

# CONTACT

Published by the Church in Loddon

October 2018



*Autumn*  
*Photograph: E. A. Chapman*

An Evening with

# Bridget and Adrian Plass



Friday 19 October, 7.30pm

St John's, George Lane, Loddon

Tickets £5 (Book early as space limited)

Tickets from the Church Office on 01508 521179 or

Nina Owen on 01508 522993, [theroamingfenlander@gmail.co](mailto:theroamingfenlander@gmail.co)

*Adrian Plass is a well-known author with an infectious sense of humour. This 'Evening' with Adrian and his wife Bridget will probably have you rolling in the aisles.... but at the same time you'll come away with the suspicion that God loves us in spite of all our shortcomings and cares about what happens to all of us.*

# Chet Valley Churches Information

## Clergy

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## Church Office

St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB  
Tel. 01508 521179 Email: [office@chetvalleychurches.org](mailto:office@chetvalleychurches.org)  
Open: Mon & Fri. 10.00am - 4.00pm. Tues. Wed. Thur. 10.00am - 1pm



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

## Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches [www.chetvalleychurches.org](http://www.chetvalleychurches.org)  
The Norwich Diocese [www.dioceseofnorwich.org/#](http://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/#)  
The Methodist Church [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)  
The RC Diocese of East Anglia [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

## 'Contact' Magazine

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**Please include your name and telephone number.**

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

# Editorial



I'm not quite sure what happened with 'Contact' this month! Last month it was difficult to fit everything in, so this month I thought I'd be better prepared and started off setting things out with a smaller font. As it happened I had to do the whole lot again in the usual font size, because I had too much space! This is partly because three of our regular contributors didn't have anything to send in, although I'm pleased to say all the regular groups and societies are as busy as ever. Anyway, I hope you will find the bits and pieces of interest that I've filled the spaces with! (*On this subject, please see the notice on page 27*)

I find October a strange month - summer is over, autumn is here - it's as if we're getting geared up for next big event of the year, which of course will be Christmas!

But before Christmas, there's November, which is a bit special this year, being the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. On page 41 the Loddon Branch of the British Legion has published its plans of how they will commemorate this occasion, beginning with an exhibition on October 17th. If you have children, do look at the notice about Pumpkin Heroes, on page 29.

British Summertime ends on October 28th, with the clocks going back an hour, and I suppose the winter officially beginning!

Meanwhile, with its autumnal colours, October is a beautiful month:

"Just before the death of flowers,  
And before they are buried in snow,  
There comes a festival season  
When nature is all aglow."

*Author Unknown*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joany', with a long, sweeping underline.

Enjoy the festival of colours!

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## Ministerial Musings

What an extraordinary year of weather we have had - it is certainly the oddest growing season I can recall, from the Beast in the East to the Great Drought of Summer. What on earth will happen next?

Our gardens have been blasted with bitterly cold winds, baked in high temperatures and done to a crisp with no rain for weeks on end. Being British we have talked of little else, we've all had a jolly good moan and looked aghast at the devastation that has been caused.

But- have you noticed?- life has returned to our parched gardens and fields. Areas that looked beyond hope have started to spring into life. Plants that were just marking time throughout the summer months went into overdrive as soon as the rain came. Seedlings have sprouted in their thousands, as if all the pent-up life in them has exploded all at once. Even my dahlias, that I was despairing of ever seeing open a petal, are blooming away cheerfully.

We all go through times when everything can seem pretty dead, when our outlook on life is as arid as our gardens were and when we can lose hope all too easily. The lesson of this year is that things that seem dead can live again. Some things have died (I'm still bemoaning the end of an acer) and are lost for ever, but other things grow in their place. Those empty spaces in the border can be an opportunity for planting something interesting and new.

In our lives we are given the chance to start again, to grasp new opportunities and to discover that hope really can spring eternal. There is no guarantee that everything will be the way it was or that the gaps will be filled as we would want them to be. We can't go back, only forwards, and sometimes that means going into a future we fear.

The Christian story is one of Resurrection and life restored. It is not a promise of happiness ever after in a Never Never Land, but it is a guarantee that whatever happens, hope is there. All it needs is that vital bit of water, the H<sub>2</sub>O to top up our aquifers and the water of life to keep us living hopeful lives. As the priest and poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, 'Mine, O thou Lord of life, send my roots rain.'

*Belinda Barwick*

# Adverts

# 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.***

# Adverts



## 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.



### **October 4th 1.30 p.m.**

Memorial Service in St John's Chapel followed by afternoon tea.

If you are interested in joining the group ring Jill on 520 248.

### 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 David Owen or the Church Office.

### 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.

On average there are about 17 people who come to Mardles, and there's room for more! You will be made very welcome. ('Mardle' - in Norfolk it means a good old natter!)

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

# Adverts

Home Grown Delights  
presents  
**A RETURN TO 'THE GOOD OLD DAYS'**

decade by decade, to the grand days of  
**The Music Hall.**

Master of Ceremonies, Mr Simon Peck,  
that noted purveyor of ales,  
will be leading the Company  
ably assisted by that wizard of the latest electronic keyboard  
Mr Paul Mizen.

We invite you to come dressed for the occasion  
and in good voice for a finale rendition of  
"Down at the Old Bull & Bush".

Mouth-watering refreshments, including fortifying beverages,  
will be served in the interval and the price for this evening of  
incomparable entertainment is £9.00 per person. (Under 16s free).

Tickets are available from The Church Office, St John's Chapel  
or Mrs Val Counter 01508520702.

The evening commences at

**7.30pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October in Holy Trinity Church.**



**Chet Valley Churches**  
**All Saints, Chedgrave**  
Come to the Quiz and Supper on  
26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Starting at 7.00p.m.**, supper of baked potatoes + fillings and delicious  
puddings from Spooncake will be interspersed with quiz rounds.

Suitable for all ages.

£8.00 full price; concessions £6.50; families £25.00

Come n your own or as a group—each table of eight will play as a team.

*A ballotin of Rev Richard's hand-made chocolates for the winners*

Tickets from Church Office or Rev Alison 528126

# Adverts



There is nothing so sure in life as death and taxes – and some people manage to avoid taxes! Whilst we are all happy to grumble about taxes, people find it hard to talk about death, dying or funerals. In fact, we no longer really have the vocabulary to do so.

To give you the opportunity to have these conversations, we are hosting another *GraveTalk*. This is a café space to talk about death, dying and funerals.

In small groups various questions are approached such as:

*What is your favourite place;*

*Would you prefer to be buried or cremated. Why;*

*Are there any words, written or spoken about death that you have found helpful;*

*How easy is it to talk to your family about your funeral wishes;*

*What was your first experience of grief.*

That may not sound much like fun, but those who have been part of the conversations that *GraveTalk* provokes have really enjoyed them. Here's what people said about our last *GraveTalk* café:

- *This has allowed us to have a conversation that I've been wanting to have for years! We have just planned our funerals Thank you!* Anon
- *I found it helpful exploring a range of themes that, all too frequently, we avoid. GraveTalk was a safe environment in which to do this, and the conversation starters were a helpful way to introduce topics. Oh, and the coffee and cakes were excellent.* Tony
- *It was, given the subject matter, a very enjoyable session. Simple questions were simple but they allowed sensitive and sometimes deep exploration and discussion of many aspects of death and dying from different perspectives – a valuable initiative.* Richard

At the end of the café, people have wanted to carry on talking to each other which is great!

The ***GraveTalk*** café will be on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November**  
from **10.30-12noon** in **St John's Chapel**, George Lane, Loddon

**All are welcome**



Churchyard Autumn Clear-up

Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>

09:30-12:00



The Churchyard in Chedgrave is due for a clean and tidy before the winter sets in. We will be holding this on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9.30 am onwards. This date should be after most of the leaves have fallen! We hope that there may be an opportunity for youngsters to make bird boxes or insect houses for the churchyard.

Please bring your own tools. Refreshments will be provided. See you there!



## Choir for Carols—Advance notice

Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the community choir is coming together once again this year to sing at the...

### **CAROL SERVICE IN CHEDGRAVE CHURCH**

Drawn from people of varying ages (7-90+) we lead the traditional carols as usual and sing one or two items of our own.

**The carol service is on Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm**

There will be 4 rehearsals and it is best if you can make most of them:

Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup> 3 – 4pm Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup> 2 – 4pm

Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> 3 – 4pm Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup> 3 – 4pm \*

\*(refreshment break before the service)

If you would like to take part please contact:

Alison Ball ([ball880am@btinternet.com](mailto:ball880am@btinternet.com) or 528126).

Many thanks and hope to see you there. *Rev Alison*

## THE SISLAND CHRONICLE

Despite the hot spell our Churchyard hedge is burgeoning, and the hollies that were discovered under the brambles were potted up last Autumn, are now being planted to complete the hedge, and some should eventually produce berries. Scientists keep coming up with worrying news for gardeners. Dr David Chesmore at Hull, has devised a technique to convert noises made by insects into 'speech patterns'. Some seemingly talk to each other, and apparently the dreaded white-fly have passable singing voices! They are working on a 'bugging' device that gardeners can use to listen in on the beasts planning their next attack; but it may take to the end of the Century before it's perfected!

Hi Freddie here.



I'm in the doghouse again! I saw a puppy on the box having fun with a toilet roll – and whilst J. was having a shower I found a packet of them in the hot cupboard. J. said some words I haven't heard before, and I was put outdoors in the rain. I had to sit in the log-shed for hours. I must say, you really can get your teeth into toilet rolls!

I'm fed on working dog biscuits (I chase pigeons), but I'm also very partial to treats. T. & J. like olives, which are very tasty. I'm not keen on fish – I think cats like them, but I don't say no to a peppermint when T. has his coffee. I normally drink water – but like tea at teatime, with sugar! I sometimes get scrambled egg for breakfast followed by toast and marmalade. They are a bit mean with these – and I only have the crust, although J. does make sure there's marmalade on it.

PS. I'm told that I have a 'fan' in Mulbarton - HI!

*Cheers F.*

## From the Parish Registers



### BAPTISM

HARLEY LUCAS HINDLEY September 9<sup>th</sup> in Holy Trinity

*'Heavenly Father, we praise you for the birth of this child,  
Surround him with your blessing that he may know your love,  
be protected from evil, and know your goodness all his days.'*

*Common Worship*

---

### THANK YOU

Tricia and the Family of JIM BELL wish to thank everyone for the kindness and support they received during Jim's recent illness. Special thanks to the Revd Barry Rodwell and Revd Joan Evans for an uplifting service at Holy Trinity Church, also Paul Mizen for the lovely music.

Thanks to everyone who attended the service - a staggering £811.10 was raised for Kidney Cancer UK in Jim's memory.

Thank you all - it meant a lot to us . *Tricia Bell*

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**W**hen you meet someone deep in grief  
Slip off your needs and leave them by the door.  
Enter barefoot this darkened chapel,  
Hollowed by loss, hallowed by sorrow  
its grey stone walls and floor.  
You, the congregation of one,  
are here to listen, not to sing.  
Kneel in the back pew.  
Make no sound:  
let the candles speak.

*Patricia McKernon Runkle*

# Adverts



## What's happening at Loddon Library?

### GROUPS GALORE

Don't miss out on joining one of our groups that we have in Loddon library, where everybody will be welcome.

- \* **LODDON COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP:** A new daytime book group that meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month 10.30am-11.30am. Everybody welcome.
- \* **LODDON LOVES BOOKS:** An evening book group that meets on the last Friday of every month 6-7pm. Everybody welcome.
- \* **CROCHET GROUP:** From complete beginners, to the very experienced. Everybody is welcome to join the new craft group on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 2pm-3pm.

**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 dvds 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.

### MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 10-12pm

There will be a special **JUST-A-CUPPA** to celebrate Libraries week, with lots of information of local groups, books to read for pleasure and the chance to meet new people.

**BOOK ENDS** – Friday: Please contact library for future dates—story and craft fun.

### SATURDAY JUNIOR BOOK CLUB – fortnightly

*please contact library for future dates.* 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.

**C.A.B. will be holding advice sessions in the library throughout 2018** – please contact library staff for the dates.

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

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

**MICRO:BIT!** Did you know you can borrow these for free at your local library? A fun way to learn more about programming

*Continued n page 19*

# Adverts

*Loddon Library continued from page 17*

### **LODDON CHILDRENS CENTRE**

runs the LITTLE EXPLORER sessions in the library on Tuesdays at 10am.  
(Contact library staff for details)

### **LODDON BABY 'O.N.E.' STOP – 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

- ◆ Anything borrowed from the mobile library can be returned to any library in Norfolk
- ◆ Are you new to the library, or just haven't used your card for a long time? Come to Loddon library to join up and enjoy the benefits that your local library offers you. Including free pc use, printing facilities and space to work.
- ◆ 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 - 1.00pm

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Humour from some other parish magazines

- Everyone has a photographic memory; sadly, some don't have film.
- Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- Blessed are those who laugh at themselves, for they will never cease to be amused.
- He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

# Adverts

## The third and fourth verses of 'Cycling' by Kath Ricketts

### Summer Cycling

Now, a warm feel on my face  
and lots of hot (h)air!  
The sun beating down  
shedding warmth everywhere.  
The trees, so majestic,  
powerful and high,  
Their rich dark green leaves  
reach up to the sky.  
The banks and the hedges  
have grown so tall,  
Flowers of the fruits  
spread between them all.  
The birds are more quiet,  
lots of fledglings to feed,  
Little mouths take their feed  
at breakneck speed.  
The crops are transformed,  
they dance in the breeze  
Like carpets of gold  
upon the high seas.  
The cows are at rest  
in the heat of the day,  
Keeping watch on their offspring  
preferring to play.  
The flow of the river,  
a little more calm,  
The ditches and ponds  
a little more balm.  
The dragonflies hover,  
waterlilies perchance,  
Perhaps a few butterflies  
join in the dance.  
And so I am thankful  
to God up above  
For reasons like this  
which show us his love.

### Autumn Cycling

Not much breeze on my face  
Little wind thro' my hair  
The sun's weaker rays,  
But I'm pleased they are there.  
Leaves of all sizes,  
Colours and hues  
Flutter down in their beauty  
Wherever they choose.  
The crops have been shaven  
Only stubble is left  
The fields and environs  
Seem to look quite bereft.  
The tractors are out  
Busy season for them  
As the harvest is stored  
Every bale is a gem.  
There's fruits of the forest  
Twixt hedgerows and trees  
Whilst apples and pears  
Grow as they please.  
The birds are still busy  
looking after their young  
Though for many of them now  
Their new life has sprung.  
The rains have returned  
Just a little bit more  
So that rivers and ditches  
Come again to the fore.  
The mist o'er the meadows  
The cows' "head and feet"  
An autumnal scene  
That is hard to beat.  
And so we move onwards  
Another year gone.  
May God's Holy Spirit  
Be with everyone.

*Are there any more poets out there? Send us your creations - we can't  
promise that there will always be room to publish them,  
but we will keep them on stand-by until there is.*

# Adverts

The bells have been rung for Sunday services and to celebrate a wedding held at Holy Trinity during September.

Several Loddon members joined many others from the Norwich Diocesan of Ringers on Saturday 25th September for a day long event to open the new St. Peter Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre in Norwich. Bells rang out from many towers in the city including St. Giles, St. George, Colegate, St. Michael, Coslany and All Saints, Westlegate in celebration of the new project.

We then gathered at St. Peter Mancroft to ring the Twelve bells from the new gallery which has been installed higher up in the tower. Underneath this is the training centre itself. Eight dummy bells are connected to a computer system to allow new ringers to learn the art without any



*Watercolour of the ringers in action*

disturbance outside. This is an invaluable tool and will benefit new recruits from across the diocese and beyond for many years to come. It will become open to the public during future weeks to explain what bellringing is all about and to show the achievements and innovations that have taken place at that historic tower from over the last three hundred years.

An Eastern branch Quarterly meeting took place at St. Mary & St. Margaret's, Norton Subcourse on Saturday 1st September. Thirty members attended for a ringers service, tea and the meeting itself. Afterwards evening ringing took place at Norton.

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## Children's letters to God, selected from various Parish magazines.

Dear God,

Of all the people who work for you I like Peter and John the best. *Rob*

Dear God

My brother told me about being born but it doesn't sound right. *Marsha*

Dear God

I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world.

There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. *Nan*

Dear God

Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. *Ginny*

Dear God

If you watch in church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes. *Mickey*

Dear God

Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a Puppy. *Joyce*

# Adverts



After the wonderful summer we've had it's time to think about preparing for winter bugs and have your flu jab. The Government have decided that the vaccine was not as efficient for certain age groups last year as it could have been. So this year different vaccines are being given to different age groups.



The surgery has purchased sufficient vaccines for all eligible patients, and they will be given when you book an appointment. No waiting or queuing and the benefit of having two doctors and two nurses on hand in case of any problems and you can also have the pneumococcal jab too.

The vaccines are being delivered in batches and so the appointments have been staggered. There have already been two Saturdays in September and the last date is Saturday 10th November.

There will be another reminder in the November issue of Contact.

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR SURGERY as the vaccines have already been purchased and if patients go elsewhere it is a financial loss to the surgery. What a waste of limited resources!**

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## All Hallows Healthcare Trust

### MEAL ON WHEELS SERVICE

Available 7 days a week!

#### We deliver to:

Beccles, Bungay, Harleston, Earsham, Loddon & other surrounding areas!

#### Lunch Time Meals:

Locally sourced produce that's freshly prepared and cooked by us!  
Weekly menu with hot and cold options Delivered between 12pm-1pm  
Special diets catered for

**£5.50 without a dessert    £6.65 with a dessert**

#### Evening Meals:

If you have a lunch time meal with us, a sandwich, yoghurt and a slice of cake can be provided as an additional cost of **£3.00**

**Contact our team on 01986 891676**

Email: [Homecare@all-hallows.org.uk](mailto:Homecare@all-hallows.org.uk)

Website: [www.all-hallows.org.uk](http://www.all-hallows.org.uk)

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# Adverts

Do you have something to say about health and social care services in Norfolk?

As the independent consumer champion for all health and social care in our region, Healthwatch Norfolk is keen to hear about your experiences of using local services.

Whether you are a patient, family member, carer, or work within the sector, anyone can share their views. Simply visit [www.healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk) and find the service you'd like to review on the 'share your experience' page.

You can leave feedback on all local hospitals, GPs, dentists, pharmacies and opticians, as well as child and adult mental health services, community health, care homes and social care.

Using its statutory powers Healthwatch use your comments to inform health commissioners about services which can be improved and also letting them know where services are working well, passing your praise directly to the teams providing the care.

Look out for regular roadshows held across the region or call 01953 856 029. Healthwatch will be happy to speak to you directly or arrange a visit to your community group to capture feedback from your members.

Alex Stewart, Healthwatch Norfolk's chief executive said: "Health and social care in Norfolk is undergoing huge transformation, with greater focus on delivering more services in the community. Your voice really can make a difference".

#### Further information

Chris Andrews, Engagement Manager, Healthwatch Norfolk

[chris.andrews@healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk](mailto:chris.andrews@healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk) Tel. 01953 856029

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### REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS TO 'CONTACT'

If you find that, for one reason or another, you will not be sending your usual contribution to 'Contact', it would be very helpful if you would let us know in plenty of time, otherwise we are left with space to fill at the last minute.

Having said that - thank you for what you **DO** send! You help to make 'Contact' a real community magazine.

## Church Services October

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	Holy Trinity Loddon
Sat 13th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 14th	9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Margaret Hardley
	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity Loddon
	2.30pm	Harvest Service	Davy Place Loddon
Sat 20th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 21st	9.30am	All Together Worship	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity Loddon
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary Sisland
Sat 27th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 28th	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.30 am	Morning Worship	St. Margaret Hardley
	10.45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity
	6.30 for 7.00pm	Last Sunday Praise	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

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

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.)

### 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](mailto:jillhaylock@aol.com)

or just turn up.

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



## Pumpkin Heroes for Halloween October 31st

Have you ever wondered what Loddon Church (Holy Trinity)  
looks like in the dark? Well, now is your chance to discover.

Come to our **Pumpkin Heroes for Halloween**  
**on 31<sup>st</sup> October**

and don't forget to bring a torch with you.

Follow our pumpkin trail in the dark in the church and join us  
for more fun including story-telling, craft activities,  
refreshments and more.

We will have two sessions:

5.30~6.15pm for younger children; 7~8pm for older children.

Contact Rev Alison (528 126; [ball880am@btinternet.com](mailto:ball880am@btinternet.com))

for further details.



## COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

### Loddon Flower Club

**October 2nd:** 'Seasonal Splendours' - Kathleen Doggett

New members and visitors welcome.

Annual membership £28.00. (Over 80 £15.00) Visitors £6.00. (if you decide to join this will be offset against the yearly membership)

Meetings at Hobart High School, 7.00 p.m. for a 7.15 start.

A relaxing way to spend 2 hours each month watching someone create beautiful flower arrangements!

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### Loddon Women's Institute

As we said last month, our August meeting was an outing to Henstead Gardens, and at the time of writing we're still looking forward to the September meeting, 'Just a little Lippy' - a talk and make-up demonstration by Mrs Linda Bowler.

Our next meeting is **on October 17th**, when Anita Cotterill from the Salvation Army is going to speak about their work in Diss and Beccles.

If ladies would like to join us, either as prospective members, or visitors, just come along and say hello.

We start our meetings at the Jubilee Hall at 7.30pm by welcoming our speaker who will then entertain us for approximately 45 minutes to one hour. We then have a cup of tea and a chat and complete the meeting with W.I. business. Friends and visitors are welcome to join.

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### Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

On a pleasantly warm afternoon in August Imshi welcome us all to her and delightful garden for our annual garden meeting. Thank you to her and the committee for organising a really scrumptious buffet. We had fun answering the questions of the quiz, some of which were hilarious!

**Tuesday October 23rd:** we will welcome Gill Bushwell to our meeting - her subject 'House of Colour'. 2.00 p.m. at All Saints Centre.

**Tuesday October 30th:** Margaret Bagguley has arranged for several members to visit City College in Norwich to enjoy a lunch prepared and cooked by the students.

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### Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

**October 16th** 7.30p.m. Langley with Hardley Village Hall.

Speaker: Paul Strutt—'The Work of the Norfolk Rescue Service'

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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.

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.



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](mailto:tomenelli@btinternet.com)

Loddon Community Gym

**Mondays:** 1.30pm to 6.pm. **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](http://www.loddoncommunitygym.com)



Footballers wanted!

We are a friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astroturf every Monday evening from 8:30-9:30 for a non-competitive kick-about to keep fit and socialise.

We are looking for like minded people to join us.

Cost £2.50 per session, first session free.

For more details, please contact Terry on:

Email: [tezzahayden99@gmail.com](mailto:tezzahayden99@gmail.com)

Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club



# Adverts



### Chet Staithe Probus Club

Have you recently retired or just moved to the area? Are you missing male company, on your own, or just want to get out from under your wife's feet? Then why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club which is held on the first and Third Tuesday of the month at the White Horse, Chedgrave. The meetings start at 10.00a.m. and usually finish around midday with the option of staying for lunch if required. Several of our members do. We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required, with members ranging in age from 60 to almost 100. At each meeting we have a guest speaker and the topics can range from clocks, Whitehall, cartoons, space and even stagecoach journeys to Norwich.

Our next meetings are:

**October 2nd** Melita Rouse: 'Back in time!'

**October 16th** Alan Womack: 'My life Number 4.'

We really look forward to seeing you then.

*Please contact David Price Telephone 01508 522033.*

*or email [david.price0841@gmail.com](mailto:david.price0841@gmail.com) for more information*

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### 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.

**October 9th** Mark Reynolds: The Entertainer

**October 23rd** Heather Coates: Redwings Horse Sanctuary

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

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### Loddon and District Horticultural Society

**October 10th:** Annual General Meeting to be held at the Jubilee Hall.

We will also have a bring & buy sale and raffle, everyone welcome.

If you would like any more information on our friendly society, please contact Mim on 01508 493332.

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### Chet Valley Photography Club

**October 8th:** We do not have a speaker for this meeting as we will be preparing for our Annual Exhibition which will be held in November at St Johns Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon – full details will be in the November edition.

*Meetings from 7-9.30pm on the second Monday of each month in the Community Wing of Hobart High School.*

**[www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk](http://www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk)**

# Adverts

Loddon Community Cinema

Thursday OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>

Our next presentation is “ **The Mercy**” rated **12**. Starring **Colin Firth and Rachel Weisz**. It’s a story that might provoke a response “ Oh I remember something about that a long time ago.....”

Well, this film is a portrayal of Donald Crowhurst, an amateur sailor and his attempt to be the first person to sail around the World non-stop whilst competing in the 1968 Sunday Times Golden Globe Race.

On a boat hardly fit for purpose that has almost cost him his house and business he sets off on a voyage that is tragically to become a maritime mystery and as the film shows, the disintegration of a brave but perhaps foolish man.

The ever reliable **Firth and Rachel Weisz** as the woman who waits give good performances in another great example of the British knack of making wonderful films about what is, at the end of the day, failure.



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

**Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30pm.**

**Adults £4 Child £2. On the door or in advance from Loddon DIY.**

Seething Tower Association

Sunday, OCTOBER 7th

Seething Control Tower Memorial & Museum’s last open day of 2018 after another successful and wonderfully hot Summer. We can’t arrange the weather but we can promise an interesting visit.

Situated at the former Station 146, USAAF WW2 airfield the tower features a large collection of memorabilia and photographs depicting everyday life for the 3,000 young Americans who were posted to Norfolk from 1943 until 1945. We hope it serves as a fitting memorial to the many who did not return to their “home” in Norfolk or to their loved ones in America.



**Admission is free** and we have refreshments and ample parking.

The tower is in Toad Lane, Seething and is signposted. **Open from 10am until 5pm.**

All welcome and we look forward to meeting you.

Remarks broadcast during the 2016 Rio Games—*open mouth, put foot in it?*

Paul Hamm, gymnast: "I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father."

Boxing analyst: "Sure, there have been injuries, and even some deaths in boxing, but none of them really that serious."

# Adverts

August Meeting report:

Our well attended evening meeting welcomed Mike Pinner of the Caistor Roman Project who came to share its work with us. Many of the audience had visited the site of the Roman Town and were aware that the 2007- 2012 excavations there had altered the understanding of what the walled town had been and how it had changed during the Roman occupation.

A recent Heritage Lottery Fund grant has enabled a further programme of research and excavation to take place in and around the village of Caistor St Edmund. In 2014 & 2016 many test pits were dug which revealed an amazing collection of finds (pottery, glass, coins and other artefacts) and which have, with Geophysics and other non-invasive techniques, guided the selection of sites for the major excavations of the last two years: in 2017 at Caistor Old Hall and in 2018 in the Temple Field quite close to the Caistor Hall Hotel. Unlike the early 20th century digs at the Roman Town the work during the Project has been meticulously recorded and except for this summer, detailed reports have already been published.

This year's dig was on part of High Ash Farm, a site revealed by aerial photography. A temple had been excavated there many years ago. The sites of part of a significantly large building and boundary wall/gate were selected for further investigation. Several of us were able to visit on the two open days and were delighted by the mosaic floor and extent of the building. We were as puzzled as the diggers by the layer upon layer of cobbles on the roadway to the gate. All has now been covered and the work of recording and writing up this year's work is underway.

Apart from Will Bowden, now of Nottingham University, and one paid consultant archaeologist, everyone else is a volunteer. Some of our history group members worked there last summer and have become more involved during the winter and this year's dig - a really satisfying experience. Mike expressed his pleasure at seeing the blossoming of so many of the volunteers into really skilled archaeologists.

Visiting <http://www.caistorromanproject.org> will give you a greater insight into the history and work of the project. I and many others hope that funding can be obtained to continue this fascinating work beyond 2019.

**Next meetings: October 17th** - Dr. Richard Hoggitt on the Archaeology of Medieval Monasteries.

**November 21st** - The Loddon Surgery during the time of Dr Bennett.  
1.30pm at the Lecture Hall, George Lane.

Don't forget to look out for our local displays on various topics in Young's window and the board in the Local Studies Room, Loddon Library.

# Adverts

The Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

**October 14th Sunday – TREASURE HUNT**

Vera and Tony Durrant will run this for us. Meet at Church Plain 10.30 a.m. Lunch will be available at the destination. Contact Vera on 520108.

**October 21st Sunday 10.30 am.** Visit a local Arboretum as part of the National Garden Scheme., The Barn at Framingham Earl, NR14 7SA . £5.00 each, coffee available. Contact June on 528853. Lunch to be advised.

**PLEASE NOTE: BOOKING BY NOVEMBER 1ST** for Pre-Christmas meal at the Old Feathers, 6.30pm for 7.00pm, with a deposit of £10.00 cash each. Full payment to be made with choices 2 weeks prior. Please contact me in plenty of time. Menus will be given when available. Contact June 528853.

**November 7th Wednesday 10.00 am – WALK** with Jack round Burgh St. Peter. (Wheatacre) approx 5 miles. Park at the Waveney Riverside Centre. Lunch at the Centre. Contact Jack on 494103

*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. LODDON AND CHEDGRAVE DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP is open to all on payment of an annual subscription of £6.00 to the Membership Secretary. Please note that the subscription is due at the AGM. June Strickland: 528853*

Davy Place Social Club

**REGULAR ACTIVITIES FOR AUTUMN AT DAVY PLACE**

Mondays	Bingo—doors open 7.00p.m. Eyes down 7.30 pm.
Tuesdays	Keep Fit Sessions will resume in year
Wednesdays	Short mat bowling at 6.30p.m.
Thursdays	Craft Club 10.00a.m.—12 noon ( <i>*Except on Hot Lunch days</i> )

***Brunch Club & Hot Lunch Club - please ring Janet on 522115 for dates***

Oct 14th Sun	Harvest Festival Service in the Cub Room at 2.30 p.m.
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**COMING UP IN NOVEMBER**

**Sunday 11th November at 2.30pm** Remembrance Day Service

**Monday 12th November** 10am onwards Karen of "Clothes Line Fashions" and Carrie of "Nails and Beauty"

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR SUMMER SALE.**







To thank a whole generation who sacrificed so much we will be holding an **EXHIBITION** to commemorate 100years since the end of WW1

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

**17th October to 11th November**

**Open daily for viewing from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 pm.  
until November 11th**



Display of 32 Handmade wreaths, each one remembering one of the fallen on Loddon & Chedgrave memorials



We are honoured to have been awarded 10 “TOMMY” silhouettes by the ‘There but not There and Armed Forces Trust Fund. The ‘Tommys’ will be seated in he church



Within the church there will be a cascade of 3000 poppies and a fall of poppy petals.



The Church pathway will be lined with 800 large poppies to create an avenue

The finale of the event will be  
**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11th**

**THE REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE**

**Starting at 10.30 a.m.  
followed by a service in the church**

Please join is for this very special event  
and help us to say thank you to those who sacrificed their all.




**Next branch meetings: October 15th and November 19th (AGM)**

Both meetings will be at the Kings Head  
and will start at the **new time of 7.30 p.m.**

# Adverts

## WHAT'S ON

<p>Oct. 7th Tuesday</p> <p>2 – 5 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COFFEE AND COIFFURE EVENT IN AID OF MACMILLAN</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Seething Village Hall, Loddon Band, home-made cakes, fellowship and much more, to include Chet Valley Churches worship assistant Val Fryer having her head shaved in support of those battling cancer! With the kind support of Sisland Tithe Barn.</p> </div> </div>
<p>Oct. 12th Friday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONCERT: 'A RETURN TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS'</b> Holy Trinity Church (See page 11)</p>
<p>Oct, 17th to Nov 11th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BRITISH LEGION EXHIBITION IN HOLY TRINITY CHURCH (See page 41)</p>
<p>Oct. 19th Friday from 7.00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANNS CRAFT</b> MENINGITIS RESEARCH FUNDRAISER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New &amp; Nearly New clothes for sale during the evening: Men's, women's &amp; children's clothes &amp; accessories, worn by local models. Refreshments &amp; Raffle. Admission £3.00 on the door. <i>Hopefully all money raised n the night will be doubled by Lloyds TSB. Please support us.</i> <b>Loddon &amp; Chedgrave have the only shops in the UK raising funds for Meningitis research.</b></p>
<p>Oct. 19th Friday 7.30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AN EVENING WITH BRIDGET &amp; ADRIAN PLASS (See inside front cover)</p>
<p>Oct. 20th Saturday 8 till late</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DANCE and CABARET NIGHT JUBILEEHALL, LODDON</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Several musicians and entertainers who worked with the late <b>DICK BLOY</b> of R and B Entertainments are performing as a tribute to him.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Dancing to East Anglia's No One 60s band WYPEOUT</li> <li>* Comedy Entertainer JOHNNY LAFF</li> <li>* also everyone's local favourite SIMON LOVICK</li> <li>* Plus Special Guest Star</li> <li>* Compere: PHIL SEGAN from SEMIBREVE</li> <li>* Licensed Bar Refreshments Raffle</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Tickets £6.00 from Bevs Discount Store, Church Plain Mandy, Jubilee Hall 01508 528588 Eileen 01508 520654 <i>Proceeds to Jubilee Hall Maintenance Funds. Charity No 285015</i></p>

# Adverts

## WHAT'S ON *continued*

<p>Oct. 20th Saturday 2 to 4p.m.</p>	<p>Helping Hedgehogs Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cookes Road Bergh Apton. NR15 1AA</p>  <p>A family event organised by South Yare Wildlife Group, including a talk and question and answer session with Shawn Mills from Attleborough Rescue Service, and fun for kids. Admission: adults £3, members £2, under 16s free. Booking not required.</p>  <p>For further information about our group please visit <a href="http://www.southyarewildlifegroup.org">www.southyarewildlifegroup.org</a> or follow us on Facebook or Twitter</p>
<p>Oct. 26th Friday</p>	 <p>All Saints Chedgrave (See page 11)</p>
<p>Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Wednesday</p>	 <p><b>Pumpkin Heroes for Halloween</b> See page 11</p>

### Hales and Heckingham Community Events Group (HHCEG)

We have now dissolved our Group. This is in part due to changes in circumstances of our committee members, difficulty attracting new committee members and dwindling support because of pressures experienced by families.

We thank everyone who has in the past supported our events. Our funds have been given to Hales and Heckingham Parish Council who will be buying and installing another picnic table and bench for Hales playing field, as the committee felt this would be the best use for the money as it is on community land.

### SEETHING VILLAGE HALL

EXHIBITION COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS  
SINCE END OF WWI.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>** 10am to 4pm

Exhibition featuring photographs, personal stories and memorabilia from WWI and some of the Village Histories of Mundham & Seething.

Free admittance - refreshments available.

# Adverts



LODDON + CHEDGRAVE  
**VICTORIAN EVENING**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 7TH  
6.30PM TO 8.30PM**

Following on from last year's successful event, plans are now well advanced in preparation for this year's Victorian Evening. Each year gets better and we hope you have put the date in your diary already!

The Evening has grown in attendance and has been a success each and every year. However, this wouldn't be possible without the assistance of many people who support the event. So, if you belong to a local organisation and wish to participate please get in touch.

As you may be aware, the Victorian Evening is produced by a small committee of volunteers and we would always welcome any assistance – particularly on the night itself to act as a steward.

If you are able to assist, please contact Heather Tew:  
Email: [tew.heather@yahoo.com](mailto:tew.heather@yahoo.com) 01508 520528

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

*"A book is a dream that you hold in your hand." Neil Gaiman."*

**"Keep Your Friends Close," by Paula Daly**

A gripping thriller with an original and unusual plot. There are a few explicit and quite unpleasant sexual incidents, but those aside this book is really enjoyable. An old friend (!) turns up to visit a family in the Lake District - parents in their 30's with two teenage daughters - and loses no time in causing division between husband and wife, then seducing the husband. To say more would give too much away, but it's written in such a way that one has to keep reading and reading in order to find out how it will all end! It does, of course, and very cleverly. Lots of tension, very good!

**"The Cleaner of Chartres," by Salley Vickers**

This author definitely has a way with words and an understanding of all kinds of different characters and situations. Her stories always have quirky, rather unexpected plotlines. As ever, in this story she mixes happiness, sadness, compassion, and frequently a touch of mystery. Agnès Morel cleans Chartres Cathedral as well as the homes of one or two people living in Chartres. She is essentially a kind and gentle person who was brought up by nuns, and whose parentage has always been unknown.

You will find it very rewarding to read the book and find out more...

*Continued on page 49*

# Adverts



Read any good books continued from page 47

**“Black Sheep,” by Susan Hill**

A slender little book, written by one of our very best contemporary writers. A tale of miners and their families (in particular the Hawker family) in a mining village with the name of “Mount Zeal.” The eldest of the Hawker children, Rosie, feels that there should be more for her in life than the hand that’s been dealt to her; the youngest, Ted, cannot bear the thought of following his father and older brothers down to the mine. Beautifully and simply written, this story is intensely moving.

**“The Illuminations,” by Andrew O’Hagan**

This is one from last year’s Booker Prize list. The novel contains three different scenarios: a sheltered-housing complex; Helmand in Afghanistan; and Blackpool. The plot includes a friendship between two of the female residents of the complex; the friendship of a group of young soldiers fighting in Afghanistan and their captain (who is the grandson of one of the aforementioned women); and the love between grandmother and grandson in Blackpool. The friendship between Maureen and Anne is made interesting by its unequal balance. The friendship of the soldiers, however, is uniformly very deep. (While their language is utterly appalling no doubt it is true to life). The deep love shared by grandmother and grandson is very touching, and it seems to grow as Luke learns more and more about Anne’s life when she was younger. Discovering so much about her life, he begins to understand his mother’s feeling of distance from her parents - something which he’d never understood before.

The illuminations of the book’s title are in real terms the Blackpool illuminations, but symbolically they represent Luke’s new-found knowledge and understanding of so many things.

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Nature Notes

I must tell you about my latest visit to the Bird Fair at Rutland Water, in August. This event is the largest annual get together in the country for anything associated with birds and other wildlife. It’s held on a huge open air site with massive marquees, a food area and happily, lots and lots of portaloos. The whole event is over 3 days and there’s so much to do that you’re hard pushed to see everything.

The information stalls are manned by volunteers from nearly every organisation you can think of worldwide, from Butterfly Conservation to Big Game in Africa - all very interesting. One marquee is devoted to holidays, where you can look at possible guided tours to unknown places, with experts in their field. There’s also a huge Art tent. The quality of painting, sculpture and wood carving is top class and the artists are there to talk to you. If it’s binoculars or photographic equipment you’re interested in, all the top names are there too. You can try out anything you like, right there on site.

*Continued on page 51*

# Adverts

*Nature Notes continued from page 49*

Then there are the lectures: at least 8 very large marquees with notable speakers on such a variety of topics it's really difficult to choose which ones to attend. Appearances by Chris Packham and other TV personalities are very popular and do have quite long queues to get in, but most others are easy to access. Patrick Barkham, who writes for the Guardian and lives in Norfolk, gave a wonderful talk on his new book about islands around Britain and Scotland, which was fascinating. Birdlife Cyprus were equally informative on the passage of migrant birds and trying to prevent them being caught for the table en route to Europe. How anyone can even think of eating a Blackcap, for instance, is beyond me. Anyway, enough about this, just to say that, if you're at all interested in wildlife don't miss this event next year.

While at Rutland Water it's also possible to view Osprey that have been breeding there now for quite a few years. These magnificent fish eating birds of prey were once hunted to extinction in Britain but are now making a come back. This year the parent birds arrived from Africa within 2 days of each other. They nested in exactly the same spot and raised 2 chicks. All 4 birds have now left and hopefully will return again soon. The visitors centre always has a great film of their progress over the summer months to view in comfort, if you can't face the trek to the hides.



Back home we're now enjoying the Autumn. Leaves are turning their lovely colours before falling to leave the trees in skeleton form. I love looking at the shapes at this time of year as each species has a different form which is generally obscured by foliage in the summer. Identifying trees isn't as difficult as you first think as there are so many clues to look for with the added bonus that they stand still. Shape, size, leaves, flowers, bark and fruits are all indicators of the species. For example... a tree with smallish, smooth edged leaves could be a Beech. If it has tiny nuts in large cases and very smooth bark it probably is. If it has slightly bigger leaves with a jagged edge and larger nuts and is in a hedge, then it's a Hazel. If however, it's a large specimen with jagged leaves but has keys as fruits, hanging in bunches, it will be a Hornbeam. See - easy when you know how.

Many of our small creatures that hibernate will be stocking up on food supplies now, putting on as much fat as they can to last them over the winter. Nuts from trees are a valuable source of fat and protein which, if they don't get enough could be the difference between life and death. So if you go out gleaning for yourself do remember to leave some behind for them. Equally, fungi are now putting in an appearance and this also applies to them. Anyway, unless you know exactly what you are picking it's not a good idea to eat any. I find that usually, people get carried away when out collecting and then much is wasted when they get home.

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*Nature Notes continued from page 51*

Try taking photos instead, you can then look back at them afterwards with no guilty conscience. Also, they will be easier to identify later when searching for their names.

Do enjoy October, it is a lovely month and the earthy smell of Autumn will be all around.

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### Gardening Notes

What a change in a month! We had the predicted rain, and the temperatures have dropped to more normal levels, which means we can all get out in the garden and have a tidy up, and cut the grass, which has grown rapidly over the last few weeks. However some lawns have lots of bare patches.

If the patches are small, less than 12" across you might as well leave them and they will fill in naturally. Any bare patches that are much bigger will need some attention, so scarify the area to get rid of the dead grass, then rake the soil to create some loose tilth, spread grass seed and rake in and water. I've seen some large lawns that have completely died. Some of these had weed and feed spread in the spring, and this can be a problem because the weed and feed will kill off the grass seed as it germinates.

The only way to get over this is to dig the soil over to a depth of at least 6" so that the surface soil will then be weed killer free and the grass seed will germinate. This is a lot of hard work but there isn't much choice.

As we head into autumn it's time to get rid of old summer bedding plants, and stock up with autumn bedding plants. This will give plenty of colour over the winter months, and if you interplant with spring bulbs you will also have a great display early in the spring.

In the veg garden there are a few crops that can be planted: winter lettuces, spring cabbage, onion sets, garlic, broad beans, Feltham first peas and some early carrots. If the weather gets very cold then the peas and carrots will need some protection. All of the above will need protection from pigeons, pheasants, and partridges etc. Any late crops such as marrows, carrots, potatoes and parsnips will need harvesting or protecting from any frosts which can come any time from October onwards.

Crops in greenhouses should also be harvested. Green tomatoes can be made into chutney, and all dead plant material should be put onto the compost heap.

Gardening over the summer months was a real trial, but as we head into the autumn things seem to be getting back to normal.

*Andrew Carver  
Loddon Garden and DIY*

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