



Inside this bumper Christmas/New Year issue:

Photo: Steve Thomson

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#### **Editorial**

The Melford Matters team wishes all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year that will hopefully be much less Covidaffected than the last two years.

This bumper issue has more pages than ever before because there is so much going on in Melford to tell you about. The run-up to Christmas (see page 4) is packed with festive news. And don't miss the 'Letters to Santa' page 9 with community groups'

wishes for 2022. Indeed 2022 will, fingers crossed, be a year when major events return to the village after a two year gap and exciting new events start up (see page 12).

If one of your New Year resolutions is to get a little fitter, our feature on 11 of the varied classes and activities available in the village – from Indoor Kurling and Yoga to Bootcamp and Boxercise – is for you (see page 30).



I hope you enjoyed the Women's Cycle Race day in October as much as I did – it was great to see so many people out enjoying the bands, sunshine and carnival style atmosphere. See some photos from the day in the colour section starting on page 17, along with news on when and where to see Santa and wonderful winter photos by local photographers.

Finally, I'd like to remember Roger Kistruck, who passed away in

October. He did so much for the village in the time I've lived here. He was instrumental in the Parish Plan of 2006, setting up the Good Neighbours Scheme, masterminding the 2018 Residents Survey for the Neighbourhood Plan, and much, much more. He'll be sadly missed.

Dave Watts, Editor





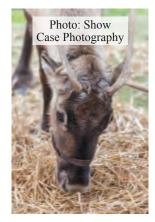
#### **Christmas is Coming**

Christmas decorations, crackers etc have been on sale since October but with less than a month to go, you may be starting to feel that Christmas really is coming. Melford is certainly in festive mode.

#### **Long Melford Goes Festive On 27th November**

On Saturday 27th November (11am-4pm), Long Melford will celebrate its wonderful line-up of independent shops and businesses by hosting 'Festive Long Melford' in Hall Street and Little St Mary's, to kickstart the festive season.





The event is being organised by the Long Melford Business Association alongside a group of business owners and Parish Council representatives, and there are some exciting plans for the day. You'll be able to admire reindeer and a 'live unicorn',

listen to the Silver Band, visit Santa's Grotto, and watch Morris Dancing and a Punch & Judy show. There'll be a visit from Lavenham Falconry and its birds of prey. There will also be Messy Church and Face Painting. If that's not enough to tempt you, there'll be swirling snow, and a snow cannon at the Fire Station.





Our shops will be beautifully decorated and many of them will spill out onto the street to showcase favourite Christmas food and drink offerings. The day will culminate in turning on the lights on the village Christmas Tree on Little Green at 4pm, led by Rev Matthew Lawson with a mixture of corny jokes and traditional carols.

Huge thanks to Amy Hyde Parker for help with the planned layout and parking arrangements.

It would be great to see as many people as possible out enjoying the day and joining in the carols.



#### **Christmas at Kentwell**

On the weekends of the 4th/5th and 11th/12th December, Kentwell Hall will be holding Christmas at Kentwell. It features a step back in time to meet Victorian characters such as Cooks in the Great Kitchen, Bakers and Villagers at the Moat House, even



Charles Darwin and Victorian ladies in the Parlour. Plus a Christmas Trail through the gardens and a visit to Father Christmas in his cottage. Advance booking is essential. See www.kentwell.co.uk/events/christmasat-kentwell

#### **Christmas is Coming**

**Long Melford Primary School** 

The School is hoping to put on a Nativity play this year. Last year, each class did something different. For example, the Reception Class performed its own outdoor Nativity play,



while Year 3 read Christmas poems. Both were filmed and parents could watch online. This year we hope parents will be able to watch the children perform live.

**Raising Money for the School** 

The Friends of Long Melford Primary School (FLUMPS) are holding a Christmas Market at the School on Friday 26th November which will be focusing on the children and their class enterprise. And we

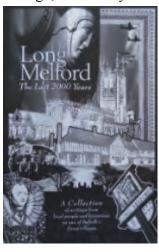


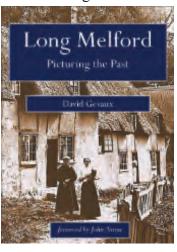
plan to take part in Festive Melford on the 27th with our annual Raffle and our Blind Christmas Tombola. We also hope to hold a Christmas Disco for the children.

#### Christmas Present Ideas with Melford in Mind Two Books on Melford in Olden Times

These two books are available to purchase at Breakout, Little St Mary's, for just £10 each – one raising funds for the Long Melford Museum & Heritage Centre, the other for the Long Melford Historical & Archaeological Society.

'Long Melford Picturing the Past' is a wonderful historical record with over 150 photographs of the village, with many locations still recognisable





today. Written by David Gevaux, this new book, in ten chapters, shows us the many facets of Long Melford's history, from Streets and Byways, through to the Village at Play.

'Long Melford, The Last 2000 Years' is an informative book covering the village history from the Roman Times up to the Second World War, in eighteen chapters written by local and renowned historians.

#### Melford's Gin

Nethergate Brewery now has a Distillery too. It opened in October and is producing Melford's premium craft gin, made using two quirkily named stills 'Bonnie and Clyde'. Bottles cost £35 for



70cl, £20 for 35cl and would make an ideal Christmas gift for gin lovers.

#### **Long Melford Litter Pickers**

We plan to meet up on Thursday 23rd December at 2pm for our last pick of the year, with no doubt a mince pie to get us in the mood for the festivities – the least we deserve after picking goodness-knows-how-many bags of litter following the ending of lockdown.

#### The Silver Band

As well as playing at Festive Long Melford on 27th November, the Long Melford Silver Band is planning to play carols in Hall Street from 10.30am to 12noon on Saturday 11th December. Its traditional Christmas Concert



will be in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th December starting at 7.30pm.

#### Santa Claus is coming to town

As well as setting up his Grotto on Little Green for Festive Long Melford on 27th November, Santa will also be touring the village on Sunday 19th December - see page 17 for details.

More Christmas events overleaf...

#### **Christmas is Coming**

## **Long Melford Good Neighbours**

Come along to our Coffee Mornings and enjoy some refreshments and meet up



with others from the village. We will be meeting from 10am to 11.30am at The Old School on the following Thursdays: 9th December, 23rd December (Christmas theme) and 6th and 20th January. Any offers of cake or savouries are always welcomed

This event is free to attend, but financial donations on the day are gratefully received.

If you're interested in joining our team of volunteers (for driving, phone holder duties, general maintenance support or befriending) or need support from us, please call 07504 249179 and we'll get back to you.

#### **Late Night Shopping**

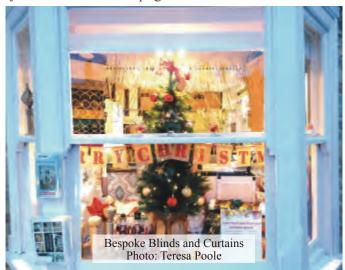
Many of the businesses in Hall Street and Little St Mary's are planning to stay open late on Friday 3rd December from 6pm till 9pm for festive late night shopping, treatments, eating, drinking, etc.



#### **Christmas Window Displays**



These are just two of the wonderful window displays created by Melford's businesses last Christmas. We plan to feature the best of this year's in our colour pages of a future issue.



#### 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.

Commercial rate

£16 per hour

£17 per hour

£18 per hour

£19 per hour

£19 per hour

£19 per hour

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

#### **Spiritual Matters - CHRISTMAS SERVICES & Church Life**

## Holy Trinity Long Melford

with St Catherine's

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Family Advent Service
10.30am	looking forward to Christmas
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Traditional Advent Carols
6.30pm	choral service with readings and reflections
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lights of Remembrance*
6.30pm	remembering loved ones, refreshments 6pm
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Main Carol Service
6.30pm	come and sing some well-known carols
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Crib Service
3.00pm	dressing up in nativity costumes optional!
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Midnight Mass
10.30pm	an atmospheric communion service
Sat 25th	Family Communion
10.30am	please bring your presents to show!
Sun 26th	<b>Simple Communion</b>
10.30am	at St Catherine's Church, St Catherine's Rd

<sup>\*</sup> To have a name read out please call 07804 558160 or email chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

You're welcome to attend regular services at 10.30am every Sunday. Many services are live-streamed (Google "Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook") ... you don't need a Facebook account to watch. Please see church website for any service changes.

#### CHURCH LIFE ...

Why not get involved in 2022?

Choir (Thurs 7.00pm) nwbrown@gmail.com

**Toddler Group** (Mon 9.30am) melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com

**Youth Club** (Fri 7.30pm, monthly) melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com

**Messy Church** (Sun 4pm, monthly) melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com

Melford Music (Wed Lunch) www.visitlongmelford.co.uk

**Prayer & Study Groups** (various) revmattis@gmail.com

**Bell Ringing** (Wed 7.00pm) linda@rodbridge.com

Walking Group (various) cjsmith18@hotmail.com

**Book Group** (monthly) sally@sallybevan.co.uk

Or call 07804 558 160 or see www.longmelfordchurch.com



#### Reflection: Merry Messy Christmas

Five years ago, my magazine entry started with the words: "Once more as we approach Christmas things feel very unsettled". It seems that this is a true statement every year. This year's concerns include Covid, flu, the supply chain, waiting lists, and not to mention pressure on relationships. Who knows what else may yet transpire...? But even if we don't have all our plastic toys, or if we have to eat a simpler Christmas meal by candlelight, or if we cannot visit relatives ... this might actually help us to engage with the first Christmas.

The first Christmas involved family tension, social shame, poverty, state interference, political mischief, and a dangerous pregnant journey on foot (and donkey!). And yet it was in all this confusion and insecurity that angels celebrated, stars aligned, and a Saviour was born. To quote a carol:

"The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight."

So, however messy this Christmas becomes, I encourage you to look beyond the mess and have eyes open to God, it is often in mess that he speaks the loudest.

**Rev Lawson** 



#### **Library Matters**

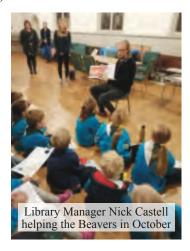
#### **Library Update**

Our events will be continuing inside during winter and we'll be following all relevant COVID guidelines to ensure your safety.

- Wordplay (Tot Rock and Baby Bounce) Join us every Tuesday at 2.30pm for action songs and rhymes, suitable for children 0-5 years old.
- **Top Time** Our social group meets every Wednesday at 3pm.
- Family Crafts Every Saturday from 10am-12 noon we have a new craft for you to try out! Suitable for children aged 3-11.
- Christmas Fair The Friends of Long Melford Library would like to invite you to our annual Christmas Fair on 27th November from 10am-1pm. All sale proceeds go to your library.
- Work Well Suffolk Join Robyn Cardy for the last of her free drop-in sessions on Wednesday 8th December 10am-12 noon. For those needing support with education, training, employment or wellbeing.

**Beavers** In October, we visited the Beaver

Scouts to help them with their reading badge and got involved with their Promise to the Planet pledge. We were inspired by their enthusiasm and the action they're backing it up with. We had a lot of fun too!



We wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable festive season and a very happy New Year and thank you for your help and support over the last year.

Tel No: 01787 377525

Website: www.suffolklibraries.co.uk

Email: melford.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk

Social media:

www.facebook.com/longmelfordlibrary

#### Update on the Library's future from Suffolk Libraries

Suffolk Libraries (SL) have been given notice by the owners of the URC that they are terminating the library's lease in March 2022. But there's some good news. SL raised the issue with Cllr Nunn and have subsequently had very positive talks with the Royal British Legion (RBL). SL are 'pleased to confirm it's now very likely that we will be temporarily relocating to their premises at the RBL in March 2022.' SL would like to reassure people that they are committed to maintaining a library in Melford.



#### **Letters to Santa**

#### **Dear Santa**

We asked various village groups and organisations to write to Santa asking him to grant them a wish – not for Christmas Day but for 2022. Thank you to all who wrote to Santa. Sadly, we couldn't include them all but here are some of their hopes.

#### From the Silver Band

Until 2020 when Covid struck, we've been going to Ypres for an intensive rehearsal weekend and have sometimes played at the Menin Gate Service of Remembrance. We'd very much like to return next year. Please try to help us out.

#### From the Library

It's been a difficult past few months. It's likely we'll have a temporary home from March but we really hope you can find us a new permanent one. That would be lovely.



#### From Long Melford in Bloom

Next summer, can we please have glorious sunshine each day,



From Melford Music

and rain whilst we

#### From the Community Association

This is asking a lot because it will cost a lot. Please can you give the Old School a new heating system. The gas heaters are slowly being condemned and we want to help save the planet by having a new greener system. If you could manage it before Christmas next year, that would be awesome.

#### From the Village Hall Committee

Could we please have curtains to dress the stage arch. Thope they will fit on your sleigh.



#### From the Biodiversity Group

We know you live at the North Pole where the environment is under serious threat, so I think you might want to help us. Please encourage everyone in Long Melford to do their little bit to welcome more nature into our village and become more environmentally friendly.



From Litter-Pickers We'd like you to have a word with cigarette smokers. Please ask them to put their dog-ends in bins rather than discard them on our streets. They're unsightly, and a pain to pick up with a litter-picker especially when there are hundreds of them.

#### From the Heritage Gentre We'd like to move to Hall Street so that more people could see our Gentre and visit us. I don't suppose you know a generous owner of an empty shop do you?

#### From Melford Movies

What we'd dearly love is a robot to sell drinks and refreshments and serve them to people at their seats in the interval. If you can't manage a robot, anything that could be used as a raffle prize would be most welcome.



We need help so 7 hope you can bring us two people? We'd like a Programme Co-ordinator and a Publicity person. Please

don't bother wrapping them.

#### **Parish Council Matters**

At its November meeting the Parish Council gave the go-ahead for two important projects.

One is to prevent damage to the Upper Green caused by vehicles when the ground is wet. This involves installing gates at the eastern end of the car park by Trinity Hospital and opposite the Black Lion. These can be opened and closed as appropriate and will remain closed when the ground is wet. Resurfacing and reinforcement of key areas will be carried out too. The cost of this will be met jointly by the Parish Council and Holy Trinity church. The Hyde Parker Estate will arrange and pay for repair and reseeding of some areas of the Green that have been badly damaged.

the Cordell Place play area, including a roundabout suitable for children with disabilities and a fenced off area with new equipment for toddlers. This will go ahead provided the Parish Council can agree a suitable arrangement with Babergh regarding land ownership and maintenance of the whole play area.

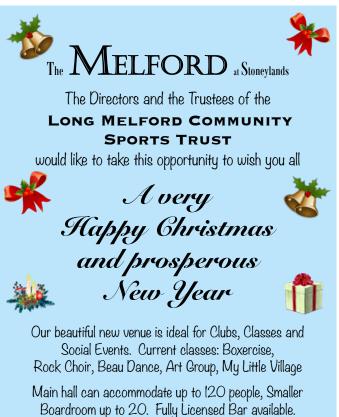
The other project is additional play equipment at

The Parish Council has also applied for the United Reformed Church (URC) building and grounds to be declared 'An Asset of Community Value'. This means that if the URC decides to sell the property, there will be a period of up to a year before it can be put on the open market, in which local

community groups can negotiate to buy it.

Having it registered as 'An Asset of Community Value' costs nothing and does not commit anyone to making an offer for it. But it gives community groups the time to assess the options.





Ample parking on site

Contact Peter or Lynn Turner on \*O1787 468536 for further details

#### Parish & District Councillor John Nunn

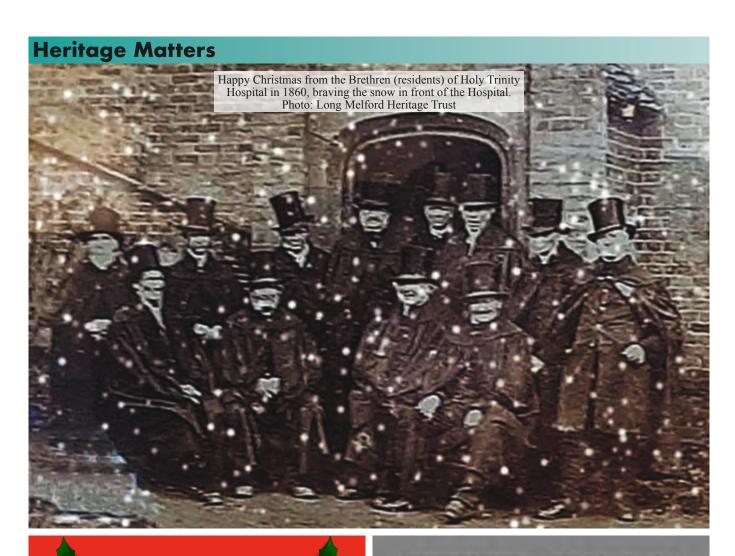
Wishes all his Constituents in Long Melford, Acton and Alpheton



A Happy Christmas and Prosperous & Healthy New Year.

With best wishes for 2022.











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#### 2022 - a year to look forward to

Lots of regular Long Melford events and some new ones were cancelled in the last two years because of Covid. But many will, fingers crossed, be back in 2022 – here are some of the major events to look forward to

#### EVENTS IN MELFORD HALL GROUNDS Leestock Music Festival 3rd and 4th June

We're very pleased to say the Leestock Festival will be back next summer. It isn't just about the music. It was started in memory of Lee Dunford who passed away in his early 20s after being diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma. The Festival stands as a tribute to his memory but also gives him a legacy. The proceeds from the Festival go to Willow Foundation, a charity that works with seriously ill 16–40-year-olds and gives them unforgettable days out.



#### Taste of Sudbury 18th June

The Taste of Sudbury will be back on 18th June. Whilst St Peters on Market Hill in Sudbury is being refurbished, we're delighted to be based in the wonderful grounds of the estate at Melford Hall.

The festival will, as always, be a celebration of local food and drink. Once again there will be lots of local food and drink stalls as well as a Cookery Demonstration Marquee showcasing local chefs and artisan producers.

#### Long Melford Summer Fete 9th July

On 9th July 2022, a quintessentially English tradition is returning to Long Melford. There will be a good old-fashioned village fete held in the grounds of Melford Hall. The day will have all the traditions you'd expect. You'll be able to take part in a produce show, enjoy a dog show, bunting and



marquees, strawberries & cream and, most importantly, the village stocks!

We'll be working closely with the school and are looking forward to welcoming the whole village for the day. Melford's community groups, charities, businesses and organisations will work together to help make this a village tradition for the future. We'll keep you updated with more news in the New Year.

#### **Big Night Out November 2022**

The Big Night Out fireworks display organised by Project Seven will be returning to Melford Hall in 2022 – more details to follow later in the year. Project Seven is a group of like-minded people from Long Melford and the surrounding area who give up their spare time to raise money for local charities. They also help organise Leestock.



#### **Car Boot Sales**

These very popular events may return to Melford Hall grounds next summer and we'll be sure to update you with more information if and when they come back.

#### 2022 - a year to look forward to

#### Long Melford Open Gardens 29th May

In 2008, Robert and Melonie Clubb organised the first Long Melford Open Gardens Day. Over the years, this annual event has not only brought the village together, it's also attracted visitors from far and wide.

After 12 successful years, the Clubbs decided to hand over the organisation of the event. We're delighted to hear that Open Gardens will be back next year on Sunday 29th May. The new organisers are Farley (who runs Breakout) and Paul (of The Mill B&B). They will run Open Gardens under the umbrella of Long Melford in Bloom.



Farley and Paul would love to see lots of gardens feature in 2022. If you'd like more information or want to sign up your garden, please contact Paul, tel: 01787 378035 or email: contact@themilllongmelford.com. Half the money raised from the event will go to Long Melford in Bloom. The other half will go to the CJD charity https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cureCJD in respect of Robert Clubb, who very sadly passed away in May 2021.

#### The Queen's Jubilee 2nd to 5th June

2022 will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the nation will be celebrating her unprecedented 70 years of service. There'll be an 'extended Bank Holiday' from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. Long Melford will be celebrating this momentous occasion. One thing that has already been fixed is the lighting of the beacon on the Upper Green at 9.15pm on 2nd June. Our beacon, which was created by Robert Clubb and his son, will be one of more than 1,500 across the nation.

#### Melford Music Plans a 14-week season

After a year off in 2020, Melford Music bounced back strongly in 2021. In August, we held four lunchtime recitals in Holy Trinity, each attracting



audiences of over 100. Generous sponsorship from The Mill B&B, David Burr, Long Melford Tea Room and the Business Association together with voluntary donations from the audiences, allowed us to donate over £1,000 towards the cost of maintaining the fabric of the church.

In 2022, we'll celebrate 30 years of Fine Music in a Fine Church. We're planning 14 recitals starting on Wednesday 1st June and finishing on Wednesday 31st August.

We've secured the Rock Choir and well-known local pianist Mary Blanchard with clarinettist, Samantha Christopher. There will also be a return visit by Lizzie Gutteridge with her Early Music banquet, which wowed our first audience of over 100 in August this year. We have more aces up our sleeve - watch this space.



Diary M	Diary Matters						
Regular classes & workshops at Long Melford Village Memorial Hall							
Mondays	Bounce classes – Jules Cooper	9.30 to 10.30am					
Mondays	Pop Chorus – Yula Andrews	07788 585441	7.30 to 8.30pm				
Tuesdays	Pilates - Michelle Cowcher	michellecowcher@gmail.com	10.00 to 11.00am				
Tuesdays	Bounce classes – Jules Cooper	www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford	6.00 to 7.00pm				
Wednesdays	Zumba classes – Dawn Thompson	www.bookwhen.com/dawnzumba	7.30 to 8.30pm				
Thursdays	Bounce classes – Jules Cooper	www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford	6.30 to 7.30pm				
Thursdays	Indoor Kurling (1st and 3rd Thurs)	Drop in for a free taster session	2.00 to 4.00pm				
Fridays	Baby Ballet	sudbury@babyballet.co.uk 07580 693747	9.30am to 12 noon				
Monthly	Relaxation Yoga (last Monday of the month)	clareturneryoga@gmail.com	5.45 to 6.45pm				
Regular cla	sses & workshops at the Old S						
Daily	Yoga Studio – Áine McGovern	www.longmelfordyoga.co.uk 07840 030545	See website				
Mondays	Card making – Pauline Andow	01787 228790	12.30 to 2.30pm				
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	6.00 to 9.00pm				
Tuesdays	Yoga with Clare Turner	clareturneryoga@gmail.com	5.45 to 7.15pm				
Wednesdays	Life Drawing	John Garbett 01787 378798	10.00am to 12.30pm				
Wednesdays	Keep Fit - Heather Mahony	sheather.mahony@btinternet.com	10.00am to 11.30am				
Wednesdays	Friendship Dancers	Robin Hart 01787 269613	3.00 to 5pm				
Wednesdays	Tudor Archers	Terry Chittock 01426 160053	7.00 to 9.30pm				
Wednesdays	Silver Band	Mike Murkin 01787 312605	7.30 to 9.30pm				
Thursdays	Now and Zen Yoga	Fiona Dinning-Cole 07967 706041	10.45am to 12noon.				
Monthly	Photography Group (first Monday of the month)	Derek Challis 01787 373738	mornings				
Regular cla	sses & workshops at The Melfo	ord at Stoneylands (LMFC clubhouse)					
Mondays	Beau Dance	Holly Cook 07512 692289	Call for details				
Thursdays	My Little Village	Aimee Winsbury-Cutts 07730 680802	Call for details				
Thursdays	Beau Dance	Holly Cook 07512 692289	Call for details				
Thursdays	Boxercise	Ivan Ambrose 07484 617943	Call for details				
Saturdays	Colts and Fillies Junior Football	Ian Ambrose 07970 384576	Call for details				
Sundays	Colts and Fillies Junior Football	Ian Ambrose 07970 384576	Call for details				

Events may be subject to last minute adjustments in light of Covid-19, so please contact the organisers to confirm. If you would like your activity or event listed here, let us know the details by emailing MelfordMattersAdvertising@gmail.com. Details for February/March need to reach us by **8th January**.

<b>Diary Matt</b>	Diary Matters						
December 2021	Event	Venue/details	Time				
Wednesday 1st	Antiques Fair	Village Hall	9.00am to				
wednesday 1st		vinage man	3.30pm				
Thursday 2nd	Parish Council: Planning	Old School	7.00pm				
	Full Meeting		7.30pm				
Friday 3rd	Late Night Shopping	Hall Street and Little St Mary's	6.00pm to 9.00pm				
Friday 3rd	Suffolk Outlaws	Village Hall - Country & Western Music and Dancing - guests welcome	7.00 pm				
Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th	Christmas at Kentwell	Kentwell Hall - www.kentwell.co.uk	10.00am to 4.00pm				
Thursday 9th	Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am				
Friday 10th	Melford Movies "Dream Horse"	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm				
Friday 10th	Folk & Acoustic Club upstairs	Cock & Bell poboap123@gmail.com	8.00pm				
Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th	Christmas at Kentwell	Kentwell Hall - www.kentwell.co.uk	10.00am to 4.00pm				
Friday 17th	Suffolk Outlaws	Village Hall - Country & Western Music and Dancing - guests welcome	7.00pm				
Saturday 18th	Long Melford Silver Band Christmas Concert	Village Hall	7.30pm				
Sunday 19th	Father Christmas travels around Long Melford	Starting at Rodbridge Hill	4.00pm				
Thursday 23rd	Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am				
Thursday 23rd	Litter Pickers	Call Julie on 375329 for location	2.00pm				
January 2022	Event	Venue/details	Time				
Wednesday 5th	Antiques Fair	Village Hall	9.00am to 3.30pm				
Thursday 6th	Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am				
Thursday 13th	Parish Council: Planning	Old School	7.00pm				
(TBC)	Full Meeting		7.30pm				
Friday 14th	Folk & Acoustic Club upstairs	Cock & Bell poboap123@gmail.com	8.00pm				
Friday 14th	Melford Movies "Summerland"	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm				
Tuesday 18th	Arts Society of South Suffolk	Village Hall - Ravilious, Bawden and the Great Bardfield Artists; Jo Walton	2.00 to 3.00pm				
Thursday 20th	Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am				
Tuesday 25th	U3A Talk	Cornard Rugby Club - 'Travels of a Botanical Artist'; Reinhild Raistrick	10.00am to 12.00 noon				
Thursday 27th	Litter Pickers	Call Julie on 375329 for location	2.00pm				
Saturday 29th	Book Fair	Village Hall	10.00am to 4pm				
Sunday 30th	Litter Pickers	Call Julie on 375329 for location	10.00am				

#### **Parish Recorder**

#### **Melford Hits the Record Books**

In the early 1950s, the Suffolk Local History Council launched a scheme to have a volunteer Parish Recorder in every Suffolk village. I became Melford's Recorder in 2013. My role is to ensure the survival of valuable material for future local historians by:

- Seeing that the present is adequately recorded
- Looking out for items of historical interest which might be overlooked or lost
- Recording reminiscences of Melford people

I write an annual report, which is kept at the Suffolk Records Office. The latest report was for 2020, a year dominated by Covid and lockdowns,



but village life did continue albeit differently. For example, a Remembrance Trail replaced the cancelled Remembrance Parade. I reported sad news such as the last year of cultivation on Skylarks field and the closure of Ruse the butchers. But there was glad news such as the launch of Long Melford in Bloom and the setting up of the Village Volunteer Network. For how to view the reports, see www.suffolkarchives.co.uk

I'm passionate about local history and appreciate how important all the surviving documents, records and photographs are. Many of them end up being thrown away. If you have a collection relating to Melford and would like to donate it once you no longer need it, please put a note on top of your file saying, 'In the event of my demise, please do not throw these documents away – please contact Julie Thomson or the Suffolk

Records Office, who will ensure they are available for future generations to use for historical research'.

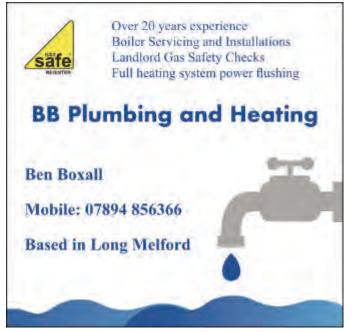
Thank you

Julie Thomson Tel: 01787 375329

Email:

longmelfordparishrecorder@outlook.com





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#### **Women's Tour Cycling Event**

Local organisers ensured that Melford laid on a great welcome for Stage 6 of the Women's Tour cycling event, which ran through the village on Saturday 9th October. With "Pink, White and Bike"-themed decorations and stalls and entertainment running from the Green through to Little St. Mary's, there was plenty to enjoy before and after the peloton passed through.

If you blinked, you may have missed the cyclists as they whizzed past, but you couldn't possibly have missed the









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entourage of support vehicles and motorcycle outriders. The barrage of noise from their horns, sirens and whistles whipped up the excitement before and after the cyclists sped past on their way to the sprint section finish outside The Swan.

Glorious weather and live music helped to create a party atmosphere for the many hundreds of residents and visitors who came to cheer on the cyclists. It was heart-warming to see so many people having a great time and making the most of the first street event in Melford since 2019.









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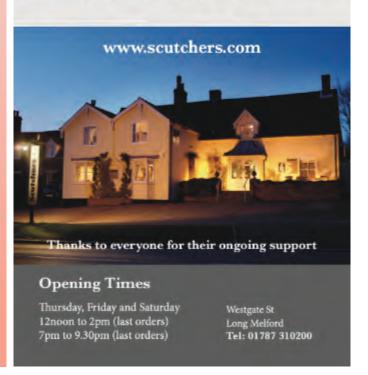
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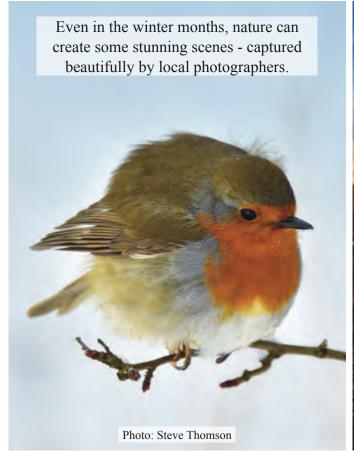
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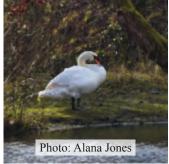


#### **Nature Matters**















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#### **Nature Matters**

Welcoming Nature into Long Melford
By the time you read this, the Biodiversity
Group will have held a series of events
aimed at getting everyone involved in
enhancing the natural world. Our first
event involved the Beavers planting
native bulbs at the front of St Catherine's
Church. Bulbs are an important source of
nectar early in the year when the odd
sunny day brings out the bees. At the end
of October, Cathy Smith from Suffolk
Wildlife Trust gave helpful advice about
attracting wildlife into gardens.

We asked children to collect native tree seeds and join us in planting them. All the tree seeds will be grown on and in a few years the children will be able to plant them in the village – maybe we can even create a village wood. We continue to advise the Parish Council on how best to manage the Melford Walk for nature and, with volunteers' help, will be doing a lot of work over the winter.



The Beavers at St Catherine's for the bulb planting with Jane Burch in the centre at the back Photo: Carolyn Spraggons

We're receiving some free young trees and hedging plants which will be planted around the village – outside the Bull, in the Cemetery, the Country Park and alongside the allotments behind Orchard Brook.

For 2022, we've applied to Babergh for grant funding to enable us to do much more. We hope to provide the materials and know-how for people to make bird, insect and hedgehog houses to go in gardens around the village. Watch out for dates early next year when we'll invite you to join in!

We've suggested areas, currently mown by Babergh, on which wildflower meadows will be created – these will be prepared and sown over winter. If anyone has an area where they'd like to try and establish a wildflower patch, we're more than happy to advise on how best to do this and may be able to help with providing seeds – contact jane\_burch@yahoo.co.uk.

Look out for our news and events on the Long Melford Facebook Page.











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#### Community Hub and Business Support

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#### **Community Matters**

#### Heritage Centre Gains Charitable Status

Our application to the Charity Commission for charitable status has been successful. Although our HQ will still be called the Museum and Heritage



Centre, the governing body will be the Long Melford Heritage Trust. We now plan to work towards Museum accreditation.

which should bring many benefits to the Trust and to our village.

The Trust has an Archaeological Unit which is striving to improve our knowledge of ancient Melford. We also hope to work with our Primary School helping the children further their knowledge of our village and the surrounding area.

We welcome new volunteers. If you're interested in joining our team, please email the Trust at melfordheritagetrust@gmail.com

#### **Litter Pickers Join Forces**

The Long Melford Litter Pickers and Acton Wombles recently joined forces, to clear litter from a stretch of road between our villages.

One group started at the Melford end of Bull Lane and the other in Melford Road, Acton. The teams met in the middle to swap accounts of the weird and worst things they'd found, before heading back again on the opposite side of the road.

We collected a staggering 17 sacks of litter and umpteen wine bottles. The find of the day was a Kindle, but sadly months of sitting in a ditch made it fit only for the bin.

In 2022, we'll continue our quest to keep Melford litter free, by meeting twice a month. January dates are

Thursday 27th at 2pm and Sunday 30th at 10am. The locations will be decided a few days beforehand depending on where litter is spotted. If you'd like to join us, please email longmelfordlitterpickers@gmail.com.

#### **Busy Beavers**

It's been a busy time for the Beavers. We've litter picked with Sudbury community wardens. We've planted bulbs at St Catherine's church supported by the Biodiversity group. We've had a visit from Nick at the library for the Book Reader badge. We've welcomed eight new Beavers who've been given their first badges, woggle and scarf.

We're hoping that we'll have been part of the parade on Remembrance Sunday this year. Let's hope we have the St George's Day Parade in April, which is a district event comprising 800+ scouts.

#### **Community Markets at the Old School**

By the time you read this, we'll have held six Community Markets. There's been a steady increase in the number of stallholders and footfall. All stalls have been free to groups to sell their items. Entry to the market has also been free.

The Community Market has succeeded in providing community groups with a place where they could raise funds and where people could have a chat and enjoy being out and about post lockdowns.

There will be no markets during the winter months, but maybe we'll be back in time for Easter 2022!



#### **Community Matters**

#### Long Melford in Bloom

In early November, Long Melford in Bloom switched from its summer displays



into winter mode. The colour theme is yellow, white and blue using pansies, violas and polyanthus. We hope you enjoyed the summer displays which lasted really well, from May until the end of October.

The winter plants should be in place until next May when the Summer 2022 displays will be planted, in good time for the Queen's Jubilee in early June.

Long Melford in Bloom is run by the Parish Council with the help of a fantastic band of volunteers. Key supporters including Long Melford Fire Station, Long Melford Co-op, Melford Court, Tanswell's Bakery, KP Valeting & Detailing, Breakout, Long Melford Tea Room, Perrywood, Cherry Lane Garden Centre and KHA Surveyors. The project also receives incredible support from Pat Davey and her book sales and from individual donations.

If you'd like to become involved either as a volunteer or as a sponsor, please contact Jonathan Ewbank (jonathanewbank145@gmail.com).

#### Seasonal Advice from Long Melford Neighbourhood Watch

As the nights draw in, we'd encourage you to secure your outbuildings and garages and to ensure that anything of value is safely locked away.

This is also an important time to check on your neighbours, especially if they live alone. It doesn't take long to knock and check that everything is OK.

If you'd like to join Long Melford Neighbourhood Watch, you can find us on Facebook or call 07967 472488. You'll be working with us to make our homes and businesses safe.



Edward Charles Interiors is a family upholstery business and has had a showroom in Ringers Yard, Long Melford for 7 years. The business has been established since 1971 with a workshop in Essex.

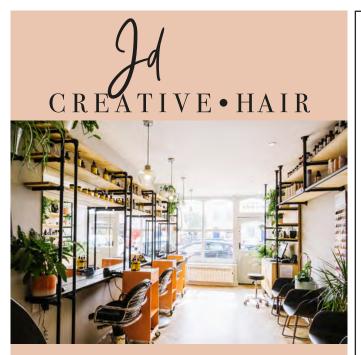
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#### SO THEY DO COOK AFTER ALL! RAVILIOUS, BAWDEN & THE GREAT BARDFIELD ARTISTS

In 1932 a fascinating artistic community was started in Great Bardfield, Essex by Edward and Charlotte Bawden, Eric Ravilious & Tirzah Garwood. Other artists joined them, with their work capturing the soon to change world of rural England. In 1954 they started the popular Open Studios Movement which persuaded people that artists were quite normal!

Lecture to take place on TUESDAY 18 JANUARY at 2pm

#### **Community Matters**

## The Swan Donates to the Cordell Place Play Area

On 2nd October, the Swan in Long Melford held a charity Brunch with the profits going towards the cost of providing more play equipment (especially for toddlers) at the Cordell Place play area. Thanks very much to the generosity of Onur (the landlord), the event raised £330 for the play area.

Another breakfast event is planned for next February or March to raise more funds for the play area – details in the next issue of the magazine.



#### An Update from the WI

The WI welcomed new members and enjoyed meeting villagers at our "Cuppa and a Cake" sessions at the monthly



Community Market. On 11th November, we learned First Aid awareness, including the use of defibrillators, from Martin Richards. On Sunday 14th November, we laid a wreath as a mark of Remembrance.

Our Christmas celebrations will include an evening meal at The Bull and our Christmas Social which includes Secret Santa, carol singing and a bring-and-share buffet – lots of fun and laughter!

Hopefully 2022 will see the return of our Annual Garden Party at Melford Hall, a boat trip on the Stour and local afternoon teas as well as our monthly evening get togethers.

#### **Cookery Matters**

#### **Tanswell's Famous Mince Pies**

We're delighted to bring you a very seasonal recipe this issue and are indebted to our wonderful village bakery, Tanswell's, for sharing their ever-popular mince pie recipe. It looks as though the really tricky part will be the waiting until they're cool enough to eat once they come out of the oven.



#### **Ingredients:**

375g plain flour 250g chilled butter 125g caster sugar plus extra for sprinkling 1 medium free-range egg 1 large jar mincemeat, approx. 400g

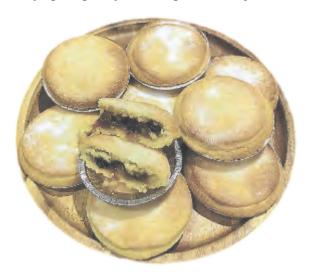
#### Method:

- 1. Add the flour to a large bowl and grate in the butter or use cubed cold butter. Mix gently to make a crumb before adding the sugar and egg and mixing them in to form a dough.
- 2. Divide the dough into two and pat into rounds before chilling for 45 minutes.
- 3. Heat oven to 200 degrees or gas 6 and lightly dust the worktop with flour.
- 4. Roll the dough to 3mm thick and cut out 16 bases out using an 8cm cutter.

- 5. Use these to line a bun tin; if the dough is sticky, a spatula will help to move them safely into the tin.
- 6. Cut 16 tops using a 7cm cutter.
- 7. Add a level tablespoon of mincemeat to each base and resist the temptation to overfill.
- 8. Place a lid on each and gently firm the edges together before baking for about 20 minutes.
- 9. Once they are out of the oven, sprinkle some caster sugar on each and leave to cool in the tin.

#### Hints:

- 1. If you're using a muffin tin, use a 9cm cutter for the bases but still a 7cm one for the lids.
- 2. Any spare pastry will be perfect for jam tarts.



Enjoy a Happy Christmas and your mince pies.

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#### **Gardening Matters – Notes from the potting shed**

This is the time of year when curling up with a large cuppa and a seed catalogue is probably the most appealing form of gardening, but there are still some important other outdoor tasks to tackle.

If you clear most of the leaves off your lawns and away from the base of any roses, you'll reduce the risk of infection for your precious plants as the leaves decompose. The wildlife will be very grateful if you keep some leaves tucked away in corners or near log piles. If you can stash the bulk of the leaves away in sacks or a wire pen to make leaf mould it will really come in handy this time next year as seed compost or soil improver.

We've had a query about whether frozen lawns should be walked on. We'd suggest avoiding this if you can as the frozen blades of grass are brittle and very easily damaged. It's even more important to avoid walking on a snowy lawn as this will cause compaction and damage the grass underneath as well as increasing the risk of fungal disease developing. Any damaged grass will repair itself but it may take several months of the next growing season to do so.

December and January are the months for pruning fruit trees if the fruit has a pip rather than a stone, so apple, pear and quince trees will benefit from a trim and tidy up in this season.

If you're planning to grow chilli peppers and aubergines next year, it's worth getting the seeds in at some point in January as they need a long growing season for the fruit to reach maturity whilst the light levels are still good. If you have a heated propagator, so much the better.

We're looking forward to 2022, which promises to be a great year in Melford for gardeners. Not only is the seed swap coming back by popular demand, but the flower and produce show will also be returning as part of the village fete on 9th July. We're hoping for loads of entries in every class and full details of what you can grow to enter in the show will be available in the next issue of Melford Matters. In addition to that, we also have the sweet pea challenge. Have you started yours off yet?

In the meanwhile, enjoy your cuppa and seed catalogue but don't forget that beautiful potted bulbs for Christmas will be available at the **Library Christmas Fair on 27th November**, but remember, they sell out fast ...

Please do keep sending your queries and tips in to Melfordmatterslifestyle@gmail.com

Happy gardening!



#### Richard Kemp

County and Parish Councillor 01787 378149 richard.kemp@suffolk.gov.uk

#### Adam Kemp

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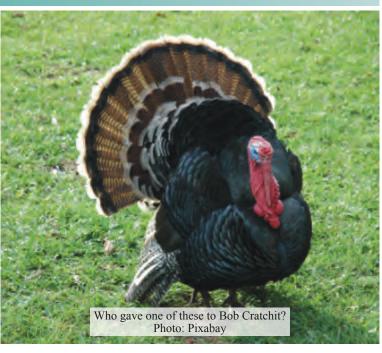
#### **Brain Matters**



No prizes for guessing that the theme for the Quiz in the 5th issue of the magazine is all about matters associated with Christmas. Answers on page 34.

- 1. Who gave Bob Cratchit a turkey in Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'?
- 2. Who were Gaspar, Balthasar and Melchior?
- 3. In which ocean is Christmas Island?
- 4. According to the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', what did a true love give on the third day of Christmas''
- 5. Which country makes an annual gift of a Christmas tree which is erected in Trafalgar Square?
- 6. What is another name for Christmas pudding?
- 7. Who had a Christmas No.1 with 'Mistletoe and Wine'?
- 8. From which Cambridge college is the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols broadcast every year on Christmas Eve?
- 9. Who starred as George Bailey in the 1946 Christmas classic film 'It's a Wonderful Life'?
- 10. Who or what are Dancer and Prancer?









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The magazine welcomes contributions from everyone in the village. Content should focus on information that will benefit and inform the village and villagers. Where there is limited space, priority will be given to local and community information and updates that benefit all. Where there is competition for remaining space, the editor will act fairly to ensure contributors and community organisations are treated equitably. Contributors and advertisers are responsible for ensuring that their content is accurate, free of obscene, abusive or discriminatory language and not libellous or in breach of copyright. The magazine will prioritise, but not be limited to, securing adverts from local businesses. Errors and omissions excepted.

Melford Matters is affiliated to Long Melford Village Memorial Hall for accounting purposes and forms an extension to the Village Hall's objectives. It is a non-political 'not for profit' community initiative run by an Editorial Committee of volunteers. The team comprises Phil Buck, Sue Buck, Jane Ebejer, John Nunn, Stuart Palmer, Lisa Tipper, Chris Watts, Dave Watts and Philip Windsor. Special thanks to Alex Windsor for the cover design and to Steve Thomson for the cover photo. Melford Matters is printed by Indigo Ross Design & Print Ltd.

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#### **Health Matters**

#### Fit to Face the New Year?

Have you ever made a New Year's resolution to get fit? Perhaps more than once? Well, how about making 2022 the year to achieve it? We have a wonderful range of classes available in our lovely village with something to suit almost every level of mobility. We thought this was the time to review what's on offer on our doorstep to help us all to become our most frisky and fabulous selves in the coming year.

## Details of venues and class times are all set out in Diary Matters on pages 14-15.

Let's start with the ancient but ever popular practice of **Yoga**. The Yoga Studio at the Old School hosts independent teachers with various styles and specialisations. Regular yoga practice can increase flexibility and suppleness. Some sessions focus on relaxation and meditation. After the stresses of the past couple of years that certainly sounds appealing.



**Pilates** improves core and back strength but also tones and strengthens muscles, improving flexibility and general wellbeing. It also increases energy levels at the same time. It can be particularly efficacious for anyone with a back problem.

If you'd like something more up tempo, combining dance, upbeat music and high energy exercise, then Zumba or BOUNCE might be for you.

**Zumba** is a Latin inspired dance fitness class, with lively choreographed moves set to upbeat music. 'Ditch the workout, Join the Party!' It's guaranteed to raise your heart rate and no one leaves a Zumba class feeling anything other than cheerful.

**((BOUNCE))** is a 60-minute-high intensity, low impact choreographed fitness class performed on mini trampolines. Suitable for all ages and abilities, it's three times more effective than floor-based workouts.

With coloured disco lighting and energising music it's a great mood booster!

((BOUNCE)) BEATS is a percussion-based workout using weighted drumsticks. Routines are performed on and around the trampoline. The carnival style of music makes this class joyful and fun for 45 minutes of rhythm and dance fitness.



#### **Health Matters**

If you're keen to improve your core fitness and cardio levels, then how about Boxercise or Bootcamp?

**Boxercise** is a boxing related exercise (don't worry – you don't hit anyone) that's suitable for all ages, abilities and fitness levels. It's a fun way of achieving an all over body workout, improving your general fitness and mental health as well as being an effective cardio workout and a confidence booster. A great way to punch the week's stress out of your body!

"Fit with Sam" runs outdoor **Bootcamp** sessions involving cardio and strength training using interval techniques mixed with weights, agility equipment and bodyweight exercises. Bootcamp caters to all fitness abilities as each individual works at their own pace and aims for a whole-body workout.





And for the youngsters, **Baby Ballet** runs classes for those aged 6 months to 6 years to learn to dance and develop key life skills in a healthy, sociable, caring and safe environment. Parents stay for the sessions and join in the fun.

Have you always wanted to learn some dance moves but never found the time? Well, here's the solution. **Beau Dance** runs classes at the Football Club for tots, youngsters, tweens and over 50s!

Another dance option is provided by **Friendship Dancers** which is a friendly, social class where European folk dancing is taught. All ages and abilities welcome and no need to bring a partner – just comfortable shoes.

If you'd like to combine the social aspect of meeting others with modest exercise, then **Indoor Kurling** may be just up your street! Indoor Kurling is a gentle sport for all ages and abilities and a great way to meet up with others. You can even play from a wheelchair. The organisers say "no skill is required although an ability to laugh is useful" and with refreshments at half-time and a friendly atmosphere, what's not to love about this?

Both Friendship Dancers and Indoor Kurling offer free taster sessions, so you literally have nothing to lose!

Hope to see you on your mat, trampoline or in any class early in 2022 and let's make this year the one where we keep that resolution. Go for it Melford!





#### Elizabeth Gibson MSSCH MBCHA

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#### **Sport Matters - Cricket**

#### **Winter Stops Play**

It's the close season at the Cricket Club and no Ashes for us. But there's still much going on, including restoring the square and outfield after a full 6-month schedule of matches, coaching sessions and cricket camps.

It was so good to get back to normal this past season. As for 2022, the club is keen to grow. Players of all ages, abilities and genders, as well as



match officials and local residents who might be interested to join as social members will all be warmly welcomed.

Winter nets are expected to start in January, with the first ball of the new season due to be bowled around Easter

Many thanks to all our sponsors and advertisers, as well as local businesses with whom we've built great partnerships recently such as Nethergate, Clark & Sons and Spitfire Mowers. We're very proud to use and enjoy their products and services, and to support our local community.

During the winter months, you're welcome to visit the ground of course, please just be sure to treat our space with the same respect you'd pay your own front garden. Many thanks from all at Long Melford CC.

#### **Sport Matters – Football**

News from Long Melford F.C.

If you're in need of some fresh air after the Christmas festivities, why not come along to Stoneylands on the 27th and watch a local derby when Melford take on Walsham le Willows. Kick off 11am. We have two home games before Christmas against Newmarket and Kirkley on the 4th and 18th respectively.

Nathan Bartlett, our new Under 18's Manager has seen two of his players make their first team debut

plus four boys regularly playing for the Reserve Team. At the other end of the service spectrum, our long-standing Secretary, Richard Powell is blowing the whistle on time. Happy retirement Richard and thank you for all your good work.

After many frustrating challenges and delays, our new building is virtually complete and providing a much-needed new home for our football teams. We're also attracting many community groups from pre-school to those that can dance, paint or sing!



#### Sudbury Football and Rugby Clubs Flying High

And that's why we thought we ought to give our neighbours a mention. AFC Sudbury won six preliminary games to qualify as giant-killers for the First Round proper of the FA Cup. They played Colchester United in a game shown live on BBC TV and watched by a capacity crowd of 2,000 but sadly lost 0 - 4.

And, at the time we went to press, Sudbury Rugby club were sitting right on top of the London 1 North division, having won 8 out 9 games and scored an average of 30 points a game.

Directory of Clubs ar	Contact	Phone/email	
Group  Dooding (Suffay Dood Club)	Victoria Power	07866 996124	
Beading (Suffex Bead Club)			
Beavers	Carolyn Spraggons	01787 370686	
Business Association	Jane Ebejer	01787 375862	
Coffee & Cake @ St Catherine's	Margaret Taylor	01787 880875	
Connect	Pam Tonks	07890 880976	
Cricket Club	Ivan Newman	07944 893167	
Explorers	Thomas Tracey	bovineesu123@gmail.com	
Folk & 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		help@suffolklibraries.co.uk	
Good Neighbours' Scheme	Helen Eaton	07504 249179	
Historical and Archaeological Society	Julie Thomson	01787 375329	
Holy Trinity & St Catherine's Church	Rev. Matthew Lawson	01787 301845	
Keep Fit	Heather Mahony	01449 736662	
Long Melford Community Sports Trust	Peter Turner	01787 468536	
Long Melford Cubs	Stacey Cole	07368 519981	
Long Melford Group Scout Leader	Stephen Spraggons	melfordgsl@aol.com	
Long Melford Museum and Heritage Centre	John Nunn	01787 313496	
Long Melford Litter Pickers	Julie Thomson	01787 375329	
Long Melford Open Spaces	Graham Eade	01787 319120	
Long Melford Parish Recorder	Julie Thomson	01787 375329	
Long Melford Photographic Group	Derek Challis	01787 373738	
Long Melford CE Primary School	Mrs Woolmer	01787 379929	
Long Melford Scouts	Graham Souch	1stlmscouts@gmail.com	
Long Melford Women's Institute	Jane Ebejer	01787 375862	
Melford Music	John Watts	01787 310373	
Neighbourhood Watch	Stuart Finch	07867 371564	
Over Sixties Club	Mrs Albon & Mrs Woodgate	371413/376711	
Old School bookings	Rosey Eade	01787 319120	
Project Seven	Andrew Hagger	07980 526067	
Royal British Legion	Martin Richards	01787 377567	
Scout & Guide HQ bookings	Vicki Ramdhanie	lmsglettings@gmail.com	
Silver Band	Mike Murkin	01787 312605	
The Arts Society South Suffolk	John Ashton	07899 872222	
Trinity Singers	Sue Roberts	01787 319850	
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 MelfordMattersAdvertising@gmail.com. Amendments must be received by **8th January** to be included in Issue 06 – February/March 2022.

Quiz Answers					
1. Scro	ooge 5.		Norway	9.	James Stewart
2. The	Three Wise Men 6.		Plum Pudding	10.	Two of Santa's Reindeer
3. The	Indian Ocean 7.		Cliff Richard		
4. Thre	ee French Hens 8.		King's College		



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