

MELFORD

Issue 03 - August/September 2021

Matters



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- Long Melford Junction: The station and railway line as they were in the 1950s, on display in the Village Hall in August – from page 14

Photo: Steve Thomson

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Editorial

By the time you read this, we should be free of all Covid restrictions.

Even before that, it was wonderful to see the village thriving again this summer. Our lead feature, Summertime (from page 4), highlights some community activities that have been able to get going again, from Melford Movies to the Fusion youth club. In fact the youngsters of Long Melford feature prominently in this issue, including the Beaver Scouts (page 4), 11-year-old gardener Tom Green (page 8) and the Long Melford Cricket Academy for 5 to 16-year-olds (page 29).

On 28th August, an amazing working model railway exhibition featuring Long Melford Junction, trains and station as they were in the 1950s will be on display in the Village Hall – read all about that and Long Melford's railway history from page 14.

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.



Long Melford Parish Council has achieved quite a bit recently, including a smart new surface for the Old School car park and new benches in Hall Street (page 20). It's also running Long Melford in Bloom for a second year – much bigger and better than in year 1 (from page 18). And it has applied for planning permission to solve the problem of vehicles churning up the Upper Green in wet weather (page 19).

Please continue to send us feedback about the magazine and suggestions for articles you'd like to see included – contact

MelfordMattersEditor@gmail.com.

And if you'd like to advertise, please contact

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Note that Melford Matters is completely independent of and receives no funding from the Parish Council.

Dave Watts, Editor

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Summertime ... and the village is busy

In our last issue, we had a feature on village businesses re-opening after lockdown ended. This time we're majoring on voluntary activities getting going again this summer after a long lay-off, plus a few business initiatives. It's great to be enjoying summer in our vibrant and active village.

Dawn Chorus at the Country Park

The Country Park Team held its first Dawn Chorus Walk in May in lovely sunny weather, though it was slightly chilly at our 6.30am start.

We were lucky enough to have good views of a flock of Long-tailed Tits and a male Blackcap singing his heart out. A busy pair of Chiffchaff were feeding on insects by the river and a pair of Little Grebe were diving on the main pit. We also saw two passing Little Egrets and plenty of resident activity in the park's upcycled (from pallets) bird boxes. The highlights though were an up-close visit from our inquisitive resident swans, Ollie and Dolly, with their seven now fast-growing cygnets, followed by a flypast from a noisy Cuckoo.

The park was alive with birdsong (Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Lesser Whitethroat, Reed Warbler, Cuckoo, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Robin and Wren) and looked absolutely stunning, with wildflowers filling the woodland fringes and meadow flowers aplenty throughout the grass areas.



Breakfast at Jenny Wren's
Photo: Lisa Tipper

The walk ended at Jenny Wren's cafe with bacon butties, vegetarian sausage rolls, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Thanks to Janet and Paul for opening the cafe early for us on their Sunday morning and for making our group so welcome. Next year we plan to provide a series of three walks and the first will be in April.

Melford's Eager Beavers

The last Saturday in June was an eventful, exciting and surprisingly hot day for 12 members of the 1st Long Melford Beaver Scouts. The Beavers, aged 6 to 8 years, set up their base camp in the 'forest schools' area of the Country Park.

They spent a large part of their busy day earning their Outdoor Challenge badge. Some activities were nature based. These included mini beast hunts, leaf bashing, observation and recording what they had seen. More physical pursuits such as den building and slack lining (i.e. walking along a suspended length of flat webbing tensioned between two trees) were also enjoyed.



The 12 intrepid Beaver Scouts with Leader Carolyn Spraggons
Photo: Alice Page

The Beavers broke for lunch and an ice lolly drop off. Their spell at the Country Park ended at 4.00pm but their day was far from over. They hiked all the way back to their HQ behind the Village Hall in under an hour and earned their stage 1 Hikes badge. Then they enjoyed a hot supper, songs and marshmallows toasted on the campfire. Given such days, it's not surprising that there's a waiting list to join the Beavers.

The amazing team of volunteer Leaders make scouting activities like this possible. If you're interested in joining the team, please contact Steve Spraggons by email melfordgsl@aol.com.

Fair Raising at the Library

Thank you to everyone who came and supported us at our Fair in May. We had a great time and hope you did too. The Friends of Long Melford Library generously donated their time, hard work and produce which included plants, cakes, baby knits, and jams and chutneys. Thanks to them and to you we raised £850 for the library. What a lovely village it is to be a part of!

Summertime ... and the village is busy

Melford Movies back at last

There was a buzz at the Village Hall on 11th June when Melford Movies' first ever Summer Season opened with the screening of a 2020 adaptation of Jane Austen's **Emma**, drawing an audience of over 30 people. This was our first showing since last year. The drinks and ice creams proved popular, both before the film and during the intermission, and the raffle was also tempting with a splendid fuchsia as one of the prizes. July's film, **Love Sarah** starring Celia Imrie, provided another enjoyable evening's entertainment with a similar number of people in the audience.

Don't miss the next films in the season: **Greed**, starring Steve Coogan as a multi-millionaire planning an outrageous 60th birthday bash, will be screened on 13th August and the Elton John biopic **Rocketman** on 10th September.

Women's Institute meets again

It was so good to meet up again. We enjoyed a welcome meeting on the Green in June, with faces old and new. A few of us are also part of other groups within the village so if you have just moved in, want to get out and meet others, or volunteer to help others then please contact us. We meet on the second Thursday of the month and keep people updated via Facebook, email, and telephone. For more details call Jane Ebejer 01787 375862.



Youth Club Back Up and Running

Fusion is a youth club for youngsters aged from Year 6 to Year 13. We started meeting again after the latest lockdown in April and meet once a month at St Catherine's Church. Usually, we have between 18 and 25 youngsters attending but have had over 30 on occasions.

As well as hanging-out with friends, we regularly hold games and challenge nights. Past events have included an egg drop challenge, photo booth, bin bag fashion, mocktail-making, pool tournament and water games. We've even been on an activity weekend. During lockdown we had some competitions and pancake making via Zoom.

On 16th July, we will be enjoying a BBQ and playing rounders at the Rectory field as there is more space there than at St Catherine's. (ED: that was the day this magazine went to press, so let's hope they had good weather).



Playing Deathball Parrot at the Fusion youth club

If you're interested in joining Fusion please contact Pam at: melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

Connect Baby and Toddler Group

In April, we held our first Connect gathering in person for over a year.



Throughout that year we moved to a weekly story and song-time via FB live. We've had to make some post-covid changes, but we're back! Due to restrictions, we've had two groups (the Aardvarks and the Bananas) meeting in the garden of St Catherine's church on alternate Mondays (9.30 – 11am). It's fabulous to see friends old and new and to meet the lockdown babies. Check out our Facebook page, search: [@longmelfordconnect](https://www.facebook.com/longmelfordconnect), or contact Pam: melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.



Happy to be back at the Connect baby and toddler group

On 26th July at 11am we're meeting for a play and picnic at the Country Park – so, if you read this in time, why not come and introduce yourself?

Summertime ... and the village is busy

Exhibition of local artists at the Old School

Class Arts enjoyed hosting its second exhibition in mid-June at the Long Melford Old School. Originally planned for April, the exhibition was rescheduled due to Covid.

Due to the extremely hot weather, European football and the French Open tennis finals on TV, the number of visitors was down by 25 per cent compared with our first event held last year. However, with around 150 visitors over the weekend, sales were still good with 16 framed and 10 unframed paintings and numerous cards sold.

Visitors remarked on the high standard of work on display and on the Covid precautions in place. Vernon Lever kindly donated a painting for the raffle, a picture of Long Melford Church. This was won by Carol Van de Sande, who was delighted.



Most artists made sales and were pleased with how the weekend went. Our group of artists from around Long Melford and Sudbury looks forward to returning in October.

New Community Market

Melford's first Community Market was held on Thursday 24th June at the Old School. The weather was kind to us so visitors were able to sit outside in the sunshine, enjoying homemade cakes and soft drinks. Inside we had two rooms in use for stallholders to promote their group or sell items to raise funds.

There were several craft stalls featuring handmade cards, cushions, jewellery and memory bears. The U3A Art class put on a wonderful display of paintings. Good Neighbours had a stall and

chatted to people about how they help people with trips to the doctor or hospital as well as trying to get more volunteers to sign up. Sue Buck from Friends of Long Melford Library was there selling amazing plants.



Visitor numbers were good for this first market and we hope to be able to run it again on the last Thursday of each month, with refreshments being provided by the WI. Stalls will change each time so if you want more members for your group or class, or want to fund-raise, please contact me: Rosey Eade, Long Melford Community Association 07711 242481 or rosey26@me.com

Ascot comes to Long Melford

On Thursday 24th June, The Long Melford Tea Room held a Ladies Day to mimic Ascot, giving our ladies a chance to dress to impress and they did not let us down. Tables sold out within just a few days of launch. Luxury afternoon tea was served alongside a champagne mocktail to 30 ladies dressed in their finery. Our pianist played for the whole afternoon and we all had a wonderful time.

We have our 5th year anniversary this August and are looking to celebrate alongside our loyal customers. Their support has never been more important and we appreciate them every day.



Summertime ... and the village is busy

Lots going on at Kentwell

Kentwell Hall has been holding lots of events throughout the summer. These included a War and Peace event spanning a huge period from the Vikings to the 1960s, a Tudor re-enactment weekend and a weekend of 'interactive magical fun'. There were also guided tours of the buildings and gardens (personally guided by the owners, Patrick and Judith Phillips). Coming up in August and September are History days and the Porsche Club of Great Britain's 60th anniversary rally. For details of forthcoming events, see kentwell.co.uk/events



New Model and Craft Shop Opens

In July, 'Model Behaviour' opened behind Breakout on the corner of Little St Mary's and St Catherine's Road. It's a traditional craft and model shop offering everything from Airfix kits (yes, they're still going!) to Needle Felting and Papercrafts. They have a neat 'Green, Orange, Red' skill level rating, with green being easy and suitable for beginners. The shop is run by Gary, who has been modelling for over 40 years and Jan who has been crafting for over 40 years. It's open Wed-Sat 10am to 4.30pm and Sun 10am to 4pm. Check them out on their Facebook page 'Model Behaviour'.



Business Matters

The Business Association Promotes the Village
Long Melford Business Association (LMBA) secured more East Anglian Daily Times coverage to support village businesses.

June 21st, Mid-Summer's Day, saw the now annual Suffolk Day celebrations throughout our county and the East Anglian Daily Times dedicated a special pull-out feature to promote the event and drive tourism. Long Melford was invited to participate in a section dedicated to Suffolk shopping destinations in recognition of the varied independent retail businesses in the village.

Melford was selected as one of four shopping locations. Reference was made to the village's traditional "English shopfronts" and "vibrant flowers" as well as being described as a "picturesque village". The article also told its readers that in Melford they could "browse

charming, family-owned boutiques, food stores and gift shops, or find a hidden gem in one of the antique warehouses." Readers could also "spend some time people-watching with a cream tea outside one of the charming tea rooms and then relax at a local beauty salon."



Image courtesy of the East Anglian Daily Times

these productive sessions focus on what improvements can be achieved by working closely together for the better of both the businesses and the village and include the joint planning of relevant events. In July, we welcomed a couple of new businesses to the group, whose contributions we are sure will prove a great asset and bring fresh ideas to the table.



Youth Matters

Green Fingers

The aptly named Tom Green is only 11 years-old and is already a budding entrepreneur. He's been growing and selling plants from outside his home in Clopton Drive this year. We wanted to find out more about Tom and this is what he told us....

"I've been interested in plants since I was about four and I started growing them last year. My mum and dad taught me the basics and I'm learning new things all the time. Sometimes I'll look online for information. I also use trial and error for growing; that's a good way to learn. I learned to take cuttings last year and this year I started sowing seeds. I think taking cuttings is the best as you have a plant that gives you lots more plants and that just keeps on going.



Tom selling his plants in Clopton Drive
Photo: Katie Green



Tom's flowerbed at the entrance to the cricket field
Photo: Katie Green

I've made just over £200 so far and I've bought seeds, pots and compost with some of the money. I'll be getting an allotment so I'll need to put some of my money into that and the rest I'll put into a bank account to save.

I planted up a big flower bed at the Cricket Club with my own home-grown plants and it's grown really well. You can see what I did there if you have a look at my YouTube channel "Toms Plants" (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe_WTs1MJlUhxfgma9wqrlw). I'd like to do something nice at the Church next.

I'd like to be a horticulturist when I leave school, perhaps working either in a nice garden or with something like NASA working out how to grow plants on Mars.

I'm worried about climate change and am worried about the rainforests being destroyed for things like palm oil as it kills the wildlife. We need to stop throwing plastic away, we need to make more electric cars and have more renewable clean energy like solar farms and wind farms.

Young people should be trying to get into plants. You can find seed pods from things like poppies and can scatter them in your flower bed to grow more plants. It's not just young people though. Everyone needs to know how valuable plants are and everyone should grow them.

My tip to children is to start off with a few pots, or just in your own garden taking weeds out of the flower bed, then maybe get some easy to grow seeds from a garden centre and sow them in pots, follow the instructions on the packet. Start small." (ED: Maybe Tom will be supplying plants for Long Melford in Bloom soon!)



Tending to his plants in his front garden
Photo: Katie Green



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Lavenham Art Society

Local Art in Lavenham Church

Lavenham Art Society will be holding its **Annual Exhibition** in the magnificent **Church of St Peter and St Paul** from the **14th-30th of August**. It's open from **9am-6pm** each day except Sundays when it opens at 12 noon. The Church is wheelchair friendly. The car park nearly opposite is free.

Thirty or so of our members will be exhibiting 150 paintings. All will be available for sale at various prices. The "unframed pictures" from display holders offer lower prices to suit most pockets. If you decide to buy, you can pay with cash or by card.

Our Society was formed to encourage local artists to come and meet each other. We hold demonstrations most months. We usually invite a professional artist who demonstrates their art in the medium they choose or use. We hope you can come along to Lavenham and enjoy our art.



Suffolk Art at Holy Trinity

After a year of lockdowns and no exhibitions, the Suffolk Art Society is very much looking forward to exhibiting again in Long Melford. It will be held in the **Lady Chapel of Holy Trinity Church** from **Sat 24th July to Sun 8th August, 10am to 5.30pm** each day. Entry is free.

The Society was formed in 1954 and has about 100 members who have all been through a selection process in order to join.

Members of the Society include artists from all over East Anglia. There will be a wide range of techniques and styles on display including oils, acrylics, watercolours and pastels. All the work on view will be for sale.

The Society will be holding a further exhibition at the **Church of St Peter and St Paul** in Lavenham from 18th September to 3rd October. For further information, see www.suffolkartsociety.co.uk.



Diary Matters

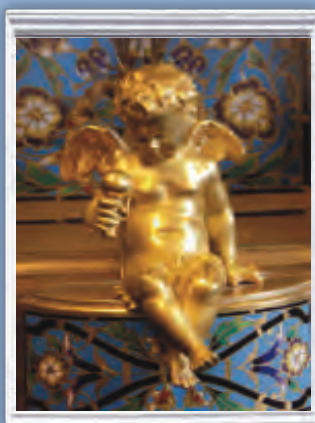
Regular classes & workshops at Long Melford Village Memorial Hall

Mondays	Bounce classes - Jules Cooper	www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford	9.30 to 10.30am
Mondays	Pop Chorus (from September)	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	https://bookwhen.com/dawnzumba	7.30 to 8.30pm
Thursdays	Bounce classes - Jules Cooper	www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford	6.30 to 7.30pm
Fridays	Baby Ballet	sudbury@babyballet.co.uk 07580 693747	9.30am to 12 noon

Regular classes & workshops at the Old School

Daily	Yoga Studio - Áine McGovern	www.longmelfordyoga.co.uk 07840 030545	See website
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

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 October/November need to reach us by **1st September**.

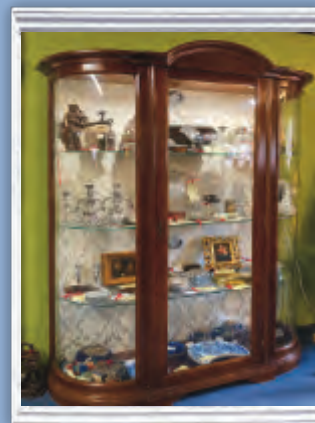
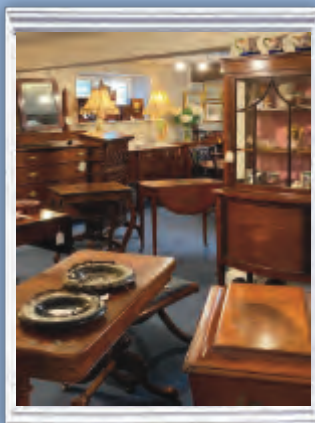


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Diary Matters

July 2021	Event	Venue/details	Time
Saturday 24th to Sunday 8th Aug	Suffolk Art Society Exhibition	Lady Chapel, Holy Trinity Church	10.00am to 5.30pm
August 2021	Event	Venue/details	Time
Wednesday 4th	Antiques Fair	Village Hall www.longmelfordvillagehall.co.uk	See website
Wednesday 4th	Melford Music - Lizzie Gutteridge, Early Music	Holy Trinity Church www.visitlongmelford.co.uk	1.10pm
Thursday 5th	Parish Council Planning/Full Meeting	See www.longmelford-pc.gov.uk	7.00/7.30pm
Wednesday 11th	Melford Music - David Chivers, clarinet	Holy Trinity Church www.visitlongmelford.co.uk	1.10pm
Friday 13th	Melford Movies - "Greed"	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
Friday 13th	Folk & Acoustic Club upstairs	Cock & Bell poboap123@gmail.com	8.00pm
Saturday 14th to Sunday 30th	Lavenham Art Society Annual Exhibition	Church of St Peter & St Paul, Lavenham	9.00am (12 noon Sun) to 6.00pm
Wednesday 18th	Melford Music - Sam Plackett & Les Simons	Holy Trinity Church www.visitlongmelford.co.uk	1.10pm
Monday 23rd	Long Melford Village Memorial Hall AGM	Village Hall www.longmelfordvillagehall.co.uk	7.30pm
Wednesday 25th	Melford Music - Blanchard, Gerrard, Miller	Holy Trinity Church www.visitlongmelford.co.uk	1.10pm
Thursday 26th	Community Market	Old School	10.00am to 1.00pm
Saturday 28th	The Era of the Train in Long Melford	Village Hall	9.00am to 5.00pm
28th and 29th	Antiques/Vintage Fair	Old School	9.30am to 4.00pm
Sunday 29th	Open House	Long Melford Football Clubhouse - "The Melford"	From 12 noon
September 2021	Event	Venue/details	Time
Wednesday 1st	Antiques Fair	Village Hall www.longmelfordvillagehall.co.uk	See website
Thursday 2nd	Parish Council Planning/Full Meeting	See www.longmelford-pc.gov.uk	7.00/7.30pm
Friday 10th	Folk & Acoustic Club upstairs	Cock & Bell poboap123@gmail.com	8.00pm
Friday 10th	Melford Movies - "Rocketman"	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
Saturday 11th	Great Melford Seed Swap	Village Hall	10am to 12.30pm
Thursday 16th	Historical and Archaeological Society	"Photographs of Old Melford" Old School	7.30pm
25th and 26th	Antiques/Vintage Fair	Old School	9.30am to 4.00pm
Thursday 30th	Community Market	Old School	10.00am to 1.00pm

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18	SAM PLACKETT & LES SIMONS	Jazz Guitars
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25	MARY BLANCHARD	flute
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Melford Music

Last year we had all our artists in place and our brochures printed and then – BANG – we had lockdown. After the sad passing of Patrick Kohler, the new committee was all geared up to continue but had to cancel preparations.

We're now delighted to tell you that we're once again presenting four great recitals in August (see left for details). We'd like to welcome you to enjoy some terrific music to brighten your Wednesdays. Entry is FREE.

Sadly, because of Covid restrictions at the time we planned the concerts, we're not able to provide cushions or serve sandwiches but you can bring your own.

Next year, we celebrate 30 years of presenting good music in a great venue. Watch our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Melford-MUSIC-107732283935349>).

Cycle Paths

On Your Bike – Cycle paths in the village

We know from the Neighbourhood Plan household survey that residents would like to see more safe cycle paths in the village. I'm sure that many of us would like to cycle to local destinations but for a number of reasons, we don't.

Imagine if the children in our village could cycle safely to school. Imagine if Hall Street had more bicycles parked than unsightly and air-polluting vehicles. Most importantly, imagine if we were just that bit healthier because we cycled rather than drove locally.



As part of our ongoing determination to 'make things happen' the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group continues to work on projects to implement your suggestions. We are currently looking at this very issue. Whilst the Parish Council can support cycle paths, it is Suffolk County Council (SCC) which is ultimately responsible for authorising and creating them – so what can we do?

- We can make sure that our village is firmly on SCC's radar for cycle paths when the opportunity and funds become available.
- We have recently submitted ideas to Babergh District Council's online consultation and we understand that the lists of paths may be prioritised based on the popularity, costs and ease of implementing, although not necessarily in that order!
- We are going to produce an Active Travel Charter for the village and submit this direct to SCC, so there can be no doubt that we wish to increase the cycle paths in Long Melford.

In the meantime, if you have a bike tucked away in your shed or garage, dust it down, pump up the tyres, grab a helmet and a hi-vis and reclaim the roads. There's nothing like the feeling of the summer breeze against your face, as you cycle past the fabulous floral displays into the heart of our village for your daily newspaper.

Julie Thomson

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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Heritage Matters

Take a Journey Back in Time ...

... at the Village Hall on Saturday August 28th from 9.00am to 5.00pm. The Museum and Heritage Centre has been working with model railway enthusiast, Nigel Locke, and his colleagues to display his amazing 36ft x 12ft working model of Long Melford Junction as it would have looked in the 1950s. The trains on display are models of those that ran through Melford.

There will also be a display of photos of Melford in bygone days. It's hoped that local steam engine devotees will be displaying their engines in the car park.



Passengers waiting for the train in the mid-1950s
Photo: Long Melford Museum and Heritage Centre



Railway porters dressed for duty at Melford in 1914
Photo: Long Melford Museum and Heritage Centre

Entry is free. You don't have to be a train buff to enjoy the exhibition. See opposite and page 16 for more information on the railway.

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Heritage Matters

Early Departures

Try to imagine the excitement when the first locomotive pulled into Melford in an age when horse-drawn coaches were the only public transport. No one would have seen anything like the huge engine and heard anything like the hissing steam and clanging wheels; small children would probably have been scared witless.

It was in August 1865, that the line between Sudbury, Clare and Haverhill opened. This connected the existing sections from Marks Tey to



Sudbury and Haverhill to Shelford. This formed a through 'cross-country' route between Colchester and Cambridge. The branch line between Melford and Bury St Edmunds opened at the same time. Trains called at Lavenham, Cockfield, Welnetnam and Bury St Edmunds Eastgate on the way.

During its lifetime, the line was operated by Great Eastern Railway (1865-1922), followed by London & North Eastern Railway (1923-47) and British Railways (1948-closure in 1967).



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF NIGEL LOCKE.
MANY THANKS TO DAVID UNDERWOOD FOR HIS
INVALUABLE HELP IN COMPILING THIS FEATURE.



In the early 1920s, it took around 34 minutes to travel from Melford to Lavenham. At some point during the LNER era, a third-class single ticket from Lavenham to Melford cost eight-and-a-half pence – around three-and-a-half pence in today's money. By the early 1960s, steam had given way to diesel and the journey took around 11 minutes. The service to and from Melford wasn't particularly frequent. The summer 1959 timetable shows four passenger trains per day from Bury and three to Bury.

CONTINUED
OVERLEAF



Railway Royalty at Rodbridge

Princess Madeleine Von Dembinska of the Polish royal house of Lothingen-Rawics was probably British Rail's most unusual employee. She'd spent unsuccessful years trying to recover the lost family fortune. From 1941, the Princess, her mother and brother spent much of their time in Belchamp Walter. In 1957, she became interested in the empty cottage at Rodbridge Railway Crossing. She was told that the only condition of living there would be to open and shut the crossing gates daily. She accepted. The popular 'Princess in the Crossing Cottage' gained local and national fame. She died in 1966 at the age of 58. Her funeral service was held in Lyston Church.

Heritage Matters

The End of the Line

Excursion trains were reintroduced in the late 40s and during the 50s. The now nationalised line was part of the route from the Midlands to Clacton. In 1959, the switch was made from steam to diesel with the aim of reducing costs. But this and the excursion trains were not enough to save the line. The little used branch line to Bury was closed to passenger traffic in April 1961. The section between Lavenham to Bury remained open for freight traffic until closure in April 1965.

Enter Dr Beeching and his famous axe which came down on the passenger service from Sudbury to Shelford and Cambridge in 1967. Beeching originally proposed that the line between Sudbury and Marks Tey be closed too. However, it was saved by the needs of commuters and the weight of public opinion (see Sudbury's Funeral Procession).



Sudbury's Funeral Procession

The residents of Sudbury were not best pleased in the 1960s by the threatened closure of their station. Not for them a shrug of the shoulders, they decided to hold a funeral ceremony on the day the last train to Cambridge left. The Suffolk Free Press reported that the 'mourners' marched slowly, with a police escort, from North Street to the station bearing a coffin with the words 'R.I.P. Stour Valley Railway 1867-1967'. Crowds packed onto the platforms (yes, there was more than one). A wreath was presented to the driver. When the train left for Cambridge, the coffin was opened to reveal generous supplies of beer, sherry and sandwiches. The Last Post was played when the train arrived back in Sudbury. Mourners then made their way to the Prince of Wales for the wake where the coffin was draped with a Union Jack and a wreath was hung around the neck of Thomas Gainsborough's statue. But as we know, the Sudbury-Marks Tey line thankfully rose from the dead.

Traditional Rugs



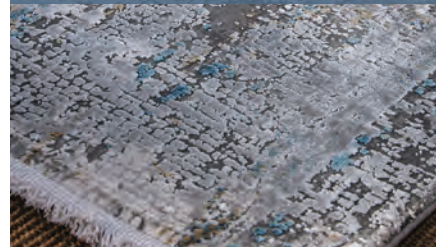
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Long Melford in Bloom



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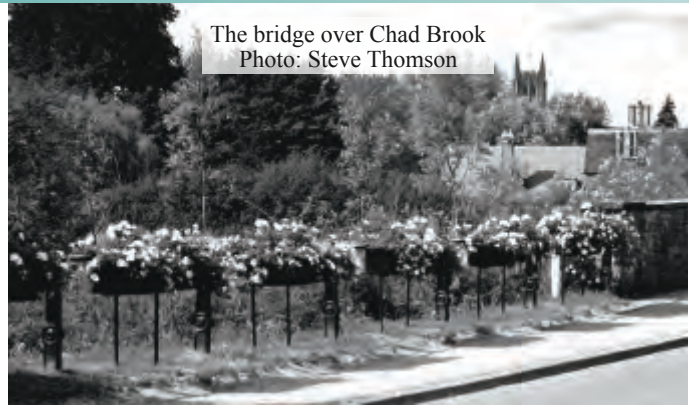
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Long Melford in Bloom

The photos opposite show our summer theme of blue, pink and white blooms. The mix of wet and warm weather since they were planted has given them a real boost.

We've also placed new displays at the entrances to Cordell Place and Westropp's (tended by local residents), and between Lime Gallery and Chestnut Terrace to broaden the footpath there and to 'frame' new public benches. These planters and barrels were paid for largely through grants from Babergh and locality grants from Cllrs Nunn and Kemp. Also, we've lowered our hanging baskets from last year, so they catch the eye.



The bridge over Chad Brook
Photo: Steve Thomson



Outside The Lindens and Lime Tree Gallery
Photo: Steve Thomson

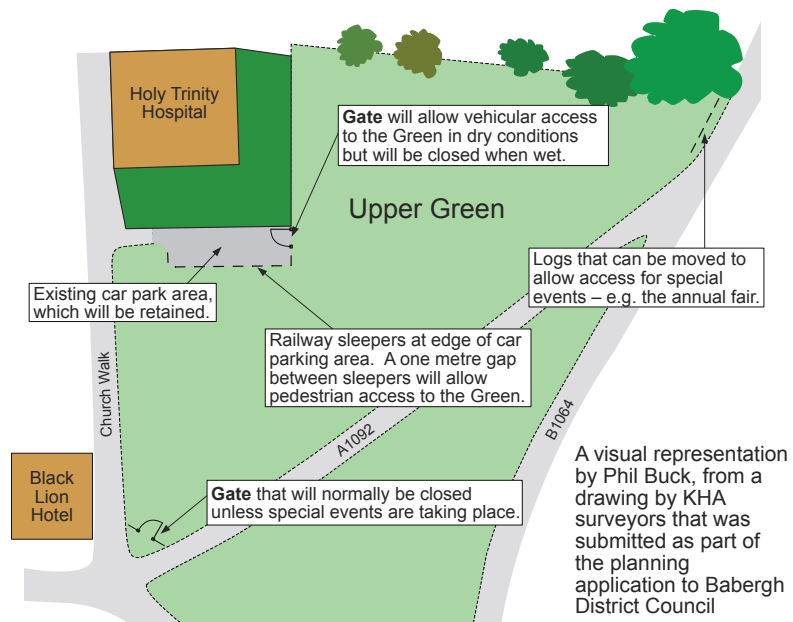
As ever, huge thanks to our volunteers who tend the plants, plus our main suppliers, the Jackson team from the Constitution Hill nursery. Also thanks to our business supporters: KP Valeting, KHA, Tanswell's Bakery, Breakout, LM Tea Room, LM Co-op, Perrywood, Cherry Lane, along with LM Fire Station. We're always looking for sponsors or more volunteer helpers, so if you're interested, please email jonathanewbank145@gmail.com.

Parking on the Upper Green

The Parish Council is working with Melford Hall Estate and the Church to solve the parking issues which have damaged the Upper Green.

The working group wants people still to be able to enjoy the Green and take cars on it when the ground is firm. However, when the ground is wet and the Green can be damaged, access will be closed and reopened when conditions permit.

Two gates will be put in place – see the diagram. One will be at the end of the Trinity Hospital car park. This will be open for much of the year but can be closed when conditions are wet except for vehicles on official cemetery business. Railway sleepers will be placed around the car park with a gap between for pedestrians, but will prevent vehicles driving onto the Green from the car park and vice versa. The other gate will be on the corner near the Black Lion. This will normally remain closed unless a special event is taking place.



Once all this is in place the damaged areas will be re-seeded, ideally in the autumn.

Parish Council Matters

It's goodbye to potholes in the car park by the Old School. It's been resurfaced, the drainage has been much improved and there are smart new signs, four electric charging points, a concrete base for the recycling centre and low-level lighting.

Plans have been submitted to Babergh to install gates on the Upper Green. This should prevent damage to the Green by vehicles in wet weather – see page 19 for more details.

We now have three smart new benches in Hall Street. The Parish Council hopes to put two more on the Upper Green to replace damaged ones plus a couple of benches in the cemetery area. It is also planning to install some new equipment in the Cordell Place play area and a picnic table nearby.

Long Melford in Bloom, now in its second year, has expanded and the flower displays are looking great – see pages 18 and 19.

In July, Babergh's Planning Committee deferred a decision on Bloor Homes' detailed planning application for 150 homes on 'Skylark Fields'. The Babergh Planning Officer had recommended approval. But the Committee asked for some



Electric vehicle charging points at the Old School Car Park
Photo: Jonathan Ewbank

aspects to be reconsidered, including having fewer 4-bedroom homes, designs for the homes that were more compatible with Melford's heritage, better energy efficiency, a rainwater recycling system and a pedestrian crossing. They also questioned the sense of providing space for an 'early years facility' on the site rather than at Melford's primary school. Another issue was the number of 'dead end' roads that some believed were there to facilitate access to future developments up to the by-pass.

These are all things that the Parish Council had raised with Bloor Homes during four meetings with them and included in its submission to Babergh planning. We will continue to press our case.

Neighbourhood Plan

When this issue went to press, the latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan was with Babergh. The next stage is for Babergh to consider it and send it out for a further consultation and to an independent Examiner. The Plan will be revised again in the light of comments and everyone on the Long Melford electoral roll will be eligible to vote in favour or against the final Plan.



You can see the latest version at longmelfordnp.co.uk

Because of Covid restrictions which started in March 2020, we have not been able to hold any open meetings since then. But we plan to have one in the Autumn in the Village Hall. For more details on that, see the next issue of Melford Matters, which will be distributed in late September. We hope as many people as possible come along to that.

Historical Society

Photographs of Old Melford

The Long Melford Historical & Archaeological Society plans to resume meetings on Thursday 16th September. The meeting will feature 'Photographs of Old Melford' from the Sandham Archive, with commentary from Ian Sandham and our Vice President, the highly respected Henry Ruse. The talk will be preceded by a short general meeting, made necessary in view of our Covid-19 delayed AGM.

Our meetings are held at the Old School and begin at 7.30pm. Visitors are very welcome to attend for just £3 per talk. However, annual membership includes five talks, two summer outings and a newsletter for just £10 per year, so it's much better value to join than dip in. You'll also play your part in helping our Society, which was founded in 1969, continue to be an active and valued resource in Long Melford.

For more information, see lmhas.co.uk or call 01787 375329.

Nature Matters

Welcoming Nature into Long Melford

The Long Melford Biodiversity Group has applied to Babergh DC for free trees and hedging to replace some dead trees (e.g. the dead cherry outside the Bull) and to add a few more in key locations around the village. These will arrive in November, at which time we'll be looking for volunteers to help plant and look after the young saplings.

We're also hoping to work with Babergh to create wildflower areas. This is not about just leaving areas unmown, but about seeding certain areas with wildflower seeds in the autumn where there is nothing but grass. One area that has not been mown for 3 months is the small strip at the front of St Catherine's Church, which is looking lovely with wildflowers – or as some would say, weeds! We'll further enhance this area and are seeking suggestions for other areas which are currently mown but would be acceptable as a wildflower area.



Wildflowers in front of St Catherine's Church
Photo: Jane Burch

Water is critical for birds, hedgehogs, and bees at this time of year. The ditches and streams often dry up in summer so we can all do our bit by providing a shallow dish of water in our gardens, so they have easy access to it. It's not just about drinking; birds need water to bathe regularly. It is important at this time of year as they need to keep their plumage in tip-top condition whilst raising their broods of young. Keep the water clean, topped up and include a stone or two to allow bees to get out if they fall into the water.



A young Blackbird bathing
Photo: Marilyn Peddle

In the autumn we plan to start up some nature-based talks and practical sessions. If there's anything you'd particularly like to know more about, please get in contact with us.

Jane Burch, Chairman,
Long Melford Biodiversity Group,
jane_burch@yahoo.co.uk

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Library Matters

Even though restrictions may be easing, we know not everybody is feeling confident getting out and about. If you prefer to visit the library with minimal contact, please place reservations online or phone to arrange a selection of books for you to collect. If you or someone you know is housebound or struggling to get out, one of our Home Library Service volunteers may be able to deliver books to you at home. Please contact us for more details. We're happy to help.

If you're aged 4-11 and enjoy a good book, join the Wild World Heroes and take part in the **2021 Summer Reading Challenge** for your chance to win lots of prizes, a medal and certificate! We're hopeful we will be able to offer this in the same format as previous years but will probably chat with you about your book in the garden behind the library. If you're interested in volunteering to help out this year, please get in touch with Nick at the library. In association with the Reading Agency and Worldwide Fund for Nature.



Wordplay, our in-person weekly Tot Rock and Baby Bounce session, is back! Join us every Tuesday at 2.30pm for action songs and rhymes, suitable for children 0-5 years old. At time of going to print, restrictions mean this session takes place

outside and spaces are limited so booking is essential. Please get in touch by email or phone to book your place.

We offer **Top Time**, a weekly social group for older people, every Wednesday at 3pm. The group is open to all but relevant COVID restrictions will apply, so please get in touch for more details.

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Brain Matters



A City Quiz

In our previous quizzes, we've
covered Melford and Suffolk, we're
moving yet further afield this issue.
So, how well do you know the cities
of the UK? (Answers on page 30).

1. In which city were the remains of Richard III found?
2. Through which city does the River Taff flow?
3. Where is the Bodleian Library?
4. Which city's dockyard is home to Nelson's flagship HMS Victory?
5. Where is the National Railway Museum?
6. In which city is the Jane Austen Centre?
7. Whose London residence is Lambeth Palace?
8. In which city is Test Match cricket played at Edgbaston?
9. Which city has the nickname of Auld Reekie?
10. Where was the award-winning 2016 film 'I, Daniel Blake' set?



Nelson's Column is in Trafalgar Square...
but where is his ship, HMS Victory?
Photo: Pixabay

Cookery Matters

Seafood Paella

As few of us have been able to take a holiday abroad this summer, we thought we'd follow the recipe from Italy in our last issue, with a Spanish favourite this time – in the hope of providing a flavour of foreign travel. This was kindly contributed by Jonathan Ward.

Ingredients (for two people):

- 1 Large onion, finely chopped – not a red onion, it spoils the colour
- Olive oil
- 180/200g Short grain rice
- 500ml Stock, fish stock or chicken stock – can use pots or cubes (1 to 2)
- 1 large pinch of saffron, ground up in pestle and mortar – do not stint on saffron.
- Cloves of chopped garlic as required, 1 to 2 ideal
- 400g frozen cooked seafood selection
- 200g frozen whole raw tiger prawns
- Red pepper (or green or yellow if preferred) – half, or more if wished – sliced.
- Frozen peas, a handful or as many as you want
- White wine – half a glass – optional

Extra raw prawns can be added and a variety of fresh fish can be substituted entirely for the frozen seafood; monkfish is excellent for this. You can also add chicken – small pieces previously pan fried. Try not to overcook the fish as it shrinks and goes hard. The main aim with this recipe is to cook it quickly for a reasonably authentic result.

Method:

1. Put the olive oil in a wok or frying pan – sufficient to fry the chopped onion and coat the rice. Fry the onion for 5 to 10 minutes, then add the rice and stir to coat the rice in the oil. Heat for 5 minutes; don't burn.
2. Add half the hot stock with saffron added together with garlic (if required). Stir from time to time on a gentle heat but bubbling.

3. After 15 to 20 minutes test the rice, it should be softening well. Add the rest of the stock together with the frozen seafood, pepper and peas, and white wine if wished. Stir in well and get it bubbling again.

4. After a further 5 minutes test the rice, it should

be nearly soft enough. If so, place the raw tiger prawns decoratively on top and continue to cook. No more stirring is best. Do not burn but keep bubbling; add more liquid if it looks too dry. Try to create a crust at the bottom of the pan – this is called the socarrat and is highly desirable. Serve after around 10 minutes having tested the rice for softness and when the raw prawns have turned pink and are thoroughly cooked

through. Take the pan off the heat, cover with a clean tea towel and rest for 5/10 minutes to absorb all juices.

5. Serve with quarters of lemon ... and copious quantities of dry white wine or whatever you fancy!



EDITOR'S NOTE: If you'd like to contribute one of your favourite recipes, please send it with a few words about what makes it special to MelfordMattersLifestyle@gmail.com.

Richard Kemp

County and Parish Councillor

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Gardening Matters - Notes from the potting shed

Well, it's only a few weeks to go until the **Great Melford Seed Swap** on **Saturday 11 September at the Village Hall from 10.00 – 12.30pm**. Please make a note in your diaries and keep saving seeds from your favourite plants, both ornamentals and edibles. Bring them along with any spare packets of commercial seed you have and swap them with other village gardeners over a cuppa and a



thorough analysis of what a tricky year this has been for gardening. If you have no seed to swap, don't let that deter you, please come anyway and just make a small donation for all the lovely seeds you'll want to take away with you. We also have a

prize draw with a beautiful heritage design seed storage tin to be won.

By the way, very many thanks for your tips on last issue's gardening hosta query. Your helpful suggestions to banish slugs include surrounding these beauties with coffee grounds or bark or spraying them with a garlic solution. The recipe for the latter involves boiling up one bulb of garlic per litre of water, mashing the garlic once soft and then storing the strained solution. Add one dessert spoon of this solution to a litre of water and spray

the whole plant approximately weekly or whenever it is washed off.

It's such a treat to see the gorgeous sunflowers appearing around the village so, well done to everyone who is participating in the **Melford Sunflower Challenge** and making the place look so cheerful for all of us. We'd love to see your sunflowers pictures so please do send any you take to the email address below and we'll hope to feature them in a future issue. If you can include a small (or tall) person in the picture for scale, that would be particularly illuminating.



Do you have problems with mice in your garden? We've received a brilliant suggestion for how to encourage them to move on. Simply make an infusion of black elder leaves and pour this down mouse holes or around any plants they're disturbing. Apparently, they can't stand the smell and move on to somewhere else.

We very much hope that your gardening this season is making you feel happy and positive. Did you know that even Claude Monet thought that his garden was his most beautiful masterpiece?

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

Happy gardening and see you at the Seed Swap.



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Health Matters

In Case of a Heart Attack

If you witness someone having a heart attack, quick intervention could mean the difference between life and death, as Christian Eriksen (a Danish footballer who collapsed while playing international soccer in June) can testify. Clearly, the first thing you should do is to call 999. The call handler will give you instructions, including advice on how to apply cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR also known as chest compression). CPR works by keeping the casualty's blood flowing.

In the last issue we included an article on the village's defibrillators. Before you or someone else can get to one of these, you should apply CPR.

If the casualty doesn't appear to be breathing normally, then lay them on their back and open their airways. If there's a chance he or she has COVID-19, place a cloth or towel over their mouth. Then follow this advice on CPR from the NHS.



1. Place the heel of your hand on the breastbone at the centre of the person's chest. Place your other hand on top and interlock your fingers (see photo).
2. Position yourself with your shoulders above your hands.
3. Using your body weight (not just your arms), press straight down by 5-6cms (2-2.5 inches on their chest).
4. Keeping your hands on their chest, release the compression and allow the chest to return to its original position.
5. Repeat these compressions at a rate of 100 to 120 times a minute until the ambulance arrives or you become exhausted.

Under Covid, the advice is for hands only CPR, so no mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. For more information see: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/first-aid/cpr/>

Martin Richards, Principal of Gryphon First Aid Unit
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Bridles, Headcollars, Martingales & Girth Straps.
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Dog Leads and Collars plus Training Aids.
Belts, Bags, iPad and phone covers.
Refurbishment of Rocking Horse tack.

Occasionally top quality used Saddles,
Bridles for Sale.

(I do not repair boots and shoes.)

Contact: Susie Negus
Tel: 07543321492

The Long Melford Tea Room



A wide selection of loose leaf teas

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Light Lunches

Traditional Afternoon Tea (*pre-book only*)

The small Tearoom with a big Welcome.
We look forward to seeing you.

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Matters Spiritual - a message from the Rector

“Everything is normal but nothing is normal”

It is a strange old time. We work at our screens but we don't meet in offices, our kids go to school but there's no end of year service; we go to church but we can't sing; a family trip is cancelled because someone gets a cold!

I've often observed that after difficult times, it's when things start to improve that built up emotion comes out. For example, when a hurtful relationship begins to heal, or when an unjust debt starts to clear, tears are shed or anger is truly felt for the first time.



Holy Trinity Church
Photo: Lisa Tipper

So it is as the lockdown restrictions lift. I'm frequently meeting people who are finding things difficult emotionally; all the uncertainty, change, and loss of the last year is catching up with us.

The first thing that Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount was: “Blessed are the poor in spirit”. God is with us in our mixed emotions, and he will be with us as we adjust to whatever the ‘new normal’ brings.

Rev Lawson



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Sport Matters - Cricket

Our Thriving Village Cricket Academy

Long Melford Cricket Club has a proud history of junior cricket, with many of our current senior players having come up through the youth levels.

Recently renamed as the Long Melford Cricket Academy (LMCA), our junior section is flourishing, with up to 50 youngsters from the village and surrounding areas receiving



professional coaching every Thursday evening. The Academy is ably managed by Richard Budd and Philip King, both of whom are qualified England and Wales Cricket Board Coaches and trained First Aiders. All adults involved with LMCA are fully and regularly DBS checked.

From the ages of 5 to 16, local boys and girls of all abilities enjoy learning the game, and benefit from the chance to get outdoors and play in groups and teams. Already this season our Under 13s and Under 15s teams have experienced match cricket, taking on junior sides from Bury, Stowmarket and elsewhere, which is great to see.

We will be offering summer cricket camps to all local kids who are interested, including Kwik Cricket for the very young ones (played with plastic bats and balls and usually underarm bowling).

Bring your kids over next Thursday (6-7.30pm) and join the fun!

Sport Matters - Football

The Clubhouse Grand Opening

Construction work continues apace on our new clubhouse, with completion expected early August. The formal opening will be on the evening of **Friday 27th August**. This will provide us with an opportunity to thank the many individuals and organisations that have given financial and practical help towards this new community facility. We're hoping for a former LMFC player who has since become a football legend to help cut the tape.



On **Saturday 28th August**, we're hoping for a home game so that we can welcome our supporters and cheer Melford to victory!

From **12 noon on Sunday 29th August**, it will be "Open House" with everyone invited to come, have a look round, and perhaps enjoy a drink. We want to make this a family fun day, so we are planning lots of fun and games for all.

This new facility, home to LMFC and the Colts and Fillies, will be called The Melford. It will be a community hub providing a range of activities and other sports for all ages. It will be a great venue for all sorts of functions such as parties and celebratory events. Salsa dancing and Boxercise are already on the menu. If you would like to hire this facility, call Lynn or Peter Turner on 01787 468536.

Peter Turner,
Long Melford Community Sports Trust

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	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	Martin Gore	01787 372439
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 04 - October/November 2021.

Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Leicester | 5. York | 8. Birmingham |
| 2. Cardiff | 6. Bath | 9. Edinburgh |
| 3. Oxford | 7. The Archbishop of | 10. Newcastle |
| 4. Portsmouth | Canterbury | |

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September – House & Gardens Open - Harvest and Bounty

Sat 25/Sun 26 Sep – Tudor Michaelmas and Apple Weekend

October – Gardens Open – Autumn Glory

Sat 23 to Sun 31 Oct – Half Term Halloween Family Fun

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