

CONTACT

Published by the Church in Loddon December 2020—January 2021



Now the Holly Bears a Berry: R Y Ball

Each day during December a different household will host an Advent door for you to open and receive a surprise.

We start at All Saints, Chedgrave on 29th November between 2pm and 5pm

A list of addresses for each day, and times when the doors may be opened, will be available from 21st November in local shops and the churches in Loddon and Chedgrave.



For more information, please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126 or by e-mail ball880am@btinternet.com

Chet Valley Live Advent Calendar

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen:	01508 522993	david.chetvalley@gmail.com
Louise Morrissey:	01728 830733	delilah.morrissey@gmail.com
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Church Office

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

Contact Magazine

Email: c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

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

From the Editor

Now the Holly Bears a Berry—one of my favourite Christmas carols! There are certainly berries in abundance this year, together with rose hips, acorns... supplying food for many birds and animals for the winter. Thinking of food, if you're finding it hard to put food onto the plate this winter, please don't go hungry. Do contact the Foodbank (p27) or other help (p25) that is available.

And there are other groups out there also offering help. These include Chet Chat, more than just chat, and Norfolk Swift Response which provides help, support and reassurance when someone has an urgent, unplanned need at home but doesn't need the emergency services (p27).

Flexibility is the order of the day as arrangements have to be altered to suit the ever-changing rules surrounding Covid-19:

The Live Advent Calendar (p27) is going ahead starting on Sunday 29th November. With both householders and businesses involved, anyone in the community can come to open a door each day—the more the merrier. I wonder which door you will like the best.

The Autumn Fair at All Saints Church is postponed to Saturday 5th December (p37). All are welcome.

We would like to thank all members of our distribution team. So many people have said how good it is to have Contact dropping through their door once more. We agree!

All at Contact with you a Happy Christmas and look forward to another New Year wondering what challenges and opportunities it will afford to us.



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Ministerial Musings

It's Christmas, but not as we know it!

I think we would all agree that for many of us this ranks as one of the weirdest years we have experienced. The concept of lockdown, with no social or wider family contact is deeply unpleasant to most people – after all, there are very few who opt to become a hermit. We tolerated it during the spring and summer when we could spend time outdoors, but Covid hasn't gone away and in any case the summer was by no means easy for everyone – and for those who provide essential services it was a serious challenge.

Now we are looking ahead to what may be a very strange Christmas. So many regular events have already been cancelled, and at the time of writing I have no idea if we can make any sort of family arrangements for festivities. Factor in a lot of cold wet weather and it's all a bit depressing.

However, I wonder if we should be looking beyond our own annoyances. Posting on Twitter some weeks ago, Terry Waite, who spent 1763 days as a hostage in appalling conditions, suggested it is time to stop grumbling. He said, "Change your mindset – you're not *stuck* at home, you're *safe* at home."

Can we change our mindset in relation to Christmas? Can we see beyond the shopping, the parties and the decorations and think about why we have this festival? One thing is certain – it's not really about Santa and reindeer, or expensive presents or even families, but rather about an event that has both amazed and puzzled people for over 2000 years. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem he did not come to start a commercial festival. Rather, he came to bridge the gap between people who are imperfect and God who loves us so much.

Following Jesus is a way of life that many people have rejected, but I can vouch for the fact that faith is the one thing that can sustain us whatever our circumstances might be. It was his Christian faith that

sustained Terry Waite during his appalling captivity, and it can sustain us too as we look towards Christmas and beyond.

David Owen





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Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley



You are welcome to join us at any of our services.

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at one or other of the Chet Valley Churches, either Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship, with an informal Holy Communion service once a month in Chedgrave.

Services of **Morning Worship** are held in Loddon and Hardley.

XPRESSIONS CAFÉ is on the first Sunday every month at All Saints, Chedgrave. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. Open between 10am and 12 noon, you can come and go as you please for coffee, cake, discussion, crafts, games, stories, reflection and much more.

All Together Worship is on the third Sunday every month, starting at 11:00am at All Saints, Chedgrave (January, March, June and September are followed by shared lunch).

All Together Worship 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.

Last Sunday Praise is held on the last Sunday of the month at St John's: a chance to sing old and new Christian songs and worship together.

XTRA! is an exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church. Refreshments from 3.15pm, service starts ~3.45pm. Open to all; particularly suited to children and young people.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is an opportunity to enjoy a chat over refreshments after the service.

There are toilets and baby-changing facilities at All Saints, Chedgrave and St John's, Loddon.

Families are welcome at all of our services but are particularly catered for on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month in Chedgrave.

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.

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Thanksgivings & Baptisms



You are welcome to request thanksgiving and baptism for your children. Thanksgiving Services give an opportunity to come to the church and give thanks to God for the gift of a new child.

Baptisms are 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 are 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:

Members of Friends and Neighbours will gather again once the current restrictions are lifted.

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 12 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

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From the Parish Registers

Baptism

Thalia Victoria Watts 18th October at All Saints, Chedgrave

Heavenly Father, we praise you for this child. Surround her with your blessing that she may know your love, be protected from evil, and know your goodness all her days. Common Worship

Funerals

Hazel May Joan Doddington who died on 13th October 2020

Funeral: 11th November 2020 at St Faith's Crematorium

Anthony (Tony) Derek Tomkinson who died on 17th October 2020

Funeral: 11th November 2020 at Holy Trinity Church, Loddon

Eric John Edwards who died on 30th October 2020

Funeral: 27th November 2020 at St Mary's Church, Sisland

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

Crib Service Cancelled Due to Covid-19



- The angels would have to quarantine for 2 weeks if they visited Palestine.
- Mary is shielding and Joseph is not allowed to travel to a second home.
- The innkeeper has shut during lockdown.
- The shepherds are furloughed and the wise men face a travel ban.

So, because of all this we regret to announce that this year's Crib Service has been cancelled.

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News From Your South Norfolk District Councillor



On the morning of **Saturday 12th December** I will again be standing outside the Co-op with members of our new ChetChat group. As well as handing out our free mugs and fridge magnets, showing our ChetChat phone number, we will also be accepting donations for the hampers we will be distributing locally. Items of food, or cash donations, will be gratefully accepted. We would be grateful for nominations for people to receive a hamper. If you need help from our growing army of volunteers, or who would like to become a volunteer themselves, please let us know.



Our number is **07876 050110**. Please give us a ring if we can help with anything.

I have just completed allocating the £1000 members grant that each South Norfolk District Councillor receives annually. This year's recipients include the Loddon Rainbows and Funky Feet.

My regular surgeries will resume when it is safe to hold them again. In the meantime, please ring me anytime on **07733 323581** if I can help you.

My final point is about Free School Meals for children. Our local businesses did us proud, but I am very worried about the impact of this vital term-time help for families not being available at Christmas.

[Editorial note: the Government have now agreed that vouchers will be available in the Christmas holiday.] I have been in touch with South Norfolk about it, but, like so many things, this seems to be something for Norfolk County Council to deal with. I hope that, like many parts of the country, we can put our politics to one side, and do the right thing by delivering this critical help where and when it is most needed.

Thanks for putting your trust in me when you voted last year. The difficult events of 2020 have changed us, and brought us closer together as a community. Let's carry on looking after each other, especially as winter approaches.



Remembrance Sunday

In the midst of the second lockdown, Covid-19 regulations prevented the usual parade.

However, wreaths were still laid at the War Memorial in Loddon in 2020.

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A REWARDING
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The Council currently has two councillor vacancies to be filled by the co-option process.

No formal qualifications are required, and knowledge of local Government is not necessary. Support and training will be given.

Residents interested in becoming a Parish Councillor are invited to email a single sheet of typed A4 giving details of personal history and reasons for wishing to serve on the Council.

The Council wishes to fill these vacancies as soon as possible. Applications will be considered at the next available Parish Council meeting.

For further details please contact:
Carla Petersen, Parish Clerk

Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com
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All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis.

Tel: 01508 5220200 Email: clerk@loddonpc.org.uk.

Website: www.loddonpc.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC

Christmas Lights: Loddon has always been known for its beautiful display of Christmas lights and we thank you for your part in that. Loddon Parish Council are using a contractor to install Christmas lights on Church Plain, Staithe Car Park, Bridge Street and the High Street and we are looking forward to seeing Loddon lit in beautiful seasonal lights, particularly during this Pandemic.

If you have any questions about the installation of these lights, or need to report faulty lights, please call the Parish Council office between 9am-12pm on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, or email clerk@loddonpc.org.uk.

Facilities: The Play Area, Skate Park, Allotments and Staithe Public Conveniences have been able to stay open throughout lockdown two. Please ensure that social distancing guidelines are adhered to, and hand sanitiser is used regularly to prevent the spread of Covid 19. Unfortunately, the Tennis Courts and Office for Tourists has temporarily closed.

George Lane Junction: South Norfolk Council and South Norfolk Police are aware of the issues with the cars parking on the double yellow lines on the junction with Bridge Street. Please do not park here as it creates a dangerous hazard.

Streetlights: Loddon Parish Council has formally adopted thirty streetlights from South Norfolk Council on Drury Lane, The Walks and Lemn Grove. Please visit www.loddonpc.org.uk to report any issues

Allotments: Please email Georgina if you wish to be added to the Allotment waiting list: finance@loddonpc.org.uk.

Hand Sanitising Stations: South Norfolk Council have kindly installed five hand sanitising stations throughout the village. Please let the Parish Council know if they need replenishing.

Website: We have a new informative website; www.loddonpc.org.uk. Do please take a look! Thank you so much to Carl Davison for the excellent photography that he generously gifted to the Council.

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: The Agenda will be displayed on the notice board on Church Plain and on the Council's website at least three working days before the meeting. The next meeting date of the Parish Council is Wednesday the 9th December 2020. Parishioners are welcome to attend remotely via GoTo

The Parish Council Office is in the Library Annexe, 31 Church Plain, Loddon and is ordinarily open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings between 9.00am and midday. The office is currently closed to the public due to Covid 19.

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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council



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Tel: 77803 124544 Email: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk.
Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Hales & Heckingham Parish Council](https://www.facebook.com/Hales%20&%20Heckingham%20Parish%20Council)

Next Parish Meetings: Wednesday 16th December online at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to join – contact the Clerk for details. The Agenda and Minutes are displayed on the brick bus shelter notice board opposite Masala Garden and on the website 3 days before the meeting.

Help Hubs: If you need urgent help in these difficult times please contact South Norfolk Help Hub on 01508 533933 or earlyhelphubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

Unsung Heroes: The villages have residents who quietly do things that make all our lives better. If you know someone you think we should say thank you to, please contact the Clerk. We would like to thank Neville Foulsham for his contribution to the village. You may have seen his beautiful photographs posted on 'Hales and Heckingham things' Facebook page, which have raised many villagers' spirits during this difficult year. Neville also takes part in the village Speedwatch Group

Councillor Vacancies: If you are interested please get in touch with the Clerk. You only need to attend two thirds of the meetings held each year. We want to have as diverse a representation as possible so that residents feel involved in the village. If you have particular issues that are close to your heart, you are able to concentrate on those. The workload can be as much or as little as you want to make it.

Mobile Library: We hope that the Mobile Library will be calling on Wednesday 27th January. The timings are Millside 09.45 to 09.55 and Preston Lane 10.00 to 10.10.

Ideas Wanted! If you have any projects that you think the Parish Council could help you with we would like to hear from you. Please contact the Clerk for further details. On the other hand, if there is a project that you think you could help the Parish Council with, it would be great to hear from you too!

Composting Group: To know more about composting and how it works please contact Alan Mason alan_mbc@btinternet.com or 07738 933316. The Group hopes to recommence in the Spring. If you would like to be involved please let Alan know.

Footpath Issues: The Hales Green entry kissing gate has now been repaired at the end of Readscross Lane. If you see anything that is not right on any of the footpaths in the parishes please advise South Norfolk Council through their webpage <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/> and the Parish Clerk.

Playground: The new five-a-side football goal posts and basketball hoops have been installed. The Parish Council received a few footballs and basketballs from the suppliers. If you would like one of them please contact the Clerk.

Fly-tipping: Please report any instances to South Norfolk Council through their webpage <https://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/residents/neighbourhood-issues/street-cleaning-fly-tipping-and-litter/report-fly-tipping-or-littering> and the Parish Clerk. If you see fly-tipping in action call the Police on 111.

We wish you a very happy Christmas and the very best for 2021.

PILATES

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All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

Tel: 01508 528310 Email: chedgrave.pc@gmail.com

Website: www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chedgrave-Parish-Council>

The Parish Council held a virtual meeting on 5th November 2020 (in line with Coronavirus Act 2020). Copies of the minutes are available at Loddon Library, on the Parish Council noticeboard and website.

Coronavirus: For urgent help, including for those not “on-line”, please contact South Norfolk Help Hub on **01508 533933** or earlyhelphubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk

“Chet Chat”: DCllr Jeremy Rowe highlighted this new phone service to help those in need due to Coronavirus. Feel free to call **07876 050110** for support.

Councillor Vacancy: If interested please contact the Clerk.

Wherryman’s Way: Cllr David Johnson continues to press for the path to be reinstated to the bridge and repairs made to the bird hide access ramp. Some repair work has now been completed.

Bulb & Shrub Planting: Work has been carried out on the “bee bank” at the Brian Clarke room and wildflower seeds have been planted. Preparations have been made for shrub planting in the Grebe Drive area and bulbs for the Pits and other areas will soon be ordered and planted. The council wishes to thanks to Andrew Milner of the Chet Valley B-Line project for his help and advice.

Brian Clarke Room: The room briefly opened but is closed again in line with government guidance. It is hoped that the room will quickly re-open after lockdown.

“Shop with Confidence”: Repairs will be sought for the vandalised hand sanitiser near the shops but if this is not possible, sadly it will be removed.

The Common: New accessible stock-proof gates have been installed and a new contractor for ragwort and bracken control has been appointed.

The Pits: Councillors agreed to repair the streetlight on the Pits driveway and the Clerk thanked Richard Ball for his efforts in tidying/clearing gravel in the driveway.

Christmas Lights: Every effort is being made to light up Chedgrave this Christmas! Many thanks to volunteers, residents and businesses who are helping with this.

Planning Applications: The following planning matters were considered

2020/1858 – Concern was expressed that the work should be properly supervised by an accredited tree surgeon in light of previous tree work carried out.

2020/1912 – No comment.

Trees: Councillors agreed to proceed with routine maintenance of trees on parish land including the Jubilee Oak, the Pits and the Grebe Drive area.

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

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Christmas Carol Anagrams:

Unscramble the letters below to make some well known Christmas Carols

1. LIGHT NEAR BEAGLE
2. FEEL THE WHOLE TOMB TILT. NO!
3. THIN SINGLET
4. WHAT ARTISTRY IN A SONG
5. HINT: ELF STORE
6. OUR BABY SON IS NOT 'U'
7. CUTH IMAGINED NO REAL IMPACT
8. THE KING HAS LARGER HANDLES
9. EKE, SHREW IN GT
10. YOU SAW RARE SHIMMERY SWITCH



Have Fun!

Answers on page 53.



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THE SISLAND CHRONICLE

We were 'Extremely Impressed' by the military precision at the Chet Valley Surgery when attending our 'flu jabs' in October. The Brigade of Guards couldn't have improved anything. Congratulations to all concerned and brownie points all round!

In these difficult times the media seems to concentrate on the depressive aspect of current affairs, and I sometimes think they could mention some of the more positive aspects of life, such as the above experience!

I worry when I hear that another large area of productive farmland is to be 're-wilded' en-bloc, often, in my opinion, to provide habitat for only a limited number of species, and am reminded of a recent letter in a magazine from a farmer on thin chalky soil in Dorset. Concerned at the paucity of bird life on his farm, he decided to do something about it. He deliberately started to 'manage' his farm for wildlife, returning marginal land to rough grass and wild flowers, which could be grazed, and some woodland; planting some areas as winter bird food, and having flower rich headlands on some of the fields. The result was more grey partridges (the native ones), and many smaller farmland birds such as yellowhammers and skylarks. Barn owls also increased, and obviously small mammals and their food sources were thriving too. The County Stewardship scheme helped with the cost, and, as he said, the results speak for themselves.



October Rainfall: Sisland, was 112.8mm.

SISLANDA

Hi—Freddie here. I hope you didn't get too wet with all the rain we had in October. I was soaked several times, usually because J. will insist on taking me for a walk just as it looks like rain. She has a big coat and a hat on and welly boots. I'm just in my fur, which usually keeps me dry, but it goes all curly when it dries, and I look a bit of a fright! My feet are the problem-I can't think why they get so muddy!

Although I'm a working dog, I'm not keen on guns. I've got very good ears, and the other day I was having a nap when there were two huge bangs just across the lane which made me jump, phew, most unfriendly. But I am looking forward to when we have a humendous lot of yummy meat from Farmer John to go in our freezer. He grows bullocks on his meadows and turns them into meat for us, which is very kind of him! **Take care and Stay Safe. Freddie.**

Holy Trinity Bell Ringers

Coronavirus continues to affect the bellringing world The ringers at Loddon are of various ages; some went into self isolation straight away to keep away from others. A Whatsapp group is proving very useful not only for communicating but also for our mental well-being and to be able to make sure everyone is ok and not lonely at this challenging time. I'm sure as and when we are all able to get back to some form of normality, the bells at Holy Trinity will once again ring out over Loddon.



Steve Rabong

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During these difficult times we are aware that some people are in need. Perhaps these can be of help to you:

Loddon Town Estate Trust

What does the Trust do?

We can offer small grants to people who live in Loddon who are going through a difficult time in their lives. The Trust is made up of two strands, welfare and education. Grants are made in proven circumstances, which means you must prove that you need help. However, we really want to help if we can!

Who can apply to the Trust?

The Trust is for anyone who lives in Loddon.

What might the Trust pay for?

These are some of the things we might help to fund:

- Household necessities such as a washing machine or cooker.
- Disability aids.
- Bathroom adaptations such as shower.
- Equipment for educational activities.
- Help to access education or training opportunities.

How do you apply to the Trust?

To find out more about how the Loddon Town Estate Trust might help you, contact the Secretary: Ann Lumley: 01508 528141 or by post to 1 Harvey Green, Loddon, NR14 6UB.

Please remember that we will need to ask some questions about what you can afford, and why you need a grant. We don't have a big pot of money, so we must make sure we use it wisely.

Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund

We can offer small grants to people living in the parish of Chedgrave who are going through a difficult time in their lives. Please remember that we will need to ask some questions about what you can afford, and why you need a grant. We don't have a big pot of money, so we must make sure we use it wisely.

How do you apply to the Discretionary Fund?

Please contact

Rev David Owen: david.chetvalley@gmail.com 01508 522993;

or Rev Alison Ball: ball880am@btinternet.com 01508 528126

Chet Chat

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We will be closed 1 Jan - 11 Jan for our annual break

Norfolk Swift Response Service



Our Norfolk Swift Response Service is available 24/7 by calling 0344 800 8020 and choose option 1 when prompted. Swift Response provides help, support and reassurance when someone has an urgent, unplanned need at home but doesn't need the emergency services. The Swift Response team can assist with emergency care needs if, for example, your usual carer is suddenly unavailable. If you have fallen, but are not injured, the team can use special lifting equipment to help make moving as safe as possible. Staff wear Personal Protective Equipment and social distancing measures are also used where appropriate to minimise the risk of infection to staff and those they are supporting. Can you help us share this information with friends and family who may be vulnerable?

Visit <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/start-with-social-care/urgent-help/get-urgent-help-at-home-norfolk-swift-response-team> for more information.

Foodbank

If you need a Foodbank parcel, currently this is what you should do: contact the Foodbank by phoning 0300 365 1123 - it's a free number.



They will ask you for your details and will ask various questions so that you can receive the right level of support. The Foodbank will arrange for a parcel to be delivered to you through the local distribution centre. A log of who is receiving parcels is kept but there is presently greater flexibility in how many times a person or family can receive support from the Foodbank.

Live Advent Calendar

Chet Valley Churches are making a 'Live Advent Calendar'. Each day during advent at different addresses in the community, Advent Doors can be opened by knocking at the door or ringing the doorbell between designated hours. Who knows what might be behind the door? It could be something edible, something audible, something beautiful – all will be a wonderful surprise. Families can collect a logbook to tick off the doors as each are opened. There will also be story sheets to and stick in each week. A list of addresses for each day, and times when the doors may be opened, will be available from 21st November from local shops and the churches in Loddon and Chedgrave. All are welcome adults and children alike.

The first door is at All Saints Church, Chedgrave. You can open it on **Sunday 29th November between 2-5pm**.

The first few days are during lockdown 2. Arrangements have been made so that the calendar can be accessed at the addresses in a Covid-secure way. You can use your exercise time to go and see what is behind the doors.

For more information, please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126 or by e-mail ball880am@btinternet.com

Church Services

6th December		
9.30am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's, Loddon
13th December		
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Morning Worship	St John's, Loddon
20th December		
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's, Loddon
11.00am	Carol Service	All Saints, Chedgrave
1.00pm	Words & Music for Christmas	St Mary, Sisland *
24th December		
11.00pm	Midnight Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
11.00pm	Midnight Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
25th December		
9.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland
10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's, Loddon
29th December		
10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave

* The Service of Words and Music for Christmas at Sisland Church will be an outdoor service. Please dress appropriately!

Our churches are open for private prayer. Holy Trinity (Mon-Sat), All Saints and St Margaret (Mon-Sun), and St Mary (Wed, Sun pm). We have to adhere to government and Church of England guidelines about maintaining social distancing, use of hand sanitisers... in the buildings. Please be mindful of instructions if you visit one of our churches that is open.

Church Services

3rd January		
9.30am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's, Loddon
10th January		
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Morning Worship	St John's, Loddon
17th January		
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's, Loddon
11.00am	Carol Service	All Saints, Chedgrave
24th January		
10.45am	Covenant Service	St John's, Loddon
31st January		
10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave

Church Services during the Covid-19 pandemic

Our churches are open for worship. We believe all services will go ahead as advertised. Please look at our website for up-to-date information. On Sundays, our services are available on our YouTube channel: Chet Valley Churches. The URL for each service and a pdf are on the church website (www.chetvalleychurches.org). If you would like a paper copy of the Sunday service, please contact one of the clergy.

Charitable Collections at Christmas Carol Singing and Services

These will be in aid of St Martins which helps the homeless build a better life in Norwich and Norfolk: <https://stmartinhousing.org.uk/> . If you would like to donate but can't make the services and miss us carol singing, please put your money in an envelope addressed 'St Martins' and post it through the Church Office Door (St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon).



Catholic Church—Christmas Mass

This will be on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm in St John's Church, Loddon.

Morning Prayer at 9.00am <i>All Welcome</i>	
Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave

Morning Prayer is currently being said by members of the clergy in their homes on the other days of the week. If you have any prayer requests, please let one of them know and they will be included in the daily prayers that we make.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches	
**Every Saturday 6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass
*Tuesdays 7.30-8.30pm	<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>
+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>

** Please contact Father Pdraig (office@east-angliadiocese.org.uk) to confirm details of Catholic services.

* Please contact Rev Jill (jillhaylock@aol.com) about current arrangements for Tuesday Prayer and Reflection, or if you would like to receive this electronically.

+ Please contact Rev Alison (ball880am@btinternet.com) about current arrangements for **XTRA!**

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Flower Club

Contact Tricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or take a look at our new website at www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions.

Loddon Women's Institute

Like most other groups and societies, Loddon W.I. is sad that we are unable to meet in our usual way. We have been trying to keep in touch with all of our members via monthly newsletters and phone calls. A recent survey among our members was encouraging in that it showed clearly that once it is safe to do so everyone will be 'coming back'! Meanwhile, like everyone else, we wait. We're thankful and grateful for the community we live in, and for the care shown to all those who have needed help. Best wishes to all. Contact us through our website; or Facebook, or via LoddonWI@gmail.com.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our meetings are postponed for the time being; however, a recent survey with our members revealed that the majority will be happy to meet as soon as we are able. We have been trying to keep in touch with our members with newsletters and telephone calls and would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our members a Happy Christmas.

For further details, please contact Angela Dance on 01508 521120.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

The group meets on the third Tuesday of every month, starting at 7:30pm at Langley with Hardley Village Hall. Further details from Secretary Gillian Ball 01508 528182 or President Judy Wilson 01508 522051

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

Sadly, not operating at present due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We are a friendly group meeting each month for a talk from a guest speaker and refreshments. Usual time 8pm at the Brian Clarke Meeting Rooms, Mallard Close, Chedgrave. For more information contact Hillary 01508 520457 or June 01508 528853

Patient Participation Group

Our meetings are not currently taking place and we will advise all through Contact when normal service is likely to resume.



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Footballers Wanted!

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 once restrictions are lifted. Cost £2.50 per session, first session free.



For more details, please contact Terry on: 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

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.

Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

For details contact Pete on 07931711323 or Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk

The Club run teams in the Norfolk Alliance as well as the Norfolk League, as well as teams at U9/11/13 age groups.

If you would like to play, whatever your age or ability, you'll be very welcome at Hales and Loddon. All our Youth Coaches are DBS checked and are qualified to work in youth Cricket. We are just off the A146 after the roundabout near Hales.



Ashby St Mary Cricket Club

We are a small village club, who plays home games at Ashby Hall "The Meadow", a wonderful location. We play competitive friendlies on a Sunday afternoon, also midweek 20 over games April—September. If you are new to the area, not played for a while, or perhaps want a change in clubs - call us.

Come and join us—you will enjoy it! For more information, please contact Paul on 01508 218078.

Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

We are delighted to announce our indoor training sessions at Langley School, starting from Monday 2nd November with Ben France. There will be two sets of 7 sessions from 6-7pm and 7-8pm. For more details e-mail Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk.



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Loddon Community Gym



As I *write* this we are in the first week of the second lockdown. As you *read* this we may have emerged into yet another 'new normal' (or not). And into the New Year, who knows! I suspect we are all learning to take life a day at a time as we are in uncharted waters (or *unprecedented times* as the politicians keep telling us).

With hindsight the Gym committee's decision to keep the Gym closed until the spring has been the right one and we hope that our members agree. Still, whoever said, 'there is no such thing as bad weather only unsuitable clothing', may have been simply encouraging us to buy a particular brand of clothing but there is some truth in the saying. The winter will be no longer, or darker than any other winter and our mental health and wellbeing will still be enhanced by wrapping up warm and exercising in the fresh air if we possibly can.

Louise's plan to offer socially distanced, outdoor, Personal Training sessions for anyone who is interested (both members and non members) is on hold under the current restrictions but she can be contacted if you want to take her up on it when it becomes possible:

loupt1@live.co.uk or phone 075349 46143.

There is more information on our Facebook page and on the website:
www.loddoncommunitygym.com

Take care, until we meet again at the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon.

Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

Unfortunately, we are not currently running sessions on Tuesday afternoons. BUT WATCH THIS SPACE, as we hope to restart as soon as possible in the New Year.

For more information call Sara 01508 521958.

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

I would like to advise all our members that the Christmas meal at the Old Feathers for the 3rd December will NOT be going ahead.

Contact June on 01508 528853 for further details about the society.

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

All Saints Church Chedgrave has a lovely church centre attached to it which has been open for over 25 years. There are two rooms (one upstairs), a kitchen and a loo. There are wheeled tables which are easy to move and put up.

It is warm even in the winter! It is available to book with a suggested donation of £8 per hour. If you are looking for a venue for a meeting, a party, or an activity do contact Jack Barwick who is responsible for hall bookings on jackbarwick@yahoo.co.uk

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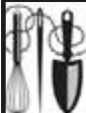
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Loddon Community Cinema

The cinema is suspended until further notice for the safety of our community.

Social Whist

We meet every second and fourth Friday of the month though there is no pressure to attend every month We welcome 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 me, Jane Hale, on 01508 528875.

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 and meet new people? 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. Meetings start at 10am and finish around midday with the option of staying for lunch. We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required. Members range in age from 60 to almost 100. We have guest speakers with topics range from clocks, Whitehall, cartoons, space and even stagecoach journeys to Norwich.

Meetings have restarted.

Please contact Clive Boyd on 01508 520547, or e-mail cliveboyd@btconnect.com

Chet Valley Probus Club

All meetings are regrettably cancelled due to the current health crisis.

For further details contact the secretary: John McCormack, 5a Norton Road, Loddon NR14 6JN. 01508 521899..

Chet Valley Photography Club

We are continuing our monthly meeting virtually via Zoom. Our meeting on Monday 14th December is 'Astrophotography' by Shaun Reynolds. Living nearby, Shaun's passion is the night sky, both deep space astro photography and wide field Milky Way images. Shaun has been awarded a shortlist for both the Astro Photographer of the Year at the Royal Observatory, and the UK Astro Photographer of the year in 2016. Shaun's website is: www.shaunreynoldsastro.com



Our first meeting in 2021 will be on Monday 11th January. Please refer to our website below for details of topic and speaker.

If you are interested in joining us or would like some more information, please contact me secretary@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk or have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. Our annual membership is £15.

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Parkinsons

Would you like to meet other Parkinsons sufferers? We will normally meet on the first Monday of the month at the Chedgrave White Horse at 12.15pm. Partners are also welcome. For further details please ring Michael Osborne on 01508 522034.

Davy Place Social Club

The social club is unable to operate as normal due to current Covid-19 restrictions. Please contact Janet 01508 522115 with any questions you may have. Thank you.

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.

For up to date info contact Bev on 07826 299290.

9.30am-2.15pm, each Tuesday and Friday, at the Brian Clarke Room, Chedgrave.



Loddon and District Horticultural Society

For information contact:

Secretary Hazel on 07765098345 or happyhaze50@gmail.com

Chairman Jean on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com

Follow us on our Facebook page or take a look at our webpage on www.loddon.org

Bullrush Babies

Bullrush Babies is a group for first-time mums and their babies. It is a place to meet others for support and encouragement. We meet on a Wednesday morning at All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave. Group size is limited to 6 mums and their babies. We have one full group running at present and spaces to start a second group.



If you are interested in joining, please contact Rev Alison:

01508 528126 or ball880am@btinternet.com

Choir for Carols

We are still hoping to sing on several evenings in different parts of the Chet Valley community: December 13th in Loddon; December 20th in Chedgrave. Final details to be arranged. People of all ages are welcome. We will not be having any rehearsals so it will be helpful if everyone is familiar with traditional Christmas carols. We will adhere to the Covid guidelines current in December.

If you would like to take part please contact Rev Alison:

e-mail ball880am@btinternet.com or 01508 528126



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Loddon WEA

We now know for certain that we shall not be able to offer a face-to-face course of lectures in January. The spread of the Covid virus is too unpredictable to make firm arrangements which might have to be cancelled at the last moment. However, the WEA does offer a wealth of courses 'virtually' Full details can be found on line if you go to either: eastern@wea.org.uk or www.wea.org.uk.

We are very sorry to have to announce this and we shall miss our weekly meetings with friends.

Royal British Legion–Loddon & District Branch



In these grim coronavirus times we are, more than ever, grateful to you all for your unstinting support to us throughout 2020 and especially during our November Remembrance commemorations and Poppy Appeal. We hope normal service can be resumed for 2021, but we are now well prepared if it isn't!

We are still unable to hold branch meetings or an AGM so all officers and committee have kindly agreed to work on until next year. This means that our branch secretary is still Christine Hartley and she can be contacted as usual on 01508 521136 for Legion help and advice or to join our branch.

All being well, the next branch meeting should be at the King's Head 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th January 2021 (no branch meeting in December) followed then on Tuesday 9th February.

Stay safe and best wishes from us for Christmas and the New Year!

Re-cycling of Cheese Wrappers and Ring Carriers

There are boxes in Holy Trinity Church porch for recycling of various items. These now include any brand of individual plastic cheese wrappers, any brand of sliced cheese protective plastic film, any brand of flexible plastic cheese pouches, labels from Cathedral City minis packs of 6 and any brand of plastic nets for mini cheeses. You can also put your flexible plastic ring carriers to hold cans in the boxes. The church can raise much-needed funds through this venture.



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Loddon and District Local History Group

The observance of Christmas Day and possibly more importantly the Twelve Days of Christmas Festival were abolished by an Act of Parliament in 1647 to try to stop the extravagances of the mid-winter festival and to emphasise the importance of Sundays as Holy Days. With varied success the prohibition remained in force until the restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 and the reign of Charles II. Our Churchwardens Accounts show that in the years before the 1647 Act the wine for the Christmas Communion cost about 6/-. The records for the period of the Commonwealth have no entries for Christmas Communion wine. By 1665 we can see that the Christmas Communion is again taking place.

Looking at some 19th century newspaper cuttings recently I noticed that there were several relating to Christmas in Loddon. The twelfth day of Christmas, the Feast of the Epiphany, celebrating the arrival of The Kings seems for some years to have been chosen as the appropriate date for the children of Loddon to have their Christmas Party.

25th January 1873: Norwich Mercury

LODDON

CHILDREN'S PARTY – On Wednesday evening the 15th inst., a children's party was given in the Town Hall Loddon, to which all the children in the town under twelve years of age and all the children in the Workhouse Schools were invited. At five o'clock (the time fixed for the children to assemble) about 300 presented themselves for admission. The proceedings commenced with an appropriate address by the Rev. Mr. Davison of Loddon: after which the Magic Christmas Pie was opened by Father Christmas (Mr. T. W. Ellis) with an immense knife & fork, each about a yard and a half long. On the pie being cut open, the "four and twenty blackbirds" of nursery tradition flew out and commenced singing, and from the same piece of pastry Mr. E. Pettit gave some very clever impersonations of different animals, &c., and last of all the "King of the Dwarfs" (Master J. Braddock) jumped into the arms of Old Father Christmas. Messrs George Cutlack and D. Hunting then appeared as Punch and Judy, and their curious contortions and evolutions elicited the most unbounded applause from the youngsters, whose roars of laughter resounded through the whole building. But the chief feature of the evening was the Christmas tree, kindly given by Sir T. Beauchamp, Bart., and which was loaded with an immense quantity of very useful articles, contributed by the ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood. The presents were then given to the children, each child receiving two articles. Buns and oranges were then distributed amongst them and the children dispersed about nine o'clock, after having spent a most amusing and delightful evening. The Hall was very tastefully decorated with festoons and wreaths of evergreens mixed with roses, and presented a most pleasing aspect. The ladies of Loddon and the neighbourhood came forward and assisted readily in the undertaking, and it is mainly owing to their exertions that the party proved such a success.

With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Safe and Healthy New Year.

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

"One must always be careful of books," said Tessa, "and what is inside them, for words have the power to change us." Cassandra Clare, from "Clockwork Angel." (2010)

"The Empathy Problem," by Gavin Extence

The world of high finance and enormous profits are what make life worth living for Gabriel Vaughn, a high flyer in the City of London - until he is diagnosed with a brain tumour. He is convinced that nothing in his life will be changed by this apart from the effects of the medication and, obviously, an earlier death that he had anticipated. Something strange happens, though, as the tumour grows. He begins to care about things. Remarkably, he begins to care about other people and their wellbeing; about making changes for them; and very unexpectedly he finds joy in classical music as well as falling in love with a young musician. Unexpectedly there is much humour in the story - often rather dark humour - but humour nonetheless. There is also a great deal of kindness and compassion, just as there was in the first book written by this author ("The Universe Versus Alex Woods").

"Falling in Love," by Donna Leon

Do not be put off by the title of this book - this is not what you might think! It is, in fact, another thriller featuring Commissario Brunetti, set in Venice. Once again, La Fenice, the opera house, is the backdrop of the story, just as it was in the very first of these novels by Donna Leon. Ingredients of the plot are beautiful flowers, beautiful buildings, obsessive jealousy, a few regular characters in the Venetian Police Force (some more efficient than others!), the life of an opera singer and friendship. Always in the background interest is added by being the reader being given snippets of the home life of the Brunetti family, often humorous, often recognisable details and problems concerning the growing up of the two adolescents of the family, with which many readers can empathise! The tension created by the plot, however, is definitely there right until the end of this delightful book.

"Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout

The title of this unusual, beautifully written book is simply the name of the person who links together each of the chapters one way or another. These chapters are almost like short stories in themselves, with Olive being sometimes incidental to one of them and at other times, right at the heart of another. The novel is really about a small community - the kind of place where almost everyone knows everyone else. The author is astonishingly clever at creating her characters, often with the minimum of words and by the situations they find themselves in. Olive herself is a retired teacher of mathematics at the local school, so she has known many of her neighbours since they were very young and therefore knows a great deal about family backgrounds. She is a bit gruff, not given to expressing her emotions easily, has no time for fools, but can be kind and loving, especially to her husband and son, but also to others when it's needed. She finds the changes that come with growing old hard to deal with and very frustrating. Altogether she is a most interesting character in a very interesting and enjoyable book.

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Nature Notes

I am beginning December Nature Notes mid-way through October as this last week has been interesting in what we have seen. I ended November's Nature Notes listing some of the interesting birds that were around reasonably local that I might try and see. As is often the case they had all moved on the following day, so I stayed home.



However last weekend while in Seething sudden movement caught my attention. Initially my mind thought kestrel, but it looked wrong as it disappeared, it was the wrong shape for a sparrowhawk, which size-wise just left either a late hobby or a merlin. It showed briefly again enabling to rule out Hobby and managing to get my binoculars focused very briefly on its head I knew I was looking at a female merlin.

Normally a bird of moorland they tend to migrate to lowlands and coastal areas in the autumn. One of its prey is meadow pipits which have been building up in numbers over the last week. Also over Seething I have seen and heard my first flock of pink footed geese flying in to spend winter with us

At home I observed a flock of fifty plus silent fieldfares fly over; normally they give themselves away by their harsh calls. Yet more birds signaling that winter is approaching as they move from further north to stay with us. I have since seen them both in Seething and in the hawthorn bushes at Hardley Staithe.

Rachel and I were driving home along our road when suddenly a sparrowhawk flew out of a garden at about 30 centimetres above the road and flew ahead of us along the road. It then swerved right disappearing into our neighbour's garden only to reappear out of our drive and continuing its low altitude flight.

Our "lockdown" garden bird list has also increased by three: Just as it was getting light, I heard curlew calling, managed to trace the sound and saw two curlews flying high over the garden. Later that day a lesser redpoll put in an appearance. Initially I thought it was a juvenile goldfinch, but quickly realised it wasn't. A few days later Rachel saw a grey wagtail walking round the edge of our pond. Unfortunately I missed it by seconds, but I have seen them there some years ago.

Amongst all the wet October weather we have had, there was one sunny morning which was gloriously magical, the sunlight shining on the autumnal leaves was brilliant and it made the colours of everything stand out. The white and black of a male pied wagtail and the yellow of a male yellow hammer just shone out. Glorious!

Richard and Rachel Hull



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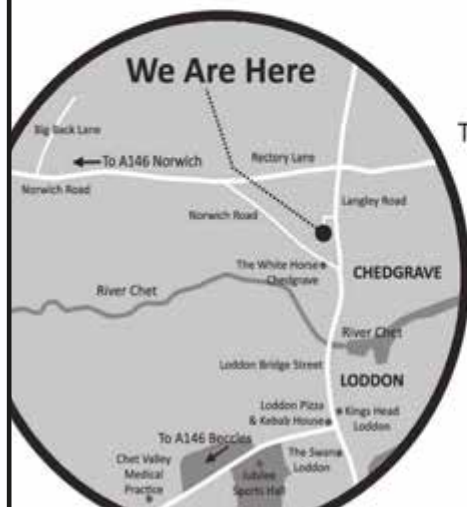
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Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

Winter is the time to plant bare root fruit trees, bushes, and canes and to prune most fruit **except** plums. It is also a good time to divide rhubarb crowns. A crown will last 5 – 10 years, but it will save you having to buy new ones if you occasionally divide a healthy one and replant it in fresh ground. A mistake I used to make was to mulch the crowns in winter. Rhubarb is completely hardy and needs a prolonged cold period to do well. Apply manure in spring.

My grape vines suffered badly with the late frosts in 2020 and the new 15cm shoots died right back to the main frame. They grew again from secondary buds but as I feared not strongly, and the crop was greatly reduced. A few bunches for dessert and a single bottle of grape juice!

I tried growing sweet potatoes for the second time this year and they also suffered in the late frosts despite a covering of straw held down by fleece. One plant died all together and the top growth on the rest seemed sparse, so when I dug a couple up at the end of October I wasn't expecting much. I was pleased to get a good-sized tubers, particularly of the variety T65 (quite a pale colour) though the Carolina Ruby also did well. In my first attempt the tubers were delicious but long and thin. Neither variety did well in potato sacks which I tried as an experiment.



Christmas Carol Anagram Answers:



- | | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| The Angel Gabriel | 1 |
| O Little Town of Bethlehem | 2 |
| Silent Night | 3 |
| It was on a Starry Night | 4 |
| The First Noel | 5 |
| Unto Us a Boy is Born | 6 |
| It Came Upon a Midnight Clear | 7 |
| Hark, the Herald Angels Sing | 8 |
| We Three Kings | 9 |
| We Wish You a Merry Christmas | 10 |

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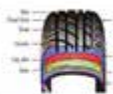
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