



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

November 2024





Chet Valley Churches



All Saints, Chedgrave

Autumn Fair

23rd November 2024

10:00am-12:00noon

Cakes; Table Decorations; Tombola;

Pre-loved Goods; Books; Crafts ...

Refreshments throughout the morning.

All Welcome – We Look Forward to Seeing You!



The Church in Loddon Christmas Fayre

St John's Chapel George Lane

November 30th

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m

Gifts Crafts
Tombola Cakes
Christmas Decorations
Refreshments



*Father Christmas
arrives at
11 o'clock
with gifts*

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

Ros Hoffmann:	01508 548200	roshoffmann2011@gmail.com
Alison Ball:	01508 528126	ball880am@btinternet.com
Jill Haylock:	01508 520248	jillhaylock@aol.com
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 www.chetvalleychurches.org

The Diocese of Norwich www.dioceseofnorwich.org



Chet Contact

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Please include your name and telephone number.



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From the Editor

My account of a lovely holiday in The Lake District, together with visiting my grandchildren, obviously attracted the attention of the other half of the editorial team because guess where he is (and it's not in front of the Chet Contact laptop!). Well, they do say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. I don't think he'll be climbing Castle Crag, Cat Bells, Walla Crag or any of the other lovely fells around Borrowdale, but I hope he enjoys as much sunshine as we did. I do know he's enjoying cuddles with his new grandson.

I feel we should be playing spot the difference with photo on the front. That view is no longer. The church council sadly had to have the pine tree removed from churchyard at All Saints in Chedgrave. That has happened to a few of the pine trees recently whether due to disease or stress in the hot weather. Rather than take it out completely, the stump has been left for the beetles and other creepy-crawlies that enjoy living in or on decaying wood.

On another note, now that days are turning colder, if you have lost your winter fuel allowance then please do call on the hardship funds (p39) to help out. They are not unlimited pots of money, but can offer some support.

Alison



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Ministerial Musings

I've just celebrated St Francis at an assembly in the infant school. Born over 800 years ago in Assisi—where else—he was the son of a merchant of fine cloth; rich privileged and spoilt! He joined the army but hadn't trained to fight so when Assisi went to war, he was captured and then ransomed as the captors could see he was rich. A year in a dungeon led him to reflect on his dissolute life and he had visions from God. He returned home sick, weak and having resolved to lead a new life. He stole some cloth from his father's shop and sold that together with his horse to give the money to the poor. His furious father took him in front of the bishop who told him to pay the money back. Francis removed his clothes and threw all his money on the floor and said he was going to live on what was given to him by others. He gathered a band of brothers, twelve of them, to wander the land and told everyone about Jesus. Even the birds listened to him preaching in the woods. He is known for his love of all creation and is the patron saint of the environment. As I said to the infants, he is a green saint—the saint for their eco-committee.

St Francis is one of my favourite saints, closely followed by St Andrew purely because he is the patron saint of Scotland. His day is celebrated at the end of the month, neatly bookending November as it starts with All Saints Day.

So who are we celebrating at All Saints? Saints are holy people who are set apart for God's purposes; those who follow Jesus and try to live a life consistent with his teaching. Is it just the saints who have names and have done amazing things? Killing dragons, or being killed for their faith? No!

In the Bible, St Paul referred to followers of the way (Christians) as saints. His letters are often addressed to saints for example, "*To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae. Grace to you and peace from God our Father*" in the opening of his letter to the Colossians. In his letters St Paul encourages those to whom he is writing to live good and virtuous lives, to be constant in prayer, to abound in thanksgiving, not to be led astray. And there are a lot of one anothers: *Bear with one another; Forgive one another; Love one another; Encourage one another; Help one another...* In some way, all who are in the family of God are saints; all aspiring to do the right thing though not always making it.

I wonder if you have ever known someone who is saintly. Maybe you know someone who doesn't call themselves a Christian but lives a good and virtuous life. Perhaps during November you could ponder all that makes for a saintly life and celebrate those who you know or have gone before you who have been saints.

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 (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 CAFÉ 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.

XTRA! 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 Rev 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 Meeting:

Thursday 7th November. We will have a filled jacket potato and salad lunch which will be followed by a talk on Hedgehog Rescue.

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

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 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

Weddings

Anthony George and Felicity Hemmant

28th September at St Mary's, Sisland

Those whom God has joined together let no-one put asunder.

Funerals

Anne Kathleen Reeve who died on 4th September 2024

Funeral: 26th September 2024 at Waveney Crematorium

Pauline Joy Webber who died on 4th September 2024

Funeral: 11th October 2024 at Waveney Crematorium

Julie Patricia Fulford who died on 24th September 2024

Funeral: 30th October 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.

1 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.

Thank You

I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody for their kind words and gestures following the very sudden death of my husband, Colin Binfield. The sheer number of people who attended his funeral was testament of how well thought of he was in all the different aspects of his life. It really was overwhelming but, at the same time, a great comfort to not only me but my son and daughter. We already knew what an amazing person he was but hadn't realised the depth of feeling other people had for him. The total amount of donations received for Nelson's Journey in Colin's memory was £1283.75. We really can't thank you enough.

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News From Your Local Councillors



Some of the most worrying things affecting our local area recently have been: First the threat of a new pylon route across South Norfolk destroying our beautiful countryside; secondly the sudden increase in planning applications for solar “farms” that are springing up on farmland around our communities and taking valuable farmland out of production; lastly the threat of a massive increase in housing numbers being required by central government, which will likely mean more housing estates without sufficient infrastructure to support them.

It feels like we are being targeted as a convenient place for developments that will not necessarily bring any benefits. We cannot even tap into the extra power from pylons and solar, as this is being transported direct to the Southeast. At NCC we are teaming up with our neighbouring authorities in Suffolk, Essex and Lincolnshire to resist these NSIPs (Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects). Local planning authorities and residents need to have their say and be listened to.

If you have any issues or I can help in any way, please contact me at kay.masonbillig.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk.

Councillor Kay Mason-Billig

“Not yesterday I learned to know,
The love of bare November days
Before the coming of the snow,”

Robert Frost

A slightly shorter column this month, as we watch the leaves fall and prepare for the end of Autumn, the season of “mellow fruitfulness”.

Nationally, politics continues to be interesting, as our new government sets about its task. Like all governments, they’ll make popular and unpopular decisions, and we will all judge them by their overall record when it comes to election time.

As well as responding to a range of completely understandable local concerns, including regular meetings about the work needed on the St George’s Estate, I’m continuing to work hard chairing the South Norfolk Scrutiny Committee, working with our cross-party team to ensure that South Norfolk residents are treated properly. Our last meeting was looking at the Council’s move from Long Stratton to the Horizon Building in Norwich, focusing on the financial, environmental and workforce wellbeing aspects.

In next month’s column I’ll give details of how to contribute to our ChetChat Christmas hampers, and how to nominate friends, family-members and neighbours who are over-60 and would appreciate one.

My next surgery, at Loddon Library, is on 26th October 2:00-3:00pm. Please come down if there’s anything I can support you with, or give me a ring on 07733 323581.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe

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Chedgrave Parish Council

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Tel: 07592 933174 Email: clerk@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: <https://chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chedgrave-Parish-Council>



Chedgrave Parish Council held its meeting 3rd October.

Councillor Surgeries: Thank you to everyone who attended the surgeries in July and September. The councillors enjoyed meeting so many residents and hearing your views, good or bad! It is hoped that more events like these will be held in future so please look out for details in future editions of Chet Contact, Facebook or our noticeboards. Thank you!

New Member of Staff: The council welcomed Gemma Dove as Admin Assistant. Gemma will be working on a wide range of tasks for our community.

Dogs in Play Areas: Our play areas are intended for children, not dogs! In particular please keep dogs out of the Grebe Drive play area and do not let them run free and please remember to pick up any poo left by your dog!

Worried About Bills? As the autumn approaches and our household bills inevitably increase, some people may be worrying about meeting those costs. In the first instance, please contact South Norfolk Council 'Help Hub'. They can offer one-off Household Support grants to help with utilities etc. For help, simply visit www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk then type 'Get Help' in the search bar to find the application form or call 01508 533933. There are also local hardship funds which may be able to help. Details of these are in Chet Contact.

Brian Clarke Room: Do you need a bright modern room to run your club or association? 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.

Allotment Vacancies: There are four vacancies, including one half plot. The council is also considering creating more half plots. Residents from Chedgrave and surrounding villages are welcome to apply. Please contact the clerk.

Next Meeting: Thursday 7th November at 7:00pm, Brian Clarke Room.

Highways issues such as potholes, 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 and illegal activities, public disorder and 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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All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis
Tel: 01508 522020 Email: clerk@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/loddontc



Love Loddon Community Group: Thank you to all the volunteers that helped to strip and replant the flower towers and containers for the Autumn displays. The next session is Sunday 20th October, 10:00am on Church Plain when we are planting Spring bulbs. If you would like to join us, please let us know or come along on the day.

Christmas Light Display: Each year, in late November, the Council installs lightweight LED Christmas Lights on properties on Church Plain, Bridge Street and the High Street. If you live in those areas, please look out for an email or letter from us which will update you on our plans.

Christmas Light Switch-On: Victorian Evening on 6th December.

Remembrance Parade—10th November: This year's parade will take place on Sunday 10th November. The parade will meet on Cannell's car park, and set off from White Horse Corner at 10:30am. The parade will arrive at Church Plain at 10:45am and there will be a short service by the War Memorial. This will be followed by a Service in Holy Trinity Church. All timings are approximate.

Freedom of Loddon Sponsorship: Thank you to Philip Taylor, landlord of the King's Head for sponsoring the Freedom of Loddon award.

Chet Valley Community Larder: The community larder is now available every Saturday from 1:00-3:00pm and every Monday from 12:00noon-2:00pm in Loddon Library. During these sessions, £1 food bags will be available to collect. Registration will be required. More information is available on our website: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk/community-larder. The larder is open to residents of the Chet Valley (Loddon, Chedgrave, Hales & Heckingham, Langley & Hardley, Sisland). The donation shelves and fridge are still open, and we appreciate any donations you may wish to make, including cash donations, which can be handed to volunteers or the Town Council office.

Small Grants: LTC have recently awarded several small grants to local organisations. If you would like to apply for a local group/organisation (generally up to £100), please see our website for more info/application form.

Meeting dates, contact information and updates can all be found on the Council website: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01508 522020.



Claire Bullard

INDEPENDANT SCENTSY
CONSULTANT

Phone - 07717535080

Email - cl.bullard@hotmail.co.uk

Website - clairebullard.scentsy.co.uk

Facebook = Claire Bullard - Scentsy Consultant



What is Scentsy?

Scentsy offers an alternative to traditional candles. NO flame, NO smoke, NO soot. The concept uses decorative warmers, which use a heating element to slowly melt specially formulated wax, making your home smell SCENT-sational.... we are not all wax though!

We have a whole range of products to scent your world 🌍
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.



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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
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Very competitive rates

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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](https://www.facebook.com/Hales%20&%20Heckingham%20Parish%20Council)



Next Parish Council Meeting: 12th November at 7:30pm.

Held at the Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on our website three days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Summer Fete: The fete took place on 25th August. Thank you to all the volunteers, Masala Gardens, Martin Sisley and people who turned up on the day. Thank you to everyone who donated to the tombolas and cake stall.

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

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 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 councillor vacancies on our Parish Council. We provide a voice for concerns, ideas, and initiatives that help to improve the village we live in. 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: helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or 01508 533933. Opening hours are 8:15am-10:00pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

Deliverers on St George's Park, Loddon

There are currently two people who deliver Chet Contact in St George's Park—that's 200 copies for the estate. If you live in Chestnut Drive, Rowan Drive or Holly Close, and could take on delivery to your street, please contact Anne Jackson on 01508 502278. She would be delighted to share the load a bit further.



Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com

Website: <https://langleywithhardley.pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>

Find us on Facebook.



No news from the parish council this month.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 5th November in Langley with Hardley Village Hall at 7:30pm. All welcome.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Friday 1st November: Spud Club

From 11:00am-1:00pm. All ages welcome. Come and enjoy a jacket potato with choice of fillings, homemade quiche, apple crumble, gooseberry crumble, and cakes, sausage rolls and scones.

Raffle, bric-a-brac, clothes, books, earrings and crochet stall.

All in friendly company.

Friday 8th November: Klever Kelvins Kwizz.

Doors open 6:30pm for 7:00pm start. Pre-book tickets, £4 each, from Jane on 01508 520184. They include nibbles and drinks. Do join another team as teams are up to six. Please say when booking if you have allergies. Bring your own alcohol.

Prize for the winning team and great fun.

Saturday 30th November: Christmas Bingo.

Doors open 6:30pm for 7:00pm start. Great prizes to be won.

Thank you very much to everyone that has supported us to raise money for Macmillan. We made £836.77 and also raised £255.50 for Ovarian Cancer.

To book the village hall call Jane on 01508 520184.



Deliverers on St George's Park, Loddon



There are currently two people who deliver Chet Contact in St George's Park—that's 200 copies for the estate. If you live in Chestnut Drive, Rowan Drive or Holly Close, and could take on delivery to your street, please contact Anne Jackson on 01508 502278. She would be delighted to share the load a bit further.

Notes from Sisland

As we enter the autumn season, the weather definitely changeable, our attention turns to a period of reflection and remembrance. The changing of the seasons always makes me reflect on the previous few months, in particular this year the mixed summer weather and the effect on our native wildflowers that these changes have.

The poppy, one of those instantly recognisable flowers, is the enduring symbol of remembrance. Artificial poppies were first sold in Britain in 1921 to raise money for the Earl Haig Fund to support the families of those who had died as well as ex-service personnel. The original ones were supplied by Anna Guérin, from France, who had been manufacturing them to raise money for war orphans. In 1922 the Royal British Legion founded a factory, staffed by disabled ex-servicemen, to produce its own.



Remembrance Day has been observed every year since 1919. As well as standing together in Remembrance on 11th November, we also observe a two-minute silence at 11:00am on Remembrance Sunday. The former, originally called 'Armistice Day', to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended the First World War on Monday 11th November, 1918, at 11:00am—the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For those who know Sisland church you will be aware that there is no war memorial in either the building or the churchyard, but the act of remembrance is still important.

The changing season also brings the change of service times for Sisland. With the change of clocks on 27th October the service of Evening Prayer moves to 4:00pm; during the summer it has been at 5:00pm. This traditional service, using the Book of Common Prayer, is an excellent way to reflect on the week past and prepare for the week ahead.

Sisland Church will continue to be open during the autumn. Even if the door is closed it will be unlocked, so please take the opportunity to visit us if passing.

Rowena Bryce, Churchwarden



Sport

Footballers Wanted!

A friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart High School Astro Pitches every Monday and Thursday from 8:00-9:00pm. Come along and join us for a non-competitive kick about to keep fit and socialise. £3:00 per session. First session free. For more info, contact Terry via email: terryhayden.sportsclub@gmail.com.



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

With the outdoor lawn bowls season finished why not come and try indoor short mat? We meet on Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-3:00pm, in the Jubilee Hall and are a friendly little group. Beginners are very welcome; just bring flat indoor shoes and we can supply some bowls. The right money, £3, and a sense of humour are also appreciated. More information from Sara: 01508 521958 or Sheryl: 01502 677272.



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 hour.



Website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LoddonTennisClub>

Email: loddontennis@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk

Hobart Badminton Club

We are looking for players to join our friendly club of all ages from 16+. Playing experience desirable. We meet at Hobart High School sports hall, every Tuesday from 7:30-9:30 pm. Cost £6:00 per session, first session free. More information from Terry: terryhayden.sportsclub@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.



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;

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 chair-based 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.



Walking Football is Coming to Loddon

Walking football has become increasingly popular since its creation in 2011. It is a sporting activity suitable for participants over the age of 50 of all skill levels including those who have been inactive for some time, or even have never played sport before.

I am looking to start the sessions from March 2025 if there is enough interest. So if you are over the age of 45 and this sounds like something you would be interested in, then contact Terry for more information via email terryhayden.sportsclub@gmail.com and hopefully we can bring walking football to Loddon.



Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

We meet in the extension to the Old Town Hall, entrance via The Swan car park. It is clearly marked. We are a members club with internal league matches every weekday evening, roll ups on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons commencing at 2:00pm and on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. Numbers are restricted to the first 12 arriving. Subscriptions are £20 per year, £2 per sessions for roll-ups and competitions and £3 for league matches. We'd love to see you so just turn up and give it a try.

For information contact our Chairman, Paul Clemence on 01508 218078.



Victorian Evening

On Friday 6th December from 6:30-8:30pm the annual Victorian Evening will take place in the town centre. Starting at 6:30pm outside the library, Father Christmas will arrive for the 'grand switch on' of the Church Plain Christmas lights.

Thanks to the generosity and support of many of the town's businesses, we are all set for another fun filled evening of events:

- * Listen out for announcements from the Town Crier on the night
- * Look out for Father Christmas in his grotto at Bay Tree House
- * Punch and Judy Show in the rear of the Hollies at 6:45pm and 7:15pm
- * Open House at Holy Trinity Church, and St John's Church in George Lane
- * Fire Engine display and BBQ at Loddon Fire Station
- * Farmer's Market and Country Market at The Hollies with festive goodies and crafts Vintage steam engines on the display

With further activities to be added!

Many of the town's traders throughout the town will be open and welcoming you to thank you for your custom throughout the year.

Victorian Evening—The Church in Loddon Open House(s)

This year the Victorian Evening is on Friday 6th December and, as usual, we will have tables available for local groups (non-commercial) in Holy Trinity Church and St John's Chapel. You may wish to sell crafts, run a game or tombola to fundraise for charity or simply to promote your organisation. Space is limited to one table per stall. We ask for a small donation from stallholders, in the region of £5, to cover costs (as the church is a charity too).

To book a space, contact Joan Evans: email joanevans936@btinternet.com by 23rd November. Priority will be given to previous stallholders.

November at Loddon Library

Thursday 28th November: We welcome resident musician with Creative Arts East, Aphra, who will be hosting a Move/Shake session for 0-5s. Move/Shake is a Youth Music funded program offering music-making workshops. Free, but registration is required: speak with Library staff or call 01508 520678.

We continue to offer the following regular sessions:

- Get one-to-one digital support with our volunteer Computer Buddy. Weekly appointments available from 10:00am-12:00noon.
- Are you new to the area from another country? Focussed drop-in support sessions on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 10:45 -11:45am.
- All About You hosted by Better Together: a warm drink and opportunity to socialise in a safe environment. Every Monday 12:00noon-1:00pm.
- Community Larder available every Monday and Saturday. Check their Facebook page for details.
- Neurodiverse family social: volunteer-supported after school activities 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 4:00-4:30pm.

There's so much more! Pop in to see us Loddon Library to see what else we have on offer. Speak with library staff, call 01508 520678, or email loddon.lib@libraries.norfolk.gov.uk.

Loddon Christmas Craft Fair

On Saturday 23rd November there will be a Christmas Craft Fair held at Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon. 10:00am-2:00pm.

Children's Lucky Dip (50p), Tombola in Aid of Alzheimer's Society.

Refreshments available.

Free Entry.



Church Services

3rd November		
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
10th November Remembrance Sunday		
9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:55am	Remembrance Service	St Margaret, Hardley
10:55am	Remembrance Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon
3:00pm	Remembrance Service	Hales War Memorial
17th November		
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
4:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
24th November		
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, Loddon

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.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

Every day Morning Prayer 9:00am <i>All Welcome</i>	Monday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave
Thursday during school term	XTRA! 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) <i>All are welcome</i>	

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation

21 Uppate, 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



Chet Valley Community Larder

The community larder will be available in the library every Saturday from 1:00-3:00pm and every Monday from 12:00noon-2:00pm.

This service is open to residents of the Chet Valley (Loddon, Chedgrave, Hales & Heckingham, Langley & Hardley, Sisland).

On completion of a registration form, you can collect a food bag with items to make a couple of meals, together with additional items on the day, for £1.

Once you are registered you can collect a food bag whenever you need of food support.

If you need urgent food support, outside of the library larder times, please contact the Loddon Town Council office on 01508 522020 or email either clerk@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk or jane@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk.

The donation shelves and fridge are still open in the library annexe every Monday-Friday 8:00am-7:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm.

The shelves have donations from the public.

This year we will be operating a Christmas bag service through the library times. If you are registered you will be able to collect items from us.

Christmas Donations

If you can donate any Christmas food items and treats, you can drop these in at the Loddon Town Council offices Tuesday to Thursday 9:00am-12:00noon, through November and early December.

Christmas bags will be available from 30th November to 23rd December.

Thank you, your donations really make a difference!

From The Community Larder Volunteers

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 Bev on 07826 299290 for more information.

Chet Neighbourhood Plan Referendum



We have *at last* been given the date for the referendum to take place regarding the acceptance for adoption of the Chet Neighbourhood Plan. The referendum will be on Thursday, 14th November, 2024. Hard copies of the Plan will be available in the Library and the Town Council office. Other locations will be advised as they are made available and you can also access a copy on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.chetnp.info.

As with all elections you will receive your voting card in the post, or your postal vote if you have registered for one. Voting will be as usual in Loddon, in The Hollies and in Chedgrave at the Brian Clarke Rooms.

For the Chet Neighbourhood Plan to be adopted, it is a requirement to achieve a majority of the votes being cast so, if 100 people turn out to vote 51 must vote either in favour or not to achieve a result. If you feel strongly about the plan, please cast your vote.

We are bound by normal election rules and cannot promote either the positive or negatives of the plan.

Should you have any queries, please send them to Jane Hale at jane@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk or clerk@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk.

Many thanks for your support during the preparation of the plan over the last few years.

Jane Hale (Chet Neighbourhood Plan—Town Council Lead)
Loddon Town Council



Deliverers on St George's Park, Loddon



There are currently two people who deliver Chet Contact in St George's Park—that's 200 copies for the estate. If you live in Chestnut Drive, Rowan Drive or Holly Close, and could take on delivery to your street, please contact Anne Jackson on 01508 502278. She would be delighted to share the load a bit further.

Loddon Bell Ringers



We have had a busy month ringing bells all over Norfolk and Suffolk. We travelled to ring quarter peals with others at North Lopham, Lowestoft, Upper Sheringham, Wiveton, Kenninghall, East Raynham, Holt, Cromer, Saxlingham Nethergate and St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich. We also rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples here at Loddon to welcome a newly born son for a ringing friend of our tower.

We have been to nearby Bergh Apton church to assist a bell-hanger to remove five of the six wooden bell wheels for repairs to be done. We also maintain our own bells regularly which has recently involved sending some of our bell ropes away for repairs as they do wear out over time. While they were away we have been using some recycled ropes from St. Margaret's church in Lowestoft.

Steve Rabong

Christmas Community Choir

Hooray! The Christmas Community Choir is coming together once again this year. Drawn from people of varying ages (~7-90+) we lead the traditional carols as usual and sing one or two items of our own at the...

Carol Service in Chedgrave Church

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

The carol service is on Sunday 22nd December at 5:00pm

There will be four rehearsals (best if you can make at least three of them):

Saturday 7th December 10:00am-12:00noon

Saturday 14th December 2:00-4:00pm

Saturday 21st December 10:00am-12:00noon

Sunday 22nd December 3:00-4:00pm

(refreshment break before the service)



If you would like to take part please contact Rev Alison

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

Pub Carol Service

Advance notice that the carol service at The White Horse in Chedgrave is on Sunday 15th December starting at 7:30pm. There will be the usual carols up on the screens for everyone to join in, as well as some Christmas readings. I expect there will also be mulled wine on tap and mince pies available. See you there!

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."

Bridget M Ward



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 .



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Loddon Flower Club



Our November meeting on Tuesday 5th, will be held as usual in St John's Lecture Hall. Doors open at 6:30pm for 7:00pm start. Our demonstrator for the evening will be Violetta Velkinene. Entitled '*Floral Elegance, a Showcase of Nature's beauty*', her arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening. Refreshments provided during a short interval. All welcome. Visitors £7.50; or why not join our friendly club—£40 for all meetings during the year.

I'm reluctant to say but Christmas will soon be with us! On Saturday November 23rd we are holding a workshop and with the help of Brenda Tubb we will make a table arrangement. All welcome to join us for a fun afternoon 1:00-4:00pm, refreshments provided. Oblong trays, oasis and tea lights will be available to purchase if you need them. There will be some greenery also available but please bring some if you can, also small flowers, 2/3 small oranges, cocktail sticks and cloves to decorate them, baubles etc of your choice to add.

Our annual Christmas Open evening will be on Tuesday 3rd December: stalls, competitions, tombola, raffles for *Cheese and Wine Hamper* and *Beauty Hamper*, quiz and the usual flower arrangement. Raffle from the evening's demonstration by Linda Kingcott entitled '*It's a Sort of Magic*'. Doors open at 6:15pm for 7:00pm start. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine, or soft drink if you prefer and some nibbles/finger food while you browse. Tickets on the door £12.

We look forward to seeing you.

We have a website where you can see what we do as a club: www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk, and a Facebook page where we intend to post upcoming events and pictures of what we've done.

If you need help with family flowers, or would like more information about the club, please contact Tricia on 01508 480522, or Jenny on 01508 520254, or email the club: loddonflowerclub@gmail.com.

Tuesday Market



Our cooks are busy using the fruits of the harvest to make delicious jams, chutneys and preserves. We also stock local honey. Come and join us for a cuppa and cake at our friendly market. You will find fresh baking, both sweet and savoury, local eggs, seasonal fruit, vegetables, plants and flowers as well as handmade crafts. We meet in the Hollies, next to the Post Office, from 10:00-11:30am every Tuesday.

It may seem early but now is the time to place your Christmas Cake order! Contact Sheila Ford (chairman) 01508 520752 for orders or enquiries.

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

Thursday 15th November

Quiz and Chips: our ever-popular evening with a light hearted quiz and supper, 7:00 pm start. Please bring your own drinks and condiments. Chedgrave Church Centre, cost £12.00 including supper. Please have the right money in cash. Contact Hillary, 01508 520457.

Thursday 5th December

By popular demand we will have another pre-Christmas meal at The Old Feathers. 6:30pm for 7.00pm. Booking before 16th November with a deposit of £10.00 cash each. Menus will be given when available. Full payment with choices by 24th November. Contact June on 01508 528853.

If you're not yet a member of our very friendly group (membership is only £6.00 for a year) you are welcome to come along and try one of our events before joining.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact:

June Strickland on 01508 528853, junecs@btinternet.com;

Hillary Meredith on 01508 520457, meredithp3@sky.com; or

Sharon Brown at loddonchedgravedistrictsociety@gmail.com.

WEA

Our Autumn courses started in September with Mary Fewster giving an excellent insight into the development of the NHS. The courses continue with the following speakers:



Art History in 100 Paintings by Fiona Fitzgerald on 14th October and 4th, 11th November. Course Code Q00019037, fee £25.20.

American Short Stories by Joe Williamson on 18th, 25th November and 2nd, 9th December. Course Code Q00019239, fee £33.60. Joe will circulate copies of the stories beforehand.

No previous knowledge of the subject is necessary!

To enrol: Visit and search www.wea.org.uk and type in course code, location or title and pay online; or phone 0300 3033464.

All courses will be held in Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon on Monday afternoons from 2:00-4:00pm.

Further information: Alison, 01508 521976 or Sharon, 01508 520386.

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:

5th November: Peter Goodrum—50 Gems of Norfolk Part 2.

19th November: Andy Reid—Life/Death of Harriet Kettle

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, starting at 10:30am, lunch optional.

Upcoming meetings:

12th November: "Give us a clue when the dogs don't bark" (part2). Speaker Mary Newton.

26th November : "Beekeeping". Speaker Steve Barrett.

10th December: Christmas Lunch at The Old Feathers, Framingham Earl.

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

Hillside Plant Stall

Thank you to all who donated & purchased plants from this stall. It raised £88.64 this year which is in aid of All Saints, Chedgrave.

All Saints, Treasurer

Val's Wall Flowers

Thank You to all who donated & purchased plants from my wall this year.

We raised £211.00 which I will donate to The Church in Loddon. After adding gift aid this will make a total of £263.75.

Val Counter

Chet Valley Photography Club



Our monthly club meeting in November is on Monday 11th in St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. We are awaiting confirmation from a potential speaker for our November meeting otherwise we will be having a practical night indoors looking at 'intentional camera movement' to produce some weird and wonderful results. You do not need expensive equipment at all—images can be taken using a mobile device (phone, tablet) or point and shoot camera. Details will be put on our website nearer the time.

We also have a Facebook page (search Chet Valley Photography Club), which details some of the things we have done over the past few months. New members will be made very welcome. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

Annual membership is just £18. Have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information if you are interested in joining us.

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



Remembrance is the time when families remember their own veterans, from the wars and the modern day conflicts. We also remember our own nearest and dearest, who returned. Some spoke of their battles but most didn't.

There will be a Remembrance Parade, starting at 10:30am from The White Horse. This is arranged by Loddon Town Council. A short service to lay wreaths at Loddon War Memorial is at 11:00am, with The Last Post, and is followed by a service in Holy Trinity Church.

The next day, Monday 11th, there will be short service at 11:00am at Loddon War Memorial marking the 11th hour of the 11th day of November.

Local RBL branches are sometimes their first place those who need companionship call at. Beyond our meetings, followed by a cuppa and chat, we as branch members, are still here to support and help veterans and their families. Veterans these days vary in age, from our WW2 through to today's modern conflict military personnel. PTSD being a major contributor, along with injuries suffered, they need support.

Our November meeting (Monday 18th) is our AGM for members only.

Our next open meeting is next year on Monday 17th February. We meet the third Monday of every month.

Contact: Chairman Colin Hartley. 01508 521136.

Loddon and District Women's Institute



In September we sampled the delights of James and Harris chocolates and by the time you're reading this, we will have indulged in some Bollywood dancing! In November, it's Panto time!! You might be tempted to say, 'Oh no it isn't!', but, 'Oh yes, it is!' because Maureen and Titch will be sharing 'Tales of the Pantomime' with us. We're also looking forward to Christmas and at our November open house meeting will be putting the finishing touches to our preparations for our tombola stall at the Victorian Evening in the Holy Trinity Church Open House. Do come and see us!

November meetings:

Thursday 14th: Knit, Natter & Crochet. This is a community event held at Loddon Library 2:30-4:00pm.

Wednesday 20th: Monthly meeting. 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start at St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. 'Tales of the Pantomime' with Titch and Maureen, to be followed by our AGM.

There will also be the usual monthly Open House and Book Club meetings for members.

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

Parkinson's UK Charity Shop, Loddon



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

Christmas display now up and running. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Jenny

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 next meeting on Wednesday 27th November. Fellow member Sue Edwards will tell us about her *Fascination with Buttons* and will bring a selection of her favourites. New members always welcome.

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

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

The next meeting sees the beginning of our Mini-Shows for the Malt Cup. We are holding our Autumn Mini-Show on 13th November at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom starting at 7:30pm. We will also be having cheese and wine to say thank you to our members.



Thank you to everyone who helped at and visited our Annual Open Show in September. We celebrated our 50th show with a good number of entries and were especially pleased to see more entries in the children's classes.

Our Society usually meets on the second Wednesday of the month. If you would like to join our Society it 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 also follow us on our Facebook page.

Social Whist

Our whist drives have continued through the summer and we have all enjoyed hearing about the holidays of some of the members. Our dates for this month are: 8th and 22nd November;



We meet in the back room of The Hollies at 7.30pm for a 7:45pm start. We have twelve hands of whist with a hot drink and a biscuit and some local chat. All enjoyed in a friendly atmosphere. If you need a lift to The Hollies, please call Jane on 01508 528875. We look forward to seeing you.

Loddon Community Cinema

Again apologies for not being able to show the film in October. We are having another try in November.



Our next presentation is *Vindication Swim*. Rated PG. Starring Kirstan Callaghan, John Locke and Victoria Summer. The true story of Mercades Gietze, who in 1927 became the first British woman to swim the English Channel. The film portrays Gietze's upstream struggle to overcome both the cold waters of the Channel and the oppressive society of 1920's Britain. However, after a rival comes forward claiming to have accomplished the same feat, Mercades is forced into battle to retain her record and her legacy.

Thursday 7th November. Showing at The Lecture Hall, St. John's, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7:00pm, film starts 7:30pm.

Adults £4, under 16 £2 are available on the door or in advance from Loddon Garden & DIY. Email: loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk.

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 are only any good if people use them! In the past money has paid for white goods, carpets, solicitor's bills, rent, food... With the winter fuel allowance for pensioners being curtailed, we hope that people will draw on these funds rather than going cold. 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).

Chedgrave Art Group

Formerly known as 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: veepond22@hotmail.com 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. 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 6th November—Off the record: Album Cover Art, 1950-2000 by Rupert Dickens.

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://theartssocietywv.org.uk>



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Loddon Players



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After the success of last year’s pantomime, we have added a further date for our performances in January 2025 with ticket prices remaining the same. Performances are at The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. NR14 6QH.

Evening performances starting at 7:30pm are on: Thursday 16th, Friday 17th, Saturday 18th, Thursday 23rd, Friday 24th, Saturday 25th.

Matinees starting at 2:30pm are on: Saturday 18th, Sunday 19th, Saturday 25th.

Tickets on sale from Monday 4th November at 9:00am are available online at www.loddonplayers.co.uk or from our Box Office on 03336 663366 from 9:00am-7:00pm on Monday-Friday, and from 9:00am-5:00pm on Saturdays.

Ticket prices: see website for latest ticket offers.

Adults £10; Children £5 (15 years or under); Family £25 (2 adults+2 children). Tickets are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Beccles Choral Society Concerts



Saturday 23rd November: Rossini’s *Petite Messe Solennelle*—more opera than mass, not petite and definitely not solemn, this is a work full of colour and drama and lots of memorable tunes for which Rossini is famous. 7:00pm at St Michael’s Church, Beccles

Tickets: £20, under-16s free. From 07586 959326, Beccles Bookshop, ticketsbeccleschoral@gmail.com and on the door.

Saturday 15th December: *Christmas Cracker*—a concert of popular Christmas music and favourite carols for choir, Waveney Concert Band and the audience. 4:30pm at St Michael’s Church, Beccles

Tickets: £15, under-16s free. From 07586 959326, Beccles Bookshop, ticketsbeccleschoral@gmail.com and on the door.

The choir meets on Tuesday evenings during term times in Hungate Church Hall. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who wishes to join.

There are no auditions. Come for a taster session or two before you join.

Further details from the secretary: beccleschoralsecretary@gmail.com, 01502 464475 or 07851 019952.

In the next few years we will be singing Mozart’s Requiem in May 2025, Brahms’s Requiem and Christmas Cracker in December 2025, Elgar’s Dream of Gerontius at Snape Maltings in May 2026 and Haydn’s Creation in November 2026. For further information visit our website at <https://www.beccleschoralsociety.co.uk/wp/>.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

Our September talk updated us on the recent Caister Roman Project Digs. Mike Pinner explained how important the Caister site is in understanding our Roman heritage as it is one of only three 'greenfield' Roman regional capitals in the UK, ie not affected by medieval and later development. The first excavations of the town were led by Donald Atkinson in the 1930s but it was not until 2007 that the recent digs started when Will Bowden from Nottingham University became interested after seeing the results of a geophysical survey. The town saw its most intensive occupation and gained a new political significance in the late third century and into the fourth.

Recent excavations have taken place in 'Temple Field' in 2018, 2019 and 2024. Two temple sites have been found using ground penetrating radar. The first was probably built in the first century while the second was built in the second century and was much larger and impressive. Close by a villa type building was found but this and the second temple seem to have been deliberately demolished in the middle of the third century, around the time the walls enclosing the town were built. Iron Age pottery has been found on this site.

In 2022 work was carried out on Friston Field after a geophys survey suggested a wide variety of features might be of interest. One area was found to have evidence of Roman occupation underground and the remains of an aqueduct were seen. Remnants of healing instruments and an Iron Age horse harness were uncovered. Samianware, mortaria and a cherub on part of a bowl also created much interest.

In 2023 and 2024 excavations took place on the paddock area of Caister Hall Hotel. Evidence of industry, a kiln and lots of pottery were found plus many coins and a complete brooch. Of particular interest was a decayed spear and the head of a knife which suggested the possibility of a small military presence. The pits showed that refuse came from the first century which is around the time of the first temple. Objects found indicated that the people who lived here were of high status. A very interesting talk.

Carole Rylands

Next meeting:

Wednesday 20th November—News From Our Archive led by Elvie.

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: Carol (chetcottchippy@hotmail.com) or Elvie (elvie.herd@uwclub.net).

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

The Pumpkin Spice Cafe, by Laurie Gilmour

I was intrigued to see this top of the fiction charts, so I thought I'd seek it out. It's been propelled to fame by TikTok, or BookTok! It's very much like a Hallmark Christmas movie but set in the autumn. Overworked and stressed out city girl moves to small but very beautiful town, meets handsome local boy (in this case a farmer), suffers a few misunderstandings, and some menace – who wants her to quit the town? But in general there is a feeling of warm, cosy romance. A little bit sickly sweet, but quite nice for this time of year!

You Took the Last Bus Home, by Brian Bilston

Brian Bilston is nicknamed the poet laureate of Twitter with good reason. His imaginative wordplay and wit are really good fun to read. He is a very accessible poet and has many outlets, you can catch him on most of social media, but he's also published a fair few books. His Christmas collection (dare I mention the 'C' word?!) is really funny too.

The Children of Castle Rock, by Natasha Farrant

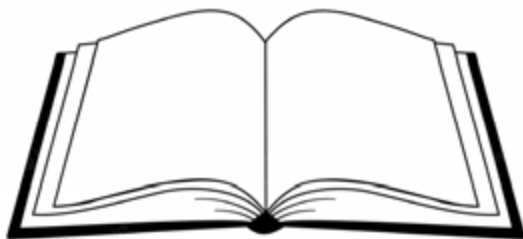
This is a children's book which I read with my eight-year-old but I felt compelled to put it in here because I enjoyed reading it so much. It's set mainly in Scotland and is reminiscent of Enid Blyton but it's also very modern in its setting and characterisation. The three main characters struggle to fit in at school but bond together over adversity. It's a great adventure story and there are puffins!

I'm reading...

Intermezzo, by Sally Rooney

Set mainly in Dublin this is the story of two very different brothers, one a professional chess player and one a lawyer, and their grief over the death of their father. The way Sally Rooney writes about human connection and relationships is superb.

Ruth Redford



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Nature Notes

Autumn is now well upon us with winter fast approaching. I saw my first skein of pinkfoot geese on the morning of the 6th October.

On Sunday the 9th of September I had a phone message from a friend saying that he and his wife had seen a family of common crane in the stubble fields between the duck pits and Hardley Mill. So, guess where the dogs had their walk? Admittedly it is where I usually take them. Scanning the fields I drew a blank. The following day was overcast with an on and off drizzle, but the dogs still needed their walk. So back to Hardley Staithe, suitably attired for the inclement weather. At the point of giving up, I suddenly saw three grey shapes through the murky weather; I'd found them, and to add to my enjoyment the drizzle stopped enabling me some good views but poor photos on my phone. While there I messaged another friend, who is a bird photographer, giving him the details of where the cranes were. I was rewarded when he sent me some of his photos of them. I saw them again in the distance between Church Road and Cantley sugar beet factory.

The same friend who told me about the common cranes, told me on Tuesday when I called on him, that on the previous Sunday while walking back from near Hardley Mill to the staithe he had seen a bittern flying over the reeds on the other side of the Yare as well as a flock of around 15 bearded reedling on this side. So, on Thursday as the wet windy weather had finally ended, I decided that I would venture further with the dogs to see if my luck was in. I was aware there would be little on the duck pits as there was a shoot there early in the morning. From the car park at the staithe to the duck pits birds were noticeable for their absence and as expected the duck pits were devoid of life except for four gadwell ducks. As I continued our walk a bittern flew towards the pits and disappeared into the reeds there. Things were definitely improving and although the bearded reedling didn't put in an appearance I was "shouted" at by a Cetti's warbler, saw four skylark fly over and frustratingly could hear a buzzard calling but couldn't work out from where. Finally, I could see it circling round, but it wasn't just one bird there were four and it was fascinating as they flew round how even in a clear sky at certain angles of flight, they became invisible. Walking back past the duck pits there was a great white egret with its bright yellow beak along the reed edge. This was the fourth time in the past week that it had been around.

The following day I repeated the walk, this time a marsh harrier appeared. There were five little grebes on the duck pits along with mallards, greylag geese and mute swans. I heard the yaffle call of a green woodpecker, then noticed a great spotted woodpecker flying over the river. No two walks are ever the same.

Richard and Rachel Hull

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Gardening Notes

Growing Fruit and Veg from Scratch—Part 5d: Soil Health

Continuing the theme of soil improvement this month; using leaf mould. I hear people complain about leaves blowing into their garden, having to collect it up and their trips to the tip to get rid of it. There is a much better use for it as a soil improver. Trees use it to create their own humus and over time it builds up as an essential part of the woodlands natural cycle. It doesn't have a great nutritional value but does add body to the soil and helps keep it open. It rots down with the action of fungus, hence mould, rather than bacteria and worms like compost. So, gather up those leaves and put them to use. I usually just put them in an old compost bag, sprinkle in some water, make some holes in the side to let the air in, tie up the neck and bung the bag behind the shed for two years. Alternatively, if you have a lot of leaves you can make a purpose-built composter of four posts and chicken wire. I prefer to use it as nature would and add it around the base of my fruit trees and bushes.

I would like to finish this month by remembering Paul Spinks, who recently passed away. Either Chair or Secretary since the Hardley Road Allotment Association was created; he undertook all the tedious admin tasks, grant applications, etc for us and used his engineering skills to create our irrigation system. He will be missed.

Andrew Milner

From the Garden

The garden has been well and truly drenched. After such a parched summer, the sustained rainfall is a real contrast. I'm spending my time emptying drips trays for fear my nursery plants may drown. The water butts are brimming with lovely fresh water which I have decanted into as many containers as possible to conserve it should there be another dry spell. The new greenhouse is a godsend, as I've really enjoyed potting on plants and planting bulbs up in the dry whilst the rain hammers down outside.

Gratitude to our lovely neighbours who kindly finished off our side of the hedge which is now nice and tidy and the garden is much lighter for it. We have a very busy squirrel who has been happily planting walnuts all over the garden and in my plant pots; no doubt the majority of hazelnuts too as we have only harvested two this year!

Colour in the garden comes from the last of the giant african marigolds in brightest yellow and orange, there are perfectly purple michaelmas daisies which look very healthy this year, blue hydrangeas, gatherings of cyclamen in pink and white—every year there are more, popping up all over the place. I'm happy to see that the stately salvia 'Black and Bloom' is producing more of its fabulous dark blue flowers on black stems.

Potted chrysanthemums are full of buds which will soon be a riot of small mauve flowers. I love these hardy perennials, they pretty much look after themselves and bloom every year without fail, providing beauty when most other plants have faded away.

Hazel Copland



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