



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

March 2022



A Concert by

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Saturday 26th March

7:30pm

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or Tricia Bell on 01508 528433**



Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen:	01508 522993	david.chetvalley@gmail.com
Louise Morrissey:	01502 717797	delilah.morrissey@gmail.com
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Alison Ball:	01508 528126	ball880am@btinternet.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	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

Editors:	Alison Ball, Roger Outlaw
Advertising:	Peter Webster
Treasurer:	Paul Mizen
Distribution:	Roger Outlaw 01508 528710 and team
Printing:	Roberts & Son 01508 520221

Copy Deadline is always noon on the 8th of the month. We have to deliver to the printer on the 9th of the month.

Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

Please include your name and telephone number.



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

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From the Editor

In February, I joined the group that is both triple-vaccinated and has had Covid. I can honestly say how grateful I am that I had been jabbed so that my symptoms were pretty mild.

I have spent rather more time than normal looking out of my kitchen window, noticing the bright yellow aconites in full flower that have tumbled onto the drive from the garden, and watching the birds that have finally found the nuts, fatballs and other goodies that we have been putting out for them. I even ventured out one day when I had a bit more energy to cut down last year's raspberry canes.

Amidst the frustration, I had to remind myself to look on my forced isolation as a blessing enabling me to get on with Chet Contact uninterrupted rather than fitting it around all the other things that I do. It was quite a challenge fitting all the copy in this month. There's a lot going on with societies and clubs opening up again, and the Platinum Jubilee fete in the planning amongst other things.

And if you live in Loddon or Chedgrave, the Chet Neighbourhood Plan group want your views to help shape the vision for these two communities for the next 20 years. Perhaps you could complete their survey once it goes live (more information on p27).

It's the Spring Equinox this month so we can look forward to more daylight and increasing warmth. Lovely!

Alison



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Ministerial Musings

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this on the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth to the throne. I think for Her Majesty, it is a day of solemn reflection being as much, for her, the anniversary of her beloved father's death as it is about becoming Queen. The street parties and the celebrations (and the extra bank holiday!) will come in a few months' time, but I have enjoyed seeing some pictures and memories of her very long reign.

Like many, the reign of Queen Elizabeth has been the only one I have ever known. I still have the mug all we schoolchildren were given on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee (my goodness, where have those 45 years gone?). And I still remember the slight feeling of disappointment I felt on seeing her wearing a pink hat in the carriage procession on that day. I thought she wore her crown all the time! The papers and the television news have been full of pictures of her long life. There are almost too many to mention but I have seen pictures of the then 17-year-old Princess Elizabeth joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service to do her bit for the war effort as a driver and mechanic. And then looking so pale and resolute—and so, so young—on the day of the coronation when the crown must have seemed so heavy to her.

Of course, in many ways, her life has been one of great privilege. She has never had to worry about having enough to eat or how to scrape together enough to pay the rent. But I believe she is fully aware of that privilege and the struggles of others who are not so fortunate. Perhaps there were times when she wished to be an ordinary wife and mum instead of traveling the world and all the responsibilities her role has entailed. The dramas of her family played out in the press all too publicly remind us that living in a castle or a palace has not spared her from heartache and family breakdown. Surely the Queen worries about her children and grandchildren as much as every other mum and granny. For me, one of the defining pictures of Her Majesty was at the funeral of Prince Philip, where she sat masked and socially-distanced because of Covid, looking so tiny and so vulnerable, mourning the loss of her beloved husband of 73 years. Maybe there would have been grounds for departing from the Covid regulations for the funeral of the Queen's Consort, but I feel sure that the Queen did not wish for that, knowing that many others had not been able to have funerals they wanted for their loved ones either.

Her Majesty made a simple promise at her coronation, which she renewed in her Platinum anniversary message: "that my life will always be devoted to your service." Above all else, she is a lady with an active and real Christian faith.

A phrase from our funeral liturgy comes to me (although I hope it won't be needed for a long time). We often give thanks for our loved ones' "faithfulness in the tasks to which God called them." Her Majesty is not a perfect human being but she has certainly been faithful in the tasks to which God called her. May we all be faithful to whatever tasks God is calling us to today.

With love, Louise.





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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 at All Saints, Chedgrave, starting at 11:00am (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 both 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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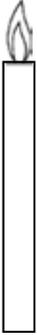
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Thanksgivings & Baptisms



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.



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

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:

3rd March, Afternoon Tea at 2:00pm. We look forward to welcoming everyone.

If you are interested in joining the group 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 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!)

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

Harry Peter Oldham

baptised on 16th January in 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

There are no weddings to report this month.

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

Funerals

There are no funerals to report this month.

*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 . He can also be contacted about interment of ashes.

Platinum Jubilee Fete—Saturday 4th June Jubilee Hall Playing Field

We're looking for:

- ⇒ Volunteers to help on the day;
- ⇒ Local community groups to run stalls;
- ⇒ Food Stalls;
- ⇒ Talent/Performers.

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News From Your Local Councillors



Kay Mason-Billig & Jeremy Rowe

Loddon High Street: It became necessary for safety reasons to remove some of the parking in the High Street, whilst we have traffic lights on the A146. We have seen an increase in through traffic, as some motorists didn't want to wait in a queue. Lorries were mounting the pavement to pass each other, putting pedestrians and cyclists in danger. Thank you all for your patience during the temporary parking restriction and be assured, things will go back to normal once the roundabout is open, which is only a few weeks away now!

Chedgrave Norwich Road/A146 junction: Following on from my report last month; I now have a meeting scheduled with Norfolk County Highways and the portfolio holder to look at this junction and hopefully, we can come up with some solutions to make it safer.

A146: Last month I was pleased to have fulfilled one of my election pledges. The road at Yelverton was always prone to flooding, requiring temporary traffic lights which caused tailbacks on the A146. Norfolk County Council have now dug out the ditches and piped the road, so the runoff water from neighbouring fields should not cause problems there in the future.

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

Councillor Kay Mason-Billig

The thanks keep coming in for the Christmas hampers – many thanks to the team who made this possible.

Over Easter we'll do something similar, like last year. Details to follow, in this column and on Facebook.

Please get in touch if our ChetChat group can help you if you are aged over-60; times are tough out there, and I fear they will become more difficult for too many people.



It's never been more important for us to look out for each other, as well as restoring some much-needed faith in the good that politics and politicians can do.

If you, or someone over-60 that you know, would like some help and maybe just some friendship, please phone ChetChat on 07876 050110.

Please ring me anytime on 07733 323581 if I can help you, as many people do. I hope to start my regular surgeries again soon.

Thank you.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe



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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 meetings on 27th January and 3rd February 2022.

Belated Thank You!

- To local resident Gordon Jackson who has kindly sanded and oiled the parish council noticeboard to keep it looking good.
- To litter pickers who attended an event on 24th October 2021.
- To Richard Ball for helping to rake the gravel at the entrance to the Pits.

All of these actions help keep our village in good shape and are greatly appreciated by the parish council.

Wherryman's Way: The Broads Authority has offered to place a bench near Chedgrave mooring to replace the recently removed mast so that everyone can enjoy a rest and the view while out walking.

Chedgrave Common: The parish council is trying to register Chedgrave Common with the Land Registry. There have been some objections to this from local residents but the council is hoping to resolve these via negotiation to secure Chedgrave Common for the long-term access and enjoyment of all.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The parish council decided to participate in a joint event with Loddon Parish Council to be held on the Loddon and Chedgrave Playing Field on 4th June 2022. There may also be other events in the village. More details will be advertised in due course.

No Cold Calling Zones: There are currently two "no cold calling zones" in the village which seem successfully to be reducing the number of callers seeking to sell at the door. Residents wishing to set up a zone in their neighbourhood should contact Norfolk County Council—full details are available on their website: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/trading-standards/consumer-advice/no-cold-calling-zones>

Council Vacancies: There are two parish council vacancies. If you are interested in your local community and would like to be part of the friendly team which makes decisions about your village, please contact the Clerk.

Brian Clarke Room: The room has re-opened. Booking enquiries should be made to Georgina Buckle via brianclarkeroom@gmail.com or 07981 856270.

Next Meeting: Thursday 3rd March 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 & 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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Tel: 07981 856270

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



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: The Parish Council is pleased to support the celebrations with a Platinum Jubilee Fete being held on the Loddon & Chedgrave Jubilee Playing Field on the 4th June. If you're interested in volunteering, performing or running a stall, please contact info@loddonpc.org.uk.

Parish Warden: A Parish Warden has been appointed and will join the team at the end of February. His role will mainly be maintaining and inspecting parish facilities and litter-picking the public open space.

Chet Neighbourhood Plan: Loddon and Chedgrave Parish Councils are jointly producing a Neighbourhood Plan and have appointed a Project Officer and consultee to assist the group. More information can be found on our website; www.loddonpc.org.uk/neighbourhoodplan. Volunteers are welcome to join.

Litter Picking: We have an informal litter picking group. To join, please email info@loddonpc.org.uk., The council can provide you with the necessary equipment.

Small Grants: Grants for local groups or organisations are available. Further information and an application form available on our website.

Tennis Courts: Book online: www.loddonpc.org.uk/tennis-courts.

Hall Hire: For a regular booking, or an event, please email; info:loddonpc.org.uk.

Allotments: There is a waiting list for the Allotments. If you live in Chedgrave or Loddon and wish to be added to the Allotment waiting list email; info@loddonpc.org.uk.

Church Plain Noticeboard: This is a community noticeboard maintained by Loddon Parish Council. Please do not remove posters unless you have placed them there yourself. The Parish Council will only remove offensive or out of date posters. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at the Library Annexe on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 7:00pm. Parishioners are welcome to attend in person. The minutes and agendas for the meetings are available on the Parish Council website.

Contact Loddon Parish Council: The office is open from 9:00am-12:00 noon on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays. To contact the Council, please email; info@loddonpc.org. For a genuine emergency, call; 01508 486128. At any other time, please call 01508 522020.

The website: www.loddonpc.org.uk and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC are regularly updated.

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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 Meetings: Tuesday 22nd March starting at 7:30pm at Hales Assembly Hall (formerly Village Hall), Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on the website three days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Please note these now take place on a Tuesday.

Diary Date: Annual Parish Meeting 7:00pm on 10th May in the Assembly Hall with refreshments. This is a chance for residents to meet and discuss what happens in the village and what you want to happen in the village.

Neighbourhood Watch: Unfortunately we no longer have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme as we do not have a co-ordinator. Please get in touch with the clerk if you are interested.

20mph Speed Limit on School Lane Proposal: We are still collecting views and evidence so do keep sending emails or letters about this. The parish clerk can remove your contact details if you wish but we cannot accept anonymous emails or letters.

Neighbourhood Planning: We are collecting opinions and views about what people in our community want it to look like. Please let us know what you think.

Meet the Councillors Drop in Date: To be advertised on our website, Facebook and notice board.

Village Walk: Now that the weather is improving, here is a suggested walk taking in Hales Green:



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Langley with Hardley Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Vacant
Tel: 01502 730166 Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com
Website: <https://langleywithhardleypc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>
Facebook: To be developed



Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

SCP scales (£11.27-£12.45 per hour) dependent on qualifications and experience; five hours per week.

Langley with Hardley Parish Council seeks a committed and enthusiastic individual for the role of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

The role will include:

- Meeting administration including publication of agendas, report writing, taking minutes, and offering procedural advice where required; as well as the day-to-day administrative processes of the Parish Council;
- Management of the council's finances including budget drafting, monitoring, bank reconciliations and payments;
- Helping to maintain and update the council's website;
- Communicating with residents, councillors, and external organisations.

Applicants should have a good level of education, with good communication and interpersonal skills. Experience in a local government would be an advantage. Knowledge of meeting administration and working to deadlines is essential. A sense of humour would be useful. Applicants must be available for attendance at meetings of the Parish Council held six times a year between 7:30-9:30pm on the second Tuesday of every other month.

Applications by CV and covering letter to Nigel Sullivan:
nsullivan@langleyschool.co.uk or Langley Park, Loddon, NR14 6BJ.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Friday 4th March: Steve Treadway—Clairvoyant. Tickets £15 (must be booked before the event) available from Tibby or Jane on 01508 520184. Jacket potato included with a choice of filling. Bring your own alcohol. Doors open at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start.

Starting **Friday 11th March:** A monthly café. Open from 11:00am-2:00pm.

Saturday 2nd April: Easter Bingo.

We have puppy classes and many other interesting events happening. There is a clothing bank and a bottle bank at the hall. Proceeds raised from these go to the village hall. For further information or to book the hall for any events call Tibby and Jane: 01508 520184.



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Notes from Sisland

At the last PCC (Parochial Church Council) meeting, in January, we, as many others are, started to discuss and plan events and activities that we would like to hold later in the year. Conversations that many of us have looked forward to, although with some trepidation. At Sisland we are hoping to run the very successful Sunday afternoon teas throughout August. We were incredibly lucky last year to have all five Sundays where the weather was dry, and many friends and neighbours supported us. The opportunity that we all gained, particularly after the winter and spring last year, to reconnect was wonderful.



We also plan, as I am sure many other communities are, to hold an event to mark the Queen's Jubilee. For previous ones we have gathered, as a community, to mark the occasion and take the opportunity to catch-up with all members of the village and those connected to it. The plans, in their early stages, will be no different this time.

At a funeral in January, when I met with the family, they were reminded of events held 20 years ago when the focus was on raising money for the church roof and the pleasure that both the fete and their memory gave them on what was a very reflective moment.

For those who have visited the church over the last few months you will have noticed that the church tower needs some work to the wooden slats, both to the front and side. We will start to focus on this fundraising and there will more details to follow, as the costs are not just in the works, but the scaffolding required to undertake it.

With that in mind, the first event we are planning is a Second-hand Book Sale, which will be held on the Bank Holiday Monday after the Easter weekend, Monday 18th April. We will have a range of fiction and non-fiction, reference through to children's book available, in the church. We would welcome anyone who would like a browse and to pop in. The church will be open all day so please make a note of the date.

Rowena Bryce (Churchwarden, Sisland)

Deliverers Wanted!

We are looking for more volunteers to deliver to St George's Park, Loddon. Currently one couple are delivering to 160 households. If you could share the load, please let the Distribution Organiser, Roger Outlaw, know. His details are on p3. Many thanks.



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Loddon Bell Ringers



Our weekly Tuesday practice nights are always well attended and the bells are rung every Sunday morning for services throughout the year. Our newest recruits are progressing well and are now able to join us to ring on a Sunday morning.

As Covid restrictions are now more relaxed, we have managed to go out to other churches and ring quarter peals. These were held at Woodton, Shotesham, North Lopham, Diss, North Elmham, Fakenham, Norwich, Ashill, Saham Tony, Watton and Castle Acre.

Two of our members have recently joined with other bands to ring two Peals. One of six surprise minor methods at Sproughton in Suffolk and another of Cambridge Surprise Royal at St Peter Mancroft in Norwich.

We are always pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in learning how to ring church bells. We are a teaching tower here at Holy Trinity and have good facilities to train new recruits. You may like to contact our tower captain, David Webb, on 01508 528468 to find out more.

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 2021.

The charities are only any good if people use them! In the past money has paid for cookers, carpets; has 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 Ann Lumley on 01508 528141 or email: annlumley150@btinternet.com. The Chedgrave fund can be accessed by contacting Rev Alison, Rev David or the church warden, Roger Outlaw—contact details on p3.

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.

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

Good news, our Head Office at Haig House, states we can have meetings again. These are good for social and mental health reasons.



Our first meeting this year is Monday 21st February. Then we follow with Monday 21st March and every third Monday thereafter. We meet in the rear room of the Library Annex, 6:45pm for 7:00pm start.

We have a noticeboard on the righthand side wall of Ann's Crafts, in Loddon. It can be read from the footpath. New members are always welcome, no past service history required, just a willingness to help support the Royal British Legion.

For any information or support, please contact: Branch Secretary: Christine Hartley, or Chairman: Colin Hartley on 01508 521136.

Chet Valley B-line

FREE! Annual & Perennial UK Wildflower Seed Mix **FREE!**

The Chet Valley B-Line is a coalition of local wildlife groups working to improve the habitats for bees, hoverflies, butterflies and other pollinating insects along the Chet from Poringland to the Yare. The continuing loss of pollinators is a conservation disaster and has huge economic consequences for global agriculture.

ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP?

Do you think you could dig over a patch 1-2 m² in your lawn, flower bed or border to plant with a mix of annual and perennial wildflower seeds to attract bees, butterflies, and other insects? Expect Poppy, Borage and Cornflower in year 1 and Lesser Knapweed, Musk Mallow, Ox Eye Daisy, Red Campion, Native Red Clover, Ribwort Plantain, Salad Burnet, Self-Heal, White Campion, Yellow Rattle year 2 onwards. The packets include full growing instructions, and the seeds are ready mixed with sand to aid sowing.

If you would like a packet of seeds, these can be collected from: Loddon Garden & DIY, Aldis & Sons Farm Shop, Framingham Earl from 23rd February-23rd March. Please ask at the counter. Sorry only one packet per person. If you are unable to get out, we can deliver. If you have questions, ideas for projects or want more information please contact:

Email: chetvalleybline@gmail.com or visit <http://berghaptonconservationtrust.org/>
Loddon area: contact Andrew on 07939 134326

We would love to see your pictures!

NB: The churchyards in Chedgrave, Loddon, Sisland are part of Chet Valley B-line. Hardley churchyard should be joining soon as well.





Our Community Needs Your Help and Your Opinion.



We need your contribution to our Neighbourhood Development Plan for Loddon and Chedgrave (CHET NDP). This will set out a vision for how we would like our community to develop over the next 10, 15, and 20 years. The plan will come for public consultation early in 2023.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- Becomes part of the development plan for South Norfolk, which means that any planning applications for new homes, businesses or other developments will be judged against its policies alongside those in the local plan;
- Describes the style of new buildings that we want to see and the best of the old that we want to preserve;
- Will set out the mix and nature of housing development—private, social, rental, affordable—all with an eye to the requirement of reducing the effects of climate change;
- Will highlight special characteristics of Loddon and Chedgrave that you particularly value;
- Will describe areas that we want to see protected from development such as our recreation areas and local nature reserves;
- Will give our community a way of guiding future growth of the parishes up until 2036;
- Will enable us effectively to influence future development in our communities.

If we do not have a plan, we simply miss a great opportunity to make our views heard.

We have a steering group comprising parish councillors from each parish and volunteers.

We Need Your Views!

It's simple to complete the survey online:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ChetNP/>

Alternatively, paper copies can be collected from Holy Trinity Church, Rosie Lees, and The Terrace, in Loddon and All Saints Church, Chet Stores, and The White Horse in Chedgrave. Completed Surveys can be deposited at the same places.

Church Services

2nd March Ash Wednesday		
7:30pm	Imposition of Ashes	St John, Loddon
4th March World Day of Prayer		
7:00pm	World Day of Prayer Service	St John, Loddon
6th March 1st Sunday of Lent		
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12noon	XPRESSIONS CAFÉ	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
13th March 2nd Sunday of Lent		
9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
20th March 3rd Sunday of Lent		
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship*	All Saints, Chedgrave
4:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
27th March Mothering Sunday		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
7:00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John, Loddon

*All Together Worship will be followed by a shared lunch.

Don't forget you can join us every Wednesday in Lent for our delicious soup lunches at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon. Full details on p30.



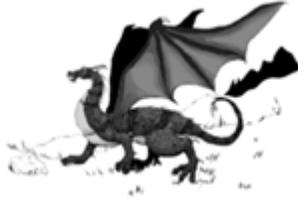
Other Services in Chet Valley Churches		
*Every Saturday 6:00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	
**Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Come and Pray</p> <p>If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing</p>	
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.

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

Church Activities

World Day of Prayer —Ecumenical Movement



The material this year has been written by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Services are on Friday 4th March as follows:

2:00pm at Ashby & Thurton Village Hall with refreshments and children's corner.

7:00pm at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon with refreshments.

For further details, including a singing rehearsal at St John's, please contact Genny Godber on 01508 528843.

Lent Lunches

They stopped abruptly in 2020 and were not possible in 2021, but now they're back!

Come to the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, for a simple meal of homemade soup, bread, and tea or coffee between 12:00 noon and 1:30pm on Wednesdays in Lent:

Wednesday 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March, 6th April.

Anyone and everyone welcome!

Donations will be in aid of the Bishop's Lent Appeal, to support the purchase of beds for the Sag Sag Health Centre in Papua New Guinea. Sag Sag is a very remote community, surrounded by rain-forest. It has a building for the health centre, and it has people, but no beds and no equipment. It needs our help!

If you would like to help with providing soup or by being part of the serving team then please contact Belinda Barwick on 01508 520351 or belindabarwick@yahoo.co.uk

Community Groups, News and Events

News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon and District Women's Institute

Apologies for not sending in our news for the February magazine! By the time you are reading this our members will have enjoyed what I'm sure will have been an interesting and enjoyable talk given by Wally Webb on '40 years of Norfolk Radio'.

It's good to be able to report that not only have we survived the last two years, but have got off to a really good start in 2022 with seven new members and a full and exciting programme planned for the rest of the year. A warm welcome will be given to anyone who would like to join us.

In spite of the lifting of Covid regulations we are asking our members to continue to take care by sanitising hands on arrival, wearing masks and, as much as possible, observing social distancing. It would also be appreciated if a rapid flow test was done prior to the meeting.

Next Meeting: March 16th Lynton Johnson will give us a flower arranging demonstration entitled 'Four Seasons'. 7:15 for 7:30pm. St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon.

For further information we can be contacted through our Facebook page or by calling 01508 528656.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our new President, Audrey welcomed members to the February meeting; Angela, our speaker, gave us an informative and interesting talk about why she went to Ghana and some of what she did there.

22nd March will be our birthday meeting and is likely to be at The Swan, Loddon, for a celebratory lunch.

For further information, please contact Audrey, 528393 or Angela 521120.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

Sadly this branch of the Women's Institute has permanently closed.

All Saints Churchyard Clear-up—Saturday 12th March

On Saturday 12th March from 9:30-12noon there will be an opportunity to come and help us tidy up the churchyard in preparation for the Spring.

As well as removing the Christmas wreaths we will be pruning and weeding, sweeping up leaves and cones.

Bring your own tools. Refreshments provided.

Please do come and join us.





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Sport

Footballers Wanted!

A friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astro Turf every **Thursday** evening from 8:00-9:00pm for a non-competitive kick about to keep fit and socialise. We are looking for like-minded people to join us now restrictions have been lifted.

£3:00 per session. First session free.

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



Chedgrave Table Tennis Club

We are a small, mixed group who would welcome a few new players who are able to attend on a Thursday afternoon on a regular basis. We are neither beginners nor league players and play mainly doubles. If you are interested, please phone Carole on 01508 520589.



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

If you have never tried short mat bowls why not give it a go? We are a very friendly, non-competitive club, that plays in groups of up to four people. New members and beginners are very welcome. We meet on **Tuesday** 1:30-3:30pm in the Jubilee Hall. Just bring flat indoor shoes (no heels), the right money—£3, and a sense of humour. We have spare bowls. For more information call 01508 521958.



Short Tennis Club

Come and join our friendly non-competitive club on **Tuesdays** 11:30am-1:00pm at Jubilee Hall. All welcome. For more information call 01508 520589.



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?

At the Loddon Ladies Hockey Club 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 **Monday** nights at Langley School (NR14 6BJ), 7:00pm-8:30pm.

For more information please see our website at www.loddonhockey.com or email hello@loddonhockey.com



Ashby St Mary Cricket Club

We are a small village club, which plays home games at Ashby Hall "The Meadow", a wonderful location.

For more information, please contact Paul Clemence on 01508 218078.

Hobart Badminton Club

Players wanted! Come and join our friendly club of all ages from 16+. Playing experience desirable. We meet at Hobart sports hall, **Tuesday** evenings from 7:30-9:30pm. Cost £5:00, first session free! For more information contact Terry on: tezzahayden99@gmail.com





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Loddon Community Gym

We are thrilled with all the new equipment bought with the grant from Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund. It shows that they have confidence in the gym!

A few weeks ago I took part in a training session about how to encourage more people to be active as they get older. Apparently, 40% of those aged 55-74 are almost totally inactive and a whopping 62% of those over 75 are inactive. Evidence suggests even just one session of exercise improves sleep, mood and cognition, increases metabolism and offers social interaction. The long-term benefits are increased muscle power and strength and reduced likelihood of strokes, heart disease, diabetes, eight different cancers, depression, dementia, osteoporosis and back pain. Regular exercise improves posture, reduces the risk of falls, helps maintain a healthy weight and improves mental health.

The gym is not for everyone but if you come along you will be made very welcome. Your needs, goals and general fitness will be taken into account and all the exercises will be carefully explained and demonstrated. Some gym members wear lycra and are very fit indeed but most just wear comfortable clothes, enjoy the company and work as hard as they can on the programme that Louise has designed especially for them. Whatever your age, size, shape or fitness level there will be someone like you.

If you want to see the gym in action please call in, see for yourself and talk to Louise or go to our website: www.loddoncommunitygym.com for more information.

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

Monday:1.30-6:00pm; Tuesday 4:30-8:30pm; Friday10:100am-1:00pm.

Annual fee £20; Cashless payment of £5 per session on arrival.

Hales and Loddon Cricket Club

There are a few places available at Hales and Loddon indoor coaching programme: Softball 6:00-7:00pm and Hardball 7:00-8:00pm. Sessions led by Norfolk player Sam Arthurton.

Volunteers wanted: After a success season on the field, where the club won the T20 cup Division 4 East title as well as the Fair Play Award, we are looking to push ahead and provide a new facility to improve the club for years to come. We would like to build a new clubhouse on our Hales ground and we are looking for people to help us with grant applications etc. If you have a few hours spare, please contact chairman Pete Dye: Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk.



Jubilee Hall Jumble Sale

The Jubilee Hall (Charity Number 285015) is holding a jumble sale on 19th March 2022 10:00am-2:00pm. Donations of jumble/bric a brac etc are welcomed. Please contact the hall via email on jubileehallloddon@btconnect.com.

Laura Bolderston (Secretary)

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Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

Did you know there was one? Where? It's 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). The club is in the process of being updated: suspended ceiling installed; new LED lights; hall redecorated.

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.

Chet Staithe Probus Club

Recently retired or just moved to the area? Missing male company, on your own, or just want to get out and meet new people? Why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club? We are friendly and informal; jackets and ties not required. Members range in age from 60 to almost 100. Meetings are on the first and third **Tuesday** of the month at The White Horse, Chedgrave, 10:00am-12:00 noon with the option of staying for lunch. Last month we celebrated our 400th meeting; we must be doing something right! The event was marked by a jovial lunch with many guests also welcomed. Spring and summer activities are now being planned, including a visit to the 'History of Advertising Trust' at Raveningham.

Contact cliveboyd@btconnect.com or 01508 520547.



Chet Valley Probus Club

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 10:30am. Our next meetings are:

Tuesday 22nd February: Jim Stebbings *The Lusitania*.

Tuesday 8th March: Sally Dearman *Women Can Fly (7 miles a minute)*.

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, NR14 6JN; Tel: 01508 521899.

Chet Valley Photography Club

Our next club meeting on Monday 14th March is "My Journey in Mono" by Kylie-Ann Martin. Kylie-Ann will explain how she got into photography. In 2006/7 Kylie-Ann was suffering very badly with ME and fibromyalgia and had debilitating anxiety attacks regularly. She had lost her job, friends, social life and identity. Her self-confidence was at rock bottom and she didn't envisage having much of a future at all. Photography, along with other self-help techniques, helped her to repair her mind and body. Do look at her website: www.kylie-annmartinphotography.weebly.com.



If you would like to come along to our meetings please do. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. For more details please see our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

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Social Whist

We are back and meeting every 2nd and 4th **Friday** of each month.

We meet in the back room of The Hollies at around 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start. The evening is just what it says, 'Social Whist'—a chance to get together and to play 12 hands of whist with a cup of tea/coffee, a biscuit, and a chat, half way through. You don't need to have a partner, or even know how to play well. If you want a fun social evening, with a bit of thinking added in, this could be for you. We are very mindful of COVID 19 regulations and are listening to our players to ensure they feel safe. Do join us. If you need a lift to/ from The Hollies this can be arranged—please call me (Jane) on 528875 and we'll see what can be organised. All funds raised are for charity.



Loddon WEA

Mary Fewster is giving us ten 1½ hour talks on "The Company of Preachers". These will show how the religious changes that have taken place in East Anglia over the centuries since the Reformation are revealed in buildings, artefacts and documents, and will also describe the vibrant characters of 'the preachers'. The course has begun and apparently is jolly good so far. The next talk will be in the Jubilee Hall Clubroom on 28th March at 2:00pm.

To enrol for the course, please phone 0300 303 3464 and ask to register for the course by name, giving the WEA reference number, which is C222 8492. The cost will be £59.25, which can be paid either over the phone or by handing a cheque to the branch treasurer at the first talk. Any further queries, please phone: 01508 521036 or 521976.



Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the last **Wednesday** of each month for a talk from a guest speaker and refreshments. A yearly fee is charged and £3.00 for each meeting attended to cover refreshments and outlays.

Next meeting: Wednesday 30th March Mr Roger Outlaw will give a talk on Through the Gates to Prison Life. His talk will be accompanied by slides. NB: We have changed venue again and now meet in the back room of The Hollies in Loddon High Street. Same time: 8 o'clock.

For more information contact Hillary 01508 520457 or June on 01508 528853.



Chet Valley Voices

Chet Valley Voices are hoping to restart but need to have enough members to make it viable. All abilities welcome; age 18+. The venue will be St John's Chapel, George Lane, 7:00-8:30pm. This is a large spacious airy building with wheelchair access. £5 on the night.

If you are interested in joining and would like some information on the new format we are looking at, please contact our secretary: 01508 528069, suemartin303@btinternet.com or chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com.



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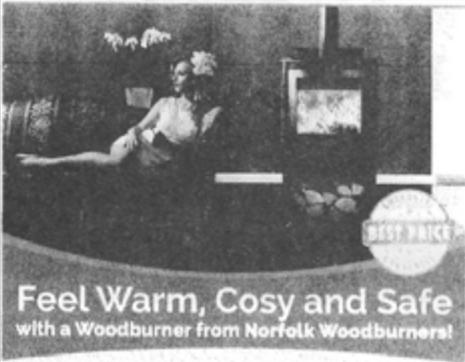
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Loddon Community Cinema

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



Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

Plans are being made!

Our first event of 2022 is a trip to Raveningham Gardens. This will be on Tuesday 22nd March, starting at 10:30am. After a *Meet and Greet Visit* we can then walk at leisure through the grounds. Tea, coffee and cake included. £8.50 per person.

Please book by 11th March. Contact June 01508 528853.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

On 9th March we have invited Dr Tony Leech with his talk 'Witches and Devils'; *folklore and poisonings*. This is a talk on fungi. The meeting starts at 7:30pm and will be followed by a raffle and refreshments. The meeting is held at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon. Visitors £2.



Membership of our club is £10 per year and if you would like to join you will be made most welcome. In January we welcomed four new members.

Further details from Chairman: Jean Cope on 01502 710024; e-mail jeancope52@gmail.com or Secretary: Hazel Copland on 01508 520890 or e-mail happyhaze50@gmail.com.

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). Our 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.



The next lecture will be as follows:

Wednesday 2nd March: The Posters of the Belle Epoch: the great Age of the Poster.

This will follow the AGM which starts at 10:45am.

Guests are welcome to join us for an individual lecture but there will be a small charge. If you wish to become a member of our society, the contact details are on the Website: <https://theartssociety.org/waveney-valley>

Deliverers Wanted!

We are looking for more volunteers to deliver to St George's Park, Loddon. Currently one couple are delivering to 160 households. If you could share the load, please let the distribution organiser, Roger Outlaw, know. His details are on p3. Many thanks.



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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.

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.

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For further details please ring Michael Osborne on 01508 522034.

Loddon Flower Club

At our next meeting on 1st March we have Vickie Hease coming with her demonstration entitled 'A Vintage Affair'. Our meetings are held at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB. Doors open at 6:30pm and the meeting starts at 7:00pm. Visitors £6. A raffle for the arrangements is held at the end of the evening.



Take a look at our website at www.loddonflowerclubco.uk. We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions.

Contact: Tricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or email tricia646@aol.com; or Alex Pinder on 01508 493869 or email nmark@aol.com.

With Gratitude...

Joyce and Alan Lavender would like to thank friends and neighbours for all their kind thoughts and prayers over the last few months. Thank you very much for the many beautiful flowers, presents, cards and cakes. We are so very grateful for the wonderful and kind support from so many people. Slowly but surely Joyce is making steady progress.

Miriam, Jean and friends wish to thank everyone who gave, and came to support the tombola for the Big C on the Victorian evening. £220 was raised. Thank you all again, Miriam.

NB This latter thank you was omitted from the February edition for which Roger, the editor of that edition, apologises.

Deliverers Wanted!



We are looking for more volunteers to deliver to St George's Park, Loddon. Currently one couple are delivering to 160 households. If you could share the load, please let the distribution organiser, Roger Outlaw, know. His details are on p3. Many thanks.

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- **Colouring Club** Monday, 3:30-4:30pm. Come and colour yourself calm with our ever-changing array of colouring sheets. Leave them in the library to brighten up our walls. Suitable for all ages.
- **Board Games** Thursday, 3:30-4:30pm. Suitable for all ages.
- **Backgammon Club** Thursday, 12noon-2:00pm. Learn to play backgammon and play against our volunteer.
- **Knit, Crochet, & Natter** 2nd Thursday of the month, 2:30-3:30pm. Pop in to learn a new skill or to chat to friends whilst you knit. Refreshments provided.
- **Just a Cuppa** Friday 10:30am-12:30pm. Pop into the library for a free tea or coffee, chat to others in the library or our staff.
- **Loddon Loves Book Group** 2nd and last Fridays of the month, 5:45-6:45pm. Come and discuss the chosen book for the month. Advance booking essential. Please use the details below to book.
- **LEGO Club** Saturday 2:20-3:30pm. Suitable for children aged 5+.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

The January lecture by David Wollweber was fascinating, particularly, as he had researched the information online for his book on the de Argentein family. The surname comes from the place, Argentein, in France and it is probable that Sir Reginald (died 1130) came over to England in the wake of William the Conqueror's success. He was given a manor in Halesworth when he promised to serve the first cup of wine at the coronation banquet which explains why the family shield consisted of three cups on a red background. The family owned a lot of land and not just around Halesworth which they lost at times when one of them fell out with the reigning King but they seemed to get it back again too. They were important men at local and national levels participating in significant events as the life of Sir Richard (1185-1246) demonstrates. He joined the 6th crusade but was captured and imprisoned with twenty other knights until a truce released them. He acquired the manor of Newmarket too and was permitted to set up markets in both Suffolk manors as long as he gave King Henry III two horses a year. Later on, when the barons wanted to reign in the King's expenditure, Sir Richard was one of the signatories on the Magna Carta of 1225 which shows his importance.

Sir Giles (1220-1282) was also a man of influence as he became one of fifteen barons who set up a council to 'reform the realm' in 1258 before he joined Simon de Montfort's rebellion in 1264 which resulted in Henry III's capture. Sir Giles was appointed to a council of eight to run the country but this was short lived after the barons were defeated at the Battle of Evesham by the future Edward I who decided to rule for his father. As a result of his disloyalty Sir Giles lost a lot of his land but much was returned later on.

The next Sir Giles (1260-1314) had an eventful life too. He took part in Edward I's campaigns and was known as a great knight and crusader but sometimes he made odd judgements such as when he deserted from Edward's army in Scotland in 1302 to go jousting in Surrey. His lands were confiscated and then returned to be confiscated again in 1306 when he deserted once more. In 1310 he went on crusade, was captured and held to ransom on Rhodes. Edward II managed to obtain his release and made him his personal bodyguard. Giles died at the Battle of Bannockburn.

The wife of the next Sir John (1270-1318) made the family even wealthier through a later marriage as she died in 1375 controlling 28 manors. Her son, Sir John (1318-1382), was involved in putting down peasant revolts in Mettingham and Beccles in 1381. He named his illegitimate son, William (1350-1418), as his heir and William continued with the family's military traditions by fighting in the 100 Years' War. He was also involved in stealing wine from the King. The family land eventually passed to the husbands of two female heirs. There is evidence that a Dr John de Argentein (1442-1508) may have been one of the last people to see the Princes in the Tower alive as their doctor. He became the tutor to Prince Arthur, Henry VII's son.

Next Meeting:

March 16th: Dr Adrian Marsden on Seventeenth Century Yarmouth Tokens.
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Read Any Good Books Lately?

Barbara Throws a Wobler by Nadia Shireen

This picture book is one of my favourites published last year. It details Barbara having a VERY bad day. Things go from bad to worse and before long it's time for her to EXPLODE! What I really love is the way it shows children (and maybe adults too!) how to cope when they lose control of their emotions.

The Night Hawks by Elly Griffiths

The 13th book in Elly Griffiths' Ruth Galloway mystery stories. This one is centred around the legend of East Anglia's Black Shuck and finds the archaeologist Ruth and DCI Harry Nelson teaming up for another murder mystery. I really like it when a novel has a good sense of place and the fact this series is mainly based in North Norfolk is a real plus for me! The characters are very likeable with human flaws and it's a good easy read. The Locked Room is the 14th book and that is now out in hardback.

Three Hours by Rosamund Lupton

This is a true thriller and one that I almost couldn't bear to keep reading – due in part to the subject matter. A school is held hostage to a terrorist attack and staff and police must work out where the threat is coming from and who it's coming for. The three hours in the title refers to the time frame the novel is set in – it's nail-biting stuff!

The Lost Daughter by Elena Ferrante

A much-lauded film from the tail-end of last year (now available on Netflix) and based on the book by one of my favourite authors. Her Neapolitan series, starting with My Brilliant Friend, is also very worth a read.

The Lost Daughter introduces us to Leda who is holidaying on her own down in south Italy. She meets a family, including a young mother and daughter, who she becomes fascinated by – in the weirdly, spooky sense! This novel explores the relationship between mothers and daughters and the crushing weight of becoming and being a parent.

On the 'To Be Read' Pile!

The Man Who Died Twice by Richard Osman – I very much enjoyed the Thursday Murder Club and this should be a nice light read for the gloomy winter months!

The Promise by Damon Galgut Winner of the Booker 2021, and a Christmas present which I'm very much anticipating settling down to. The subject matter doesn't automatically grab me but neither did the previous winner Shuggie Bain, and that ended up being one of the best books I read last year.

Ruth Redford



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Nature Notes

Where to start? I have had a very interesting January and hopefully I can squeeze it all into this article. At the last moment I decided I would keep a bird year list and to date I have stalled at 118, without travelling that far. Highlights have been a red necked grebe at Ormsby Little Broad which was conveniently posing with a great crested grebe. This enabled those watching them to compare the two species at close quarters. An obliging hawfinch at Sotterley Park, just 30 yards off the road along the permissive footpath to the church, allowed me to get some reasonable photos. While at RSPB Minsmere, as well as a bittern, there was an American wader, a lesser yellow legs, a bird I have only seen twice before. I enjoyed watching the common cranes coming into roost at Stubbs Mill, Hickling along with numerous marsh harriers and three hen harriers. A walk along the north beach at Kessingland produced a flock of around 90 snow buntings along with a solitary shorelark and several “clockwork” sanderlings; I think they are my favourite wader, I love just watching them as they run along the shoreline in their stop start fashion.

Walking along the bank of the Yare during the middle of January, I saw an impressive flock of lapwings on the Cantley side of the river. Looking back upstream I realised that the sky was full of them stretching all the way to Claxton. Walking this stretch in early February, I saw the first local barn owl in six months. There does seem to be a dearth of them this year, borne out by talking with other people. The only other barn owl I have seen this year was at Mundham sitting on a footpath sign right next to the road. Coming home at dusk, my car lights floodlit a little owl trying to move a rat (half its size) out of the road. Initially it flew off, but quickly returned and with much effort dragged the rat off the road up the bank and into a copse. Just hope it didn't try to swallow it! While on the subject of predators and prey, the other day I had a front seat view of a stoat dragging off a rabbit.



Hares are now becoming more obvious in the fields. Thus far we have not seen any *Mad March Hare* antics as the female hare fights off any unwanted suitors. I felt very privileged to watch a water vole swim across a dyke by Hardley Staithe. Growing up in Kent they were a regular sight on the marshes, and the “plop” of them entering the water was a common occurrence. The mole(s) that in the past have stuck to the front lawn, this year have invaded the back garden; it is fascinating to watch the mole hill erupt as the mole pushes up the next lot of his excavation.

March will see the beginning of summer migrants return and we will be serenaded by the chiffchaff again. We will also begin to see more insects about as the weather warms up. Mind you I did see a bumble bee in January in the dunes at Minsmere.

Richard and Rachel Hull



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Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

March is **the** time for planting, but the British weather can be very changeable, so you need to vary planting times based on the conditions. Don't rush to plant seeds or tubers if it's frosty or the ground is waterlogged. Wait for the right conditions and the plants will catch up all on their own.

You should be able to continue harvesting rhubarb if you are forcing it. There are special (and expensive pots) on the market for doing this, but you can also succeed using upturned tall plant pots or buckets. Timperley Early is good variety for forcing.

The autumn planted broad beans are well up, but I have had re-sow the spring broad beans in the greenhouse due to mice digging up and eating the seeds. This is the last chance to sow garlic though ideally this should have been planted in late Autumn. My potatoes are chitting and I would like to get the first and second earlies in soon. I know this will expose the growing tips to the inevitable late frosts. I will protect against this by covering them with straw or fleece when a frost is imminent. This is also the time to plant asparagus crowns. They need plenty of space, a sheltered, sunny site with well-drained fertile soil. The crowns should be planted on a raised mound with the roots trailing down the sides. As a perennial you can harvest asparagus for years to come so it is worth spending time getting the bed right.



From the Garden

Hopefully your gardens have survived the cold winds and rain and you have lots of plans for this year's garden display. Bare-root tree and hedge planting needs to be completed this month. Other jobs to be completed include pruning of shrubs and roses, weeding and mulching, along with sowing annuals, bi-annuals and perennials for summer bedding. Large overgrown clumps of primroses can be split up and replanted, and snowdrops divided whilst still in the green. Daffodils can be deadheaded but leave the stems and leaves to die down naturally and give them a good feed to encourage good flower heads for next year. The sweet peas have survived so no need to resow, although the *cupani* variety were a lot slower to germinate. The lupins I sowed from seed collected in a friend's garden have produced eight seedlings to plant up; I wonder what colours I get. The chilis and tomatoes are looking good. I will try lettuce this year in the cold frame to protect from pigeons. In pots I will try *Bessera elegans* known as coral drops, a tender bulb with bright orange flowers and *Osteospermum* as there are now many colours to choose from. The new tropical border will be planted up with Cannas, Agapanthus and *Hedychium*, a ginger lily which is hardy enough to leave in all year.

End Piece

Urgent Appeal for Nature

The plight of our wildlife and its decline must now be evident to everyone in the country. The need for more wild spaces, in which our essential creatures can survive, is a necessity that we can no longer ignore.

Most of us have gardens, whether big or small, and I am appealing to you all in the coming year please to be less tidy in them. Leaving areas of grass unmown, planting insect-friendly annuals and buying plants from guaranteed sources, that have not been treated with chemicals, can all help to provide food and breeding areas for all of those creatures at the bottom of the food chain that are so essential to life. If we, together, can use our personal spaces to increase numbers once more, then the birds that we love to watch will increase too as their food supply for young chicks will be abundant once more. Please, when planning your garden this year, consider the many unseen creatures like beetles, wood lice, worms and caterpillars that are vital for life and help them to thrive. Do not poison them with chemical sprays and cleaners, leave moss in the cracks of paths and allow the dandelions and daisies, that we used to see in abundance, to appear once again. It really doesn't have to look a mess and you can control it to suit your needs. Just consider that gardens may be their only haven left in this modern world of concrete and we have it within our power to all, individually, do something about it. Thank you. Carol Webb.

Wasting the Planet

With a personal history of growing food that is lost in the mists of time, I was horrified to hear of the mountains of wasted crops still being produced in this country of ours. The over-strict grading regulations were bad enough, preventing perfectly good edible fruit and vegetables, if not of conforming shapes, from entering the food chain. Consumers seem to have been brainwashed by major retailers that this is what they want!

Every gardener knows that a bent runner bean or carrot tastes just as good as the top-grade model. Fortunately, particularly for those on modest incomes, shops and farmers markets are now able to offer these for sale. We also have TV chefs offering home cooks hints on re-cycling food into tasty meals instead of consigning it to the bin. That helps the consumer, and the local council who require less energy-depleting resources to dump it. The last straw came when I read recently that some supermarkets (not locally) had dumped more than a few unsold turkeys at Christmas. Even if this wasn't the tip of an iceberg or a criminal offence, it is morally wrong. Think of all the hard work producing them: wasted! As my school reports remarked—could do better! Terry Read.



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