

CONTACT

December 2018 January 2019
Published by the Church in Loddon



*Best Wishes for Christmas & the New Year
from the Contact Team*

Cover design: R Y Ball

Chet Valley Churches

THE CHURCH IN LODDON

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 1ST
10.00A.M. TO 1.00P.M.
ST JOHN'S CHAPEL
GEORGE LANE LODDON



QUALITY CHRISTMAS GIFTS

- ★ HOMEMADE CAKES & PRESERVES
- ★ BASKET TOMBOLA
- ★ REFRESHMENTS
- ★ BOOKS
- ★ RAFFLE

FATHER CHRISTMAS ARRIVES AT
11.00A.M. WITH FREE GIFTS
COME AND SEE HIM IN HIS GROTTA

Chet Valley Churches Information

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Church Office

St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB
Tel. 01508 521179 Email: 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
The Norwich Diocese www.dioceseofnorwich.org
The Methodist Church www.methodist.org.uk
The RC Diocese of East Anglia 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

CONTACT It's five years since I took on the job of editing 'Contact', and I've really enjoyed doing so. One of the most rewarding things has been getting to know the regular contributors who faithfully send in reports and news each month. However, having reached the grand old age of 82, I think the time has come for me to stand down and let someone else have a go, someone with perhaps a new approach and ideas. So - is there anybody out there who would like to take it on? If you think you might be interested, please get in touch with either Revd David 522993 email: david.chetvalley@gmail.com or me on the Contact email address: c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

..... But, for now

The Contact cover: It's always difficult to find something suitable for both December and January, but this year Richard Ball's collage design is just right. There are Advent Candles and the Nativity to signify December, and for January, which is when we commemorate in Epiphany the visit of the Wise Men to the infant Jesus, we have them following the Star. So the cover has it all! Thank you, Richard.

'WHAT'S ON' (pages 47 to 51): there are plenty of events in the pipeline, with something to suit everyone's tastes: Christmas Fayres, Coffee Mornings, Christmas Concerts, the Victorian Evening, Carol Services, the chance to spend some time at a church service to hear again the Christmas story and to think about the true meaning of Christmas, the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, all in all, our community is all set for the festive season,

*I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people*



It just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Joan

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Ministerial Musings

I have spent the morning making houses—places for bugs to overwinter and birds to nest in the spring. Just as I was bringing some last bits to finish off, a robin flew down onto the roof of a bug house to inspect what I had been up to. It's all part of caring for our world—in this case the churchyard in Chedgrave, God's acre. If we can provide homes for some of our wildlife perhaps that will encourage them to thrive which can only be a good thing.

It set me to thinking about people in our communities, cities, countries—those with homes and those without. If you are reading this, then likely it has come through your letterbox and you are in the comfort of your own home. Lucky you! But what about those without anywhere to live?

I wonder if you can imagine what it might be like to be forced from your home by war or abuse, environmental disaster or financial crisis; leaving most if not all of your possessions behind; not knowing where you are going to spend the next night. There are millions of displaced people in the world; some on the move, some living in makeshift camps. And there are hundreds of people who are homeless in our own country—it is not a life choice for many. But surely everyone deserves somewhere safe and secure to live, don't they?

“Well, that's never going to happen”, I hear you say. And I'm not surprised. The dream that everyone in the world will be healthy, happy and homed seems an impossible one. But where is the hope in that? And what does it have to do with us?

It's nearly Christmas. And as I think of Christmas, I reflect on the most amazing story of God making a home among humankind. Jesus, living with real people and demonstrating God's love in action; speaking out against the rich and powerful and speaking up for those on the edges of society, those who others look down on. If we have ears, we can hear that message still ringing out—love God and love your neighbour as yourself. That is what it has to do with us. If we hear that message and act on it, then we can bring hope to the homeless in our communities.

Happy Christmas!
Rev Alison

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 parents 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.



December 6th 1.30 Advent Carol Service followed by afternoon Tea.

December 13th Christmas Lunch at Poringland Dove 12.30 for 1.00 pm.

No meeting in January

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.

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



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 23rd at 5pm.

There will be four rehearsals:

Saturday December 1 st	3 – 4pm
Sunday December 9 th	3 – 4pm
Saturday December 15 th	2 – 4pm
Sunday December 23 rd	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

JUST £2 FOR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT..

With the average household spending between £100 and £300 for a present for one of their children, 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.



EMBRACE
the Middle East

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.

Inspired by the idea of the exhibition *Unto Us a Child is Born* (see November Contact p 14) we have also purchased 4 gifts at £10 each – called 'Away in a Manger' this gift supports a village clinic so mums and babies have a local place to go for development checks and medicines.

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 one of the following Sunday services, when you can hang your own label on the tree.

December 2nd Xpressions Cafe 10-12noon
 December 9th Holy Communion 9.30am
 December 16th All Together Worship 9.30am,
 December 23rd Carol Service 5.00pm
 December 24th Midnight Communion 11.30pm

For more opportunities for Christmas Giving see page 13

Adverts

Advent and Christmas Collections at All Saints Chedgrave

This year we are collecting for two charities during Advent at both the Chedgrave Carol Service (on the 23rd December; 5pm) and at the carol singing on Christmas Eve outside the Chedgrave shops (Christmas Eve 11am for one hour).

Cash that we receive will be donated to **Refugee Action**.

Here is what they say about themselves:

Imagine what it's like to flee your home in fear. To arrive in a new country with nothing but your life. You've survived. But how will you live?

At Refugee Action, we help refugees who've survived some of the world's worst regimes. We get them the basic support they need to live again with dignity. Then we help them build safe, happy and productive lives in the UK. Our vision is that refugees and asylum seekers will be welcome in the UK. They will get justice, live free of poverty and be able to successfully rebuild their lives.

You can read more about them at <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/>



Loving BY Giving

The other charity we are supporting is **Loving by Giving**. Here is what they say about themselves:

Homelessness is a massive problem in the United Kingdom. People who are released from prison often have no place to stay and end up on the streets without warm clothes or bedding or any hygiene products to help them keep clean. Loving by Giving is working with HMP Norwich to help people in this terrible situation by providing them with backpacks with some basic hygiene products and clothing to help them keep warm.

You can read more about them at <https://lovingbygiving.com/charity/>

We will be collecting the following items for them:

Toothbrush	Shower gel	Warm hat	Men's Rain mac
Toothpaste	Hand towel	Men's Gloves & Scarves	Refillable water bottle
Shaving foam	Pen		Cereal bar
Safety razor	Notepad	Socks (Men's)	£5 supermarket voucher

You can drop these off at the church during daylight hours during December. There is a collection box in the lobby area between the church and the church centre.

Many thanks. Rev Alison

*Editor's Note: As we said in the November 'Contact' there is also a box for the **Loving by Giving** collection in the entrance lobby at St John's Chapel.*



Chet Valley Churches present



fit for a

King



You
are invited to
our Crib Service
on Christmas Eve in
Holy Trinity Church, Loddon
Starting
at 4pm

Children are especially encouraged to dress up
as a character from the Christmas Story.

You are all very welcome.

Do come early to ensure you have a seat!



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, LANGLEY

EXHIBITION OF CERAMICS

By Rob Wheeler

*Entrance from The Avenues, Langley, NR14 6BL
(Ample free parking)*

Saturday & Sunday 24th & 25th November

Saturday & Sunday 1st & 2nd December

Saturday & Sunday 8th & 9th December

2.00 to 5.00 p.m. daily

Admission free Light refreshments available

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, LANGLEY

presents



7.30pm Saturday 1 December

(IN THE BALLROOM, LANGLEY HALL, NR14 6BJ)

Joanne Knight (Soprano) Valerie Walker (Soprano)

Helen Hudson (Contralto and Recorder)

Lisa Bullen (Recorder) Carol Skinner (Flute)

Alan Zipfel (Piano)

**TICKETS: £8.50 Adults £7.50 Friends £2.00 Students/children
(includes wine/soft drink and cake and coffee/tea)**

Concert proceeds will go towards refurbishment of the Church

CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Thursday 13th December

6.30 p.m. St Michael's Church

Adverts



OPEN HOUSE

at Holy Trinity Church and St John's Chapel

A time to enjoy the Christmas spirit
and support our local charities and groups

Enjoy entertainment from the Loddon Band
and local singing groups

See Holy Trinity decorated for the festive season –
(Christmas bells are ringing!)



FRIDAY DECEMBER 7th from 6pm,
alongside THE VICTORIAN EVENING

*If you haven't yet applied to fundraise for your own group or charity
there might still be time! Contact Nina Owen,
on 01508 522993, email theroamingfenlander@gmail.com. ASAP*

'CHRISTMAS' by John Betjeman

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze,
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true ? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

Reproduced with permission.

Acknowledgments: John Betjeman and John Murray Press

Adverts

From the Parish Registers

FUNERALS

PATRICIA VIOLET CHRISTIE interment of ashes on October 24th at All Saints
MARGARET WESTWOOD Interment of ashes on October 25th at Holy Trinity
JEAN SOWERBY who died on October 31st aged 96 years.

Funeral: November 19th at All Saints, Chedgrave

ADRIAN GUNSON Memorial Service November 16th Holy Trinity 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

LEARNING TO GRIEVE

QUOTE: "Grief is like glitter. No matter how much you try and tidy it up you're never going to get rid of it all. You're always going to find bits of it."

George Shelley in his BBC documentary about grief

Holy Trinity Bellringers



Quarter peals of London Surprise Minor, Double Norwich Court Bob Major, Pudsey and London Surprise Major, Stedman Caters, and Lincolnshire Surprise Royal were successfully rung at Holy Trinity during October and November. We took part in a Peal of seven Surprise Minor methods at Norton Subcourse to mark the retirement of the vicar there after eighteen years service in the Raveningham group of Parishes. We also helped with ringing for the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to Gt. Yarmouth Minster.

As 2018 is the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War One, celebrations of this event have taken place nationwide. Here at Loddon we rang the bells half muffled for the Remembrance Day morning service. In the afternoon, we rang the bells normally for a Quarter peal of Grandsire Triples to coincide with the national "Ringing for Peace" celebrations. We also rang at Woodton for a Remembrance service and another service and a Quarter peal at Norton Subcourse. The bells were chimed at Aldeby, Toft Monks and Raveningham and for another service at Haddiscoe. We took part in another Quarter Peal in the evening at St. Margaret's, Lowestoft and also in a Half Muffled peal at St. Margaret's, Drayton for the Armistice.

The Norwich Diocesan Association have been training new ringers specially to ring at their churches for the Armistice. We have helped out at the new ringing centre at St. Peter Mancroft with some training and also at nearby Reedham. Thanks to a nationwide "Ringing Remembers" initiative, many towers were able to be rung for Remembrance that haven't for many years, such as at Hickling and Reedham.

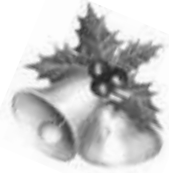
The Eastern Branch of the NDA held its annual dinner which this year was at
Continued on page 21

Adverts

the East Hills bistro in Brundall. Nearly forty members attended from across the branch and after the meal we were entertained by a lively talk from a South Walsham ringer who is a consultant anaesthetist at the James Paget Hospital in Gorleston.

As we approach the end of another year, the bells will ring to celebrate all the services and events planned over the festive season. The annual Christmas Peal this year will be rung at Loddon on New Year's Day in the afternoon.

The Loddon Bellringers would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Steve Rabong.

THE SISLAND CHRONICLE

The spurt of growth that has occurred since the rains came has been a mixed blessing, with a lot of soft growth, but at least the trees are looking a lot happier. They are mostly holding onto their leaves before settling down to the winter. The bumper crop of nuts and berries will sustain wildlife of all sorts, not least field-mice and grey squirrels, the latter being the bane of Freddie's life. They have deprived him of his favourite treat, walnuts, (after roasted chestnuts and olives!). As a family we have enjoyed the company of many pets over the years, and all seem to have had their own quirky traits. A Siamese cat, given to our eldest son when he was two, (son number two was on the way) ruled our household, including assorted dogs, for just under eighteen years. He tolerated puppies, but a tap on the nose soon brought order when exuberance got out of control. As Freddie has learnt "cats have got prickly feet!" There was one rule, broken only once, that the bedrooms were out of bounds to pets – however high in the pecking order they thought they were! The exception was the night of the hurricane in 1987, when tiles were scattered to the wind, and trees fell around us, and a whimpering pup, Fred 2 was rescued from his bean-bag and brought into our bed. I'm not sure who was shaking the most as the wind howled down the chimneys, and the house shuddered with each gust, but Fred was soon fast asleep between us.



Hi, Freddie here. The ink was hardly dry from my last contribution (I'm still learning these long words!), when I smelt a rat outside our big gates. I did ask to go after him, but T. said I could if he came in the garden. The next day I nipped out when Ian was coming in – but the rat had gone, so I went next door exploring. I met some nice people who said what a friendly chap I was. But J. came with my lead and marched me back home – "before I frightened the cats".

Have you noticed that something has happened to the sun? He doesn't seem to come out much at the moment, so I can't get warm in front of the garage doors – I suppose he overdid it in the summer – and is a bit tired!

We have had a disaster in the kitchen, the AGA has gone! So I can't get warm in front of it. J. said the ovens wouldn't behave themselves, and were not hot enough. I thought they were just right. We've now got a shiny red French cooker, but it's not warm to sit against. How-ever, as J. cooks very yummy food on it, I mustn't grumble.

Cheers F.

I nearly forgot-'have a Happy Christmas'- think of all that lovely food!

Adverts

Room for Hire: The Parish Council is now leasing, direct from the County Council, both the office in the Library Annexe as well as the room at the rear of the building. It is currently used by some local groups so if you would like to hire the room for your event, whether a one-off or a regular booking, please get in contact with us – contact details are below.

Skatepark: The Parish Council and the contractor, Freestyle, are aware of incidents of the security fencing being breached and people using the unfinished skatepark. As this remains a working site please note that no-one has permission to access this site until the site is handed over to the Parish Council at completion, which will be early in 2019.

Tennis Nets: free to a good home If anyone requires, or knows of a group or organisation, that would like to have two old tennis nets please do let the Parish Council know. Having purchased two new nets the old ones, which are still in reasonable condition (one small hole in one) are available, free of charge but you will have to collect.

Christmas Bin Collections

Usual Collection Day	Revised Collection Day	Change
Tuesday 25 Dec	Thursday 27 Dec	2 days late
Wednesday 26 Dec	Friday 28 Dec	2 days late
Thursday 27 Dec	Saturday 29 Dec	2 days late
Friday 28 Dec	Monday 31 Dec	2 days late
Tuesday 1 Jan	Wednesday 2 Jan	1 day late
Wednesday 2 Jan	Thursday 3 Jan	1 day late
Thursday 3 Jan	Friday 4 Jan	1 day late
Friday 4 Jan	Saturday 5 Jan	1 day late

Future Meetings: The next meetings of the Parish Council are scheduled for Thursday 13th December and 10th January 2019. Meetings commence 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 meeting dates 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

Adverts

What's happening at Loddon Library?

BOOK GROUPS GALORE

There is now no need to miss out on joining one of our book groups that we have in Loddon library, with both an afternoon and evening group.

* **LODDON COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP:** A daytime book group that meets on the 1st 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 CLUB Come and join the crochet group every 1st & 3rd Thursday each month from 2pm-3pm. It's never too late to learn new skills.

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.

BOOK ENDS

Friday: Please contact library for future dates - story and craft fun.

LEGO CLUB

A weekly after school Lego Club that meets every Monday 3.45-4.30pm. With a different theme every week, come along and join in the 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

LODDON CHILDRENS CENTRE runs Little Explorer sessions in the library on Tuesdays at 10am.

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.

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.

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Adverts

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.

OPEN LIBRARIES

Open Library gives you access to your local library even while the building is unstaffed, making your library available at times that are more convenient for you. To find out more information and to sign up, please visit the library and speak to a member of staff.

The proposed library opening hour changes
are from **Wednesday 2nd January.**

Monday	8am-7pm (Staffed 10am-7pm)
Tuesday:	Open Library access only
Wednesday	Open library access only
Thursday	8am-7pm (staffed 10am-7pm)
Friday	8am-7pm (Staffed 2pm-7pm)
Saturday	8am-4pm (Staffed 1pm-4pm)
Sunday	10am-4pm (Open Libraries access only)

31 Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX 01508 520678

Answers to last month's Environment Quiz

For example, the clue *Seaside* might lead you to the answer *Beech*

British Trees

Pine	Long for.
Elder	Church Leader.
Birch	Spare the rod and spoil the child.
Willow	Small William crouches down.
Buckthorn	Male deer with spikes not antlers.
Maple	Canadian syrup.
Yew	Not me!
Ash	Fiery remains.
Lime	Calcium Carbonate.
Hornbeam	Brass instrument smile.

British Mammals

Otter	Turn the thermostat up a bit, luv.
Badger	Hassle someone.
Mole	Beauty spot?
Hedgehog	Field boundary for a sow's mate.
Bat	Anyone for cricket?
Shrew	Can it be tamed?!
Deer	Term of affection.
Rabbit	Talk on continuously.
Dormouse	Entrance for a small rodent.
Hare	On your head?

British Insects

Wasp	Tiny waist.
Bee	Second letter.
Mosquito	WW2 fighter.
Butterfly	Fat levitating.
Grasshopper	Verge takes one-legged exercise.
Tick	This mark shows it's all right!
Glow worm	A faint light tries to sneak its way in.
Ladybird	LBJ's wife.
Hornet	A cornetto?
Dragonfly	Fiery breath hovers over water.

Patient Participation Group - Chet Valley Medical Practice, Loddon

We will be having a stall at the **Victorian evening on December 7th** selling all sorts of beautiful handmade decorations and gift ideas, with all proceeds going to the surgery. Please come along and support the Practice which provides us with such a good service. It is a way of showing appreciation for all the care and attention given to us patients. We are so fortunate to have such a forward looking, proactive, caring set of doctors and nurses - value them!

The PPG wishes all patients a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and we hope to see you at our Open Meetings in 2019. These will be widely advertised and cover many and varied topics of interest connected with health and well being.



Once again our students and teachers have excelled themselves with an excellent set of GCSE results. Consistently, year on year, we continue to be one of the highest performing schools in Norfolk and the wider region. Well done to all those dedicated staff, supportive parents and hard-working students!

As ever, it has been a busy start to the year. Our Duke of Edinburgh Award practice and assessment expeditions went smoothly with the usual friendships strengthened and life-lessons learned. Many thanks to Mrs Holmes and her team of staff and volunteers for making this excellent experience possible.

Our annual trip to France was a real success. The students had a fantastic time and were able to use and improve their French in real-life situations. I look forward to seeing the 'photos and hearing about all the fun! Again we are grateful to Miss French and her team for their hard work.

The Hobart High School Open Evening was really well attended, with hundreds of families from a wide area visiting. I received a huge amount of positive feedback which is always lovely to hear. As ever, our Student Leaders were exemplary; a credit to themselves and the school. I am very grateful for the opportunity to show off our wonderful school to full effect.



The school has run two student led fund-raising events so far this year, both of which raised a substantial amount of money. Our Macmillan coffee and cake morning was as popular with staff and students as ever. We are really proud to be helping this very worthy charity. We held our annual Halloween 'Spooktacular' event. It involved face-painting, cake sales and a staff pumpkin carving competition. Funds raised will go towards the Yr 11 Leavers' Ball in July.

The Christmas Concert (*See 'What's On' for details*) will be held on the 17th December in the school hall. It promises to be a brilliant event as we have some extremely talented musicians under the guidance of Mrs Wareham. It is always very well attended, so look out for tickets when they go on sale.

Jim Adams Headteacher

Reviving the Hollies

The Hollies is a historic listed building in the centre of Loddon Conservation Area, between Boots and the Post Office, and in front of the Nursery. It consists of the two-hall Chapel and is owned and run by the Loddon Buildings' Preservation Trust and let out to a wide variety of local groups during the week.



The Hollies needs extensive restoration to exploit the potential of this lovely building for the community. To enable this, the Trust is assembling a team of volunteers with a range of skills.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make a real difference to your village. There are many tasks to be done and we would love to hear from people with experience in building design, architecture and construction; fundraising; marketing; or identifying and making grant applications.

To find out more, come and meet us at:

- Victorian Evening Farmers' Market at the Hollies from 6-8pm on Friday 7th December 2018
- Farmers' Market at the Jubilee Hall, Loddon from 9.30-13.00 on Saturday 26th January 2019.

Or email loddonbpt@gmail.com or call Larry on 01508 521173.

BACT Community Transport - volunteer car drivers

BACT is a community transport group operating a volunteer car service that covers Loddon and the surrounding area.

We are looking for more volunteer car drivers. We provide training, pay for all drivers to be DBS checked and pay mileage expenses at 45p per mile. In return, our drivers say that they like contributing to their community, feel great personal satisfaction and enjoy meeting people.



Passengers pay by the mile, therefore it is more economical for the passenger if drivers live near to Loddon.

If you think you could help for just a few hours a week, contact us on 01986 896896 or info@bactcommunitytransport.org.uk

SPACE FILLER - Christmas Quotations:

- ◆ "Maybe Christmas', he thought, 'doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more." *The Grinch, by Dr Seuss*
- ◆ "My idea of Christmas, whether old fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" *Bob Hope*

Church Services December 2018

Sat 1st	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 2nd	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 8th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 9th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Margaret Hardley
	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St John's Loddon
	3.30pm	Carols Round the Christmas Tree	Davy Place
Sat 15th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 16th	9.30am	All Together Worship	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.30am	Carol Service	St. Margaret Hardley
	10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's Loddon
	3.00pm	Carol Service	St Mary Sisland
	7.30pm	<i>White Horse Carol Service</i>	
Sat 22nd	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 23rd	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St. Margaret Hardley
	5.00pm	Carol Service	All Saints Chedgrave
	6.30om	Carol Service	Holy Trinity Loddon
Mon 24th Christmas Eve	11.00am	Carols at Chedgrave Shops	
	4.00pm	Crib Service	Holy Trinity Loddon
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Holy Trinity Loddon
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Margaret Hardlley
	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary Sisland
	9.00am	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Holy Communion	St. John's Loddon
Sat 29th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun. 30th	10.30am	Combined Holy Communion	St. John's Loddon

Please note: No 'Last Sunday Praise—see instead 'Epiphany Praise' on January 6th

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

Church Services January 2019

Sat 5th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 6th PLEASE NOTE 'Epiphany Praise' →	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	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
	6.30 for 7.00pm	Epiphany Praise	St John's Loddon
Sat 12th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 13th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Margaret Hardley
	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St. John's Loddon
Sat 19th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 20th	10.45am	Holy Communion	St. John's Loddon
	11.00am	All Together Worship <i>followed by shared lunch</i>	All Saints Chedgrave
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer BCP	St Mary Sisland
Sat 26th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 27th	10.45am	Combined Covenant Service with Holy Communion	St. John's Loddon

Please note: No 'Last Sunday Praise'—see instead 'Epiphany Praise' on January 6th

Tuesdays (<i>except 3rd Tuesday</i>) 7.30 - 8.30 pm	COME AND PRAY If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to 'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection'	St John's Loddon
3rd Tuesdays 7.30 - 8.30 pm	MID-WEEK COMMUNION WITH BLESSING <i>All are welcome</i>	St John's Loddon
Thursdays after School	Xtra : Join us for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments, activities from 3.15. Service starts 3.45. More from Reverend David 522993 or Reverend Alison 528126	St John's Loddon
Sundays (<i>usually the last Sunday of the month</i>)	LAST SUNDAY PRAISE Refreshments at 6.30 before the service, or just come at 7.00 for the singing	St John's Loddon

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Flower Club

Thank you to everyone who did arrangements for our Flower Festival and also helped with stewarding and selling programmes, raffle tickets, Quiz sheets, refreshments, etc., also everyone who came to support our event. It was a great success and we raised £1,500. Sandra Bell from Thurilton was the winner of the Quiz.

December 4th at Hobart High School, starting at 7.15pm, doors opening at 6.30pm: a **Christmas Demonstration**. Various stalls, a raffle and tombola. Refreshments of savoury and sweet finger food, with wine/soft drink. Visitors: £12 Members: £6

December 7th Church Open House: We will be having a stall selling wreaths and arrangements etc.

In **January** we will have our 'January Lunch' at Chedgrave White Horse - If anyone would like to join us you will be most welcome. (520135 for details and menu)

Loddon Women's Institute

At the October meeting Major Anita Cotterill spoke about the work of the Salvation Army in Diss and Beccles. Time passed very quickly as Anita gave us an insight into the wide range of work the Army undertakes. There were several questions afterwards, followed by our usual refreshments. It was a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

December 19th: Our Christmas Party! Usual time and place

January 16th: Elvie Herd - A Local History Talk

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

In October several of our members visited Norwich City College. Students in the catering department prepared, cooked and served us an excellent lunch. Thank you to Margaret Bagguley for arranging this for us.

Tuesday December 11th: this will be our Annual Christmas Party, as always with plenty of festive fun and nice things to eat.

January 15th: How time flies! This will be our New Year Lunch at the Feathers Restaurant

January 22nd: Chedgrave W.I. Members' Meeting at 2.00pm All Saints Centre, Chedgrave

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

December 18th 7.30p.m. St Margaret's Church, Hardley Carol Service followed by refreshments (Coffee, Mulled Wine, etc) All welcome

January 15th Members Birthday Meeting.



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE
In the Library Annex 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

WE HAVE MOVED TO THE BRIAN CLARKE ROOM, CHEDGRAVE.

Why not come and meet some new people?
We play games, do crafts and exercises,
chat and have a two course lunch.

9.30am to 2.15pm, each Tuesday and Friday.

Just drop in or ring 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



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

Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club



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/



**** HELP US RAISE FUNDS WHEN YOU SHOP VIA ****

www.goraise.co.uk/eastern-rivers-community-gym-at-loddon

The Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

DECEMBER 6th – Thursday *

Pre-Christmas meal at the Old Feathers, 6.30pm for 7.00pm. *(This had to be booked by November 1st)*

JANUARY 9th 2019 – Wednesday. 10.30.

Another year gone and a new one started.. Blow the cobwebs away and Walk off the Christmas feasts , join us on a walk round Southwold and Walberswick, Park on the common by the Water tower. Pub lunch. Contact June 528853.

Loddon Community Cinema

THURSDAY DECEMBER 6TH

Our next presentation is **"The Happy Prince"**, rated 15.

Directed by and starring Rupert Everett, with Colin Firth and Emily Watson.

"Either that wallpaper goes or I do", to paraphrase Oscar Wilde. As he lies dying in a Paris Hotel room the memories come flooding back of a life of love, persecution, flamboyance and ultimate destruction.

The dark side of Wilde's genius is portrayed by Everett in a performance described as a "Masterpiece" by The Times. A good supporting cast mark this out as a powerful film that is both moving and funny with the famous wit of Wilde shining through the darkness.

Showing at St. John's Chapel Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7pm, film starts, 7.30pm. Tickets on the door or in advance from Loddon Garden & DIY. £4 adults, £2 child.



SPACE FILLER: *(Another Christmas Quotation)*

"Christmas in Bethlehem: a cold, clear night made brilliant by a glorious star, the smell of incense, shepherds and wise men falling to their knees in adoration of the sweet baby, the incarnation of perfect love."

Lucinda Franks, New York Times, Dec. 23, 1984



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Loddon and District Horticultural Society

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

Dates of next meetings

December 12th is our Christmas meal at The Old Feathers,
Framlingham Pigot.

January 9th will be a committee meeting.

February 13th We will have a speaker – save the date and 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 our **Secretary Ali Barwick on 07707 029940.**

Chet Valley Photography Club

Thank you to everyone who visited our 8th exhibition in November.

The winners of the trophies as judged by Andy Wilson of Bungay Camera
Club were:

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

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1st "Remembrance" | Jackie Franklin |
| 2nd "Silhouette" | Ann Lumley |
| 3rd "Misty Morning" | Jonathan Orland |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1st "A Spiral Of Spikes" | Becky Orland, |
| 2nd "Hopping Through The Grass" | Becky Orland, |
| 3rd "Stopped For A Drink" | Becky Orland |

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1st "Hello Deer" | Norman Wyatt |
| 2nd "Hares Looking At You " | Norman Wyatt |
| 3rd "Morning Flight" | Norman Wyatt |

All of these photographs can be viewed on the club
website www.ChetValleyPhotography.org.uk

Next Meetings

December 11th: a social buffet evening at our normal meeting room for
club members and family.

January 14th: a talk by our club member Carol Carpenter on behalf of
Loddon History Society, displaying old photographs of the local area.

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.

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:

December 4th: Rachel Lockwood. What's the Fugue?
A Designer's Guide to Polyphony.

December 18th: Christmas lunch at The Old Feathers.

January 15th: Bryon Sparkes A Policeman's Lot

January 29th: Tony Bown Isles of Scilly Wildlife

PLEASE NOTE : Due to New Year's day being the first Tuesday of the month the January meetings are on the third and fifth Tuesdays.

We really look forward to seeing you then.

Please contact David Price Telephone 01508 522033.

or email david.price0841@gmail.com for more information

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 11th: Christmas lunch at The Old Feathers.

January 8th *Speakers TBA*

January 22nd

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



LADIES ! NEW TO THE AREA?

Want to meet people and make new friends?

Why not come and join the Loddon W.I?

These days it's not all 'Jam & Jerusalem' - it's interesting speakers, lots of fun, good company and, more often than not, a good laugh! We meet at 7.15 for 7.30p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the Jubilee Hall, George Lane.

Come and see for yourself on **January 16th**. You will be very welcome!

Adverts

Loddon & District Local History Group

In October, Dr Richard Hoggett returned to share his knowledge of the Archaeology of the Monastic Life. Most of us know that medieval churches are always orientated with the altar facing east. But this turns out to be not always the case. Some of the most impressive medieval churches were built as part of Monastic Foundations with large precincts which included many ancillary buildings.

We have little idea of the layout of Saxon monasteries, as predominantly they would have been made of wood which does not survive. The Norman monasteries in East Anglia were predominantly made with flint & rubble faced with imported dressed stone, which since the Dissolution has been almost robbed out. In other parts of the country where there is local stone the ruins are often more complete.

The 9th century Plan of St Gall was the earliest blueprint for the layout of the component parts of the Monastery within its precinct. The majority of Benedictine related monasteries were versions of this plan. The proximity of running water and a source of safe drinking water were essential for the life of a community. There were times when the lay of the land and direction of flow of a nearby river meant that the layout of the buildings was changed, a cloister on the north of the church instead of the south, and even at Riveaux in Yorkshire the church not orientated east west.

The running water was needed for clearing waste from the site, and also for agriculture and driving mills. The building of conduits and drains for moving clean and not so clean water into and around the site has in many places left structures which may well have been interpreted as tunnels.

The earliest of our monasteries were Benedictine, following the Rule of St Benedict who died on 547 AD. His Rule on how monks were to live in their community was written in Chapters which are divided into daily episodes to be read by the monks in the Chapter House before the other business of the day was discussed.

We saw aerial views of Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, which gave an idea of the scale of the Norman monastery church and its precinct and the proximity of running water. We were encouraged when visiting monastic sites to look at the whole area of the precinct and not only at the church, to give us a much rounder view of the life of the monks or nuns who had lived there.

Next meetings

December 19th: Frolic, Fervour and Fornication - Stories from Parish Records, researched by Pip Wright

January 16th 2019: Gareth Davies to tell us about: Pablo Fanque's Fair and Early Victorian Circus

Meetings 1.30pm at the Lecture Hall, George Lane. £3 all welcome.

Adverts

WEA Loddon Branch

The talks this Autumn on "Philosophy for Now" covered many different aspects of the modern world such as freedom of speech, sex and gender issues, mobile phones, alternative medicine, etc. The speaker, Susan Pine, explained the views of some modern philosophers and the relevant ideas of some philosophers from earlier centuries. Three or four times during each talk, she would get the 'class' to discuss various points among themselves and then express their views, making for a lively and vocal atmosphere.



Next Spring there will be a series of **10 talks entitled "A Good Day for a Fight"**, about the American West in the 19th century. Most of us will have seen Hollywood or Spaghetti Cowboy and Indian versions of how the West was won, but the talks, given by Dr. Mark Felton, will examine the true story, revealing the exploitation, massacre, theft and ecological vandalism that is too often ignored. You will hear familiar names like Custer's Last Stand, the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Wyatt Earp and Crazy Horse, but perhaps shorn of their mythical aura.

Dr. Felton has taken the title for his talks from one of the more than 20 books he has written, two of which are currently being made into Hollywood films. He has also appeared on radio and television.

The talks begin on Monday January 14th 2019 in the Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon, where there is ample free parking. They continue until Monday 25th March, with a half-term break on February 18th. The fee for the ten talks will be £55; if you are undecided, come to the first talk free of charge and pay only if you continue. Fee remissions are available for those receiving certain State benefits. You may speak in confidence to the Treasurer, Elvie Herd.

You may enrol at the first talk on 14th January or you may enrol on line beforehand by going to 'WEA Eastern Region courses', quoting the title of the course in para. 2 above, and the reference number C2225832. For further information, phone (01508) 521036 or 558453.

CELEBRITY COMES TO LODDON

Elizabeth Talbot, as seen on Bargain Hunt & Flog It, will be coming to St John's Chapel on Wednesday 13th February at 7.30pm to talk about her life as an Auctioneer.

There will be an opportunity for a limited number of prearranged objects, brought by individuals, to be discussed.

If you have an item of particular interest please contact Val Counter on 01508 520702.

Tickets at £6.00 per person will be available in St John's Chapel Office & from Val Counter.

Adverts

Davy Place Social Club

Saturday 8th December - Christmas Coffee Morning and Christmas Raffle.
(See 'What's On page 49')

Sunday 9th December - Hot Lunch Club members will be having their "Brenda's Special Christmas Lunch" in the Common Room, serving up at 1.30 p.m. Early booking is essential.

Sunday 9th December - following the Hot Lunch Club dinner - Carols Around the Christmas Tree starting at about 3.30 p.m.

Monday 10th Dec - Christmas Bingo in the Common Room ... doors open at 7 for eyes down at 7.00 p.m

Sunday 16th December - coach trip to Corton Holiday Village for our annual Christmas Lunch followed by Panto entertainment. Coach to leave Davy Place at 9.30 a.m.

Saturday 29th December - Christmas/New Year Hoy Night, starting at 7 p.m. Dress up if you like and bring your own tipples and nibbles.

THANK YOU: We would like to thank all those kind friends, neighbours and families who have attended our Social Club activities and events throughout the year ... the residents really do appreciate your support. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

South Yare Wildlife Group

A great turn out for our Hedgehogs event on a sunny Saturday in October half term showed just how much we love hedgehogs! 45 adults and 15 children enjoyed a very informative talk from Shawn Mills of the Attleborough Hedgehog Rescue , who took us through a year in the life of a hedgehog and what we can do in our gardens to help them.

Don't tidy all the garden ready for winter. Leave piles of dead leaves in a quiet corner where hedgehogs can hibernate undisturbed. If you are trimming a hedge, consider creating a "dead hedge" or brush pile. Difficult to compost dead twigs and smaller branches can be piled in a heap or used to construct a "dead hedge" to provide a range of habitats for invertebrates and small mammals.

(See page 45 for more about helping hedgehogs)

Sunday December 2nd: Join us for a circular walk of approximately five and a half miles , starting and ending at Rockland St Mary Staithe. Meet at 12.45 for setting off at 1pm. Then return to The New Inn for about 3.30pm where we will have mulled wine and mince pies. Or you can skip the walk and just join us at the pub!

For further information about our group please visit

www.southyarewildlifegroup.org or follow us on Facebook or Twitter



Adverts

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



Remembrance. Thank you everybody for your overwhelming and magnificent support for this year's branch Poppy Appeal. We look, even at this early stage, to be well on the way to overtaking last year's generous final total of £7762.00. We had the unprecedented dilemma of actually running out of poppies for the Church Plain poppy stall before we had even set it up, and had to beg and borrow (but not actually steal!) poppies from other branches. The Poppy Stall at Loddon Farmer's Market in October raised £118.00.

The branch was well represented at the dedication of the new Chedgrave war memorial in September, and took part in the moving and entertaining Haddiscoe concert on the 17th November.

Finally, 11.11.11 and the service that followed rounded off what we hoped has been a moving and appropriate tribute to mark the 100th anniversary, to the day, of the ending of WW1, an event which, even now, continues to affect everybody's lives in some way. It resulted in the setting up of the British Legion in 1921 to help deal with the aftermath and it still deals with the same problems today.

The Legion is here if you require us; whether the problem is mental or physical, we can offer sympathy and practical help. Our secretary Colin Hartley is on 01508 521136.

There is no branch meeting in December, so the next one will be on **Monday 21st January 2019**, followed by **Monday 18th February**.

All meetings are in the King's Head commencing at 7.30pm.

HELPING HEDGEHOGS Hedgehogs are a useful ally to gardeners in that they eat snails, slugs and other pests which can cause damage to plants. Here are one or two things we can do to give this endangered species a helping hand:

- In the Autumn keep an eye out for any small hedgehogs. Young hedgehogs weighing less than 600gms probably won't survive hibernation— if you find one try and put it in a box lined with straw if possible, or some torn up newspaper and ring PACT Animal Sanctuary 01362 820775 or the local vet for advice. (Wear a strong pair of gloves before picking up the hedgehog)
- Meat based cat or dog food, special hedgehog food, or dry cat food are great for hungry hedgehogs that need to bulk up for winter but NOT bread and milk as they can cause diarrhoea.
- They are very resourceful creatures and will make nest sites under sheds, amongst piles of wood and under mounds of leaves so it's useful to keep a part of your garden a little bit 'wild' if you want to attract hedgehogs to it.
- Before you light a bonfire, always check carefully underneath it first as this is an obvious place for a hedgehog to build its nest. Likewise, when using spades, forks, mowers and strimmers etc., be sure that you are not operating your equipment in a location where a hedgehog might be seeking refuge or hibernating. Netting can also cause problems with hedgehogs getting trapped within it. You should keep an eye on any netting which you are using to cover plants off the ground – the same goes for similar material such as barbed wire.

There's lots more that could be said, but not enough room! If you want to find out what else can be done to help these endangered animals, look for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society at www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk or Hedgehog Street at www.hedgehogstreet.org

Adverts



LODDON + CHEDGRAVE
VICTORIAN EVENING

On **Friday 7th 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
- ◆ Make lanterns in Loddon Library, with a choir singing Christmas carols
- ◆ Find the Fairy Godmothers in a trail throughout the town
- ◆ Look out for Father Christmas in his grotto at Bay Tree House
- ◆ There is a Punch and Judy Show in the Library Annexe at 6:45pm and 7:15pm thanks to Loddon Parish Council
- ◆ Open house at Holy Trinity Church and St John’s Church in George Lane
- ◆ Fire engine display and BBQ at the Loddon Fire Station
- ◆ Farmer’s Market, and Country Market at The Hollies with festive goodies and crafts
- ◆ Vintage steam engines on the Co-Op forecourt
- ◆ Funky Feet dance display at their new home in the Chedgrave Business Centre

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.

WHAT'S ON

<p>Friday Nov 30th 7.00p.m.</p>	<p>HALES AND LODDON CRICKET CLUB RACE NIGHT at the Jubilee Hall BAR, BAND & FOOD Tickets £6 (inc. food) for more details call MATT on 07979710459.</p>
<p>Saturday Dec 1st</p>	<p>THE CHURCH IN LODDON CHRISTMAS FAYRE <i>See inside front cover for details</i></p> 
<p>Sat/Sun Nov 24, 25 Dec. 1 2, 8, 9</p>	<p>St Michael's Church, Langley EXHIBITION OF CERAMICS <i>See page 15 for details</i></p>

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WHAT'S ON

<p>Saturday Dec 1st 7.30 p.m.</p>	<p>St Michael's Church, Langley CONCERT In The Ballroom of Langley Hall in aid of the restoration of Langley Church <i>See page 15 for details</i></p>		
<p>Saturday Dec 1st 8.30 to 11.30 p.m.</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND COUNTRY DANCE THE JUBILEE HALL <i>Music by the fabulous MERV and MARIA</i> RAFFLE BAR REFRESHMENTS Tickets £5.00 available from Eileen 01508 520654 Jubilee Hall, Mandy 01508 528588 Bev's Discount Stores, Loddon <i>Proceeds to Jubilee Hall Maintenance Funds</i> Reg. Charity 285015</p> 		
<p>Sunday Dec 2nd</p>	<p>SOUTH YARE WILDLIFE GROUP : ANNUAL WINTER WALK <i>See page 45 for details</i></p>		
<p>Thursday Dec 6th 1.30 p.m.</p>	<p>FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS ADVENT CAROL SERVICE St John's Chapel George Lane <i>All Welcome</i></p>		
<p>Friday Dec 7th</p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">  <p>LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING</p> <p><i>See page 47 for details</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Church in Loddon OPEN HOUSE</p> <p><i>See page 17</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	 <p>LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING</p> <p><i>See page 47 for details</i></p>	<p>Church in Loddon OPEN HOUSE</p> <p><i>See page 17</i></p>
 <p>LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING</p> <p><i>See page 47 for details</i></p>	<p>Church in Loddon OPEN HOUSE</p> <p><i>See page 17</i></p>		
<p>Saturday Dec 8th 10.00am</p>	<p>Davy Place Social Club CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING in the Davy Place Common Room Christmas Raffle & Tombola Stalls, Games and Teas Proceeds from the Christmas Tombola will be for the Chet Valley Patients Participation Group</p>  		
<p>Thursday 13th Dec 6.30 p.m.</p>	<p>CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS SERVICE St Michael's Church Langley</p>		

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Dec 14th 15th 16th 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;">CRIB FESTIVAL OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, The Catholic Parish of Poringland and Loddon at the parish church at 21 Uppate Poringland Norwich NR14 7SH</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Come and see the array of wonderful cribs,</i> or if you would like to show your crib contact Anne Webster phone number - 01508 494401</p>
Saturday Dec 15th 7.30 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;">BUNGAY CHORAL SOCIETY A Festival of Christmas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St Mary's Church Bungay Tickets £10.00, available from Wightmans and Earsham Hall Tea Room 'On Christmas Night': Chilcott 'O Holy Night': Adam And many well known Christmas pieces including audience participation.</p>
Monday Dec 17th 7.00pm	<p style="text-align: center;">HOBART HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tickets £3.50 & £2.00 <i>Contact the school for information</i></p>
Tuesday Dec 18th 7.30 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;">LANGLEY WITH HARDLEY W.I. CAROL SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St Margaret's Church Hardley Followed by refreshments (coffee, mulled wine, etc.)</p>
Friday Dec 21st 7.00 to 10.00pm	<p style="text-align: center;">LANGLEY WITH HARDLEY VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS BAR WITH 'BRING & SHARE BUFFET'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Free glass of mulled wine and mince pie. All welcome</p>
Christmas Eve 4.00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;">CRIB SERVICE "GIFTS FIT FOR A KING" <i>See page 14 for details</i></p>

SPACE FOR A SMILE: Father Christmas quotes

- ◆ "Dear Father Christmas, before I explain, how much do you know already?" *Anon*
- ◆ "There are three stages of man: he believes in Father Christmas; he does not believe in Father Christmas; he is Father Christmas." *Bob Phillips*
- ◆ A Mother: "I want a magical Unicorn for Christmas."
Father Christmas: "Be realistic."
Mother: "Okay. I want 5 minutes to myself each day to drink my coffee hot, in peace."
Father Christmas: "What colour Unicorn would you like?" *Anon*

Adverts

Read Any Good Books Lately?

*A merry Christmas to everyone!
May the New Year bring with it a happier, more peaceful world.*

“Across the Bridge,” by Morag Joss

This story is thoughtful and unusual. There are three main characters, none of whom is connected to the others at the start of the book, and none of whom is happy with the way life has turned out. Gradually, in spite of their very different circumstances, they come together and the plot really develops from there.

The author has given her book a clever title - Silva, Ron and “Annabel” have to cross metaphorical bridges in order to co-exist, and there is an actual bridge across a river which plays a central part in the interesting narrative.

“Us,” by David Nicholls

This book must have one of the most unusual opening chapters ever written in a novel! Us is about a couple who have been married for 24 years, and about their seventeen year old son, Albie. It’s also about complex relationships: sadness, joy, love, misunderstandings, frustration and lots more. It covers the highs and lows of marriage and family life; sometimes it’s very funny, sometimes very touching and sometimes very sad.

Some years ago now David Nicholls made his name with One Day. You will find that Us is just as good, if not even better.

“Archangel,” by Robert Harris

The opening section of this thriller is gripping, and forms the background to everything that follows. It may, however take a little while for you to begin to understand exactly who is who and what is going on, and also to master the Russian names. Once all of these become clear for the reader the novel is utterly absorbing.

Robert Harris’s ability to create an atmosphere with his writing is an extraordinary skill. The terror created by him (and felt by the reader) for Dr. Kelso is palpable. The legacy of fear from Stalin’s rule in Russia is - in this book - tangible. So vivid is Harris’s writing that towards the end the reader can feel the extreme cold of Archangel itself, and can almost experience with Kelso and O’Brian the dreadful dangers they face.

“This Must Be the Place,” by Maggie O’Farrell

The fascinating story of an ex-film star who becomes a recluse, and of her chance meeting with a divorced man which leads to their marriage. Both already have children by their previous partners, and every individual in the book is a fascinating character, with no two being alike. Be aware that sometimes the author chops and changes from one time frame to another, which can be a bit bewildering. The period covered is 1944 to the present day, and the setting crosses several continents. Claudette’s and Daniel’s marriage is by no means placid, but is a real roller coaster.

This novel has an unpredictable plot, but it’s wonderfully interesting!

Adverts

Nature Notes

Well, another year has gone in a flash and it's December once again. Looking at the predicted weather forecast for Christmas it seems likely that, for the first time for several years, we may have a white one. If the old adage of there being an abundance of berries on the trees and bushes means that there will also be a hard winter is to be believed, this may well be true. Hawthorn in particular seem to be laden with fruit and the Hollies too. Judging from the erratic nature of this past year I guess anything is possible.

Of course the idea of snow at this time of year is always exciting, especially for children, even though heavy falls do cause upheaval in our daily lives, but it can have devastating effects on our wildlife. Small birds in particular are very vulnerable and it is important to keep your feeders well stocked to supplement their diet. Sunflower seeds seem to have been favourite in recent years, especially the hearts (the ones without the black husks). They also make far less mess on the ground. I've found that the Niger seed, that used to be popular especially with Goldfinches, has gone out of favour. I've seen feeders hanging full and untouched for weeks with the seeds sprouting, which is not a good idea to leave. Feeders like this can spread diseases and do far more harm than good.

Peanuts are still eaten by Tits and Woodpeckers but they also seem to prefer sunflower hearts. Also, if they get wet they will go mouldy, especially at the bottom of the container where it might not be noticeable.

If you are putting out scraps from the kitchen on a bird table, do make sure that it gets a good scrub at least once a week when you do your bird baths and please break any bread into small pieces. I've seen slices of white bread lying about for days with mould growing on, which is definitely a bad idea.

Fat balls are good if several are suspended in a holder from a branch or a bird table but please take them out of the plastic netting first. Many of our small garden birds have been seriously injured by getting their feet tangled up in them.

If you have any apples to hand Blackbirds and Starlings will enjoy them. Cut them in half and leave one or two a day on the grass and they will soon find them.

If you have a tree in the garden you could try smearing a small amount of peanut butter into a couple of cracks in the bark or even wedging the odd Brazil nut somewhere and you may attract a Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Of course, if you have bushes with berries and the weather is very cold you may even get a Waxwing. They particularly seem to like Guelder Rose and Rowan. Please do let me know if you see one as they are quite spectacular. Waxwing come from Scandinavia and fly south when the weather is really severe. Some years hardly any are sighted here and at other times quite large flocks have been reported. They also seem to be found eating the berries from bushes planted around supermarket car parks so you may even see one when out shopping!



Anyway, whatever the weather, do enjoy the birds that visit us. The pleasure they give far outweighs the cost and maybe you will get the chance to get some great photo shots.

As a parting thought..... please don't get too upset if, once you get to know your favourites, a Sparrowhawk swoops in and eats one. This is the natural world and they have to fight to live too. Happy Christmas and Happy Birdwatching.

Carol..... 520456 or 500602 chetcottchippy@hotmail.com

Adverts

Gardening Notes

At this time of year most shrubs and tree's will become dormant and drop their leaves, usually all over your lawn, which looks a mess but more importantly they will kill off your grass. It's best to collect the leaves by running your mower over the lawn and then put them on the compost heap. or around plants and shrubs in your borders. Put a little soil over them to stop them being blown back onto your lawn. These will rot down and put some nutrients back into the soil. There is still time to apply grass seed to bare patches in your lawn, as long as the weather stays mild.

When you have given the grass its final cut, wash down your mower and dry off (make sure electric mowers are disconnected first) and store in a dry shed, and preferably get your mower serviced over the winter months. (I have time to service mowers over the winter period, but not too much time in the spring).

Bare root trees, hedging and roses are available from mid December. When you buy them make sure to plant the roots into a hole in your garden and cover, so as the roots don't dry out. You can then put the plants into their final positions at your leisure. When you plant them make sure the hole is bigger then the roots themselves, cover with some compost, and fill the rest of the hole with soil, water well, and sprinkle some bone meal around the plant.

Watch out for pests on your veg plants, especially slugs, whitefly and pigeons: they will eat your brassicas quicker than you can, so it's worth the effort to control them.

Broad beans can be sown this month, The Sutton variety is good for windy areas as it is a dwarf variety, and will stand up well to adverse conditions. For more sheltered areas the variety Aquadulce will grow well: it's a tall variety and crops very well. As with all vegetables, apply some fertiliser to get the best yield from your crop, 20.10.10 or Growmore is ideal.

At this time of year, patios, paths and driveways get very slippery and dangerous, so its important to get them cleaned. The elderly can become virtually housebound if they are too frightened to go outside for fear of slipping over. I have started a pressure washing and soft washing business to clean down all surfaces cover in algae and dirt, and once clean I can apply a treatment to stop the algae coming back again for at least a year, thus keeping the area safe, and a lot less dangerous to walk on. It will also bring the original colour back making the area look like new again. Contact me for a free quote.

Hopefully December will be mild, so we can still mess about in the garden.

*Andrew Carver
Loddon Garden and DIY*

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