CHET CONTACT Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

4400

May2023



Chet Valley Churches

All Saints Chedgrave Spring Fair and Plant Sale Saturday 13th May

10:00-12:00

Plants, Cakes & Preserves, Games, Books, Crafts, Bottle Tombola, Refreshments...

Bird Trail in the churchyard.

Loddon Junior School Eco-Council will be joining us for the morning.

All Welcome

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen:	01508 522993	david.chetvalley@gmail.com 🔤
Ros Hoffmann:	01508 548200	<u>roshoffmann2011@gmail.com</u>
Alison Ball:	01508 528126	ball880am@btinternet.com
Jill Haylock:	01508 520248	jillhaylock@aol.com
Martin Keenan:	01502 560178	<u>martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk</u>
Andrew Eburne:	01508 494770	<u>frandreweburne@gmail.com</u>

Church Office—closed at present.

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

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

The e-mail account is being monitored regularly.



Weddings, Baptisms, Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of a Child To arrange any of the above please contact Rev David on 01508 522993. Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches The Diocese of Norwich

www.chetvalleychurches.org www.dioceseofnorwich.org

-Chet Contact

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 Roberts & Son 01508 520221

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

Donations

Contributions towards production costs of Chet Contact, can be made as follows: Account Name: Chet Contact Magazine, Sorting Code: 20-92-08, Account No: 70724742

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From the Editor

There is a lot happening at the start of May, with the Coronation and all.

A lot of our local organisations have one thing or another going on around the national events of the weekend so please browse through and see what's what. If you need a break from all the delights on offer for the big event l'm sure you can find something for you too.

As Spring gets going we can take a few moments to look back on the Winter and reflect on just how many of our local societies, clubs, churches and councils have contributed to caring for others during the cold weather and the dramatic economic changes that arose in the later part of last year.

There is always a good element of support for the needy but, if my interpretation of all that has gone into Chet Contact over the Winter is accurate, we have outdone ourselves. Long may it continue! In a world where we so often see people "pass by on the other side" it has been heart warming to see the contributions to providing warm spaces, food at the Library Community Larder, hot meals during school holidays for children and some weekdays for adults. All of these initiatives have been created by local people for local people and while it's in some ways a sad reflection on society that they are needed at all, it is good to know that there are people among and around us ready to step up to help. I'm sure we all thank them.

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	Contents					
Cover: Coronation portrait CNN	N	Highlights				
Across the Chet Valley Churches	7-9	All Saints Spring Fair	2			
From the Parish Registers	11	Important Note—Local Elections	21			
From Your Local Councillors	13	Loddon Flower Club-busy year	24			
Parish Council News	15-23	Chet Valley Art Society	25			
Church Notices and Services	26-27	Confirmation/Adult Baptism	27			
Community News	28-39	Church Coffee/Café events	11, 25			
History Society	43	Holiday Club this Summer	30			
Read Any Good Books Lately?	45	Neighbourhood Plan	34			
Nature Notes	47	What goes on at The Hollies?	50			
Allotment & Gardening Notes	49	Bungay Voices Concert	50			

Roger

Ministerial Musings

The month of May brings us to the great feast of Pentecost, and the birthday of the Church.

It's an event of high drama – not least for the disciples themselves, who are empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Himself gives them that gift – 'Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit – on the day of Resurrection. But in order to reach the disciples He has to get through the locked door of the Upper Room. The disciples of course had locked themselves away, in fear. They were hidden from the world.

On the day of Pentecost, however, 50 days later, the Holy Spirit descends just as Jesus promised – and how amazing is the change in them!

They're not locked away any more: they go out into the public square, 'telling of the mighty works of God.' Preaching to complete strangers.

That is the strength given to them, by the Holy Spirit.

For many of us it can be daunting, living out our faith in public; speaking up about our faith. Letting people know Who it is we believe in, and the difference that He makes to our lives.

The temptation for us is to lock our faith away, like the disciples in the upper room – lock our faith away so that no-one sees it and no-one gives us any trouble because of it. So much safer to keep our faith hidden away, under lock and key.

But we do not have to rely on our own strength, to live out our faith in public; and we do not have to rely on our own strength, to speak of the mighty works of the Lord and all He has done for us.

This is why we are given the Holy Spirit. This is His job: to strengthen us, just as He strengthened the apostles.

So if we feel intimidated, the key is to not rely on our own strength – just as the disciples do not rely on their own strength – but to invite into our lives the Holy Spirit, and His power; and trust in Him, not in ourselves.

Have a wonderful, Spirit-filled feast of Pentecost! Fr Andrew



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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 monthly.

Morning Worship is held regularly in Loddon and Hardley. **Evening Prayer** on the 3rd Sunday of the month in Sisland.

Xpressions Café is on the first Sunday of the month at Chedgrave. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church', with coffee, cake, discussion, crafts, games, stories, reflection and much more.

All Together Worship is on the third Sunday every month at Chedgrave, with a shared lunch available in Jan, March, June and Sept.

All Together Worship is designed to be as inclusive as possible: a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness, which will connect with children and adults of all ages and backgrounds.

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

Xtra! is an exciting, informal service after school, every Thursday at 3.45pm in St John's Church with refreshments from 3:15pm.

Loddon and Chedgrave regularly offer a chance to enjoy a chat over refreshments after services.

Toilets and baby-changing facilities at Chedgrave and St John's, Loddon.

Families are welcome at all of our services

Home Communion: If you would like home communion, because you are unable for any reason to get to a Sunday service, please contact the Rector or one of the clergy.

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





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Thanksgivings & Baptisms

You are welcome to talk to us about thanksgiving and baptism (christening) for your children. Thanksgiving Services give an opportunity to come to the church and give thanks to God for the gift of a new child. Baptisms (Christenings) are an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the new life we have in lesus 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 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 join



us at St John's Lecture Hall on the first Thursday of the month. Make new friends, enjoy tea or lunch together.

4th May for a Salad Lunch at 12.30pm followed by a talk about the work at Fritton Owl Sanctuary. On Ist June the meeting begins at 1.30pm with a demonstration of period costume, followed by afternoon tea.

If you'd like to join the group, please ring Rev Jill on 01508 520248.

Monday Mardles

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



some new friends, join us at a Monday Mardles for refreshments and to swap books at Chedgrave Church Rooms.

Mardles are held every Monday 10:00am-12:00 noon. Come and go as you choose. On average, there are about 8-12 people who come to Mardles, and there's room for more! You will be made very welcome.

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



From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

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

Weddings

Funerals

John Harper who died on 28th March 2023 Funeral: 18th April 2023 at Waveney Crematorium Brian Malcolm Bloom who died on 19th March 2023 Funeral: 24th April 2023 at Waveney Crematorium

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord for ever. I Thessalonians 4:14, 17b

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

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

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

Rev David can also be contacted about interment of ashes.

Coffee Morning

Come and enjoy coffee and chat

and help raise funds for

Holy Trinity Church



Saturday 27 May

5 Rowan Drive, Loddon

There will also be a cake stall and a raffle, so come prepared!

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News From Your Local Councillors



Potholes - We still have many problems

with potholes. If you come across one, please report it on the Norfolk County Council website. This will give you an enquiry number. If it isn't fixed in reasonable time, then let me know. I will chase it up with my Highways Engineer to find out what is happening. Having an enquiry number makes this easier to do, as it has already been logged.

A146 - The new roundabout at Loddon has made a massive difference to safety at this junction. I am aware that it is not looking its best though and I am pursuing this to get the dead trees removed and replanted and for some regular maintenance to take place.

The extension to the 50mph speed limit at the Hellington Bends is likely to happen later this year. I am awaiting the issue of the Road Traffic Order that will enable us to replace the signage and reduce the speed limit on this dangerous stretch of road.

If you have any issues or I can help in any way, please contact me at <u>kay.masonbillig.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk</u> **Councillor Kay Mason-Billig**

Hi all, By the time people are reading this column, our deliveries of cards, daffodils and Easter eggs will be being delivered around Loddon and Chedgrave. Many thanks to the huge number of people who nominated family, friends and neighbours, as well of course to the amazing team of ChetChat volunteers

As ever, our ChetChat group volunteers are always on hand, giving help and support to our over-60s friends and neighbours. If you ever need any help give us a ring on **07944 858929**.



As well as my regular surgeries in the library, please ring me anytime on 07733323581 if I can help you. Councillor Jeremy Rowe

The Poringland Singers present Feel the Spirit

A musical evening in Holy Trinity Church, Loddon

on Saturday 3 June at 7.30pm

Tickets: £9 to include interval refreshments

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Chedgrave Parish Council

All enguiries 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 met on 30th March 2023 (in lieu of April Meeting)

Coronation: The parish council invites everyone in Chedgrave to "dress" their property to celebrate the coronation – bunting, planting or anything royal! Please send a picture of your property to chedgrave.pc@gmail.com by Tuesday 12^{th} May. The council will decide the winner and a prize will be awarded. Go on, get involved! Tree and bulb planting is planned for autumn and the council will be calling for volunteers to help.

Easter Egg Hunt: Hopefully by the time you read this, lots of fun was had at the Easter Egg Hunt on 10th April.

Community Speedwatch: Bob Demain is organising training for volunteers who wish to participate in Community Speedwatch. A few more volunteers would be really helpful so if you wish to get involved with this scheme to help reduce speeding in the village, please contact Bob Demain via chedgravespeedwatch@hotmail.com

Langley Road Development: The parish council will be drawing up a 'wish list' of improvements it will request as part of the Section 106 planning negotiations. If you have any views or suggestions on this, please contact the Clerk.

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

Vandalism: There has been yet more petty vandalism in the village with a new hedge being damaged and daffodils destroyed. It's very disheartening to see and costs everyone in our village money to make repairs if damage is to parish council (your!) property. Please respect our village and its facilities.

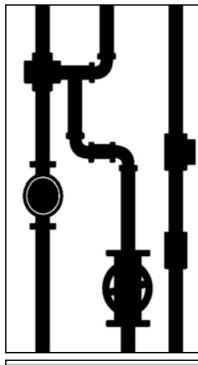
Brian Clarke Room: A well-equipped modern bright room, including access to free WIFI and table tennis tables. Booking enquiries should be made to Georgina Buckle via brianclarkeroom@gmail.com or 07981 856270.

Next Meeting: Thursday IIth May at 7pm in the Brian Clarke Room. NB. this may change depending on the outcome of parish council elections. 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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Loddon Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis. Tel: 01508 522020 Email: <u>clerk@loddonpc.org.uk</u>. Website: <u>www.loddonpc.org.uk</u>; Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC

Coronation Celebration – Sunday 7 May 2023, 1.00pm - LODDON

5.00pm: Help us celebrate the Coronation! LPC is organising live music on Church Plain and Children's entertainment in the Hollies, a Play Bus and stalls at the Staithe, stalls in St Johns Chapel and open house at Holy Trinity Church. Due to the partial closure of Church Plain Car Park, alternative parking has been made available at Hobart High School's Sports Hall Car Park and Chet Valley Medical Practice.

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

Local elections-on 4th May in the Hollies and you will have an opportunity to vote for your local representative. Don't forget to bring ID, more information below.

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

Freedom of Loddon: Thank you for your nominations. The award will be presented at the Coronation Celebration on Sunday 7 May 2023.

Big south Norfolk Litter Pick: Join us on Church Plain on Sunday 11 June 10.00-12.00. Pickers and bags will be provided.

Chet Valley Community Larder

Thank you so much for the donations that are being received for the Community Larder, the need is great at the moment. The larder is in Loddon Library/LPC's lobby and is open to everyone. Open Monday to Friday - 8.00am - 7.00pm, Saturday - 8.00am - 4.00pm, Sunday - 10.00am - 4.00pm.

Meeting dates, contact information and updates can all be found on the Parish Council website: <u>www.loddonpc.org.uk</u> or call 01508 522 020.

Contact Loddon Parish Council: The office is open between 9.00am – 12.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Should you wish to contact the Council, please email; <u>info@loddonpc.org</u>.uk If there is a genuine out of hours emergency, please call; 01508 486 128, at any other time, please use 01508 522 020.



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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Position Vacant. Tel: 07703 124544 Email: <u>clerk@halesand heckingham-pc.gov.uk</u> Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/Hales & Heckingham Parish Council



Until a new clerk is appointed, parish councillors will monitor the clerk's email address.

Our next Parish Council Meeting is on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7:30pm, and

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be on Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7:30pm.

Food and drink will be made available on the evening, and we encourage as many residents as possible to come along on the 16th May to hear about what's gone on over the last year. Please do keep an eye on the Village Notice Board and our Facebook page to find out who our guest speaker will be.

All our meetings are held at the Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on our website 3 days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same place.

Community Volunteering Scheme – We continue to seek your help in supporting community projects to improve village life. Please let us know if you have some time and would like to get involved by contacting us via email. Your support and involvement would be very much welcomed.

Community Hero – We would also like to hear from you if you feel someone deserves to be thanked and acknowledged for their help and support as well as positively contributing to village life.

Village vandalism – Sadly, there has been a spate of vandalism in the village and some of this has been reported to the police. Please can we encourage all residents to respect our village and facilities including street signs. Can we also encourage residents, whilst being mindful, to report any unusual activity to Vicky Bailey, South Norfolk Engagement Officer via email: victoria.bailey@norfolk.police.uk

Christmas Service at St Gregory's Church – As previously noted last month, we have provisionally reserved Sunday 10th December at 3pm for this year's Christmas Carol Service. Numbers are limited to sixty. We are now seeking volunteers to help with the organisation and management. Please let us know if you can help. Thank you.

Loddon Country Market

Now the weather is improving we hope to have our flower and plant stall outside the Hollies. Inside you will find a lovely selection of home cooked goodies including sweet and savoury dishes, snacks, preserves, local fresh eggs etc. Don't forget we also have an interesting selection of local crafts and cards, ideal for gifts or treats.

Why not join us for a coffee and cake, you will be warmly welcomed. Every Tuesday at the Hollies, 10 to 11.30 am.

For more info contact Sheila Ford ,Chairman 01508 520752

Davy Place .

Wanted— volunteers for our social club, an outings and events person and a media person, anyone interested please contact Carol—see below.

We have bingo every Monday at 2pm

Bowls is now starting up on Wednesdays at 2pm,

Hoy is the last Saturday in the month 7pm

All donations very gratefully received.

Carol Castle 01508 826 488

Chet Valley

Community Larder Appeal

Helping each other out,

reducing surplus food waste,

sharing with the whole community.

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

help those who are struggling.

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

Collecting dry store cupboard food is preferred.

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

Many thanks from the Volunteer Team.

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emma Webster Tel: 07516 361239 Email: <u>langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>https://langleywithhardleypc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk</u> NEW Facebook page now available.



The next meeting of Langley with Hardley Parish Council has been moved from Tuesday 9 May to Tuesday 16 May at 7 pm in the Village Hall when the Annual General Meeting will also take place. The agenda and papers will be available on the Parish website from 10 May.

Parish Council budget for 2023/24: The Council has set the budget for next year and does not propose any increase in the Parish precept



Renovation of the telephone box community library: Thanks to asll who hasve donated books to the library since last month's appeal in Chet Contact.

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

The Parish Councillors would like to publicly thank Steven Cushing, Builder, and Rob Barnes, Artist Printmaker for all their hard work in repairing and renovating the Village sign. Your kindness, skills, and expertise are very much appreciated.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

To view the hall to look at its facilities, to book the hall, or to ask about cost, phone Tibby or Jane on 01508 520184.



LOCAL ELECTIONS-MAY 4TH 2023

Don't forget that for the first time you MUST bring some form of photographic identification with you in order to vote.

Your Poll Card lists the forms acceptable for this purpose and tells you how to proceed if you do not have any of the forms listed on it.

SOUTH YARE WILDLIFE GROUP





The Hop of Hope

Re-introducing the Large Marsh Grasshopper

Into East Anglia

An illustrated talk by **STUART GREEN** of **CITIZEN ZOO**

THURSDAY 20th APRIL 7.30 pm CLAXTON VILLAGE HALL Members £2.00 non-members £4.<u>00</u>

SEETHING MONDAY ART GROUP—Gerry Nelson

Members of The Seething Monday Art Group would like to thank the supporters of their recent exhibition. We were able to donate £700.00 to our main charity, Vision Norfolk, and also £175.00 to the Village Hall to assist with the increased operational costs.

Spring Clean the Church



Help give Holy Trinity Church good Spring Clean? Please come along...

Wednesday 10 May at 10am (Coffee and Cake provided)

Bring your favourite mop and bucket, dusters, cobweb brush etc.

Details if required from Val Counter on 01508 520702

Notes from Sisland

Although it is lovely to see the bright sunshine of the last couple of days, the temperature is definitely a little chilly still. As we welcome the month of May, and comment on how quickly time goes by, in Sisland, it is the ideal opportunity to visit Sisland Carr. A small wood of mixed trees and managed by the Woodland Trust. There are a couple of paths which circulate around the trees and make for a very pleasant stroll. The wood contains a conifer plantation as well as some stunning mature beech and oak. The site has also recorded some locally rare moths and noctule bats and you can often see rabbits and deer. If you visit you will be able to see the fenced plots which are being used to assess the impact of the deer



and rabbits on the vegetation and regeneration of the undergrowth. At this time of year, the area is known for its stunning display of bluebells and in previous years these have been highlighted by some of the national newspapers for the stunning display. A true carpet of vivid colour. There is road access up to Sisland Carr and a small car park, but, as many will be aware, the access road is quite variable, so care is required.

There is also a stunning display of bluebells in Sisland churchyard at the same time. We are planning to offer afternoon tea on one weekend in May but, currently we cannot be sure exactly when the best date will be. However, watch out for confirmation of the date in the weekly newssheet as we will make a decision at the next Parochial Church Council meeting in mid-April.

May is also an important month for St Mary's as we are hoping to hold our **Annual Friends Service on Sunday 21st May at 5pm,** which will be a service of Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. This provides us an opportunity to say thank you to the Friends of St Marys. As well as an opportunity to update members on the work that has been undertaken in the previous twelve months and to discuss planned work required on the tower. If you would like to know more about the Friends of St Marys, which is an organisation which supports the work of preserving and maintaining the building, then please contact me for further information. As well as an annual service we also have an annual newsletter, usually produced around Christmas, to keep everyone up to date with work planned as well as other events in the village.

Rowena Bryce

Churchwarden, St Mary's, Sisland

LODDON FLOWER CLUB

Tuesday 2nd May - 'A Trip to the Library' a flower arranging demonstration by Clair Thomson. There will be a competition with the same title for members.



Tuesday 6th June - 'Where in the World' a flower arranging demonstration by Pat Barton. There will be a competition with the same title for members.

These meetings are held at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon.

Doors open at 6-30pm for a 7pm start. Visitors £7-50. A raffle will be held at the end of the evening for the arrangements and refreshments will be available.

Friday 5th May is National Flower Arranging Day and our members will be leaving flower arrangements in the local area for people to pick up and take home. Look out for them around the area with a card marked 'Make someone's day with this lonely bouquet'.

To celebrate our 65th anniversary we are holding a Flower Festival at Holy Trinity Church, Loddon from 22 - 24th September. The title is 'Hobbies and Pastimes'.

We would like to invite clubs who have entries in this magazine to advertise their clubs within the festival. Please get in touch with our Chairman Tricia if you would like to take part and maybe sponsor a flower display.

For more information please contact our Chairman, Tricia Godfrey on 01508-480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Secretary Alex Pinder on 01508-493869 or nnark@aol.com.

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



Loddon Bell Ringers



We have recently rung quarter peals of Superlative and Yorkshire Surprise Major at St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich, Woodbine Delight Minor at Ditchingham, Lessness Surprise Major at Redenhall and Superlative Surprise Major and Plain Bob Triples at Ashill.

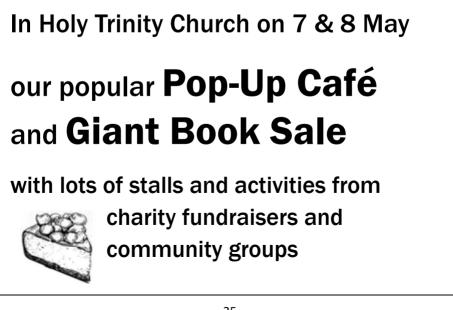
We attended a practice at St. Mary's in Bungay and a Ladies Guild meeting held at Rumburgh.

We plan to ring a Quarter Peal at Holy Trinity on Saturday 6th May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Steve Rabong

Chet Valley Art Society

Are there any artists out there that would like to join Chet Valley Art society. We meet every other week at Highways Garden Centre. We will be exhibiting in Norwich at The Forum on 24th, 25th, 26th May. We will book a trip to London in the summer and other days to visit galleries. Do get in touch if you would like to join us. Phone Vee on 07557402211



	Church Service	es		
7th May 5th Sunday of Easter				
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		
14th May 6th Sunday of Easter				
9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon		
18th May Ascension Day				
3.45pm Holy Communion at Xtra! For Ascension St John, Loddon				
21st May Sunday after Ascension				
21st May S	unday after Ascension			
21st May S 10:45am	unday after Ascension Holy Communion	*Holy Trinity, Loddon		
	-	*Holy Trinity, Loddon All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:45am	Holy Communion			
10:45am 11:00am 5:00pm	Holy Communion All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:45am 11:00am 5:00pm	Holy Communion All Together Worship BCP Evening Prayer	All Saints, Chedgrave		
10:45am 11:00am 5:00pm 28th May P e	Holy Communion All Together Worship BCP Evening Prayer entecost	All Saints, Chedgrave St Mary, Sisland		
10:45am 11:00am 5:00pm 28th May Po 8.00am	Holy Communion All Together Worship BCP Evening Prayer entecost Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave St Mary, Sisland St. Mary, Sisland		

* From 21st May, Loddon services will return to Holy Trinity church for the summer/autumn.

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

The last Roman Catholic service in Loddon was on April 15th but a service will continue each Saturday at 6pm in Poringland.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches				
Prayer at Home	'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection' 'If you would like to receive the weekly prayer and reflection sent out by email, please contact Rev'd Jill (jillhaylock@aol.com) <i>All are welcome</i>			
Thursdays during school term	Xtra! Join us at St John's for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm. More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126			
Every day	Monday	St John, Loddon		
Morning	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley		
Prayer	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave		
-	Thursday	St John, Loddon		
9:00am	Friday	St Mary, Sisland		
All Welcome	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave		

Confirmation Service in Chet Valley Benefice

We will be welcoming Bishop David Gillet to All Saints Church, Chedgrave on Sunday 25th June, when several of our congregation will be confirmed.

If you are interested in exploring confirmation, and adult baptism (if you have not been baptised before), please speak to either Rev David Owen (522993) or Rev Alison (528126). You will be strongly encouraged to join one of our congregations as you explore whether confirmation is for you.

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

Firstly may I begin by saying, we are sorry to inform you that we have recently lost 2 members, by their passing on to a higher



service. John Harper and Kenneth Cole. Our thoughts are with their families.

We, as a Branch have kept our Standard busy this last month. At a Veterans Funeral, a Dedication of a new Standard in Northrepps and also at a Veterans Service at the RC Cathedral, in Norwich. Between them, our Standard Bearers are keeping Loddon known around Norfolk.

We welcome new members, wishing to support our branch, which in turn then supports our Serving Soldiers, our Veterans and our Beneficiaries. New members don't need to have served in the Forces, or come regularly to our meetings. $\pounds 18$ per annum keeps you up to date by regular Newsletters and a Legion magazine, with loads of information.

Loddon branch featured in the March issue, titled "We Are Family" of the Legion magazine. Tracing the history of a local family membership, from the start of the Legion, to the present day., covering 5 generations.

Next meetings May 15th & June 19th - 6.45 for 7,Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Any enquiries or for support, please contact Colin on 01508 521136.

Social Whist

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

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

Chet Valley Voices

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

We enjoy singing music in a variety of styles from classical to modern. Come along, make new friends and get to know others in the community. Singing is good for your mental health and well-being, so you will leave rehearsals feeling lifted. Rehearsals: Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm (doors open 6:45pm) in St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Subs: £5, £3 for under-18s. Free first session. New members are always welcome.

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



Sport

Footballers Wanted!

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

Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

At the moment we are taking a summer break.

We will be back on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 - so watch this space!

More information from Sara 01508 521958

Loddon Ladies Hockey Club

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

We welcome new members of all ages (13+) and abilities. Come and get fit, have fun and meet friendly women from in and around the local

area. We train on **Tuesday** nights at Langley School (NR14 6BJ), 7:00pm-8:30pm. For more info: **www.loddonhockey.com** or email hello@loddonhockey.com

Loddon Tennis Club

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

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

Hobart Badminton Club

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

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

Loddon Junior Badminton Club

Wednesday evenings 6.45-7.45pm: 8-14yrs Thursday evenings 7.30-8.30pm: 15-18yrs

Open to all children aged 10-16 years regardless of ability. on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-7:45pm; Jubilee Hall. £4 per session; Rackets and shuttles provided.

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







Chet Valley Churches Holiday Club 2023

It was very odd during the covid lockdown when we were not able to run our usual annual holiday club. And it was absolutely wonderful when we were able to re-open again with 'Come and Celebrate' in 2021; a real celebration of being able to gather together again when we shared stories of the times that Jesus ate with all sorts of people. Last year saw us in a Baa-Baa Shop—sheep stories, all from The Bible, and some fairly bad sheep jokes abounded.

This year's holiday club will be set in Godwins, a holiday camp. Plans are already afoot for a week's worth of fun. There will be food, craft, stories, songs, jokes, games and other activities all based around the life of Jesus.

Holiday Club will run from Monday 31st July to Friday 4th August, 9:30am-12:00 noon, and will lead into a Holiday Club Xpressions Café on Sunday 6th August. It is open to all children who have completed a full year in mainstream primary education (ie those who have completed Year R to Year 6). Booking forms will be available in the Loddon primary schools soon and children from other local schools are also welcome—just e-mail Rev Alison (ball880am@btinternet.com) for information. We are normally fully-booked and priority is given to those who can attend every day.



Holiday Club: 31st July to 4th August 2023 from 09:30 to 12:00 in All Saints, Chedgrave

Loddon Community Gym

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

From now on the Gym will open at some part of every day Monday to Friday: Monday 1:45–5:25pm; Tuesday 4:45–7:05pm; Wednesday 9:00–11:20am; Thursday 6:00pm–8:20pm; Friday 10:15am–12:35pm.



Elsewhere in this magazine you will have seen references to the Coronation of King Charles and the celebrations happening on that first weekend in May in Loddon, Chedgrave and the surrounding villages. On Sunday 7 May Loddon PC is organising a Coronation Celebration and, alongside the live music on Church Plain, the Gym will be showcasing what we offer to the local community. The Gym will be open and there will be an opportunity to have a look round and see for yourself what an amazing amenity is right on your doorstep. There will be a raffle (100 square board) with a prize of one free annual membership worth $\pounds 20$ and an alternative to a winner who, frankly, is never going to join a gym! Do come and support us.

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

As we are a relatively compact Gym you will still need to book sessions via <u>www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym</u>

Alternatively you can book a first session by ringing Louise on the number above.

TIME OUT THURSDAY AT LODDON LIBRARY

Every third Thursday between 11.30am and 1 pm.

A community event, each month with a different theme.

Thurs. 18th May-Dementia Friends Training

Speakers from Alzheimers UK and Sprowston Dementia Community Café will be there to answer questions.



Located next to the River Yare in the heart of the Norfolk Broads, The Reedham Ferry Inn & Touring Park is a family run business which was established in 1949 by the Archers.

Looking out at our idyllic riverside views, the last working chain ferry in operation in East Anglia or simply taking in the ambient history, our seasonal menus, well-kept local ales and relaxed atmosphere are yours to enjoy.

To book:

01493 700429

reedhamferry@aol.com

Please see website www.reedhamferry.co.uk for updated opening hours and menus

Dog friendly

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Follow the Gillingham road towards Beccles Quay - just over the bridge on the right; Free parking - call for details 🚺

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



Paths & Patios inc. Porcelain & Sandstone, Driveways, Fencing, Digger work Wood & Composite Decking, Hedge & Tree Trimming. General Clearance and more. free quotations available

> Stuart Frost High Bungay Road, Loddon 07900 432108 Stuartfrost1985@icloud.com

Chet Staithe Probus Club

We are a club for retired gentlemen, and friendship. The atmosphere is relaxed, jovial, with little formality. Dress code, is casual. We have a good mardle, and a different speaker every meeting on varied subjects. Afterwards, members either go home, adjourn to the bar, or stay for a pleasant lunch. Your choice.

We meet at The White Horse every first and third ${\bf Tuesday}$ of every month, start time 10:00am.

May 2nd Mark Reynolds Cartoons and Impersonations

May 16th Rob Tilney Firearms

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

Chet Valley Probus Club

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

Next meetings:

May 9th—"The Journey of a Book from Inception to Publication"

Speaker Carolyn Belcher

May 23rd—"Geocaching" Mike Wabe

Contact:

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

Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)

Our May meeting has moved to Tuesday 9th May due to our usual night being a Bank Holiday. We will still meet in St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon, doors open 6.45pm for 7pm start. The topic for discussion this meeting is "Colour and Photography."

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







Community Groups, News and Events

News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon and District Women's Institute

In April, we celebrated our 93rd birthday, which means that Loddon WI began its journey in 1930. It may possibly have been all 'jam and Jerusalem' then, but that's certainly not true anymore!! It's possible that Loddon WI is the longest surviving community group in Loddon. Does anyone have any information regarding that?

Looking to the present, we're having a stall at the **Coronation Event on 7th May.** We'll be in St Johns Chapel, where we'll have some delicious Victoria Sandwich cakes for sale. Do come and see us!

The May meeting is to be a Silent Auction. This is an Open Meeting where we invite other WI groups and guests. Do contact us if you would like to come - you will be made very welcome.

Next meetings/events:

Wednesday May 3rd Walk at Raveningham in support of Women Walk the World

Sunday May 7th Stall at Coronation event

Thursday May IIth Knit, Natter & Crochet. Loddon Library 2.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m.

Wednesday May 17th Open Meeting – Silent Auction. 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. St Johns Chapel, George Lane, Loddon

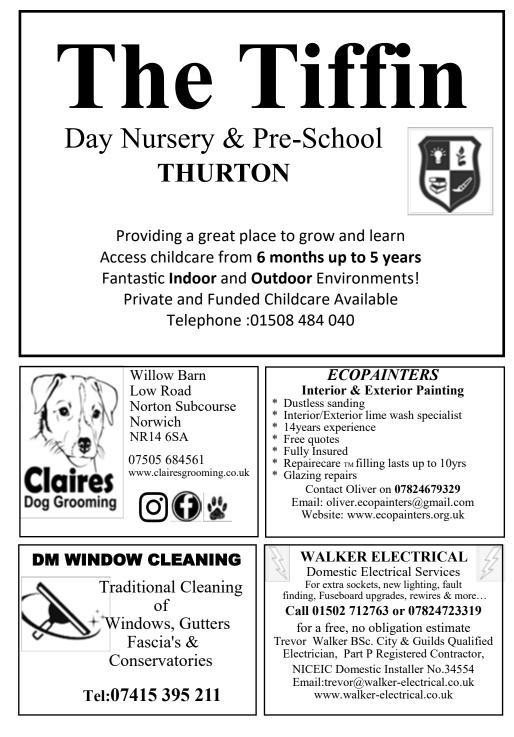
New members are always welcome. For further information, we can be contacted through our Facebook page or by ringing 01508 528912.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our March Birthday Luncheon at a local venue was well attended and enjoyed by members.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 23rd May. Antoinette Ford, a return speaker and Chedgrave WI member, will be talking about Ladies Fashions from the 1930's and 40's. We also hope to hold a Plant Sale.

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



Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

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

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

Our next meeting will be on 10th May when we have a talk on Vegetable Growing in Small Spaces by Pauline Harper. Pauline shows us how the smallest space can grow vegetables, in pots or hanging baskets, troughs or raised beds, even on a sunny windowsill. The meeting starts at 7-30pm, members are free and visitors are $\pounds 2$ which includes refreshments and a raffle. The meeting is held at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom,

George Lane, Loddon. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month.

Then on Saturday 13th May we have our Annual Plant Sale and this year it will include a Coffee Morning, from 9-30am to 12-30pm at The Hollies, High Street, Loddon. There will be bedding, vegetable and house plants, cakes and horticultural sundries including plant pots for sale. We will also be having a stall in Bridge Street, Loddon as part of the Coronation Celebration on Sunday 7th May. Please do give us a look.

For more details contact Jean Cope (Chairman) on 01502-710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or Hazel Copland (Secretary) on 01508-520890 or email happyhaze50@gmail.com. It is $\pounds10$ per year to join our Society and follow us on our Facebook page.

Loddon Community Cinema

Our next presentation is "LIVING"

starring Bill Nighy - Rated 12

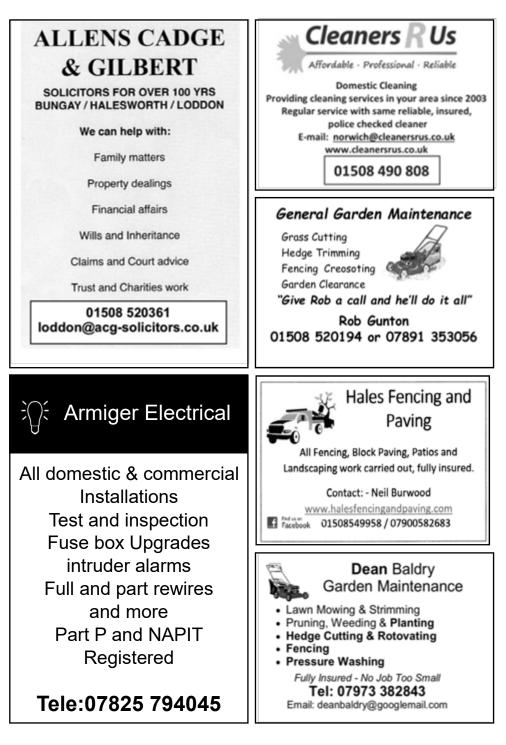
that will leave you reflecting on the things you appreciate in your own life."

"Led by Bill Nighy's perfect performance, Living is a movie

SHOWING THURSDAY MAY 4th. St. John's Lecture Hall, George, Lane Loddon. Doors open 7pm, film starts, 7.30. Tickets £4, £2 under 16. On the door or in advance from Loddon DIY.







BLUEBELL SUNDAYS

Enjoy the arrival of Spring by viewing the magnificent display of bluebells in the woodlands and churchyard surrounding Langley Church.

St. Michael's Church, Langley Entrance from The Avenues, Langley, NR14 6BL (Free Admission/Free parking in field adjacent to the Church)

Sunday 14/21/28 May 2.00-4.30pm

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Organised by The Friends of Langley Church

Proceeds for the Church renovation fund

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the last **Wednesday** of each month. in the back room of The Hollies, Loddon High Street. An annual fee of ± 10.00 is charged plus ± 3.00 for each meeting attended. New members always welcome.

Next Meeting—May 31st: "Guide Dogs for the Blind" with Richard Bussian

Contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

Waveney Valley Arts Society

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

Next meeting Wednesday 3rd May: Marc Chagall: Wandering Jew or Citizen of the World? by Monica Bohm-Duchen.

Guests are welcome to join us for an individual lecture but there will be a charge of $\pounds 10$. If you wish to become a member of our society, the contact details are on the Website:

https://the artssociety.org/waveney-valley.







www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

Have you heard of '**Open Libraries**'? It gives you access to Norfolk Libraries seven days a week (during designated times below) so you can pop in to return books, pick up a reservation, rent a DVD, use the printer, log on to the public PCs or just enjoy the space. Speak to a member of staff to learn more.

If you would like to visit during staffed hours please see below Monday 8:00am-7:00pm (Staffed 10:00am-7:00pm) Tuesday 8:00am-7:00pm (Open Libraries access only) Wednesday 8:00am-7:00pm (Open Libraries access only) Thursday 8:00am-7:00pm (Staffed 10:00am-7:00pm) Friday 8:00am-7:00pm(Staffed 10:00am-7:00pm) Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm (Staffed 1:00pm-4:00pm) Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm (Open Libraries access only)

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

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

www.facebook.com/loddonlibrary

A message to housebound customers. We have volunteers able to deliver books straight to your door. If you are interested, for yourself or know someone who would benefit from this service, please contact the Library and staff will gladly sign you up for it.

Ways to contact us: Telephone: 01508 520678

Email: loddon.lib@libraries.norfolk.gov.uk

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

borrow discover connect 🐼 Norfolk County Council



JUBILEE HALL

George Lane, Loddon jubileehallloddon@btconnect.com - Tele 01508 528 588 for booking or enquiries Table Tennis Table for hire-Badminton Courts-Short Tennis Courts-Short Mat Bowls Community Hall available for hire for parties, sports, meetings etc. Smaller Club Room available for hire weekdays. See our Facebook page (Jubilee Hall Loddon) for all upcoming fundraising events. Registered Charity Number 285015

Loddon and District Local History Group

Our March meeting was very well attended with over 50 people coming to hear Adrian O'Dell speak about 'What the Normans did to and for Norwich.' Adrian began by giving us a brief outline of his varied working life and then explained how he retired to Norfolk and enrolled on a course at UEA where he met Tom Williamson and was introduced to landscape archaeology. He started with a rolling power point history of East Anglia from the Neolithic age to the Normans' arrival in Norwich in 1067. This was followed by an explanation of why William and Harold were both able to claim the throne of England at Edward's death.

Norwich has always had many immigrants but it was the Normans who changed the layout of the city and created such impressive buildings. Maps were shown to help us understand the pre-Conquest centres of population. Keen to make his mark William ordered the clearing of the existing 98 houses and a church to create Castle ditches and a mound where a wooden castle was erected. A stone structure on the newly created mound would have become unstable. The locals whose homes were destroyed must have been even more incensed when they were made to do this work. Stone walls and keep came some 27 years later. A French quarter developed close to the castle and homes for Jewish bankers whose services were needed for trading with the continent. The church forbade usury (lending of money for interest) so these bankers were useful. There were between 8 to 10 thousand Normans in England who used various control methods , including intimidation.

By 1096 Herbert de Losinga had come to Norwich and was tasked with building a Benedictine monastery and Cathedral to make Norwich the Centre of the Diocese in place of Thetford. To build in stone required constructing a canal from the Wensum at Pull's Ferry into the building site. Stone was brought from Caen in France rather than from Barnack near Peterborough which was more usual. More homes were destroyed to create the largest Cathedral Close in the country, over 85 acres. The Monastery was built using the plan of St Gall, the blueprint for many monasteries across Europe. Many other buildings were built in Norwich including 4 Friaries, 14 churches, 9 Leper Hospitals, 7 Leper Houses and some Alms Houses.

We ended at the Domesday Survey where William recorded the population, ownership of land in 1066 and then again in 1086. Our thanks to Adrian for his fascinating talk. We hope he will return next year.

Next Meeting: May 17th 'The reconstruction of the Sutton Hoo Boat' by Helen Geake of Time Team fame.

All meetings held in the St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon starting at 1.30pm. Admission £3 (includes light refreshments). All welcome.

A full programme of events is available on request.

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

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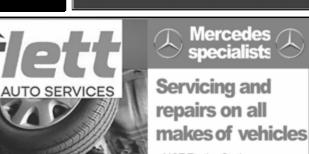


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The Boy Who Would Be King by Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Michael Foreman

A poetic celebration of our new king by the master storyteller Michael Morpurgo with gorgeous illustrations by Michael Foreman. It's an allegorical story with an old woman giving a lonely child an acorn, helping them to gain the courage and determination to change the world for the better.

Bookworm by Lucy Mangan

This love letter to children's books of Lucy's childhood which sustained, shaped and inspired her, struck a chord with me. She mentions many of my favourites and there's a fair few I never got round to. The memory of getting so completely absorbed in a book is very evocative of childhood reading and very hard to recreate in adulthood. I'd fully recommend this if you were a bookworm in your childhood!

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

This is a relatively short book but packs a powerful punch. It's set in Ireland during the time of the Magdalen laundries. Bill Furlong comes from a single mother who, unusually for the time, was kept on by her employer. He, as a consequence, has managed to make something of himself and has a business, a family, a life... but when he discovers exactly what is going on in the convent where he makes deliveries to he finds himself unable to turn a blind eye, although most of the townsfolk seem to be able to do so.

The Keeper of Stories by Sally Page

A lovely gentle read about a cleaner who collects stories as she cleans for her various clients, never realising that she has a story all of her own too. Really lovely character descriptions and a plot that has multiple layers meant I really enjoyed this book. It's funny, warm, sad at times and hard to put down.

I am waiting to read...

Romantic Comedy by Curtis Sittenfeld – I really enjoyed both American Wife (based on Laura Bush) and Rodham (based on Hilary Clinton) but this is a slightly different book about dating and falling in love. It's supposed to be an 'enthralling, humorous and subversive tale'!

Ruth Redford

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Nature Notes

It's April 4th, sky an amazing blue and I have just returned from the Earsham Wetland Centre where I volunteer. (Sorry, still closed to the general public). Spring is here, everything looks brighter, the sun shines. On the lake a pair of Little Grebes were displaying. Around the lake edge a pair of Grey Wagtails were engaged in their spring activity and to beautifully round it all off, a newborn lamb along with Baggot goat kids and a mixture of other lambs. It does make you feel good.

In April's Nature Notes I mentioned that I had yet to see Brambling, Green Sandpiper and Grey Partridge this year. Well, I have caught up with two of them, although locally Grey Partridge have all but disappeared. The Green Sandpiper I saw a couple of times on the recently dredged ditch in Hardley Street where I had previously seen a Grey Wagtail. Driving towards Chedgrave from Langley, I noticed a flock of finches flying between the trees and the edge of the un-ploughed field. Despite assuming they were Linnets and Goldfinches, which frequent the area, I pulled up and scanned the area with my binoculars. I was surprised that most of the birds were in fact Chaffinches. Then suddenly there was an almost summer plumaged Brambling with its black, orange and white colour, brilliant.

For some time now bird song has been more than evident, and the first of the summer migrants, the Chiffchaff, are calling their name. I heard my first one on the 17th of March though I had seen an overwintering one in Kessingland in January.

I have been seeing bumble bees regularly since late February, but only saw our first Brimstone butterfly and first Peacock butterfly yesterday. Hares have been very active, and we seem to have seen more this year than we did this time last year.

Last week driving to Beccles, I sadly saw the bodies of two badgers. They are spreading in our area but I was surprised to see them. Returning to the living, a stoat with its black tipped tail ran across the road in front of us giving us good views of this small carnivore. Last Sunday afternoon (2nd April), I took the dogs to Rockland Broad, not having seen much, I was enthralled as we walked back to watch a Short-Eared Owl quartering across the field by the Broad. Its colouration of various browns is exquisite and I spent some time just mesmerized watching it.

I took the dogs on a longer trip out to Dingle Marshes, Dunwich hoping to see a couple of Twite in the area, small upland finches that migrate to coasts in winter. Almost back at the carpark there were several small birds hopping around. Scanning them with my telescope discovered one was a Twite.

Richard and Rachel Hull

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Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

The frost delayed planting the potatoes, onions, and shallots, but they are all now in. I will keep an eye on any further frost warnings and covering potato shoots with straw or fleece. Frost doesn't kill them but does set them back a few weeks. They will need earthing up to encourage more potatoes and keep them hidden from the sun as they form on the roots. As we run into May this is one of the busiest times on the allotment. The sun has warmed up the soil and you can sow more seed directly into it. This year I am sowing carrot seed into high containers/potato sacks to avoid carrot fly. These insects can't fly very high, and you can stop them with a barrier or cover with carrot fly mesh, which you can also buy as readymade cloches. I will use these for my parsnips which can also be attacked. Watch out for black fly on the tips of broad beans in May. You can pinch out the growing tips where they gather, squash them with your fingers or spray with soapy water.

I was pleased to receive the first request for cuttings from the allotment orchard, primarily old Norfolk apple varieties, for a Loddon orchard. The potential to share old varieties and maintain biodiversity was one reason we planted them. If anyone else wants to try grafting, do get in touch. **Andrew Milner**

From the Garden

May is the month when the garden really comes to life, unfortunately I will need to replace most of the salvias I had planted as they have succumbed to the frost along with the hebes and fuchsias, later in the year I will take cuttings to overwinter in the greenhouse. New dahlia's have been purchased in case the old ones didn't survive and to increase my stock. The bank behind the pond has done well with most of the bulbs flowering, it will look much better next year as the bulbs multiply and I plan to increase the daffodils down as far as the woodland edge. The pond plants are bursting into life, hopefully lots of lilies in the summer. Much has been written about making our gardens more wildlife friendly and encouraging wildflowers and we can all give a small area over to wildlife just by not mowing all the grass and leaving a patch to be cut later in the summer, you might even discover orchids. This year we have seen large areas of red dead nettle flowering which will be followed by the blue borage and the white/pale pink of comfrey. The Tragopogon (salsify) has self sown, which is good, this plant has purple flowers which open in the morning and close again at lunchtime, the seed heads are like large dandelion clocks, there is also a yellow version. Remember a weed is just a flower in the wrong place. Happy Gardening!

Shirley Cross

The Hollies – at the centre of Loddon

Right at the heart of Loddon, is a community centre called the Hollies, which comprises two large rooms and a kitchen. But many people do not know about it: the building is set back from the road, behind the holly bushes of its name, between the Post Office and Boots: the Loddon Nursery School is behind it.

Over the last year, the Hollies has seen a significant increase in use due to the Community Gym's permanent move into the Annex behind the library: many of the Annex's other users have moved to the Hollies. Currently, the Hollies hosts Country Markets (Tuesday mornings), the Christadelphians (every Sunday), Whist (2nd and 4th Friday evenings), Eight O'clock Club (last Wednesday of the month), Pilates, Band practice, many Parish Council meetings, Dog Training, birthday parties, and a wide range of other uses.

The trustees of the Loddon Building Preservation Trust, which owns and runs the Hollies, are considering ways to improve the building. If you would like to get involved or if you would like to hire the Hollies for regular or one-off events, contact us on 01508 521173 or loddonbpt@gmail.com.

Bungay Voices

Saturday 20th May 2023 7.30pm

At Bungay St Mary's Church

The choir, under their Musical Director, Jason Collins, present their Spring Concert items from Lux Aeterna by Morten Lauredson, and an arrangement of British folk songs by John Rutter, entitled The

Sprig of Thyme.

Children from Ellingham and Woodton school choirs will also bring their talent along, performing several items on their own, Come and enjoy an evening with a variety of music for all tastes.

Admission: £10 including refreshments.

Accompanied school age children attend free.

Tickets from Whitemans of Bungay, Earsham Hall Tearooms,

Choir members, or Jason Collins on 07545 545718.

Tickets also available on the door on the night.



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