

CONTACT

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Chet Valley Churches

All Saints, Chedgrave

Autumn Fair



23rd November 2019

10:00am-2:00pm

Cakes; Flower Raffle; Tombola; Books;
Raffle; New and Nearly New

♪ Musical entertainment in the church ♪

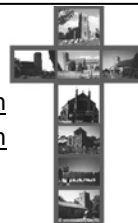
Refreshments served throughout the morning

Soup and roll served from 12 noon

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen:	01508 522993	david.chetvalley@gmail.com
Louise Morrissey:	01728 830733	delilah.morrissey@gmail.com
Ros Hoffmann:	01508 548200	ros@hoffmann2011.plus.com
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Jill Haylock:	01508 520248	jillhaylock@aol.com
Fr. Pdraig Hawkins:	01508 492202	office@east-angliadiocese.org.uk



Church Office

St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon NR14 6NB
Phone: 01508 521179, Email: office@chetvalleychurches.org
Open: Mon & Fri: 10am-4pm; Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10am-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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Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

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

Please include your name and telephone number.

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DISCLAIMER

Advertisements are included in good faith, but the Church in Loddon does not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised.

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

Editorial

Autumn is in full swing now and before we know it Christmas will be upon us. One thing that always means is that there will be a host of different events and activities taking place. A lot of them are either advertised or mentioned in this month's Contact so be sure to check through carefully to see what might interest you.

We are lucky to have a really active community locally which is wonderful until I am sat trying to squeeze in a new club's entry into the pages of our magazine and worrying how much more copy is yet to come with the deadline only two days away. It's a great headache to have though, there really is so much going on for all ages.

I'm sorry there was some confusion at our end last month and the Contribution envelopes mentioned by Megan were not ready in time. That was my fault, but they are in this month and we would ask you to consider whether you might contribute—see the ad. on page 29.

Meanwhile, enjoy the sights and sounds of our lovely part of England. Autumn sees the return of many birds that are absent or unseen in the Summer for example. It can be surprising how many different kinds may pass through. I've been here only three and a bit years and my home total is 56 species over and in the garden.

Roger

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Ministerial Musings

Dear Friends,

‘May you live in interesting times’ says (possibly) an ancient Chinese curse. I’m writing this at the beginning of October and the times certainly are ‘interesting’. Yes, it’s the dreaded Brexit. Maybe by the time you read this, it will be decided one way or another- maybe not. Another old saying says never talk about politics or religion, but as someone has commented: ‘Being taught to avoid talking about politics and religion has led to a lack of understanding about politics and religion. What we should have been taught was how to have a civil conversation about a difficult topic.’

One of the founders of Methodism, John Wesley lived in a very divided England, a country recovering from years of religious and political upheaval and with a great gulf between rich and poor. Sound familiar? For all those who say ‘it’s been like this before, we’ll be alright’ – yes it has, and so ‘we’ will – but Wesley’s (and my) concern is who and what will be damaged in the process.

Wesley wrote in one of his essays: ‘Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may.’ He was saying that we should listen to those with whom we disagree and focus on what we share in common – building bridges rather than walls, as a more recent political protest slogan goes.

The blogger Adam Hamilton writes: ‘Having a spirit like Wesley’s today means that we assume the best of others, not the worst. We give them the benefit of the doubt. We speak well of others, not poorly. We treat them as we hope to be treated. We listen more and talk less. We walk in other people’s shoes and try to understand what they believe and why. This does not mean we give up our convictions, but it does mean we test them.’

There is a lot of work to do to bring people together, to stand for truth and justice for everyone, and to sort out where we go next for the good of us all. One of the best tools we can use to get this done is love, for our fellow human beings and for ourselves (and for God of course, I’m a Minister so I have to say that as I believe it to be true). To finish, here is a quick reminder of what love is – this sort of love truly can change the world – and even the political landscape if we let it. ‘Love is patient. Love is kind. Love isn’t jealous. It doesn’t sing its own praises. It isn’t arrogant. It isn’t rude. It doesn’t think about itself. It isn’t irritable. It doesn’t keep track of wrongs. It isn’t happy when injustice is done, but it is happy with the truth. Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up. (1 Corinthians chapter 13 verses 4-7 God’s Word translation.)

God bless,
Louise

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.
- **Xpressions Café** Normally held at All Saints, Chedgrave, on the first Sunday every month between 10am and 12 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.#

Families and children are welcome at all our services.

*Chedgrave All Saints has
toilets and baby changing facilities.*

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

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 carers.



Wednesdays 9.15am - 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.



Next Meeting:

Quiz followed by Afternoon Tea.

If you are interested in joining the group ring Jill on 01508 520248.

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 10am-12pm**. 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 3.15pm. Service starts 3.45pm.

More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

ADVERTS



Get Me Out The Four Walls

is

Get Me Out The Four Walls is a registered charity whose purpose is to help parents and carers get out of the house. We believe by helping people to venture out and meet others in a similar situation, we can help improve your mental health and meet new friends. We have volunteer ambassadors all over Norfolk, and are now making the move into Suffolk as well. Our ambassadors hold meets across the counties, everywhere from cafes and soft play to museums and beach trips.

We are always looking for more people who might want to become ambassadors – all we ask for is a commitment to hold at least two meets a month, and to promote them via our Facebook page. In return we offer the chance to make a difference to parents and carers in your area, a comprehensive training programme, and a valuable role to put on your CV.

All the meets can be found in the event section of our Facebook pages:
Norfolk: www.facebook.com/groups/gmotfwnorfolk
Suffolk: www.facebook.com/groups/gmotfwsuffolk

Please do come along to one of our meets and get out of your four walls! For information, visit www.getmeout.org.uk or email info@getmeout.org.uk Check the GMOTFW Norfolk group on Facebook for details of events, or email Megan at megan.getmeout@gmail.com



Monday 18th November 2019

at The Angel at 7.30 pm

Everyone Welcome

Join us for our next Networking Event

The Loddon and District Business Association was formed in 2011 to enable businesses in Loddon and surrounding areas to:

- +promote their business
- +work together to improve local prosperity
- + speak as one voice about business issues

Come and meet some like-minded local business people at our informal networking evenings. Contact Telephone No. 07930 307893 / 07885 273164

ADVERTS

THE SISLAND CHRONICLE

The change to our weather pattern where the seasons no longer stick to the rules, has upset the performance of many garden plants. In August we only had 26.8mm (Just over 2 inches) of rain, just at the time when it was needed to swell the various fruits, particularly on soils like ours whose underlying structure is akin to Southwold beach! One benefit of the heatwave was the remarkable variety and number of insects, although we could have done with fewer wasps, who are fond of our pears as they ripen.

The 'Lanes' in the Parish have been upgraded to 'Roads' by the powers that be, which is strange, as they are slowly disappearing under sand washed off the banks, and grasses growing up the middle. Perhaps we shouldn't grumble – in a year or two the parish could feature in a period drama! To be serious, it does seem that some of the rules and regulations, particularly the signs, which proliferate when minor works are done, must add quite a bit to the final bill.

SISLANDA.



Hi – FREDDIE here,

I got told off the other day for not eating my greens. I mean, would you like cold peas on your plate? J. said I was lucky to have different things to eat, but as I've always had them I suppose I didn't know that some dogs only get dry biscuits. How boring!

T. & I spend some time in the greenhouses when it rains. I have a bean bag under his potting bench – not the best place as he often showers me with compost, which gets in my fur! – but at least it's a warm place on a wet day. J. told me of a Lakeland terrier, probably one of my distant cousins, called Terry, who is writing a book, would you believe! He climbs mountains – I am not sure what a mountain is – but they look a bit steeper than Ingloss lane, and are covered in snow. Now that T. & J. have finished the book about their old house, perhaps they'll let me have a go.

Cheers FREDDIE.

ADVERTS

From the Parish Registers

Thanksgiving—15 Sept, Ivy Brackenbury-Read, All Saints, Chedgrave

Funerals 17 Oct, Jeanne Bowden at Waverley Crematorium

23 Oct, Pamela Mary Smith at Hardley

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

1 Thessalonians 4. 14,17b

Thank You

Thanks to all who were sympathetic to me on the death of my husband, George on June 14 and for the lovely things said of him. **Mary Heard**

A Big Thank You to all who organised a Bowls tournament at The Swan in memory of our son, Kelly Woodrow. £400 was raised for the Critical Care Unit at N&N.

Kelly's Family

Please can I say a HUGE THANK YOU to all my family, friends and neighbours for coming to my MacMillan coffee morning/mini fete and helping me raise £1051.55. Thanks to all who helped, especially my 8 grandchildren. **Beryl Smith**

In memory of Loved Ones

I would like to invite you and your family to join us at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon on Sunday 3rd November at 4pm for a service "In memory of Loved Ones".

The service will offer a chance for us all to remember those who have died, and whom we love but see no longer and after the service there will some light refreshments for us to share.

Do feel free to join us on this occasion. If you would like to know more about the service then please contact me. **Rev. David Owen**

THE LODDON PANTOMIME January 2020:

“Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs”

BOOKING FORM

Adults £7.50. **Concessions** £5.50. *(Senior Citizens & Children 15 years and under)*

Write under the date the number of seats you require at each price

Week One	Week Two	Week Three
Friday 10 th 7.30 p.m.	Friday 17 th 7.30 p.m.	Thursday 23 rd 7.30 p.m.
£7.50	£7.50	£7.50
£5.50	£5.50	£5.50
Saturday 11 th 2.30 p.m.	Saturday 18 th 2.30 p.m.	Friday 24 th 7.30 p.m.
£7.50	£7.50	£7.50
£5.50	£5.50	£5.50
Saturday 11 th 7.30 p.m.	Saturday 18 th 7.30 p.m.	Saturday 25 th 2.30 p.m.
£7.50	£7.50	£7.50
£5.50	£5.50	£5.50
Sunday 12 th 2.30 p.m.	Sunday 19 th 2.30 p.m.	Saturday 25 th 7.30 p.m.
£7.50	£7.50	£7.50
£5.50	£5.50	£5.50

TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE: £ *Please include cheque for total amount payable to ‘Loddon Players’ and send the completed form to Mrs Hazel Catchpole, 4 Proctor Avenue, Chedgrave, Norwich NR14 6HP. Please include a stamped addressed envelope.*

N.B. Postal bookings **only** from November 11th to November 22nd 2019 Telephone bookings from Monday 25th November 2016 on 01508 520162 *(between 9.00 a.m. and 9.00 p.m. please.)*

Friends of Hardley Windmill on behalf of the Friends of Hardley

Windmill, the committee would like to thank all those people who have visited, supported and volunteered to help with the Mill and its activities and events this year; in particular the Midsummer Frolic and Music at the Mill.

to Wendy Roper in Hardley Street and her father Peter Ritchie who gave a collection of pictures taken of the Mill and surrounding area during the 1953 flood, many thanks. The Trust have had the photographs enlarged and they are displayed in the Visitor Centre.

We have recently had a visit from a film crew who have filmed around the Mill area for a promotional film for Norwich City Football Club. They have suggested that, when ready, we would be able to use some of their camera shots and drone photographs on our website <https://www.hardleywindmilluk.org>

Choir for Carols

Hooray! 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.

"It is a lot of fun. We all enjoy the singing and getting to know others in the community."

The carol service is on Sunday December 22nd at 5pm

There will be four rehearsals best if you can attend at least three: Saturday 30th November 3 – 4pm

Sunday 8th December 3 – 4pm

Saturday 14th December 2 – 4pm

Sunday 22nd December 3 – 4pm (refreshments before service)

If you would like to take part please contact Alison Ball

e-mail: ball880am@btinternet.com or 01508 528126



LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING

On Friday 6th December the annual Victorian Evening will take place in the town centre. Starting at 6.30pm outside Bay Tree House, Father Christmas will arrive for the “grand switch on” of the Loddon 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-Visit Father Christmas in his grotto at Bay Tree House-

Find the festive Snow Whites in a trail throughout the town-Punch and Judy Show in the Library Annexe at 6:40pm and 7:10pm. So more younger residents can enjoy the show there will be a limit of ONE adult per child or family group.

-

Dress in Victorian costume and have a chance to win the best dressed “Jo Public” award-Open house at Holy Trinity Church and St John’s Church-

Fire engine display and BBQ at the Loddon Fire Station-The Women's Institute at The Hollies-festive goodies and crafts-Vintage steam engines on the Co-Op forecourt -

Many of the traders in the town will be welcoming you to thank you for your custom and support this year and in the future.

Information on the night at the Library annexe.

Thanks to Loddon Parish Council for allowing the use of the Library annexe.

-Additional car parking available at Chet Valley Medical Practice and Hobart High and town car parks will be open.

FLU VACCINATION UPDATE

To date the uptake for the flu vaccination of those aged 65 and over has been a success.



If you are aged 65 and over and were unable to attend a 'Flu Saturday' please contact the practice to arrange an appointment.

Patients under 65, in an 'at risk' group are to have a different vaccine this year.

We will be running flu clinics for the under 65s from the middle of October.

Please telephone to make an appointment.

Please be reassured we have ordered enough vaccination for everyone who is eligible this year.

Children who are eligible for vaccination registered at the Practice will be called to clinics from the end of October.

The vaccine will not be available before then. Eligible for vaccination at the Practice are:

Aged 2 and 3 yrs old (D.O.B – 1.9.2015 – 31.8.2017) Those 11 - 18 years in an 'at risk group'. Ages 4 – 10 yrs will be vaccinated at school



Chedgrave Parish Council & friends invite you to

Christmas Community Café

At the Brian Clark Room, Chedgrave.

Saturday 23 November, 2019 12 - 4pm

All welcome

Free Christmas gift for all children

Tea, coffee, squash, cakes & mince pies

Raffle, tombola & other stalls

£5 to hire a table. Call Emma for details (218549).

ADVERTS

Co-opted Parish Councillors: The recent election was uncontested and as a result Loddon Parish Council has a number of vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you are interested in local issues and how they affect and impact the local community and would like to work as part of a team to improve amenities and facilities, we would very much like hearing from you. You would be co-opted onto the Parish Council – which means you do not stand in a contested election but are appointed directly to the Parish Council. Qualifications for appointment are not onerous: you must be over 18, be an elector within the Parish, you live or work in, or within three miles of, Loddon.

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.

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

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: All meetings commence at 7pm and are held in the Library Annexe. May's meeting includes the Annual Parish Council meeting which marks the start of the Parish Council year. 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.

Contact Us: Please telephone the Parish Council on 01508 522020, or email clerk@loddonpc.org.uk. The office in the Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 9am 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.

Future meetings:

12th December at 7pm at the Loddon Parish Council Office.

ADVERTS



Email: chedgrave.pc@gmail.com

Website: www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk

The Parish Council met on 3rd October 2019. Copies of the Minutes are available at Loddon Library, on the Parish Council noticeboard and website.

Grebe Drive Play Area Regeneration Project: Fund raising continues and our thanks go to Greenrange Properties Ltd for the latest generous donation. Volunteers are welcome to join the group.

Christmas Community Café Saturday 23 November: This is another fundraiser for the play area fund. Please join us for tea/coffee/squash & cakes & mince pies between 12 and 4pm. Free Christmas gift for all children as well as a raffle, tombola & other stalls. £5 to hire a table. Call Emma for details (218549).

Christmas Lights & Trees: It is unlikely that any Christmas lights will be finalised at White Horse Plain this year. However, it was agreed to put that Christmas trees will be in place at the Lychgate, Chedgrave shops and outside the Brian Clarke Room.

Wherryman's Way: Thank you to those volunteers that have shown an interest in joining the group. The aim of the group is to establish a firm progress plan for its reinstatement. Any further volunteers who would like to join, please contact the clerk. A meeting date will be announced shortly. We continue to urge parishioners and visitors to the area to make complaints to NCC.

B-Line Project: CPC are supporting this important project which is aimed at engaging all sectors of the local community in the delivery of more and better-connected habitat for pollinators across the Chet Valley.

Flu Jab: GP surgeries are now taking appointments for the free flu jab. Those eligible are pregnant women, those aged 65 or over, those aged under 65 with long-term conditions & carers.

A new Defibrillator is in place outside the White Horse Public House.

Councillor Vacancy: Please contact the clerk for information.

Brian Clarke Room: To book the Brian Clarke Room, please contact Georgina Buckle via brianclarkeroom@gmail.com or 07981-856270. The cost per hour is £7.50.

Fun Day 15 September 2019: Our thanks go to everyone who worked so hard to make this day such a success. All proceeds will go towards the Play Area fund.

Faulty street lights, potholes, problems with roads, footpaths or public rights of way, road safety, flooding and overgrown trees and verges should be reported to Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 or online at www.norfolk.gov.uk Criminal & illegal activities, public disorder & nuisance, anti-social behaviour, speeding, uncontrolled dogs, should all be reported to the Police on 999 or 101(non-emergency) and can be reported online at www.norfolk.police.uk

Next meeting, Thursday 7th November 2019 at 7.30pm at the Brian Clarke Room

ADVERTS

What's happening in Loddon Library

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 or call 01603 774777 to sign up over the phone.

Open Libraries: Open library gives you access to your local library even

Library Opening Hours:

Telephone number 01508 520678

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

New to the area, never used a library before or just haven't used the library for a long time? Then come along to Loddon library and we can join you up, renew your card or just update your details. To get a new library card, bring something with your name and address on it and the staff will do the rest. **We look forward to seeing you!**

Reading Pathways: Free 1-2-1 Support in Norfolk Libraries, helping you to be a better reader. Take that first step and get involved today! Pop in for more information.

Facebook: just search for Loddon Library or visit [facebook.com/loddonlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/loddonlibrary)

DVD Hire: You can hire DVDs for just £2 - Top Titles for 2 nights and other DVDs for a week. Take advantage of our 2 for 1 offer on Thurs and Friday pm and Mon eve.

Baby Weighing Scales: Scales is available within the library during opening hours.

Special Events:

International Games Week: Come and play a selection of board and card games, for free! Thursday 7th November 3.30-5pm. No need to book, everyone welcome.

Children & Parent Groups:

Stay & Play – Mon 11am-12pm. Drop in & chat with others while your children play.

Bounce & Rhyme – Thurs 10.15-10.45am. Songs & rhymes for ages 0-5.

Bookends – Listen to a story & join our volunteer in a craft activity related to the book, Friday 8th & 22nd November 3.30-4pm

Craft Club – a children's craft club, on Saturday 16th November doing air dry clay modelling & 30th making dream catchers (£1 per child)

Adult Groups:

Coffee Morning – every Monday 10am-12pm. A friendly chat and a cuppa.

Computer Buddy – friendly computer help on Mondays from 10am-12pm.

Citizens Advice - A CAB advisor will be available on Monday 25th November 10am-12pm to offer advice and guidance. Booking essential.

Crochet Group – crochet together on Thursday 7th & 21st November 2-3pm.

Community Book Group – a friendly book group on Thurs 7th Nov 10.45am.

Loddon Loves Books book group – Friday 22nd November 5.45-6.45pm.

Volunteer opportunities are available at Loddon Library. We are currently recruiting for a Bounce & Rhyme volunteer. For more information please email jasmine.wilson-daze@norfolk.gov.uk

ADVERTS

Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk or phone 07703124544. Website: halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk. Facebook: www.facebook.com/Hales-Heckingham-Parish-Council-37625612615122.

Council Vacancies: We have 2 vacancies on the Parish Council and are looking for volunteers. Contact above for more information.

Roundabout Update: The contractors have been back to carry out remedial work overseen by Norfolk County Council Highways.

Road Safety: Speeding on the B1136 through Hales continues to be a concern. The Parish Council is looking at a one-way system at Hales Garage to improve the safety around the new roundabout.

Security: There have been burglaries and vandalism in the parishes. Please report any suspicious activity to the Police.

Future Meetings: At 7.30 pm on Wednesday 27 November and 11 December at Hales Village Hall, Briar Lane, Hales.

Short Tennis Club

Come and join our friendly non-competitive club on **Tuesdays 11.30am - 1pm** at the Jubilee Hall.

All welcome. For more information call 01508 520589.

Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

Calling all bowlers and non bowlers. Do you fancy bowling throughout the year? Why not give SHORT MAT BOWLS a try. FREE taster session on your first visit. Then just £2.50 a week. Join us on Tuesday afternoons 1.30-3.30pm at the Jubilee Hall. Bowls can be provided, just bring indoor flat shoes.

Further information from Sara 01508 521958

ADVERTS

Holy Trinity Bellringers



We have been ringing the twelve bells at Gt. Yarmouth Minster more over the last month.

As well as ringing for two weddings, we had another special practice for novice ringers and also held a Quarterly meeting for the Eastern branch there during September.

We have rung to celebrate weddings held at Hingham and Saxlingham Nethergate and have supported practice nights at Woodton, Beccles, Brooke, St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich and Bungay. Quarter Peals of Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles have been rung by our members at the Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre, Cambridge Surprise Major at Lowestoft and Grandsire Triples here at Loddon.

A striking competition was held at South Walsham which is aimed at encouraging the new ringers we now have in the association. This is an event where new bands can compete in a friendly environment and enjoy ringing with each other just for fun. A ringers tea is provided and at the end of the day, results are announced and awards given out.

A project to record as many bells as possible in Norfolk has begun recently. This is aimed not only for making an archive for posterity, but many of the recordings can be used for training purposes at the MRDC in Norwich. The eight training bells there are linked to computers which can use the recordings to simulate the actual bells in many of our churches. We have already recorded the bells at Norton Subcourse, Raveningham, Haddiscoe, Aldeby and Toft Monks. Plans have been made to record many more in our area including Loddon bells during October.

Steve Rabong

Loddon and District W.I.

At our October meeting members and friends from other local W.I groups

heard a talk given by Barbara Miller on the subject of 'A Bishop, a Quaker and a Roll of Wire Netting'.

Bishop Edward Stanley was Bishop of Norwich from 1837 to 1849, the Quaker was Joseph John Gurney, brother of Elizabeth Fry, and the wire netting was part of the history and development of the manufacturers Boulton and Paul. Barbara wove all three into her talk and her knowledge of the subject made for a most enjoyable evening. Many of us wished that we'd been fortunate enough to have had a history teacher like Barbara!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, November 16th, 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at the Jubilee Hall, when we will have our AGM and a Quiz.

ADVERTS

Patient Participation Group.

Our last Open Meeting on 24th September was a most interesting talk by an organisation called 'Carers Matter'. The duty of carers can often be onerous and the carer may suffer mental as well as physical exhaustion. Carers Matter are there purely for the support of the carer whether they are young or older. Carers are at the heart of everything they do. Who would look after the loved one of the carer became ill? How do I get the carer for person to eat or drink? These are all things with which Carers Matter can help. They can also help with filling in benefits forms, counselling around emotional issues, helping to manage stress and loneliness or feelings of isolation. They may be contacted on their advice line 0800 083 1148 or at info@CarersMatterNorfolk.org.uk They also have a range of online services and information on their Carers Matter E-learning portal.

Following research earlier in the year from Australia and the Far East on which strain of the flu virus was likely to hit the UK this winter, the Government decided to issue two different vaccines - one for those over 65 and another for those in at risk groups under 65, as they were deemed to be more effective in those age ranges.

Coffee Morning

Come and enjoy coffee
and chat
and help raise funds for
Holy Trinity Church



Saturday 16 November

3 Old Mill Loke (Victoria Westgate's house)

Church Services in November

Sunday 3rd November

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland
9.00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10-12 noon	Xpressions Café	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon

Sunday 10th November

9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.55am	Remembrance Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon
10.55am	Remembrance Service	St Margaret, Hardley

Sunday 17th November

9.30am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary, Sisland
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon

Sunday 24 November

9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10.45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
6.30pm for 7pm,	Last Sunday Praise	St John, Loddon

Every day Morning Prayer 9.00am <i>All Welcome</i>	Monday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Tuesday	St. Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave

Other Services in St John's, Loddon	
Every Saturday 6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass
Tuesdays 7.30pm- 8.30pm	<p>COME AND PRAY</p> <p>If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to</p> <p>'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection'</p> <p>3rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing</p> <p><i>All are welcome</i></p>
Thursdays during school term	<p>Xtra!</p> <p>Join us for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3.15pm, Service starts 3.45pm More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126</p>

Contribution Envelopes in this issue of Contact.

Every church funds its own expenses, usually through donations by its congregation with a boost from fundraising.

In this benefice we are aware that many people appreciate having the church as a place to mark family occasions (both happy and sad) and as somewhere quiet to go if you need it. They also value Contact, produced through each year by the church community.

Each year we ask if you can contribute to the overall costs of producing Contact which then releases some of our income towards other initiatives for those in our community. Will you help us?

Donations may be left at St John's church office **Thank-you.**

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Flower Club

Both events will be at St John's Lecture Hall

Tues. 5 Nov—Its all about the Sparkle—Lorraine Scott—

6.30 for 7pm Refreshments and Raffle

Sat. 23 Nov—Workshop - 10am – to 4pm.

Both events at St John's Lecture Hall

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

We have enjoyed the past year with a varied programme of events. These have included visits to other WIs for afternoon tea, including the centenary garden party at East Ruston, plus a range of other meetings on a wide selection of topics.

Our November meeting is ;

The AGM—Tuesday 26 November—2pm –All Saints Church Centre

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

Tuesday 19 November—Annual General Meeting

Teas—All to help

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'Clock Club

A group of very friendly ladies who meet on the last Wednesday of each month (some exceptions) in the Jubilee Hall club room. Meetings are very informal with a speaker followed by tea/coffee and a raffle and time to chat. £6 joining fee, plus £3 for each meeting attended.

Wed. 27 November—Craft Evening— making a Christmas decoration, all will be provided, come along and join the fun.

Please feel free to come along to our meetings and make new friends or for more information contact Hillary 01508 520457 or June 01508 528853

Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

Why not come and meet some new people?

We play games, do crafts and exercises, chat and have a two course lunch.

9.30am-2.15pm, each Tuesday and Friday, at the Brian Clarke Room, Chedgrave. Just drop in or ring Bev on 07826299290.



B I N G O

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.

Footballers wanted!

We are a friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astroturf every **Monday** evening from 8.30pm-9.30pm 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



Hobart Badminton Club

We meet on **Fridays** 7.30-9.30pm 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



Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

Hales and Loddon Cricket Club's **Monday night** Cricket started on the 28th April for **ages 5-14yrs**. We run Softball and Hardball, and have teams at U9/U11 Softball as well as U11/13 Hardball teams. Whether you have played before, or just want to come and try,



Hales and Loddon CC is the club for you. We are a warm and friendly Family Club who welcome all. This year we have formed a partnership with SNYAB to provide more opportunities for both boys and girls within the game.

For players **15yrs-Adult we train on Thursday nights**, and run teams in the Norfolk Alliance and Norfolk Leagues. For more details, email Head Coach Pete Dye at pete.dye@canaries.co.uk or text 07931711323. The Club is Clubmark accredited, with all Coaches and Captains holding DBS and the relevant qualifications. Whether you can play regularly, or just want a look, we'd love to see you.

The Club is currently looking for a Treasurer. If you have a few hours spare and would like to get involved, email Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk

ADVERTS

Loddon Community Gym



The **Cyclathon** was a great success at the end of September. Twenty Gym members 'cycled' (on a gym bike) 142 miles in twelve hours and raised £1042.00! Thank you to the Co-Op for allowing us to use their

forecourt, the Scouts for loaning us a gazebo, which kept off the sun through the day and the rain in the hours of darkness, and everyone who took part by cycling, donating and cheering us on. It was fun too! We are delighted that the doctors from our two local practices have written in glowing terms about the Gym and in support of our grant applications, so essential these days. Patients can ask the doctor to refer them to the gym using the Exercise Referral Scheme. At the Gym you would then be assessed and a programme worked out for you. We have many members with chronic respiratory illness or who are recovering from hip or knee surgery or who want to lose weight. All benefit from an individual programme, worked out to help them achieve their goals. Many members just come to increase their general fitness and flexibility in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. If you would like to find out more please contact Louise on 07534946143 or visit our website www.loddoncommunitygym.com If you are a member of the Gym but have not visited recently there are still no mirrors and very little lycra!

We are open in the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon as follows:

Mondays: 1.30pm-6pm, Tuesdays: 4.30pm-8.30pm, Fridays: 10am-1pm.

Loddon Swan Bowls Club



The Club was founded well over 100 years ago and is looking to expand its membership. The Green, which is probably the best in South Norfolk, is a pleasure to play on and is much admired by opposing teams and visitors alike. It is situated behind The Swan with signed access from the car park.

The Green reopened on Saturday 13th April and afternoon sessions will be on **Monday, Wednesday & Friday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm** for practice and pleasure. In addition the Green will also open on **Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm.**

If you are interested please come along to any of our sessions and you will be made most welcome. The only requirement is that you wear flat soled shoes. We have a limited number of bowls to lend at no charge and instruction will be available to help you master the game if you have not played before. We are a friendly and amiable group and we look forward to seeing you. For further information, please ring Mike on 01508 521049.

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? Why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club, held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the White Horse, Chedgrave. Meetings start at 10am, finish around midday, with the option of staying for lunch if required. We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required, members ranging in age from 60 to almost 100. At each meeting we have a guest speaker .

We really look forward to seeing you .

November 5th Pip Wright Frolic – Fervour – Fornication

November 19th Elizabeth Talbot Time & Trusted

*Please contact Clive Boyd Telephone 01508 520547.
or email cliveboyd@btconnect.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.

November 11th Pip Wright The Rest of your Natural Life

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

Loddon Community Cinema

Thursday 7th November

Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30pm Adults £4, child £2. On the door or in advance from Loddon Garden & DIY.

Our next presentation is a first for us. To my knowledge this is the first foreign language film we have shown. But don't be put off as there will obviously be sub-titles as always.

The film is a **German film called BALLOON, rated 12** and is a gripping true story of a family's audacious plan to flee the former East Germany to freedom in the West in 1979. They plan to do it in a home-made hot air balloon! Gripping stuff directed by Michael Herbig, who keeps the tension high and stars Alicia von Rittberg and Frerich Mucke.
Come and give it a try !

ADVERTS

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

Thursday November 14—Quiz and Chips at Chedgrave Church Room 7pm

Cost £8 including supper. Contact Hilary on 520457

Very important: All bookings for lunches, walks, events etc. must be made in good time through the person named. If the walk is called off due to inclement weather and we have booked lunch, we are happy to continue with the booking, giving everybody a chance to meet up.

Davy Place Social Club

On Saturday 16th November we will be holding our Quiz and Supper Evening. 6 for 6.30pm.

Monday, 18th November at 10am till 12 noon, Karen of "Clothes Line" will be coming to the Davy Place Common Room with her rails of men's and women's new Autumn/Winter fashions. Tea, coffee and cake will be served. Please come along and get yourself a bargain. Everyone welcome!

Weds 27th November we will be looking forward to the return visit of the 1st Loddon Beavers when we will be playing board games, singing and enjoying a hot dog supper!

Social Whist

We meet every second and now, also, the fourth Friday of each month as numbers are growing. **Our next meetings are 8th and 22nd November**

We welcome any new players - we meet in the back room of The Hollies and start playing at 7.45pm. The evening consists of 12 hands of Whist, each with a different partner, a drink and a biscuit at half time together with lots of chat. You don't need a partner and if you need a lift to get there this can be organised. All proceeds are for local charities.

If you need a lift please call Jane Hale on 01508 528875.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

Our next meeting is on Wednesday the 13th November for our Autumn Mini-show at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom in Loddon from 7-30pm.

If you would like any more information on our friendly society, please contact Ali Barwick (Secretary): 07707029940 or alisonbarwick@gmail.com

ADVERTS

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



The branch continues to be represented at events around the county, plus at the RAFA Battle of Britain Service of Remembrance in Beccles, and also by helping with security at a Seething Control Tower late night outdoor film show.

Later this month, the annual Loddon Legion branch Poppy Stall now has a new venue - look out for the red gazebo outside Anne's Crafts on Church Plain from Monday 4th November to Friday 8th November 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, and then Saturday 9th November from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Sunday 10th November (Remembrance Sunday) all participants in the parade through Loddon should meet up at the White Horse by 10.20 am. Smart dress and medals please. The Loddon war memorial service will begin at 11.00 am with the two minutes silence and short service, followed by a longer service in Holy Trinity church.

On Monday 11th November our 11.11.11 commemoration to mark the signing of the armistice in 1918 will be at 11.00 am at Loddon war memorial.

The next branch meetings will be on Tuesday 19th of this month (the 2019 AGM) at the King's Head at 7.30 pm, and then not until Tuesday 21st January 2020, there being no meeting in December.

As usual, please contact Colin Hartley on 01508 521136 for all further Legion help and advice.

South Yare Wildlife Group



Garden Birds

You are invited to join the South Yare Wildlife Group for an illustrated talk by The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) about our Garden Birds.

On Thursday the 14th of November 19.30 to 21.00. Bar open from 19.00 at Poringland Community Centre. Overtons Way. NR14 7WB

Cost to non-members will be £5, members £2. A year's membership can be bought on the night for £10. Under 16's free providing they are accompanied by an adult.

No booking required For further information about our group and its activities, please see www.southyarewildlifegroup.org

ADVERTS

The Tithe Wars in 1930's East Anglia, a talk by Robert Halliday

Remembering a story told to him as a child, by his father, of how farmers in the 1930's refused to pay the tithe, set Robert Halliday off on a research project that revealed just how farmers in East Anglia protested over paying this tax; something that became known as The Tithe Wars. The system, that went back centuries, meant that even small landowners were legally obliged to give a tenth of their produce to the church. Later, an agreement with local clergy, allowed the payment to be made in cash. As time passed and industrialisation flourished less people worked on the land, not all those who did attended the Anglican Church, and the agricultural depression of the 1930's brought hardship to rural communities so farmers refused to pay. Landowners were sent to court and goods ordered to be sold off, However, auctioneers did not want to be seen selling off the things farmers needed to make a living and life became very difficult for them or the bailiffs if they did. Implements only sold for a shilling or two, usually bought by neighbours who promptly loaned them back to the original owners. Roads and pathways leading to a farm sale were blocked with machinery and 'necessary' work like tree cutting, just happened to be taking place that day, all too close for safety. As the newspaper cuttings and photographs Robert showed us revealed, there was no end to the ingenuity that caused disruption and brought attention to their plight.

Following a government investigation the system changed to one where 'rent' was paid on the land, reducing by 5% each year, ending in 1980. At Elmset in Suffolk next to the church, a memorial can still be seen to The Tithe Wars. This was a very interesting talk on an important but mostly forgotten event in our rural history.

Join us on November 20th for Dr Victor Morgan UEA,

The Guild Feast in Norwich, c1560-1730, How They Ate Their Values or You May Eat Your Hat

December 18th, Christmas Do! The Blickling Interpretation Group

The End of an Era, in the early 1940's Lord Lothian returned to Blickling Hall to find his home had been taken over by the RAF. Hear about the characters who lived there.

St John's Lecture Hall, 1.30pm £3 entrance includes refreshments further details 01508 520120/521136

ADVERTS

MOTHERS' UNION

Family Minded

If you are a parent or grandparent it is possible parenting and all this entails is taking up most of your time! One consequence, especially in a rural area, might be you have lost contact with former friends or found time to make any. Parenting can be an anxious time, something of a fast learning curve and a lonely one.

The **Mothers Union (MU)** has inherited an old fashioned name. However, it exists to be one of the organisations where any “parent”, male, female, married or not, or a single person in a parenting role, can meet to make friends and share experiences. Mary Sumner’s vision was just that way back in 1876. Now, in many countries, MU is in the front line of social care and community work. In Norfolk there are many branches.

At the moment most branch members are of the age to be grandparents but we would like to be friends with people of our own children’s age and share our passion for loving, stable family life. Although we don’t “preach” parenting we do have some understanding of it’s joys and fears. We also have access to people who will come alongside groups to share in Parenting courses, which are participatory rather than lectures.

We are very much a Christian group, happy together, relaxed and non-judgemental. Our meetings either start or end with a short time of prayer for God’s help in our lives, both as individuals, as parents and for the work of MU worldwide. We encourage all to give thanks for the gift of a child.

Our meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.15pm in Norton Chapel, a child friendly space. We offer friendship, conversation, sometimes a speaker, occasionally an outing and always a sharing of experience and tea/coffee and refreshments.

Phone Margaret 01508 548795 , - Daphne 01508 520045 - or Barry 01508 522949 for a personal welcome and an offer to meet you on your first visit, or come with someone you already know.

ADVERTS

Davy Place Social Club

Following our AGM, our Minutes Secretary did not seek re-election. We would like to thank Marion Hiseman for the help and support she gave the Davy Place Social Club during the past year and maybe ask if anyone would be interested in helping out as our Minutes Secretary. Contact Janet Rackham on 522115 to find out more.

Our next big event is our annual Summer Sale with lots of stalls, games, raffle and summer refreshments to be held on **Saturday, 10th August** at 10am until 12 noon. Please pop the date in your diary for future reference ... And come along and join in the fun on the day! Until then ... enjoy the spring and summer!

With all best wishes from the Davy Place Social Club

Open House at the Victorian Evening Friday 6 December in Holy Trinity Church and St John's Chapel

If you are fundraising for a charity or you are a community group wanting publicity you can book a table for the evening and set up your stall. The house will be open—do come in!

**Contact Nina Owen on 01508 522993 or email -
theroamingfenlander@gmail.com**

Chet Valley Photography Club

9th—Annual-Exhibition

at St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB.

Saturday 2nd Nov. 10am – 5pm

Sunday 3rd Nov. 10am – 4pm

Raffle and refreshments both days.

Free admission.

(If you have old working cameras to donate to the "Give a child a camera" project run by local photographer Julian Claxton bring them and we will pass them on.

www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

ADVERTS



**THE CHURCH IN LODDON
CHRISTMAS
FAIRE**

Saturday 30 November

10am to 1pm

St John's Chapel

George Lane, Loddon

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

***Homemade cakes and preserves**

***Basket Tombola *Raffle**

***Refreshments *Books**

Father Christmas arrives at 11am

with Free Gifts

Come and see him in his Grotto

ADVERTS

"Wake," by Anna Hope

Have you ever thought about how, after the end of the first world war, the body of an unidentified soldier had been selected to represent all the many other unidentified soldiers who were killed in that war? The body was brought back to London and, in a dignified ceremony on 11th November 1920, was re-buried in Westminster Abbey in what we all know as the tomb of the unknown warrior. In this novel Anna Hope links the stories of three women - each very different - ultimately to the day of that ceremony.

These three women have different reasons for needing to let go of the past, or to help someone they love to do so. If/when you read this beautiful book you will become absorbed in their stories. It's a very moving novel, dealing as it does with the whole appalling business of war and the effect it has, not just on those who fight, but also on those who have to pick up the pieces afterwards.

"My Dear, I Wanted to Tell You;" "The Heroes' Welcome:" "Devotion," by Louisa Young

A trilogy of three sensitive, beautifully written books which cover the years from the beginning of World War I through the next twenty years and on to the imminence of World War II. Family, love, friendship and politics all inhabit each of the three novels. All very well worth reading (but read them in their correct order).

"Michael Morpurgo: War Child to War Horse," by Maggie Fergusson

Not a novel but an enthralling biography of this amazing author of children's books. Amazing because he has written more than 120 books, nearly all for children, and has become one of the most well-known and much loved children's authors. (He is also a poet and playwright). In addition he was made the third Children's Laureate in 2003 and in 2011 he gave the 35th annual Richard Dimbleby Lecture, choosing for his title "Set the Children Free." More recently he had the honour of becoming Sir Michael Morpurgo.

Prior to all of these things, in 1976 he and his wife, Clare, started the charity "Farms for City Children" in the village of Iddesleigh, in Devon. The charity has grown considerably since then and consists of four farms in different parts of the UK. Of course this gentle, caring and talented man is most well-known generally because he wrote *War Horse*, which became such a success on stage at the Royal National Theatre and which was later made into a film.

We learn a lot about the young Michael and the years of his growing-up in this biography by Maggie Fergusson, as well as about his older and more famous years. She has done her research well and has produced an excellent book which gives us the real essence of her subject.

ADVERTS

Nature Notes

At the beginning of October, as we made our way to our car, Rachel exclaimed “look up there”, quickly searching the sky I saw a Red Kite gliding over our neighbors’ trees. That same evening at dusk as I was standing at the bottom of our garden listening to Tawny Owls calling while looking across the marshes. Then to my delight one of the Tawny Owls flew right in front of me. At the same time, a pipistrelle bat appeared, which was the first bat, which was the first bat I’d seen in a long time. Similarly, a week earlier I almost tripped over a hedgehog in our garden at dusk , again the first alive one I have seen this year

During September it was noticeable that our Blackbirds were very much absent, as they hid while they went through their molt. On the other hand, there seemed to be Robins singing from every bush. Another bird that has been very visible recently is the normally secretive Jay, a more colourful member of the crow family. Their flying action always reminds me of someone swimming using the butterfly stroke. They can be seen flying between oak trees collecting acorns to bury usually singularly, for the winter. Amazingly, they can remember where they have hidden most of them when food is scarce. Along with Jays, Grey Squirrels are also abundant, busily collecting food to store for winter. For a while one visited our neighbors’ hazel tree gathering nuts and storing some in our chickens’ nest box.

Walking the dogs on Chedgrave Common the other weekend I found a large fungus which while surveying there we hadn’t come across. Fortunately, I had my phone with me so took a photograph and it was identified as a probable Giant Funnel. Norfolk Wildlife Trusts survey work on commons has now come to an end. They plan to collate the information gathered from around Norfolk and draw up action plans for the commons surveyed. Already the Broads authority are cutting bracken once a year to try and stop its spread and give other plants a chance to survive.

A couple of times during September I made my way to Minsmere to see what was around and was rewarded with good views of little stints, curlew sandpipers and a pectoral sandpiper, the latter is an American wader that has got blown over here.

While cutting nettles out of a ditch I discovered a harvest mouse nest beautifully constructed of grasses and lined with thistle down. I have only ever seen a harvest mouse once many years ago. When we had parked in a layby on route from Bristol to Peterborough, one was climbing through the tall grass at the edge of the adjoining field.

I may well have to wait until next year to see spotted flycatchers, which will be on route back to Africa by now. Hopefully I will see some of the warblers that breed in Northern Europe that can drop off along our coastline on their way to sunnier climes. We did fail to catch up with yellow browed warblers which had been around Sparrows Nest Park in Lowestoft, but we enjoyed the walk through the trees.

ADVERTS

Gardening Notes

As I sit writing these gardening notes, it is pouring with rain, and has been for the past 12 hours, some damage has been done locally but overall it is much needed, hopefully with our usual rain fall over the winter, the ground water levels will be ok for next year, because as it was we were heading for hosepipe bans for next summer, which none of us would have wanted. On wet days it's a good idea to get in the greenhouse and dispose of any old plants, leaves and general plant debris, wash down the frame and glass with a disinfectant to kill off any diseases and if you find any bugs kill them off with a pest killing smoke bomb. Dig over any bare soil and everything will be ready for an early start to the season next year.

If the weather stays mild it would be a good idea to apply an autumn feed and moss killer to your lawn, this will get the grass into a good condition for the winter, and off to a good start in the spring.

When you have finished cutting the grass for the season, clean down your mower and wipe over with an oily rag, and please have it serviced over the winter months, when I have time to do the work, as we get very busy in the spring.

On dry days you can cut the hedges, prune herbaceous plants down to about 18", take out any dead wood from perennial plants, and prune to reduce size if needed.

In the veg garden, keep a look out for pests and diseases, slugs will be around in numbers after this wet weather, so pick them off the plants and dispose of, whitefly look harmless enough, but if left they can decimate a brassica crop in a matter of weeks, and probably the worst pest is the wood pigeon, so you might have to put a net over the brassica crops especially if the weather turns cold.

Aqua dulce broad beans should be planted this month, these are tall variety which crop well, if you are growing the beans in an exposed part of the garden it might be best to plant the variety called The Sutton, these are a dwarf variety and will stand up to strong winds, if it's mild, plant the beans later in the month, if it's cold you can plant them earlier, this will make sure the beans are not too long and lanky as they go into the winter, long thin plants will suffer if we get any really sharp frosts.

If the weather turns cold and icy make sure to have some rock salt stored in the garage, spread the salt onto the ice and within minutes the ice will dissolve and the sand in the mix will give you some extra grip when you walk on the surface.

Keep your wellie boots and rain coats by the back door, winter is coming!

Andrew Carver

Loddon Garden and DIY

ADVERTS

ADVERTS

ADVERTS