MELFORD Matters

Issue 9 – August/September 2022

Photos: Steve Thomson

Jubilee Joy

Melford celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style. Fantastic photos starting on page 15

A Busy Summer in Melford

Lots going on and lots to do (the whole issue is packed with fabulous summer events)

Neighbourhood Plan

At last, our Plan is nearing completion. You'll soon be able to vote on it – page 10

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Editorial

A wonderful summer in Melford

Aren't we lucky to live in Melford? What a wonderful summer it's been here so far. The Big Jubilee Lunch was a fantastic success and the whole of Hall Street was filled with bunting, flags, lunch tables and people having fun. The patchwork squares made by Melfordians, shown on our cover and paraded by the Scouts before the lunch, were fabulous.

And Melford Hall's grounds provided a marvellous setting for two really popular events new to the village – the Taste of Sudbury food and drink festival and the Village Fete (which took place too late for a full report in this issue) – as well as the return of the LeeStock Music Festival. It's great to see more use being made of this wonderful location.

Thanks to our great Pharmacy

Many people moan about our GP practice. But our pharmacy is great. A few weeks ago, I was worried about my swollen and bright red arm and asked to see a pharmacist. She looked at the arm, thought it might be infected and need antibiotics and said she'd ring the GP practice and get back to me. Within half an hour she rang me back saying a doctor would be in touch and within two hours I had an appointment at the surgery. That's service!

New to the village?

If you've moved into Melford in the last few years (especially if you're in the Elms Croft, Weavers Tye or Orchard Brook developments) we'd like to know what you think of living in Melford. Please email melfordmatterseditor@gmail.com

Dave Watts, Editor

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Experience History at Kentwell

There's plenty on offer at Kentwell this season starting with War (and Peace) on 6th-7th August where the everyday life of those involved in various conflicts, as well as those on the home front, will be explored.

War (and Peace): military history through the ages

From 13th-21st August there are family hands-on history days: an interactive experience sampling crafts, cookery, music and dancing from 1549.

Over the bank holiday weekend of 27th-29th August, you could explore the History Festival where experienced historians will offer an insight into different periods from the Bronze Age to the 1970s. The action will be spread across Kentwell. Each period will have its own setting with relevant costumes, equipment and activities.

How about sampling a Tudor Michaelmas Living History weekend and Apple Day on 24th-25th September? In addition to the 1549 experience, there'll be a chance to learn from the Kentwell garden team about the apples and pears growing in the walled garden and, with over one hundred varieties, there's sure to be plenty to see and learn.

Full details of all events can be found at www.kentwell.co.uk/events/

Finally and sadly, the Kentwell Hall family are deeply upset as Dawn Basham, long-time administrator, event organiser and performer, passed away in June. Dawn lived in Melford with her partner, Ant, and had worked at Kentwell for over 30 years. Her enormous energy, intelligence and wit will be missed by so many. Patrick Phillips wrote "few people are one offs but Dawn was undoubtedly one of them".

Keep Melford Tidy

Throughout the year, volunteers from Long Melford Litter Pickers meet to play a part in helping to keep our village as litter-free as possible. If you'd like to join us, you can email longmelfordlitterpickers@gmail.com or telephone 01787 375329 for more information. The location of our pick depends on our rota and areas which need attention. We meet twice a month, one Thursday at 2pm and one Sunday at 10am, usually for between one and two hours. Our dates for August are the 25th and 28th and for September the 22nd and 25th. Why not help us keep the village litter-free?

Summer Art Exhibitions

The Suffolk Art Society exhibition in the Lady Chapel of Holy Trinity Church in Melford continues until 7th August and features work from around 60 of Suffolk's leading artists. Entry is free and it's open daily from 9.30am to 6pm. For further information contact admin@suffolkartsociety.co.uk.

Melford and Lavenham churches both host August art exhibitions

Lavenham Art Society is also holding a summer exhibition in Lavenham Church from 13th to 29th August. Entry is free and it's open from 9am to 6pm on Mon to Sat and 12 noon to 6pm on Sundays.

Stained Glass Colouring Book

In the last Melford Matters, I reported on work under way to restore the nationally important stained glass windows at Holy Trinity Church.

To raise money for that work we've now produced the Long Melford Stained Glass Colouring Book, as featured on BBC Radio Suffolk.

It contains 36 black-and-white drawings of some of the windows' medieval figures and is for adults and children alike. There's an introduction about the building of the church and the historical context, plus biographies of each of the real characters in the images. Why not colour their pictures at home then visit the church to see the real thing?

Published by Eye Books, the book is available on Amazon and can be ordered from any bookshop. It's also on sale at several village outlets, including the Post Office, Breakout, Eliza's Pantry, Scutchers and, of course, the church shop, price £6.99. All proceeds go to the stained glass conservation fund.

Simon Edge

Songs of Praise from Holy Trinity

An edition of the BBC's Songs of Praise was due to be filmed at Melford's Holy Trinity church on 19th July. It's expected to be broadcast sometime in September. So please keep an eye out for updates on noticeboards and social media for when to tune in.

Melford Music's Founder Returns

The August lunchtime recitals in Holy Trinity include a French Horn (five French Horns and four Percussionists) recital on 17th led by John James, who founded Melford Music in 1991 and was its first chairman. John's distinguished career as performer, soloist, composer, arranger and conductor started at the Royal Academy of Music and has since spanned three continents and more than three decades. We're delighted to welcome him back.

Other August recitals include piano and saxophone on 3rd, clarinet and piano on 10th, a woodwind trio on 24th and finally two pianos and a narrator on 31st (which will feature Saint-Saëns' famous Carnival of the Animals).

All recitals start at 1.10pm. Admission is free and a voluntary collection is held as you leave to raise money towards the costs of maintaining the fabric of the church. Light refreshments are available.

Good Neighbours – 15 Years and Still Going Strong

Our Good Neighbours Scheme was launched on 1st January 2008, so we're approaching our fifteenth anniversary. Some of us have been involved since the beginning and have seen a few changes. We now have a befriending scheme and fortnightly coffee mornings with Friends of the Library. There are many other activities too such as our Jubilee party.

There have been many new rules and regulations we've had to follow but we pride ourselves on continuing to assist where we can. We take people to health appointments, collect food and medicines and even change lightbulbs. I think we have a record we can be proud of. If you'd like to join our team of volunteers, attend a coffee morning or have a visitor for a chat sometimes, contact us on 07504 249179.

Coffee morning dates at the Old School are: August 4th, 18th and September 1st, 15th and 29th. We're there from 10am for about an hour.

Pauline Bragg

Long Melford Open Gardens

Long Melford Open Gardens returned this year as a blooming success!

This 2022 event was organised by a team from Breakout and The Mill and featured more than 20 gardens.

Over 500 people visited gardens despite the wet weather

There was a fantastic turnout despite some heavy and persistent rain. The gardens offered so much variety, from the smallest and most perfectly manicured gardens to the more grand, formal type. All of the gardens were outstanding and a credit to their owners and they really showcased what Long Melford has to offer.

Farley and Paul would like to thank everyone who opened their garden, the businesses that agreed to sell tickets, and Carter Jonas for their advertising.

An impressive 540 tickets were sold and with extra donations we raised a whopping £3,400. This year, proceeds were split 50/50 between Long Melford in Bloom, and the Cure CJD charity in memory of Robert Clubb.

Next year's event is hoped to be bigger and better so we welcome new gardens for 2023. If you'd like to sign up for next year or need further information, please contact Paul at The Mill by email: contact@themill-longmelford.com or call 01787 378035.

Thank you – Farley and Paul.

FLUMPS Not Resting on Their Laurels

The Friends of Long Melford Primary School (FLUMPS) hosted the Family Area at the LeeStock Festival. This was a great success and we raised lots of money and donated 10% of this to the Willow Foundation. But we're already looking to the next school year. We hope to continue to raise funds successfully and grow as a committee. We're looking for new members and welcome new ideas. In the immediate future, we'll be hosting a coffee morning to welcome the parents of new pupils to the school.

Volunteers Needed for Our Country Park

The Country Park is a fantastic village asset but it takes a bit of effort to keep it going. We (the 'Park Friends') are looking for more volunteers.

If you enjoy the outdoors and nature and have a few hours to spare from time to time, then becoming a Park Friend could be something you'd be interested in. Some of the things Park Friends do include making and putting up bird nesting boxes, staining and restoring the picnic benches, keeping the car park area clear and tidy, occasional litter picking, monthly grass-cutting in certain areas and ensuring designated pathways are clear in the spring/summer months.

Projects we tackle during autumn and winter include improving areas for wildflowers and cleaning out nesting boxes. Little Woodland Tribe nursery is based at the park and the volunteers also carry out some maintenance on its nursery area. The Park Friends are a jolly crew and it's not unknown to have a pint or two at Nethergate Brewery once the work has been done!

If you're 18 or over and fancy getting involved with your local park and nature reserve, please email tipperl@longmelford-pc.gov.uk and we'll let you know how to get involved.

Training and a snazzy hi-viz are provided and we always work in small groups. Signed up Park Friends are covered under the Parish Council's insurance policy.

Park Friends repairing one of the picnic benches

Hi-Tech Search and You Will Find

Long Melford Heritage Trust's Archaeological Unit has recently commissioned the Durham-based specialists, Phase Site Investigations, to conduct a geophysical survey in Melford centred on the football and cricket grounds.

We had two perfect April days for the project. It involved using an electromagnetic technique which measures minute differences in the earth's magnetic field to produce a picture of the soil beneath at depth.

We now have the 26-page technical report, which is being analysed. But it's already obvious that our village was once an important town in the Iron Age and later in the Roman era. Numerous settlement and regional connection roads are evident, along with tantalising features which currently are a mystery but could prove to be hugely significant. The area surveyed probably represents only 25% of the original town, so we're confident there is much more to uncover.

The search equipment may not look hi-tech but it is

Meanwhile our Archaeological Team is busy once again with another excavation which will add more to our heritage story.

All our latest findings will be explained and available this Autumn, when we intend to invite the village to an event and talk on what we know about these discoveries.

The Sound of Silver Band Music

The Silver Band has had a busy summer. In Melford alone, we played at the Queen's Jubilee Lunch in Hall Street and at the Village Fete at Melford Hall. Upcoming events include a performance at Cavendish fete on 3rd September and a free concert on Melford's village green on Sunday 11th September at 2.30pm.

The Silver Band will be playing on the Green on 11th September

The standard of the Band is continuing to improve under the leadership and guidance of our musical director, Mr Nigel Partridge, as he introduces us to more challenging pieces of music as well as playing many of our favourites. We have some vacancies within the Band and hope new players will come along to join us.

You can keep up to date with our forthcoming events and all other Band matters on our website: www.longmelfordsilverband.co.uk/events

DO YOU NEED HELP AT HOME?

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I am able to cook

clean and shop

and have always worked in private houses.

Contact Emma on 07557 367445

A Showpiece for Local Produce and Talent at Melford Hall

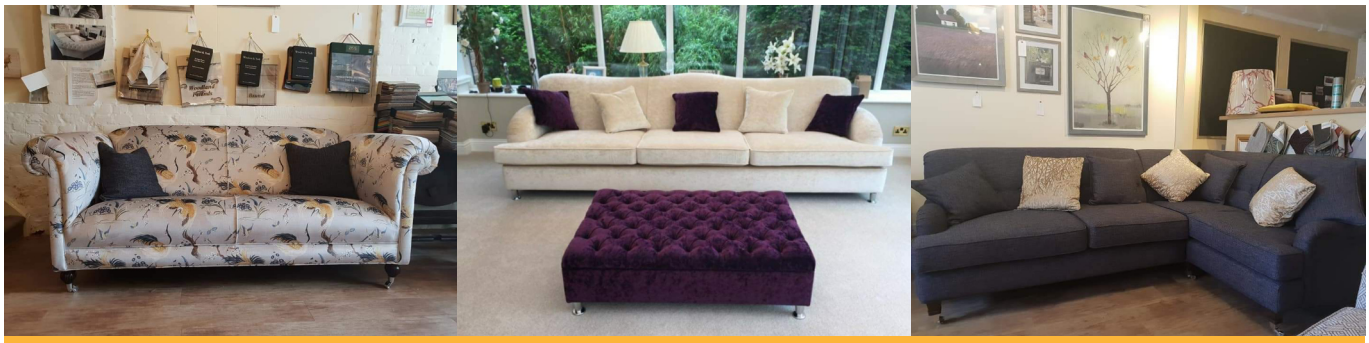
The annual 'Taste of Sudbury' food and drink festival was held in June in the grounds of Melford Hall and was a great success. Organiser Justine Paul told us "The event went really, really well and was attended by almost 3,000 people. We've had great positive feedback from both visitors and exhibitors."

There were 66 stands including a huge range of locally made food and drink on sale. Visitors could sample charcuterie, delicious breads and pastries, jams and chutneys, coffees and teas, spirits and beers. Other attractions were local farm animals including ducks, chickens and piglets. There were musicians, a special children's area and a stand selling treats for dogs.

But the highlight was a marquee with a large stage on which various demonstrations took place. These included breadmaking by Tensheds Bakehouse, butchery by Hollow Trees Farm, and some local chefs creating their signature dishes. These demos attracted big crowds all day.

Justine Paul said "All the exhibitors were based within 30 miles of Sudbury. And the event is run by a not-for-profit Community Interest Company. All the proceeds go into covering the costs of putting on the event (around £20,000) and anything left over will go towards next year's festival."

The marquee where local experts demonstrating their skills attracted big crowds
Photo: Sudbury Market Events Ltd



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LeeStock Festival

Jubi-LeeStock was a Roaring Success, Even Without Sir Paul McCartney

After two years away, LeeStock Music Festival returned with a bang (and some top class bands!) to Melford Hall grounds over the Jubilee weekend.

LeeStock was set up in memory of a Sudbury man, Lee Dunford. The family-friendly event has so far raised over £165,000 for the Willow Foundation – a national charity which provides special days for seriously ill young adults. The charity paid for Lee and his friends to record an EP and stay in a London hotel before he passed away in 2006.

The festival has been based in Long Melford since 2013 and has contributed money to the Parish Council, the Football Club and provided two benches at the Country Park. This year FLUMPS (the Friends of Long Melford Primary School) hosted the Family Area, the Fire Station provided an engine for the kids to enjoy and the Football Club put on events for them. Nethergate supplied their excellent beers to the Beer Festival.

The crowd enjoying the splendid Festival weather
Photo: Matt Sterling

The festivities opened on Friday to glorious sunshine. Families enjoyed their picnics whilst soaking up the varied musical treats including some glorious chilled funk from The Foundations. As the sun set on Saturday, the crowds were Dancing in the Sunset (to paraphrase Toploader's big hit 'Dancing in the Moonlight'), before Scouting For Girls closed the weekend with their crowd pleasing set.

Neighbourhood Plan Matters

Your Chance to Vote on the Plan

After six years of hard work, research and consultation, the Long Melford Neighbourhood Plan is close to reaching its final stage. An external examiner has reviewed the Plan and recommended that, subject to some modifications, it goes to a referendum of all voters in the Parish.

These modifications have now been made and approved by the Parish Council. The resulting draft Referendum Version of the Plan has been sent to Babergh District Council (BDC). It's now down to it to approve the Referendum Version and arrange the referendum, expected to be this autumn.

If approved by a majority of people voting in the referendum, BDC and our Parish Council will need to take the policies in the Plan into consideration when considering planning applications in Long Melford.

The external examiner commented: *"The Plan is presented well. The Plan contains 25 policies ranging from a number of site allocations, the designation of Local Green Spaces, flood risk to change of use. The policies do not repeat District level policy but seek to add local detail or address matters of importance to the local community."*

And she concluded: *"I am therefore pleased to recommend to Babergh District Council that, subject to the modifications proposed in this report, the Long Melford Neighbourhood Development Plan can proceed to a referendum."*

How to see the Plan

You can see the Referendum Version of the Plan at www.longmelfordnp.co.uk and copies will be available to see at the Parish Council Office and the Library.

A thorough consultation with residents and businesses has taken place while drawing up the Plan. For example, there have been five public meetings/open days for residents, a parish-wide questionnaire with a 75% response rate, two Business Forums, consultations with schools and pupils, the GP surgery, Suffolk County Council, BDC and other local interest groups.

Please watch out on village noticeboards and social media for the date of the referendum. And please look at the Plan and come out and cast your vote.

Over 150 people attended each of the Public Meetings

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Melford Movies

The Melford Movies team held a very successful Trailer Night in June. Those who came viewed the trailers for a broad range of films and selected an exciting programme of screenings for our 2022-23 season. With some recent releases and some old favourites, we're sure there'll be something to tempt everyone. We also signed up some new volunteers. If you fancy joining them, please contact us by email: melfordmovies@icloud.com – the more the merrier!

The screenings will as usual be held in the Village Hall on the second Friday of every month, from August 2022 to March 2023. Doors open at 7pm, giving an opportunity to chat, enjoy some refreshments and buy tickets in our popular raffle, before the film starts at 7.30pm. Adults £5; Under-16s £3.

The season begins on **12th August** with **Fishermen's Friends** (12A), the heart-warming story of 10 Cornish fishermen signed by Universal Records whose debut album of Sea Shanties proves to be a top ten hit. Then on **9th September** we're pleased to bring you **Operation Mincemeat** (12A). Colin Firth stars as a war-time intelligence officer who must use a corpse with false papers to deceive the Nazi forces and protect a massive allied invasion force from a potential massacre.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Diary Matters

August	Event	Venue/details	Time
Wednesday 3rd	Antiques Fair	Village Hall	9.00am to 3.30pm
Thursday 4th	GN/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am
Thursday 4th	Parish Council: Planning Full meeting	Old School	7.00pm 7.30pm
Friday 5th	Bygones	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	8.00 to 10.30pm
Friday 5th	Disco	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	7.00 to 11.30pm
Sunday 7th	Car boot. £5 per table/car	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	9.00am to 3.00pm
Monday 8th	TikTok Dance Workshop	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	9.30am to 12.30pm
Thursday 11th	Car Club	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	7.00 to 10.00pm
Friday 12th	Melford Movies – Fisherman's Friends	Village Hall	7.00pm for 7.30 start
Friday 12th	Folk & Acoustic Club upstairs	Cock & Bell poboap123@gmail.com	8.00pm
Thursday 18th	GN/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am
Monday 22nd	Fairytale Dance Workshop	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	9.30am to 12.30pm
Thursday 25th	Long Melford Litter Pickers	longmelfordlitterpickers@gmail.com	2.00pm
Sat 27th/Sun 28th	Antiques & Vintage Fair	Old School	9.30am to 4.00pm
Sunday 28th	Garden Party at Withindale Mill, in aid of Long Melford Heritage Trust	Entry (inc. English Cream Tea) £10. Tickets from Budgens/Tanswells cakes	2.00 to 6.00pm
Sunday 28th	Long Melford Litter Pickers	longmelfordlitterpickers@gmail.com	10.00am
September	**Event**	**Venue/details**	**Time**
Thursday 1st	Street Dance Workshop	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	9.30am to 12.30pm
Thursday 1st	GN/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am
Thursday 1st	Parish Council: Planning Full meeting	Old School	7.00pm 7.30pm
Friday 2nd	Bygones	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	8.00 to 10.30pm
Sunday 4th	Car boot. £5 per table/car	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	9.00am to 3.00pm
Wednesday 7th	Antiques Fair	Village Hall	9.00am to 3.30pm
Thursday 8th	Car Club	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	7.00 to 10.00pm
Friday 9th	Karaoke	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	7.00 to 11.30pm
Friday 9th	Melford Movies – Operation Mincemeat	Village Hall	7 pm for 7.30 start
Friday 9th	Folk & Acoustic Club upstairs	Cock & Bell poboap123@gmail.com	8.00pm
Thursday 15th	GN/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am
Thursday 22nd	Long Melford Litter Pickers	longmelfordlitterpickers@gmail.com	2.00pm
Friday 23rd	Live Music – 3rd Time Lucky	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	7.00 to 11.30pm
Sunday 24th	Long Melford Litter Pickers	longmelfordlitterpickers@gmail.com	10.00am
Sat 24th/Sun 25th	Antiques & Vintage Fair	Old School	9.30am to 4.00pm
Thursday 29th	GN/Friends of LM Library Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am
Friday 30th	80's night (£10 pre-book ticket)	LM Royal British Legion Social Club	7.00 to 11.30pm

Melford Matters is a not-for-profit community initiative funded through advertising and donations. It is produced and distributed by volunteers and printed by Indigo Ross Design & Print Ltd. The magazine welcomes contributions from everyone in the village. For further information please refer to the Long Melford Village Hall website, https://www.longmelfordvillagehall.co.uk/melford-matters, or email the editor, melfordmatterseditor@gmail.com, or advertising team, melfordmattersadvertising@gmail.com.

Diary Matters

Regular classes & workshops at Long Melford Village Memorial Hall			
Mondays	Bounce classes – Jules Cooper	www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford	9.30 to 10.30am
Mondays	Strollercise – Marina St Leger	07917 333712 www.strollercise.co.uk	11.30am to 12.30pm
Mondays	Beau Dance for 6 to 10 year olds	Holly Cook 07512 692289	4.00 to 5.00pm
Mondays	Pop Chorus – Yula Andrews (resuming September)	07788 585441	7.30 to 8.30pm
Tuesdays	Pilates – Michelle Cowcher	michellecowcher@gmail.com	10.00 to 11.00am
Tuesdays	Bounce & Bounce Beats – Jules Cooper	www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford	6.00 to 8.00pm
Thursdays	Bounce Barbells & Bounce – Jules Cooper	www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford	6.00 to 8.00pm
Thursdays	Indoor Kurling (1st and 3rd Thurs)	Drop in for a free taster session	2.00 to 4.00pm
Fridays	Baby Ballet (resuming September)	sudbury@babyballet.co.uk 07580 693747	9.30am to 12.00pm
Monthly	Lecture series (4th Tuesday, resuming September)	Suffolk Family History Society (Sudbury)	2.30 to 4.00pm
Monthly	Lecture series (3rd Wednesday, starting September)	Arts Society of Stour Valley	11 am to 1.00pm
Regular classes & workshops at the Old School			
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	1.30 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	10.00 to 11.30am
Wednesdays	Friendship Dancers	Robin Hart 01787 269613	3.00 to 5.00pm
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	Zen Yoga – Fiona Dinning-Cole	yoga@nowandzen.guru 07967 706041	10.00 to 11.30am
Monthly	Photography Group (1st Monday)	Derek Challis 01787 373738	mornings
Monthly	LM Poppies (WI) (2nd Thursday)	Jane Ebejer melfordinn@outlook.com	7.30 to 9.30pm
Regular classes & workshops at The Melford at Stoneylands (LMFC clubhouse)			
Mondays	Rock Choir	Adam Abo Henriksen 07840 024591	7.30 to 9.30pm
Tuesdays	Beau Dance for adults	Holly Cook 07512 692289	7.00 to 8.00pm
Wednesdays	Art Class	Edd Terran 01787 370923	2.00pm
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
Sundays	LM Veterans Football	Dan Bull 07925 867247	Call for details

Diary Matters

Regular classes & workshops at Long Melford Royal British Legion Social Club			
Mondays	Over 60s	Entertainment.longmelford@gmail1	2.00 to 5.00pm
Mondays	Slimming World	Sam 07377738813	5.30 to 8.30pm
Tuesdays	Tot Rock & Baby Bounce (0 to 5 yrs)	melford.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	2.30pm
Tuesdays	Bingo	Entertainment.longmelford@gmail.com	7.00 to 10.00pm
Wednesdays	Top Time (for the over 50s but all welcome)	melford.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	3.00pm
Wednesdays	Crib	Entertainment.longmelford@gmail.com	7.30 to 10.00pm
Thursdays	Yoga	Entertainment.longmelford@gmail.com	9.30 to 11.30am
Thursdays	Tweens Dance Class	Holly Cook 07512 692289	4.00 to 5.00pm
Thursdays	Strollercise	07917 333712 www.strollercise.co.uk	6.00 to 7.00pm
Saturdays	Saturday Craft for children	melford.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	10.00am to 12.00pm
Saturdays	Live music	Entertainment.longmelford@gmail.com	7.00 to 11.30pm
Regular events and services at Holy Trinity Church			
Sundays	Main Service	Holy Trinity Church	10.30am
Monthly	Choral Evensong (1st Sunday)	Holy Trinity Church	6.30pm

If you would like your activity or event listed here, let us know the details by emailing MelfordMattersAdvertising@gmail.com. Details for October/November need to reach us by **1st September**.

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Platinum Jubilee Matters

Melford in Bloom goes Red, White and Blue

Melford in Bloom joined in the Jubilee celebrations by planting red, white and blue flowers. And don't they look spectacular? Photos by Phil Buck and Teresa Poole.

The Melford in Bloom team is looking for more volunteers to help keep the displays looking their best. For more information, please contact Jonathanewbank145@gmail.com.

Village Fete

If you're wondering why we don't have any photos of the Village Fete, the answer is it took place after our print deadline for this issue. But don't worry – we'll have some in the next issue.

Jayne Lines' Torch Relay Triumph

One of the first Jubilee celebrations was the 'Torch Relay' through 250 Suffolk towns and villages, ending at the Suffolk Show. Each village had to nominate a 'local hero' to carry the torch on a rickshaw.

Jayne Lines and grandson Max at the start of their rickshaw ride

Long Melford's hero was Jayne Lines who served for many years on the Parish Council, including a spell as Chair. She has also done many other things for Melford; most recently, she was a founder of the Covid Support Group, formed to help residents cope during the first lockdown. A big crowd and the Long Melford Silver Band gathered at the Village Hall to send her on her way through the village.

The Royal Procession and Classic Vehicle parade kick off proceedings

Organisers believe over 1,000

Big Jubilee Lunch a Huge Success

Melford really pulled out all the stops and the hugely successful Big Jubilee Lunch attracted a fantastic turnout. On an almost rain-free day, there was a very special Royal Procession of children from the Primary School, Scouts carrying Platinum Patchwork banners, and a parade of vintage Felix buses and classic cars through the decades of the Queen's reign.

Performers entertaining the crowds

People laid on some fabulous spreads…

… including Platinum Pudding

Melford Court residents join in

people joined the celebrations

There was entertainment from acrobats, fire eaters, hula hoopers and six live bands. The Rev. Lawson judged and awarded prizes for best dressed person, won by Julie Thomson; best dressed table went to the Poole family; and the Woolpatch won the best dressed shop window.

Mark Turnbull, a local professional photographer, kindly spent the day taking photos. Here is a selection.

Prizewinners Julie Thomson (left and, inset, on her bike), Woolpatch (above) and the Poole Family (below)

the celebrations

The Silver Band performing outside the Co-op

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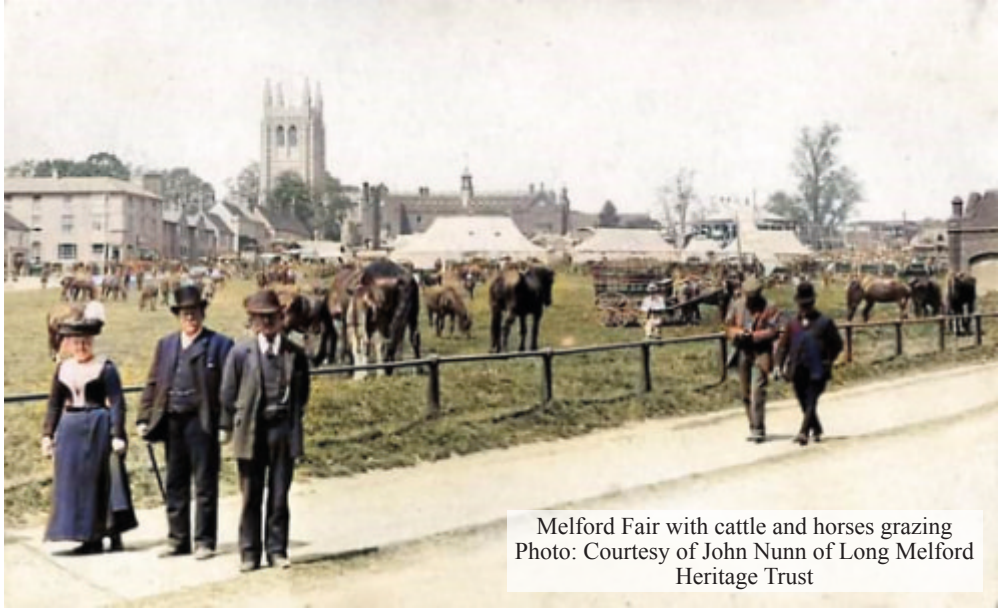
The Fair on the Green – Nearly 800 Years Old

Have you ever wondered why the travelling fair appears on Melford's Upper Green on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday after Whitsun? The tradition began nearly 800 years ago. In 1235, King Henry III granted a Royal Charter allowing a market on the Green.

The photos here date from around 1905 when the Queen's great-grandfather Edward VII was on the throne. In those days, the event was used for trading horses and cattle and an exhibition of agricultural machinery made by Ward and Silver (whose premises were where Melford's Co-op now stands). There were also funfair rides, coconut shies, fortune tellers, a boxing booth, beer tents and more.



Melford Fair with cattle and horses grazing
Photo: Courtesy of John Nunn of Long Melford Heritage Trust

During the recent Covid lockdowns the latest Fair Controller, Reggie Bugg, installed a ride on the Green for a day even though it could not be used because of Covid rules. He said "You still get a lot of people who believe that if the charter is not upheld, it is lost forever. Obviously, this was a token thing because of the virus, but, to cover all bases, I made sure we had a roundabout to uphold the tradition."

Fairground showmen with ladies and gentlemen of the village
Photo: Courtesy of John Nunn of Long Melford Heritage Trust

Library Matters

News from Long Melford Library

We've been settling in our new home at the Royal British Legion on Cordell Road. It's been lovely to see so many new faces in the library. As we're so near to the primary school, we've welcomed lots of keen young readers in to borrow all sorts of books, from 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' to 'Captain Underpants'!

We hope you've been enjoying our new home too but if you haven't visited us yet, please come and say hello. Our opening hours remain the same and all our regular activities (see Diary page 14) continue as before. We've had fun with crafts and coding on Saturday mornings; you're very welcome to join in.

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge was launched in July but it's not too late to sign up and read your six books before the end of the holidays! We have provisionally booked a party and certificate ceremony for Saturday 10th September so please keep the date free.

Suffolk Libraries turns 10

In August, we'll be celebrating ten years since Suffolk Libraries was launched as a charity to run the county's library service. If you don't have one already, why not sign up for your free library card? Everybody is welcome to join!

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Melford's Lovely Centuries Old Lime Tree Avenue

During the recent lockdowns, a steady stream of villagers greeted each other while strolling up and down the tree-lined avenue leading to Kentwell Hall. But this also happened on Sundays in the late Victorian era, when the walkers included chaperoned couples taking the opportunity to announce the status of their relationship. If they were lightly holding hands, they had just started courting. But if the man had a pheasant feather in his cap and the couple were walking arm-in-arm, they were engaged!

The Avenue, Kentwell
Watercolour by local artist Vernon Lever (courtesy of Myriam Berger)

Almost 350 years old

Lime trees became very fashionable in the late 17th century. In 1676, Sir Thomas Robinson, a wealthy lawyer, bought the Kentwell Estate. Two years later, he had the lime trees planted along the ¾-mile stretch between the top gates and the road. Sir Thomas, however, didn't live long enough to enjoy the sight. In 1683, he jumped from a first-floor window in London to escape a fire and died.

Sold to a piano maker – then bought back

An inventory of 1825 records 235 trees, but they were very nearly all lost. Richard Moore, the owner, had got into financial difficulties and sold the trees in the Avenue to Clementi, a distinguished piano maker and composer who wanted to use the wood for piano keys. This didn't go down well with Moore's mother: she sold land in Lavenham to buy the trees back. By that time, however, Clementi had already felled a few trees near the Hall.

The Ravages of Storms, Water and War

Since 1971 over 100 trees have been lost: 42 in the great storm of 1987 with 14 more in three bad storms in 1990. Barely a year goes by without the loss of one or more trees. Some have been weakened by being pollarded in their early years and subsequently grown with several leads; at the base of these, the collected water has started to rot the trees' core. Their weakness in high winds is not helped by the bulk and weight of the abundant mistletoe growing high up. Nor was it helpful to put down concrete between the trees during WWII (for the parking of tanks and heavy guns)! Yet despite these challenges, Kentwell's Lime Tree Avenue remains an impressive sight.

Enjoy the Trees and Don't Blame Them

Beautiful bright-green leaves appear in April and May and the trees generally blossom in June and July. At the height of this period a lovely subtle aroma wafts through the air and myriads of bees busily collect nectar. It's a feast not only for the bees, but also for lovers of infusions: once dried, the lime flowers can be used as a tea effective against colds.

If you've parked your car under a lime tree in summer you may know that the trees can sometimes drop a sticky substance. The real 'culprits', however, are the common lime aphids producing honey dew on the underside of the leaves.

Parish Council Matters

What's in a name?

When the signs on the right went up on the road leading to the new Bloor development, some people wondered whether it was Bloor cocking a snook at the SOS campaign to prevent development on the site. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In fact, Bloor asked the Parish Council to come up with names for all the new roads on the development. It was agreed that it would be fitting if they were named after bird species that can be found on or near the site, including Skylark Way for the major road through the site. All the smaller side roads will also be named after bird species.

Vacancy for a parish councillor

Cllr Ian Bartlett has resigned from the Council because he is moving out of Melford. Ian has done a great deal for the village in the seven years he was a councillor and will be sadly missed. The vacancy created is likely to be filled by co-option – the deadline for applications to be received by is 27th July.

Neighbourhood Plan Approved

The Parish Council held an Extraordinary Meeting on 24th June to approve the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan. For what happens next, see page 10.

The team producing the Plan has put a tremendous amount of work into it over the last six years and deserves a huge vote of thanks – especially the chairman Cllr Jonathan Ewbank and planning consultant and Melford resident Ian McDonald.

Neighbourhood Watch and Cyberhood Watch

Scams

Melford's Neighbourhood Watch team regularly hears from residents worried about scams. Here's advice on how to avoid them.

Scams are crimes where the perpetrator tries to swindle the victim out of money or out of personal information to steal their money later.

Scammers are becoming more sophisticated and using a wide range of platforms, so more and more people are being caught out, especially via online shopping, personal banking, and investment fraud scams. Ticket, holiday and delivery company scams are currently particularly prevalent.

Stop, Challenge and Protect!

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. Stop and think. It could protect you and your money.

- **STOP:** Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **CHALLENGE:** Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

You can find out how to protect against doorstep, mail, online, pension and investment, phone, or romance scams by visiting this website www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectfromfraud.

Please report your suspicions or incidents to Action Fraud, either on their website actionfraud.police.uk or by phoning 0300 123 2040.

You can also join the Long Melford Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Group @longmelfordneighbourhoodwatch

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Brain Matters

A Village Quiz

How well do you know your Melford?

1. How many self-service check outs are there in our Co-Op?
2. With which business did a branch of Barclays bank once share a building?
3. By what name is the retail outlet in Hall Street's Chestnut House better known?
4. In 1960, what significant change happened at Melford Hall?
5. Which is the only Melford pub that has a red front door?
6. When did Ruse the Butchers start trading? Was it 1860 or 1880 or 2000?
7. Who is our County Councillor?
8. Which Melford building housed a Barnado's home from 1947 to 1967?
9. What is the name of the café in the Country Park?
10. Where was Melford's police station?

Answers on page 30.

What significant change happened at Melford Hall in 1960?

Save Our Swifts

The call to SAVE OUR SWIFTS was a huge success with many people offering to purchase and have swift boxes installed on their homes. We now have over 40 new boxes installed and more people willing to have them in time for for summer 2023. Please let me know if you'd like to be considered for one.

An enormous thank you goes to our Fire Service volunteers who put up the new boxes. In return, we've made a £100 donation to their chosen charity.

We've been playing swift calls to attract the birds' attention to the new residences. As I write, we've had many sightings of swifts near the new boxes but no actual nesting. This is neither surprising nor disappointing, as they will be younger swifts checking out suitable places for nesting next year.

Join in the Big Butterfly Count: this is a Red Admiral

We've been recording existing nest sites and parties of swifts seen in Melford. You can help us by putting information on the RSPB website 'swift mapper' (https://www.swiftmapper.org.uk).

Wildflower areas doing well

The Biodiversity Group has been busy maintaining the trees and hedges we planted last autumn and adding additional plants to our wildflower areas along the Railway Walk and in front of St Catherine's Church. The dry spring hasn't made it an easy task, however all areas are doing well and attracting more butterflies and other insects. We've also undertaken some flora and fauna surveys, which we'll do again next year to see if the numbers and diversity of species are increasing.

A lovely activity for children at the beginning of the summer holidays is the Big Butterfly Count. They can go out into the countryside or a garden and note down all the species they see and record them on https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/ This runs until Sunday 7th August.

Our Biodiversity Group is always looking for new members and volunteers to help with our work. Please get in touch if you'd like to help.

Jane Burch
jane_burch@yahoo.co.uk

long melford biodiversity group

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Gardening Matters – Notes from the potting shed

Time to collect those seeds

Well, the good news is that the Great Melford Seed Swap will be back again next February. Now is the perfect time to be collecting seeds from your gorgeous flowers as well as beans and other vegetable seeds to bring along and swap with your fellow Melford growers. The last swap was attended by over 100 gardeners and there were some interesting and unusual seeds available, as well as plenty of mainstream essentials. Why not save some lupins, foxgloves and cosmos seeds in a paper bag, for example, bring them along in February and help keep the whole village looking beautiful next year?

Thinking about the village looking beautiful, the sweet pea displays have been stunning and thanks to all who took part in this year's growing challenge. Their seed pods are ideal for saving but need to be dried in a bag as they tend to explode as they dry and scatter the seeds otherwise!

We thought the people growing on the new allotments near the Chad Brook (over the Village Hall bridge and turn left) deserve to be mentioned: it's hard to believe that the land they're cultivating was bramble and nettles until early last year and now the plots are beautifully tended, with sheds and polytunnels and this year the harvest has included artichokes, asparagus, rhubarb, chillies, peas, beans, tomatoes, salad, onions, potatoes, beetroot, leeks, peas and strawberries. There's even a promising fig tree on one plot. Huge congrats to all who have worked so hard to create such successful and productive plots so quickly.

Topical tips

If you're struggling to keep things looking good at this stage in the season, it's really worth keeping on top of deadheading to extend your display and also remember to give liquid feed to all container plants as the goodness in their growing medium will probably be exhausted by now. Liquid comfrey feed is great and free (simply steep a bucketful of torn comfrey leaves in water for 3 weeks), but tomato feed is a good alternative. If you're growing asparagus, it's a good idea to leave the fern growth to turn straw coloured before you remove it for the winter; that will allow the maximum chance for the crown and roots to be fed which should lead to a great harvest of this garden luxury next year.

We very much hope that your gardening this season is making you feel happy and positive.

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

Happy Gardening!

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.

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An Action-Packed Summer for the Scouts

Covid has made the last few years difficult for our scouting sections. But we're one of the few scouting groups in the district to have continued during lock downs. Indeed, our number of young members has risen to over 80 across the sections since we were able to meet face to face again.

This term, thanks to Hayley Habel (a Beaver leader), the Scouts have been to Lackford Lake for Bell boat adventurous activities. Subsequently, the Beavers and Cubs have also been to Lackford. The Scouts have been to Santa Pod, where they watched drag racing and had a successful hike and camp.

The Beavers and Squirrels had an amazing day at the Country Park. It ended with twenty-two of the youngsters completing their hiker's badge by walking from the park back to our HQ next to the Village Hall. The hikers included three Squirrels, aged just four to six.

We held our AGM at the end of June. The leaders worked very hard to provide a fun-packed afternoon, where visitors and scout members could take part. They could try out a number of activities including elastic band guns, a giant obstacle course, slack line, cooking on a fire and more. There were lots of free refreshments.

A Squirrel learning the ropes

Still smiling – Beavers and Squirrels on their trek back to HQ

We'd like to thank Mike Durell as he stands down from his Executive Chairperson role to train as a Cub Scout Leader. We welcome Peter Lambert in his place. Our thanks go to Alice Page and David Burch for continuing to serve on our Executive Committee. We need representatives on this and on our Management Committee. Please contact David Burch if you can help 07590 526430

And we need parents and others to join our leadership team (see Box). We especially need leaders for the Beavers. And we'll only have one Scout Leader from September; without some regular trained help its future is threatened.

Our Youngsters Need You

With the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Long Melford has a thriving Scout group but we need leaders to keep our groups going.

Scouts

If you'd enjoy working with young people and have an hour or two each week free, why not consider joining our team?

You won't need any scouting experience and you'll have fun as well as helping the boys and girls to develop their skills for life.

If you're interested, please Contact melfordgsl@aol.com or Carolyn.spraggons@suffolkscouts.org.uk

Pause For Thought

Killed by the lead piping ...

No, we're not talking Cluedo but ancient Rome. If you lived there at its peak there's a good chance you had hot and cold running water via lead piping. Indeed, this 'miracle metal' was used everywhere – in pipes, plates, pots, and wine containers. However, we now know that, slowly and insidiously, people became poisoned by it and some lost their minds, contributing to the disintegration of the empire.

One of today's technological 'miracles' is the ubiquitous mobile phone. It's used for everything … texting, turning on lights, monitoring your heart, following 'influencers' … or even phoning someone up! But they ping and buzz at you when you lie in bed; targeted social media algorithms reinforce your values (or prejudices); and vile comments are made without risk of redress. Mobile phones have surely led to a reduction in reasoned, respectful debate.

I love my phone, but we might be wise to follow the example of a young Melford couple I know who take mobile phone 'days off'. Maybe doing likewise will prevent us all from going mad!

Rev Lawson

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Sport Matters – Cricket

Howzat for Long Melford Cricket Club

We always knew it was going to be a tough season but, all things considered, the club is still going from strength to strength.

Youngsters who took part in the Kwik Cricket Tournament, with Matt Wood, one of the training team

The Saturday 1st XI has recently beaten Stowmarket and Frinton. We also had a narrow home defeat against Walsham with nearly 600 runs being scored.

The Saturday 1st XI Captain Josh Burgess has scored two magnificent centuries so far. The player of the month award for the early season went to Matt Hoadley who scored 150 against Twinstead and 99 not out against Cavendish for the Sunday 1st XI. Another standout performance for the Sunday 1st XI was by veteran Bill Byford who scored 100 against Acton in a convincing win.

The future looks promising too. We had over 100 children enjoying themselves in the Kwik Cricket tournament in late May.

The season is due to finish in the second week of September so there is still chance for everyone to come down and enjoy the village's largest beer garden.

Sport Matters – Football

All Change for The Villagers

Dave Hennessey, formerly LMFC's Reserves team manager, has been appointed as our First Team manager to succeed Jamie Bradbury. The Villagers new Reserves team manager is Darren Thomas who has managed Hedingham United and Boxted.

The under-18 squad has been joined by some good young players and manager Nathan Bartlett is very pleased with these new additions. Lavenham Veterans (aged 35+) will now be playing at Stoneylands and have changed their name to Long Melford Veterans. Their manager Dan Bull is delighted with the number of enquires from former LMFC players.

Our Chairman Geoff Thomas commented "We look forward to the new season in the region's Premier League. It feels like a new era for the club which is the tenth oldest in the country. The new clubhouse is up and running and the team squads are looking good, so we're ready for the new challenges that will come with the new season."

Dave Hennessey, the new First Team Manager

There's great enthusiasm in the junior teams too. On a Saturday and Sunday morning the ground is buzzing with many young players inspired by a very committed band of volunteers.

If you'd like to get involved or to know more, go to our website: longmelfordfc.com

Directory of Clubs and Societies

Group	Contact	Phone/email
Beading (Suffex Bead Club)	Victoria Power	07866 996124
Beavers	Carolyn Spraggons	01787 370686
Business Association	Jane Ebejer	01787 375862
Coffee & Cake @ St Catherine's	Margaret Taylor	01787 880875
Connect Toddler Group	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 310845
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 Stour Valley	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 **1st September** to be included in Issue 10 – October/November 2022.

Quiz Answers

1. Two
2. The Post Office
3. Lady Jane
4. Ownership passed to the National Trust
5. The George & Dragon
6. 1860
7. Richard Kemp
8. The Rectory
9. Jenny Wren's
10. Little Green

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Sat 6/Sun 7 Aug – War and Peace Weekend
Sat 13 - Sun 21 Aug – Tudor Hands-On History Week
Sat 27 - Mon 29 Aug – History Festival Special Event

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