



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 308 November 2017

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The Council therefore holds no responsibility for its content except that submitted by and on behalf of the Council or Trust.

All copy must be received by the 24th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue, preferably by email to:

orfordtrust@btconnect.com or put through the Town Hall letterbox

Priority for inclusion is given to articles that are about or directly affect the community of Orford and Gedgrave and inclusion is subject to editing and availability of space.

ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL SPONSOR A TREE

We now have confirmed sponsors for all 12 trees originally planned plus 3 extras. There will be 3 silver birch trees on the green outside the Shop, an oak and a birch (possibly 2) on the Knoll opposite the Castle, a birch along Daphne Road, a maple, 2 prunus and an oak along Broad Street, and a further 4 oaks and a maple along Quay Street to infill the gaps where trees used to be. Seth and Sarah from Native Gardens in Chillesford will be planting the trees over the winter (with a little help from some of the school children!).

CHRISTMAS

We are holding our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas afternoon tea party in Orford Town Hall on Saturday 16 December from 2-4pm. There will be lots of tea, sarnies and cakes. Music will be provided by Nick Raison. Invitations will be going out shortly. Volunteers needed to help please if you can!

On Wednesday 20 December, time tbc, on the Green outside the Village Shop we will be holding a Christmas Carols sing-song around the Christmas tree. Come along have some mulled wine and a mince pie with us and get in the festive spirit. We are hoping that there will also be a children's party. Please look out for further details in due course.

If you are able to volunteer any of your time to help at any of this events please contact the Town Hall Office and leave your details with either Kara or Marie (tel 459172).

ENABLING DEVELOPMENT

As you may (or may not) have heard the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership are currently in the process of developing plans for raising the funds needed to repair and improve the river wall to protect the villages around this part of the coastline. If you require more information on this, along with various questions from the community and the answers provided by the Partnership, please visit our website: www.orfordparishandtrust.onesuffolk.net. There is also a further information discussion to be held at Tunstall Village Hall on Friday 10 November at 4pm. If you have any comments to make about the plans for Orford - good or bad - please send any correspondence to the Town Hall or email orfordtownhall@btconnect.com

Michelle Golder, Chairman, Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council

NOVEMBER AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Sunday 5 November – All Saints Sunday

8.00am Holy Eucharist – Rev D Murdoch

Sunday 12 November – 3rd Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Eucharist – Rev D Murdoch

10.45am Cluster Remembrance Sunday Service – Rev D Murdoch & Mr R Wisdom

Sunday 19 November – 2nd Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Eucharist – Rev D Murdoch

11.00am Holy Eucharist – Rev D Murdoch

Sunday 26 November – Christ the King

8.00am Holy Eucharist – Rev D Murdoch

10.30am Village Service – Mrs J Maslin

Rev. David Murdoch

November dates for your diary

- Thursday 2 November: Scottish Power Renewables public information day - Orford Town Hall, 12 noon-7pm
- Friday 10 November: AOEP Enabling Development Public Forum - Tunstall Village Hall, 4pm
- Wednesday 22 November: Orford Recreation Ground Committee AGM - Recreation Ground Pavilion, 7.30pm
- Thursday 23 November: Inter Estuary Pub quiz - various locations, 6.45pm

NOVEMBER AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 5 November 10.30am Stephen Caley – Soup & Pud Lunch

Sunday 12 November **Remembrance**

10.30am Stephen Caley

Sunday 19 November 10.30am Rev. Michael Allen

Sunday 26 November 10.30am Rev. Martin Dawes – Communion

Sunday 3 December Advent I

10.30am Stephen Caley – Soup & Pud Lunch

MONDAY'S TEA ROOM – now open for winter timing 11am– pm (ish) for Morning Coffee and Warming Lunch.

WEDNESDAY LUNCH served at 12.30pm – please book to attend this meal.

INSPIRATIONAL ART & COLOURING 10am – 3pm THURSDAY 9th and 23rd November – staying for Soup & Pud – come and go as you please.

Friends attending the Inspirational Art & Colouring Sessions are enjoying the opportunity to discover hidden talent. So encouraging that we've made these sessions twice monthly. Sunday Soup & Pud lunch got off to a flying start which was much appreciated – thanks for the delicious homemade soup. Thanks to Pam who entered a Tablecloth Competition (having purchased an extra table cloth to add to the one already used over the summer in the Tea Room). The photo, which could be seen on the internet, won a first prize of M&S vouchers – which have been used in the Tea Room. Hurrah.

The 18th Wednesday Lunch Birthday was celebrated in fine style with another excellent meal enjoyed by many (party hats too) and rounded off with birthday cake. Pauleen Balls gave a hearty vote of thanks on behalf of all for the delicious meals served and enjoyed by 'one big family'. Everyone was given party bags filled with goodies to take home – another wonderful Wednesday.

Advance Notice (for those already asking) the Wednesday Christmas Dinner will be held on 13 December and the Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday 17 December.

Stephen Caley

LOST AND FOUND: Hedge Cutter

Found in Orford – if you have lost one please call 01394450990.

FLOWER SHOW THANKS

Many thanks go to everybody who very kindly donated cakes for the refreshments on the Flower Show day. We made £609. A big thank you must go to my loyal band of volunteers who not only helped but actually did it all for me whilst I was out of action.

Anne Macro

JOHNNY FEIBUSCH

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those of you who attended Johnny's Thanksgiving and Celebration of Life Service, including David Murdoch who conducted the service, John Rutherford the brilliant organist, Geoffrey and the Church Choir who sang so beautifully, Caroline and Lizzie for the lovely flowers, Jaki who handed out the Service Sheets and last but not least Jim McLeod for his amazing violin playing; to everyone who sent lovely cards and letters with such kind words and memories of Johnny, the phone calls with offers of help, everyone who popped in to visit me, and all the gifts of flowers. The caring support of the Orford Community has been overwhelming and sustained me, not only since Johnny's death, but through the difficult times prior to it. I am enormously grateful to you all – thank you.

Liz Feibusch

HOUSING IN ORFORD

Whilst I have no real opinion on whether the Alde and Ore enablement plan to build high-end houses in their effort to raise funds for sea defences is good or bad, I do think more affordable homes should be built in Orford for sale or rent. Housing for sale in the village is priced way above what a young couple could afford, and is usually snapped up as a second home or holiday let. This leaves young couples with no option but to look elsewhere, like Rendlesham and further afield. Apart from the village losing a mixture of residents, which could put the village primary school under threat in years to come, to put forward any case for affordable housing the village needs to show that there is a demand for it. This is gauged partly by the number of people registered with Gateway to Homechoice. Please could I urge you to register if you are looking for housing in the village, as the more people who are registered, the better. Their website can be found at www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk

Matthew Smy

ORFORD SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

Events for November at the club are:

As usual, club night every Friday night, 8:30 pm onwards for pool, darts, snooker, table tennis, bar and chat (either with each other or making good use of the club Wi-fi!!).

And for a trial period through November, the club will be open on Sunday and Monday nights as well, 8:30 pm onwards, so come and give it a look. And also, on various Sundays, the bar will be open after the home football fixtures at 12:00 hours.

- Saturday 4th November, after the fireworks, The Random Blues Company will be playing rock, rhythm and blues. Doors open at 7:30pm, £3 members, £4 non-members.
- Friday 17 November, Bingo night, 8:00pm

And don't forget, music from Flaming Cheek on Saturday 23 December.

Mark Smy, OSRC Secretary 450358

THE ORFORD ORGAN PROJECT

Orford Church choir director Graeme Kay explains the facts behind the project which will bring a wonderful new organ to Orford.

Introduction

Some years ago, the PCC determined that we should explore finding a new pipe organ for the church, because our existing small organ was only installed as a temporary (!!!) stop-gap following the destruction of the original West Gallery organ when the church tower collapsed in the 19th century.

Southampton University's Gift

Hearing of our ambition to find a new organ, in March, Southampton University (SU) gifted the 1976 Peter Collins organ of the Turner Sims Concert Hall to us, completely free. The organ had been removed to protect it from flood damage. It is 'redundant' because SU needed space to house a full symphony orchestra in the Hall and decided not to re-install it.

What's so special about this organ?

Peter Collins was one of the UK's finest organ builders: his most famous organ is in St Peter Mancroft in Norwich. It can perform, magnificently, all the music from the Baroque period to the present day.

Anything else about it?

Yes. It is almost impossible to find redundant organs which are freestanding. This one has a plain, modern T-shaped case and is unusually narrow. Its integrated design means that it cannot be rebuilt in any other form. The church will not be disrupted by any building alterations: the organ fits comfortably into the underused north-west aisle where it will be ideally placed to support the congregation and choir for services (which is our main aim), but also for concerts, recitals, and teaching. Here it will preserve the west-east sightlines of the church, and stand well clear of the Edwardian additions to the medieval setting.

Who can play it?

The answer is: anyone who can play a keyboard. The organ plays and functions just like any other organ, but with more choice of sounds: there will be three keyboards instead of two, and 28 stops instead of 6. A magnet for

organists of all abilities, its presence will virtually guarantee the continuity of great music for the worship in our church far into the future. To allow maximum flexibility, we will keep the existing organ.

How will it be paid for?

To build the Collins organ now would typically cost from £500,000 to £750,000. Such a sum would never be within our grasp. The gift to the church therefore offers an opportunity which can never be repeated: we estimate that the cost will be £60K for the initial rebuild and up to a further £60K for restoration to 'as-new' condition and installation, but the final cost could be less.

Through guarantees, sources and pledges we have been able to authorise the go-ahead. But we will also fundraise. Just like the existing organ, the new organ will require regular tuning and maintenance, the costs to be met, as they are now, from the church music fund. The organ will also generate income: we will be able to charge promoters to use it.

What happens now?

The Rector, Churchwardens and the PCC are unanimously behind the project. The instrument is currently with our organ builders near Leicester. When the necessary Diocesan permissions are granted we hope the organ will be able to begin its new life in Orford next Easter. If you would like to know more, email kaysorford@pobox.com. And you can listen to archive BBC recordings of the organ at <http://bit.ly/2w0Xt1b>. <http://bit.ly/2w0Xt1b>

Graeme Kay

ORFORD SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 3 December 1pm – 4pm at Orford Town Hall – All welcome!

It's always a great way to enter into the Christmas spirit... There will be face painting, tombola, refreshments, craft stalls, water or wine, hamper raffle (tickets available on the day) & much more!

If anyone is feeling inspired by The Great British Bake Off and just can't stop baking then please feel free to bring us a cake on the day for us to sell on our refreshments stall! Any tombola, wine or hamper prizes would also be gratefully received – you can drop these off at Friends Garage (thanks Laura), The General Stores (thanks Sue) or the newspaper kiosk (thanks Linda) where you will find our collection boxes. If you need items collecting please ring Sarah Felton on 01394 450409 or Sarah Lord on 01394 459983 and we will be happy to collect them from you. You can also get in touch with us if you would like to hire a stall on the day to sell your Christmas wares.

If anyone has time to spare, we are always looking to welcome new members to OSLOF (Orford School League of Friends), bringing new ideas to help raise much needed funds for our local school. If you are interested then please leave your details at the school reception and we will get in touch with you.

We really do appreciate all the help and donations we receive from our local community and we couldn't do it without your support, so thank you! We hope to see you on the 3rd December!

Sarah Felton on behalf of OSLOF

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The popular annual Christmas bazaar will be held in the Church from 2pm on Saturday 2 December with 80% of the proceeds for the Church Fabric and 20% going to the Thomas Marshall Education Fund.

Always a great start to Christmas, come along with your family and friends and have some fun on the bottle tombola, the raffle and 'Guess the weight of the cake' and grab bargains galore from the Bric-a-Brac and Book Stalls. Pick up those 'must have' gifts from the Christmas Stall which will be full of edible Christmas goodies and other Christmas fare.

Refresh yourselves with delicious mulled wine, mince pies, teas and cakes and listen to Nick Raison playing your seasonal favourites on the piano.

Raffle prizes and any items and books of good quality that you can offer to be sold or put on the bottle tombola would be greatly appreciated and can be brought to the Church on the Friday afternoon (1st December) and on the morning of the bazaar, or alternatively contact the people below.

Books: Elizabeth Spinney, Brundish Lodge, High Street, 450622

Bottle Tombola: Suki Pearce, Beacon Cottage, Broad Street, 450011

Toys: Shirley Smith, The Old Police House, Ipswich Road, 459128

Raffle: Pat Walker, Garden Cottage, Ipswich Road, 450276

Cakes: Liz Carr, Haven House, Front Street, 450090

Bric-a-Brac: Caroline Gill, Seawinds, Gedgrave Road, 450302

Christmas Stall: Wendy Marshall, Chantry Cottage, Gedgrave Rd, 450090

THE PENINSULAR PRACTICE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Help Yourself to Health

We would like to thank our PPG for helping us organise the open day last month and also to thank all the patients for attending.

Flu Clinics: please ring Reception to book an appointment for your flu vaccination.

Surgery Closures: Staff Meeting – Thursday 2 November, 13.30-15.00

GP Training – Thursday 16 November, 13.00-18.30

ORFORD RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is to be held in the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22 November. Everyone is welcome to come and we look forward to seeing you.

Diana Grayburn (was Paterson), Hon. Secretary

GARDENING CLUB

Date: Thursday 2 November

Topic: The Potager – growing vegetables and flowers together...

Presenter: David Keleel of Darsham Nurseries

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Orford Town Hall 'Back room'

Also: Third and final competition for the Eric Mason Shield – 'A flowering bulb'

If you've ever been to Darsham you will want to come to this and if you haven't then you will after this! David will give us an illustrated talk about his nursery and the principles on which it is based – 'the potager' and how this style of gardening evolved around the world. He will explain how 'companion planting' and raised beds can be used to advantage. At Darsham he has 55 raised beds and a range of different soils. There will be time for him to answer our questions so do come along ready!

'Ornamental Grasses for Garden' Neil Ludman from Woottens of Wenhaston – 5 October, 2017

Neil gave us a real insight into grasses, sedges and rushes and how and where they are best used to advantage in our gardens. His talk was well illustrated and he also shared some designs of their use from around the world and by some leading garden designers such as Piet Oudolf. Interestingly, he talked about Pensthorpe Natural Park which we visited last summer as a group. Many of us took the opportunity to buy from the wide range of plants he brought with him and sold at a 40% discount! Now to find the right place in the garden for the plant!

Still to come:

Thursday 7 December 'Social Evening and Supper' plus AGM and presentation of The Eric Mason Shield

Taster for 2018:

January: Peter Harrison on choosing and cooking with seasonal food

February: Andrew Brogan on his Exotic garden in Henstead which we recently visited as a group – magical planting with bamboos, banana palms, trickling water and much more...

Membership and guests

We always welcome new members and occasional visitors are encouraged to come at £4 per session. Do think about joining us for 2018 when we start a new year...

Polly Sharkey

ORFORD FOOTBALL TEAM

Before we talk football, can I first say a massive thank you to the New Orford Town Trust for the donation of £250 for much-needed supplies for the team and also a thank you to Michelle Golder for sponsoring this year's match ball.

Orford have started their season with 3 wins out of 3; 2 league wins 2-0 away at Brantham, and 6-4 away to Felixstowe Ranger Reserves, plus a cup win 6-5 at home against Kesgrave Kestrels Reserves to put us in the second round against Martlesham Old Boys. We hope to see a few of you up at the sports club for home games, when the bar will be open after the matches.

Daniel Davis (Manager)

KING'S HEAD NEWS

That's it - the clocks have changed, so we are definitely into Winter. Daniel Bunce and his kitchen team have been doing a grand job and in October transported you for our Food Theme Night to the Mediterranean, with a vast array of Tapas dishes on offer. So, planning ahead to the next one, it is off to the star-spangled banner land of the USA for a Taste of America on Friday 24 November. Don't know what Dan is cooking up yet but I will guarantee he comes up trumps. Book early as the last two have been sell outs, and space is limited.

Staying with Food – Pie Night returns on a Wednesday evening – Pie and a Pint or a Medium Glass of House Wine for just £14.00. Running every Wednesday over the Winter.

As always Steve Boyce blew us away with his guitar skills and entertained the way through the night. Live music in November is on Saturday 25th with SJ Mortimer performing her own music and cover tracks. SJ is part of the BBC introducing programme and has recorded in Nashville. Her performance on her last visit was breath-taking and if you want to get a taste of what she can do please visit her website www.sjmortimer.net. As with all our music nights entry is free and everybody is welcome.

Just to let you all know the King's Head Christmas Draw is underway. So call in to the pub to buy your squares and giving you a chance to win a prize. There

is no normal pub quiz night this month as we are taking part in the Alde & Ore Inter Estuary Pub Quiz on Thursday 23 November. We are now fully booked for this event but there is now an overflow in to the Town Hall and entry forms can be obtained from Laura at Friend's Garage. The quiz will return in December with a Special Twixmas Version in aid of EACH.

Please remember that we have gone over to our Winter opening hours which means that we close on Sundays at 18.00 and are closed all day on Mondays. Also on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we will close in the evening at 22.30. In addition, we are taking our Holiday and will be closed from Monday 13 November and re-open on Tuesday 21 November. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

As those winter nights draw in, remember the bar is open, food is being cooked and the log burners are on to warm you up. As always, we appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you all.

Ian & Suzanne Ballantine, thekingsheadorford@gmail.com

ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY TRUST

The Fundraising Campaign is Launched

Over 120 people supported the Fundraising Launch in Orford Town Hall on 14 October. Libby Purves chaired the meeting when the Save Our Suffolk Estuary film, presented by Nick Robinson was shown and a panel with Sir Edward Greenwell, Chairman of the Estuary Partnership, Richard Davey, Funding Chairman, Elizabeth Stanton, Trustee, Mike Finney, Orford Parish Councillor and Karen Thomas from the IDB answered questions from the audience. The Snape Launch was held on 21 October to a full house chaired by Paul Heiney with Guy Heald, Chairman of the Estuary Trust, Tim Beach and Theresa Cook joining Edward Greenwell and Richard Davey for questions. Both Orford and Snape were very positive meetings with many ideas for raising funds. In total it is estimated that about £12 million will be required of which the community needs to help raise £5 million. Everyone is encouraged to keep in touch with The Trust if they would like to help or organise funding events. The final launch presentation will be chaired by Lord Deben in Aldeburgh Cinema on 28 October at 11am.

Wonderful art and creative writing was produced by the three Schools in Orford, Snape and Aldeburgh. Maggie Hambling and Anthony Horowitz had a very difficult task deciding on the winners who were:

Orford: First and overall winner in the Art competition judged by Maggie Hambling – Ella year 2

Snape: First and overall winner of the Creative Writing judged by Anthony Horowitz – Milly Biggs year 6

Aldeburgh: First and overall winner of the Poetry – Poppy Pilkington
Congratulations to the winners and well done everyone – terrific effort!
See the website (www.aorp.co.uk) for all other winners.

Diary Dates

Friday 3 November, Aldeburgh Cinema, 12.30pm

SAVE OUR SUFFOLK ESTUARY - a short film presented by Nick Robinson will be shown in the Upper Gallery. The film discusses the issues facing our local community in the Alde and Ore Estuary should our flood defences fail. Fabulous aerial shots of the estuary from Shingle Street to Snape – interviews with local businesses and volunteers helping to upgrade our river walls. It is crucially important for us all to support the fundraising efforts before it is too late. Book your FREE tickets through <https://sosestuary.eventbrite.co.uk>

Thursday 23 November - *see below for details.*

Sunday 3 December - further showing of SAVE OUR SUFFOLK ESTUARY film presented by Nick Robinson in Aldeburgh Cinema at 3pm.

Email us on: aoptrust@gmail.com www.aoptrust.org

AOEP INTER ESTUARY PUB QUIZ

Thursday 23 November, 6.45pm book a table at your favourite pub and bring teams of up to 8, i.e. any number up to and including 8, to take part. £5 per head. Celebratory Quiz Masters, prizes and surprises. This is not to be missed! See www.aop.co.uk/events for full details of every pub and restaurant taking part. Book now to avoid disappointment.

STOP PRESS: The Crown & Castle, Orford Town Hall and the Pub Quiz As well as The Jolly Sailor and The King's Head we have more tables at Orford Town Hall for the quiz. The Crown & Castle are providing snacks for every table in the Town Hall. Please bring your own beverages. If you would like to join a team, please ask your local pub to add you to the A team list. Booking forms are available from the pubs, on our website or for the Town Hall are available with Laura at Friends Garage or Contact claregreenwell@gedgrave.co.uk, 01394 450440 www.aop.co.uk

ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP: ENABLING DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC FORUM

Friday 10 November Tunstall Village Hall at 4pm chaired by Lord Deben
This forum is for everyone. Sketch plans of all 8 sites proposed in Orford, Tunstall, Sudbourne, Chillesford and Iken will be on display. Please come and let us have your views as they are important to us. Our Newsletter

and FAQs are already on the website <http://aoep.co.uk/index.php/enabling-development>

We had a very informative meeting with Sudbourne and Orford residents discussing their concerns on 3rd October facilitated by Sarah Ladbury, and minutes and further frequently asked questions are available on the website.

If you would like to be kept up to date with news from both The Partnership and The Trust, please visit the website on www.aoep.co.uk and subscribe to our newsletter at the bottom of the page.

Twitter @SOSestuary Email us on: aoepcontact@gmail.com
www.aoep.co.uk

Amanda Bettinson

AOEP ESTUARY PLANS: MAINTAINING THE RIVER WALLS

Chris Gill writes:

Maintaining the River Walls is, I believe, important to the large majority of those that live and visit this estuary and its hinterland. As a member of the Alde & Ore Association I have followed their plans to ensure this remains protected, including the formation of the Alde & Ore Estuary Partnership (AOEP) and their plans for the refurbishing the walls to withstand a 1 in 200-year flood. In the absence of government funds, it is clear that the community must undertake this work themselves. It appears that after government sources have provided a minimal contribution of about £2m there remains around £10m to be raised. The AOEP propose that £5m of this should be raised by landowners donating land for 'Enabling Development' (ED) whilst £5m is raised by a public appeal.

I have attended two meetings recently and am concerned that there appears to be resistance to the present plans. It is of course inevitable that such meetings are attended by those who are critical while those that are satisfied or indifferent stay away.

Firstly, it is clear that there is no other option between maintaining the walls or letting the whole of the marsh areas eventually return to mud and abandoning low lying properties, with all the resultant impact on the local economy. I don't believe many people wish to contemplate this but a number of criticisms of the plans have been raised. Some are technical or procedural and must be resolved by lawyers and planners. Another two are the method of fund-raising – namely the use of Enabling Development – and also the order in which fundraising is undertaken, i.e. should ED be a last resort. These are legitimate points for debate to which I would like to respond:

There has been some resistance to allowing any new building by way of ED in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). But let us examine that: this area already has new some discretely placed new houses built in it, some new current applications, and small developments have taken place, e.g. in Snape. I would also question whether the beauty is sufficiently 'outstanding' to remain totally unchanged. The Ness is covered by what by any objective view may be regarded as ugly buildings. (If they weren't there no one would allow the new building of them, and they are only attractive by way of historical significance and familiarity). In addition, the landscape behind the river and the marshes realistically only has the same beauty as most other parts of rural Suffolk. My point is that yes, the area is beautiful but let us keep it in perspective; it is not such that we cannot add a small number of properties, if well sited and sympathetically designed to fit the land and townscape. Those, such as are proposed for Orford, will not detract from the general beauty at all.

I referred above to a small number of properties and I believe that only a few are necessary. The AOEP wish to raise £5m in this way and this could be done with around a dozen good sized detached houses. The houses proposed for Orford would have a plot value of around £400,000, thus 12 such will raise £4.8m, and these properties can be well spread over the large area of some 18 parishes from Shingle Street to Aldeburgh and Hollesley to Sternfield. Whilst there may be a demand for more affordable houses, they would raise only small amounts of money per plot, and so there would need to be very many more and they would be a much bigger intrusion into the landscape, having to be placed on the edges of villages where sufficient services are available.

You may have noticed how £4.8m can be conjured out of thin air – something for nothing. This is of course the result of planning gain, but no one has actually had to give this money, apart from the Landowners donating the plots of land. The very ease of raising this money seems to be very persuasive in using this method to raise funds; indeed, if a few more discrete sites could be found across the area maybe more than the £5m could be raised in this way.

This argument also seems to speak in favour of proceeding with this method of fundraising first. In any case the process of obtaining permissions for the ED sites and then marketing them to builders or self-build owners will take some time, but it will form a certain known foundation of funds on which the work to the walls can continue whilst further fundraising activities take place. The landowners have already

themselves financed a £3m bridging loan to keep work progressing. Rising sea levels and winters' weather will not wait!

To the question of what happens if we are unable to raise the whole amount, I have two answers: First, the easy answer: we must go on until the full amount is raised. The closer you get to the target the easier it will be, the more pressure there will be on all parties to fill the gap. Second, if for example ¾ of the funds are found, it will provide for approximately ¾ of the walls. I realise that hydrodynamically, and indeed in cost terms, it is not as simple as that but nevertheless a good degree of protection would be afforded upstream to the most vulnerable flood cells, such as Aldeburgh, Snape, Sudbourne and Orford, perhaps leaving only the lower unpopulated reaches vulnerable.

I hope I have made the case for the present plans of the AOEP; there is no other plan. So whatever your views, unless you are prepared to see all the walls be breached and erode, it is imperative that we all go forward together in a positive and excited way to raise these funds as soon as possible to protect the future of our river.

Chris Gill

RSPB REQUESTS YOUR LETTERS OF SUPPORT

During the December 2013 surge tide Havergate Island sustained extensive damage including washing away internal banks, destroying two hides and deeply flooding the residential volunteering accommodation. The island sustained a breach on the wall into Doveys Lagoon (Southernmost part of the island). However, rather than repair the wall as it was before we took the decision with the support of the Environment Agency and Natural England to lower and re-profile the wall into a spillway (or sill). This spillway allows surge tides to intentionally over top the walls before its peak. This fills the lagoon taking the pressure of the remaining walls and provides additional flood storage during these rare events.

The experimental lowering of 150m of wall on Doveys Lagoon has been a fantastic success and has been used numerous times since its construction. Following these works we have been developing a project to undertake additional spillway construction on the larger northern end of the island. As with Doveys lagoon this will secure the island into the future and provide flood storage.

We recently secured a grant from the Government to start these works and have been awarded £50,000. However, we require additional funding to fully realise the vision, as such we are applying to Viridor for a landfill tax grant.

This application would like to see letters of support from the community. If you would like to see the RSPB manage Havergate Island to remain *in situ* delivering habitat for wildlife and provide additional flood storage could I request a letter of support? This can be a formal letter or even a simple email stating your support for the project and why the island is important to you. Any emails or letters of support can be sent to me at the address below, and I will forward them to Viridor. Many thanks.

Aaron Howe, Site Manager, RSPB, Unit 10, Richmond Old Dairy, Gedgrave, Suffolk, IP12 2BU, aaron@howe.org.uk

SCOTTISHPOWER RENEWABLES – PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is currently building the 102-turbine East Anglia ONE offshore windfarm off the coast of Suffolk. This project will be followed by the East Anglia THREE offshore windfarm which recently received development consent. Building on these first two projects within the East Anglian portfolio, SPR is now seeking to progress development of the East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North offshore windfarms. We are holding a Public Information Day in Orford Town Hall on Thursday 2 November to gauge opinion ahead of the formal consultation, where members of the project team will be available between 12 noon and 7pm to answer questions you may have about the two new projects.

ScottishPower Renewables

HANDEL: MESSIAH

Celebrate the start of Christmas at 7.00pm on Saturday 18 November at Snape Maltings Concert Hall when Aldeburgh Music Club Choir performs the most popular work in the choral repertoire, Handel's *Messiah*.

SUDBOURNE WINTER ARTS & CRAFT FARE in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice Young Adult Service

Saturday 25 November 10-4pm, Sudbourne Village Hall, free entry. Arts & crafts • Raffle • Drinks & cake served all day • Homemade soup & bread 12 -2pm. Donations of cakes & offers of help would be warmly appreciated.
Contact Jacquie Joels 01394 459949

CHRISTMAS MARKET

At Sutton Memorial Hall IP12 3JQ on Saturday 25 November from 10am-1pm. A lovely selection of stalls, a good chance to come along and so some Christmas gift shopping.