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Sunday 25 August 12.30 - 5pm

Monday 26 August 10am – 5pm

Further details available from Angela Bailey 01508 528794 or Genevieve Godber email: loddonartexhibition@gmail.com



Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

Ros Hoffmann: 01508 548200 <u>roshoffmann2011@gmail.com</u>

Alison Ball: 01508 528126 <u>ball880am@btinternet.com</u>

Jill Haylock: 01508 520248 <u>jillhaylock@aol.com</u>

Martin Keenan: 01502 560178 martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk

To contact Members of the Clergy during the vacancy, please use this e-mail address: clergyCVB@gmail.com

To arrange baptisms and weddings please contact Rev Alison. To arrange a funeral or interment of ashes please contact Rev Jill. For prayer requests or home communion please contact Rev Ros.

Postal address: St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon NR14 6NB

Phone: 01508 520897, Email: website.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com This phone and e-mail account are also being monitored regularly.

Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches <u>www.chetvalleychurches.org</u>
The Diocese of Norwich <u>www.dioceseofnorwich.org</u>



Chet Contact

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From the Editor

Summer is upon us. When I was growing up, I remember the summer holidays seemed to stretch out endlessly. Sometimes I'd go and spend time with my Gran and Grandpa near Blackpool and I have fond memories of mornings spent on the helter skelter and little cars at the top of Victoria Road, or amusements on the pier, maybe a trip for ice cream or time on the beach. Now I am looking forward to long sunny days spent in the garden; trips out; afternoon tea; countryside walks... and, of course, wondering what the election will bring us. Our sitting MP is standing down after serving for I4 years, so whichever party wins in our new constituency (still called South Norfolk but with different boundaries), we will have a new face representing us in Westminster.

Our Rector is also standing down after ten years of ministry amongst us and is moving away, though not so very far. We are in the process of drawing up the profile for our group of churches and hoping that Chet Valley will prove attractive to potential applicants. Please note that once Rev David has retired and we are in 'vacancy' there is a new e-mail address to contact members of the clergy (see page 3 for details).

Whatever you end up doing this summer, I hope you have some time for rest and relaxation.

Alison

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Ministerial Musings

Beginnings and Endings

Life and times bring many beginnings and endings. For example, starting and finishing school, relationships, journeys, finding a home, leaving home, starting a new a job, and retirement. All these events may cause feelings of excitement or anxiety. We have recently gathered in church to say farewell to Reverend David and Nina Owen, to thank them for their work and commitment over the last ten years alongside us in the Chet Valley Benefice, and to wish them happy times in their retirement.

When reflecting on our journey and re-imagining what the future might hold, it is good to share our thoughts on times we have enjoyed, what has challenged us, and the possibilities of the future. We might find ourselves having many ideas and setting intentions, being grateful for the time that has passed and hope for the time to come. The journey ahead is ever changing so we can expect growth, improvement, and sometimes adversity. Remembering to live in the moment will help to steady ourselves as the days, weeks and months go by. It matters to walk mindfully, to take it all in, to smell the roses as they say!

Beginnings and endings, regarding life and death, are seen at first hand on a farm. As calves, lambs and piglets are born almost all thrive but occasionally there are fatalities at that time. Fields are sown with tiny seeds which germinate and grow into life-giving nourishing food.

In the Bible, Paul's first letter to the Corinthians says that a seed needs to die to bring new life: 'But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? What kind of body will they have?" How foolish! What you plant doesn't come to life unless it dies. When you plant something, it isn't a completely grown plant that you put in the ground. You only plant a seed. Maybe it's wheat or something else. But God gives the seed a body just as he has planned. And to each kind of seed, he gives its own body.' (1 Corinthians 15: 35-38).

In John 11:25-27, we read: 'Jesus said to Martha, sister of Lazarus "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied. "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Jesus knew that death was not the end of his story. On the third day after his death, he was raised again to new life. This has powerful implications for us, believing God's intentions are new life, love and new beginnings for all. Having faith in God's guidance, wisdom and love, this can help enormously through our beginnings, endings, and everything in between, helping us through whatever situations we face.

Jill Haylock



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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 (BCP) or Common Worship, with an informal Holy Communion service once a month in Chedgrave.



Morning Worship is held regularly in Loddon and Hardley. **Evening Prayer** (BCP) is on the third Sunday of the month in Sisland.

XPRESSIONS (AFÉ is on the first Sunday of the month at All Saints Chedgrave. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. Open between 10:00am and 12:00 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 at All Saints, Chedgrave, starting at 11:00am. January, March, June and September are followed by a shared lunch. The service is designed to be as inclusive as possible: a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness. We hope it will have points of contact with people of all ages and all backgrounds.

Last Sunday Praise is held on the last Sunday of the month in Loddon: a chance to worship together including hymns and songs, old and new.

XIRA! is an exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church. Refreshments from 3:15pm, service starts at about 3:45pm. Open to all; particularly suited to children and young people.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is the chance to enjoy a chat over refreshments after services. There are toilets and baby-changing facilities at St John's, Loddon and All Saints, Chedgrave.

Families are welcome at all of our services, but are particularly catered for on the 1st and 3rd Sundays 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 one of the clergy.

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 talk to us about thanksgiving and baptism (christening) 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 (Christenings) 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.

Baptisms and Thanksgivings are both held within Sunday morning worship in our churches.

Please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126 ball880am@btinternet.com

Noah's Ark

A drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their parents and carers at St John's, George Lane, Loddon.



Wednesdays 9:15am-12:00noon.

All are welcome. For further details please call Rev Alison on 01508 528126 or e-mail: ball880am@btinternet.com

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.

To join or just to know more, please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126.

XTRA!

Join us in St John's Church, Loddon for an exciting, informal service every **Thursday after school.** Refreshments from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm. More from Rey Alison 01508 528126.

Friends and Neighbours

If you've been widowed or have lost your life partner join us at St John's Lecture Hall on the **first Thursday of the month**. Make new friends, enjoy tea or lunch together.

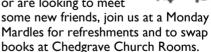
Next Meetings:

4th July: Talk and film/slides on travels abroad by Sue Sursham followed by afternoon tea. 1:30pm 20th July: Coffee Morning 10:00am-12:00 noon in the Lecture Hall, George Lane. 1st August: Bring and Share Afternoon Tea in the garden, 1:30pm, (see p13). To join the group, please ring Rev Iill on

Monday Mardles

01508 520248.

If you like a relaxed and informal chat with others or are looking to meet



Mardles are held every **Monday 10:00am-12:00 noon.** Come and go as you choose. On average, there are about 8-12 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!)

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From the Parish Registers

Funerals

Bernard 'Mick' Owen who died on 4th May 2024 Funeral: 13th June 2024 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Glyn Alexander Hall who died on 26th May 2024 Funeral: 17th June 2024 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

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

I Thessalonians 4:14. 17b

To arrange a thanksgiving or baptism (christening), contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126 or ball880am@btinternet.com.

To arrange a wedding, contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126 or ball880am@btinternet.com.

To arrange a funeral, at our churches or at the crematorium, contact Rev Jill on 01508 520248, or jillhaylock@aol.com. Rev Jill can also be contacted about interment of ashes.

The clergy can also be contacted through our new e-mail: address: clergyCVB@gmail.com.

Julia Young

A service of celebration and thanksgiving for Julia's life will be held in Langley Church at 12:30pm on Wednesday 17th July. The service will be led by Reverend Ros Hoffmann, and preceded by the private interment of Julia's ashes in the churchyard. Please arrive anytime after 12:00 midday, but preferably not before that.

After the service there will be an informal finger buffet lunch in the ballroom at Langley School to which everyone attending the service is invited. For catering purposes, please email Nigel Young (youngnigel@aol.com) or Audrey Young (ajyoung528@tiscali.co.uk) to say whether you would like to join us for lunch.

Free parking is available in the school car park but please not in front of the main building. Alternatively, you may park in the field adjacent to the churchyard.

We look forward to welcoming you on the day.

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News From Your Local Councillors



Although we have elections nationally, at your local councils it's business as usual.

This month I'm pleased to report that I have managed to get some Bus Service Improvement Scheme money allocated to us to give us new bus stops on the A146 near the roundabout. I'm hoping this will be done this financial year and I will also be paying for a bus shelter from my member's fund. This will enable residents to catch the X2 and I46 buses, which usually bypass us.

Councillor Kay Mason-Billig

As we're in the middle of a very important General Election campaign, I'll keep this column light of any political input, save to say that whoever you vote for, I hope that people exercise their right to vote. It was hard-won.

My favourite poem about June is by the immortal Robert Burns, who wrote:

"O my Luve's like a red, red rose that's newly sprung in June;

O my Luve's like the melodie that's sweetly play'd in tune."

In terms of the ongoing issues in St Georges Park, there has been some progress. Together with local residents, I am continuing to work with local residents, meeting regularly at South Norfolk District Council.

As mentioned last month, as well as responding to a range of completely understandable local concerns, I'm also working hard chairing the South Norfolk Scrutiny Committee, working with an excellent cross-party team to ensure that South Norfolk residents are treated properly. Our last meeting was an important one, concerning the very serious issue of residents experiencing domestic abuse.

My next surgeries, all at Loddon Library, are 29th June 2:00-3:00pm and 16th August 10:00-11:00am. Please come down if there's anything I can support you with, or, as ever, give me a ring on 07733 323581.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe

Friends and Neighbours Afternoon Tea

The Friends and Neighbours meeting on Ist August will be in the garden at 26 Norton Road Loddon by kind invitation of Howard and Carolyn Dover. Members please bring savoury or sweet food to share. We start at I:30pm with the business part of the meeting. Afternoon Tea will be served around 2:30pm. There will be a raffle, then birthday cards and posies for members who have a birthday during the month of August. If we are fortunate to have a fine day we can then enjoy being in the garden until the meeting finishes at 3:45-4:00pm.

To join the group, please ring Rev Jill on 01508 520248.

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Chedgrave Parish Council

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Website: https://chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk/

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



Annual Audit: The council approved the various aspects of the annual audit. Associated papers and accounts will be made publicly available and sent to the external auditor for review.

St Felix Park Development: Phil Varney continues to focus on the Construction Traffic Management Plan aspect of this issue. Current proposals from NCC Highways route incoming traffic via Big Back Lane and outgoing traffic via Rectory Lane with abnormal loads going via Langley Road supervised by banksmen. Temporary one-way systems are proposed for Big Back Lane and Rectory Lane. It is accepted that there is no 'ideal' solution. Phil continues to press for safety considerations to be prioritised and is looking for NCC Highways to implement a 30mph speed limit on Big Back Lane and a 20mph limit on Rectory Lane. In addition, Phil is seeking to clarify the weight and or length of HGV that will require banksmen to supervise and what penalties will apply, and to whom, if this procedure is not used in practice. Further updates will be provided once plans are finalised.

Bench at Chedgrave Mooring: The bench has been delivered and will be installed soon. A plaque will be fixed to commemorate the life of long-standing Councillor John Lurkins in thanks for his service to the community.

Council "Surgeries": The council will soon be organising "surgeries". Full details will be advertised but please take the opportunity to come along and meet your councillors and raise any matters of interest to you.

Litter: Please take your litter home and clear up after your dogs! Please can everyone use the bins provided.

Brian Clarke Room: Do you need a bright modern room to run your club or association, hold meetings or staff training? The Brian Clarke Room is adjacent to the play area, has a fully equipped kitchen, is wheelchair-accessible and has a hearing loop. It's great for parties, meetings and clubs. Please contact Georgina Buckle to book 07981 856270 or brianclarkeroom@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk.

July Meeting Venue Change: The July meeting, Thursday 4th July 2024 at 7:00pm, will be held in the Church Centre, All Saints, Chedgrave as the Brian Clarke Room is being used as a polling station. All welcome!





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Loddon Town Council (LTC)

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Website: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/loddontowncouncil.gov.uk

No news from Loddon Town Council this edition.



Norfolk Net Zero Communities Project

On Tuesday 21st May, representatives from Loddon and Chedgrave, and six further communities across



Norfolk, met at the University of East Anglia for a kick-off event for the Norfolk Net Zero Communities project. This Norfolk Climate Change Partnership initiative aims to engage and work with residents to understand their views towards improving the energy efficiency of their homes, switching to cleaner sources of heating and power, and greener forms of travel. The project is aware there are many barriers people face in taking these kinds of actions, and the project wants to see how more of those barriers can be removed or made easier.

The first stage of this project is about discovering more about the views, ideas and activity taking place in each community. Hubbub, an environmental charity, are working with the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership, and are looking to speak with residents of Loddon and Chedgrave to learn more about the community from the people who live there. These informal conversations will focus on what actions people are already taking, and what barriers people face. This will help Hubbub build connections with the community and understand people's priorities. Representatives from Hubbub will be appearing at local events and working in the community over the coming months.

If you're interested in having a conversation, or have an event that you think Hubbub should attend, please get in touch: norfolk@hubbub.org.uk.

Chet Valley Summer Fete

Don't forget that the summer fete is being held on the Jubilee Hall field on Saturday 6th July from 12:00noon-5:00pm. There will be all manner of stalls, refreshments, various performers and much more, including representatives from Norfolk Net Zero. See you there!

If you're coming by car, please note that car parking has been organised at the Hobart High School Sports Hall Car Park and the Chet Valley Medical Practice Car Park.



Claire Bullard

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Phone - 07717535080 Email - cl.bullard@hotmail.co.uk Website - clairebullard.scentsy.co.uk Facebook = Claire Bullard - Scentsy Consultant



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specially formulated wax, making your home smell SCENTsational.... we are not all wax though! We have a whole range of products to scent your world \$\mathbb{S}\$ Kids buddies, Fan diffusers, Air purifiers, Laundry and body products.

Living in Hales, I'm your local Scentsy consultant
Do contact me if you would like to know more information... or use the QR code to link through to my website.

PILATES WITH KATRINA

MIXED ABILITY MAT PILATES

LANGLEY Monday 9-10am THURTON Monday 6-7pm
THURTON Wednesdays 9-10am
LODDON Fridays 9-10am and 10 15-11.15am
Seated Class 11.30am -12pm
See website www.pilateswithkatrina.co.uk
Call Katrina for more information 07725 527 669

St John's Chapel and Lecture Hall ROOM HIRE

Excellent facilities, fully equipped kitchen, disabled toilets, parking George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB

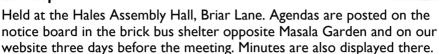
Very competitive rates

For details & to book please email us at website.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com

Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

For enquiries contact: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk FB www.facebook.com/Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meetings: 18th July, 10th September at 7:30pm.



Signs, Potholes & Footpath Issues: If you see anything that is not right please advise South Norfolk Council through their webpage https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/.

Village Vandalism: Sadly there has been some vandalism in the village and this has been reported to the police. Please can we encourage our residents, while being mindful, to report any unusual activity to the South Norfolk Engagement Officer James.king@norfolk.police.uk

Dog Walkers: A polite reminder to observe the Country Code, especially at this time of year with livestock around. Please pick up your dog's poo, as it is a health hazard as well as being unpleasant. Thank you.

Hales Green Common: We kindly remind residents and visitors to abide by the bylaws which are displayed on the public notice boards around the common.

Community Volunteering Scheme: We continue to seek your help in supporting community projects to improve village life. Please let us know if you would like to get involved by emailing the parish clerk.

Come and join us: If you care about where you live, we have vacancies on our Parish Council. We provide a voice for concerns, ideas, and initiatives that help promote village life. Please get in touch with our parish clerk.

Do you need help? South Norfolk and Broadland's hub assist with a wide range of problems. Contact details: 01508 533933 or email at helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. Opening hours are 8:15am until 10:00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

XPRESSIONS CAFÉ

Come and join us on the first Sunday of the month, every month, at All Saints, Chedgrave, for craft, chat, delicious refreshments and a different way of doing church. 10:00-12:00noon.

All welcome.

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com

Website: https://

langleywithhardleypc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Find us on Facebook.



Annual Parish Meeting: The past twelve months have seen a lot of movement with the change in councillors representing Langley with Hardley Parish Council. The council is now made up with councillors from a diverse background offering new ideas and opportunities to improve the area for the needs of the residents. Reflecting on the past year, achievements have included: Litter Pick/Bulb Plant event, Action Plan for the Parish, new dog waste bin resulting in reduced dog fouling in the area, Play Park tidy and new seating bench/table. There is still a lot to do and the council team are committed to improving the area for all our residents.

Election of Chair: Rob Baldwin was elected as Chair and Gary Moore was elected as Vice Chair. Special thanks of service to Nigel Sullivan who has recently left the council. A warm welcome to Tim Smith who was co-opted on to the council.

Vacancies: We currently have a councillor vacancy. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved with supporting your local community. You will be working with a team of councillors to address local issues and improve the village environment. If interested please contact us: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com.

Speeding Vehicles: Data recorded by the Speed Awareness Monitoring sign (SAM2) located on Langley Green showed that 93% of vehicles were under the speed limit. Disappointingly 7% travelled over the 40mph speed limit. Please respect the village roads by travelling at a sensible speed within the identified speed limit.

Parish Clerk: May was the last meeting for our parish clerk Emma Webster. Emma has been integral to the running of the council. A heartfelt thank you for all her dedication, professionalism and hard work for the council.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd July in Langley with Hardley Village Hall at 7:30pm. All welcome.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Friday 5th July: Café from I I:00am-I:00pm.

Saturday 13th July: Quiz. Doors open 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. Tickets £4, must be booked in advance from Tibby or Jane on 01508 520184. Nibbles and hot/cold drinks provided. Teams of six but we can put you with others if you have less. Come and have fun.



Notes from Sisland

Hopefully summer has finally arrived, though I'm currently sat with a number of layers on as I write this. In Sisland we are busy planning for the main fund raiser of the year, August Sunday Afternoon Teas. We have been running this event for a number of years and it is always lovely to see friends, old and new, from across the county who make the visit on a Sunday afternoon to enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of homemade cake in beautiful surroundings.

Last year we were incredibly lucky with good, often very hot, weather and, if necessary, we can provide a covered space for those who want to enjoy the location without every aspect of the British summer. We will be open from 3:00-5:00pm on each Sunday.

We continue to wait on an update of the costs for the maintenance to the tower. Visitors can see the need for some new wooden slats to the window openings. Fortunately the inside is dry due to the protection secured within the tower.

As already noted, August Sunday Afternoon Teas are the main fundraising focus for Sisland each year. It is also an important part of the fabric of the community. Many people from the village, and beyond, contribute to the provision of cakes each week, and, as such, it brings many of us together with the opportunity to catch-up.

I have previously written about the importance of St Mary's as an active promotor of conservation and wildlife in its churchyard. This year it is definitely green, and the grass is tall. The churchyard is left uncut until the start of August to allow for the wildflowers to seed and provide the stunning display that we are treated to each spring. The cutting, preparation, and maintenance of it is another indication of the important contribution that various friends and locals make to the support of the church.

We look forward to seeing friends, old and new, over the summer.



Rowena Bryce St Mary's, Sisland

Chet Valley Voices

Chet Valley Voices is a community choir of varying ages from 15-80+. We enjoy singing a variety of music from classical to



modern and are a happy friendly bunch. Come along, make new friends and get to know others in the community. Singing is good for your mental health and well-being, so you will leave rehearsals feeling uplifted. Why not come to a free taster session?

Rehearsals: Thursday 7:00-8:30pm (doors open 6:45pm) in St Johns Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. £5 on the night, £3 for under 18s. New members always welcome, especially men.

More information from: Sue 01508 528069; suemartin303@btinternet.com or chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter: @ChetValleyVoices. www.chetvalleyvoices.co.uk.

Breathing/Vocal Technique Sessions

Do you enjoy singing but feel that your breath control could be better? Are you a non-singer but feel that you could do with help to improve your breathing? Would you like tips on vocal technique?

Tanya Chelovskaya is a trained vocal coach leading sessions at Chedgrave Church Centre on Wednesdays from 11:00-12:00noon. The cost is £8, which includes refreshments. If interested, please contact Tanya at t.chelovskaya@gmail.com or WhatsApp on 07737 765098.

"I come away from Tanya's sessions, uplifted and with the knowledge that I can own my voice, and possibly even have the confidence to sing. Breathing, vocal and gentle physical exercises combine and lead to a wonderful sense of well-being."









The Loddon Band

We are a friendly and dynamic brass band in the historic town of Loddon. We are currently seeking the following players to come and join us: Cornet, Tenor Horn, Euphonium, Eb Bass. We welcome all brass players and percussionists.



Rehearsals are at The Hollies, High Street, Loddon on Thursday evenings, 7:45-9:45pm. Our rehearsals are fun and enjoyable so why not pop along to see what we are about. For more information, contact Louis (Secretary) email loddon.band@gmail.com or phone 07463 770068.

Loddon Flower Club

Hopefully the rain will have stopped and we have sunshine and can sit outside and enjoy our gardens.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 2^{nd} of July, when we will reminisce with a slide show of the flower festival we held last September in Holy Trinity Church, Loddon. This will be

followed by a demonstration by our President and Treasurer, entitled *Globe trotting*. Homemade cake, tea and coffee will be served in the interval, and the arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening. Come and give us a look and get some ideas for using your garden flowers or a supermarket bunch.

We hold our AGM in August so we have no meeting, but on Tuesday 3rd September Christine Hewson is coming to demonstrate for us, her topic being *Summer Miscellany*.

We're a friendly bunch, it's a very informal evening, from novice (that's me) to the more experienced flower arrangers, we all help one another with tips and advice. As a club we are affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangers (NAFAS), the East of England Area for NAFAS and also our local Norwich Group. Lots of advice and information is available if you are interested, or just have fun trying out new ideas for your own enjoyment.

We meet in St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, on the first Tuesday of the month, doors open 6:30pm for 7:00pm start. We also have workshops throughout the year when we can all try something new.

We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions, for more info contact Tricia on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Jenny on 01508 520254 or jf53rf50@gmail.com. Give our website a look to see more of what we do: www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Messengers Holiday Club 2024

From Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August; for children who have been in full time primary education (Year R through to Year 6) in this school year.

£3 per child per day (£15 for the week); Families of two children or more cost just £5 per day (£25 total for the week).

Booking forms available in the school offices of Loddon Primary Federation. Alternatively, email Rev Alison ball880am@btinternet.com).

Church Services				
7 th July				
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland		
9:00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:00-12 noon	XPRESSIONS CAFÉ	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon		
I 4 th July				
9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon		
21 st July				
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon		
II:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave		
5:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland		
28 th July				
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley		
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon		
7:00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John's, Loddon		

Don't Forget...

Rev David's final service is on Sunday 30th June, starting at 10:45am at Holy Trinity Loddon. There will be presentations and refreshments after the service. Do join us as we celebrate his time ministering among us and wish him and Nina well in retirement.

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

All Saints Church, Chedgrave has a lovely church centre open for 30 years. There are two rooms (one upstairs), a kitchen and a loo. Our wheeled tables 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 Anne Jackson who is responsible for hall bookings on 01508 502278.

Church Services				
4 th August				
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland		
9:00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:00-12 noon	XPRESSIONS CAFÉ	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon		
II th August				
9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon		
18 th August				
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon		
II:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave		
5:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland		
25 th August				
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley		
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon		
7:00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John's, Loddon		

Janet & John-All Saints' pint-sized Eco-Warriors

Janet: "Hi John, haven't we had a lot of rain recently?"

John: "Yes Janet, but in parts of India, they've had record-breaking heat—over 50°C! Climate scientists believe these extreme weather conditions are caused by global warming, linked to use of fossil fuels. We are all dependent on these to provide us with energy, for the things we need. Scientists at Cambridge University have now found a way of recycling cement, the world's most common construction material, in electric furnaces, powered by renewables, so that it emits no greenhouse gases".

Please pray for all scientists and innovators seeking to develop new technologies, to help us reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and other polluting resources. Suggested reading: Romans 12:2.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches				
Every day	Monday	Holy Trinity, Loddon		
	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley		
Morning	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave		
Prayer	Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon		
9:00am	Friday	St Mary, Sisland		
All Welcome	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave		
Thursday during school term	Join us at St John's for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm. More from Rev Alison 01508 528126			
Prayer at Home	'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection' 'If you would like to receive the weekly prayer and reflection sent out by email, please contact Rev Jill (jillhaylock@aol.com) All are welcome			

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation

21 Upgate, Poringland, NR14 7SH

Mass Times:

Sunday 9:00am; Tuesday 6:00pm; Wednesday—Saturday 10:00am; Saturday 6:00pm (Vigil Mass)

Please check newsletter online for latest information.

Priest in charge: Father Andrew Eburne (Tel: 01508 494770)

e-mail: frandreweburne@gmail.com www.ourladyporingland.wordpress.com

Sport

Footballers Wanted!

A friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astro Turf every **Thursday** from 8:00-9:00pm for a non-competitive kick about to keep fit and socialise. £3:00 per session. First session free. More information from Terry: tezzahayden99@gmail.com



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

We are currently taking a break for the summer as many of us are now playing outdoor bowls, but we will be back on Tuesday 3rd September at 1:30pm. Watch this space for more details nearer the time.



Loddon Ladies Hockey Club

Feel like you want to get involved in a new sport, or perhaps you used to play when you were at school and fancy giving it another go?

We welcome new members of all ages (13+) and abilities. Come and get fit, have fun and meet friendly women from in and around the local area. We train on **Tuesday** nights at Langley School (NR14 6BJ), 7:00pm-8:30pm. For more info: www.loddonhockey.com or email hello@loddonhockey.com

Loddon Tennis Club

Loddon has two floodlit courts, situated adjacent to the Loddon & Chedgrave Playing Field.

We are a thriving tennis community with over 150 members.

Memberships are affordable; pay and play is also available at £5 per hr.

 $Website: {\color{blue} \underline{https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LoddonTennisClub}}$

Email: loddontennis@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk



Hobart Badminton Club

Players wanted! Come and join our friendly club of all ages from 16+. Playing experience desirable. We meet at Hobart sports hall, **Tuesday** evenings from 7:30-9:30pm. Cost £5:00, first session free!



For more information contact Terry on: tezzahayden99@gmail.com

Loddon Junior Badminton Club

Held at Jubilee Hall, sessions are just £3.50.
Wednesday evenings: 6:45-7:45pm, children aged 8-14 years

Thursday evenings: 7:30–8:30pm, children aged 15-18 years Open to all children regardless of ability.

Sessions run by qualified coach. Rackets and shuttles provided.

For more info, contact Paul on paulr2677@gmail.com or 07903 794613



Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

We are keeping visual throughout the summer.

We are at the Chet Valley Fete with our gazebo on 6th July and we are at the Seething Control Tower Museum Open Days.

There will be a short service for VI Day at Loddon War Memorial on Sunday 8th August at 11:00am.

Why not pop along to one of our Monday evening meetings. We meet on the third Monday of each month, 7:00pm start, at The Lecture Hall, St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon.

Contact Colin Hartley for more information on 01508 521136.

Tuesday Market

Visit our market and you will be surprised at the lovely array of local foods, flowers, plants, vegetables, eggs and crafts. Why not stay and enjoy a coffee and cake? We look forward to seeing you every Tuesday at the Hollies, 10:00-11:30am, next to the post office in Loddon. Contact Sheila Ford 01508 520752 for orders or enquiries.

Parkinson's UK Charity Shop, Loddon

We are now fully open at: Prospect House, 2 Little Money Road, Loddon Industrial Estate.

HANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

We have lots of new stock. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Jenny

Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)

We are holding our 12th Annual Exhibition on 27th and 28th July at St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Free admission. Please come along and have a look.

Our next club meetings are on 8th July (St Johns) and 12th August (likely to be at Sweet Briar Marshes).



PARKINSON'SUK

Please refer to our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information or if you are interested in joining the club. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. If you want to take photographs and want to know more, please come along to one of our meetings: St John's, George Lane, Loddon; 6:45pm for 7:00pm start.

We have an open Facebook page (search Chet Valley Photography Club) which details some of the things we have done over the past few months.

Loddon Community Gym

The Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX Tel: 07534 946143 www.loddoncommunitygym.com

The gym is open on some part of every day Monday to Friday:
Monday 1:45–5:25pm; Tuesday 4:45–7:05pm; Wednesday 9:00–11:20am; AT LODDON
Thursday 6:00pm–8:20pm; Friday 10:15am–12:35pm.



Your Community Gym in Loddon Library Annexe is well-equipped, affordable, friendly and not-for-profit. The gym offers our members the opportunity to achieve and maintain a level of fitness to help improve their wellbeing and quality of life. There is a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and a genuine feeling of a social environment, and definitely no pressure. Our chairbased exercise classes are proving very successful and we continue to hold them every Wednesday morning.

We are open on each weekday and full details of our hours and costs can be found at www.loddoncommunitygym.com. For more information why not drop by to see us or call our qualified trainer, Louise, on 07534 946143.

To book sessions go to www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym.

Loddon Community Cinema

Future presentations:

Thursday 4th July: 'Wicked Little Letters', rated 15 and 100 minutes long, starring Olivia Colman, Eileen Atkins, Lolly



Adefope and Timothy Spall. The film is a black comedy/mystery, based on a true scandal. It follows the investigation into the anonymous author of numerous crudely insulting letters sent to the residents of Littlehampton in the 1920s. The film contains language that may cause offence.

Thursday Ist August: The Lesson', rated 15 and 103 minutes long, starring Richard E Grant, Julie Delpy and Daryl McCormack. A psychological thriller: a famous writer and his family prove less than welcoming to the young tutor who comes to teach their son.

Films shown at St. John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7:00pm, film starts 7:30pm. Tickets £4 adults and £2 child available on the door or in advance from Loddon DIY. email; loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk.

Loddon & District Day Centre

The Day Centre meets at Saxon House, on Tuesday and Fridays from 10:00am-2:00pm. We chat, enjoy games, talks and light exercises, together with refreshments and a home made two course lunch. Why don't you come and join us? We'd love to see you!

Please contact Bey on 07826 299290 for more information.

Book Review—Not the End of the World

(How we can be the first generation to build a sustainable planet) **by Dr Hannah Ritchie.**

This was recommended to me, and I was reluctant spend time on it as I thought knew about environmental problems and what was happening. Essentially, doom and gloom!

I was wrong and this book challenges many of my preconceptions. Hannah is a data scientist and while she doesn't hide the seriousness of climate change, biodiversity loss, etc she does demonstrate the progress that has been made and exposes some major misconceptions. She also shines a light on the changes you can make in your life that can really make a difference and it's not recycling or eating local produce or using paper straws or avoiding palm oil. Palm oil may even help reduce deforestation.

She shows how green economic growth is already happening. How we can feed the soon to be 10 billion people on earth sustainably and set more land aside for wildlife: mostly through the ever-increasing efficiency of agriculture.

I often fear that young people are in danger of being overwhelmed and paralysed by the enormity of the challenges they see ahead. Get them to read this. Read it yourself. It's all doable. It's happening. Have hope.

Andrew Milner

I am currently reading this book. It's a good antidote to *The Uninhabitable Earth* (A story of the future) by David Wallace-Wells written a year or so earlier. That has a much less positive view of what is going on in the world though it does end on a more positive note.

I think I prefer *The Future We Choose (Surviving the climate crisis)* by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac which was published between these other two books. It highlights the point that we can make a difference to our future by the choices that we make now.

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children and our children's children." What choices will you make to ensure that the earth is habitable by your descendants?

Editor

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

We are a friendly group who like walking, visiting interesting gardens, historic buildings, and the occasional social evening. New members welcome. £6 membership fees due please. More information from June on 01508 528853 or junecs@btinternet.com. For membership contact Hillary on 01508 520457 or meredithhp3@sky.com.

Chet Staithe Probus Club

We are a club for retired gentlemen, and friendship. The atmosphere is relaxed, jovial, with little formality. Dress code is casual. We have a good mardle, and a different speaker every meeting on varied subjects. Afterwards, members either go home, adjourn to the bar, or stay for a pleasant lunch. Your choice. We meet at The White Horse every first and third **Tuesday** of every month, start time 10:00am.

Upcoming meetings:

2nd July: Mark Reynolds—Cartoonist and Impressionist 16th July: Charlotte Paton—Four East Anglian People

Come to a couple of meetings and try us out; no pressure to join. Clive Boyd, Secretary, 01508 520547 cliveboyd@btconnect.com



Chet Valley Probus Club

Chet Valley Probus Club welcomes people who are retired, semi-retired or approaching retirement and who have had some measure of responsibility in their working life. We are friendly and excellent company, enjoy fascinating talks on a variety of subjects, good food and meeting others of like mind. Why not come along and give us a try with no obligation? We meet on Tuesdays at Chedgrave White Horse and meetings start at 10:30am and lunch is optional.

Upcoming meetings:

9th July: Britain's Butterflies and a Changing Environment—lan Bedford

23rd July: History of the Norfolk Broads—Pete Goodrum

13th August: Codes, Ciphers and Bletchley Park part 2—Richard Mann

27th August: A Landlord's Lot is Not a Happy One—Simon Peck

probusonline.org/chet-valley Hon. Sec. John McCormack 01508 521899.

The Discovery Award

Are you over 50 and looking for a new personal challenge? Then think about signing up for your Discovery Award to help focus your time in a way that feels stimulating and motivating. Set your own goals and progress at your own pace in the four key areas of: service in the community, hobby/ interest, recreational pursuit and a Journey of Discovery. Having completed our Bronze and Silver Awards, our activities included walking, exploring churches in South Norfolk and the Waveney Valley, jigsaws, learning German, needle-felting and supporting the local cinema. We are about to embark on our Gold and look forward to the opportunities and experiences it will offer.

Find out more at www.discoveryaward.org.uk



Bruckner, Telemann and others

Chet Valley
Photography Club
Annual Exhibition

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

Sat. 27th July 10am-5pm
Sun. 28th July 10am-4pm

Free Admission!!!
Raffle &
Refreshments

Find us on Facebook or visit our website
www.ChelValleyPholography.org.uk



Tickets £12.00 (including buffet) from Val 81508 \$20702 or valancounter (a) gmail co

Sunday Afternoon Tea at St Mary's Sisland

Come and join us every Sunday in August for delicious tea and cake, and conversation, 3:00-5:00pm.



Community Groups, News and Events

Loddon and District Women's Institute

Whatever the weather, Loddon WI is looking forward to July and August. In addition to our regular meetings, once again we will be having a stall at the Chet Valley Fete on 6th July. This time



we are going to have a human fruit machine, so do come and join in the fun with us! On 10th July several of our members will be visiting Hotters' shoe shop in Norwich, where they will be treated to a fashion show, drinks and nibbles, and the opportunity to take advantage of an exclusive discount on any purchases. The last of the quilting course classes is also in July—it will be good to see the finished results. Looking even further ahead, there will be an opportunity for members to book tickets for exciting shows coming to the Theatre Royal in December 2024, and January and May 2025.

Meetings for July and August:

Thursday I Ith July: Knit, Natter & Crochet at Loddon Library, 2:30–4:00pm. This is a community event and all are welcome.

Wednesday 17th July: Murder Mystery St John's Lecture Hall, 7:15pm for 7:30pm.

Wednesday 21st August: Garden Party at a member's house.

There will also be the usual open house and book group for members. (No Knit, Natter & Crochet in August).

If you are interested in finding out more about what we do or think you might like to join contact us via Facebook or by email loddonwi@gmail.com.

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the last **Wednesday** of each month in the back room of The Hollies, Loddon High Street.



At our meeting on Wednesday 31st July, we will welcome Oa Hackett who is the founder member of Little Lifts the charity supporting Breast Cancer. Remember no meeting in August.

An annual fee of £10. is charged plus £3 for each meeting attended. New members always welcome.

Any queries please contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

WEA

After a period of reorganization at the WEA, we hope that they will be able to offer more courses for us to choose from for the Autumn Term. Look out for details in forthcoming editions of Chet Contact.



For more information contact Sharon: 01508 520386 or Alison: 01508 521976.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

We will be holding our Rose, Fuchsia and Sweet Pea Show on 10^{th} July. This show is for members only and points gained from this is added to our other two shows to win the Malt Cup which is presented at our Annual Show. On 14^{th} August, we have Don Andrews coming along with his talk entitled My Life

Coddon & District
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

So Far. This talk is about dahlias and begonias, as Don is very skilled in the art of growing dahlias and has won many awards for his flowers. The table show class for this meeting for the Copland Cup will be One Dahlia Flower. Both of these meetings are held at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom starting at 7:30pm. There will be a raffle and refreshments served.

Advance notice: Our Annual Open Show is to be held on Saturday 7th September at the Jubilee Hall. Anyone can enter this show and schedules will be available from Tricia Loades on 01508 520273 or at patricialoades@btinternet.com. Classes include flowers, fruit, vegetable, pot plants, cookery and flower arranging. Some of our local WIs will be taking part in their own class. Look out for our posters around Loddon with details.

Our meetings usually take place on the second Wednesday of the month. Membership is £10 per year. For more information, contact Jean Cope (Chairman) on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or Hazel Copland (Secretary) on 01508 520890 or happyhaze50@gmail.com. You can follow us on our Facebook page.

Social Whist

We meet every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start in the back room of The Hollies, Loddon. It is £6 for the evening including a chance to chat, play some whist, enjoy tea/coffee with a biscuit, all in great company. No partner needed or to have played before, just an enjoyable evening out. If you need a lift, please call me (Jane) on 01508 528875. Looking forward to seeing our regular players and meeting any new ones.

Loddon Swan Bowls Club

The outdoor bowls green season has commenced. The club is situated behind The Loddon Swan. The club plays in several evening leagues plus a Thursday afternoon league. Roll ups are available for everyone on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons; also on a Wednesday morning.

If you are a seasoned bowler or a beginner you are very welcome please just turn up. Alternatively give club chairman, Paul Clemence, a call on 01508 218078.

Hardship Funds Available in the Chet Valley

If you are struggling to make ends meet at the moment, did you know there are funds available to help?

There are local charities to help people in need in Chedgrave, Hardley, Langley and Loddon. They only any good if people use them! In the past money has paid for white goods, carpets, solicitor's bills, rent, food... To access the funds:

Loddon Town Estate Trust: Contact Julie Ponsford on 07976 902487.

Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund: Contact Rev Alison or churchwarden, Roger Outlaw (phone numbers on p3), or treasurer Richard Ball on 01508 528126.

Hardley and Langley Discretionary Fund: Contact Rev Alison or churchwarden (details in Hardley church porch).

Langley Trust Fund: This can be applied for via its Trustees, who are: Barbara Leathersich (01508 521979); Stephen Lutkin (01508 480989); Stella Wright (01508 520102); Susie Wheeler (01508 528429); Shirley Keeler (01508 528939).

Chet Valley Art Society

This friendly painting group now meets every Friday morning at Chedgrave Church Centre, 10:00am-12:00 noon. New members welcome; all abilities, including beginners.

For further details please contact Vee: <u>veepond22@hotmail.com</u> or mobile 07557 402211.

Waveney Valley Arts Society

We are a friendly group who meet at the Fisher Theatre in Bungay on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding July and August). Events provide a welcoming place to hear expert lecturers share their specialist knowledge. The theatre is open from 10:00am and our lectures start at 11:00am.



Next meeting: Wednesday 4th September: The Big Three in Florence: Michelangelo, Leonardo and Raphael—Antonia Gatward Cevili.

Guests are welcome to join us for an individual lecture but there will be a charge of £10. If you wish to become a member of our society, the contact details are on the website: https://the artssociety.org/Waveney-valley.



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The 1st Loddon Brownies have some spaces available for girls aged 7-10 to join us from October 2024. If this would be of interest to you, please come along to our coffee morning and find out more about us, or register your interest at: https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/

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Loddon and District Local History Group

Our May meeting was graced by the presence of Queen Victoria, (Georgette Vale), resplendent in her black dress. She had a lot to tell us starting with her early life spent in Kensington with her mother only as her father, the Duke of Kent, had died eight months after her birth in 1819. She was twelve when she learnt that she was in line for the throne through her father, who had been one of George III's sons. Victoria inherited the throne on the death of her uncle, William IV in 1837 when she was eighteen.

Due to her long life and reign, Queen Victoria witnessed many political changes, much social change, as well as having a large family herself. She was on the throne for important and far-reaching legislation like the abolition of the slave trade in 1834, the Poor Law Amendment Act being introduced also in 1834 and the 1842 Mines Act forbidding children to go down the mines. Electricity, trams, telephones and photography were all introduced later in her reign changing our way of life. We also learnt of her relationships with various Prime Ministers like Lord Melbourne, who she found to be a great support, Robert Peel with whom she had some issues, and Disraeli with whom she had a good relationship. Disraeli made her Empress of India which pleased her a lot. Her relationship with Gladstone was not so good over his four stints as Prime Minister.

We heard a lot about her family life starting with her marriage to Prince Albert. They married in 1840 with a white wedding, starting the tradition of brides wearing white. He was the love of her life and together they had nine children although the Queen confessed she did not like babies. Many of her children went on to marry European royalty resulting in Victoria being called the 'grandmother of Europe'. She was irritated by her eldest son Bertie's behaviour. He became Edward VII on her death. Obviously we heard a lot about Albert and her grief after he died in 1861 which caused her to go into mourning for the rest of her life. She insisted his shaving implements were still put out every morning. Albert had suggested the idea of the Great Exhibition of 1851 to showcase British achievements and this had been a great success. Osborne House on the Isle of Wight was built with Albert's encouragement and then Balmoral which meant the family could have some freedom away from the pressures of royal life. Later Victoria spent much time at Balmoral on her own.

The 'Queen' also linked her life as a monarch to events in our local area. She mentioned our 'Jubilee Oak' and Bertie's visit to Norwich to open the hospital in 1863. An interesting way to learn about Queen Victoria and her reign.

Next meeting: Wednesday 17^{th} July: An outing to Langley Abbey. Please contact Carol or Elvie if you wish to come.

Carole Rylands

All meetings are held in St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon starting at 1:30pm. Admission £3 (includes light refreshments). All welcome.

Email: (chetcottchippy@hotmail.com) or Elvie (elvieherd@uwclub.net).

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

Belgravia, by Julian Fellowes

This was one of our book club books. We had varying opinions about it but the majority of people enjoyed it. It follows the story of two families, divided by class, and starts on the eve of the Battle of Waterloo. Sophia, the daughter of a merchant, has fallen in love with Edmund, son and heir to one of the grandest families in England. Twenty-five years later we catch up with the two families and the result of the love affair started so many years ago. One for fans of Downton Abbey!

Strange Sally Diamond, by Liz Nugent

This is a real page-turner but it's pretty disturbing as well! It tells the story of Sally, who we meet just after the death of her father. Her attempt to burn his remains in an incinerator bin backfires and invites understandable police and media interest. As a sinister voice from her past starts to emerge, we learn about the horrors of her childhood. The ending wasn't what I expected but it definitely stayed with me. Not a tale for the faint of heart!

Started Early Took My Dog, by Kate Atkinson

No good deed ever goes unpunished! Or so this novel would have you believe. Private investigator Jackson Brodie features in several of Kate Atkinson's novels and this is the fourth. It opens with ex-sergeant Tracy Waterhouse making a rather shocking impulse purchase which turns her life upside down. Entwined with Tracy's subsequent story is Jackson, employed to find the family history of a client now living in New Zealand with links to the UK and lots of questions. What he uncovers turns out to be a can of worms, involving corruption in the police and child abduction and neglect.

I'm halfway through...

Song of Achilles, by Madeleine Miller

I've been meaning to read this for ages and I'm glad I've finally got round to it. It's an incredible novel told by Achilles's friend and lover, Patroclus. Achilles's destiny is revealed when they are forced to go to war with Troy to get Helen of Sparta back. Patroclus follows him and theirs is a profound relationship that reveals hidden depths as the story progresses.

Ruth Redford



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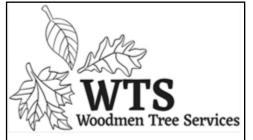
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Nature Notes

It's now June, and we are still suffering from a variety of weather which has not always been conducive to getting out and enjoying the beauty that surrounds us. I still haven't ventured further than my immediate locality, and then on some of the days it has only been because the dogs need a walk. Even so you never know what might appear to surprise you.

Last Sunday, 2nd lune, was a case in point. The sun was shining though there was still a wind blowing. After lunch, I took the dogs to Hardley Staithe for their walk. I had already seen a little owl en route, so we were off to a good start. Reaching the staithe it was encouraging to see the swallows were back, having been absent the day before, swooping over the fields and water. They nest under some of the landing stages there. Overhead swifts were flying round in their hunt for insects, though birds of prey were noticeable by their absence. A few sand martins were flying over the duck ponds between the intersection of the staithe and the River Yare and Hardley Mill. Apart from a few mute swans, mallard ducks, coots and a solitary male tufted duck there was little else swimming there. I then watched a female cuckoo fly across the field and towards Cantley. Retracing my steps, I watched a barn owl quartering the fields hunting for its prey to feed its young. It was good to see one there as it was only the fourth time this year this had occurred. In years gone by barn owls were almost guaranteed every time you walked along this part of the Yare valley. Finally making my way back up the staithe, I heard a kingfisher call, although I couldn't see it.

A few days prior to this, walking towards the staithe from Hardley Mill, I noticed a large bird flying upstream towards me about twenty feet above the river. My initial thought was a grey heron, but I quickly dismissed that. Looking at it through my binoculars I could see it had a black and white face and a hooked bill. Transfixed, I stood still and watched as the osprey flew past me until it disappeared from sight towards Cantley. Definitely an exhilarating moment.

It has been noticeable that we have a greater number and variety of birds on our feeders than during the winter. Chaffinch and greenfinches have returned. We have a daily visit from a female greater spotted woodpecker, (males have a red cap, and females and juveniles don't) and a pair of juvenile stock doves are often pecking up what has fallen on the ground.

Out at Seething it was good to see a couple of spikes of bee orchid, though having found them on one day and making a mental note of their location, on the following day do you think I could find them? I then got my eye in and discovered not two but ten spikes!

Hopefully, we may have decent weather over the next two months so get out and enjoy the beauty and interest that surrounds us. Maybe the dogs and I will get to venture further afield and experience more of the wonders of creation.

Richard and Rachel Hull

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Gardening Notes

Growing Fruit and Veg from Scratch: Part 5a

It should really be written **SOIL** for its importance. None of us would be here without it. It contains the minerals essential for plant growth. Key ones are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Ideally it should contain 3-5% organic matter which helps hold water. It should be full of micro-organisms: a teaspoon contains 100 million to one billion fungi, bacteria, algae, protozoa, arthropods, nematodes, and worms.

Soil types include:

Clay soils—heavy, high in nutrients, wet and cold in winter, baked dry in summer; Sandy soils—light, dry, warm, low in nutrients and often acidic;

Silt soils—fertile, light but moisture-retentive, and easily compacted:

Loams—mixtures of clay, sand and silt that avoid the extremes of each type;

Peat soils—very high in organic matter and moisture;

Chalky soils—very alkaline and may be light or heavy.

Soil pH describes how acid or alkaline soil is and is expressed as a number between 0 and 14. Soil with a pH of 7 is neutral, an acid soil has a lower value, and an alkaline soil has a higher one. Most plants grow best in soil that's within a specific pH range, so it's useful to know otherwise you'll just waste money buying plants that won't grow well in your soil. Testing kits are easy to use and widely available.

The next articles will consider how to look after and improve your soil. If you want to see what happens if you don't, look up Holme Fen Posts.

Andrew Milner

From Another Garden

The garden is looking fairly tidy, albeit with bald patches where paths used to be, bricks were stacked and shifted earth was piled. I have been sifting this earth, as my father did in the past when you didn't buy bags of compost, and adding the fine soil to peat-free compost as it's pretty dire stuff to plant in to be honest. The resulting big bucket of stones I am using for drainage in pots. Our humongous rosemary has been reduced by half, revealing a bird bath and some struggling plants that seem to have gone into shock at the return of the light! The building of the new path has created a larger flower bed. I had a lovely time planting it up with plants I've been growing on in pots, including a new peony that I rescued from the sick and dying plants corner of a nursery. It joins the hot pink and crimson peonies already in that bed some of which have a heritage that can be traced back to the garden of the house I grew up in. Elsewhere in the garden there is also a yellow single-flowered tree peony and a very special Bowl of Beauty which reminds me of the plastic flowers ladies used to have on their swimming hats back in the 60s and 70s. In the greenhouse the vine tomatoes are staked in large pots in drip trays. There are Tumbling Tom tomatoes sharing hanging baskets with trailing Dichondra, Calibrochoa and Lobelia Crystal Palace, and in patio pots I'm growing Garden Pearl small bush variety tomatoes, paired with giant African marigolds.

We've been taking our meals outside and importantly found time to kick back, relax and enjoy sitting in nature amongst the plants, watching and listening to the birds.

Hazel Copland



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