



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

June 2021



Chet Valley Churches



All Saints Chedgrave

Nature Count

Saturday 5th & 12th June

10:00am-12:00noon



Come and see
what is alive in
our churchyard.



Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

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Louise Morrissey:	01728 830733	delilah.morrissey@gmail.com
Ros Hoffmann:	01508 548200	ros@hoffmann2011.plus.com
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Jill Haylock:	01508 520248	jillhaylock@aol.com
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Church Office

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

Phone: 01508 521179, Email: chetvalley@btconnect.com

Open—Mon & Fri: 10:00am-4:00pm; Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:00am-1:00pm



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

To arrange any of the above please contact the Church Office.

Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches	www.chetvalleychurches.org
The Diocese of Norwich	www.dioceseofnorwich.org
The Methodist Church	www.methodist.org.uk
The RC Diocese of East Anglia	www.rcdea.org.uk



Chet Contact

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Copy Deadline is always noon on the 8th of the month.

Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

Hand written submissions can be handed in at the Church Office.

Please include your name and telephone number.



Chet Contact is published monthly (double issues in July/Aug & Dec/Jan)

Disclaimer

Advertisements are included in good faith, but Chet Valley Churches do not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised. Similarly, the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Chet Valley Churches.

Ministerial Musings

“This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends” - John 15:12

The one thing that every Christian knows is that those who have been baptised into the life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus are to “love one another, since”, as St John reminds us, “love comes from God, and anyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God” (1Jn4:7).

What many of the baptised often forget, however, is that the love that we are to have for one another is not meant to be a generic, nondescript love, a love according either to our own vague understanding of what love is or of what the overly fickle world thinks love should be, but a love which is distinctive, indeed distinctively Christian, for the love that baptised Christians are to have for one another is not only a love which keeps those commandments given to us by Christ Jesus, who himself kept his Father’s commandments, it is also a love which is perfectly modelled on the love that God himself has for each and every one of us.

St John reminds us, lest we forget, that “God’s love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only son” (1Jn4:8), and indeed God’s love for us was revealed still further when that same Son, in obedience to the Father’s Will, was sent to the Cross for our salvation, becoming the sacrifice that takes our sins away and giving his life “so that we could have life through him” (1Jn4:9).

When Jesus said to his disciples, therefore, and not simply said but gave them his commandment, that they are to “love one another, as I have loved you” it ought to be clear that the love Jesus was commanding his disciples to have for one another was nothing other, and, more importantly, nothing less, than the greatest love anyone can have, loving to the extent that one is willing to lay down their life for their friends, just as Christ Jesus laid down his life for each and every one of us.

Fr Pádraig.

From the Editor

It is still too early to actually believe that the new 'normal' is likely to be upon us by the time you are reading this. That we are likely to be meeting family and friends in the flesh for the first time in a very long time. I'm fortunate enough to have one of my sons nearby so time with him and his family has been a great source of pleasure through the last year and more. I'm sure many of you have had the same experiences when it has been possible. But, my other son lives on the far side of the country and it will be super to see him again other than on a screen. Meantime, I will be going solo to the West as soon as I can!

Many of you will have similar plans to meet up and I wish you well with all of them. Remember always that we are all only safe if we all stick to the rules.

Meanwhile, everything is coming to life in the wider community here too. Clubs and societies restarting, events, both indoors and outdoors getting under way. So, be sure to check out the ones that interest you to get the latest news on their activities.

Roger



Contents

<i>Cover: Hardley Mill—pixels.com</i>		Highlights	
Across the Chet Valley Churches	7-9	All Saints Nature Count	2, 43
From the Parish Registers	11	Foodbank	23
Council News	13-19	Neighbourhood Plan	25
Community News	21-27	Plant Stalls	17, 41
Churches	28-30	Electric and Hybrid Cars	26
Community News	31-45	Lockdown Unlocked event	27
History Society	47	Covid kids—a tutor's view	41
Read Any Good Books Lately?	49	Nature Count Details (page 2)	43
Nature Notes	51	Once We're Open Again	53
Allotment & Garden Notes	53	Holiday Club 2021	11 & 54



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Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley

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



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

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

XPRESSIONS CAFÉ is on the first Sunday every month at All Saints, Chedgrave. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. Open between 10:00am and 12 noon, you can come and go as you please for coffee, cake, discussion, crafts, games, stories, reflection and much more.

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

All Together Worship is designed to be as inclusive as possible: a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness. In short, we will attempt to provide a service which will have points of connection for children and adults—indeed people of all ages and all backgrounds.

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

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

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

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

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

Home Communion: If you would like home communion, because you are unable for any reason to get to a Sunday service, please contact the clergy or the Church Office and we will arrange for someone to bring communion to you.

Times and details of the services can be found in the centre pages of the magazine.

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Thanksgivings & Baptisms



You are welcome to request thanksgiving and baptism for your children.

Thanksgiving Services give an opportunity to come to the church and give thanks to God for the gift of a new child.

Baptisms are held within the Sunday worship in our churches.

They are an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the new life we have in Jesus and to welcome a child into God's family, the Church.

Please contact Rev Alison Ball on 01508 528126

ball880am@btinternet.com or the Church Office on 01508 521179

Noah's Ark

A drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their parents and carers.



Wednesdays 9:15am-12 noon.

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

Friends and Neighbours

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



Next Meeting:

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

If you are interested in joining the group ring Jill on 01508 520248.

Small Groups

Some of us like to meet during the week in small groups where we can enjoy each others' company, study the Bible together and pray for one another and for others.



Those who attend find their small group a real help and support.

If you would like to join one, or just to know more, please contact David Owen or the Church Office.

Monday Mardles

If you like a relaxed and informal chat with others or are looking to meet some new friends, join us at a Monday Mardles for refreshments and to swap books at Chedgrave Church Rooms.



Mardles are held every **Monday 10:00am-12 noon**. Come and go as you choose. On average there are about 12 people who come to Mardles, and there's room for more! You will be made very welcome.

(*'Mardle'—in Norfolk it means a good old natter!*)

XTRA! Join us in St John's Church for an exciting, informal service **every Thursday after school**. Refreshments, activities from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm.

More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

Elia Armiger on 18th April in All Saints, Chedgrave

Eddie Hume on 18th April in All Saints, Chedgrave

*Heavenly Father, we praise you for these children.
Surround them with your blessing that they may know your love,
be protected from evil, and know your goodness all their days.*

Common Worship

Funerals

Reginald Bernard Noel Smith who died on 1st March 2021

Funeral: 25th March 2021 at St Faith's Crematorium

Stephen Robert Burrage who died on 14th April 2021

Funeral: 17th May 2021 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

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

I Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b

Holiday Club

You may have seen the advert for ~~COME & Celebrate~~, our holiday club for 2021. I have already had a few enquiries asking what it is all about so...

Holiday Club runs every morning, 9:30am-12:00noon, from 26th-30th July. This year it is being held at All Saints Church and church centre in Chedgrave. Your child has already to have been in primary school (YR-Y6) to be able to come. You don't have to stay with them. The morning has times of being in a larger group (songs, Bible storytelling, jokes...) and times of being on mixed age-group tables (where we think about the story of the day, do activities such as craft, cooking...). We try to put a mix of children together and the older ones often help the younger ones. There are refreshments mid-morning and we hope to go into The Pits playground for games or else in the churchyard dependent on the game. Children often know or recognise some of the holiday club leaders, and usually know many of the other children there. We usually invite families to picnic with us altogether on Friday lunchtime. All of the children say that it is a lot of fun!

Application forms are available at the infant and junior schools in Loddon or from me (Rev Alison: ball880am@btinternet.com). Why not book your child for the week? They could bring a friend too. Closing date is Friday 16th July.

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News From Your South Norfolk District Councillor



Hi everyone.

Our Chetchat group continues to go from strength to strength; our next ChetChat event will be a sponsored walk from Loddon to Hardley Mill in the afternoon of **Saturday 18 September**, which will raise money for our group and for very important local causes. I hope that as many of you as possible are able to join us for some refreshments at the mill. Thanks to Musker McIntyre, and to Rosy Lee's, for jointly sponsoring the event.

If you know anyone over-60 who might like a regular visit or phonecall, or just some help, please let them know that we are here to help, on **07876050110**.



As mentioned last month, South Norfolk, working with the Chet Valley B-Line project, have identified sites in Loddon in which they are planning to leave some areas uncut, as part of the 'Don't Mow, Let It Grow' initiative. The areas are: Leman Grove, Harvey Green, Gilbert Grove, Filbert Road, The Staithe and Pyes Mill.

I'm also looking at whether it could be possible to establish a community bank in Loddon, with High Street banks sharing the running costs. This has been tried successfully in other parts of the country, so it is definitely something which is worth looking into.

My regular surgeries will start up again later this Summer, by which time it should be safe to hold them again. In the meantime, please ring me anytime on 07733 323581 if I can help you.

It's a great privilege to serve our fantastic community. Thank you.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe

Loddon and Chedgrave Playing Field Committee

Chedgrave and Loddon PC's jointly share responsibility for the Playing Field. Below is a brief summary of work the Committee has implemented in the last year;

The Tennis Courts have been cleared of moss and the leylandii trimmed back.

An online booking system (www.loddonpc.org.uk/tennis-courts) has been set up to allow people to book the tennis courts at any time.

The area near the containers which had caused concern with its antisocial behaviour has been cleared of vegetation, trees and sharps.

A joint CCTV venture between the users of the Playing Field and the Jubilee Hall has been agreed, and it is hoped that it will reduce vandalism and dog fouling issues.

A significant grant has been obtained from the Lawn Tennis Association to install a keycode system to make the Tennis Courts booking process simpler.



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Loddon Parish Council



All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis.

Tel: 01508 522020 Email: clerk@loddonpc.org.uk.

Website: www.loddonpc.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC

Firstly, thanks to Cllr June Strickland, our outgoing Chairman for her unwavering support to both staff and Councillors, we look forward to working with the new Chairman. Despite the Pandemic, the Council has worked hard to improve the facilities and services that Loddon Parish Council is able to offer the community.

LPC wish to thank all volunteers over the past year; Patrick Webster & Gary Allard for the recent restoration of the two wooden village notice boards, Carole & Bernard Webb for installing tree plaques. The Freedom of Loddon Award will continue for a further ten years, thanks to a generous sponsor; Philip Taylor. Also thanks to Sophie Garrett & Brian Webb for caring for the village flower towers.

Thanks to District Cllr Kay Mason-Billig for offering her Members' Grant to cover the cost of a CCTV system at the Staithe toilets. The CCTV has reduced antisocial behaviour and is supporting the Police when crime and vandalism is reported.

Additionally, the Council has:

- Adopted 30 streetlights from SNC and upgraded those streetlights to LED lanterns to reduce energy supply costs.

- Worked closely with SNC to improve the Staithe and are delighted to receive the news that SNC have taken responsibility for the Staithe footbridge.

- Sourced further Freedom of Loddon Plaques.

- Improved the management of the allotments, including a new scaled plan, plot signs and the newly formed Allotment Officer role. There is now a healthy waiting list for Loddon Allotments.

- Nearly completed adoption of the public open space on Broadlands Meadow.

- New signage for the Staithe WCs.

- Progressed a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Chedgrave Parish Council.

The Council supported the Royal British Legion in organising the Remembrance Sunday event, and despite Covid concerns, it was a very poignant occasion. The Council were grateful to Caroline Dwen and her volunteers for providing additional marshal support to ensure that the event was Covid-19 safe, and we are hopeful that this year, the full parade will be able to go ahead without any restrictions.

The 2020 Christmas light display was as impressive as always. The community offered consent to display lights and provided electrical supplies for the installation and thank to Loddon Swan for donating a village Christmas Tree. Plans are well underway for the 2021 Christmas light display.

The LPC website and Facebook page are updated regularly. Minutes of meetings are on the website and residents are welcome to attend the monthly meetings.

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*Please contact Frances Kirkpatrick
01508 520331*

Hales & Heckingham Parish Council



All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Eleanor Bannister.

Tel: 77803 124544 Email: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

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

Next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 30 June 2021 at

7.30 pm in the Hales Christian Assembly Hall. Agendas are displayed on the bus shelter notice board opposite Masala Garden and on our website 3 days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Thank You to Vic Jenkins of Thatched House Farm for presenting her informative and funny video called Pigs & Pollinators at the online Annual Parish Meeting. If you haven't already seen it do watch it via our Facebook page. If you would like to support this local conservation project do get in touch by email at thatchedhousefarm@gmail.com.

New Parish Councillor: We are delighted to announce that Manik Prama has agreed to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. We still have one vacancy and would love to hear from you.

Accessibility: Although we publish our news, agenda and minutes on line and at the bus shelter if you are unable to access these for whatever reason please don't feel left out. Do get in touch with the Clerk and we can arrange to keep in touch another way.

Roads: Thank you to Norfolk County Council and Councillor Margaret Stone (retired) who gave generous grants to help the Parish Council buy a second Speed Awareness Monitor. This will be used on the Yarmouth Road and has the ability to also collect data. As traffic increases on the village lanes please do consider other road users – especially pedestrians and cyclists and reduce your speed when passing them.

Composting Group: Contact Alan Mason for more details: alan_mbc@btinternet.com or on 07738 933316.

Neighbourhood Plan: The Parish Council is beginning to work on a Neighbourhood Plan and we would like your ideas on what you want your community to look and feel like. The more ideas the better!

Plant Stall

The Church in Loddon has a plant stall in aid of church funds at Avocet, Norwich Road in Chedgrave. They would be pleased to receive empty pots for filling as well as to sell you some plants. Please drop them off at Avocet, or leave them in the church porch. Many thanks.



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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: www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk

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



Chedgrave Parish Council Annual Parish Council Meeting 6th May 2021.

Coronavirus: For urgent help contact South Norfolk Help Hub on **01508 533933** or earlyhelphubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman: Cllr Colin Gould was elected as Chairman and Cllr Joanne Sinfield was elected as Vice Chairman of the parish council. Various working group appointments were also made.

Grebe Drive Play Area: There are plans for a bench to be installed in the new play area and quotes are being sought.

A146 Junction: Following discussion, the council will again object to the proposed junction changes on safety grounds.

Neighbourhood Plan: Chedgrave representatives attended a steering group meeting and various agreements between Chedgrave and Loddon parish councils are underway. Any further members of the public interested in helping are encouraged to contact the Clerk.

Brian Clarke Room – The room is gradually re-opening in a Covid-secure way. Booking enquiries should be made to Georgina Buckle via brianclarkeroom@gmail.com or 07981 856270.

Fly Tipping – The dumping of garden waste on the field behind Beauchamp Close has been reported. The landowner has been notified and householders will be contacted. Please dispose of waste via South Norfolk Council.

Planning Matters: Four planning applications were considered:

2021/0872 – 15 Snows Hill - Approve, no comment

2021/0870 – 12 Hillcrest - Approve, no comment

2021/0905 – 79 Langley Rd - Approve, no comment

2021/0522 – 28 Proctor Rd - Approve, no comment

It was noted that the following planning matters had been approved by SNC:

2021/0334 – Land south of Norwich Rd - Decision: Approval with Conditions

2021/0660 – Manor Barn - Decision: Approval with Conditions

2021/0358 – Land north-east of Chedgrave Manor - Decision: Approval of details

2021/0372 – Land adjacent to 'Wayside', Pits Lane - Decision: Refusal.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at the Brian Clarke Room on Thursday 3rd June. Room capacity will be limited but members of the public are still welcome. Anyone wishing to attend are kindly asked to contact the Clerk.

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 & illegal activities, public disorder & nuisance, anti-social behaviour, speeding, uncontrolled dogs, should all be reported to the Police on 999 or 101 (non-emergency) and can be reported online at www.norfolk.police.uk

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Notes from Sisland

During the last couple of these entries, I have noted that the weather while I have been writing has been variable and today is no different, as the beautiful sunshine this morning has been replaced with what appears to be rain and sleet.

Some of you may have seen details of the Churches Count on Nature which is an initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England and the Church in Wales. During a week in June, it aims to bring people together to discover the wildlife in their local church yard. Sisland has always been an active promotor of conservation and wildlife in its churchyard. There are two Norfolk Wildlife Trust Conservation Area signs in the churchyard to the south of the church. The whole of the area to the South side of the church and bounded by the newly planted hedge to the West, are part of the current conservation area.



We were incredibly fortunate that Norfolk Wildlife Trust completed four surveys of the churchyard on 27 March 2019, 25 April 2019, 23 May 2019 and 23 July 2019. Their report was presented to the PCC and the surveyors noted that "Sisland churchyard is a lovely, peaceful place and it is obviously well-cared for, with many lovely wildflowers present, reflecting the old meadow flora of Norfolk. Churchyards are the single most important refuge for many wildflowers typical of old meadows in Norfolk. The churchyard at Sisland can boast of supporting four of the six 'churchyard dependent' wildflower species – meadow saxifrage, oxeye daisy, lady's bedstraw and burnet saxifrage - these are native species which have at least 50% of their Norfolk population in churchyards". The survey also highlighted the other wildlife seen during the visit. This included Orange Tip, Small Copper, Meadow Brown and a number of Gatekeeper and Peacock butterflies. If you have an opportunity to visit our beautiful churchyard in late spring and early summer, you will be able to enjoy these special flowers and wildlife for yourself.

In addition, if you have visited or driven past recently you may also have noticed that one of the windows on the south side of the church is currently boarded up. At the last visit from the church architect, it was noted that the lead had become loose and needed repairing. The glaziers were able to remove the window and take it to their workshop to be cleaned, repaired and fresh ventilation gauze added before it is put back, hopefully towards the end of May. We hope to start further fundraising later in the year as there are some other parts of the church building needing maintenance.

Rowena Bryce (Churchwarden, St Mary's, Sisland)

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

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If you need a Foodbank parcel, contact the Foodbank by phoning: 0300 3651123—it's a free number. They will ask you for your details and will ask various questions so that you can receive the right level of support. The Foodbank will arrange for a parcel to be delivered to you through the local distribution centre. A log of who is receiving parcels is kept but there is presently greater flexibility in how many times a person or family can receive support from the Foodbank.

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- A serious disruption to the public is likely

Alternatively you can report non-emergency incidents to us at www.norfolk.police.uk/contact-us/5-report-it or you can pass information on anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Non-Emergency 101

It is important that police are given any information about suspicious activity or any criminal offence, no matter how small the information is. The information will enable police to gather intelligence, build a picture of what is happening in your local area and act upon it. Any descriptions of people or vehicles will help but please do not put yourself in any danger to gather that information.

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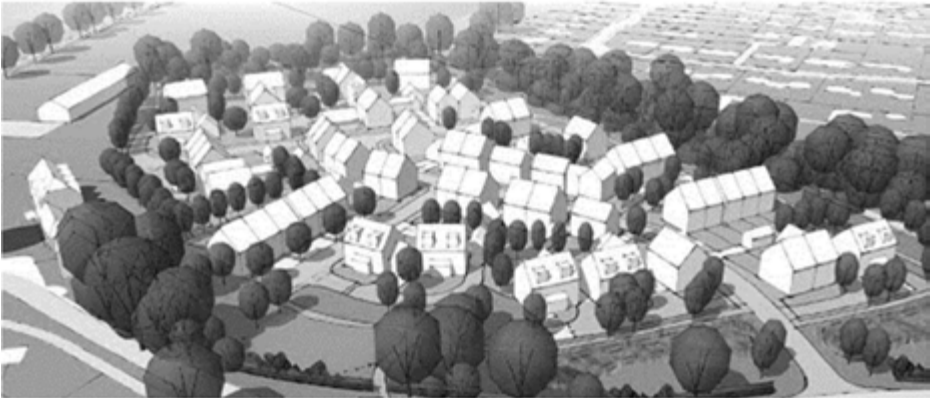
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Loddon & Chedgrave Neighbourhood Plan

Loddon and Chedgrave are looking to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and are asking interested people, who would like to play a part in shaping the future development of the two communities, to contact us to help put the framework of the plan together.

"A Neighbourhood Plan is written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place."



**Please contact Loddon or Chedgrave Parish Council
if you would like to volunteer.**

Loddon: info@loddonpc.org.uk, 01508 522 020

Chedgrave: chedgrave.pc@gmail.com, 01508 01508 528310

Hardley Mill

We are hoping, the Government guidelines permit, us to open the Mill to the public from Saturday 22nd May 2021. This will be the first time the Mill has been open since we closed on 19th March 2020. Although we have renovated the Visitor Centre floor and added a new kitchen, we are expecting to serve coffee, tea, juices and cake/biscuits outside. The sails are still to be replaced, awaiting the millwright, we will still be able to show the public around the Mill in small groups. So, from May we will probably only open at the weekends.

Keith Fulleylove (Chair of the Friends of Hardley Mill)

Tel No 01508 520542

Electric and Hybrid Cars

It seems that hybrid and electric cars have caught people's attention as we have received some more comments since the May edition was delivered:

I switched to a hybrid car in 2016 and they have got better and better. I have driven a Toyota Auris and now a Toyota Corolla which is quiet and runs as an electric vehicle a great deal of the time on local short journeys. Even sitting in traffic jams on the motorway it sits quietly only having the petrol engine kick in when recharging is needed. I will consider fully electric in the future once costs come down and there are more and quicker charging points. For now the fuel economy is quite good at 52 -60 miles per gallon combined overall (urban and long journeys). There are some good offers out there in paying per month and a fairly new secondhand hybrid can be great—environmentally better than diesel or just petrol and a real pleasure to drive, with acceleration oomph when needed (unlike earlier models).

The Toyota Hybrid Yaris 2019 is the second Hybrid Yaris I've had and is similar to the Auris and Corolla but a little smaller. It's excellent for town or city driving as it runs a lot on electricity: It just switches between the two automatically, no need to think about it! I also have an automatic gearbox which makes it very easy and relaxing to drive. I have done long drives too—across France—and have found it very comfortable, reliable and easy to refuel. It's refuelled as usual with normal petrol so there is no waiting for it to be charged like an electric car. It is said to do up to about 55 to 60mpg. Another little advantage is that the annual tax is also a little less.

I bought my electric Zoe (Renault) during lockdown in 2020. I really enjoy driving it—it is a nippy little car though I usually drive it on 'eco' which is slightly less quick at the getaway but more economical. So far I have only been able to do relatively short distances because of Covid. I think I will be confident to take it out for longer distances when we can do that. The Zap Map app shows where chargers are in the country, but, not only that, you can also see whether they are currently in use, available to use, or out of action. At some of the chargers you can pay with your debit card, just like buying petrol or diesel—again that is information available from the app. As the government was giving grants for electric cars when I bought mine, I had a free charger installed at home so 'filling up' is very easy—I just plug it in when it gets down to around 15-20% charge and leave it for a few hours by which time it is back to the recommended 80%. If you are going to drive a long distance, then you can charge it up to 100% which gives you about 240 miles when it is warm and about 180 miles in the winter. My cynical oldest son said, "Ah, so you have swapped from oil to coal to fuel your driving." I took the wind out of his sails when I told him the car would soon be powered by the sun! (We are installing some solar panels this year).

We wondered if anyone would like to offer their thoughts on other electric vehicles. Whilst the Zoe has won the best small electric car award for several years in a row, there must be other models that are out in our community. Do let us know.

LOCKDOWN

What's the Story of your Lockdown?

On 3rd and 4th July, in Holy Trinity church, Loddon, we will **celebrate** some of the things people did or learned during **Lockdown**. If you learned a skill, made or designed something, did something for the community, discovered local walks, took photos or anything else, please take part in the **display**.

If you're a crafter and would like to **sell** what you've made, there's a suggested donation of £10 for a table (payable on the day, but please book).

Of course you may have carried on **working**. We'd like you to be represented too—there will be a board for you to list all the jobs and services that carried on.

When it's all in the church, we then need YOU to come and see it! There's plenty of space for social distancing so it will be OK.

UNLOCKED

Saturday 3th July

Café, exhibition & stalls 10am-4.30pm

Sunday 4th July

Outdoor service 10.45am, followed by

Café, exhibition & stalls 12.00-4.30pm

Details from Nina Owen, 01508 522993, email:
theroamingfenlander@gmail.com

Church Services

6th June		
8:00am	Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:30am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
13th June		
8:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
20th June		
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship*	All Saints, Chedgrave
5:00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
27th June		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon

*All Together Worship this month is followed by a shared lunch.

Open again!

Our churches are open for Sunday worship. If you have enjoyed joining us on-line but haven't been to face-to-face church before, why don't you come and join us at one of our services in church? You will see some familiar faces. All welcome.

Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests, please let one of the clergy know and they will be included in the daily prayers that we make.

Church Services

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

*Every Saturday 6:00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	
**Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Come and Pray</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection’</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All are welcome</i></p>	
+Thursdays during school term	<p style="text-align: center;">XTRA!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join us for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3:15pm; Service starts 3:45pm More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126</p>	
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

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

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

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

Church Activities

Church Services during the Covid-19 pandemic

Our churches are open for worship. We believe all services will go ahead as advertised. Please look at our website for up-to-date information.

Our services are available on our YouTube channel: Chet Valley Churches.

The URL for each service and a pdf are on the church website (www.chetvalleychurches.org).

If you would like a paper copy of the Sunday service, please contact one of the clergy.

Private Prayer

Our churches are open as follows:

All week All Saints, Chedgrave; St Margaret, Hardley;
Holy Trinity, Loddon;

Wednesday and Sunday St Mary, Sisland.

Please adhere to government and Church of England guidelines about maintaining social distancing, use of hand sanitisers etc in the buildings. Please be mindful of instructions if you visit one of our churches.

Bullrush Babies

Bullrush Babies is a group for first-time parents and their babies. It is a place to meet others for support and encouragement. We meet on a Wednesday morning at All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave.



Since Easter, we can have up to a maximum of 15 parents and their babies in the group. We re-opened on 14th April, and our meetings will be outdoors for the time being, from 10:00am-11:45am.

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

01508 528126 or ball880am@btinternet.com

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

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

It is warm even in the winter! It is available to book with a suggested donation of £8 per hour. If you are looking for a venue for a meeting, a party, or an activity do contact Anne Jackson who is responsible for hall bookings on 01508 502278.

Community Groups, News and Events

News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon Women's Institute

We are pleased to report that some of our members were able to meet for a socially distanced outdoor 'get together' on 29th April. With kind permission to meet in Chedgrave churchyard, we were blessed with a fine, sunny afternoon and enjoyed a slice of our 91st birthday cake and lots of chatter! It was especially good to welcome two new members to that meeting. We have put photographs of this event on our members' Facebook page. Our committee met in May (again outdoors and in the approved fashion!), and in the hope that the present situation will continue to improve, has made plans for the remainder of the year. When you are reading this issue of Chet Contact, we will have had a 'Meeting in a Bag' in May and will be looking forward to an outdoor afternoon meeting in June. We are working towards returning to our usual evening meetings in September. One way or another we will keep going!

Loddon WI has a public Facebook page, as well as members' page, and we try to give an update of our activities on there. If you are interested in joining us please contact us through the Facebook page or via LoddonWI@gmail.com.

Our best wishes to all.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

As we move forward to better times, our members look forward to meeting on the fourth **Tuesday** of each month at 2:00pm, at All Saints Church, Chedgrave. For details please contact Angela Dance 521120.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

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

Loddon Flower Club

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

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

Sadly, not operating at present due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We are a friendly group meeting each month for a talk from a guest speaker and refreshments. Usual time 8:00pm at the Brian Clarke Meeting Rooms, Mallard Close, Chedgrave. For more information contact Hillary 01508 520457 or June 01508 528853.



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Cost £2.50 per session, first session free.

For more details, please contact Terry on: tezzahayden99@gmail.com

Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club.



Hobart Badminton Club

We meet on **Fridays** 7:30-9:30pm at the Sports Hall, Hobart High School. We play socially and are not in a league. New members, aged 18 and over, welcome. Some previous playing experience required.

Membership:

Full members: £10 annual subscription and £4 for each week you play.

Trial Members: £4 per session for 4 weeks. Visitors: £5 per session.

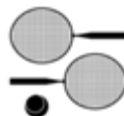
Further information from Barbara Boardman: Email: tomenelli@btinternet.com



Short Tennis Club

Come and join our friendly non-competitive club on **Tuesdays**

11:30am-1:00pm at the Jubilee Hall. All welcome. For more information call 01508 520589.



Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

With the Summer fast approaching, as we come out from lockdown, why not get involved with cricket at Hales and Loddon Cricket Club. We run two adult sides on a **Saturday**, as well as youth cricket for five years upwards on a **Monday** night from the end of April until the end in July in both softball and hardball. We also run sides at U10/11 and 13, so there really is cricket for all at Hales and Loddon. For more details email: Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk. All coaches are ECB qualified and have attended safeguarding courses.



Ashby St Mary Cricket Club

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

Come and join us—you will enjoy it!

For more information, please contact Paul on 01508 218078.





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Loddon Community Gym

Thank you to all our members who have returned to the Gym since it opened on 19th April. It has been good to welcome you back and we hope that the experience, though different, has been a good one. Every effort has been made to keep members safe in the Gym and these measures will stay in place as long as they are necessary. Once you get used to them, the new arrangements are fairly simple and straightforward. The pre-booking of slots at the Gym is to ensure that no more than ten people are using the Gym at any one time for social distancing and to allow for the cleaning of equipment before and after every use. Cashless payment has been introduced to avoid the handling of money which can also pass on infection. Hopefully a more relaxed regime will soon be possible and the social aspect of the Gym can return. We will follow the government's guidelines and the safety of our members will always be our top priority.

Not a member yet? If the government's easing of restrictions continues the Gym will be ready to welcome new members from 21st June. Again, for more information keep an eye on our Facebook page and on the website www.loddoncommunitygym.com

Gym opening hours in the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon as follows:

Mon: 1:30pm-6:00pm, Tues: 4:30pm-8:30pm, Fri: 10:00am-1:00pm.



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

Unfortunately, we are not currently running sessions on Tuesday afternoons. But watch this space, as we hope to restart as soon as possible.

For more information call Sara on 01508 521958.



Patient Participation Group

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

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

At last it looks as though lockdown restrictions are easing! Therefore I am planning a few events for the summer. Initially it will be outdoor events, walks etc. As it is all still a little uncertain I have not finalised things. My intention is to send out a newsletter for members but anybody can ring me for information after 17th May to see what is planned.

June Strickland 01508 528853.

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Social Whist

We meet every second and fourth **Friday** of the month though there is no pressure to attend every month. We welcome new players. We meet in the back room of The Hollies and start playing at 7:45pm. The evening consists of 12 hands of Whist, each with a different partner, a drink and a biscuit at half time together with lots of chat. You don't need a partner and if you need a lift to get there this can be organised. All proceeds are for local charities. If you need a lift please call me, Jane Hale, on 01508 528875.



Chet Staithe Probus Club

Have you recently retired or just moved to the area? Are you missing male company, on your own, or just want to get out and meet new people? Why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club which is held on the first and third **Tuesday** of the month at the White Horse, Chedgrave. Meetings start at 10:00am and finish around midday with the option of staying for lunch. We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required. Members range in age from 60 to almost 100.

We are hoping to recommence meetings on Tuesday, 6th July. Please could members advise me if they intend to attend; if the number is sufficient then we'll book a speaker. Otherwise, we can have a good mardle; there'll be loads to catch up on. During lockdown our treasurer has moved away from the area. Be assured it had nothing to do with me! Please remain mindful that we will need a new treasurer. Contact cliveboyd@btconnect.com or 01508 520547.

Chet Valley Probus Club

Our speaker for Tuesday 22nd June is Ralph Jackman on "Agrippina - How to be an Empress". Please note this meeting will start at 10:00am in order to catch up on unfinished business.

Chet Valley Probus Club is a group of retired Business People who meet at the White Horse Chedgrave on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month commencing at 10.30 am. We are a friendly welcoming group who enjoy interesting talks, good company, good food and just meeting others of a like mind. For further details and an application form please contact the Secretary, John McCormack: 5a Norton Road, Loddon, NR146JN. 01508 521899.

Chet Valley Photography Club

We are continuing our monthly meeting virtually via Zoom. Our speaker on Monday 14th June is Howard Denner and "Tales from the Pit". Howard was born in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales. He graduated from Cardiff University and after 4 years research joined the Ministry of Agriculture. Howard has always been a keen amateur photographer so in 1996 took early retirement to become a professional photographer in the Live Music Sector. In 2013 he retired and moved to High Kelling in Norfolk. See Howard's website here: www.howarddenner.com



Please contact Jackie Franklin, email: secretary@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk or have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information, or if you are interested in joining the club. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

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Loddon Community Cinema

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



Parkinsons

Would you like to meet other Parkinsons sufferers? We will normally meet on the first Monday of the month at the Chedgrave White Horse at 12:15pm. Partners are also welcome. For further details please ring Michael Osborne on 01508 522034.

Davy Place Social Club

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

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

For information contact:

Secretary Hazel on 07765 098345 or happyhaze50@gmail.com

Chairman Jean on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com

Follow us on our Facebook page

or take a look at our webpage on www.loddon.org



Loddon WEA

We now know for certain that we shall not be able to offer a face-to-face course of lectures for the moment. The spread of the Covid virus is too unpredictable to make firm arrangements which might have to be cancelled at the last moment. However, the WEA does offer a wealth of courses 'virtually'.



Full details can be found on line if you go to either: eastern@wea.org.uk or www.wea.org.uk. We are very sorry to have to announce this and we shall miss our weekly meetings with friends.

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

We hope you enjoyed our branch display in the window of Young's during May to mark the first 100 years of the setting up of the Royal British Legion nationally. We also laid wreaths at Loddon and Chedgrave War Memorials at 9:00 am on Saturday 15th May to tie in with that laid at The Cenotaph in London by our national president at the same time.



The branch also laid a wreath at the War Memorial in April as our tribute to mark the passing to higher service of HRH Prince Philip, a great supporter of the Legion throughout his long life.

Still no branch meetings yet, but not long now that Covid 19 isolation seems to be abating. Phone our secretary Christine Hartley 01508 521136 for up to date information.

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Covid kids—A Personal Assessment from a Tutor

“The pandemic is crushing our children.” - “Our children will never recover.” - “Exams limbo has sent anxiety soaring.” - “Lockdown mental health problems in one in six youngsters.”

Initial findings

In fact, discerning the true state of mental health through the pandemic is hard to do. As The Lancet recently acknowledged, “Few studies around the world cover children.” The evidence we have is mixed. A study of 168 children in the east of England, with an average age of 10, found an increase in depressive symptoms. However, a study of about 1000 children aged 13 and 14 in south-west England found little overall change in anxiety, depression and well-being.

What my pupils have taught me

As a maths tutor I learn much from my pupils. I have been impressed with their resilience and adaptability during a strange and difficult year. In spite of school closures and exam cancellations, many of my pupils have been positive and hopeful. Many have been even more eager to learn.

The most resilient generation in decades?

I am quietly optimistic that Covid kids may emerge stronger through the pandemic. Research shows that resilience comes from challenges and emerging even stronger. A soft, easy childhood is not necessarily the gift we imagine it to be. Today's children are learning to deal with feeling anxious, bored, lonely, worried, confused and more. They have more to deal with than is always visible. Far from crushing them, Covid could be the force that helps lead this generation to become the most resilient

Plant Stall

All Saints, Chedgrave has a plant stall in aid of church funds at 24 Hillside in Chedgrave. With a constantly changing range of plants for sale, it is worth a regular trip to see what is available. If you have cuttings, or have split plants, or grown too many seedlings, then we would be delighted to receive these for the stall, Please drop them off at 24 Hillside, or leave them in the church porch. It would be helpful if you could label what they are just in case it is not obvious. Many thanks.



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Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

The Day Centre will be re-opening on Tuesday 22nd June, subject to the government roadmap. Initially we will only be accepting our existing members, but would love to see new members from September – 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.



Call for Volunteers

Loddon Cooperative Day Centre needs you!

Would you be able to give us a morning a week to help with the day centre? You will work with our organiser, Bev, to support our members to play games and to serve a meal and refreshments. We meet on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Brian Clarke room.

If you can help, please give Bev a call on 07826 299290.

All Saint's Nature Count—see page 2.

On 5th June and 12th June between 10:00am and 12:00noon, at All Saints, Chedgrave, we are joining in with *Churches Count on Nature*. This is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England and the Church in Wales.

What is it? It is a chance to discover the wildlife in the church yard at All Saints, Chedgrave. We hope that you will come and help us! We will be looking at flowers and trees, grasses, birds, mammals, minibeasts... Aimed at adults and children, you don't have to be an expert, just willing to come and see what is there. Do bring your own identification books if you have them, as well as binoculars and hand lenses or magnifying glasses. There will be some knowledgeable volunteers to help out.

We will record the species we find, and our results will be combined with others which will be collated on the [National Biodiversity Network \(NBN\)](#), a nationwide database of wildlife in the UK.

All welcome.



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We've made some changes to keep you safe, so:

- There is no 'Open Library' access;
- Please bring your library card with you or join in the library or online;
- We may ask for details from you to help with Test and Trace;
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We've made some changes to our opening hours:

- Monday: 10am – 2pm; Thursday: 10am – 6pm; Saturday: 1pm – 4pm;
- Closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you back!



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Loddon and District Local History Group

Still no meetings to announce, but after working on my contribution for this month an idea is coming into my head. I hope you have all seen the latest display in Young's window, our thanks to Colin Hartley for this.

Over a period of 12 years, groups, organised by Chris Crease & Carol Carpenter (as she then was), descended upon a local churchyard armed with clipboards, pencils, scrubbing brushes, water, sunscreen and packed lunches. The churchyards had been divided into areas and each grave stone had a coded marker giving its row and number. After a quick briefing where recording sheets were distributed, we set to work usually in pairs recording the information on the stones. The results of the surveys can be researched on our website at <http://www.loddonhistory.org.uk/>. There should be a copy available at each of the churches.

The survey at Hales was done in 2010. Below is an updated piece I wrote in 2011:

There are services in the ancient church at Hales only once or twice a year. The churchyard is still used for burials. The stones which caught my attention are to the left as you enter the gate. Although the Nonconformists had their separate places of worship the parish churchyard was their final resting place.

John Hammond, whose stone had fallen, was a Primitive Methodist Minister. John was born in Hales the son of Thomas a farmer, and Ann, who lived in Church Lane. By 1861 he was working as a miller and on census day was visiting the King family in Lowestoft. In 1867 he married Matilda King and they started his ministry away from Hales. Two children were born in Norwich, one in Gravesend, one in Stepney and one in Colchester before they appear on the 1881 census in Cambridge. He died in the Loddon area in 1889, and Matilda moved back to her mother in Lowestoft with the children and died in 1915.

Further to the left is line of tombs and graves of the Spurgeon family, for many years at Hales Hall. Lorinda Spurgeon caused problems when her name was written in parish registers, one can only hope it is spelled correctly on her tomb. The tomb next to Lorinda's is that of her daughter Louisa the wife of William Batley born in Newton Norfolk, another Primitive Methodist Minister, he died in 1860 on his probate entry described as a shopkeeper in Yarmouth. Louisa returned to Hales and died there 4th March 1867. Louisa's brother Amos married Tabitha Blunderfield Riches from Loddon in 1864, again the Blunderfields and Riches were significant members of the Loddon Methodist movement. When Tabitha died in Beccles in 1909 the executors of her will were her grandson Henry Amos Spurgeon and a Richard William Burnett another Primitive Methodist minister husband of her granddaughter Rosa.

Norfolk has always been known for its nonconformity and our 19th century local families certainly kept up the tradition.

Elvie Herd

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“Miss Benson’s Beetle,” by Rachel Joyce.

An utterly extraordinary story, written by one of our most interesting and imaginative current authors. At the end of the book Rachel Joyce has written an explanation of what prompted her to write it - that, too, is well worth reading. The central characters are two women, one (Miss Benson) much older than the other and they are totally unlike each other. The idea of there ever being a friendship between them seems preposterous to both of them - and, indeed, to anyone else who comes across them - but it doesn't do to make assumptions sometimes. Circumstances find them travelling together to New Caledonia in order to find an insect which has never before been found: a golden beetle. If that's not an unusual concept on which to base a novel, I'm not quite sure what is! It has certainly worked for Rachel Joyce, who has given us a fascinating and a deeply touching few hours of sheer enjoyment.

“Call for the Dead,” by John le Carré.

This was John le Carré's first 'George Smiley' book. It is, of course, well written, but it's not something to be read in a hurry. The author's books often have very complex plots and this is definitely an example of such a one! Politics, the Secret Service and a touch of racism all feature in this intriguing book and give an idea of what was to come from Le Carré's pen in his later novels. Be warned, though: however interesting, it could well be possible to reach the end of the story without having fully understood everything...

“The Unexpected Return of Josephine Fox,” by Claire Gradidge.

The basis of this novel is the story of a middle-aged woman whose mother died without ever telling her daughter who her father was. It begins with a small gang of children in the time of World War I who meet together frequently and whose families are mostly impoverished. Josephine is one of them and was brought up by her Grandmother even though her Grandfather was ashamed of her and very unkind to her, as she was born out of wedlock. He always referred to her as a bastard. At this period of time Josephine's home life was so unhappy that she left home as soon as possible and made her own way in life, finding what jobs she could for herself in London. Much later on, during World War II, having learned of her mother's death, she decides to return to the place where she was born in order to find out who her father was. Her search involves her in meeting with her family again and with adults of her own age who were once members of the same childhood gang as she was. One of them, who has grown up to become the local Coroner, takes her on as his assistant. From then on her job and her search overlap with each other. It's a really interesting novel with a background of various hardships common to many of the poorer people after the war, as well as touching on nuns living in a local Convent and on one particularly wealthy family. At the end of the book, Josephine's search finishes with a real twist.

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Nature Notes

Here we are, the beginning of May. Spring is in full flow, but I just wish someone would tell the weather! Despite that there is always lots to see to brighten your day and lift your spirit. Earlier today Rachel said to me, “Turn around slowly and look at the gate,” and low and behold perched there was a beautiful female sparrowhawk. It stayed put and I was able to get some reasonable photos.

On 30th April, the common whitethroat that serenaded us last year was back with it's short scratchy song; maybe the same bird as last year, one of its offspring, or what, I don't know, but at least it is back heralding spring. On 2nd May I heard my first cuckoo at the back of Hardley Flood, when I was out with the dogs. It started to rain then the distant sound “cuckoo” heralded the iconic bird's presence.

I've already seen sand martins (brown above and white below, with a brown necklace) and I saw my first house martins over the Duck Pits between Hardley Staithe and the mill on 7th April (blue back above, white below with a white rump). There are other differences, often the colouration is not obvious, so look for the obvious white rump. Swallows came two days later and this year the saying “One swallow does not make it summer,” is definitely correct!

Out at Seething it was interesting to see almost daily quite a large flock of fieldfares almost to the end of April, hunting for food across fields. My biggest surprise was another winter migrant a brambling that was by our feeders the on the last sunday of April. Similar to a chaffinch but more orange than pink, but as it flew off it displayed its white rump which confirmed identification.

April also turned up two new birds for me in this area, within days, the first on 15th April, a great white egret, on the flooded field, viewable from Hardley Staithe carpark. Much larger than the more common little egret. It has an orange rather than black bill. Two days later there was a ringed ousel (which prefers mountain terrain) in the sheep field by the same car park, for several days.

The highlight of the month for me was discovering a little bunting at Surlingham Church Broad, a species I had never seen before. The dogs and I were returning along the boardwalk coming up to The Gun Club buildings when a small bird caught my eye skulking in the hedge. Fortunately, I decided to stop and investigate, and it obligingly came into view for a few seconds, giving me enough time to mentally take in its size and facial features, which enabled me to make the identification.

Our garden bird list increased by one when I heard an unfamiliar bird call, a flock of up to 25 whimbrel flying over. They landed in the water meadows behind the bungalow where they stayed for a few days “refueling” before continuing their migration northwards. These waders are similar to curlew in structure.

As lockdown is lifted and we can take advantage of the beautiful county we are fortunate to live in, keep your senses alert and see what surprises you.

Richard and Rachel Hull

Once We're Open Again...

Lockdown Unlocked at Holy Trinity, Loddon, 3rd/4th July

During Lockdown, did you learn a new skill, discover local walks, do something for the community, take photos? Do come and take part in our display. Craft tables available for you to sell your products (£10).



August Teas at St Mary, Sisland on Sundays in August

From 3:00-5:00pm delicious cakes and drinks will be served. We look forward to welcoming you back this year.

Art Exhibition at Holy Trinity, Loddon on 28th-30th August

An opportunity for local artists. For more information, please contact Genny Godber on loddonartexhibition@gmail.com or 01508 528843.

Flower Festival at All Saints, Chedgrave on 11th/12th September

Icons of Norfolk is the title for the flower festival. What will it be? The Canaries, Wherries, Windfarms...? Come along and see for yourselves.

Quiz at All Saints, Chedgrave on 22nd October

With all the quizzing that has been going on during lockdown, we are expecting some stiff competition when our popular quizzes recommence.

Autumn Fair at All Saints, Chedgrave on 6th November

Come and join us for refreshments at our sale.

Concert at All Saints, Chedgrave on 7th November

We are delighted that *Tale Dolce Musica* are returning to perform for us. A talented chamber group, they hope to put together a programme to complement our environmental focus that weekend.

Hymn Singing in All Saints Chedgrave

I wonder if you have been missing singing during the Covid restrictions. Well, James, one of our lovely organists, has offered to put on a hymn-singing evening (or more if popular) once we are allowed to sing together indoors.



With time for a warm-up and then several hymns, a break for refreshments and some more hymns it should be a lovely event. James would like you to think of which hymns you have really missed singing and would like to sing at an evening like this. Please email him on: lally950@btinternet.com to let him know your choices, then he can find the music and practise so he will be on top of the dots for the evening.

Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

Looking forward to June this a very productive period and we should all be enjoying picking and eating (and freezing) the results of our hard work. All your more tender plants like the courgettes, squashes, and sweet potatoes should now be going in. It is difficult not to be tempted to plant early by warmer days in May, but June is best. Even so I will cover the sweet potatoes with straw and hold this down with fleece for a little longer. Sweet potatoes are hungry feeders so create a wide mound about 12 inches high and improve the soil with a generous addition of manure or compost. I buy them as slips and plant them deeply so that just the tips of the leaves are showing. Plants should be about 12 inches apart and rows 30 inches apart. You can also control the weeds by planting through black plastic.

If your potatoes suffered from late frosts and the tops are black, don't worry they'll soon recover.

Many books advise that courgettes and squashes can be planted in containers and if that's all you have then try it, but I have had poor results as they need a tremendous amount of water and liquid feed. In the ground they can find some of this for themselves. June is also the time for scrumptious home-grown soft fruit. They may not be so perfect as the supermarket ones, but they taste wonderful. And if you are organic, you know exactly what they have been sprayed with: Nothing!

From the Garden

June is a good time to enjoy your garden and plan for next year, and a number of plants can be grown now from seed to flower next spring. Wallflowers can be biannual or perennial and the seeds for the biannual varieties can be sown this month. They can be sown outside in a well prepared seedbed or inside in trays. Sowing in a tray inside is the best, once sown and watered place the tray in a propagator or polythene bag. The seeds should germinate between 10 - 21 days. I always date the label as I can never remember when I sowed the seed. Prick out into individual pots, pinch out the tops when they reach five inches tall as this will encourage bushy plants, plant out in late August. They are available in mixed colours or single colours like Fire King with scarlet blooms and a strong scent growing to 18 inches or Cloth of Gold, bright yellow and very fragrant, or Sugar Rush Purple with a sweet fragrance.

A very good perennial wallflower is Bowles Mauve, it is evergreen and requires full sun, flowering from late winter to late summer, regular deadheading is required from April onwards. It is a good wildlife plant especially for lacewings and hoverflies. The plants aren't long lived, but can be propagated by semi-hardwood cuttings in spring or summer.

I have compiled a list of gardens to visit this summer, hopefully without the need of an umbrella and wellies!





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