

# MELFORD

Issue 4 – October/November 2021

# Matters



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Photo: Steve Thomson

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## Editorial

“Lockdown is now a not-too-distant memory (and let’s hope it stays that way).” That’s the intro to our lead feature on village activities back in full swing (see from page 4). It’s great to see Melford buzzing again.

On 9th October, the village will be even livelier. We’re honoured to host a sprint section of the prestigious Women’s Tour cycle race featuring some of the world’s top women cyclists. Thanks to a combination of Amy Hyde Parker, Graham Eade, Babergh, our two district councillors (Liz Malvisi and John Nunn), the Parish Council and the Business Association, it should be a day to remember, with a carnival atmosphere and live bands, stalls and entertainment dotted around the village. See page 26.

On a more sombre note, Remembrance Sunday this year is 14th November. We have a Remembrance Special starting on page 10 that includes memories of what it was like to be a



schoolboy in Melford in WW2, wartime food rationing, special Remembrance events being organised and reasons for joining the Royal British Legion.

Moving upbeat again, one of the main reasons we’re out of lockdown is because the vaccination programme has been so successful. Here in Melford, our pharmacy has been exemplary,

delivering around 25,000 jabs from its premises here and thousands more on its vaccination bus – its travels included the Latitude Festival. See page 25.

Please continue to send us feedback about the magazine and suggestions for articles you’d like to see included – contact [MelfordMattersEditor@gmail.com](mailto:MelfordMattersEditor@gmail.com).

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

Dave Watts, Editor

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## Community Matters – Busy, Busy, Busy

Lockdown is now a not-too-distant memory (and let's hope it stays that way) and village activities are back in full swing. Here's news of what several village groups are up to.

### The Village Volunteers

Thanks mainly to the poor weather and inaccurate forecasts, painting the play equipment at Cordell Place has turned out to be our longest project – spanning several weeks. We've finished building a polytunnel at the Primary School so the children can start growing plants for Long Melford in Bloom. We've also restored quite a few benches in the village. And the volunteers have been helping on the Melford Walk as part of a big project to tidy it up.



Volunteers restoring one of the Parish Council's benches  
Photo: John Nunn

Volunteer numbers have risen but we're always looking for more. If you're interested in joining us, please email [nunnj@longmelford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:nunnj@longmelford-pc.gov.uk)



Chair of the Good Neighbours Group Helen Eaton cutting the cake  
Photo: Steve Thomson

### A Thank You Lunch for the Good Neighbours

On Sunday 8th August, our Good Neighbours Volunteers met for a Thank You lunch at the Old School. We enjoyed a finger buffet and beautiful cake (supplied by Tanswell's Bakery). It was our first chance to meet up since pre-pandemic, although we've been helping villagers throughout. We also displayed the certificate from the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk – in recognition of Outstanding Service to the Community in Suffolk.

Good Neighbours holds Coffee Mornings every other Thursday from 10.00am at the Old School. The first one in October will be on the 14th.

If anyone requires our assistance or would like to join the team of volunteers, please call 07504 249179 and we'll get back to you.

### Melford Movies Halloween Special

On Sunday 31st October, there will be a Halloween Special screening of 'The Witches'. It's based on a Roald Dahl story, and stars Anne Hathaway and Stanley Tucci. The film is a humorous and heart-warming tale of a young boy's run-in with a Grand High Witch. Doors open at 3.30pm and the film starts at 4pm. Full details can be found at [www.longmelfordvillagehall.co.uk/calendar](http://www.longmelfordvillagehall.co.uk/calendar).



Don't miss our regular programme of films. On Friday 15th October, we're showing 'All is Well', a fictional account of William Shakespeare's return to his hometown towards the end of his career. And on Friday 12th November, we're delighted to have permission to screen the 2021 Oscars' Best Picture 'Nomadland' which follows a migrant worker Fern in her exploration of the vast landscape of the American West. Doors open at 7pm and films start at 7.30pm.

## Community Matters – Busy, Busy, Busy

### Historical Society Forthcoming Meetings

In September, Long Melford Historical and Archaeological Society held its first meeting since lockdown ended. Members and visitors were treated to an evening of Photographs of Old Melford from the Sandham Archive.

On 21st October, we welcome back Dr Lyn Boothman, whose doctoral research used extensive records relating to Long Melford. She will be presenting 'Melford, a History in Ten Documents'. On 18th November, Peter Thorogood will give a talk on 'Suffolk's Greatest

Christian, the Reverend Charles Martyn, his Times and Burial in Long Melford.'

Our meetings are held at the Old School and start at 7.30pm. You'd be very welcome to come along. Entry is £3, although annual membership costs just £10. So why not join up?

Our website [lmhas.co.uk](http://lmhas.co.uk) has details of our forthcoming programme, as well as items for sale and lots of lovely old photographs of the village. Please telephone 01787 375329 if you'd like any further information.



The WI is the place to be if you like a good spread  
Photo: Mandi Jarvis

### The WI Have Enjoyed Meeting Again

Long Melford WI is over 100 years old and was founded in Melford Hall by Ethel, Lady Hyde Parker. Sadly, our garden party traditionally held at the Hall couldn't happen this year, but we enjoyed afternoon tea in the Village Hall instead. It was lovely for our members to meet up again and we ate lots of homemade cake, scones and jam.

We're pleased to have established 'Cuppa and Cake' at the Old School for the monthly Community Market so do pop in and see us.

Our programme for the rest of the year includes an introduction to yoga, Stour Valley Apiaries sharing a year in the life of a bee, and Martin Richards introducing Life Support including resuscitation and defibrillator awareness. For more information call Jane on 01787 375862.

### Class Arts Autumn Exhibition

The local art group "CLASS ARTS" is returning to the Old School on 16th and 17th October for their Autumn Exhibition. There are 12 artists in the group from the Long Melford and Sudbury area.

Artists have been busy exhibiting and selling their work throughout the Summer and Class Arts will be their final exhibition of the year. The June exhibition in Melford was well received with around 150 visitors and numerous artworks sold. Founders of the group Vernon Lever and Julie Iveson, look forward to welcoming visitors again to the Old School. It could be a good opportunity for some early Christmas shopping!

The exhibition is free and will be open from 10am to 4pm. Framed and unframed work will be for sale as well as greetings cards.

Co-founder of Class Arts Vernon Lever  
Photo: Julie Iveson





## Community Matters – Busy, Busy, Busy

### Community Market at the Old School

Our third Community Market was on 24th August. The Friends of the Library group braved the sun, wind and rain to keep selling their plants, jams and chutneys outside.

Indoors, many of the stalls were selling hand-made items from cushions to baby clothes. Some charities have not yet been able to raise funds in the usual way. So, we were delighted to welcome SESAW (the animal charity based in Leavenheath) and the RSPCA (which used the school as a drop-off point for donations).

Groups also attended to recruit new members for Project 7 and for Good Neighbours. Refreshments were provided by the Melford WI, with the chocolate and walnut cake being the most popular.

We will hold the Community Market from 10am to 1pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. So next up: 28th October and a special Xmas-themed market on 25th November.

### A New Badge for the Beavers

This term, Beaver

Scouts are taking part in a badge called Promise to the Planet. This has four parts – reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink. As part of this, we'll be seen out and about litter picking and carrying out lots of recycling. We'll be planting bulbs at the front of St Catherine's Church, linking with Long Melford in Bloom. We'll also be talking about how we can change what we do to help the planet.



Our program will include something on Guy Fawkes and Remembrance Day – we don't yet know if we can parade this year. We'll be making mini-Christmas cakes and having various activities leading up to Christmas including an end of term party. This term we've invited nine new members into Beaver Scouts, taking our colony to 26 members. However, we still have a long waiting list.

### Melford Junction Model Railway Exhibition

The model railway exhibition in the Village Hall of what the railway looked like in the 1950s in Melford (previewed in our last edition) was a huge success. Best estimates are that around 1,000 people visited. Thanks very much to Nigel Locke and his team for setting it up (which took around four hours) and for running it on the day. As well as the model railway, there were hundreds of photos of Melford in bygone days on display from the Thomas Howlett collection owned by the Museum and Heritage Centre. Tea and cakes were provided by volunteers.



Entry was free but generous donations meant that around £900 (after deducting costs) was raised to support our Museum and Heritage Centre.

### Raising Money for the Play Area

The Swan in Hall Street has generously offered to donate the profits from a couple of its new weekend brunches for the benefit of the Cordell Place Play Area. It's also donating the revenue from selling its



filtered water in the Sept to Dec period to the project. The Parish Council is planning to install more equipment in the play area, especially for toddlers, and needs to raise funds towards the cost. The dates for the Play Area brunches will be announced on [www.longmelfordswan.co.uk](http://www.longmelfordswan.co.uk) and on village noticeboards.

## Community Matters – Busy, Busy, Busy

### Long Melford Silver Band Together Again

After 16 months without a rehearsal together and longer since our last public performance, we're back. After a cautious outdoor start in July we moved rehearsals inside when the general restrictions were lifted.



We welcomed bass trombonist Rob to the band and will shortly be joined by another bass player. There are still vacancies – tenor trombone, 2nd tenor horn and bass players.

Currently, we only have a couple of public performances lined up. We hope to be able to participate at the Holy Trinity Service of Remembrance on 14th November. We've also booked the Village Hall for a Christmas Concert on 18th December – more details in the next edition.

### The Social Club at the RBL is Back in Action

The Social Club at the British Legion has reopened on Saturday evenings with the doors opening at 7pm and music and dancing from 8pm. Other activities include bingo on Tuesday evenings with the doors opening at 7pm. There's also the over-60s, snooker and pool. So, come along and see what's going on. For more information phone 01787 377567.

### Festive Long Melford

The Long Melford Business Association is hoping to run an event in conjunction with the Parish Council on Saturday 27th November, to celebrate the run up to Christmas and attract visitors to the village. A Christmas Advent Trail is also being organised with the business members along Hall Street and Little St Mary's. More information will be shared as soon as plans are confirmed.



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

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## Diary Matters

### Regular classes & workshops at Long Melford Village Memorial Hall

Mondays	Bounce classes – Jules Cooper	<a href="http://www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford">www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford</a>	9.30 to 10.30am
Mondays	Pop Chorus – Yula Andrews	07788 585441	7.30 to 8.30pm
Tuesdays	Pilates - Michelle Cowcher	Michellecowcher@gmail.com	10.00 to 11.00am
Tuesdays	Bounce classes – Jules Cooper	<a href="http://www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford">www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford</a>	6.00 to 7.00pm
Wednesdays	Zumba classes – Dawn Thompson	<a href="https://bookwhen.com/dawnzumba">https://bookwhen.com/dawnzumba</a>	7.30 to 8.30pm
Thursdays	Bounce classes – Jules Cooper	<a href="http://www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford">www.bookwhen.com/bouncelongmelford</a>	6.30 to 7.30pm
Thursdays	Indoor Kurling (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs)	Drop in for a free taster session	2.00 to 4.00pm
Fridays	Baby Ballet	sudbury@babyballet.co.uk 07580 693747	9.30am to 12 noon
Monthly	Relaxation Yoga (last Monday of the month)	clareturneryoga@gmail.com	5.45 to 6.45pm

### Regular classes & workshops at the Old School

Daily	Yoga Studio – Áine McGovern	<a href="http://www.longmelfordyoga.co.uk">www.longmelfordyoga.co.uk</a> 07840 030545	See website
Mondays	Cardmaking – Pauline Andow	01787 228790	12.30 to 2.30pm
Tuesdays	Upbeat (Heart Support Group)	Hilary Neeves 01359 232678	9.00am to 1.00pm
Tuesdays	U3A Art	Vernon Lever 01787 310511	1.30pm to 4.00pm
Tuesdays	Sophia Paper Kite Yoga	Sophia 07968 165185	6.00 to 9.00pm
Tuesdays	Yoga with Clare Turner	clareturneryoga@gmail.com	5.45 to 7.15pm
Wednesdays	Life Drawing	John Garbett 01787 378798	10.00am to 12.30pm
Wednesdays	Silver Band	Mike Murkin 01787 312605	7.30 to 9.30pm
Wednesdays	Friendship Dancers	Robin Hart 01787 269613	3.00 to 5pm
Monthly	Photography Group (first Monday of the month)	Derek Challis 01787 373738	mornings

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](mailto:MelfordMattersAdvertising@gmail.com). Details for December/January need to reach us by **1st November**.

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.



## Diary Matters

October 2021	Event	Venue/details	Time
Saturday 2nd	Book Fair	Village Hall	10.00am to 4pm
Wednesday 6th	Antiques Fair	Village Hall	9.00am to 3.30pm
Thursday 7th	Parish Council Planning Full Meeting	Old School	7.00pm 7.30pm
Friday 8th	Suffolk Outlaws	Guests welcome – Village Hall	6.30 to 11.30pm
Saturday 9th	The Women's Cycle Tour – timed sprint	Sprint at 11.45 and live bands and fun throughout the village	11.00am onwards
Thursday 14th	Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am
Friday 15th	Melford Movies – All is True	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
Friday 15th	Folk & Acoustic Club upstairs	Cock & Bell poboap123@gmail.com	8.00pm
Sat 16th/Sun 17th	Autumn Art exhibition	Old School	10.00am to 4pm
Thursday 21st	Long Melford Historical & Archaeological Society	“Melford, a history in ten documents” Old School	7.30pm
Friday 22nd	Suffolk Outlaws	Guests welcome – Village Hall	6.30 to 11.30pm
Thursday 28th	Community Market & Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00am to 1pm
Saturday 30th	Melford Biodiversity Group	Suffolk Wildlife Trust talk – Village Hall	10am to 12noon
Saturday 30th	Antiques/Vintage Fair	Old School	9.30am to 4.00pm
Sunday 31st	Antiques/Vintage Fair	Old School	9.30am to 4.00pm
Sunday 31st	Melford Movies – “The Witches”	Village Hall	3.30 for 4.00pm
November 2021	Event	Venue/details	Time
Wednesday 3rd	Antiques Fair	Village Hall	9.00am to 3.30pm
Thursday 4th	Parish Council Planning Full Meeting	Old School	7.00pm 7.30pm
Friday 5th	Suffolk Outlaws	Guests welcome – Village Hall	6.30 to 11.30pm
Thursday 11th	Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00 to 11.30am
Friday 12th	Folk & Acoustic Club upstairs	Cock & Bell poboap123@gmail.com	8.00pm
Friday 12th	Melford Movies – Nomadland	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
Thursday 18th	Long Melford Historical & Archaeological Society	“Suffolk's Greatest Christian” Old School	7.30 pm
Friday 19th	Suffolk Outlaws	Guests welcome – Village Hall	6.30 to 11.30pm
Thursday 25th	Community Market & Good Neighbours Coffee Morning	Old School	10.00am to 1pm
Saturday 27th	Friends of Long Melford Library Christmas Fair	Library	10.00am to 1.00pm
Saturday 27th	Book Fair	Long Melford Village Hall	10.00am to 4pm
Saturday 27th	Festive Long Melford	Little St Marys and Hall Street	TBC
Saturday 27th	Antiques/Vintage Fair	Old School	9.30am to 4.00pm
Sunday 28th	Antiques/Vintage Fair	Old School	9.30am to 4.00pm

## Remembrance Matters

### Remembrance Sunday

Last year, because of Covid restrictions, it wasn't possible to hold the usual parade and service at Holy Trinity. But a Remembrance Garden was created around the beacon on the top Green.

Remembrance Sunday this year is 14th November. There will again be a Remembrance Garden around the beacon and a service

is planned at Holy Trinity. Plans for a parade were still under discussion when this magazine went to press "but it will not be as previous years" said Martin Richards, Secretary of the Long Melford branch of the Royal British Legion.



A parade is planned but 'it will not be as in previous years'



Long Melford War Memorial at its Dedication in 1920

### War Memorial in need of repair

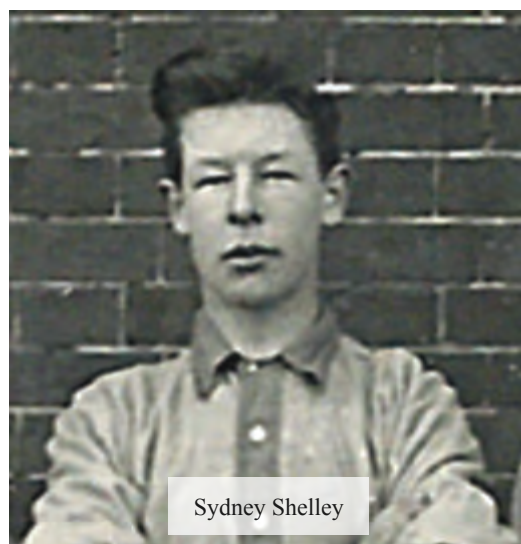
Melford's splendid War Memorial in Holy Trinity's churchyard was erected in 1920. Not surprisingly, the intervening 100 years have taken their toll. The stone at the base was built around a wooden core, which has deteriorated over the last century and is causing the stone to crack. The memorial is owned by the Parish Council, which agreed at its August meeting to seek quotations for dismantling and rebuilding the base. The cross above it is in good condition.

### A Melford Life Lost at the Front

Nearly 900,000 British military personnel lost their lives in World War I. But it's not until we can put names to numbers that the dreadful loss of life becomes more real. One young man to lose his life was Sydney Arnold Shelley. He was born in Sudbury in 1896. His father was a local baker and by 1911 Sydney was living on the Green in Melford.

In 1916, Sydney was a pupil teacher at Long Melford School. However, having only just taken his teaching exams, he was conscripted into the army in April 1916. He joined the 1/15th Battalion of the County of London Regiment.

On 7th October 1916, Sydney's unit was attacking German lines at Butte de Warlencourt. The attack came under intense machine gun fire killing and wounding nearly 300 men. Sydney was one of the young men to lose his life that day just six months after joining up. He's buried in Warlencourt British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais. Sydney Shelley is recorded on our War Memorial. His death was a sad loss to the village and to the teaching profession.



Sydney Shelley



## Remembrance Matters

### A Wartime Schoolboy Remembers

Alan Theobald began school in Melford in the early months of World War II. It's almost impossible for us to imagine what life must have been like for a five-year-old little boy then. We wanted to find out more about Alan's wartime experiences and this is what he told us ...

"There were three classes for the boys according to age. We were taught separately from the girls, we even had different playgrounds separated by a wall. I've got happy memories of us boys climbing up the wall and 'chatting up' the girls.

The youngest class had Miss Smith as teacher – we used to call her 'Old Ma Smith'. The middle class had Mr Rendell who was discharged from the army as he had shellshock. He acted very strangely with us. I wonder what sights he'd seen. He used the cane on us quite often for the slightest thing. He didn't stay very long. Then we had Mr Fox. He was very good and well-respected.

We weren't really frightened of the war. It was normal taking a gas mask to school, hearing the

siren go off, having blackouts at night and seeing windows boarded up. When the planes flew over low from Stradishall, and we were in the playground we'd wave to them. Sometimes they'd see us and tip their wings.



Alan Theobald

I remember that Acton was bombed and that's where the German POW camp was. We used to go and look at them. Some were allowed to come to Melford. A couple of them stayed on in Melford after the war. They married English girls who were mocked by some villagers. One of the ex-POWs was Felix Golynia who started his taxi business with a small car in 1952. Didn't do too badly did he?"

### Melford to Light Up Again for Remembrance

The Long Melford Business Association will, for a second year, fund and co-ordinate the *Melford Window Wanderland – Light Up for Remembrance* initiative to commemorate those who gave their lives for our freedom. Last year, over 50 homes, businesses and community groups took part and this year we'd like to encourage even more of the community to join in.

If you'd like to take part, you can register your interest on the official website <https://www.windowwanderland.com/area/long-melford/>. All those who register will receive a detailed pack of what's required, how to get involved and you'll find plenty of creative inspiration. The event will run every evening from Thursday 11th November until Sunday 14th November between 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

We're also encouraging businesses to display stories of Melford War Veterans in their windows

to form a daytime *Heritage Poppy Trail* – last year saw over 40 businesses taking part and we hope for more this year. As well as commemorating the veterans, the displays will give our community the opportunity to learn more about those from Long Melford who gave so much.

More information on both activities will be shared across social media and through village posters soon.



One of the Window Wanderland Remembrance displays last year  
Photo: Teresa Poole

## Remembrance Matters

### The Royal British Legion (RBL)

In 1921, a few war veterans met in the Cock & Bell and decided that they'd meet now and again to support each other and others who had served during the war. After a couple of years, these young men brought their group under the umbrella of the British Legion (not Royal until 1970).



From its London HQ, the RBL campaigns and lobbies in the interests of veterans and their families. Members share experiences and have a say in the way the Legion is run by voting through its branch network. But most importantly, they help the RBL to provide support to the Armed Forces community and their families. The Long Melford Branch is responsible for keeping Remembrance alive locally and helping provide welfare support to local beneficiaries.

You can help keep the RBL strong by joining. Membership starts from just £18 a year and is open to everyone. You'll get our RBL magazine and e-newsletters giving you the latest news on events and stories from inside the Legion. You'll also get some benefits including priority access to tickets for the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall, discounts on certain products and Remembrance tours and access to conferences and RBL clubs.

The pandemic severely affected our activities but things are returning to normal, so we are planning for this year's Remembrance. The Social Club is back open too (see page 7 for more information).

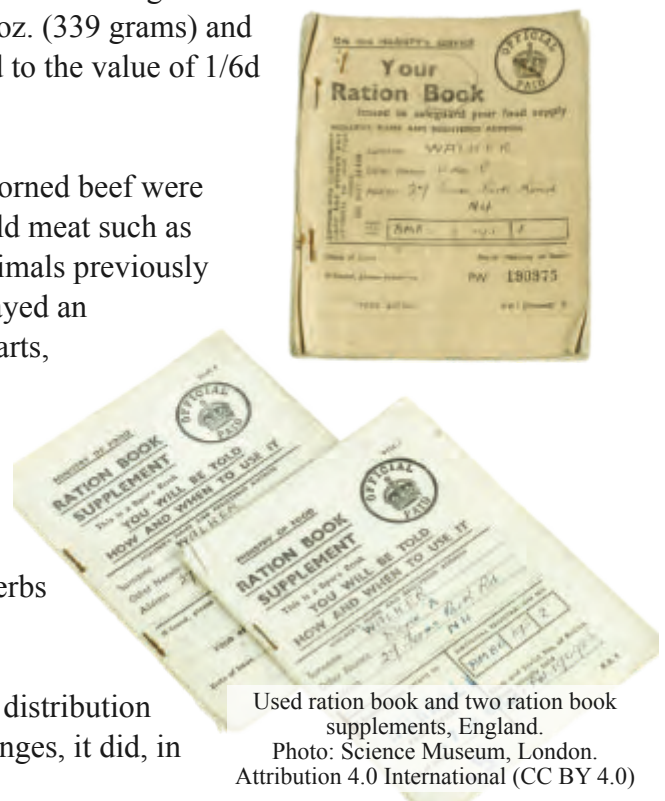
Email: [LongMelford.Secretary@rbl.community](mailto:LongMelford.Secretary@rbl.community)

### Wartime Eats

At the outbreak of World War II, Britain was heavily dependent on imported food. As supply lines were attacked by the Germans, the newly formed Food Department (later the Ministry of Food) began to introduce rationing. This started in January 1940 with butter being limited to 4 oz. (113 grams) per person per week, sugar to 12 oz. (339 grams) and bacon/ham to 4 oz. per week. Other meat was rationed to the value of 1/6d (8p) per person per week.

Canned protein such as spam, salmon, pilchards and corned beef were available and country cooks made increased use of wild meat such as rabbit, hare and even squirrel. Parts of slaughtered animals previously overlooked for cooking were now deployed. Offal played an important part, including ox and pig liver, kidneys, hearts, brains, feet, oxtail and tongues. By 1943, whale and horsemeat substituted for beef. Wartime recipe substitutes included left-over porridge instead of brains and lentils instead of lamb in shepherd's pie. Making these items into tasty meals was, of course, much more of a challenge without the huge array of herbs and spices we now enjoy.

Whilst rationing was a necessary device to ensure fair distribution of limited resources for a nation facing extreme challenges, it did, in fact, create a healthy, balanced diet.



Used ration book and two ration book supplements, England.  
Photo: Science Museum, London.  
Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)



## Parish Council Matters

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 Planning Committee asked for some aspects (e.g. the number of 4-bedroom homes, greater variety of house styles) to be revised.

Since then, the Parish Council has had two three-way meetings with Bloor and Babergh planners to discuss the way forward. Bloor has made some significant changes – fewer 4-bedroom homes and more 2- and 3-bed, more houses with rendering (including 'Suffolk Pink'), two houses and walls with 'flint/stone detailing', cabling for electric vehicle charging points and water butts for all homes and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to a certain extent.

The Parish Council is pressing for even fewer 4-bed homes, more bungalows and 2-bed homes, more flint/stone homes, especially in places visible from the Melford Walk, and for Bloor to be aspirational and make this an exemplar development for water and energy savings.

The Parish Council want to avoid a repeat of the sudden disruption in August caused by installing traffic lights and parking restrictions at the entrance to the site without sufficient consultation and notice for residents. They're pressing for stricter rules during the construction phase to minimise disruption and for regular consultations between Bloor and the Parish Council.

It's likely that by the time you read this, Babergh Planning Committee will have met again to consider the revised proposals.

### Cycling on Melford Walk and other issues

At its August meeting, the Parish Council voted to allow cycling on the Melford Walk and there will be changes to the signs to reflect this. It also voted to re-open the public toilet next to the Council office in Cordell Road once hot water for hand washing is provided. Babergh has granted planning permission for gates to be erected on the Upper Green so that vehicles can be prevented from driving onto and damaging the Green when the ground is wet.



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## School Matters

Due to the school summer holiday and our final copy dates, this is the first chance Melford Matters has had to catch up with news from our primary school since our June/July issue.



Thanks to grants from Cllr. Kemp's Locality Fund and from Long Melford in Bloom we now have a polytunnel. It was erected by a fantastic team from the Village Volunteers. By the time you read this, we should have had our opening ceremony and then it's all things grow.

The term ended for our Nursery with a visit to Rainbow Fun in Sudbury. Our Year 6 had *Celebration*. This included a water fight, family picnic and a leavers' assembly.

We're looking forward to a 'normal' term in the Autumn with a diary that is already filling up! One such event is the postponed celebration in 2020 of what would have been the 125th anniversary of Long Melford's St Catherine's

Road Infants School. We had planned to commemorate the anniversary but sadly, Covid meant we couldn't and so we decided to celebrate this year instead. Some of our children will participate in a Victorian Workshop to show how the Victorians lived and learnt. Children and staff will be able to wear Victorian costumes as part of our celebrations. We're collecting copies of photographs from St Catherine's Road Infants for a display. If you're able to scan any relevant photographs, we'd be very grateful if you could do so and send them to [office@longmelfordprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:office@longmelfordprimaryschool.co.uk).

Amanda Woolmer  
Headteacher

If you're interested in your children joining our school or nursery, we have some spaces available. Please telephone our office on 01787 379929 or email [office@longmelfordprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:office@longmelfordprimaryschool.co.uk) to arrange an appointment and I will happily show you around.

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## School Matters

Last term was certainly a busy one. So much so, that there isn't room to include all of the activities here. Below, are some that our children have been involved in.

Here's half the cast of **'Pirates of the Curry Bean'** a musical performed by Years 5 and 6. They had great fun rehearsing and performing in front of Years 3 and 4. We even recorded the play for our families to watch.



All the children entered the **Suffolk Home Start Character Creation Competition**. The purpose was to inspire budding writers and to support the Home Start charity. We're proud to have nine pupils shortlisted for the characters they created.



To encourage the learning of times tables and to make maths fun, we held a **Times Table Rock Stars Day**. It involves the children dressing as a rock star and competing to find the school's TT Rock Star Champion of 2021.



Year 1 and 2 children visited **Holy Trinity** for a workshop aimed at stimulating their creative skills.



**Forest School** continues to be a favourite activity of our pupils. It's designed to support the development of a lifelong relationship between children and nature.



Year 6 enjoyed their time at **Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Centre** where they challenged themselves on a range of activities including abseiling, kayaking and the zip wire.





## Country Park Matters



The smart new signs at the Country Park, designed and produced by Indigo Ross, help visitors find their way round the park and identify some of the birds that can be seen there.



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## Gardening Matters – Notes from the potting shed

A huge thank you to all who helped make the Seed Swap such a great event. Seeds and gardening stories were swapped all morning. We had such a good time that we're planning to make this an annual event.

Speaking of annual events, we've been asked to make something like the Sunflower Challenge a regular part of the village calendar, but growing something different each year. We suggest that in 2022 as many of us as possible grow sweet peas in front of our homes so that everyone can enjoy them. It's worth mentioning that you can get them started in October, store them in a cold frame or somewhere similar over winter and then they will have a head start for growing next year.

We were thrilled with all the sunflower pictures you sent in and hope you like the montage of them opposite. If there's anything beautiful in your garden irrespective of the season, please photograph it and send us the pictures so that we can try to feature them in future issues.



Well, how has your harvest been this year? Overall it's been much easier than usual at the allotments as it's rained just when our thirsty crops needed it. If you've grown pumpkins and squashes, it's well worth hardening them off in the sun for a week or so before storing them for later use. We find that they'll keep well in a shed up until the end of February if their skins have had that chance to harden off.

Seeing the reference on page 12 to wartime food issues led us to research how allotments fitted into this picture and we discovered that by the end of the Second World War, there were almost 1.4 million allotments in this country and 75 per cent of food was locally produced. Not sure we'll ever manage quite that in Melford.



Just one more tip: if you have leaves gathering in your garden, do consider making leaf mould from them. All you need is to contain them in a pen of chicken wire (or an old compost bag with a few holes in the bottom will do) and just keep adding to the heap. Leave them to decompose somewhere out of the way and next autumn you'll have beautiful crumbly leaf mould which can be used as a growing medium, a mulch or soil improver.

Also, a note for the diary: some fabulous potted bulbs for Christmas will be available at the **Library Christmas Fair on 27th November**. But remember, they sell out fast ...

Please do keep sending your queries and tips in to [Melfordmatterslifestyle@gmail.com](mailto:Melfordmatterslifestyle@gmail.com)

**Happy gardening!**





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## Nature Matters

### Welcoming Nature into Long Melford

By the time you read this summer will have passed, the swallows will be heading back to warmer climes whilst those creatures staying with us fill up their winter larders. Please keep leaving food and water out for hedgehogs as they need to fatten up before hibernation and start feeding the birds too. To help our smaller creatures, don't do too much tidying up in the garden (seed heads are excellent for overwintering insects) and plant bulbs to provide nectar for bees early next year.



Volunteers clearing the area around the Melford Walk footpath

The Biodiversity Group has been busy with



practical work and

planning how we encourage nature into the village. A group of hard-working volunteers has done some initial clearance along the Melford Walk Nature Reserve (aka the Railway Walk), both to encourage greater biodiversity and make it more accessible for walkers. However, there's lots more to do over the winter months. The Parish Council is responsible for this work but our group, working with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, provides advice on how to improve it for wildlife and will coordinate surveys to establish what flora and fauna lives there. Our vision is for this area to be one where nature thrives and is enjoyed by everyone, just as in the Country Park.

We're working with Babergh District Council to create wildflower meadows on areas currently mown by the Council. Areas in front of Southgate Gardens and Harefield and in the Chadburn/Raile Walk and Sampson Drive areas have been suggested. This isn't about leaving grass unmown it's about planting and managing the areas with a special wildflower mix to encourage more flowers and associated insects. If these areas prove successful, we could do more in future.

### What you can do to help

Encouraging nature requires everyone to do their bit. I hope the activities below will encourage you to join in and learn more about how we can all do something to help our fascinating but declining wildlife. For updates, please look on the Long Melford Facebook page and notice boards around the village.

- **Saturday 30th October, 10am-noon** at the Village Hall. 'Bringing Wildlife into your Garden'. A talk by Cathy Smith, Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Suitable for all ages.
- **Saturday 13th November – to be confirmed.** 'Planting Tree Seeds'. Before this date children will collect wild tree seeds and nuts and bring them along to plant up. They will then be grown on for planting in the village in future. Advice on suitable species will be provided.
- **Saturday 27th November** – meet at the Village Hall at 9.30am for Tree and Hedge Planting Day. The free trees/hedging plants provided by Babergh will be planted out. Volunteers please contact me!

Jane Burch, Chairman, Long Melford Biodiversity Group  
jane\_burch@yahoo.co.uk



It's time to start feeding the birds again  
Photo: Matt Byham

## Library Matters

### Library Activities

Our activities are back up and running after successful trials using the garden over the summer. We've been discussing with the URC about moving the sessions into the Church Hall for the colder months so please check our website or call for further information.



Family crafts on Saturdays is popular...

### Family Crafts

Join us on Saturdays 10am-12 noon for a different craft each week! Suitable for children aged 3-11.

### Wordplay (Tot Rock and Baby Bounce)

Join us every Tuesday at 2.30pm for action songs and rhymes, suitable for children 0-5 years old.

### Top Time

Our social group (aimed at older people but open to all) meets every Wednesday at 3pm. The first Wednesday of the month is book group, other sessions usually involve an informal craft or simple activity.

### Our Library's Future

In March, the URC confirmed that the local church community had agreed to close. As the article above shows, the library provides much more than traditional lending services. It stages events and provides activities for a number of Melford groups. Consequently, news of the URC's closure has caused some anxiety for library users.

We contacted Suffolk Libraries who told us that they are fully committed to maintaining a



### Christmas Fair

The Friends of Long Melford Library would like to invite you to our annual Christmas Fair on 27th November from 10am-1pm. There will be potted bulbs, baby knits, preserves, ceramics, cards, tombola, cakes and a raffle. All proceeds raised go to your library.

### Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to all of the children who completed their Summer Reading Challenge! We had over 70 children take part which is fantastic.



... as is traditional reading and book borrowing

URC, Hall Street

Long Melford CO10 9JT

Tel No: 01787 377525

Website: [www.suffolklibraries.co.uk](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk)

Email: [melford.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto:melford.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk)

Social media:

[www.facebook.com/longmelfordlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/longmelfordlibrary)

permanent presence in the village. James Powell, Marketing and Communications Manager, said "The building itself is owned by the URC Eastern Synod Trust which leases the library space to Suffolk Libraries. There is a six month notice period on this space and no notice has been given, so we can reassure local people that the library will be staying where it is for the foreseeable future. We are hoping to renegotiate the current lease and have no plans to move the library. We are committed to maintaining a library in Long Melford, preferably at its current site, and we would look for an alternative should this be necessary."



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## Brain Matters



The Quiz in issue 4 of Melford Matters is all about notable days in the calendar beginning with Guy Fawkes Night...

1. In which century was the November Gunpowder Plot?
2. On which day of the week was Christmas Day 2020?
3. What special day was inaugurated by King George V in 1919?
4. In which American city did the St Valentine's Day Massacre take place in 1929?
5. What series of books and films features the psychopathic killer Michael Myers?
6. Which of Shakespeare's characters is told to "Beware the ides of March"?
7. What does the 'Glorious Twelfth' of August mark?
8. In which month is VE Day?
9. Which one of these three countries celebrates New Year's Day before the other two –Australia, South Africa and the USA?
10. In which month is the Trooping of the Colour ceremony?



The Trooping of the Colour  
Photo: Corporal Paul Shaw/MOD, via Wikimedia



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## Health Matters

### Congratulations to the Long Melford Pharmacy

You often hear praise of our village pharmacy but, over the past eighteen months, the team there has gone above and beyond to help keep us all safe and supplied with essential medications. They anticipated that there might be increased demand for home delivery of medication and acquired an additional van in preparation for that. The drivers and other staff have all worked extra time to ensure that people received their drugs safely at home. The level of extra demand has remained since the last lockdown ended and the team say that they are prepared in the event of another surge of the virus.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of our local team of seven people, with help from an additional six in a dedicated vaccination team, has been with the vaccine roll out. Melford pharmacy was one of the first in the country to offer jabs. By September, it had delivered around 25,000 since it started providing this service in early February 2021, protecting people from the age of 16 up to almost 100.



The pharmacy staff outside their premises in Hall Street  
Photo: Long Melford Pharmacy



The vaccination team preparing to board the bus  
Photo: Long Melford Pharmacy

Not only have these been provided at the pharmacy itself, but also on a vaccination bus which delivered almost 6,000 jabs in July alone. It has been travelling across North East Essex and Suffolk since June, delivering jabs in places such as Colchester, Haverhill, Harwich and Mildenhall. They even provided this service at the Latitude Festival where they resisted the temptation to pop out and see the bands. They wore tee-shirts which carried two encouraging messages – ‘Every vaccine counts’ and ‘I had mine at Latitude’. Natasha Jones, the pharmacy store/services manager told us, “Latitude was an enlightening experience and we are extremely proud to have been the first vaccination bus at a festival in the world”.

This fantastic contribution to the local vaccination effort has been recognised recently with a Suffolk Hero Award from the House of Commons in recognition of the team’s huge efforts with battling the pandemic. The team has also been nominated for a Community Pharmacy Award and shortlisted for a National Independent Pharmacy Award.

In addition to managing all the regular duties at the pharmacy, the team also maintains its social media presence, as they work hard to keep relevant posts coming, seeing this as “an effective and crucial form of communication”.

Melford Pharmacy is a village asset to be very proud of and grateful for. On behalf of the village, Melford Matters congratulates you all on your recent award and thanks you for all your work for the benefit of the whole village.

## Women's Tour

### World's Top Women Cyclists will be Racing through Melford

On Saturday 9th October, 96 of the world's top women cyclists will be racing through Melford as part of 'The Women's Tour'. This is part of the last stage of the race from Haverhill to Felixstowe, where the winner will be crowned.

The route just before Melford includes a timed 'Queen of the Mountains' climb from the Cavendish-Melford road up to Glemsford. There will be a timed sprint section from the Conduit, opposite Melford Hall, to the Post Office – so, they'll be going at top speed. The riders are expected to flash through Melford from around 12.09pm. So, to make sure you don't miss them and get a good roadside view, claim your position well before noon.



Long Melford Business Association is embracing the 'Pink, White & Bike' theme of the tour and encouraging everyone to dress in pink and white, wave flags, fly bunting and enjoy the carnival atmosphere that will be brought to the village.

Businesses are being encouraged to decorate their windows in pink and white. Tea rooms will be baking pink and white cakes and bikes will be decorated and on display.

Local bands will be playing at the bottom of the Green, outside the Bull and at Chapel Green and there'll be various stalls and entertainment dotted throughout the village for everyone to enjoy.



Cyclists on a previous Tour smile through the effort  
Photo: Swpix.com

An advertisement for The Melford Valley. At the top is the logo featuring a crest and the text 'The Melford Valley'. Below this is a white box with the text 'HOME DELIVERY OFFER (7 mile radius)' and 'Celebrating 30 years and three generations - Est 1991 £10 off all orders over £25 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday'. A black button with white text says 'PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS'. Below the white box, it says 'Pre-order before 5pm by calling us and choose delivery time. Delivery fees apply.' At the bottom, it says 'We do hope you are all keeping safe and well. Thank you for your continued support.' and provides the address 'The Melford Valley, Hall Street Long Melford, Suffolk CO10 9JT' and phone number 'Tel: 01787 311518 / 310079'.



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## Matters Spiritual – a message from the Rector

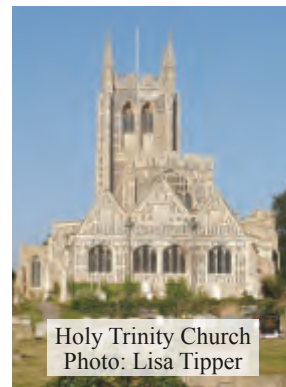
### Reflection – I’m a young dinosaur!

This year I made it to my half century. Although it’s a number that gets a round of applause in a cricket match, my children are not so appreciative ... they add ‘million’ to my numerical age, so according to them I am now a complete dinosaur at 50 million years old! Nevertheless, when they tease me about my age I have a reply that sometimes buys a moment or two of quiet; you might want to try it: “I am one year closer to heaven and I will probably get there before you do”!

With all that has happened this year I’ve not really had that much opportunity to reflect on this milestone, but I do recognise that my days in this life, like yours, are numbered. As things are starting to return to some kind of ‘normal’, I know that every day is a blessing and a gift from God, and a chance to prepare for eternity. Make the most of today!

Rev Lawson

There is a 10.30am service every Sunday at Holy Trinity. To see it live-streamed, google: “Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook”.





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**Long Melford Village Memorial Hall**

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

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

Audio visual equipment available @ £25 per session

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



## Sport Matters – Cricket

### News from the Boundary

As a successful season draws to a close, it's worth mentioning some very memorable achievements at Long Melford Cricket Club.

Despite the restrictions of Covid, the Club ran a full campaign of league cricket on Saturdays and Sundays, welcoming opposition from around the region. Our Junior section – Under 13s / Under 15s – played regular competitive matches. They held

their own and showed great improvement. The summer Cricket Camps provided exciting coaching and fun activities for over 40 youngsters (aged 4-16) each day – it was so good to see them all enjoying themselves.

We bought a high-quality BBQ to bring good food to players and visitors. We invested in some fantastic equipment to keep the square and outfield in top condition. We worked hard to improve the

overall look of the ground which included a new bench, a big picnic table and a bright, a welcoming flowerbed at the entrance – thanks Tom!

And thank you to those of you who have supported us through 2021. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the ground next April.



The end of season awards evening at LMCC  
Photo: Bill Byford

## Sport Matters – Football

### More delays to the new clubhouse

Do you remember “The Gas Man Cometh” – a comic song by Flanders and Swann? Well, our gasman did come but couldn't find the gas main! He's coming back with a much larger digger at the end of September. “Slow boat to China” rings bells too and that could be where some vital plumbing and drainage materials needed for the clubhouse are hopefully sailing from towards the UK. Like so many projects nationwide, we've had to postpone our opening date yet again.



We're determined to cut the ribbon and pop the champagne corks as soon as we can. Meanwhile some dates for your diary.

On **Friday 26th November**, we host **Sixties Explosion** – a top local band helping to re-live the fashions and music of the 1960s. So get your glad rags on and come and join us.

**Father Christmas** will be joining us for a **Children's Party on Sunday 12th December** – oh yes he will!

Forthcoming first team home matches are on 2nd October Mulbarton, 13th Haverhill, 23rd Lakenheath, 27th Brantham, 6th November Hadleigh and 20th Gorleston. More details on the LMFC website. Come along to Stoneylands and cheer the Villagers on!

Peter Turner  
Long Melford Community Sports Trust



The 1st XI in their smart new strip on their way to a 5-0 win against Swaffham  
Photo: Stewart Ambrose

## 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	Mike Murkin	01787 312605
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](mailto:MelfordMattersAdvertising@gmail.com).  
Amendments must be received by **1st November** to be included in Issue 05 – December/January 2021.

### Quiz Answers

- |                       |  |              |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| 1. 17th Century       | 5. Halloween                                   | 8. May       |
| 2. Friday             | 6. Julius Caesar                               | 9. Australia |
| 3. Remembrance Sunday | 7. The beginning of the grouse shooting season | 10. June     |
| 4. Chicago            |  |              |



# What's on at KENTWELL Sep to Dec 2021



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Sat 18/Sun 19 Sept – Apple Weekend

Sat 25/Sun 26 Sep – Tudor Michaelmas

October – House & Gardens Open Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun



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

November – House & Gardens Open Sats & Suns

Sat 4/Sun 5 December – Christmastide event

Sat 11/Sun 12 December – Christmastide event

please pre-book tickets for any visit or event on-line at [www.kentwell.co.uk](http://www.kentwell.co.uk) – numbers are limited

house & gardens open · take-out teas · family events · living history · weddings · filming · tours · schools

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