



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024

Dear Friends,

The Museum has been a hive of activity this summer and we have a full programme of events planned for you, the Friends of Orford Museum and guests, starting with a spectacular *Son et Lumière* (Sound and Light Show) at Butley Priory telling the story of the Priory from the 12th century to the modern day. This will take place on **Thursday, 22 August** using light effects and images projected onto the magnificent façade of the Priory accompanied by music and a narration by professional actor David Scholfield. He will be joined by Miranda Raison reading the part of Princess Mary, Duchess of Suffolk and sister to Henry VIII. You are invited to bring friends and family of all ages to picnic on the lawn in front of the Priory and watch this fascinating story unfold. Doors will open at 7.00pm and the performance will start at 8.00pm lasting an hour. Tickets cost £20 for Friends of Orford Museum, £25 for non-Friends, children under 14 free. Book on our website www.orfordmuseum.org/events.

Our very popular guest speaker, **Tobias Capwell**, formerly Curator of Arms and Armour at The Wallace Collection in London from 2006 to 2022, is returning to Butley Priory on **Wednesday, 25 September 2024** to talk about his involvement with the discovery of Richard III's remains in a car park in Leicester. He has written and spoken extensively on both the historical and practical aspects of his subject. Tobias is also a skilled jousting joust and claims to be the world's only jousting curator! His lecture is entitled:

The Scoliotic Knight:

Encounters with Richard III

The discovery of the remains of Richard III raised fascinating new questions. The scoliosis exhibited by the last Plantagenet King's skeleton revealed that the

twisted physique of Shakespeare's 'Black Legend' did have at least some basis in fact. But how could such a diminutive person, suffering from a significant spinal condition, have mastered the knightly fighting arts? How could he have worn full armour and fought in battle? Join Tobias as he discusses his encounters with this most captivating and controversial of English Kings from his work with Phillipa Langley in the years before the discovery of the grave in Leicester, to his research into the implications of a severe spinal condition for a medieval king and warrior. Follow his participation in the Channel 4 documentary *Richard III: The New Evidence* (2013), his role as one of the two armoured horsemen escorting the king himself to his final resting place in Leicester Cathedral to, finally, his service as Historical Advisor on the recent film *The Lost King* (2022).

On **24 October 2024**, local historian **Edward Martin**, who led a visit by the Friends of Orford Museum to the Chillesford Lodge model farm and has contributed to *The Orford & District Local History Bulletin*, will talk about

The Lost Gardens of Suffolk

Lost gardens have a strong romantic appeal: things of beauty that have been allowed to slip away from us. In this talk, an archaeologist and landscape historian will show how seemingly unimportant mounds of earth and neglected ponds can, with the help of old maps, old photographs and other documents, be brought back to life and revealed as fascinating examples of garden history, giving tantalising glimpses of long-lost design styles and aspirations from the past. This exploration of Suffolk's rich gardening heritage will include medieval castles, Tudor mansions, Georgian parks and twentieth century dreams.

On **25 November 2024**, **Peter Gutteridge** will tell the story of Nelson's early life from his birth in 1758 in the small Norfolk village of Burnham Thorpe through to battle of Cape St. Vincent on 14 February 1797 which established him as one of the nation's great heroes. The talk entitled:

Horatio Nelson – The

will identify the myths from reality and seek to explain his "Dreams of Glory".

Peter is a retired senior partner of a large law firm and now a regular speaker on Naval and Maritime History subjects and, in particular, Horatio Nelson. He is a long-standing member of the Nelson Society and has Masters' degrees in Maritime History from Greenwich University and Cambridge University. He has an interest in Nelson's grandfather, Professor H.C. Gutteridge who was a distinguished academic and author of 'Nelson and the Neapolitan Jacobins'.

To book tickets for these talks see details at the end of this Newsletter.

On **27 January 2025**, **Jamie Pinkerton**, Suffolk born and bred, will come to Orford to talk about some of the great families of Suffolk and their place in our history. Full details of Jamie's talk will be posted on our website later.

All talks start at 6.00pm and last an hour and a half. Tickets cost £15.00 for Friends of Orford Museum, £20 for guests and include a complimentary glass of wine.

Orford Museum in Orford Castle

In Orford Castle, work has continued since Easter on the re-furbishment of the cases and the re-instatement of the permanent exhibition after the removal of the Celtic exhibition which had been in place there in four of the cases since last August. This has taken rather longer than we had hoped as it was decided to re-do the linings of the cases but the resulting effect has certainly been worth it and we are most grateful to Dickon Whitewood, English Heritage Curator of Collections and Interiors for the East, and his team for all the help they have given us – we couldn't have done it without them. We hope to have the last case finished by the end of this month. We shall

then renew all the labelling, over the years, these have become rather varied in appearance with different fonts etc. being used. Their accuracy will also be checked. Again, English Heritage have offered their help with this which is most generous. Once done, we hope to film a virtual tour of the Museum which will be posted on our website and, one day we hope, on a tablet. We have a table in Orford Church and in the Museum with additional information and a list of notable exhibits.

items the Museum would like to add to our archive.

The Orford Historian

We have been notified by the Portable Antiquities Service in Burgh St. Edmunds (a branch of the British Museum) of some finds in our area and we are waiting for further information and valuation but we feel that one or possibly both, of them might well be

Jack Cooke, editor of *The Orford Historian*, is working hard on *Issue 3* and he hopes to have it ready for distribution to you, the Friends, by November this year. It will include a story about a young Orford man, Hubert Martin, who was killed when the Lancaster bomber in which he was a gunner crashed in eastern France in 1944. We were approached by M. Sebastien Schoeffter of Soufflenheim who wished to discover Hubert's date of birth as the town was planning a plaque and ceremony in memory of this tragic event. We were able to help and M. Schoeffter is now writing a piece

for *The Historian* about the crash and its aftermath. There will also be an article on the history of Orford Flower Show, The Coastal Crust, an interview with Pat Black who was a Land Girl in 1947 and much more besides. We hope you will enjoy this issue as much as you did the first two which have brought a fresh feel to our historical journal. If any Friend has ideas or suggestions for articles or, indeed, has a topic they would like to write about, do get in touch with Jack at the email address at the end of this Newsletter. If you would like back copies of either *The Orford & District Local History Bulletin* or *The Orford Historian*, please email me, Elizabeth Spinney, at a.spinney43@btinternet.com. Most cost £5 each though the consolidated Issues 1-6 and 7-10 cost £10.00 and Issue 23, the special WWI issue costs £7.50.

Our Curator, Stephen Mael has been helping Penny Murley with photographs from our archive for her book about the history of Orford Sailing Club and the exhibition to be mounted in the Watch House in early August. We do wish her well with both projects and were very happy that we could help.

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Fr inson, and we feel that
th as and enthusiasm to
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w the year is proving a
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ac ive generally.

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a.spinney43@btinternet.com

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Orford Museum CIO Trustees

We were very sorry to lose two of our Trustees, Valerie Fenwick and Vic Harrup and would like to thank them for all their service to the Museum over the years. We have,

Orford Castle is now open seven days a week until November. To check exact opening and closing times go to|:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/orford-castle/prices-and-opening-times/

Your Orford Museum Friends membership card allows you free entry to the Castle and Museum accompanied by up to six children.

To book tickets for the talks, please go to our website at www.orfordmuseum.org.uk/events or email the Treasurer at info@orfordmuseum.org.uk.

All talks start at 6.00pm and last about an hour and a half. Tickets cost £15.00 for Friends of Orford Museum, £20 for guests and include a complimentary glass of wine.

Email addresses:

info@orfordmuseum.org.uk

(for membership information):

curator@orfordmuseum.org.uk

(for general information and enquiries about the Museum and its archive).

editor@orfordmuseum.org.uk

(for *The Orford Historian*)

Orford Castle Opening Times and Prices: