



*Wishing you a
Happy Christmas*

*from the
CONTACT
Team*

Published by the Church in Lodon
Deceber 2017 January 2018

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Tel. 01508 521179 Email: office@chetvalleychurches.org
Open weekdays 10.00am—4.00pm **(10.00–1.00 on Wednesdays)**



Baptisms, Weddings, Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of a Child
To arrange any of the above please contact the Church Office.

Church Websites

www.chetvalleychurches.org www.emerging-church.org

'Contact' Magazine

Email : c.magazine@aol.co.uk

Editor : Rev Joan Evans Advertising : Robin Godber

Treasurer : Val Counter

Distribution : Roger Outlaw (01508 528710) & Helpers

Printing : Roberts & Son 01508 520221

Copy deadline noon on the 8th of the month
for the next month's issue (but the sooner the better!)

Email submissions to c.magazine@aol.co.uk

Hand written submissions can be handed in at the Church Office.

Please include your name and telephone number.

'Contact' is published monthly, with double issues for July/Aug & Dec/Jan.

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Similarly, the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Church in Loddon

December/January

Here we are again - almost another year gone by. I don't know about you, but for me, 2017 has been a funny old year, with a lot of time spent in hospital outpatient departments (not for myself, I hasten to add, but as company for someone else). The experience has left me realising again what a blessing it is to have good health, and to appreciate how hard a struggle it is for some people to cope with ordinary everyday life.

At Xpressions Café in November we were thinking about happiness. We asked ourselves what made us happy, and there were lots of different answers, including a kiss and a cuddle, laughter, clean sheets, stroking a pet, our family, friends, a compliment, and so on ... and I think someone mentioned good health. In wishing you all a Blessed and Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year, I certainly wish that for you.

As ever, there's a lot going on locally. with so many people working hard behind the scenes to give us all a good time: Christmas Fairs, Victorian Evenings, Carol Services, group outings for Christmas meals. On **page 27** there's some information about the Norwich Foodbank and the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' idea. Have a look - perhaps we can all bring a bit of Christmas cheer to someone else.

It was disappointing that there were no budding artists among our younger readers - no-one designed a cover for us, but I had a photo on 'stand-by'. If the long range weather forecast is to be believed, we might see Holy Trinity in the snow again this winter!

Very best wishes for good health and happiness from all of us in the Contact Team. We'll be back with the February 'Contact'.

P.S Bernie Bat is hiding in different places—see if you can find him!



*Cover Photograph: J Chapman
Holy Trinity Church in snow,
(we think during the winter of 2013.)*

Joany

Beat the Rush

Will it be done in time? It's a familiar question as we rush towards the festivities of Christmas and New Year, whether we're referring to finishing off some home improvements, tidying up the family's stuff around the house or simply wrapping presents.

If you're a member of the business community you probably welcome the Christmas rush because it brings customers who are ready to part with their money. So also if you're in the fashion and beauty industry because it's the party season. Or the food and catering sector... the list goes on.

But how do I feel about it, and how does the church view it?

I once came across a summertime poster that said "Come to church now and beat the Christmas rush!" It was designed to amuse rather than chivy people, and remembering that slogan has started me thinking. You see, at church Christmas is not really our big celebration. It is the time when we see most people who don't regularly come along, and we love to welcome all who want to mark the occasion with us. But the Christmas story doesn't end in the stable, or at 12th Night when the decorations come down. It ends with the triumph of Christ's resurrection at Easter and the promise of forgiveness and new life that comes with it.

So next time someone asks me if I'm ready for Christmas I may be tempted to reply "Yes... are you ready for Easter?!"

To find out more about our Christmas and New Year services see the various church notice boards, or alternatively go to the Chet Valley Churches website at www.chetvalleychurches.org

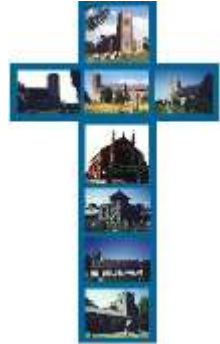
You might also want to drop in to Holy Trinity church and follow this year's Christmas trail. It is inspired by the theme All the Colours of Christmas.

David

Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley

**You will be warmly welcomed to any of our services.
We hope to provide worship to suit everybody.**



- **Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday at one or other of the churches in the Benefice, either Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship, with an informal Holy Communion service once a month in Chedgrave.
- Once a month there is an **Evening Prayer** service at Sisland.
- Services of **Morning Worship** are held in Loddon and Hardley.
- **Last Sunday Praise** is held on the Last Sunday of the month at St John's in Loddon: a chance to sing old and new Christian songs plus time to worship together.

Families and children are welcome at all our services.

*Special provision is made at Chedgrave
where there is a toilet and baby changing facilities.*

- **Xpressions Café** Normally held at All Saints, Chedgrave, on the first Sunday every month between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. You can come and go as you please for coffee, cake, crafts, games, songs and much more.
- **Xtra!** An exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church.
- **All Together Worship** on the third Sunday.
This is designed to be as inclusive as possible, a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness. In short, we will attempt to provide a service which will have points of connection for children and adults - indeed people of all ages and all backgrounds.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is an opportunity to meet after the service and enjoy a chat over tea or coffee.

Home Communion: If you would like home communion, because you are unable for any reason to get to a Sunday service, please contact the clergy or the Church Office and we will arrange for someone to bring communion to you.

***Times and details of the services can be found
in the centre pages of the magazine.***

Thanksgivings & Baptisms

You are welcome to request thanksgiving and baptism for your children. Thanksgiving Services may be held at any time in the churches by arrangement with the clergy. They are an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of a new child and to celebrate this with family and friends in the presence of God.

Baptisms are usually held within the Sunday worship in our churches. They are an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the new life we have in Jesus and to welcome a child into God's family, the Church.

Please contact Rev Alison Ball on 01508 528126
ball880am@btinternet.com or the Church Office on 01508 521179.

Noah's Ark

A drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their parent and carer.



Wednesdays

9.15a.m. to 12 noon. All welcome.

For further details please call Alison on 01508 528126 or e-mail : **ball880am@btinternet.com**

Friends and Neighbours

If you've been widowed or have lost your life partner come and join us at St John's Lecture Hall on the first Thursday of the month. Make new friends, enjoy tea or lunch together.



Contact Jill Haylock on 01508 520248 for more information.

Next meeting:

December 7th Christmas Lunch at Norton Chapel.

December 14th 1.30 p.m.

Carol Service at St John's Chapel followed by refreshments .

No meeting in January.

Monday Mardles

If you like a relaxed and informal chat with others or are looking to meet some new friends, join us at a Monday Mardles for refreshments and to swap books at Chedgrave Church Rooms.



Mardles are held every **Monday between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.**

Come and go as you choose.

You will be made very welcome.

Small Groups

Some of us like to meet during the week in small groups where we can enjoy each others' company, study the Bible together and pray for one another and for others.



Those who attend find their small group a real help and support.

If you would like to join one, or just to know more, please contact Richard Seel or the Church Office.

Xtra! Join us in St John's Church for an exciting, informal service **every Thursday after school.**

Refreshments, activities from 3.15.

Service starts 3.45.

More from Reverend David 522993

or Reverend Alison 528126



CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER

10.00 a.m.—1.00 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL

GEORGE LANE

STALLS

(Cakes, Produce, Gifts, Tombola, etc)

RAFFLE REFRESHMENTS

**FATHER CHRISTMAS
*arrives at 11.00 a.m.***

Proceeds for Church Funds

**The Church in Loddon
Chet Valley Churches**

THE CHET VALLEY CHURCHES SPECIAL EVENTS

JUST £2 FOR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT..

With the average household spending £800 on Christmas this year, two pounds for a present sounds quite cheap doesn't it, especially when it is for someone who has next to nothing in the world.

At Chedgrave Church we are offering the chance to give someone a present for just two pounds through Embrace, one of the charities that we support, who work in the Middle East. We have purchased 24 presents each at £2. The gifts include: vitamins and medicine, art supplies, school dinner, peanut butter, eye test, and toothbrush and paste.

If you would like one of these to be from you, please donate £2 and put a gift label on our gift tree during Advent signifying your gift. Donations can be made through the church office (in an envelope with Embrace gift written on it, addressed to Rev Alison) or at Chedgrave church at a Sunday service when you can hang your own label on the tree. (*December 3rd Xpressions Cafe 10-12noon, December 10th Holy Communion 9.30am, December 17th Carol Service 5.00pm, December 24th Midnight Communion 11.30pm*).



CHOIR FOR CAROLS

With 20 people already signed up for the choir for the **Carol Service in Chedgrave Church** this year, this is a reminder that you can still come and join us if you would like. The age range is 8-90 at present!!

The carol service is on December 17th at 5pm.

There will be three rehearsals:

Saturday December 9th 2 – 4 m

Saturday December 16th 2 – 4pm

Sunday December 17th 3 – 4pm (tea break before the service)

If you would like to take part please contact:

Alison Ball (ball880am@btinternet.com or 528126).

Many thanks and hope to see you there.

Rev Alison

THE MONDAYMARDLERS

Invite you to a

PRE - CHRISTMAS MARDLE

on Monday 11th December

All welcome at Chedgrave Church Centre 10.00a.m - 12 noon

We restart on January 8th.



From the Parish Registers



BAPTISM

ZARA SOPHIA ANNE THROWER November 19th All Saints Chedgrave

THANKSGIVING

ELLA SOPHIA WHITE November 26th St John's Loddon

*'Heavenly Father, we praise you for the birth of these children,
Surround them with your blessing that they may know your love,
be protected from evil, and know your goodness all his days.'*

Common Worship

FUNERALS

RICHARD (DICK) ALLEN who died on October 1st aged 82 years and whose funeral was held on October 16th at Holy Trinity, Loddon.

DOROTHY (DOT) MARY LOYD who died on October 6th aged 85 years and whose funeral was held on October 27th at St Faith's Crematorium.

JOYCE MABEL BAXTER who died on October 6th aged 99 years and whose funeral was held on November 3rd at St John's Loddon.

SYBIL EVELYN REEVE who died on October 11th aged 87 years and whose funeral was held on November 1st at St John's Loddon.

*Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so,
through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
So we will be with the Lord for ever. 1 Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b*

TONY SADLER Christina and all the family would like to thank everyone for their love and kindness, during this sad time. Thank you for your donations in Tony's memory. £500.00 will be shared between the Gateley Ward and the Brundall Ward (NNUH).

EVA HAMMOND Nelly Hammond would like to say thank you for the donations in memory of her sister Eva (aged 103). £372.50 has been given to Beauchamp House Amenities Fund. Thanks to Beauchamp House for the care given to her; for the all the many cards I received; to those who attended her funeral and to Rev. David Owen for his care.

SYBIL REEVE Sadly our Mum passed away on October 11th after a long and busy life. Thankfully she did not suffer and was active right up to the end. We want to say a big thank you to those who have sent cards and attended the funeral. As many of you will know Mum was passionate about the community and very active within it over the years, including Keep Fit, Loddon Bowls Club, the WI, Flower Club, in recent years Friends and Neighbours, which she really enjoyed attending, and of course for many years the Church which she was dedicated to and active in for many years. Her faith was her greatest companion and she always tried to live a Christian life. She was an avid reader of Contact and always looked forward to receiving the latest edition. We and the family will miss her greatly.

Colin and Graham Reeve and family.

Holy Trinity Bellringers



Our ringers have been out supporting practices at Beccles, South Walsham, Woodton, Ashill and St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich.

Quarter Peals have been rung at Loddon including Plain Bob Triples, London Surprise Major, Stedman Caters and Plain Bob Royal on our simulator. The band for the Plain Bob Royal was mostly made up of local ringers and was a first in method for Jeannine Roe and David Webb as Conductor. A Quarter Peal of Norwich Surprise Minor was rung at Norton Subcourse prior to a practice held there.

We rang in a Peal at Gt. Ryburgh during October which was dedicated to a fallen soldier from the parish in the Great War. Forty three men were lost from Gt. Ryburgh and a Peal is being rung for every one on the anniversary of their death. So far thirty have been completed with a further thirteen scheduled to be rung next year. The peal of seven minor methods took 2 hours 55 minutes to complete.

An Eastern Branch practice meeting took place on the eight bells at Saxlingham Nethergate during October.

By the time this edition of Contact is published, we will have rung for **Remembrance Sunday (12th November)**, both at Holy Trinity for the morning service and a Half-Muffled Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples in the afternoon. We will also have rung the bells at Norton Subcourse in the afternoon. In the lead up to Christmas, the bells will ring out in celebration for all the events and services planned including the **Victorian evening open house on December 8th**. The **annual Christmas Peal at Holy Trinity** is scheduled for **Saturday 30th December** starting at 2.30pm and, if successful, finishing around 5.15 pm.

As another year comes to a close, we can look back on a very busy 2017. We have rung for eight weddings at Loddon and several others at surrounding churches. Over forty Quarter Peals have also been successfully completed as well as two peals. The Tuesday night practices at Holy Trinity continue to be well supported both by local ringers and our many weekly visitors. Generally many churches struggle to find enough ringers for Sunday services, but we are usually able to ring every Sunday all year round, even when the church is not being used in the Winter months.

Having said that, we are always keen to hear from anyone interested in learning how to ring church bells and to join our enthusiastic local band. We are well placed at Loddon to teach new people and have been doing so for many years now. We continue to support ringers from surrounding churches helping them to advance their skills.

Also, with a state of the art teaching centre about to be built in the tower at St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich, our area is a great place to learn bell ringing.

Continued bottom of next page

Grass Cutting Contract for Loddon Parish Council:

The Parish Council, as part of the annual Precept discussions is looking at the costs or providing services within Loddon. If your business would be interested in submitting a quotation for the grass cutting contract for areas within Loddon that the parish Council is responsible for please contact the office for more information. Please note that Quotations must be received no later than the first week of January in order to meet our budget setting deadline.

Allotments: there are a few vacant plots available on the allotment gardens in Bridge Street. The available plots vary in price beginning at about £15 per year, depending on size. If you are interested in taking on an allotment or would like to know more then please get in touch (see contact details below).

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Thursday 14th December commencing at 7.00pm in the Library Annexe. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and will be given the opportunity to speak. The agenda will be displayed on the notice board on Church Plain and on the council's website (see below) at least three days before the meeting. A list of the meetings dates in 2018 are on the LPC website.

Contact Us:

Please telephone the Parish Council on 01508 522020, or email on **clerk@loddonpc.org.uk**

The office in the Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 9.00am and midday if you would like to visit in person.

More information is available on the parish council's website: **www.loddonpc.org.uk** or find us on Facebook under Loddon Parish Council.

..... *Bellringers continued*

If you would like to find out more, you can come along any **Tuesday night** to our practices from **7.30 pm** to see what is involved or you may like to contact our Tower Captain, David Webb, on **01508 528468**.



From all the ringers, we would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Steve Rabong

On **Friday 8th December from 6.30pm – 8.30pm** the annual Victorian Evening will take place in the town centre.

Starting at 6.30pm outside the library, Father Christmas will arrive for the “grand switch on” of the Church Plain Christmas lights.

Thanks to the generosity and support of many of the town’s businesses, we are all set for another fun filled evening of events:

- ◆ Listen out for announcements from the Town Crier on the night
- ◆ Loddon Library will have a display various Victorian Christmas memorabilia from the Strangers Museum
- ◆ Aladdin’s Lamp trail throughout the town
- ◆ Look out for Father Christmas in his grotto at Bay Tree House
- ◆ Punch & Judy Show in Vine Court thanks to Loddon Parish Council
- ◆ Open House at Holy Trinity Church and St John’s Chapel in George Lane
- ◆ Fire engine display and BBQ at the Loddon Fire Station
- ◆ Farmers’ market in the Library Annexe filled with festive goodies and crafts
- ◆ Vintage steam engines on the Co-Op forecourt
- ◆ Funky Feet dance display at The Hollies
- ◆ Face-painting on Bridge Street

Many of the town’s traders throughout the town will be open and welcoming you to thank you for your custom and support throughout the year.

If you need any information on the night please go to the Parish Council Office in the Library Building.

Additional Car Parking is available at Chet Valley Medical Practice and Hobart High and both car parks will be open.



OPEN HOUSE 2017

Come on in.... On 8 December it’s Open House at both Holy Trinity and St John’s, with a chance to support local good causes, buy hand-made goods and imbibe the Christmas spirit (even if there are still a few weeks until the big day)!

If you represent a voluntary group or are fundraising for charity and you haven’t booked a stall, we might still be able to squeeze you in. This year Nina Owen is acting as co-ordinator, and can be contacted on 01508 522993, email theroamingfenlander@gmail.com

What's happening at Loddon Library?



LODDON VICTORIAN EVENING DEC 8th

The library will be staying open late this evening pop in and see us where we will be celebrating a family Victorian Christmas.

FACEBOOK

Good news, you can now keep up to date with all our events and news by following us on Facebook just search for Loddon and Poringland libraries.

DVD HIRE

A reminder you can hire dvd's for just £2.00 per week. Top Titles £2.00 for 2 nights from the library. Special offer 2 for 1 every Thursday and Friday.

JUST A CUPPA – every Monday from 10am

Feeling at a loose end? Pop in for a friendly chat and a cuppa.

BOOK ENDS – every other Friday, 3.30 – 4pm – 8th & 12th Dec

Story and craft fun. Please contact staff for January dates.

SATURDAY JUNIOR BOOKCLUB – fortnightly on 2nd & 16th Dec

Do you love to read and chat about books with others? Then come along to our new, fun book club 10:30am to 12:30pm. Run by youngsters for youngsters! The books will be based on a different theme each meeting. Please contact staff for January dates.

C.A.B. Mondays 18th Dec - 10am – 12noon. Here to help you.

COMPUTER BUDDY DROP-IN – Every Monday, 10am – 12noon

He's happy to help you with most IT difficulties.

MINI MOVERS – Dec 4th 2:15 to 2:45

A fun session with movement and song for children aged 2 plus

LODDON CHILDREN CENTRE runs the following sessions from the library:-

Loddon Little Ducklings 1st and 3rd Thursday each month 10 to 11:00 am

Baby stay & play sessions for families with babies 0-18 months

Loddon Baby 'O.N.E.' stop – 4th Thursday of Each Month, 10 to 11:00 am

Optimum Nurturing Environment – A session to support you and your baby. Health visitor/ Assistant Health Practitioner and a CC staff run session. Babies 0 to 1 year. There will not be a session in December

Rhyme Time Fun; 2nd and 4th Monday monthly 2:15pm to 2:45pm

A fun and friendly session for babies and toddlers, sharing songs and rhymes to give babies the best possible start in learning to talk.

Baby weighing scales

We now have a set of baby weighing scales located in the library. These can be used anytime during our normal opening hours.

CHRISTMAS CLOSING TIMES: The library will close for Christmas on Saturday 23rd December at 1pm and reopen on Wednesday 27th December at 10am.

For information on any of the above please contact the library staff.

Continued on next page

Library continued.....

Are you unable to get to the library? Would you like to have books chosen for you and collected? Contact the library for details of our housebound library service.

31 Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX

01508 520678

Opening Hours :-

Mon.: 10am - 1pm & 2 - 5pm; Wed. 10am - 1pm;
Thurs. 2 - 7.30pm; Fri. 2 - 7.30pm; Sat. 10am - 1pm

FLU VACCINATIONS

It is not too late to be vaccinated against Flu: the practice currently has supplies of Flu vaccines.

ALL patients aged 65 and over and patients aged 18-64 who are in an "at risk" group are eligible to be vaccinated

Please contact the surgery to book your appointment or if you need to check your eligibility.



Loddon & District Business Association



Christmas Lights The lights will be lit from December 1st to January 6th and will be taken down by the end of January.

Many thanks to all those who have volunteered to get them in place again this year. If you are interested in helping only occasionally please contact us and then we can offer you the option as events get nearer.

Loddon Street Fayre Sunday 27 May 11am - 4pm Please note the date in your diary for the bigger Loddon Street Fayre. We have been getting early stall bookings in and would be delighted for local groups to run fundraising stalls to help promote your groups. Please email us for the stall booking form.

Loddon's Got Talent is looking for sponsors for the prizes for the winners in 2018. If you run a business and want to consider donating either the first prize of £700, second prize of £200 and third prize of £100 please let us know.

The LDBA would like to wish all of the region
a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Email info@ldbba.org.uk

*Caroline Bown
Chairman Loddon and District Business Association*



Can you Host a child from Belarus for the month of June 2018?

We are a local Link for the Chernobyl Children's Life Line charity. Each year we raise money to bring a small group of 9 – 11 year girls and boys from Belarus to give them a much needed health break from the Chernobyl contamination. We need families and individuals who can open their homes and hearts to host 1 or 2 children during their stay in the Beccles and Lowestoft areas.

The Chernobyl Children's Life Line charity was established in 1992 to support children (and their families) from Belarus and Ukraine affected by the world's worst nuclear disaster. Belarus received over 70% of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear explosion in April 1986. As the result, thousands are born every year with, or go on to develop thyroid cancer, bone cancer and leukaemia. Seven million people living in the affected areas received the highest known exposure to radiation in the history of the atomic age. The air, soil and water courses are polluted with radiation and will continue to be so for hundreds of years to come.

Our Charity brings children to the UK because a month away from the contamination, eating good nourishing food, drinking clean water and breathing clean air improves their health and gives their immune systems a chance to recover. It also gives them a once in a life time opportunity and an experience they will probably never forget. For example, Belarus is land locked. A visit to Suffolk presents the only opportunity the children will have to play on the beach and paddle in the sea.

Every year we aim to bring a group of children for a health break in this area. While we are lucky to have lots of people who offer their support with activities while they are here, the children cannot come unless we have Host families or individuals who can share their homes with one or two children for the 4 weeks of the visit.

While the children don't speak English, this is never a problem because they come with a Group Leader / Interpreter and we are able to give host families lots of support.

If you think you could be a Host family for the month of June 2018 or if you would like to find out more then please ring

Alison Stannard on 01508 549047.

Alternatively, you can email astannard@uwclub.net

or visit our facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/CLLChetandWaveney>

News from Hales and Heckingham Parish Council



The Council has a number of projects under way:

Communication has taken place with residents about improvements to the village playing field and tenders are being sought from suitable suppliers with a view to having all work completed by late Spring 2018.

The Council has ordered a defibrillator and we hope that this will be installed on the outside wall of the Masala Garden Restaurant.

Our District Councillor has provided £1000 from her Members Ward Allowance to assist with the cost of this project.

Our Community Compost Scheme has had another good year. We have collected around 9 tonnes of garden waste. We have supplies of soil improver available on request and this can be delivered for a small donation.

We await the commencement of the new roundabout at the junction of the A146 and B 1136 where work is due to start early in the New Year and be completed by April 2018. An added bonus from this is that Norfolk County Council has agreed to pay for the Village Gates that have been ordered to be installed at the Raveningham end of the Village on the B1136. This decision has resulted in a refund of over £1300 which helps considerably with the cost of the defibrillator, mentioned above.

Parish Councils can make a difference and improve local facilities by delivering projects similar to the above. To enable our Council to continue to enhance the facilities in the parish we would welcome further support as we have vacancies for three councillors.

Details of the Council can be found on the website
halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

and if you would like further information contact:-

John Herring *Chairman* **john@arenque.net** **01986 896104**

Alan Mason *Vice Chairman* **alan_mbc@btinternet.com** **01508 549983**

Phil Grimes **phil.grimes@technopepper.com** **01508 548564**

Andy Woodman **andywoodman@hotmail.com** **01508 548215**

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT - TWO QUOTATIONS

“And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music.” *Nietzsche*

“We are not called to go where it is easy and love already exists. We are called to go where we are sent and bring love with us.” *Anonymous*

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR NORWICH FOOD BANK

Last month we included an item seen on Facebook about the Reverse Advent Calendar. That item suggested taking your gifts to a Food Bank on Christmas Eve.

We received information concerning the **Norwich Foodbank** too late for the November Contact, . They asked us to start on November 6th, so that by December 1st there would be 25 items to be donated to the Norwich Foodbank, to give out in time for Christmas.



Well, we've missed November 6th, but it's never too late! If you put two things in a box each day starting as soon as you read this, you won't be far short, and the Food Bank will be pleased to accept however much you give! Below are 24 of the most needed items. **A donation of a Christmassy treat of your choice would be a great way to end your reverse advent calendar!**

And please - whatever you give, if possible make it the **BEST**, not the Basic range!

Peanut butter	Tinned veg	Long life sponge pudding
UHT milk	Deodorant	Tinned meat
Long life fruit juice	Teabags 40s/80s	Pasta sauce
Rice pudding	Sweets!!!	Tinned potatoes
Toothbrushes	Cereal bars	Toothpaste
Instant coffee	Toilet rolls	Instant mash
Biscuits	Shampoo	Tinned fruit
Washing powder	Tinned pie	Shower gel

Your gifts can be left at the Church Office, St John's Chapel, George Lane (*See page 3 for opening times*) and they will delivered to the Food bank.

Or you can take them directly to

Unit 14, Henderson Business Centre, 51 Ivy Road, Norwich NR5 8BF
on any of the following days:

Friday 1st December from 4pm - 6 pm

Saturday 2nd December 10am - 12pm

Tuesday 5th December 9am - 11am or 4pm - 6pm

Tel 01603 251733 if this is not possible

**SORRY THIS IS SHORT NOTICE,
BUT ANYTHING AND ANY AMOUNT
WILL BE BETTER THAN NOTHING.**

Bernie Bat's Page



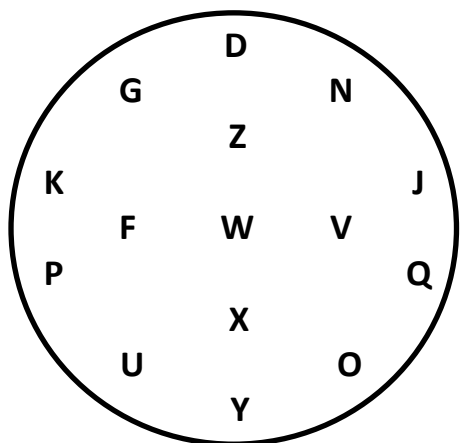
This is the time of the year when the people who come each Sunday to Holy Trinity Church suddenly stop coming! I've heard they go somewhere else, where it's a bit warmer. But they'll be back a few times before the warm weather comes again. One night in December (I heard someone call it 'Open House') they come and fill the church with bright decorations, Christmas trees, and LOTS of people and they come again for a Carol Service, and on Christmas Eve in the afternoon the church is absolutely filled right up when they come for the Crib Service. Very late the same night, they come to welcome a baby named Jesus, who was born a long time ago somewhere called Bethlehem. You probably know all about him. He seems to have been a very special baby.

So I'll say cheerio until February. I'm going to have a look through the magazine - see if you can find me! Have a very happy Christmas. Keep safe and well. *Bernie*

TWO PUZZLES JUST FOR FUN

WORD CIRCLE

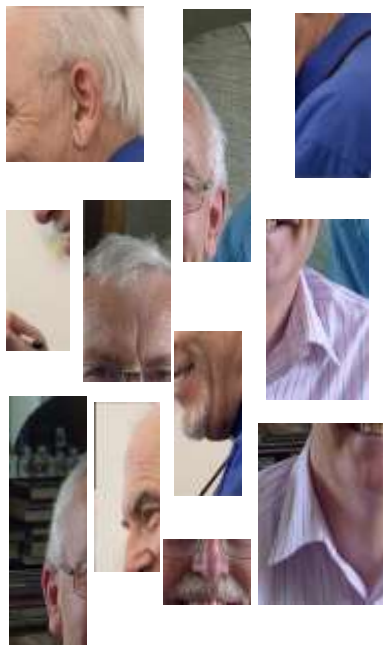
Inside the circle are some of the letters of the alphabet. Find the ones that are missing, and then rearrange them to spell out two words to do with a special time of the year.



Answers on page 36

WHO ARE THEY?

Two people you might know are mixed up in these photograph pieces. Can you see who they are?



NEWS FROM LODDON JUNIOR SCHOOL

LONDON TRIP On Thursday 19th October, 76 very excited pupils departed Loddon Junior School at the very early hour of 7.00am, destination – London.

We have been studying the Ancient Egyptians in school and couldn't resist the chance to see the excellent Egyptian display at the British Museum. It was a thrilling experience for the children who were amazed by the Rosetta Stone, giant Egyptian statues and of course the slightly gruesome mummies.

We then trundled across the capital to the Natural History Museum to see the many wonders on display there. Among many highlights were the robotic dinosaurs, the dinosaur skeletons, the earthquake room and of course the magnificent blue whale skeleton.

We all arrived safely home at 8.00pm, all a bit tired but all exhilarated by our experiences.



CLUSTER CROSS COUNTRY

In October Loddon Junior School took an unbelievable 83 children to the Cluster Cross Country Competition. Everyone did incredibly well and 20 qualified for the South Norfolk Finals. So in November we set off for Fritton Lake with 20 very excited runners to compete against the best runners in our area. There were 70 children in each race across a tricky course and all the children finished high up in the field.

Incredibly 4 children have qualified for the Norfolk Finals and in February, Saffy, Holly, Dexter and Henry will be running for glory on the biggest stage of all at Holkham Hall!



PUMPKIN HEROES FOR HALLOWEEN

A good number of youngsters now know what Loddon Church (Holy Trinity) looks like in the dark! Some came deliberately whilst passing Trick and Treaters popped in to see what was going on. Lit by twenty pumpkins, beautifully carved, the church was explored by torchlight as people followed the pumpkin heroes trail. With pumpkin and bat crafts, doughnuts on string and apple bobbing, storytelling and refreshments the evening soon passed. It was all rounded off by a remembering of what Halloween is: All Hallows' Eve, the evening before All Saints Day when we remember light coming into the darkness and all those who have gone before us. Surely something like this will happen again next year though I don't know what Bertie Bat will have to say about it!

Note from Bernie Bat: I enjoyed it, Reverend, Alison! I'm looking forward to next year!



Church Services December

Sat 2nd	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 3rd <i>Advent Sunday</i>	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary Sisland
	9.00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.00am- 12 noon	Xpressions Café	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's Loddon
Sat 9th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 10th	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.30am	Carol Service	St. Margaret Hardley
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St. John's Loddon
	2.30pm	<i>Davy Place Carol Service</i>	
	7.30pm	<i>White Horse Carol Service</i>	
Sat 16th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 17th	9.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret Hardley
	3.00pm	Carol Services	St Mary Sisland
	5.00pm		All Saints Chedgrave
	6.30pm		Holy Trinity Loddon
Sat 23rd	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 24th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary Sisland
	11.00am	<i>Carols at Chedgrave Shops</i>	
	4.00pm	Crib Service	Holy Trinity Loddon
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	11.30am	Midnight Communion	Holy Trinity Loddon
Christmas Day	9.00am	Roman Catholic Mass	St John's Loddon
	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary Sisland
	9.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret Hardley
	10.00am		All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am		St John's Loddon
Sat 30th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 31st	10.30am	Combined Holy Communion	St John's Loddon

LAST SUNDAY PRAISE

This is usually held on the last Sunday of the month at 7.00 p.m. at St. Johns, Loddon. Refreshments at 6.30 before the service, or just come at 7.00 for the singing

Xtra!

Join us in St John's Church for an exciting,
informal service **every Thursday after school.**
Refreshments, activities from 3.15. Service starts 3.45.
More from Reverend David 522993 or Reverend Alison 528126

Church Services January

Sat 6th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 7th	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary Sisland
	9.00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.00am-12 noon	Xpressions Café	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's Loddon
Sat 13th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 14th	9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Margaret Hardley
	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St. John's Loddon
Sat 20th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 21st	10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's Loddon
	11.00am	All Together Worship <i>followed by lunch</i>	All Saints Chedgrave
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary Sisland
Sat 27th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 28th	10.45am	Combined Covenant Service with Holy Communion	St John's Loddon
	6.30 for 7.00pm	Last Sunday Praise	

MORNING PRAYER <i>Everyone is welcome to these times of Prayer</i>	Monday	9.00 a.m.	St John's Loddon
	Tuesday	9.00 a.m.	St. Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	9.00 a.m.	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	9.00 a.m.	St John's Loddon
	Friday	9.00 a.m.	St Mary Sisland
	Saturday	9.00 a.m.	All Saints, Chedgrave

COME AND PRAY

Would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people?

All are welcome to come along to '

TIME FOR PRAYER AND SPACE FOR REFLECTION'

at St John's on Tuesday evenings. 7.30 - 8.30pm.

Contact Rev. Jill Haylock on 520248, email jillhaylock@aol.com or just turn up.

Please note: On the third Tuesday the Mid-week service of Communion with Blessing will be held .

MID-WEEK COMMUNION WITH BLESSING

7.30 p.m. at St John's on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

All are welcome

(This monthly service is no longer specifically focussing on healing and laying on of hands.)

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS



Loddon Flower Club

25th November Workshop at Lecture Hall – 10 - 4pm £10 to include lunch. Ring 520135 for details of materials needed

5th December (Open meeting) Lee Berrill 'Deck the Halls'

18th January Lunch at Chedgrave White Horse 12 for 12.30pm

Demonstrations usually at Hobart High School at 7.15. Everyone is most welcome.

TRIP TO CHATSWORTH RHS FLOWER SHOW : June 7th/8th

The cost is £115 including entry to the show and Dinner/Bed/Breakfast.

There are only 12 places left. If anyone is interested please ring 01508 520135 for further details.

Loddon Women's Institute

At our October meeting we enjoyed a talk and slide show from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. We learnt how the Trust began and the importance of their work in preserving the ecology of our region including birds, animals, flora and fauna, especially orchids.

There is no meeting in December as it is our Christmas Party. In January we look forward to hearing about 'A Policeman's Lot – from the Krays to the Crown.'

Why not come along and join us, you will be made very welcome.

7.15pm for 7.30pm on 17 January at the Jubilee Hall.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

At our October meeting Nana Lay demonstrated how to make Danish Pastries with a seasonal twist. Once prepared and cooking a delicious aroma of various spices drifted through the hall, then we all enjoyed a sample with our cups of tea. A great afternoon!

Saturday December 2nd Coffee morning 10.30—12.30

Hostess: Margaret Bagguley

Tuesday December 19th All Saints Centre A festive afternoon with Christmassy fun and our usual 'Secret Santa'.

January 16th New Year lunch at the Old Feathers.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

December 19th Carol Service—see page 28

January - New Year meal

Loddon & District Day Centre

Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. at the Jubilee Hall . Join us for outings and games and a wide variety of entertainment.

We also enjoy a hot, home-cooked 2 course meal.

New members always welcome.

Interested? Please call Bev on 07826299290.



At the Jub Club Friday nights. Eyes down at 7-30pm. All welcome. Two jackpots that regularly top £100 with 10 games per session plus a flyer game. Evening usually ends around 9pm.

Hobart Badminton Club

We meet on Fridays 7.30 - 9.30 pm at the Sports Hall, Hobart High School. We play socially and are not in a league.

New members, aged 18 and over, welcome – some previous playing experience required.

Membership:

Trial Members: £4 per session for 4 weeks

Full members:- £10 annual subscription and £4 for each week you play

Visitors:- £5 per session

Further information from Barbara Boardman – email tomenelli@btinternet.com



Loddon Community Gym

Mondays: 1.30pm to 6.p.m. **Tuesdays:** 4-30 to 8-30 p.m.

Fridays: 10am to 1pm. at the Jubilee Hall

Our well equipped, not for profit gym offers a relaxed sociable atmosphere to help you improve your fitness, health and wellbeing.

G.P. Referrals welcome.

For further details contact Louise on 07534 946143

or visit www.loddoncommunitygym.com



Loddon & District Horticultural Society

The Horticultural Society would like to wish a Merry Christmas to all.

Our December meeting on the 13th is our Christmas meal at The Queens Head in Thurlton, and our January meeting on the 10th will be a committee meeting. We will have a speaker on February the 14th – look out for details in February's issue!

We are always pleased to welcome new members – at £10 per person per annum it really is a bargain! If you would like any more information on our friendly society, please contact Mim on 01508 493332.

Chet Staithe Probus Club

The Chet Staithe Probus Club meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday at the White Horse, Chedgrave. We are a friendly and informal club. The meetings commence at 10.15 a.m. The first 30 minutes are taken up with club business. The club organises speakers on a whole range of subjects. The speaker that day presents their talk at 10.45 and usually finishes at 12.00. Any member may bring a guest. The meeting may be followed by lunch if required. During the year a number of trips to interesting venues are arranged. New members are very welcome.

December 5th Derek & Judy Leek.

December 19th Christmas Lunch.

January dates not available at time of going to print.

More information is available from the secretary, Fred McEvet, Telephone 01508 520622, at 6, Cedar Drive, Loddon, NR14 6LE

Chet Valley Probus Club

The Chet Valley Probus Club (*for retired Professional & Businessmen or any who have held some measure of responsibility in any field of endeavours*) meets at the White Horse Chedgrave on the second and fourth Tuesday morning, monthly. Good company, speakers, and food.

December 12th Christmas Lunch

January 9th Alan Whittaker: 'Murder in a Crown Building.'

January 23rd Simon Partridge: 'How Hill Trust'

For further details and an application form please contact the secretary John McCormack, 5a Norton Road, Loddon NR14 6JN. 01508 521899.

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

December 7th – Thursday

Pre-Christmas meal at The Old Feathers, 6.30pm for 7.00 pm.
(Bookings had to be made before November 1st.)

January 10th 2018. Wednesday, 10.00 am. NEW YEAR WALK at Southwold. Park on the common. Pub lunch. Contact June 528853.

The Loddon and Chedgrave District Society is an Amenity Society affiliated to the CPRE. The CPRE is a national charity which helps people to protect their local countryside where there is a threat, to enhance it wherever there is opportunity and to keep it beautiful, productive and enjoyable to everyone. We support these aims through participation in CPRE and CPRE-Norfolk events, as well as our own meetings, activities and organised walks.

For further information please contact the Membership Secretary

Loddon WEA Talks – Spring 2018



In her series of talks this Autumn about transport in East Anglia from the middle ages up to the 20th century, Mary Fewster gave us a most interesting picture of the development of the region's roads, railways, rivers and ports, the different means of transport and their cost, and the organisation and legal framework which ensured their reliable functioning.

Another series of **ten 1½ hour talks**, this time on 'Some Remarkable Norfolk Personalities', will be **starting on Monday 8th January 2018 at 2 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, Loddon**. The speaker this time will be Mr. Nigel Wimhurst, now retired, but formerly a teacher of political and social history, politics and political theory to A-level and degree-level students. The personalities to be covered will, of course, include Nelson; the others will be Herbert de Losinga, Margaret Paston, Robert Kett, Amelia Opie, Elizabeth Fry, Harriet Martineau, J.J. Colman and Dorothy Jewson.

The talks will be largely informal, with time for questions and discussion. The fee for the complete course will be £54, but if you are undecided, come to the first talk free of charge and pay only if you decide to continue. On-line enrolment is possible by going to **enrolonline.wea.org.uk**; you may also enrol at the Jubilee Hall both before and after the first talk. No previous knowledge of the subject is required; there are no exams to take; the atmosphere is friendly.... and there is plenty of parking space at the Jubilee Hall. Everyone is welcome.

If you need any more information, phone **(01508) 521036 or 558453**.

Loddon Community Cinema

Thursday, December 7th

Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30.

Oh no it isn't ! Oh yes it is !

Yes - it's getting near Panto time everyone, so what better way to close our 2017 season than a showing of **"Beauty and the Beast"** **rated PG**. From Walt Disney, this is an update of the 1991 version from the same studio that at the time was considered one of the finest animation pieces ever from the Disney factory.

Looking for the contemporary audience, this version retains the original music score plus several specially written songs from **Tim Rice**. A stellar cast, including **Emma Watson, Emma Thompson, Sir Ian McKellen, Kevin Kline, Ewan McGregor**....well, the list goes on. Good reviews on release and well liked by audiences.

A sumptuous, delightful evening awaits, so start getting in the Festive Mood !

Showing at The Lecture Hall, St. John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon.

Tickets: £4 adults, £2 child. On the door or in advance from Loddon Garden & Seed.



Because of the Loddon Panto, as usual we will not be showing any film in January. See you in February 2018 and thank you all for your support in 2017. Happy New Year from all at Loddon Community Cinema.

Loddon and District Local History Society

It was a full house for our meeting in October to hear Elvie Herd tell us about what she had "Found In The Archives" during her search through various documents for the Loddon Parish Study. Elvie described her talk as a 'speedy' look at the lives of some of the people that had lived in Loddon and its fair to say that just one hour was not enough to include even a small percentage of the mass of material she has come across.

She told us about Loddon families such as the Uttings, their occupations and how property was passed on through the generations. William Utting, Attorney at Law, was the nephew of one Arthur Utting, surgeon of Loddon and Earsham. The property he and his wife owned in Loddon and a pub in Thurlton was inherited by their sons and sold in 1850. Another family was the Fayermans: Rev Francis Fayerman was rector of Hardley for many years but seems to have lived in Chedgrave. He was buried in Hardley with his wife Margaret Bayspoole, while Rev John Fayerman had a long association with Loddon. Living to the age of 92 he is buried in the Lady Chapel of Holy Trinity. John's son Arnall Cooper Fayerman, got into trouble for practising as a tanner without a licence. His grandson, Arnall Thomas Fayerman was kept busy mixing medicine with politics. Another Francis rose to the rank of Admiral in the Navy whilst his half brother Zaccheus, also a naval man, retired on half pay and proceeded to be a 'thorn in the side' of many a Loddon Church Warden!

Elvie illustrated her talk with maps, portraits and images of documents highlighting the long association of the Davy family who were builders and bricklayers, the tale of the Chet Valley Improvement, and the arrival of Woods, Sadd, Moore & Co and their partners. She also mentioned some of the fires, storms, accidents and disasters that befell those living here in the past.

Elvie has done an amazing job, and continues to spend countless hours researching. Everyone was very interested in what she had to say and we are all very grateful for her hard work. There is a folder in the library containing more of the above information. Do try to make time to look at any of the folders in the History Group Archive there - you'll find lots of fascinating stuff!

December 20th: for our Christmas meeting Dr Robert Knee will be 'Exploring The Origins And Traditions Of Christmas'. There will also be crafts and Christmas nibbles.

January 17th: Come and meet Elizabeth Fry as she tells us about her life over 'Five o'clock tea with Betsy'.

February 21st: AGM with Parish study update and images from the archive.

All meetings 1.30pm St John's Lecture Hall, £3 entrance includes refreshments ALL WELCOME



Davy Place Social Club at Davy Place in Loddon



Saturday 9th December
10am till 12 noon
Christmas raffle, Tombola, stalls and games,
mince pies and sausage rolls and mulled wine.



LANGLEY WITH HARDLEY W. I.

ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

St Margaret's Church, Hardley
on Tuesday December 19th at 7.30 p.m.
Refreshments of Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
All will be most welcome



South Yare Wildlife Group

Our next event will be a **Winter Walk on Sunday 3rd December.**
A guided stroll (1.5 miles) from Church Plain, Loddon, to Pye's Mill on the River Chet, followed by seasonal drinks and mince pies at The White Horse, Chedgrave.

Meet at Church Plain car park Loddon at 2pm (free parking on Sundays) or join us at The White Horse from 3pm.

Waterproof footwear advisable. No dogs please. The event will be free for members and non-members and no booking is required.

A free mince pie to all participants. Drinks and additional food may be purchased at the bar.

The White Horse will be serving food and their December menu will be available . See www.whitehorsechedgrave.co.uk

For Information about our group and upcoming events please see
www.southyarewildlifegroup.org



Davy Place Social Club

December events at Davy Place are as follows:-

Sat 9th	10am - 12 noon	Christmas Coffee Morning
Sat 9th	6.30pm start	Cards and Games Night
Sun 10th	2.30pm	"Carols Around the Christmas Tree" service to be followed by a festive tea and social time.
Mon 11th	7pm start	Christmas Bingo <i>(please note the earlier starting time).</i>
Tues 12th	10am - 11am	<i>Keep Fit session (only one session in December)</i>
Sat 16th	7pm start	Christmas Hoy Nigh
Sun 17th		Christmas Lunch and Pantomime at Corton Holiday Village.
Thurs 28th	Serving up 12.30 pm	Hot Lunch Club
New Year's Eve Celebrations - 8 till late		

January 2018 Coffee, Chat and Crafts Mornings.

We have been asked to hold regular coffee mornings at Davy Place when people could meet, chat and make "crafty things" over a cuppa and a nice slice of cake! We will make a start on **Thursday, 11th January at 10am** and will meet weekly. If you have any suggestions or craft ideas that we could try then please get in touch. If you have a talent or a craft you could demonstrate and teach us that would be great too! We also need a good supply of sewing materials and wool etc. If you can help please contact Janet on **522115**. Thank you.

Please watch the notice boards for more New Year and January events.

A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all of us at Davy Place.

LODDON COUNTRY MARKET

The Hollies, High Street, Loddon

Locally produced eggs, fruit & vegetables, cakes and savouries,
preserves, crafts, plants and flowers

OPEN EVERY TUESDAY 9.15 to 10.30 a.m.

LODDON COUNTRY MARKET

CHRISTMAS FAIR



SATURDAY DECEMBER 16th 10.00 a.m.—1.00.p.m.

For all your Christmas baking, greenery and gifts
PLUS bacon butties, tea, coffee, cakes, etc.

Chet Valley Photography Club

Thank you to everyone that visited our 7th exhibition in October. The winners of the trophies as judged by Michael Lloyd were:

Club Members Trophy (*sponsored by Youngs Funeral Directors*)

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|------------------|
| 1st | "Bearded Tit" | Norman Wyatt, |
| 2nd | "Looking behind ewe" | Jonathan Orland, |
| 3rd | "I'm stuck", "So am I" | Bernie Webb. |

U18's category (*sponsored by Browne & Sons*)

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|
| 1st | "Bubblegum Bliss" | Meaghan Fisk |
| 2nd | "Rain Drops" | Rhianna Sturman |
| 3rd | "Reflections" | Rhianna Sturman. |

The Public Choice Trophy (*sponsored by Auto Technic*)

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 st | "Looking behind ewe" | Jonathan Orland |
| 2nd | "Wren o'vation" | Bernie Webb |
| 3rd | "Old Boat House" | Derrick Johnson. |

All of these photographs can be view on the club website
www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

Club Meetings

December 11th - a social buffet evening at our normal meeting room.

January 8th - 'Visions through a viewfinder' by Roger Hance. Roger has been photographing for nearly 30 years. He took up Natural History photography in 1993 and has since won many awards. He has also sat on many judging panels for National Exhibitions.

If you would like to come along to our meetings please do. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. For more details please see our website.

Royal British Legion-Loddon & District Branch



Thank you all for your unfailing support of last month's Remembrance commemorations and Poppy Appeal. Obviously, it is too soon to gauge how much we have raised this year as the money is still being counted, but if the £176.00 raised at the Poppy stall at an October Loddon Farmers Market this year is anything to go by, it bodes well as that amount far exceeded last year's.

It is not every year that our Branch is represented at the Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance, but we are very proud that Jimmy Sturman our standard bearer had that opportunity this year to, literally, raise the flag for Loddon. Well done!

There being no December branch meeting, the next two branch meetings will be on **Mondays 15th January 2018 and 19th February 2018**, both in the King's Head Loddon and starting at 8.00pm.

Have a good Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

GOT SOME SPARE TIME?



LODDON RAINBOWS

Do you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming an assistant leader at Loddon Rainbows?



No experience is necessary - as long as you are over 18 and enjoy working with children. Please email Sandra Clelland on clellandfram@hotmail.com .

Loddon Day Centre needs YOU!

Would you be able to give us a few hours of your time each Friday morning? We need volunteers to help us run the centre. Duties include serving tea, coffee and lunch, helping to wash up and supporting our members in our activities, which include exercises, games and crafts.

Interested? Please contact Bev on 07826299290 or Sue on 01508 528826

THE CINNAMON TRUST – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Cinnamon Trust is the national charity for the elderly and terminally ill and their pets. We seek to keep owner and pet together for as long as possible with the help of a national network of volunteers who assist when day to day care poses a problem.

All volunteers help in the ways that are most appropriate to them. Teams take it in turn to visit housebound owners, to take the dog for a walk, volunteers foster pets as one of their family when owners face a spell in hospital, they take pets to the vet, clean the budgie's cage out. We take any problem posed in day to day care of pets.

Contact Sally direct on 01736 758707
or email sallycollins@cinnamon.org.uk



THANK YOU

TOUGH MUDDER CHALLENGE A big thanks to all those generous people who supported me and sponsored my 'Tough Mudder' in September. I successfully completed the 12 mile, very muddy assault course in 4 hours 10 minutes with only a few scrapes to show for it! I raised £410, getting on for £500 with all the gift aid, towards the excellent work of Great Ormond Street Hospital! I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and am planning to repeat it again next year - bonkers I know! Thanks again *Terry Hayden*

PARKINSONS UK A big thank you to Simon for hosting a fantastic free firework display, sponsored by South Lincs Food Services, at the White Horse, Chedgrave on October 26th. Thank you also to those who generously donated and to those who helped collect a grand total of £701.48 in aid of Parkinsons UK.

LODDON DAY CENTRE would like to thank everybody who supported the Chet Festival on 25th October, especially our sponsor, Rosy Lees, whose support makes it possible.

Read Any Good Books Lately?

Where does the time go? It's almost impossible to think this is the last of another year of book suggestions. Happy Christmas reading!

"The Goldfinch," by Donna Tartt At 864 pages long, this is a giant of a book and will take a long time to read! It's well worth the effort, though. In New York a young boy called Theo goes with his mother to an Art Gallery & Museum, and while they're there (but are in different rooms) a bomb goes off. Theo survives the explosion and comes away with a ring given him by an old man he'd tried to help after the explosion, plus the painting of *The Goldfinch* by Fabritius. From then on he leads a difficult life, living at times with his negligent father in Las Vegas, with friends in New York, or with the old man's business partner. From the latter he learns about the world of antiques. It is in the Las Vegas chapter of his life that he meets a boy called Boris – an extraordinary character - who befriends and influences him, and also introduces him to danger and the use of drugs. The other main person in Theo's life is the granddaughter of the old man he helped in the art gallery; he is in love with her from that day onwards. This complex novel is written superbly and movingly by Donna Tartt, with the painting of *The Goldfinch* being central to the plot throughout.

"The Universe Versus Alex Woods," by Gavin Extence It would be a very hard-to-please person who would not enjoy this book! The opening chapter catches one's interest instantly, and is really intriguing. As the rest of the story unfolds, one realises that the opening chapter covers what is almost the end of the story - it's cleverly done. The first novel by this author, it is very touching, though it never becomes sentimental. An unlooked for and unlikely friendship forms the basis of the story, the two characters who form the friendship being a young boy and a reclusive old man. The boy, Alex, is a bit of a misfit amongst his peers and his life is complicated for him by having a hippie, clairvoyant mother, no known father, and the occurrence of a particularly extraordinary incident. At times it's very funny and at other times it's really sad. It is definitely a book not to be missed!

"State of Wonder," by Ann Patchett A powerful and remarkable story about drug research being done in the Amazon rainforests for a company in Minnesota. Dr. Swenson, the woman doctor heading up the research, has been working out there for years and years, but has become less and less communicative with those who are paying her back in Minnesota, so the company head sends a pharmacologist out to try to find the doctor and get some answers about the progress of the research. He goes missing, is reported dead, and a second pharmacologist is despatched - this one being a 40-year-old woman who was once a medical student in the university where Dr Swenson used to lecture.

The descriptions of life in the rainforests, of the rainforests themselves and the tribes living there, are utterly absorbing. The plot is intricate and the disparate characters vividly drawn.

Nature Notes

The end of another year and beginning of the new. How many times lately have you said 'I just don't know where it has gone?' Time definitely seems to fly by much more quickly than ever nowadays. In our busy world everyone is rushing to the next thing pushed on by the pace of modern life but in actual fact, time is still the same. Looking back over my ramblings of 2017, I realise I'm always trying to slow everything down, asking you to 'take time', 'stop and look', 'sit and wait' and various other phrases. The natural world has its own rhythm, only altered when man intervenes, and in the coming year I'm sure this is a thought worth remembering.



Amongst my memorable finds for last year I was really pleased to see frogspawn again and lots of newts, both in the garden pond. Later in the year there were a great number of Dragonflies that appeared miraculously from their outer shells when emerging as nymphs, from the water. Bee Orchids were fewer than previous years but there were still several. Broomrape, the strange leafless pinky/brown flower, popped up in the grass seemingly out of nowhere and the Barn Owl chicks were wonderful. I planted some nasturtium seeds to grow up netting on a fence. The flowers gave a good colour to the area but primarily they were for a caterpillar nursery. Large Whites, would you believe, are declining in numbers, mostly due to pesticides in gardens. Almost as soon as the plants started growing there were groups of tiny yellow eggs on the leaves which hatched into very hungry caterpillars. I really hope I've helped to swell their numbers for next season. According to 'those who know' at Butterfly Conservation, pesticides and other chemicals used in gardens are now considered to cause more harm to our wildlife than those that farmers put on the land. This is particularly bad for butterflies and other insects too. We really should stop using them (sorry Andrew).

My best 'catch' of last year in the moth trap has to have been a Lobster Moth and the best caterpillars were 7 Puss Moths that appeared on a Black Poplar sapling, again in the garden. These really strange creatures were fascinating to watch as they grew from day to day consuming nearly all the leaves. Once they disappeared to pupate in the ground, the tree just grew more. Another highlight was watching Swallows dipping into the pond. I don't think anyone is clear as to why they do this but it's certainly lovely to see. I think they were just having fun! All these things were seen in the garden and during the coming year I hope you'll take a little time to look for things of interest in yours. Holidays are wonderful but do try to spare time for the things under your nose on other days too.

Of course, before we can start looking for spring we must enjoy these few Winter months. I'm hoping for some decent snowfalls this year as we haven't seen much for a long time. I realise it's inconvenient for many and causes problems of its own, but it really does slow us down.

Continued on next page

Snow can be very beautiful and creates a whole different aspect to the countryside. We may even get flocks of Waxwing feeding on those Cotoneaster you've planted. The bushes seem to be laden with berries this year just waiting for them. Wonderful photo opportunities too.

I hope you all have a relaxing Christmas period. Perhaps Father Christmas will bring you a lovely new pair of binoculars? I'm hoping for a microscope so that I can explore an even smaller world.

Carol..... 528456 chetcottchippy@hotmail.com

Gardening Notes

I've just heard the long range weather forecast and the weather forecasters talk of a very cold winter! I think I'll take this news with a pinch of salt. I'd be grateful if they could forecast 2 days ahead correctly, but we haven't had a cold winter since 2013 so you never know.

If it stays mild your lawns might need one final cut, but make sure to raise the cutting height. If you scalp any areas now the grass won't grow back until the spring. Keep clearing up dead leaves and composting them. I've spent years raking up leaves, and it's quite hard work. I've managed to get hold of a second hand leaf blower and my goodness how much easier it makes the job. I can clear an area ten times quicker now and it's so much easier. It was once a job I didn't look forward to, but now I don't mind at all.

At this time of year, whether it's mild or cold, rats and mice are looking for a warm, dry place with food close by, and this is often your greenhouse, garden shed, garage or even your house, so it's advisable to lay out your rat and mouse bait before you get a problem. It's easier to kill a few rats as they come into your garden, than to let them get established and try to kill lots of them. When placing bait make sure other animals can't get to it, so push the bait sachets well under garden sheds; and on the inside of buildings, place them around the walls hidden under boxes, as rats and mice feel safe feeding in confined dark spaces. When you find the dead vermin dig a hole in your garden at least a foot deep and bury them.

Outdoor pipes and taps should be protected from the cold weather, so cover them with proper foam lagging, and turn off the water supply to the outdoor tap. This should stop the water pipes bursting in very cold weather. When you can get in the garden, and when the fruit trees are dormant, it's a great time to prune them. Thin out older branches to open up the crown and cut back any damaged and diseased growth down to healthy wood. It's a good idea to Google "how to prune a fruit tree" because if you get it right you can improve your fruit yield considerably.

I hope you have a great Christmas and a healthy new year.

Andrew Carver Loddon Garden and DIY



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Sara Forder at Solo Housing on 07760 166 139 or 01379 640 250
or email sara.forder@solohousing.org

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You can contact me on: 01508 521800, 43 Bridge Street, Loddon, NR14 6NA or by email to: info@loddonmillarts.co.uk



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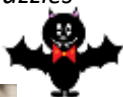
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