

Community Matters

More Tea (and Tiaras), Vicar?

After last year's sell-out success, Downton Abbey jeweller Andrew Prince is back with a new illustrated talk in his 'Teas and Tiaras' series.

Andrew, who lives and makes his jewellery in the village, worked on three seasons of Downton and two of the three film spin-offs. His creations have been worn by Maggie Smith, Elizabeth McGovern, Michelle Dockery and Lily James.

Some of these will be on show at the afternoon event at the village hall on Wednesday 29th October, when Andrew will continue his history of jewellery and fashion. This time he focuses on the 'Glamour Years' between 1929 and 1959. He will show the extraordinary effect that both Hollywood and the Second World War had on fashion and jewellery design, and how stars such as Marlene Dietrich (pictured) and Joan Crawford influenced ordinary women's lives.

Once again, a lavish afternoon tea will be served and there will be a raffle, with the chance to win one of Andrew's own pieces. All proceeds go to the Holy Trinity medieval stained glass conservation fund.

Doors open at 1.30pm and the tickets cost £15. To book, call/text Simon on 07765 898650.



Marlene Dietrich in Twentieth Century Fox's *No Highway*, 1951
Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Long Melford Open Gardens 2026: Monday 25th May

I know spring seems like a long time away, but this event takes some planning and lots of time and effort!

Would you like to open your garden for this charity event next year? In 2026, we would really love to have some gardens from the Skylarks, Roman Way and Cordell areas in addition to others, so that our gardens are spread across the village. Come on, show us what you have got!

We welcome all gardens, big and small ... What matters is that we have enough gardens to justify the ticket price and to make lots of money for Long Melford good causes! The proceeds from next year's event will be shared between:

- Long Melford Almshouses (which provide accommodation for local people in need),
- Melford in Bloom (supporting the beautiful flower containers spread across the village), and
- Holy Trinity Church.

All proceeds (after costs for advertising/boards etc) go to the above.

For more details, please email The Mill at contact@themill-longmelford.com, call 01787 378035 or mobile text/WhatsApp on 07791 532531. We look forward to hearing from you,

Paul (The Mill) & Farley (Breakout Long Melford)

Scaresville Returns to Kentwell Hall

Kentwell Hall's award-winning *Scaresville* returns this autumn from **15th October to 1st November 2025**. Firmly established as one of East Anglia's most anticipated autumn events, Scaresville transforms the estate into an evening experience unlike any other.

It's the sheer volume of distinct experiences that makes Scaresville different from other scare events. The scenes come thick and fast: from dark rooms to circus clowns, through pitch black mazes and the wild woods. With new ideas each year, the layout and themes are carefully reimagined and while details remain a closely guarded secret to preserve the experience, the event is well known for its originality, atmosphere and professional production.

Scaresville is designed for adults and teenagers aged 14 and over and is not suitable for children. Hot food and refreshments will be available on site, and advance booking is essential, as timed entry slots help manage visitor flow.

Whether you are a first-time visitor or a regular, Scaresville offers a memorable night out in the unique setting of Kentwell Hall.

Tickets and further information:
www.scaresville.co.uk

Community Matters

Village Hall News

Aren't the hanging baskets at the hall looking great? Thanks to regular watering by the Long Melford in Bloom team, the sunny weather of the summer has really turbo-charged them. It has also greatly boosted the output from our solar panels, which have generated 7.3MWh of electricity, covering 90% of the hall's own power consumption and exporting over 3.0MWh back to the grid.

The external woodwork was all given a fresh coat of paint in April, and internal decorations were undertaken in July. Unfortunately the hall continues to have problems with damp and rot affecting the floor in the Gents WC and by the bar. Temporary repairs have been undertaken and we hope the permanent repairs will be completed shortly. Apologies for any inconvenience in the meanwhile.

As well as hosting a regular programme of events and activities, the hall is available to hire for private parties, meetings or other events. For details contact lettings.longmelfordvillagehall@hotmail.com.

LMVMH Management Committee



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Reflections

All of It!

A very wealthy widow had died. Alongside the sympathy being expressed in her community, there was a bit of a buzz as people contemplated her will. How much will her descendants get? How much will she give to charity? Will she give some money to fix the church roof? And so on. At the wake on the day of the funeral, one of the more forthright ladies in the village took the vicar aside and asked, "how much did she leave?" ... "All of it!" came the blunt reply.



With the financial direction of travel at the moment, with seemingly ever-increasing taxes, some of us are probably wondering whether we will have anything worth passing on at all when our own demise comes! But this apocryphal story does raise an important point – for all our worries about money, there are more important issues at stake.

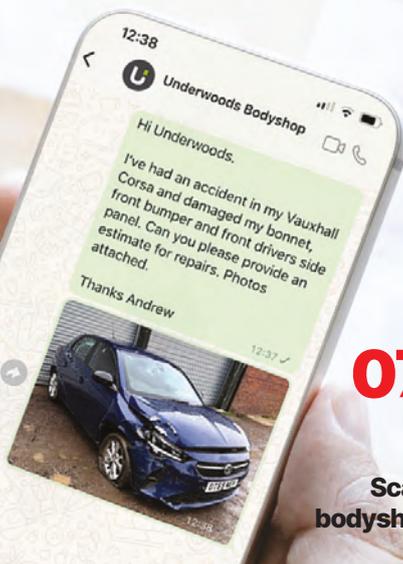
Don't be like the rich fool in Jesus's parable, whose life was taken from him just as he'd got his financial security sorted. Rather, Jesus taught that we should build up treasures in heaven, where thieves do not break in, and where moth and rust do not destroy. No matter what the economy does over the next few months, we have a fantastic investment opportunity every day! Seek to love God and neighbour ... and be generous; invest in things that please God and you will get an eternal reward. Furthermore, your soul will be better prepared for whatever storms lie ahead.

The Revd. Matthew Lawson

Interested in Baptism or Confirmation?

If you would like to consider being confirmed or baptised this year please feel free to contact the Rector on 01787 310845 or revmattis@gmail.com.

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Suffolk
Community Libraries

We're excited to be taking part in another Festive Long Melford! The Friends of Long Melford Library's Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 29th November, 10.00am-12.00 noon**. We'll have delicious homemade preserves and jams, cakes and fudge for sale, as well as beautifully presented scented winter bulbs including hyacinth and indoor narcissi. These all make perfect Christmas gifts or a treat for yourself! There will also be a raffle and children's prize draw. All proceeds help support your library and our work in the community.

We are also pleased to be welcoming back the Society of Bookbinders on **Saturday 6th December, 9.30am-12.30pm**. There will be demonstrations on making and repair from the experts, as well as a chance for adults and children to make their own book to take home.



Nick's Picks

Lisa Ridzén's book *When the Cranes Fly South* tells the story of Bo as his quiet life becomes increasingly interrupted by the daily comings and goings of his care team and son. We are put in Bo's shoes and shown the story through the eyes of his family, friends, and caregivers. This story is a moving reflection on grief, loss, and letting go. Ridzén asks what makes a good life and studies human relationships in all their complexity – the worries, frustrations, and long shadows of the past.

In *Wildlands* by **Brogen Murphy**, sisters Astrid and Indie find themselves alone in the Wildlands, a vast area of Britain where wolves and lynx roam free in a not-too-distant-future. With only a rucksack, a phone without signal and each other to rely on, they must find their way back home in this adventure, which gently explores environmental and domestic issues.

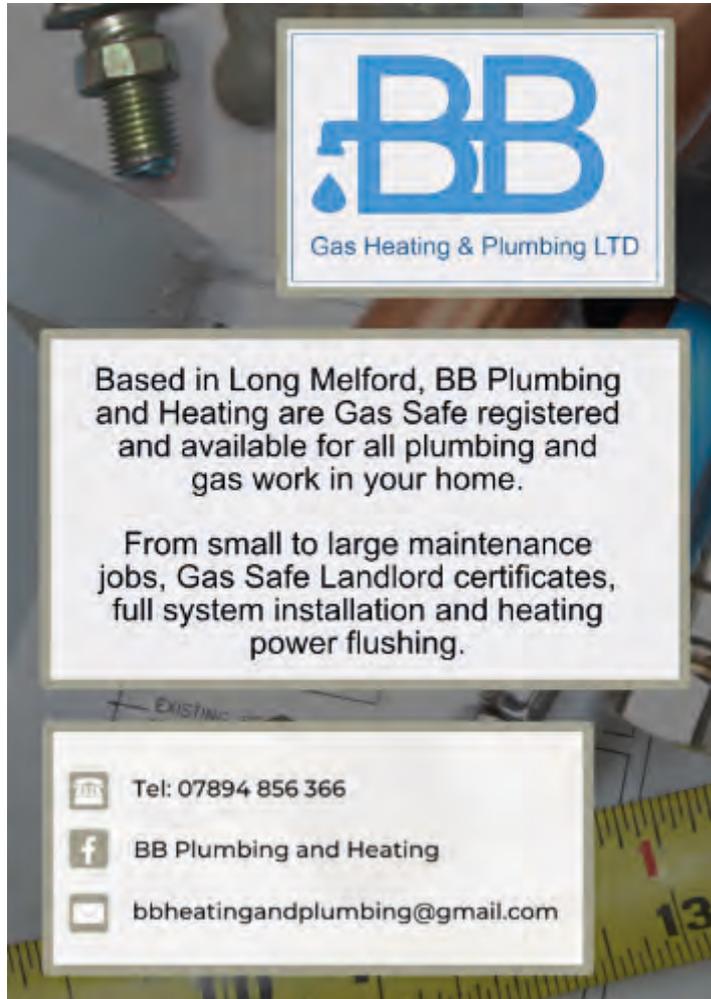


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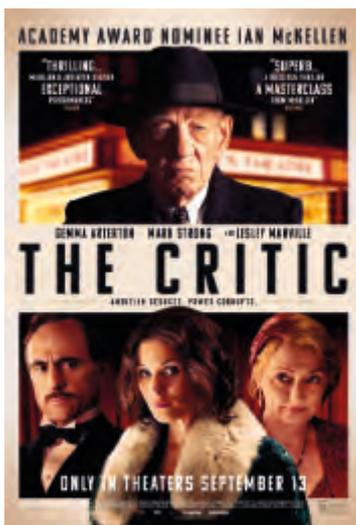
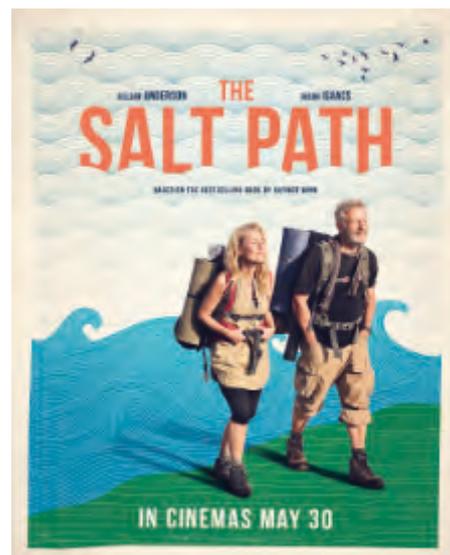
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MELFORD MOVIES

In our film on **10th October**, **The Salt Path** (12A), Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs star as Raynor and Moth Winn who, after losing their home, undertake to walk the South West Coast Path. The film is based on a bestselling book which has been the subject of recent controversy over its factual accuracy, so come along and see what all the fuss has been about. Whether the story is truth or fiction, it is well told and beautifully set in the dramatic scenery of the West Country.



The Critic (15), our film on **14th November**, is a suspenseful thriller starring Ian McKellen, Mark Strong, Lesley Manville and Gemma Arterton. A powerful London theatre critic lures a struggling actress into a blackmail scheme with deadly consequences.

Screenings are at **Long Melford Village Memorial Hall**. Doors open at 7.00pm and the film begins at 7.30pm. **Entrance £5**. If you'd like to reserve seats, please email us. Refreshments are available before the film starts and during a short interval. Each screening includes a raffle in aid of a different local charity or good cause – email us if you'd like to nominate one.

The Melford Movies team melfordmovies@icloud.com



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Long Melford Silver Band

The Band has recently welcomed two new players on cornet and tenor horn, but we would still welcome two trombones (tenor and bass) and a Bb bass.



Plans are well advanced for this year's 'away weekend' to Ypres, Belgium, where we will be taking part in the daily service of remembrance at the Menin Gate, where every evening the Last Post is played in memory of the Allied fallen in World War I.

We are also looking forward to our second 'Festival of Remembrance' at Clare Town Hall on Sunday 9th November at 5.30pm. Other forthcoming performances include:

- Saturday 29th November at 2.00pm
Festive Long Melford
- Friday 19th December at 7.30pm
Christmas Concert, Glemsford Church
- Saturday 20th December at 7.30pm
Band's Christmas Concert
- Sunday 21st December at 6.00pm
Carol Service, Clare Baptist Church

MELFORD FORGET-ME-NOTS

Suffolk Art Society will be returning to St Edmundsbury Cathedral for their Autumn Exhibition from 21st October to 1st November.

Raising funds for St Nicholas Hospice and the cathedral, 60 Suffolk artists will be selling their latest artworks.

The exhibition can be found along the South Aisle. Open daily 9.30am-5.00pm, apart from 24th October (1.00-5.00pm), Sun 26th October (12.00 noon-3.15pm) and Saturday 1st November (9.30am-4.00pm).

Admission is free.

Keep Active: Keep Fit for Seniors

An exercise class designed especially for seniors and folks with mobility issues is held every Tuesday at 1.30pm at Stoneylands Football Club.

For further information contact Jane McClure on 07944 919 328.

Do you enjoy the Country Park or Melford Walk?

We are a friendly group of volunteers and would welcome some new recruits to help us out at either the Park or on the Walk, or both.

We hold ad hoc group-working sessions throughout the year and carry out various jobs such as maintaining the footpaths, cutting and raking back the established wildflower areas, staining benches and sometimes litter picking.

It's a great way to spend an hour or two outdoors working with others and it's really satisfying to see the 'before and after' of our efforts. We even sometimes get to Nethergate afterwards for a pint or two!

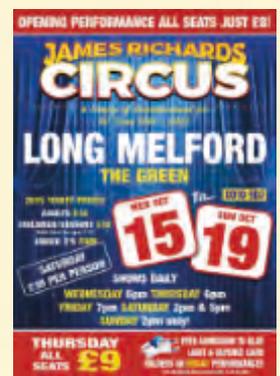
If you're interested in helping out, please email lisatipper72@hotmail.com for more information.

Remembrance Parade

Remembrance Sunday is 9th November. The parade will gather at the Old School and set off at 10.15am, walking towards the church on the path along the greens and led by a piper. The Salute will be taken on the green opposite the Black Lion. The service will start at 10.45am – further details will be announced by the church via their social media and newsletter. Following the service, the parade will return to the Old School.

Following last year's success, the fabulous **James Richards Circus** will be returning to the Top Green from the 15th October through to the 19th.

Check out their Facebook page and website for promotional offers and discounts during the week.



Put a note in your diary for this year's *Festive Long Melford* which will be held on *Saturday 29th November*. Full details will be provided in our next issue.

Wellness Fair

After careful consideration, we made the decision to cancel the September Wellness Fair.

A family member and I had been in hospital and we soon realised the event could not go ahead without us.

We appreciate the enthusiasm and support that we have received from our amazing vendors and the public, and this is not the end of our journey. We will see you next year. Dates to be announced.



Clare and Oliver

Diary Matters

OCTOBER	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Wednesday 1st	9.00am to 3.30pm	Antiques Fair	Village Hall
	7.00pm	Full Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Thursday 2nd	7.15pm	WI Meeting – Sewing Bee Challenge (see page 5)	Bull Hotel
Saturday 4th	8.00pm	Live Music – ‘ <i>Suffolk Slappers</i> ’	Working Men’s Club
Wednesday 8th	7.00pm	Evening of Mediumship with Sue Breen – £20 cash on door	Stoneylands Football Club
Thursday 9th	10.00 to 11.30am	Good Neighbours/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School
	1.00 to 3.00pm	Self-defence and self-awareness hosted by WI	Village Hall
Friday 10th	7.00pm	Melford Movies – ‘ <i>The Salt Path</i> ’	Village Hall
	8.00pm	Folk & Acoustic Club	Cock & Bell
Wednesday 15th	11.00am to 12 noon	The Arts Society Stour Valley – The influence of Japanese art on Impressionist and Post-impressionist painting	Village Hall
Wednesday 15th to Sunday 19th	Various	James Richards Circus (see page 11)	Top Green
Thursday 16th	7.30pm	LM Historical & Archaeological Society – ‘Tudor Housing Revolution’	Old School
Thursday 23rd	10.00 to 11.30am	Good Neighbours/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School
Saturday 25th	9.30am to 4.00pm	Antiques & Vintage Fair	Old School
	8.00pm	Live Music – ‘ <i>Lower The Tone</i> ’	Working Men’s Club
Sunday 26th	9.30am to 4.00pm	Antiques & Vintage Fair	Old School
	10.00am	Long Melford Litter Pickers	
Wednesday 29th	2.00 to 4.00pm	‘Tea & Tiaras’ – talk by Andrew Price (see page 6)	Village Hall
Thursday 30th	1.45pm	Long Melford Litter Pickers	
NOVEMBER			
Saturday 1st	6.00pm	Family Halloween Party – Free entry	Stoneylands Football Club
	8.00pm	Event – Halloween Karaoke	Working Men’s Club
Wednesday 5th	9.00am to 3.30pm	Antiques Fair	Village Hall
	7.00pm	Full Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Thursday 6th	7.15pm	WI Meeting – Christmas Craft Evening (see page 5)	Bull Hotel
	10.00 to 11.30am	Good Neighbours/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School
Sunday 9th	From 10.15am	Remembrance Parade to Holy Trinity (see page 11)	From Old School to Holy Trinity

Diary Matters

NOVEMBER (CONTINUED)

Friday 14th	7.00pm	Melford Movies – ‘The Critic’	Village Hall
	8.00pm	Folk & Acoustic Club	Cock & Bell
Saturday 15th	8.00pm	Live Music – ‘Revoked’	Working Men’s Club
Wednesday 19th	11.00am to 12 noon	The Arts Society Stour Valley – Stanley Spencer	Village Hall
Thursday 20th	10.00 to 11.30am	Good Neighbours/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School
	7.30pm	LM Historical & Archaeological Society – ‘Sudbury in the 60s’	Old School
Saturday 22nd	10.00am to 3.30pm	Book Fair	Village Hall
	7.00pm	Themed Drag Evening – tickets on Eventbrite	Stoneylands Football Club
	8.00pm	Live Music – ‘The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, and Jim’	Working Men’s Club
Thursday 26th	1.45pm	Long Melford Litter Pickers	
Saturday 29th	9.30am to 4.00pm	Antiques & Vintage Fair	Old School
	10.00am to 12.00pm	Library Christmas Fair	Library, St Catherine’s Road
	10.00am to 5.00pm	Festive Long Melford	Throughout the Village
Sunday 30th	9.30am to 4.00pm	Antiques & Vintage Fair	Old School
	TBC	Christmas Craft Fayre	Stoneylands Football Club
	10.00am	Long Melford Litter Pickers	

REGULAR EVENTS AT LONG MELFORD OLD SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Daily	See website	Yoga Studio – Clare Turner – www.longmelfordyoga.co.uk – 07377 068885
Monday	Mornings	(1st Mon) Photography Group – Derek Challis – 01787 373738
	12.30 to 2.30pm	Card making – Pauline Andow – 01787 228790
	5.00 to 8.00pm	Slimming World – Vicky Stebbings - vickystebbing@gmail.com
Tuesday	9.00am to 1.00pm	Upbeat (Heart Support Group) – Hilary Neeves – 01359 232678
	1.30 to 4.00pm	U3A Art – Vernon Lever – 01787 310511
Wednesday	10.00am to 12.30pm	Life Drawing – John Garbett – 01787 378798
	10.00am to 12.30pm	(3rd Wed) Good Grief Bereavement Support – june@ggbereavementsupport.com
	11.00am to 12.00pm	Keep Fit Laban Dance Class (50+) – 07856 080344 – sheather.mahony@btinternet.com
	3.00 to 5.00pm	Friendship Dancers – Robin Hart – 01787 269613
	7.30 to 9.30pm	Silver Band – Mike Murkin – 01787 312605
Thursday	7.30 to 9.00pm	(3rd Thurs) LM Historical and Archaeological Society

PTO for Regular Events at the Village Hall, Stoneylands and the Library →

Diary Matters

REGULAR EVENTS AT LONG MELFORD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

Monday	9.30 to 10.30am	Strollercise – Marina St Leger – www.strollercise.co.uk – 07917 333712
	11.15am to 12.45pm	Song Circle Choir for Women – Anna – 07957 484812
	1.15pm	Health in Motion – Yoga with Paul – info@health-in-motion.co.uk – 07930 332120
Tuesday	10.00 to 11.00am	Pilates – Michelle Cowcher – michellecowcher@gmail.com
	11.30am to 12.30pm	Move it or Lose it! Fitness class for over 60s – amanda.anderson@moveitorloseit.co.uk – 07921 913 398
	2.30 to 4.00pm	(4th Tues) Lecture Series – Suffolk Family History Society (Sudbury)
	6.00 to 8.00pm	Bounce – Jules Cooper – www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford
Wednesday	7.00pm	(1st Wed) Long Melford Parish Council – Full meeting
	2.00 to 4.00pm	(2nd Wed) Digital Workshop – Communities Together East Anglia – 01449 707030
	10.30am to 12.30pm	(3rd Wed) Lecture series – Arts Society Stour Valley
	10.30am	(4th Wed) Film Club Lectures – www.filmclublectures.co.uk
Thursday	9.45 to 11.30am	Pre and postnatal Fitness (child friendly) – JTD_fitness – jo.h.thornley@gmail.com
	2.00 to 4.00pm	(1st and 3rd Thurs) Indoor Kurling – Drop in for a free taster session
	6.00 to 8.00pm	Bounce – Jules Cooper – www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford
Friday	9.30am to 12.00 noon	Baby Ballet – sudbury@babyballet.co.uk – 07580 693747

REGULAR EVENTS AT STONEYLANDS (LONG MELFORD COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST)

Monday	10.00am to 2.00pm	Stour Valley Men's Shed
Tuesday	1.30 to 2.30pm	Seated Exercise - contact Jane 07944 919328
	6.00 to 7.00pm	Hula Hooping Class - contact Toyah 07917 610231
	7.00 to 8.00pm	
Wednesday	10.00am to 2.00pm	Stour Valley Men's Shed
	7.45pm	Football Kick-off
Friday	7.30 to 10.30pm	(First Friday) Bygones – Beverley Walker – beverleyjdring1@gmail.com
Saturday	3.00pm	Football Kick-off

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY AT ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH

Tuesdays	2.30 to 3.00pm	Wordplay (Tot Rock and Baby Bounce)
Wednesdays	2.30 to 4.00pm	Top Time
Saturdays	9.30am to 12.30pm	Family Crafts and Lego Club

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



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.

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Scout Group Summer Camp

Even now, as the days of early August feel like they are far behind us, 1st Long Melford Scout Group are still enraptured by the memories we have created for so many of our young people.

This year, led by Graham Souch and our other amazing Scout Leaders, we enjoyed our first Group Camp at Bradfield Combust campsite, where all our sections relished several days of action-packed activities and camping.

While many delighted in camping under tents, some of our older sections also made their own shelters and got to experience the thrill of sleeping beneath the stars.

As an added bonus, we were treated to a meteor shower over a few nights, so many little eyes were turned upwards as darkness descended to see what the night sky had in store.

We were able to offer our young people exciting opportunities: using the climbing wall, caving, axe-throwing, go-carting, archery and shooting.

The Scouts stayed on longer to enjoy a great day of paintballing – a wonderful way to complete a fabulous time away.

Of course, we had a great time with campfires in the evening and some wonderful entertainment, songs and silliness that had everybody smiling.



The greatest success was that the children across all sections were able to work together as a team and to offer each other help, support and guidance where it was needed and to be able to grow as a group.

As leaders, we all felt proud to see young people encouraging each other, especially in moments when some found themselves outside their comfort zone or in new situations.

Massive thanks go to Graham and team for all their hard work planning, preparing and making the camp a great success. Thanks also to all the leaders and volunteers who gave their time and energy to helping our young people kick off their summer with a burst of excitement: without you all these things simply would not happen.

And thanks also to all the young people aged 4-14 who came to enjoy the camp and all it had to offer. Everything we do is for you and it is our pleasure to give you the very best Scouting has to offer.

As we prepare for the autumn term, we are looking forward to bringing yet more adventure and excitement to our young people. We hope to tell you all about them in the next issue.

In the meantime, if you are looking to join us, please feel free to contact:

lynda.badger@suffolkscouts.org.uk

We'd be all too happy to hear from you.

Girlguiding An amazing
1st Chadbrook Guides **Switzerland adventure**

After two years of fundraising, we left Suffolk on a hot Friday afternoon in July and arrived in Switzerland on Saturday morning in the pouring rain, after a long 19-hour journey. Our chalet was amazing, nestled among the Swiss mountains in Adelboden.

We had the opportunity to travel by train to Jungfrauoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', where several leaders formally renewed their Guide Promise. We also visited Schilthorn, the renowned filming location from the 1969 James Bond film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*.



We were constantly surrounded by impressive mountains, waterfalls, and skies. Highlights of our week included Blausee and several cable-car, boat, and train rides that showcased the area's natural beauty.

Switzerland was chosen as the location for the first Guide World Centre, known as 'Our Chalet', constructed in 1932 following an extensive search for a central site where girls from around the globe could meet, form connections, and engage in various activities. During our

trip, 'Our Chalet' held particular importance, not only for the historical relevance that it has throughout our Guiding life but also, on this occasion, as the location where three Young Leaders made their Guide Promise to continue their journey in Girlguiding.

All 28 participants in our Switzerland adventure tried activities like mountain coasters, zip lining, and a giant swing, while connecting with people globally. The Guides were actively involved in all activities and assisted with both cleaning and meal preparation at the chalet. Each day was filled with engaging experiences and a sense of discovery. This trip was genuinely an unforgettable experience.

1st Chadbrook Guides have spaces available for girls aged between 10 and 14 years. If you would like more information, or would like to arrange a visit, please email Rebecca at chadbrookguides@gmail.com.



FLuMPS News

We hope everyone has had a wonderful summer break. As we begin the new school year, we would like to thank all families, staff and members of the community who supported our fundraising projects and school activities last year. Your generosity and involvement made such a difference, and we are eager to build on that success for 2025-2026.

Plans are already underway for a variety of events and activities to bring our school community together

and raise funds to support the children. We look forward to sharing more details soon and hope to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming events.

Our AGM will be taking place early this term (date to be confirmed), which will be an opportunity to hear more about what FLuMPS does, our plans for the year and to get involved!

Thank you once again for your continued support – here's to another fantastic year ahead!

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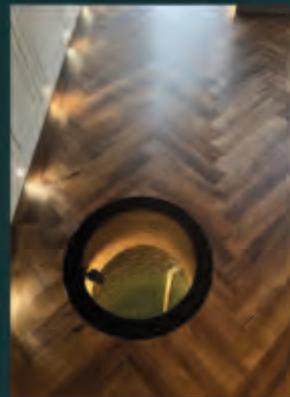
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Heritage Matters

Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre has been open throughout the summer, with a good number of visitors calling in to learn more about the history of our village. Some are local but many have come from further away including many European countries, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

We have been able to secure, on loan from the Suffolk Archaeological Unit, a flint hand axe and some bronze axe heads that were found in or near Long Melford. These fit in well with our various Roman “finds”, which this year include a striking new exhibit: a large partially reconstructed Roman pot made up of various shards of pottery that were found during one of our excavations in 2023. This has been put back together by one of our volunteers, who has displayed real skill in doing so.

You may have seen in a recent Melford Matters that we have been given a grant from Suffolk County Council to undertake a series of surveys using ground-penetrating radar on various sites in the village that we believe may be hiding evidence of Iron Age and Roman activity.

To do this, we are using the services of a professional survey company and their ground-penetrating radar, which looks rather like a bright yellow lawn mower. This is pushed across the chosen site following a laid-down grid and sends down a signal which records anything underground. The response is stored in a tablet device mounted on the machine for later analysis.

The team has been supported by a number of volunteers, including several who are new to our work, and we are grateful for their help. Once the analysis is complete, we will be holding a public event to let you know what we have found. In the meantime, if you'd like to know more about our work or get involved in it, please email info@melfordheritage.org.uk.



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Beer Matters

Anyone for a pint?

CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) was founded in 1971 by four real-ale enthusiasts who were disturbed by the mass production and homogenisation of beer in the UK. It is now considered one of the most successful consumer organisations in Europe, with a membership of around 160,000 – higher than most UK political parties. Perhaps that says something about the British, I'll leave you to decide.



CAMRA's vision is to have quality real ale, cider, perry and thriving pubs in every community across the UK and is run by volunteers, with local branches throughout the country meeting every month. The West Suffolk CAMRA monthly meetings are held in pubs and breweries across the region and are open to all CAMRA members.

I belong to the West Suffolk CAMRA branch. We organise the East Anglian Beer Festival, which is held in St Edmundsbury Cathedral. The festival, now in its 33rd year, is one of the largest in East Anglia. Last year, we welcomed over 6,500 visitors to the festival and raised £12,500 for local charities.

We also issue a variety of awards to local pubs and clubs serving real ale cider and perry. This includes seasonal awards and two overall *Pub of the Year* awards, one for town pubs and one for rural pubs. This year our rural pub of the year is the *Five Bells* in Rattlesden and our town pub of the year is the *Brewery Tap* in Sudbury.

We also review the local entries in the *Good Beer Guide* – our branch currently has 24 entries. Local pubs currently in the *Good Beer Guide* are the *Nethergate Tap Room*, the *Roughacre Tap Room*, the *Brewery Tap* in Sudbury and the *Brook Inn* in Cornard. Apart from serving on the committee and helping with the above, I create and edit the branch newsletter, update the website, and I'm also CAMRA brewery liaison officer for our three local breweries.

Although recent years have seen testing times for breweries and pubs, with industry figures estimating that every day, on average, a pub shuts in the UK, West Suffolk seems to be bucking the trend and we are still blessed with good pubs and breweries. Things are particularly good in the Melford area with two excellent breweries on our doorstep, Nethergate and Mauldons, and Roughacre in neighbouring Clare. Indeed, we have recently seen new licensed premises opening in the village with the arrival of Gather wine bar and bottle shop on the old Breakout premises.

Nethergate have had their expansion plans approved, which should lead to bigger and better facilities, while Suffolk's oldest brewers, Mauldons, have expanded their brewing kit and increased their brewing capacity. They have also recently won two CAMRA awards for their Silver and Black Adder beers. Also, Roughacre have taken on another brewer to help head brewer Mark create his exciting range of ales and Belgian-influenced beers. But whatever your favourite pub or brewery, I urge you to use it!

Peter Phillips



Exciting Times Ahead at Nethergate

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks at Nethergate Brewery in Long Melford, with some big news to share.



The team have just received planning approval for their much-anticipated expansion at Rodbridge Corner. Since moving to the site in 2017, the brewery has grown faster than expected, and the new development will help them keep up with demand while creating even more space for the community to enjoy.

Nethergate's expansion will provide more room for their popular events, such as this Beer Festival at Easter 2023



The plans include a bigger taproom and shop, improved brewing and storage areas, and a new cafe. There'll also be landscaped walking routes, more parking (with electric superchargers), and even a children's play area – making the site an even more welcoming spot for visitors, locals, and families.

Managing Director John Holberry said: "This is a hugely exciting step for us. The expansion means we can continue to grow while investing in better facilities for our community and our customers, who've supported us from day one."

For now, it's very much business as usual while the project takes shape in the field next door. Visitors are always welcome to drop by the brewery to hear more about the plans – and with Christmas just around the corner, it's also the perfect time to explore their range of seasonal gifts, festive events, and brewery experiences. Whether you're looking for a unique present or simply a place to raise a glass with friends, Nethergate promises plenty of cheer this winter.



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Standard rate	£13 per hour	£16 per hour
Melford resident rate	£10 per hour	£13 per hour

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

Nature Matters

The summer of 2025 has been a time of mixed fortunes for our breeding bird species. Some, such as chiffchaff and blackcap (both short-distance migrant warbler species) appear to have fared well, but others have had a poor year. You may have heard that barn owls have had a disastrous breeding season, but tawny owls appear to have fared no better. Despite many nights out moth-recording in local woods, I only heard two calling juveniles in 2025. It is likely that vole numbers are currently at a low ebb – their populations are known to cycle between peaks and troughs over several years. The owls may recover their losses as vole populations increase again.



A barn owl in flight in Melford
Photo: Jerry Ridout



A Jersey
tiger moth

Many insect groups appear to have had a much better year than in 2024. Lepidoptera are no exception, with most species of butterflies and moths appearing in better numbers. The Jersey tiger moth is a large and spectacular species. It has a black and white striped upperwing and a striking orange or yellow underwing. It was not many years ago that this moth was restricted to a very small area of the UK, mostly around south Devon. However, a warming climate has allowed it to expand its range greatly and it now occurs in our region. It can often be seen by day, either at rest on fences and the like, or feeding on the nectar of flowering plants such as buddleia.

Another species that has caught people's attention this year is the clouded yellow butterfly. This is a continental migrant that normally only reaches Britain in small numbers. Occasionally, much larger influxes occur, as has happened in 2025. Good numbers were seen flitting around the local fields, especially those that contained clover. Unlike the Jersey tiger, we will probably not see such numbers again for a few years.

Darren Underwood



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Gardening Matters

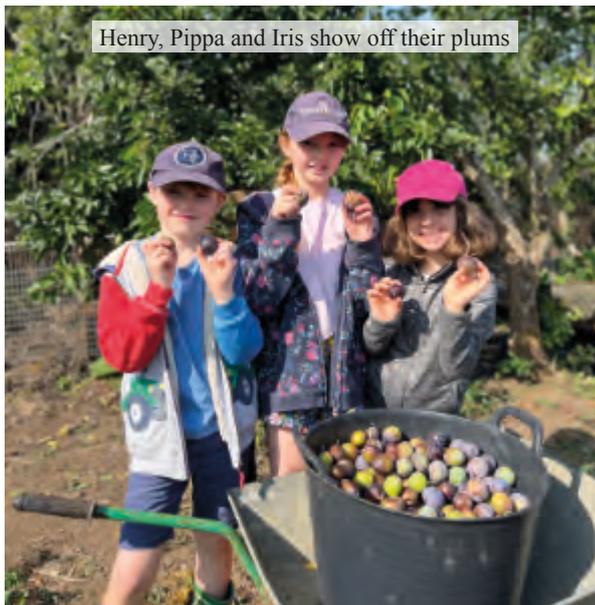
Allotment Diary – Our First Year

by Pippa, Iris and Henry

Wow, what an amazing year it has been! We have been through sun, rain, frost, wind and a lot of watering cans.

In December, we happily took on a very overgrown allotment, nothing was right, but we had lots of big plans to transform our plot. There were lots of stinging nettles, weeds and way too much hidden carpet. The only living thing was an old plum tree and now summer is here, we have been harvesting lots of delicious plums.

We started by cutting it all back so we could begin to dig our vegetables beds and make space for a greenhouse. As it was winter it took us a long time, but we managed to get through with lots of hot chocolate breaks.



Henry, Pippa and Iris show off their plums



Pippa plants seeds while Henry plants onions



March was a very busy month in the greenhouse because we started to sow our seeds. It was exciting to see our seedlings start to grow. We sowed tomatoes, beetroots, squashes and a lot more.

In April and May, we realised that we needed a place to have a discovery den. After a while, we needed fencing and an IBC water tank. Sadly, all our lovely gooseberries were eaten by (we think) pigeons.

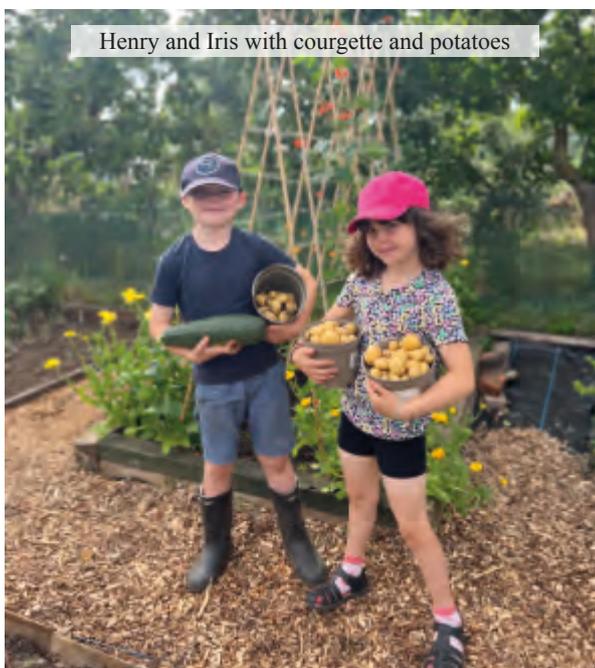
During June, we were hit by a late frost and our courgettes, beans, and sweetcorn leaves were damaged although they survived (yay!). But it was still so hot and lots of watering had to happen.

July we started harvesting! Our first potatoes were yummy, we had runner and French beans come through, courgettes and beetroots too.

Now we are in August and our sweetcorn were not protected enough and were eaten by deer. We are still battling with dryness. However, we have had lots of plums which have become jam and chutneys for winter. Tomatoes and cucumbers have tasted so good.

We have really enjoyed the allotment so far and looking forward to another year of sowing seeds and making big plans. Hope you enjoy reading this diary.

Pippa, Iris and Henry

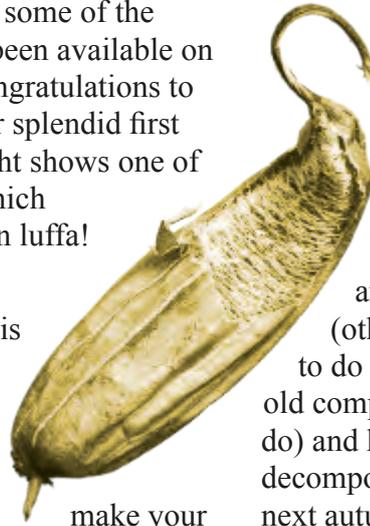


Henry and Iris with courgette and potatoes

Gardening Matters – Notes from the Potting Shed

Well, what a gardening year it has been: frost in late May, months of drought, strong winds and nature behaving very differently from what we used to call normal. We do hope that you have had some growing successes and perhaps have enjoyed some of the prolific wild blackberries that have been available on walks around our lovely village. Congratulations to our junior allotment holders for their splendid first year on the plot. The photograph right shows one of this year's allotment experiments which resulted in our first ever home-grown luffa!

The main issue that fellow local gardeners have raised with us lately is unwanted cats digging in garden beds. Apart from introducing sound emitting devices to discourage them, there are two strategies we would recommend: first, if you can make your soil less attractively smooth for digging by leaving spiky matter such as twigs, pine cones and holly leaves, this should help; secondly, cats are very sensitive to smell so leaving strong smelling material on the ground may help. The most effective deterrent that we have found is to apply a few drops of Olbas



Oil to used tea bags and leave them on top of the soil. It's a strong but not unpleasant smell and encourages the cats to look elsewhere without harming them in any way; the teabag should decompose over time.

If you are planting hyacinth bulbs now to have indoors for Christmas, do make sure they have a period of cold to trigger them into action before bringing inside to promote growth. Just two other thoughts for now: please do keep saving seeds for next year's Seed Swap and don't forget to gather any leaves you can to make black gold (otherwise known as leaf mould). All you need to do is pile them into a pen of chicken wire (or an old compost bag with a few holes in the bottom will do) and keep adding to the heap. They will decompose to a fraction of their original bulk and by next autumn you will have beautiful crumbly leaf mould which can be used as a growing medium, a mulch or soil improver.

Please do keep sending your queries and tips in to gardening@melfordmatters.org.uk.

Happy Gardening!



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Quiz Matters

Halloween Quiz

1. What is the proper name, in full, of Halloween (i.e. what is Halloween an abbreviation of)?
2. What is the most popular Halloween film (according to IMDB ratings)?
3. On Halloween, if a black cat crosses your path, what will you receive?
4. What is the day after Halloween called?
5. What is the collective noun for a group of witches?
6. Pumpkins weren't always the vegetable of choice for lanterns. What was used before?



7. Traditionally, what does one bob for at Halloween parties?
8. What was Dr Frankenstein's first name?
9. Approximately how many years old is the festival of Halloween?
 - a) 1,000
 - b) 6,000
 - c) 12,000
10. To which ancient festival does it trace its origins?

See Answers on Page 30.




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Long Melford Football Club

“First Team Manager, Rob Fayers, has stood down from his role due to work commitments.

Long Melford Football Club would like to place on record a massive thank you to Rob, from when he joined helping Dave Hennessey (at the time) in the Reserves, all the way to becoming First Team Manager. We thank him for his loyalty, commitment and dedication to the club.

We wish Rob all the best in his future footballing endeavours.”

Long Melford Football Club

The club is hopeful that the First Team will be reinvigorated with Chairman Mick Garbi taking over the reins temporarily.

On 25th August, it was announced that Bury-based Martin “Macca” McConnell would be taking the job for the home game against Diss Town. In the meantime, and within hours, six new players had joined The Villagers and it’s likely more will be on the way.

Taking time out from a holiday, Macca attended the game on 30th August. Hit by injuries, suspensions and holidays, Melford presented three debuts:

16-year-old keeper Tommy Haille, central defender George Bareham signed from Hadleigh, and ex-Bury Town striker Andy Wood, who renewed his previous Bury partnership with Ollie Hughes.

Despite the upheavals, it was the best performance of the season from Melford. The home team, buoyed by a five-goal thrashing of Holbeach in the week, were stunned when Melford took the lead after three minutes with a brilliant cross from Ollie Hughes, back-headed into the net by Will Wingfield – a dream start for The Villagers. At the other end, the young Melford keeper Tom Haille made two great saves.

At 34 minutes, Melford came close to a second when a fierce shot from Sam Markwick rattled the home-team crossbar, but no score ensued.

After 54 minutes, Melford went further ahead when a brilliant corner found Ollie Hughes, who headed home. Melford continued to look dangerous with Wood and Hughes very much in the thick of things.

At 75 minutes, the home team had a good chance with a free kick but Isaac Jobling fired over the Melford crossbar.

Finally at 93 minutes, the referee awarded the home team a soft penalty that was duly converted, but there was no denying Melford a deserved victory.

Walking Football

For those who like to play football at a gentler pace, AFC Sudbury hold Walking Football sessions for the over-50s (men and women) on Tuesdays 4.00-5.00pm and Fridays 2.00-3.00pm. They’re looking at the possibility of starting Women Only Walking Football, just for fun and a bit of exercise and sociability, for any women aged 18 and over either on Friday mornings or 4.30-5.30pm on Thursdays. No leagues, no pressure, no experience necessary! If you’re interested in joining this, please follow this link to book:

<https://book.footballfoundation.org.uk/AFCsudbury/Coaching/Camps>

Football boots are required (we do have some donated spares if you’d like to try before you buy). They’re offering the first two sessions for free and then it’ll be just £4 per week, starting in October. No experience necessary. For more information, please email admin@afcsubury.co.uk.



Badminton club seeks a few new players

We are a small club and play on a Thursday evening in Cornard. Ours is purely a social club with very mixed abilities, and everyone is very friendly – but also competitive. The best skill you could have is “enthusiasm to play”.

If you are interested in joining our merry bunch, please contact Graham at g.hingston@btinternet.com for further information.

Sport Matters



Long Melford Cricket Club

The season has finished – which has been best described as indifferent for LMCC on the field. The first team have really struggled this year but hopefully with some recruitment and the promising strength of an improving 2nd team, we go again next season with our division 3 status still intact.

The Saturday 2nd XI have played most games with at least six under-18s in the adult team and a respectable mid-table finish in Div. 8.

The big success smash hit this year has been the launch of the new T20 mid-week league, sponsored by Lee Stock. LMCC narrowly missed out on being in the final, which was played at our ground between Cavendish and Gestingthorpe, with Cavendish winning convincingly on the night.



Long Melford Cricket Club ground seen from the air



T20 mid-week league winners Cavendish raise the trophy in triumph



Local singer Ben Smith performed for the 200-strong crowd

The evening was a great hit, with 200 spectators attending. Food was generously supplied by Project 7 and local singer Ben Smith supplied the after-match entertainment, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

The Club AGM will be held at the clubhouse on **15th October** and the presentation evening will be held on **Saturday 1st November** at the Bull Hotel.

Directory of Clubs and Societies

Group	Contact	Phone/email
Beading (Suffex Bead Club)	Victoria Power	07866 996124
Chadbrook Guides	Rebecca Cox	chadbrookguides@gmail.com
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	Lmhas1969@outlook.com / 07586 354414
Holy Trinity and St Catherine's Church	Rev. Matthew Lawson	01787 310845
Keep Fit	Heather Mahony	01449 736662
Long Melford Community Sports Trust	Laura Murton	events.lmcsst@gmail.com
Long Melford Beaver Scouts	Lynda Badger	lynda.badger@suffolkscouts.org.uk / 07540 889754
Long Melford Cub Scouts	David Lawrance	melford.cubs@suffolkscouts.org.uk
Long Melford Scout Group Lead Volunteer	Lynda Badger	lynda.badger@suffolkscouts.org.uk / 07540 889754
Long Melford Scout Group Waiting List	Lynda Badger	lynda.badger@suffolkscouts.org.uk / 07540 889754
Long Melford Squirrel Scouts	Jonathan Coote	jonathancoote82@hotmail.com
Long Melford in Bloom	Jonathan Ewbank	jonathanewbank145@gmail.com / 07931 925420
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 Walking Group	Mike Turner	07733 102229
Long Melford Women's Institute	Amy Hyde Parker	amy@melfordestate.co.uk
Melford Music	John Watts	01787 310373
Neighbourhood Watch	Stuart Finch	07967 472488
Over Sixties Club	Sandra Halls and Mary Cook	07722 028753
Old School bookings		schoolbooking1860@gmail.com
Parish Recorder	Geoff Randall	07519 626842 Melfordparishrecorder@hotmail.com
Project Seven	Martin Maxim	07970 830758
Royal British Legion	Amy Hyde Parker	amy@melfordestate.co.uk
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 November** to be included in Issue 29 – December/January.

Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. All Hallows Eve | 7. Apples |
| 2. Hocus Pocus | 8. Victor |
| 3. Bad Luck | 9. b) 6,000 |
| 4. All Saints Day | 10. Samhain (pronounced sow-in) / Autumn's End |
| 5. Coven | |
| 6. Turnips | |

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