

CONTACT

A winter landscape photograph. In the foreground, a large clump of dried, golden-brown grasses stands on the left. The middle ground shows a dark, frozen body of water, possibly a pond or lake, with some snow patches. In the background, there are several bare, leafless trees under a clear blue sky.

Published by the Church in Loddon

February 2021

Uncredited

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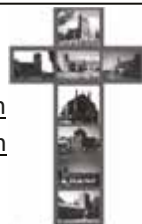
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Chet Valley Churches Information

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
Alison Ball:	01508 528126	ball880am@btinternet.com
Jill Haylock:	01508 520248	jillhaylock@aol.com
Fr. Padraig Hawkins:	01508 492202	office@east-angliadiocese.org.uk



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

Editors:	Alison Ball, Roger Outlaw
Advertising:	vacant at this time
Treasurer:	Val Counter
Distribution:	Roger Outlaw & Helpers
Printing:	Roberts & Son 01508 520221

COPY DEADLINE IS ALWAYS NOON 8TH OF THE MONTH

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.

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

DISCLAIMER

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

From the Editor

By the time you read this we will be a month into the New Year lockdown and difficult though it is I hope you are all managing to make the best of the enforced quiet.

I'm sorry we have had to go back to online—only for Contact at present, a decision we took before the lockdown because it seemed abundantly clear that we were headed for a serious escalation in the rate of infection. We were not prepared to put all of our delivery network at any further risk either of catching Covid or inadvertently spreading it further.

As always in these times of constantly changing messages make sure you check before committing to any activities included in this issue and those that follow—there is nearly always a contact person or a number to call where you can check.

I've mentioned the team that make up Contact before but I can't pass over how grateful I was, both for the editors and all of you, that when we restarted delivery after the summer every one was happy to take up their bundles and get delivering again. A huge thank you to them all!!

I want to also offer our thanks to Terry and Judy Read who have written as Sislanda for a number of years. The Contact board recently decided on a different approach and we are grateful for their past contributions.

But, for now, stay safe, with all that that involves,

Roger



Contents

		Highlights	
<i>Inside cover:</i>	2	Advertising Editor needed	2
Across the Chet Valley Churches	7-9	Thanks to Carollers	11
From the Parish Registers	11	Notes from Sisland	13
Council News	13-19	Local Councillor's Report	21
Community News	23-27	Simple Cookery tips	23
Churches	28-30	Help Sites during Lockdown	21,25,27
Community News	31-45	Chet Valley B-Line Update	43
History Society	47	Nature Notes	51
Read Any Good Books Lately?	49	Gardening Tips	53
Nature Notes	51	Could You Foster a Child?	54
Gardening & Allotment Notes	53		

Ministerial Musings

Here we are in a foggy new year; the lights and decorations have been put away and Christmas is behind us. There were presents too, which, in some way, may have reminded us of the three kings, those wise men with their strange gifts. And so the story ends. Except it doesn't!

Those three kings, having called on King Herod in Jerusalem on their way to Bethlehem, went home by a different route. Herod, in his fury at being tricked, ordered all baby boys in Bethlehem to be killed. He didn't want a rival king, someone who might threaten his tin-pot power. Jesus escaped to Egypt with Mary and Joseph but others were not so fortunate. We normally ignore that part of the story; it's not very nice after all. But it happened and we do well to pay it attention. Herod slaughtered babies, the holy innocents, in his frantic urge to get rid of Jesus, the baby King of the Jews. We mustn't ignore the story, because Herod wasn't the last to kill children to protect his own position and further his own ambition.

We don't know how many babies were killed in Bethlehem, it isn't recorded anywhere, but today, many more children die every minute around the world because of poverty, hunger, war, abuse and preventable diseases. Every newspaper, magazine, social media and television report describes children as victims, sometimes the victims of violence inflicted by those who should love them the most of all.

Knowing this, if we do nothing, is it possible that we are somehow complicit in it? Modern-day Herods?

It seems that children still have plenty of Herods to fear. Today's holy innocents are the frightened children in Gaza and Bethlehem, the starving children in Yemen, the street children in Salvador and India, children abducted in Nigeria, children in refugee camps, abused children in our own communities.

None of that sounds very Christmassy and yet it is a part of the story. Jesus was born into a broken world of power struggles and ambitious rulers, of presidents who will not give up power. He came to earth knowing all that was wrong here. He came to offer a different way of living, a loving way of living. He came to be with those who were suffering; sharing and weeping over the sorrow and pain of others. He was born to live a life which faced all that was wrong in the world; faced the worst things head on – even death - and offered new hope even to the most hopeless situations.

Christians believe that this is not just ancient history. We believe that God is with us today in the suffering and sorrow of the pandemic; weeping for the pain of Uighurs, Rohingya, Syrians; loving the abused, the lonely, the lost; comforting the grieving and the frightened.

Christmas is not just a sweet story about a baby. It is about the reality of God with us in the fog of life's harshness and difficulty. It's about a challenge to join him in his work of loving care, no matter how hard that may be.

Rev Alison



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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 Jackson 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

Angela Caley who died on 11th December 2020

Funeral: 8th January 2021 at All Saints Church, Chedgrave

Peter Josiah Simcoe who died on 13th December 2020

Funeral: 5th January 2021 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Dennis John Farrow who died on 14th December 2020

Funeral: 18th January 2021 at Waveney Crematorium

Rosemary June Morison on 18 December 2020

Funeral: 13th January 2021 at Waveney Crematorium

Margaret Joyce Thorpe who died on 23rd December 2020

Funeral: 15th January 2021 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Chet Community Choir

The choir sang around both Loddon and Chedgrave on the two Sundays before Christmas.

A lot of fun was had by all and the support of both communities was much appreciated, both in terms of their coming out to see and in their singing with the choir. They visited Davy Place, Saxon House and Beauchamp House.

Even the weather was reasonable!

Collections and donations raised £155.22 for St Martin's Housing Trust Norwich, working with the homeless

Thank you to all who took part

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Notes from Sisland

Writing this at the start of the new year and as we enter another lockdown, it is good to reflect on a first for Sisland. On the Sunday 20th December we held an outdoor service of carols and readings. With a congregation of over 20 hardy souls from around the Benefice, we enjoyed readings from members of the parish of Sisland as well as Loddon and Chedgrave and music via a speaker. The sun shone brightly although there was a definite edge to the breeze as we congregated on the north side of the church. Much as the outside Harvest Festival the service was enjoyed and valued by us all.

Although St Mary's church is small, which restricts the numbers we can accommodate with social distancing, we were also able to celebrate Holy Communion on Christmas morning. The church is open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays and all those who would appreciate this peaceful place are welcome, with seats available by the altar.

The PCC has continued to meet throughout 2020, via Zoom, and is hoping to be able to run some fund-raising events in 2021. I look forward to sharing these plans when we can. We are aware of a couple of repairs required to the church building and our focus will be on these in the coming of months.

During the autumn Sisland church was hoping to hold a pamper day using 'Tropic' body, skincare and make up products. Unfortunately, the last lockdown intervened, but we would like to thank Jill Haylock and support from Katie Yarham for organising, in the period before Christmas, the opportunity to purchase some great gifts from the Tropic range. In addition to the sales, a raffle was run so thank you to everyone who supported us.

We look forward to keeping you updated on Sisland church and the activities taking place at the church and within the parish this year.

Rowena Bryce, Churchwarden

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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COVID-19 Update: Many Parish facilities can remain open during this latest set of pandemic restrictions but the Tennis Courts have had to close. Ensure for everyone's safety that social distancing guidelines are adhered to, and hand sanitiser is used regularly to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the Play Area, Skate Park, Allotments and Staithe Public Conveniences.

South Norfolk Council Help Hub: South Norfolk Council is here to help you throughout the pandemic. If you need any assistance, please contact SNC Help Hub on 01508 533 933 or email: communities@s-norfolk.gov.uk. The Help Hub will redirect your request to a local group of volunteers. SNC Help Hub is also to help with financial support for residents and businesses. www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-information

Local Government Elections: Elections are planned for 6 May 2021. Would you like the opportunity to become a Parish Councillor? The Parish Council plays a key role in Loddon life. If you are interested and would like to work as part of a team to improve community amenities and facilities, we would like to hear from you. Qualifications are: you must be over 18, be an elector within the Parish, live or work within three miles of Loddon. Please email the Parish Council office to register your interest; clerk@loddonpc.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan: Loddon and Chedgrave are considering producing a Neighbourhood Plan and are looking for interested people who would like to play a part in shaping the future development in the community. Please contact Loddon or Chedgrave Parish Council if you would like to volunteer. "The Plan is written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place." <https://locality.org.uk/services.../neighbourhood-planning/>

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 for cars and pedestrians.

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

Allotments: email Georgina to be added to the waiting list; finance@loddonpc.org.uk.

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

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 of the Parish Council is to be held remotely on Wednesday the 10 February 2021 at 7pm. Parishioners are welcome to attend remotely via 'GoTo Meeting' (details for remote access is available on the Agenda).

Contact Loddon Parish Council: The office is currently closed due to COVID-19. Please contact the clerk via email; clerk@loddonpc.org.uk or the finance officer; finance@loddonpc.org.uk. If there is a genuine Parish emergency, please call; 01508 486 128. The new website: www.loddonpc.org.uk and [Facebook page is regularly updated](#): www.facebook.com/LoddonPC

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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council



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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 10 February 2021 online at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to join – contact the Clerk for details. The Agenda is on the brick bus shelter notice board opposite Masala Garden and on the website 3 days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

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 we should say thank you to, please tell the Clerk.

The Parish Council want to thank Michael Blake for his contribution to the village. Michael collects litter that he finds on our roads and lanes in the village during his walks, improving the countryside for us and our wildlife. Thank you, Michael.

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

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 get in touch with 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 learn more about composting and how it works please contact Alan Mason via alan_mbc@btinternet.com or on 07738 933316. The Group hopes to recommence in Spring, to get involved please let Alan know.

Footpath Issues: The footpath along the side of the A146 between Beccles and Loddon has been resurfaced by Norfolk County Council in the last few weeks. If you see any problems on any of the parish paths please advise South Norfolk Council through their webpage <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>. It would help if you also advise the Parish 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>. It would be helpful if you could also advise the Parish Clerk. If you see fly-tipping in action call the Police on 111.

Working Groups & Parish Councillors: If you would like more information about any of the projects around the village, please get in touch with the Clerk.

Stay Safe.

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Chedgrave Parish Council



All enquiries to 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 14th January 2021 (in line with Coronavirus Act 2020). Copies of the minutes are available on the Parish Council noticeboard, website and Facebook.

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

“Chet Chat”: Need help? Phone a Friend! Feel free to call **07876 050110** for support.

Councillor Vacancy: There is a current vacancy, anyone interested should contact the Clerk.

Bin Collection Calendars: South Norfolk Council is not distributing bin calendars this year but calendars are available online. Residents who do not have access to the internet can contact the SNC Depot’s customer care team on 01508 533830 to confirm their collection dates or have a printed calendar sent to their property.

Flooding/Sandbags: after recent flooding, residents are advised that a supply of sandbags is freely available for collection from the White Horse Public House should the need arise again.

Parish Precept: The council set the 2021/22 precept which is the portion of council tax allocated to the parish council. Councillors agreed that in light of the current economic situation, the Chedgrave Parish Council precept would remain at the same level as last year: **£25,731.53**. However, it was noted that due to a reduction in the number of households eligible to pay council tax, there will be a slight increase for some households. It was also noted, that future increases are likely in order to keep pace with inflation.

B-Line: The parish council supports the B-Line project and encourages local residents to consider leaving a portion of their garden for wildlife in support of this.

Grebe Drive Play Area: The old equipment has been removed and new topsoil laid. Turf will follow shortly and the new equipment should be installed in March.

Brian Clarke Room: Currently closed.

Planning Applications: The following planning matters were considered

2020/2401: No comment.

Neighbourhood Plan: Chedgrave Parish Council is progressing a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Loddon Parish Council. Members of the public interested in helping contact the Clerk.

White Horse Plain: Plans developing, it is hoped the impact on parking will be minimal if any.

Facebook: Please follow our Facebook page—updated from time to time with information relating to the parish council <https://www.facebook.com/Chedgrave-Parish-Council>

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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News From Your South Norfolk District Councillor

Many thanks to the volunteers who put together and delivered over 40 hampers across Loddon and Chedgrave over Christmas. It was a real joy to be involved in this, and I know that our friends and neighbours who received them were very touched to have been nominated.

I am particularly grateful to the wonderful team at Spoon Cake, who donated £500 towards this.

We are also popped in on some of our local friends who were on their own on Christmas Day this year, which I know was appreciated.



Now that we are in a full lockdown, our Chet Chat group, in conjunction with South Norfolk's excellent early Help Hub, will offer help and support to locals of **any** age. The number, to reach our fifty volunteers, is **07867 050110**. If you would like to speak to the Help Hub team, their number is **01508 533933**.

My regular surgeries will resume when it is safe to hold them again. In the meantime, please ring me anytime on **07733323581** if I can help you.

Thanks for putting your trust in me when you voted; it has been a great privilege to be able to serve the voters of our fantastic community.

I hoped that, by getting involved as one of your Councillors I would be able to bring our community even closer together, and reach out to provide practical help and friendship

Let's carry on looking after each other during winter. One day, all will be well again, and we will come out of this stronger.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe

Home Tutor Needed ?



Leigh has been in Norfolk classrooms since 2009 and is based in Poringland

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Contact Leigh Cole on **07766 705988** or leighcole1@gmail.com

"Quote 'Loddon Contact' for a 1st lesson discount. Meet me beforehand for your peace of mind."

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SIMPLE IDEAS FOR SOMETHING SCRUMMY

February is a time for enjoying special things, such as playing in the snow or splashing in puddles. Finding snowdrops in bloom, watching the birds when they come to feed, reading a good book perhaps, and eating a lovely home cooked meal.

There is something very satisfying in cooking, serving and eating nourishing food. The ingredients are not necessarily expensive and the meal can be easy to prepare.

In fact, cheaper cuts of beef are very tasty, and your local butcher will be happy to cut the locally sourced meat ready for you to cook.

Cheaper cuts of lamb and pork are also readily available and the local butcher is happy to prepare these for cooking as required

Among other positive things, the pandemic has helped us to realise the high quality of local produce and the value of the service our local shops provide.

Why not give this basic and wholesome recipe a try.....

TASTY BEEF HOT POT

500g lean stewing steak

Tablespoon oil

1 onion

6 mushrooms

2 carrots

2 potatoes

Seasoning

Stock made with beef stock cube in half a litre of hot water.

Cut stewing steak into 1 inch cubes. Heat oil in pan to flash fry meat for 2 mins.

Put meat into casserole dish with layers of sliced vegetables. Season with salt and plenty of black pepper. Cover with beef stock. Place lid on casserole dish and cook in a moderate oven 180 deg for 1hr 30 mins.

Serve with mashed potatoes or crusty bread.

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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

Offering a friendly helping hand to our over-60s friends and neighbours across Loddon, Chedgrave, Sisland and Hales & Heckingham.

Phone: 07876 050110



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.

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

Church Services

7th February		
9.30am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
14th February		
8.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
17th February		
7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion	St John, Loddon
21st February		
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11.00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
28th February		
9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon

Services during the Covid-19 pandemic– see current gov. advice

Our churches may not be open for daily worship. We believe all Sunday services will go ahead as advertised. ***Please look at our website for up-to-date information.*** On Sundays, our services are also 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.

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

Morning Prayer at 9.00am *All Welcome—currently suspended under Tier 4*

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**

COME AND PRAY

If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to

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3rd Tuesday **Midweek Communion with Blessing**

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** 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!**

20 THINGS TO DO IN LOCKDOWN

1. Complete a jigsaw or puzzle- great for brain training.
2. Start a journal.
3. Learn an instrument – If it doesn't bother your neighbours!
4. Make peace with friends and family .
5. Write – blogs, autobiographies, poetry.
6. Box sets and movies – time for a tvfest!
7. Learn a language.
8. Reading – it's relaxing, helps slow you down and reduces stress.
9. Meditation and mindfulness.
10. Fresh Bread – for the smell alone!
11. Indoor Aerobics – squeeze into that lycra.
12. Go to the Mediterranean in your mind.
13. Learn a new skill.
14. Learn whilst teaching the kids.
15. Dance – wj, karaoke or just watching MTV, groove to the tunes!
16. Board Games -hours of fun and laughter, no fighting if you lose!
17. Catch up on your favourite soap – just you, the duvet and the tv
18. Organise – have a spring clean!
19. Go through that Wardrobe and de-clutter.
20. Get those green fingers gardening – it's almost spring.

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.

For information 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

Loddon Community Gym

Christmas was not cancelled, as some people would have had us believe, but it was undoubtedly different from previous years for most of us. And what of the New Year? The best we can hope for is a healthy and safe start to 2021 and that, at some point, it will be okay for granny and grandchild to give each other hugs. At that point the Gym will open up again.

Until then we must all do our best to keep fit and active. 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 0753 494 6143.

Take care, until we meet again at the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon. For more information keep an eye on our Facebook page and on the website www.loddoncommunitygym.com



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

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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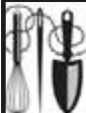
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Loddon Community Cinema

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

Recently retired or just moved to the area? 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 are 10am - midday with the option of lunch. We are a friendly and informal club. Ages from 60 to almost 100. Regular guest speakers Meetings suspended until further notice.

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

Monthly meetings via Zoom. Mon.8th February is "A to Z of Imaging" by Dave Russell AFIAP. Dave visited his local camera club in Cardiff, thirty years on he is still there. He gained his AFIAP in 2013 and is a judge and lecturer. The presentation covers each letter of the alphabet, from Achilles to Zoom. It covers people pictures, landscapes, natural history and more, with a variety of straight shots and more creative images. Dave's website is www.bronwydd.wixsite.com/bronwyddimaging



We have images from past annual exhibitions being displayed in Youngs Funeral Directors window for you to enjoy whilst you are on your exercise walk or shopping in Loddon. The display will be available to view from now until end of March.

If you are interested in joining or for more information, secretary@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk or www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk.

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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.

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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

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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:

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Chet Valley B-Line Update.

The CVB-Line is keen to promote the establishment of hedges as wildlife corridors and as habitat/food sources for pollinators such as bees and hoverflies. 2020 schemes were at Loddon Allotments, with the Loddon Parish Council and the Allotment Association planting a hawthorn hedge; near the Brian Clarke Rooms in Chedgrave led by Chedgrave Parish Council, planting a conservation hedge mix, and in Bergh Apton a 220m field boundary with a special pollinator hedge mix running down to the Chet. *[All planted in line with the Covid 19 guidance].*

Trees were provided by the Woodland Trust and the pollinator mix included Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Rowan, Hazel, Dogwood, Goat Willow and Dog Rose, they provide flowers at different times during spring and early summer. Hopefully, Ivy will self-establish providing late season nectar and pollen. The schemes involved 36 volunteers, who gave around 80 hours of their time. The Bergh Apton hedge was a two-day marathon in sticky clay with volunteers from Bergh Apton Conservation Trust, South Yare Wildlife Group and the Chet Valley B-Line pooling resources. We were grateful to local farmer Tony Kerry for helping by clearing the ground with his digger before planting. It was very good to see three children helping at Bergh Apton, quickly becoming adept at winding the guards round the plants.

Planting is only the first part of making sure hedges benefit wildlife. They then need maintenance to deliver benefits to wildlife. Cut back every year, they can't flower to provide nectar and pollen or then develop fruit for the birds later in the year. Hawthorn provides masses of early flowers, but only on second year wood so should not be cut more than once every 3 years as a minimum. If you wonder when to cut hedges to maximise wildlife benefit, the answer is now in late winter.

The Government has announced payments for Enhanced Hedge Management in 2022. We hope it is successful and has wide take up, more hedges in full bloom and perhaps less flailing! If you have any ideas for planting schemes or want some advice, contact us by email at chetvalleybline@gmail.com or via Facebook .



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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 February. 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

Like many others who knew him we, as his Legion branch, were saddened by the recent passing to Higher Service of one of our longer serving members and a stalwart of Loddon for many years, Alan Cook.

We extend our love and commiserations to Margaret and the rest of his family, and assure you all that he will be missed but not forgotten.

You will of course be very aware by now that, because we are all in lockdown for the foreseeable future, we cannot hold any branch meetings or events until it is safe to do so hopefully later in the year.

However, we are still definitely here as a branch for help, support, sympathy, guidance and advice so do not hesitate to phone our branch secretary Christine Hartley (01508 521136) should you need to.

In the meantime, we send best wishes for an, eventually happier we hope, 2021.

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

A new family home is nearing completion in Low Bungay Road, where for about 200 years a pair of cottages had stood. We did digs there and found some lovely Medieval potsherds. Later the cottages with bulging rotten brick walls were easily demolished. I wondered where the new bricks came from (Peterborough?) and the old ones, surely produced locally? In 1837 400 bricks from Mr Strowlger cost the Churchwardens 10/5^d.

Surely this was Mr John Strowlger who owned land near Southend House in Bungay Road. He had been paying land tax since at least 1826 and was described as a brickmaker at the baptism of his children. John and his wife and large family appear on the Census returns until her death in 1859 and his 10 years later. But by 1848 Henry Fayerman a grocer, son of Zaccheus, seems to have taken ownership of the business, and appears on Poll lists as owning a Brickground in High Bungay Road, both Strowlger & Fayerman appear in the Directory of 1850; as Brickmakers (Robert Campbell of Great Yarmouth Linen Draper has moved into Southend House).

Henry Fayerman, with his new wife Mary Ann, was recorded on the 1851 census in Loddon, he seems to have returned to Great Yarmouth soon afterwards, until at least 1859. He had a house in Yarmouth as well as the Brickground in Loddon.

In 1859 there was a General Election. Not until 1872 were ballots secret and until then who those eligible to vote voted for was a matter of public knowledge. So in 1859 Young Henry who was in debt, (several hundred pounds) appears to have been approached by the Agents for the Conservative Candidates Sir Edmund Lacon & Sir Henry Stracey. Like some other members of his family he appears to have lacked discretion and made allegations that Sir Edmond Lacon himself had given him £5 for his vote (this was against the law). Eventually there was a hearing at Westminster where this and several charges of election irregularity and a trial at the Old Bailey where Fayerman was charged with perjury against Sir Edmund Lacon. This latter case was dismissed for lack of witnesses. The newspaper reports make confusing reading, making the point that one of the two must have been guilty. Henry's wife Mary Ann returned to Fritton and died in 1904. He shows on Electoral Rolls owning property in Burgh St Peter until 1896 but lived in Leeds working as a railway clerk.

It seems likely that Robert Campbell a draper who already owned Southend House purchased the Brickyards in 1860, and ran them until his death in 1882, when he left the property to his nieces who lived in Nottingham. By 1910 they have leased it to Lewis Elden the builder of many local houses, and the Smith family are producing bricks for him. They had both died by 1924. We have no evidence of when Brickmaking stopped in Loddon, but Lewis Elden died aged 88 in 1934.

We should remember that both Hales Hall and Holy Trinity Church were built of brick in the 15th century and that several fields in the parish are called Brick Kiln in 1840. There was a brickyard at Hales for many years, another topic for research. Keep safe.

Elvie Herd

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"The Dutch House," by Ann Patchett

In the USA a man buys a house complete with all its furniture and effects, after the previous owners died. There are portraits of those Dutch owners in the living-room, and the house itself is very grand, with decorated ceilings and stately furnishings throughout. The wife of the new owner hates it and eventually leaves both the house and her husband. Consequently, the husband remains in the house with the couple's children, who are looked after by a nanny, a cook and a housekeeper.

The father remarries and after his death a few years later his widow throws out both of her stepchildren, one of whom is by then a young adult and the other a young teenager. It is the latter, the son, who narrates most of the story throughout the book. We follow their careers and lives from then on, during which they are continually drawn back to the Dutch House and eventually the plot takes us, and them, full circle. This is a beautifully written book with some interesting and unusual characters.

"The Secret River," by Kate Grenville

The setting of this book begins in Nineteenth Century London, when poverty was extremely common amongst a great many people. Poverty only too often resulted in crime of one sort or another and in this case the theft of some stolen wood by a young father results in the whole family being sent to Australia to live and work there. A great deal of hardship was experienced by them in London and they soon find that again, life is by no means easy, once they arrive in Australia. In those times there was little or no understanding between the Aborigines and the settlers - many of whom had been sent there as a result of petty crimes back in England. White men were very afraid of the black colour of the Aborigines' skin, and vice versa. With no common language to aid either race, acceptance and understanding was bound to take a long time even to begin to develop between them. The author makes such things clear to the reader by writing with great sensitivity. She has created a very good and informative novel.

"Queenie Malone's Paradise Hotel," by Ruth Hogan

Ruth Hogan may be familiar to some readers as the author of "The Keeper of Lost Things." This is an equally extraordinary book, and it is really entertaining and imaginative. The central character is called Tilly. Tilly's father goes away when she is a young child, leaving her with her mother, Gracie. Tilly adored her father and doesn't believe he would ever leave them - she believes instead that Gracie has killed him. She also grows up believing all the time that her mother doesn't love her. After an unhappy and fairly impoverished time Gracie takes Tilly with her to live at the Paradise Hotel, which Queenie (a friend of Gracie's from years ago) owns in Brighton. Tilly's life is transformed. She and Gracie become happier - for Tilly the whole eccentric household is an absolute joy! She never forgets her father however, and never stops believing that her mother doesn't love her, until in her own adulthood, after Gracie dies, she finds Gracie's diaries.

There are some glorious characters in this book as well as an element of the supernatural running through it, also some sadness and lots of laughter. Definitely worth reading.

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Nature Notes

Christmas fades and the New Year approaches fast, time to begin February's Nature Notes. One of my dog walks starts at Chedgrave Church. Standing under the oak tree by the back gate I see the movement of small birds in its branches. It's a flock of Long Tailed Tits searching for insects amongst the twigs. It is always worth checking Long Tailed Tit flocks in winter, often other small birds will be with them. With this group were also Blue and Great Tits, Goldcrest and a Tree Creeper, well worth the five minutes spent scanning the tree.

In December, I was privileged to be taken on a guided tour of Dickleburgh Moor, and saw four Green Sandpipers. They used to overwintering round the dykes where we live, but I have not seen any these last two years.

I made a return trip to Covehythe Broad and there had been even more erosion, so the path to the beach was flooded. I saw a Long-Tailed Duck, unexpected though one had been seen the previous week. Normally they are on the sea and often just a small dot in the distance, but this one was very obliging and gave some terrific views.

Across the fields from Hardley Street to the Staithe I was entertained by both a Barn Owl and a Short-Eared Owl, which was a bonus while walking the dogs. I know the Short-Eared Owl has been around for a while but until now I have only seen it perched in the bushes on the left of the Staithe. This time it was flying low across the fields along with the Barn Owl, both just ahead of us heading towards the Staithe where several photographers were waiting to photograph them. We have during December regularly seen Barn Owls at several local locations, whereas for most of the rest of the year they have been noticeably invisible.

While volunteering at Earsham Wetland Centre the other Thursday, I was enjoying my lunch by the building when a sudden movement caught my eye. Initially I thought it was a Grey Squirrel following the fence line towards me, but quickly realised that it was a Stoat showing the diagnostic black tip to its tail. I saw another one today out walking the dogs near Hales Common, it ran across the road in front of us though both my dogs were oblivious to it. As we got to the place it had disappeared into a hedge, it reappeared and ran back in front of us and this time my terrier wanted to give chase but fortunately, he was on his lead.

The Pink Footed Geese seem to have found pastures new and no longer fly regularly overhead. Flocks of Fieldfare and Redwing are also less often heard or seen having stripped the local berries they have also move on.

I have been lucky to see several Kingfishers locally, one flew right in front of me at Hardley Staithe, flashing blue and orange. It crossed the Staithe and directly in front of a couple walking on the opposite bank, but from their lack of reaction I don't think they saw it, even though it was only a couple of feet in front of them at eye level.

Again, in December, a number of birds were displaying as if it was spring, especially dunnocks but also wrens and black headed gulls. What do they know that we don't?

We start the New Year in lockdown but that doesn't stop us being observant and enjoying the natural world around us even if it is through a window. As a child my parents would take me out for walks this time of year looking for signs of Spring, so why not give it a go and see what you can find.

Richard and Rachel Hull

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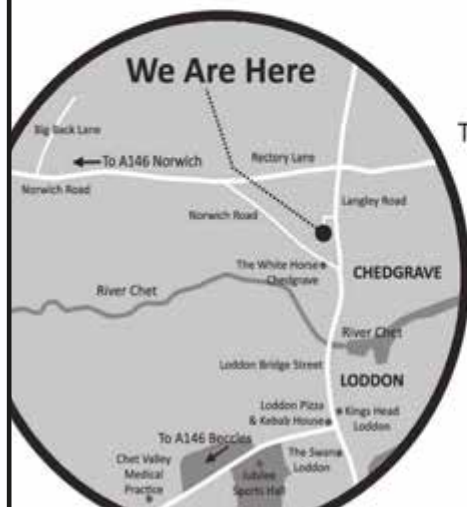
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Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

Something slightly different this month as I would like to recommend a book to you. This is *The Garden Jungle* (or gardening to save the planet) by Dave Goulson. (You may recognize the name from some disturbing recent news resulting from his research that insecticides used on our pets to kill fleas are finding their way in our rivers and streams.) I found myself reading this book twice. Once for enjoyment and once to take notes of all the useful information and advice.

I was particularly taken by the chapter (12) in which the virtues of allotments are rightly extolled. If you think the countries 330,000 allotments are messy shambles think again. They are astonishingly productive with between 4 and 11 times the weight of produce that an intensively farmed arable field can produce, and without all the pesticides and fertilizers.

So, we allotment holders are outperforming all the decades of farming research and investment. The reason is simple we can pack in more crops, particularly by growing different crops together – catch crops. This more closely mirrors a natural ecosystem and supports far more wildlife. There is also plenty of research to confirm allotments and gardening are beneficial to our physical and mental health.

The book also explains something I have wondered about, which is why you see so many allotments close to railway lines? You could cheat and google this, but you would learn a lot more from reading the book.

Back to my main purpose. Now is the second opportunity to plant broad beans but your focus should be on getting ready for the coming year: planning, digging, mulching, and manuring.



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