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Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

April 2023

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Chet Valley Churches

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen:	01508 522993	david.chetvalley@gmail.com
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Andrew Eburne:	01508 494770	frandreweburne@gmail.com



Church Office—closed at present.

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

Phone: 01508 520897, Email: website.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com

The e-mail account is being monitored regularly.



Weddings, Baptisms, Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of a Child

To arrange any of the above please contact Rev David on 01508 522993.

Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches
The Diocese of Norwich

www.chetvalleychurches.org
www.dioceseofnorwich.org



Chet Contact

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From the Editor

With Easter and the coronation of King Charles III in the next few months, there seems to be a flurry of activity. The pages this month are full of Easter activities, including the usual church services (see centre pages)—I wonder if there will be donkeys anywhere on Palm Sunday, and a coronation special being planned for the May weekend. So lots of things to look forward to.

I was out walking the other day and had a wonderful time noticing things! Fortunately we had some knowledgeable people with us to help, so I know I noticed a murmuration of goldfinches and linnets, some muntjac and Chinese water deer at distance, and a hare lolloping over a field. The barn owl quartering over a field in Hardley was unmistakeable and absolutely mesmerising. Wonderful to see. It was nice to take the time, a sort of mindfulness I suppose, and good to be outdoors with a friendly group of people. And no, I am not trying to take over the nature notes—Richard and Rachel do far too good a job at that.

Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs—seasonal food and very delicious. I always look forwards to them. During lockdown—doesn't that seem a long time ago and yet people are still going down with covid—I made my own hot cross buns, and I think I might have another go at them this year. There's something very enticing about the smell of currants and spice and enriched dough. Whether or not you make your own hot cross buns, I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Alison



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Ministerial Musings

Welcome to the King

National events are interesting. Some people think they're great, and that they bring unity and celebration, while others can't see what all the fuss is about. We have two national events on the horizon, both of them involving kings.

We're all aware that the coronation of King Charles III will take place on 6th May, amid much celebration and pageantry. The newly-crowned king will be a focal point for the nation because of the role passed on to him. We understand this whether or not we like having a monarchy. We're geared up for it, both locally and nationally.

The other national event comes in April, and because we're used to it happening each year, we could be in danger of forgetting its significance. It too involves acknowledging a king.



When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, on the day we now call Palm Sunday, he didn't assume all the pomp and ceremony that will surround the coronation. Even so, the crowd recognised him as a king. Very soon after that, in a distressing turn of events, Jesus was put to a tortured death by the authorities who wanted to eliminate this "king". They wanted no possible competition for their power and authority.

If the story had ended there, we would not be celebrating Easter. We refer to Jesus as the King of kings because he did not conquer a nation by force, but rather he fulfilled the role God had set out for him. This was to be born as a human child and to grow up to demonstrate the extent of God's love for the world. He was raised from death in order to make it possible for everyone to have access to God's perfect love.

Amid the chocolates and Easter holidays this year, why not pause and consider who we are celebrating, and why we do it. Maybe you'd like to thank God for the King of kings this Easter, and join us for one of our services. They're listed on the centre pages.

David Owen

These are two of my favourite Bible verses, from the Gospel of John:

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour."



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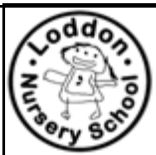
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Across the Chet Valley Churches

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 CAFE 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 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 the Rector or 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 David on 01508 522993.



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 13th April
Lunch at the Old Feathers Restaurant. We will meet at 12:00 noon, the meal being at 12:30pm. NB this is the second Thursday of the month.



If you'd like 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!)

XTRA! Join us in St John's Church for an exciting, informal service every **Thursday after school**. Refreshments from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm. More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

Ronan Dougie Worth

Thanksgiving: 19th March at All Saints, Chedgrave.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for all children.

*Surround them with your blessing that they may know your love,
be protected from evil, and know your goodness all their days.*

Weddings

Funerals

Mark Rolland Seel who died on 4th January 2023

Funeral: 20th February 2023 at All Saints, Chedgrave.

Shirley Ann Stone who died on 21st February 2023

Funeral: 17th March 2023 at All Saints, Chedgrave.

*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), please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126, or ball880am@btinternet.com.

To arrange a wedding, please contact Rev David on 01508 522993, or david.chetvalley@gmail.com.

To arrange a funeral, at any of the churches in our area or at the crematorium, please contact Rev David on 01508 522993, or david.chetvalley@gmail.com.

Rev David can also be contacted about interment of ashes.



LODDON WI invites you to a SEWING & CRAFT DAY



Saturday April 15th 10:00am—4:00pm

St. Johns Lecture Hall, George Lane Loddon

Bring whatever you're working on . See what other people do

Bring a packed lunch—Tea/Coffee provided

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News From Your Local Councillors

County News: The budget for next year has now been set at Norfolk County Council and I am pleased to announce that the members' allowance given to each Councillor to spend on local highways projects has been increased. I now have £11,000 in the kitty for the coming year, which can be supplemented with Parish Partnership monies or from parishes own funding to increase the pot available. We can look to deliver more local highways schemes including bus stops, footpath improvements, speed limiting measures, tree/hedge trimming etc. If you have a highways problem you think we may be able to solve, then please get in touch.

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

Our next ChetChat project will be the cards, daffodils and Easter eggs that go out in April. Please let me know if you'd like to nominate someone over-60 to receive them.



As ever, our ChetChat group volunteers are always on hand, aimed at helping and supporting our over-60s friends and neighbours. If you ever need any help give us a ring on 07944 858929.

As well as my regular surgeries in the library, please ring me anytime on 07733 323581 if I can help you.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe



Chet Valley Community Larder Appeal

*Helping each other out,
reducing surplus food waste,
sharing with the whole community.*

Stocks are low ... Whilst we get some supplies from other sources, we do need our community to help us to help those who are struggling.

Can you organise a food collection at your workplace, or with friends or donate a tin or two yourself?

Collecting dry store cupboard food is preferred.

Please call Julie on 07976 902487 if you have anything to be collected.

Many thanks from the Volunteer Team.

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Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

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

Website: <https://chedgrave-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

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



Chedgrave Parish Council held its meeting on 2nd March 2023.

Easter Egg Hunt: It's back! Please join us in The Pits for the traditional Easter Egg Hunt on Monday 10th April at 10:30am. The theme will be **The Coronation!** As well as the egg hunt there will be a coronation themed Easter Bonnet Competition (age groups under 5, 5-11 and 12 and over) and a free raffle. Light refreshments will also be available for a small cash donation and the council would be very grateful for any cake donations. Please contact the Clerk if you can help, thank you! Please follow Chedgrave Parish Council on Facebook for any updates, eg in case of bad weather. See you there!

New Councillor: Phil Varney has joined the council. Welcome Phil!

Jubilee Bench: The new bench has been fitted with its commemorative plaque. Thanks to Cllr Bob Demain for doing this.

Community Speedwatch: If you wish to get involved with this scheme to help reduce speeding in the village, please contact Bob Demain via chedgravespeedwatch@hotmail.com. Lots of people complain about speeding in the village and this is your chance to help reduce it. Please help!

Be somebody! There will be local council elections on 4th May 2023 for a new parish council. So, the next time you think "Somebody should..." why not be that somebody? Chedgrave Parish Council is involved in a wide range of local matters ranging from play areas to planning, benches to bins, trees to traffic and several areas of our gorgeous green countryside. There is bound to be something to interest you. Being a councillor is a voluntary role and gives you the opportunity to shape our lovely village. Please contact the Clerk for information.

Neighbourhood Plan: A draft of the plan will soon be reviewed by South Norfolk Council. See the draft and other information via <https://www.chetnp.info/>.

Vandalism: Sadly, there has been a spate of vandalism in the village some of which has been reported to the Police. Please respect our village and its facilities.

Brian Clarke Room: A well-equipped modern bright room, including access to free WIFI and table tennis tables. Booking enquiries should be made to Georgina Buckle via brianclarkeroom@gmail.com or 07981 856270.

Coronation: Look out for coronation activities—more information soon.

Next Meeting: Thursday 30th Mar at 7:00pm in the Brian Clarke Room. All welcome!

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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Loddon Parish Council

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Website: www.loddonpc.org.uk;

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC



Next Meeting: 12th April, in The Hollies rear hall (access via the back door) on Wednesday 12th April 2023, 7:00pm. All welcome. Minutes and agenda for the meeting are available on our website.

Get elected and get involved: Local elections are in May, and all current Loddon Parish Council (LPC) Councillors will stand down. This is your opportunity to get elected, get involved and become a Parish Councillor! The Council is involved in many different local projects, such as the community larder, Christmas lights, events, and most importantly, local facilities and open spaces. Nominations open on the 17th March, close at 4:00pm on the 4th April. You will have an opportunity to vote for your local representative on the 4th May (don't forget to bring ID). Please pop into the office to find out more about the Parish Council's role in the community and collect a nomination form. Nomination forms can also be downloaded via South Norfolk Council's website.

Voter ID: From 4th May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling. If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate. Find out more about accepted forms of photo ID, how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and what to expect on polling day. For more information go to: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id.

Coronation Celebration—Sunday 7th May, 1:00-5:00pm: To celebrate the coronation, LPC is organising live music on Church Plain and children's entertainment in The Hollies, a Play Bus and stalls at The Staithe and St Johns Chapel, and Open House at Holy Trinity Church. Due to the partial closure of Church Plain Car Park, alternative parking has been made available at Hobart High School's Sports Hall Car Park and Chet Valley Medical Practice.

Please decorate your properties for the Coronation: (From 28th April): bunting, flags, anything goes! The Freedom of Loddon recipient will judge the best dressed business and the best dressed house on the Saturday 6th May and the winners will be declared on Sunday 7th May 2023 at the coronation celebration. LPC will decorate Church Plain.

Freedom of Loddon: Thank you for your nominations. The deadline for nominations is the 31st March. The award will be presented at the coronation celebration on Sunday 7th May.

Chet Valley Community Larder: Thank you so much for the donations that are being received for the Community Larder, the need is great at the moment. The larder is in Loddon Library/LPC's lobby and is open to everyone. Open Monday to Friday, 8:00am-7:00pm; Saturday, 8:00am-4:00pm; Sunday, 10:00am-4:00pm.

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



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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Position Vacant.
Tel: 07703 124544 Email: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Hales & Heckingham Parish Council](https://www.facebook.com/Hales%20&%20Heckingham%20Parish%20Council)



Next Parish Council Meeting: 21st March 2023 at 7:30pm. Held at 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.

4th May 2023 Local Elections: Not all our current Parish Councillors will be standing for re-election in May. If you are passionate about where you live, please consider standing. Details may be obtained from any of the current Parish Councillors or our website. Our aim is to provide a voice for ideas, concerns, and initiatives to benefit our villages and we need your help.

Community Volunteering Scheme: As a parish council, we are looking to establish more community engagement to help with schemes to improve village life. This can range from helping establish and manage celebratory events (eg King's Coronation, a Christmas service, through to walking and cycling groups) as well as community cleaning and tidying schemes by linking in with other organisations such as the Church's Conservation Trust. Please let us know if you want to get involved and can offer some of your time and skills.

Kings Coronation: We are actively seeking more volunteers to help us prepare for the Kings Coronation between the 6-8th May 2023. If you can lend some time and help in the preparation of this momentous occasion, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

Christmas Carol Service, St Gregory's Church: We have provisionally reserved Sunday 10th December at 3:00pm. Numbers will be limited to 60. Volunteers are now sought to help with organisation and management.

STOPIT: An objection has been submitted by the Parish Council to outline our concerns and objections to the potential increase in HGV traffic, road noise, accidents, environmental impact and air quality as a result of the gravel pit in Haddiscoe being approved.

Speeding on School Lane: After two weeks of survey in January 2023, we can report over that of the 1,100+ vehicle movements, 19 were travelling over 30mph, the majority were doing 25mph and under, and that peak travel times were 8:00-9:00am and 4:00-5:00pm linked to commuting and the school run. We thank residents for their patience and understanding.

Deer on Hales Green: Please be aware that there are deer on Hales Green and the public and dog walkers alike should use their common sense when out and about in the area. Thank you.

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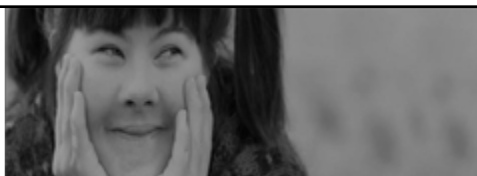
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New Branch at 3 Upper Olland Street, Bungay tel:01986 948188

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FitzRoy Registered Care and Nursing service in Hales provides care and support for twelve residents with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and complex health needs.

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Langley with Hardley Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emma Webster
Tel: 07516 361239 Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com
Website: <https://langleywithhardley.pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>
Facebook: To be developed.



Creation of New Parking Spaces in the Parish: Following enquiries by residents about the provision of parking spaces in the parish, anyone interested is invited to join a working party and should make representation to our clerk, Emma Webster.

Renovation of the Telephone Box Community Library: the telephone box, successfully converted to a library, will undergo a re-fit and renovation. If you would like to help with this (cleaning/painting/building shelves) please contact our clerk. If depositing books/DVDs, please stack them neatly on the shelves or on the floor in the box provided. Books are available for readers of all ages. If you have any children's books you no longer need please leave them in the box.

Dog Bin: Discussion took place about the provision of a new dog bin in Fish's Lane. Several parishioners have offered to sponsor the cost of this.

Public Right of Way: It is important to keep public footpaths open and clearly signposted so that they do not fall into disrepair, become overgrown or subsumed into farmland and lost to walkers.

Volunteer for SAM2: Roger Stone is kindly currently looking after the SAM2 vehicle speed regulator for the Parish Council. If you would like to be part of this safety measure please contact our clerk.

Facebook: This is a recent innovation introduced for use by all.

Village Sign: The post for the village sign has been replaced by a parishioner to whom we are most grateful.

Coronation of King Charles: The Village Hall Committee will celebrate this event by holding an afternoon tea on Sunday 7th May.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th May at 7:00pm in The Village Hall when the Annual General Meeting will also take place. All are welcome.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Friday 7th April—Good Friday: Café; 11:00am-1:00pm. All ages welcome. Delicious food and great company. Children's Easter activities provided.

Saturday 8th April: Easter Bingo; Doors open 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. Great Easter prizes!!!

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Notes from Sisland

Finding places of peace and reflection is very difficult in our noisy and stress-filled lives. Many visitors have commented that Sisland church and churchyard are very peaceful places to be. Here, depending on the season, you will see many kinds of wildflowers, birds, butterflies, bees and other insects. There is something very special about sitting in quiet pleasant surroundings, perhaps enjoying a picnic and taking time to just wait and watch for a while. The pleasure of being close to nature gives a sense of calm. I love the saying 'Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished'.



There has been a church on this site since the 13th century. Following a violent storm in 1761, extensive repairs were carried out. This has been a special place of peace, reflection, prayer and praise for around a thousand years. Knowing that gives a sense of connection and continuity with so many others in their time, as they would have come for the same purpose as we do today.

The church is open every day. The traditional Book of Common Prayer (BCP) services usually take place at 8:00am on the 1st Sunday and 5:00pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

If you would like to celebrate the reason for the season, the good news of the risen Jesus on Easter Sunday, come to Holy Communion on Easter Day, 9th April, at 9:00am.

Jill Haylock

Spring Art Exhibition by The Seething Monday Art Group

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April, 10:30am-4:00pm at Seething Village Hall

Entry free. Surplus funds from raffles, donations and 20% of sales to be distributed to Vision Norfolk and Seething Village Hall Fund.

Preview Evening: Friday 31st March, 4:00-8:00pm.

Please call 01508 520109 for more information.

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

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

Tuesday Market

Spring has sprung at Loddon Tuesday Market. We meet every Tuesday at the Hollies, 10:00-11:30 am.



You will find spring flowers, freshly-baked cakes and savoury dishes as well as locally made crafts. We now have a new local egg supplier providing us with fresh barn eggs (which will be free range once restrictions are lifted).

Come and join us for a cuppa and cake at our friendly market.

Easter Craft Fair

Saturday 1st April, 10:00am-4:00pm.

Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon.

Refreshments available.

Tombola in aid of Alzheimer's Society.



Easter Egg Hunt

It's back! Please join us in The Pits for the traditional Easter Egg Hunt on Monday 10th April at 10:30am. The theme will be 'The Coronation'.

Easter Bonnet Competition

As well as the egg hunt there will be a coronation-themed easter bonnet competition (age groups under 5, 5-11 and 12 and over) and a free raffle.

Light refreshments will also be available for a small cash donation and the council would be very grateful for any cake donations. Any cancellation (eg due to bad weather) will be announced on the Chedgrave Parish Council page on Facebook.



Struggling with Money? Local Charitable Funds available:

There are two local charities to help local people in need: Loddon Town Estate Trust (for people living in Loddon); and Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund (for people living in Chedgrave or who are regular members of the congregation at All Saints). These have received a boost from monies raised by the monthly quiz at The White Horse during 2022. The charities are only any good if people use them! In the past, money has paid for things like cookers and carpets. It has also gone towards solicitor's bills and rent. Please do not feel ashamed or embarrassed to call on the funds if you need them.

You can access the Loddon fund by contacting Julie Ponsford by phone on 07976 902487, or email: jules2906@hotmail.co.uk. The Chedgrave fund can be accessed by contacting Rev Alison, Rev David or the church warden, Roger Outlaw—contact details on p3.

Loddon Bell Ringers

The Bellringers at Holy Trinity have been busy over the last month out and about ringing for various events.



We rang with others in a peal of 5040 changes of two methods at St. Mary's, South Walsham lasting two hours and 47 minutes. This was the first time one of the young ringers there had done this. It is our equivalent of running a marathon, it takes a lot of stamina to do, so is always a big achievement.

We joined others from St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich to compete in an annual twelve bell striking competition which this year was held at Chelmsford Cathedral. Six teams from across the Eastern region met for the friendly event at which all the bands ring the same piece in front of two judges who then score them on their performance. The Mancroft team were placed third on this occasion with the local band coming second and ringers from St. Mary Le Tower, Ipswich in first place.

Quarter peals have been rung by members at Loddon, Ashill, Saham Toney, St. Peter Mancroft, Diss, North Lopham, Troston and Bardwell. We attended practices at Gt. Yarmouth Minster and Kenninghall and also rang on the four bells at Ampton near Bury St Edmunds.

Our Tuesday practice nights are well attended even in the colder months and we regularly ring the bells for Sunday services. Our newest members are making good progress. This month we congratulate Samantha Bailey on ringing her first quarter peal at Loddon.

Steve Rabong.

Thank You

A little late, but my heartfelt thanks to so many of you, the readers, for the love and support you have so generously given to Colin and continue to give to me. We have lived in this area for 27 happy years. Thank you. You are a wonderful community with whom we have shared so many years of our married life. Margaret Shearmur

Thank You

The family of Don Cleaver of The Chestnuts would like to thank friends and family in the village for their kind letters and cards of condolence following his death. (William Donald Cleaver—28.10.1929-12.02.2023).

Parkinson's Would you like to meet other Parkinson's sufferers? We will normally meet on the first Monday of the month at the Chedgrave White Horse at 12:15pm. Partners are also welcome.



Further details from Michael Osborne on 01508 522034.

Church Services

2nd April—Palm Sunday

8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12noon	XPRESSIONS CAFE	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon

6th April—Maundy Thursday

7:00pm	Passover meal + Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
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7th April—Good Friday

10:00am	Children's Reflection*	All Saints, Chedgrave
12noon	Walk of Witness	From Holy Trinity, Loddon to St John's
2:00pm	At the Foot of the Cross	All Saints, Chedgrave

9th April—Easter Sunday

9:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret's Hardley
9:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary's Sisland
9:30am	All Together Worship with Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon

16th April

10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
5:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland

* Good Friday Children's Reflection

Booking is essential for this session. Please contact Rev Alison on ball880am@btinternet.com or phone on 01508 528126.

Church Services

23rd April

9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon

30th April

10:30am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
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Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection'

If you would like to receive the prayer e-mail, do contact Rev Jill jillhaylock@aol.com.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

*Every Saturday 6:00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	
Thursdays during school term	<p style="text-align: center;">XTRA!</p> <p>Join us at St John's for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm. More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126</p>	
Every day Morning Prayer 9:00am <i>All Welcome</i>	Monday	St John, Loddon
	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	St John, Loddon
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave

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

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



Our Branch members welcomed the Norfolk County Chairman and the Norfolk County Community Support Officer to our February meeting. They were there to present our Vice President, Ron Howes, with his well deserved Certificate of Appreciation, for 60 years voluntary Long Service to the Royal British Legion (RBL).

We welcome new members, wishing to help the RBL continue to move forward, with its work of looking after Veteran's and Beneficiaries. Not everyone realises that these days people do not need to have served in The Forces, to be a volunteer with us.

We meet at 6:45 for 7:00pm start, every 3rd Monday of the month, ending with a relaxed chat, cuppa and biscuit, at the Lecture Hall, George Lane in Loddon.

For information or support, please contact Christine Hartley on 01508 521136.

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

The Loddon, Chedgrave and District Society have an upcoming AGM on the 17th May, to be held at the Jubilee Hall Loddon.

We will be proposing a change to the constitution to bring it up to date and reflect more of the aims and purpose of the society and we need our members to approve the changes.

We are actively looking for new members and are keen to have new committee members and officers. The election of officers takes place at the AGM. We are a friendly group and if you are interested and wish to join the Society, please contact June on 01508 528853 for further information.

After the business of the meeting, we will be having refreshments, please do come and join us.

Chet Valley Voices



Chet Valley Voices is a community choir aged from 15-80+.

We enjoy singing music in a variety of styles from classical to modern. 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 lifted. Rehearsals: Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm (doors open 6:45pm) in St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Subs: £5, £3 for under-18s. Free first session. New members are always welcome.

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

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

If you have never tried short mat bowls, now that the summer lawns bowls has finished, why not give this a go? We are a very friendly small group that needs some new members. We meet Tuesday afternoons 1:30-3:30pm in the Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Beginners are very welcome; just bring flat indoor shoes (no heels), and we can supply the bowls. The right money of £3 and a sense of humour are also appreciated. More information from Sara 01508 521958.



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

The launch of the Tennis Club in June has been very successful and there are now over one hundred people regularly playing together in Loddon. Pay and Play is available for £5 per hour via www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/LoddonTennisClub.

Coach Paul Solomon is also delivering junior coaching, group coaching, and cardio tennis sessions; email: loddontennis@loddonpc.org.uk or phone 07368 684806.



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!



Loddon Junior Badminton Club

Wednesday evenings from 6:45-7:45pm; 8-14 years;
Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:30pm; 15-18 years.

Open to all children regardless of ability. Jubilee Hall. £3.50 per session; Rackets and shuttles provided. Run by a qualified coach.

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



Charity Stalls and More

On the Coronation Weekend

Sunday 7 May 1-5pm (the main event);

Monday 8 May 11am-4pm



There will be plenty going on during the Coronation weekend, with Loddon Parish Council setting up an event similar to the Victorian Evening. Tables will be available for people who want to fundraise for a favourite charity and for local community groups to advertise what they do. We have room for sales, games, information boards and more, but space has to be limited to one long table for each stall. Even so, we do try to be flexible where possible, and if you have your own gazebo you may pitch it in the churchyard alongside our popular pop-up café. Obviously space is limited, so get in touch as soon as possible.

For more details or to book a space contact Nina Owen on 01508 522993, email theroamingfenlander@gmail.com. Please note that we do ask for a small donation in the region of £5 per stall if possible to cover costs, because the church is a charity too.

Loddon Community Gym

The Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX

Tel: 07534 946143 www.loddoncommunitygym.com



From now on the Gym will open at 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.

“You sell yourself short” was a comment/criticism said to me by a newish member of the gym. “In what way?” was my slightly defensive response. It was pointed out that much of our advertising and even calling ourselves a ‘Community’ Gym implied that we were primarily a gym for older people who were trying to maintain their physical/mental/social wellbeing and I have to admit that this is probably the impression we have unwittingly given. Someone coming in with fresh eyes can often see what those who have been involved for a long time in any organisation cannot.

We may not be a big, flashy, commercial gym but we are extremely well-equipped (all our machines have been replaced in the last eighteen months) and Louise, our highly-qualified trainer is always present to advise, encourage and motivate members. We welcome EVERYONE—all ages, all fitness levels, and we are on your doorstep! Membership is flexible with no monthly contract. You can opt for £5 pay-as-you-go or £30 per month allowing you to come as often as you want. Simple.

The gym is open for anyone aged sixteen and above and younger if accompanied by a responsible adult. We are planning a class/special session for those twelve and over if there is sufficient demand. This complements the chair-based class we promoted last month for those with severe mobility issues. As I say, something for EVERYONE.

For more information visit our website www.loddoncommunitygym.com or ring Louise on the number above or when the Gym Open sign is on the railings outside the Library on Church Plain, why not pop in and see for yourself what is on offer.

As we are a relatively compact gym you will still need to book sessions via www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym. Alternatively you can book a first session by ringing Louise on the number above.

Social Whist

Every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Usual start time of 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start in the back room of The Hollies. A chance to chat, play a bit of whist, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee with a biscuit, all in great company. No need to have a partner or to have played before, it's just an enjoyable evening out. If you need a lift, please call me (Jane) on 528875.

Looking forward to seeing our regular players and meeting any new ones.





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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.

4th April: Victorian Rural Women—Charlotte Paton

18th April: My Life in Aviation— Trevor Eady

Come along 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 at Chedgrave White Horse at 10:30am and lunch is optional.

Next meetings:

11th April: AGM.

25th April: Edwin Gooch; Champion of the Farm Workers—Simon Gooch

9th May: The Journey Of A Book From Inception to Publication—Carolyn Belcher

Contact: Hon. Secretary John McCormack 01508 521899.

Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)

Our club meeting is on Monday 17th April; a week later than usual as our usual night is Easter Monday. We will still meet in St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon, doors open 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. Holly Stranks will be visiting and will tell us about her photography journey. Holly is a member of Bungay Camera Club and her website is here www.hollystranks.com.



You do not need expensive equipment at all—really good images and creative images can be taken using a mobile device (phone, tablet) or a basic “point and shoot” camera. If you want to take photographs and want to know more please come along to one of our meetings. New members will be made very welcome. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. Have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information.



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Community Groups, News and Events

News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon and District Women's Institute

By the time Chet Contact has been delivered some of our members will have enjoyed the Loddon Pantomime—it's so good to have it back, albeit at a different time of the year! We will also have had a visit from a representative of the Little Lifts Charity, a very worthwhile organisation which provides a selection of comforting products to breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy or radiotherapy. It will have been good to learn how we can support them.

Next Meetings:

Thursday 13th April Knit Natter & Crochet 2:30pm, Loddon Library.
Saturday 15th April Sewing & Craft Day (see p24); The Lecture Hall, St Johns Chapel, George Lane, Loddon.

Wednesday 19th April 93rd Birthday Party 7:15pm for 7:30pm, St Johns Chapel George Lane, Loddon.

New members always welcome. If you are interested in finding out more, we can be contacted via our Facebook page or by ringing 01508 528656.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our February Annual Meeting was well attended, with the election of our new President and committee. Thank You gifts were presented to the retiring President and Secretary. Members also enthusiastically browsed and generously supported that meeting's fund-raising Sales Table.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 25th April. Diana Blyth, a return speaker, will be demonstrating Spring Flower-arranging.

New members and visitors are always welcome. Our meetings are held at All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave, on the fourth **Tuesday** of the month at 2:00pm. Contact our President, Margaret 01508 528531, or Secretary, Lucille 07720 845451, for more details.

Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

The Day Centre is meeting again, so if you'd like to get out from your four walls to meet others to chat, play games and have a hot meal, please give Bev a ring on 07826 299290. We'd love to see you at the Brian Clarke rooms in Chedgrave.



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Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

We meet in the Old Town Hall in The Swan pub car park, Loddon. It's a members' club with inter-club league matches every evening; roll ups on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons starting at 2:00pm and on Tuesday morning starting at 10:00am (restricted to the first 12 turning up). New members are always needed. Subs just £12 per year. Rink fee £2 per session. Just turn up and give it a try. For further information, please contact Paul Clemence (chair): 01508 218078.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

Our meeting on 12th April will be our Spring Mini-Show, open to members only. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon. Meetings start at 7:30pm. There will be a raffle and refreshments. Visitors £2. Please come along and see what is involved in one of our mini-shows.



Advanced Notice: On Saturday 13th May we are holding our annual plant sale at The Hollies, Loddon, which will include a coffee morning.

For more details contact Jean Cope (Chairman) on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or Hazel Copland (Secretary) on 01508 520890 or email happyhaze50@gmail.com. It is £10 per year to join our Society and you can follow us on our Facebook page.

Loddon Community Cinema

The Lost King: Thursday 6th April. This is the life-affirming story of amateur historian Philippa Langley, who researched the whereabouts of the remains of King Richard III more than 500 years after they had been 'lost'. Philippa faced scepticism from eminent historians and academics, and incomprehension by her friends and family. She refused to give up, and in 2012, after unrelenting research, she orchestrated a search beneath a car park in Leicester. Here the remains of one of the most controversial kings in England's history were found.



St. John's Lecture Hall, George, Lane Loddon. Doors open 7:00pm, the film starts at 7:30pm. Tickets £4, £2 under 16, available on the door or in advance from Loddon DIY. email: loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk

Loddon WEA

Look out for details of our next course, starting in September. For any further details, contact Alison on 01508 521976 or Sharon on 01508 520386.



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Loddon Flower Club

Tuesday 4th April: An Easter workshop which will be without the use of floral foam. A list of things you need to bring is available from our secretary, Alex.

Tuesday 2nd May: 'A Trip to the Library'—A demonstration by Clair Thompson. There will be a competition with the same title. There will be a raffle for the arrangements at the end of the evening.

These meetings are in the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. Visitors £7.50. Refreshments will be available.

Friday 5th May is National Flower Arranging Day. Our members will be leaving flower arrangements in the local area for people to pick up and take home. Look out for them around Loddon.

A flower festival, 22nd-24th September, to celebrate our 65th anniversary will be held at Holy Trinity Church. Our title is 'Hobbies and Pastimes'. We would like to invite clubs who have entries in Chet Contact to advertise their clubs within the festival. Please get in touch with our Chairman, Tricia, if you would like to take part and maybe sponsor a flower arrangement.

For more information please contact our Chairman, Tricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Secretary, Alex Pinder on 01508 493869 or nnark@aol.com. We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions. See our website: www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.



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 5th April: Travels with a Trowel—Adventures of an Archaeologist; Louise Schofield.

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://theartsociety.org/waveney-valley>.

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

Contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.



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Friday 8:00am-7:00pm (Staffed 10:00am-7:00pm)

Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm (Staffed 1:00pm-4:00pm)

Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm (Open Libraries access only)

For parents we also have baby weigh scales and changing facilities available during '**Open Libraries**.'

Each week we have free events including Lego Club every Saturday afternoon between 2:00-3:00pm so there is sure to be something for you to enjoy, pick up our latest leaflet in branch and follow us on Facebook for more information as well as new book suggestions for you to enjoy. We also share posts from other community organisations so you can keep up to date on all the exciting news in your area.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

In January Will Fitch, warden at Wheatfen, gave us an interesting talk on 'A very brief history of the Broads, Ted Ellis and Wheatfen Nature Reserve'. He explained how storms 2,000 years ago had formed the Great Estuary (Breydon Water is a remnant) with lots of wildlife arriving. Peat was dug out in the 11th and 12th centuries to be used as a fuel leaving large areas which filled with water resulting in the formation of Wheatfen and other broads. The reeds had been kept down by wild animals but once humans had wiped these out, they spread proving to be a good habitat for butterflies and bees. As a boy, Ted Ellis was fascinated by wildlife and learnt not to interfere, but to watch, observe and record. As curator for natural history at The Castle he was responsible for the dioramas that were set up. In 1946 Ted moved into Wheatfen which became a hive for naturalists including David Bellamy who became patron of the Ted Ellis Trust started in 1987. Ted wrote over 10,000 articles for the EDP as well as several books and often appeared on the BBC. Ted identified 10,000 individual species at Wheatfen including 1,600 fungi. Today it is famous for swallowtails, dragon flies and a rare beetle, unique to Wheatfen. The aim today is to allow Wheatfen to look natural but dykes are dredged to keep them open, flooding is controlled and trees are removed in a targeted fashion. Volunteers help to keep the scrub down and they do the mowing. As a result, many birds have been spotted including marsh harriers, kingfishers and bitterns. A new, higher boardwalk of composite plastic has been built recently. It should last for years. In 1985 Ted gave an interview where he said he hoped Wheatfen 'will go to someone who will look after it by not looking after it, as I have done.' Today, there are concerns about the effects of flooding due to climate change but new species like thistle aphids and *Ambijopur proteus* (wasps) have been found and many surveys are recording tide heights and peat accumulation. It is still a wonderful place to visit.

The AGM was held at the start of the February meeting. Elvie then showed us some of the maps from the archives. It was not until the 18th century that two maps of estates were produced. Mary Seaman's estate was surveyed by B. Reeve in 1755 and the Loddon Hall Farm Estate of Stephen Gardiner Junior in 1758.

Next meeting: 19th April—The Evolution of Education in Norfolk by Rowena Burgess.

All meetings held in the St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon starting at 1:30pm. Admission £3. All welcome.

15th April at the Forum in Norwich, our group will have a stand with other history groups. This has been organised by the Record Office. Please drop in and visit.

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier

I first read this when I was a teenager and I've re-read it throughout my life—it's a perfect springtime read! The unnamed heroine is on holiday in the South of France when she meets widower Maxim de Winter. Swept off her feet she marries him and returns with him to his home of Manderley in Cornwall—where the trouble starts.

It's a spooky, brilliant story, perfectly told with the feeling of the heroine being completely out of her depth, floundering around in the dark, and the awful shadow that the long-dead Rebecca casts.

Fleishman is in Trouble by Taffy Brodesser-Akner

I read this a while ago but have recently been watching the TV series on Disney (this is strictly 18+ mind you!) and have been reminded of how much I enjoyed the book. It's set in the heart of New York and tells the story of newly divorced Toby. He has joint custody of his two children, but then his ex-wife goes AWOL. What this book explores is the unravelling of a relationship/marriage and asks the question—how much of our relationships are skewed by our perspective and what we think we understand of the other person and our shared experiences?

The Rising Tide by Ann Cleeves

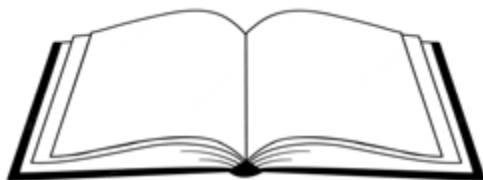
This is set on Holy Island or Lindisfarne, which is where we went on holiday last Easter. I've enjoyed Ann Cleeves in the past, although I never get the murderer right! A group of friends have been meeting on the island every five years for all of their adult lives, in that time they have married, had children and various life experiences, but this time is different because one of them has been murdered. Vera Stanhope is called in to investigate and along with the tide, long-hidden secrets start to rise to the surface.

I am hoping to read...

The Meaning of Geese by Nick Acheson

One of my favourite autumnal things in Loddon is watching the geese honk their way across the sky in gigantic formations, they fascinate me! Nick returned to Norfolk during the Covid lockdowns and took the opportunity to track and observe the dynamic and surprisingly diverse goose population of Norfolk.

Ruth Redford



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Nature Notes

April means that Spring should be well and truly with us. We have had a fair few spring-like days in February that has caused many of our resident birds to think about breeding. However, winter returned during the second week in March.

It has been encouraging to see Barn Owls regularly around Langley and Hardley. The same can't be said about Grey Partridges as all I've seen are the gaudy Red Legged Partridges which are released for shooting purposes. Brambling, a winter visiting finch, are also noticeable by their absence. This is only the second year we haven't had them visiting our bird feeders. Also seemingly absent this year, along the edges of the many dykes, are overwintering Green Sandpipers, a blackbird-sized wader.

I had heard that there were a flock of Snow Buntings, a Sparrow sized winter visitor, on the beach at Kessingland at the north end. So off we set and having walked around the pools there, apart from a few gulls, there seemed to be very little else. The dogs and I settled down to enjoy my lunch. I decided then to walk further southwards to see if I could find these elusive birds. They can blend into the sand and pebbles and become almost invisible. I hadn't walked far when I was suddenly aware of a group of small birds flying past me, the Snow Buntings had found me! At the same moment I became aware of nine small waders which had landed on the edge of the pool I was just passing. The colour and clockwork motion of eight of the birds quickly identified them as Sandling, the ninth was a lone Dunlin. I watched the Sandling as they fed around the feet of the roosting gulls for a while, before setting off to see if I could find the Snow Buntings and get better views of them. Fifty yards further south along the beach and there they were.

Trip number two was to Carlton Marsh on the edge of Lowestoft. This is a much-improved site and well worth a visit. It is also dog-friendly which is an advantage. I wanted to introduce our young rescue dog to the fact that dog walks are sometimes accompanied by my scope and its tripod. I was hoping to see in particular an Eastern Yellow Wagtail, a bird that migrated west rather than south and ended up at Lowestoft. The second bird was a Water Pipit, which is the Alpine equivalent of our Rock Pipit, though very different. The trip was a great success; dog and tripod didn't get entangled and I had very good views of both birds even enabling me to get recognisable photos using my phone and scope. There were plenty of other birds there giving good views. This day also ended on a high point as well. While I was picking up Rachel from work, a pair of Crossbills flew over.



Talking of birds flying over, this morning while at Seething I heard the sound of Bewick Swans and looking up there was a V-shaped flock of twenty plus birds. Then walking the dogs later around Hardley Street, scanning a recently dredged ditch, there was a Grey Wagtail feeding amongst the mud.

You never know what will turn up wherever you happen to be, so keep looking.

Richard and Rachel Hull

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Gardening Notes

From the Allotment: As I write this at the beginning of March the weather is turning cold with frosts forecast. The soil had been warming up nicely and the beds were ready to plant my first and second early potatoes and my onions and shallots, but I will now wait for the soil to warm up again. It's also not great for germinating seeds even in my (unheated) greenhouse, so my windowsills are filling up with aubergines, tomatoes, chillies, peppers etc which need a long growing season. If you haven't got space to grow the seeds, then you can pick up good plants relatively cheaply as people sell their spares at the garden gate or at plant sales.

A dry winter/spring is not helping plants to get going and I have had to start watering my overwintering broad beans, garlic, lettuce, and spinach. Garlic needs water to swell the bulbs now. You can still plant garlic though it is better to plant at the end of autumn. After the last two dry winters, I planted additional garlic cloves this year to try and compensate for their smaller size. I am growing more broad bean seed in the greenhouse and adding this to the allotment as they are ready, and my final row will be beans planted straight into the ground to give a successional supply.

Everything should get going in April and with the warmer lighter days the plants will catch up on their own, but preparing and thinking ahead now is important.

Andrew Milner

From the Garden: We have experienced the driest spring for some years and forecasts are for another hot and dry summer, so we may need to plant more drought-tolerant plants. I will increase the lavender, rosemary and salvia plantings as these have fared very well against the deer; it might be that the aromatic plants aren't palatable to them. I will dig up my dahlias this month and see how they have fared over the winter. Hopefully I will also be able to take cuttings from the existing plants. They should be 5-7cm long, four or five to a pot placed in a warm spot and should root in three weeks. In future years I will store them over winter as this will be easier to increase my stocks and satisfy my curiosity over if they have survived. I will also try to increase my chrysanthemums as they provide a good show of colour in late autumn and add a new variety with purple flowers. Additions for the garden this year are peonies, Sarah Bernhardt and Shirley Temple, it says slug and rodent resistant but no mention of deer! I will keep a watch. Sarah Bernhardt is a pale pink and Shirley Temple is white. The blooms are very popular as a cut flower. I have tried growing them before without much success. They need a humus-rich soil in either sun or shade, plenty of moisture and I must remember to add the supports. Happy Gardening.

Shirley Cross

End Piece



We are making good progress, and the draft plan is now on our website: www.chetnp.info. We hope that you take the time to have a look at it and use the link provided: [Chet Neighbourhood Plan | Contact \(chetnp.info\)](http://www.chetnp.info), to provide us with some informal feedback on what you do and don't like within the plan.

The draft plan has been sent to South Norfolk Council and the Broads Authority for environmental screening, as required in the preparation of the final plan. We hope to get their comments back in early May, which would allow us to consult formally for the six-week-period commencing in late May. There will be a couple of consultation events, one in Chedgrave, the other in Loddon, so that you can hear our presentation on the plan and ask us all those questions you wanted answering!

If you want to contact us please do so via the website: ([Chet Neighbourhood Plan | Contact \(chetnp.info\)](http://www.chetnp.info)) or by sending an email to neighbourhoodplan@loddonpc.org.uk or even by dropping a note into the Loddon Parish Council letter box on Church Plain.

Thank you,

Chet Neighbourhood Plan Team (www.chetnp.info).



Davy Place

Wanted—volunteers for our social club, an outings and events person and a media person. Anyone interested please contact Carol 01508 826488.

Bingo every Monday at 2:00pm.

Bowls every Wednesday at 2:00pm.

Hoy is the last Saturday in the month at 7:00pm.

Jumble sale on the 8th April 10:00-12:00noon; All donations very gratefully received.

Chet Valley Art Society

Are there any artists out there that would like to join Chet Valley Art society. We meet every other week at Highways Garden Centre. We will be exhibiting in Norwich at The Forum on 24th, 25th, 26th May. We will book a trip to London in the summer and other days to visit galleries. Do get in touch if you would like to join us. Phone Vee on 07557 402211.



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