



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

September 2021





Chet Valley Churches

All Saints, Chedgrave

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

10th–12th September 2021

10:00am-5:00pm

Norfolk Icons

**Refreshments will be available and
ploughman's lunches will be served on
Saturday between 12:00noon and 2:00pm.**



Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

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Andrew Eburne:	01508 494770	Andrew.Eburne@rcdea.org.uk



Church Office

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

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

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

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

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



Church Websites

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



Chet Contact

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Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

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

Please include your name and telephone number.



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

Disclaimer

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From the Editor

What a warm and wet summer we have been having. Whatever the weather, it has been so good to be able to get out and about again, to be allowed to meet with friends and family and generally live a bit more freely than we have been doing.

We are delighted to announce that our advertising editor, Katy, got married a month or two ago, that she has moved house and is also starting teacher training. Congratulations on all fronts. The downside of this is that Katy has reluctantly decided she cannot carry on as Chet Contact Advertising Editor from this edition onwards. So...

We are looking for a new Chet Contact Advertising Editor.

If you think you might have the skills and aptitude to take on this role, please contact us at c.magazineloddon@gmail.com or speak to either of the editors or to Rev David Owen. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

Don't forget to go to the Art Exhibition (I know that's at the end of August!), and if you're interested in the environment and climate change do come the EcoCafe (p25). It would be good for local people to have conversations together about what our response individually and collectively to this challenge might be.

Alison



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Ministerial Musings

Life and Lifeguards

Have you been to the beach in Britain this year? It's something a lot of people have done during the summer of 'staycations', enjoying splashing in the sea as much as building sandcastles and eating slightly sandy picnics. When I was a child I spent a lot of time at beaches, and was taught from an early age to be aware of the dangers of the sea. Now, as an adult, if I'm at the beach and I see people in the sea with inflatables or paddle boards I find myself just watching to see that they are OK and in no danger.

But who comes to the rescue when things go wrong? One of the charities I support is the Lifeboats (the RNLI) who provide Lifeguards to patrol popular beaches and to rescue people in difficulties. They also do a lot of work to make people aware of possible problems and to prevent accidents. (They do an amazing job, so if you're looking for a British charity to support, why not choose the RNLI?)

Of course the beach isn't the only place where things go wrong. Our lives constantly present us with challenges and difficulties alongside the joyful moments and opportunities to smile. I often compare my faith to having a personal Lifeguard. I can talk to Jesus when the going's tough and when times are good. He's there, offering love and assurance however I happen to feel at the time. I know that when I get into difficulties, as everyone does sometimes, he will be there to carry me through. Beach lifeguards do the best that their skills and training enable them to do, but when Jesus died and was raised to life he gave all of us the possibility of experiencing God's amazing love for ever. That's why I trust him to keep me safe and to be the Guard of my life. How about you?

Jesus said, "I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly". John 10:10

Rev David





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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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Thanksgivings & Baptisms



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

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

Baptisms are held within the Sunday worship in our churches.

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

Please contact Rev Alison Ball on 01508 528126

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

Noah's Ark

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



Wednesdays 9:15am-12 noon.

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

Friends and Neighbours

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



Next Meeting:

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

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

Small Groups

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



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

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

Monday Mardles

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



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

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

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

More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

Eddie Paul Hume baptised on 20th June in All Saints, Chedgrave

Elia Avery Armiger baptised on 20th June in All Saints, Chedgrave

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

Weddings

Joseph Henry Lyon & Natalie Kate Harben

Married: 3rd July 2021 at All Saints, Chedgrave

Marcel Ryan Kinrade & Shue Shum Lo

Married: 10th July 2021 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Michael Jeffrey Hewstone & Nadia Rosa Jarana

Married: 17th July 2021 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Samuel John Garwood & Eryn Louise Higgins

Married: 29th July 2021 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

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

Funerals

Mary Elizabeth Lucy who died on 2nd May 2021

Funeral: 28th May 2021 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

David Wones who died on 31st May 2021

Funeral: 29th June 2021 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Clifford Long who died on 7th June 2021

Funeral: 9th July 2021 at All Saints, Chedgrave

Geoffrey Garbutt who died on 24th June 2021

Funeral: 21st July 2021 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Phaedra Matless who died on 25th June 2021

Funeral: 16th July 2021 at Waveney Crematorium

Stella Cunningham who died on 25th July 2021

Funeral: 17th August 2021 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

Thank you

Ruth and Miriam wish to thank all who very kindly gave flowers and money in memory of Richard 'Dick' Sergeant. £550 was raised for Cancer Research UK. Thank you all.

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News From Your Local Councillors



Kay Mason-Billig & Jeremy Rowe

Loddon, George Lane and A146 junction roundabout

Anglian Water have been working hard in the first phase of the roundabout construction. BT will follow. If work appears to have stopped, it is because that phase has finished early but the next utility is not allowed to start until their official slot. Seems daft but it's all to do with insurance and who is responsible during the period booked for their works. I know some are anxious that the road closure notice has not yet been published for the main construction works. I have been assured by officers at NCC that this is in the pipeline and will not require the usual 12 weeks' notice. I promise to keep up the pressure to see this roundabout delivered.

Wherryman's Way

I am very pleased to be able to announce that the dredging works in the Chet will be going ahead this autumn. These works will take material from the river to replace the bank where the footpath was washed away at Hardley Flood. Originally only the first two sections were to be done this year but the County Council in conjunction with the Broads Authority have decided they will now be able to do all four sections in one go. This will shorten the time we have to wait to see a complete reopening of the footpath. After the dredging is complete, the bank has to be left to stabilise before the footpath can be properly reinstated with new bridges etc. If everything goes according to plan, we are looking at a reopening of this part of the Wherryman's Way in the summer of 2023.

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

Hike to Hardley

Our next ChetChat event is on Sunday 5th September, from 1:00-4:30pm. We are encouraging people to raise money by walking with us from All Saint's Church, Chedgrave to Hardley Mill, or to join us there. We will be entertained by The Saxonettes and Funky Feet. Refreshments will be available. There's a 20-question Treasure Hunt for any walkers who'd like to give it a go on the route. If you fancy walking with us, we're leaving All Saints Church, Chedgrave at 1:00pm, walking to St Margaret's Church, Hardley, where you can join us at 1:45pm Or you can meet us at Hardley Staithe car park at 2:00pm, to walk the final mile to the windmill.



We are raising money for Leeway Women's Refuge and Hardley Mill. If you'd like to get friends to sponsor you or just to make a donation, the details are: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jeremy-Rowe-2> We're grateful to Musker McIntyre, Rosy Lee's and Minimum World for sponsoring the event.

If you know anyone over-60 who might like a regular visit or phone call, or just some help, ChetChat is here to help, on **07876 0501 10**.

My regular surgeries will start up again later this year. In the meantime, please ring me anytime on **07733 323581** if I can help you. Councillor Jeremy Rowe,



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Loddon Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis.

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

Website: www.loddonpc.org.uk ;

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC



Contact Loddon Parish Council: The office is open between 9:00am-12:00noon on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays. A face mask will need to be worn as it is a public building. Should you wish to contact the Council, please email: info@loddonpc.org. If there is a genuine Parish emergency, please call: 01508 486 128, at any other time, please use 01508 522 020. The new website: www.loddonpc.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/LoddonPC are regularly updated.

Planning Application: The Council has been consulted on an application for the development of up to 130 market and affordable dwellings on the land north and south of Norton Road, Loddon. Members of the public are reminded that comments should be made directly to SNC as soon as possible, either through the planning website, by email; planning@s-norfolk.gov.uk or by letter; SNC, South Norfolk House, Cygnet Court, Long Stratton, Norwich NR15 2XE.

CCTV Installation at Jubilee Hall and Loddon & Chedgrave Playing Field: The Loddon & Chedgrave Playing Field Committee have organised the installation of six external CCTV cameras for the benefit of the users of the hall, the playing field and the Old Hockey Field. It is hoped that these cameras will reduce the antisocial behaviour and dog fouling in this area. The CCTV will be used to monitor dog fouling, and offenders will be reported to South Norfolk Council (SNC).

Vandalism at the Staithe Toilets: Unfortunately, there has been ongoing and expensive vandalism at the toilets this year. These are a public facility so please look after them. The CCTV images will be used for prosecution purposes.

Police Beat Manager: PC James King is the new Loddon beat manager. He can be contacted at james.king@norfolk.police.uk

Staithe Footbridge: Helen Sibley at SNC has written to the Council confirming that the bridge is SNC's responsibility. SNC have had a structural survey indicating that the bridge can be restored rather than replaced.

Hedges: We are receiving numerous reports of householders hedges blocking the footpaths. Please will householders try to keep their hedges tidy.

'Don't Mow, Let it Grow': South Norfolk Council are making some changes to the way they manage their public open space in Loddon. Affected areas will be; Leman Grove, Harvey Green, Gilbert Grove, Filbert Road, The Staithe, Pyes Mill. More details are on LPC's website.

Saffron Land: Saffron are also making some changes. The areas affected are: Kittens Lane, Leman Grove, Princess Anne Terrace, The Walks, Hobart Road and Drury Lane. Please contact Saffron for more information.

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at the Library Annexe on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7:00pm and parishioners are welcome to attend in person. The minutes of the meetings are available on the website; www.loddonpc.org.uk.

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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 Meeting Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7:30 pm in the Hales Christian Assembly Hall. Agendas are displayed on the bus shelter notice board opposite Masala Garden and on our website three days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Parish Council—Help Wanted! We have Playground; Hales Green Common; and Neighbourhood Planning working groups which need your help and ideas for the future. Please get in touch and let us know your thoughts—especially if you're a family/single/younger/older! We need everyone's ideas! We also have a vacancy on the Parish Council and would love to hear from you if this is of interest or if you have any questions.

Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM): Our new SAM has been installed and will be used on the Yarmouth Road. It has the ability to collect data which will assist with targeting resources to make the road safer for users.

Roads: Whether you are a driver, cyclist, horse rider, dog walker or pedestrian please consider other people on our country lanes. Please slow down for horses, cyclists and walkers (especially with dogs and children). Please pick up after your dog.

Composting Group: This is a really sustainable and environmentally beneficial way to deal with your garden waste. We have our own site in the village to turn your grass and hedge cuttings into soil improver.

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

Any Questions at Masala Garden: We will hold another drop-in to meet a Parish Councillor and our Parish Clerk. It's a chance to ask any questions, make recommendations and meet us. We would like your ideas on what you want your community to look and feel like. The more ideas the better! For date and time please see our website and Facebook page.

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

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Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.
Tel: 01508 528310 Email: chedgrave.pc@gmail.com
Website: : <https://chedgrave-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chedgrave-Parish-Council>



Chedgrave Parish Council held its meeting on 1st July 2021.

Chet Chat: There will be a sponsored walk on 5th September to Hardley Mill. Funds raised will be split between Chet Chat, Hardley Mill and Freeway charity. Anyone interested should contact 07876 050110.

Pony riding in Chedgrave: Please note that the riding and exercising of horses and ponies is not allowed on footpaths in and around Chedgrave. There have been reports of pony riding around Chedgrave Common and the paths leading to it (Wherryman's Way along the River Chet and Common Loke, off Hardley Road). Neither of these routes are intended for horses, ponies, bikes or motorbikes particularly as they are well used by walkers with young children and dogs. In particular, there should be NO incursions onto Chedgrave Common by individuals exercising their horses or ponies. This area is periodically grazed by Shetland ponies who see the Common as their "territory". Please keep all other horses and ponies off the Common, keep dogs on the lead when crossing the Common and take care around the ponies if they are present. Thank you.

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

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 for more information.

Planning Matters: Two planning applications were considered:

2021/1201 – 20 Rectory Lane – No objections.

2021/1311 - Land South Of Norwich Road – No objections.

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

2021/0870 - 12 Hillcrest Chedgrave - Approval with Conditions.

2021/0905 - 79 Langley Road Chedgrave - Approval with Conditions.

Langley Road/Snows Lane Site – A draft plan was presented and the council has been invited to present a 'wish list' to the development company.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at the Brian Clarke Room on Thursday 2nd September. There was no meeting in August.

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

Highways issues such as potholes, footpaths or public rights of way, road safety, flooding and overgrown trees and verges should be reported to Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 or online at www.norfolk.gov.uk. Criminal & illegal activities, public disorder & nuisance, anti-social behaviour, speeding, uncontrolled dogs, should all be reported to the Police on 999 or 101 (non-emergency) and can be reported online at www.norfolk.police.uk.

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Notes from Sisland

As I am writing this in early August, I want to thank all those who have supported the Sunday teas at Sisland church. It has been lovely to catch up with old friends, as well as welcome new visitors who have discovered our beautiful church. We all know what a challenge the last eighteen months have been but the opportunity to sit, reflect and share has been enjoyed by many. Although it is the main fundraiser for St Mary's it offers so much more to so many.



The delayed and later season this year also meant that the churchyard was not cut at the start of August as the seed had not yet set in the conservation area, although it should have been by the time you read this. As we move from the summer months into the autumn, our attention turns to the change in seasons.

The word 'harvest' comes from the Old English word *hærfest* meaning 'autumn'; apt for the season when we gather in so much of our local produce. In the UK, harvest festival, which is also known as the harvest home, has traditionally been celebrated on the Sunday nearest the harvest moon. This is the full moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. In 2021, September's full moon will be on 20th September 2021. As the moonrise comes shortly after sunset there can be an abundance of moonlight early in the evening, which enabled farmer workers to work later into the evening to complete the harvest.

Although we now fix and plan for this celebration without reference to the moon, in the past the harvest festival differed, based on a date when all the crops had been brought in. It was a period when the whole community, including children, needed to help right up until the end, as lives depended on the success of the harvest.

Last year Sisland decided to celebrate its harvest festival by holding its service in the churchyard and we were blessed with good weather. This year we are planning to do the same and hold the service at 5:00pm on Sunday 19th September, very close to the full moon date of the 20th! It should contain all the traditional elements that you would expect and will allow us all to connect with the environment around us, so key to the farming season. We hope to see you there.

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

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Monday Mardles

Anyone lonely? Please do come and join us! We have just come out of lock-down at last, happy to greet each other. There is lots of news to catch up on, relief that we are still all of one piece—most of us—and raring to go! We meet on **Monday** mornings, 10:00am-12:00noon, at Chedgrave Church Centre. There's lots of coffee and birthday cake. See you soon!

Margaret Redrup

Electric Car Review

We bought our Kia Soul EV in September 2020. It is a very enjoyable drive with good acceleration, comfortable and roomy and has a range of around 250-280 miles. We have our own home charging point. Charging up to 80% takes 5-6 hours and costs approximately £5-6 - considerably less than petrol/diesel! We have only driven just over 2000 miles, mainly in Norfolk, because of Covid. We have been on one long trip, to London—using the Zap Map app we were able to recharge there without any significant issues. The charging network is expanding rapidly and range anxiety during long journeys should be a receding concern. Electric is for now (currently accounting for over 10% of new car sales) and the future!

Nick Viale

Chet Valley Voices

“Do know where—Don't know when”

Firstly we hope you are all well, and we look forward to the day when we can see you all again and singing together, DO know where, DON'T know when!
[perhaps we can sing this when we do!]



We were so hopeful for a September restart, knowing some restrictions were being lifted in July. After a committee meeting and much deliberation, with heavy hearts it was decided that due to the rise in cases your health and wellbeing is our topmost priority, therefore we will review the situation in the New Year, or sooner if cases fall to acceptable levels.

We know this will be a disappointment for you, but keep up with your breathing exercises and warm ups, they will pay off for your singing and general health, sing along with the radio, or work on a song and improve it, so when we meet again we will all sing with gusto.

Anyone interested in joining our merry band will be heartily welcomed.

If you have any queries or wish to speak to us please do not hesitate to contact me and I will pass on any messages or questions.

Sue Martin, Secretary.

Tel: 01508 528069; e-mail: suemartin303@btinternet.com

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Chet Valley Churches

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5th September, 10am-12 noon

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Eco Checklist

I take regular walks in the countryside and notice what is there.

I always pick up litter when I see it.

I use leaf tea and not tea bags.....

I am going to wear last year's winter clothes.....

I support a project helping sustainable farming in another country.

I do not waste any food, buying just what I need and using what I have bought.

I grow my own vegetables.....

I re-use foil, paper and plastic bags.....

I use re-fillable bottles for cleaning products and toiletries.....

I catch the bus rather than drive where possible.....

My total score (out of ten):

How did you do? I wonder what things you would put on an Eco Checklist.

Church Activities

Church Services during the Covid-19 pandemic

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

Our services are also available on our YouTube channel: Chet Valley Churches. The URL for each service and a pdf are on the church website (www.chetvalleychurches.org).

If you cannot attend church and would like a paper copy of the Sunday service, please contact one of the clergy.

Private Prayer

Our churches are now all open all week. Usually this is between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm. Please be patient if the building has not been unlocked. It usually means that whoever opens it is unavoidably busy elsewhere.

We still ask people to sanitise their hands when entering the churches and to be mindful of others who may be there.

Bullrush Babies

From September, Bullrush Babies will become part of Noah's Ark. We will all be meeting at St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. We will open on Wednesdays at 9:15am and shut at 12:00 noon. Circle time takes place at 10:30am in the morning when we gather together for songs, stories and biscuits.



Do drop in when it is convenient. There's always a cup of tea or coffee on the go. It is a good chance to meet new parents, childminders, grandparents and share anxieties and wisdom.

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

01508 528126 or ball880am@btinternet.com

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

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

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

Church Services

5th September		
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12 noon	XPRESSIONS CAFÉ–Eco-Café	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
12th September		
8:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
19th September		
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	Harvest Festival	All Saints, Chedgrave
5:00pm	Harvest Festival	St Mary, Sisland
26th September		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Harvest Festival	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Harvest Festival	Holy Trinity, Loddon
7:00pm	Last Sunday Praise*	St John's, Loddon

*Congregational singing is allowed once again. If sufficient people wish to come to face-to-face Last Sunday Praise we will hold it as advertised, otherwise we will continue with a pdf and URL links to songs.

Open again!

Our churches are open for Sunday worship. Not only that, but we are allowed to sing again in services inside the church buildings. Hurrah! If you have enjoyed joining us online but haven't been to face-to-face church before, why don't you come and join us at one of our services in church? You will see some familiar faces. All welcome.

Prayer Requests

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

Church Services

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

<p>*Every Saturday 6:00pm</p>	<p>Roman Catholic Mass</p>	
<p>**Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm</p>	<p>Come and Pray If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to 'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection' 3rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing <i>All are welcome</i></p>	
<p>+Thursdays during school term</p>	<p>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</p>	
<p>Every day Morning Prayer 9:00am <i>All Welcome</i></p>	Monday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave

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

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

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

Holy Trinity Bell Ringers

As Covid restrictions have gradually eased, we are now ringing all eight bells at Holy Trinity again. The first Tuesday practice night took place on 20th July and we now ring regularly for Sunday morning services. Weddings have begun again and we have rung the bells to celebrate them at Loddon, Woodton, Bergh-Apton and Lowestoft.

We also rang our first eight bell quarter peal for well over a year of Superlative Surprise Major at North Lopham near Diss.

Steve Rabong.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Table Top Sale

There is a table top sale on Saturday 11th September at Langley with Hardley Village Hall.

£5 per table. Pre-booking is essential.

Contact Tibby or Jane on 01508 520184



MacMillan Coffee Morning

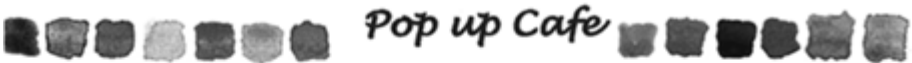
We are holding a coffee morning from 10:00am-1:00pm on Friday 24th September at Langley with Hardley Village Hall.



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Community Groups, News and Events

News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon and District Women's Institute

At the time of writing we're looking forward to our bring and share garden tea party on 18th August. Members were given the challenge to decorate a jam jar, to fill it with flowers from the garden and to bring their creation to the tea to use as a table decoration—if enough of our members have met the challenge we'll need a table just for the decorations! It should be a pretty sight.

We're planning to get back to our normal meetings in September and are looking forward to that. Even so, we think that it will be sensible to continue to 'proceed with caution' and will be talking this over when we meet in August.

Loddon WI has a public Facebook page, as well as a members' page. If you are interested in joining us please contact us through the Facebook page or via LoddonWI@gmail.com or telephone 01508 528656. We've been pleased to welcome three new members over the last two or three months, and there's always room for more! Our best wishes to all.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 15th September. *Speaker:* Mr Frank Hume.

Subject: Murder in the Family—the true story of a world famous Edwardian murder.

Competition: Something from the Edwardian era.

St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. 7:15 for 7:30pm.

Thursday, 16th September

"Knit, crochet and natter". Chedgrave Church Centre. 2:30-4:00pm. Interested?

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 28th September** in All Saints Church Rooms at 2:00pm; this follows an informal garden meeting during August. For further

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

The group meets on the third **Tuesday** of every month, starting at 7:30pm at Langley with Hardley Village Hall. Further details from:

Secretary Gillian Ball 01508 528182 or President Judy Wilson 01508 522051.

Loddon Flower Club

We hope to hold our Annual General Meeting in September so please take a look at our website at www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk or contact Tricia or Alex on the details below.



A garden party was held at our Treasurer Penny's in Claxton on 20th July when we had good weather and a number of members who enjoyed tea and cake as our first get-together. We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions. Contact Tricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Alex Pinder on 01508 493869 or nmark@aol.com.



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Cost £2.50 per session, first session free.

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

Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club.



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

At last, plans are being made to restart early in October. Watch out for more details in next month's magazine.

For more information call Sara on 01508 521958.



Short Tennis Club

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

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



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.

The season continues to go well, with several excellent victories. We did reach the final of a local cup competition, but were beaten by just twelve runs. Brothers Aaron and Rob Beaumont continue to try and out score one another, both now passed the 600 mark.

The chairman's day was very successful, the club side being victorious: a great social occasion. Our weekend in North Norfolk is getting closer, Castle Rising and Thornham being our opponents. We have now reached the final month of the season. More news to come.

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





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Loddon Community Gym

Have you read the flyer included in this month's Chet Contact?

The Community Gym is open and ready to welcome back current, former and new members. Bring the leaflet along to claim your free session.

Although the government has lifted all restrictions that were imposed during the Covid pandemic we at the gym are conscious that not everyone is comfortable rushing back to 'normality'. Every effort will continue to be made to keep members safe in the Gym and these measures will stay in place as long as we feel they are necessary. Once you get used to them, the arrangements are fairly simple and straightforward and hopefully are sufficient to reassure everyone and encourage members to return to their fitness regimes and new members to feel both safe and welcome.

If you are interested in joining the gym have a look at our Facebook page and on the website www.loddoncommunitygym.com, call in during open hours to see for yourself, or contact Louise our personal trainer (07534 946143). Louise will discuss your aims and prepare an individual programme appropriate for your fitness level. The system of GP referrals is also back on track so if your GP thinks you might benefit from an exercise programme you will be made very welcome. No special clothing is required just something cool and comfortable. The small annual fee of £20 and £5 per session make the gym a very competitive form of exercise.

Pre-booking of gym sessions will continue:

<https://www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym>

If this is difficult for you please contact Louise and she will book you in.

Cashless payment on arrival for your session has also been introduced. For more information keep an eye on the website.

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

Mondays: 1:30-6:00pm, Tuesdays: 4:30-8:30pm, Fridays: 10:00am-1:00pm.
Any minor changes to these times will be clear when you book.



2021 Flu Vaccination

Doctors' practices are still awaiting government guidance regarding both this year's Flu Campaign and the COVID Booster Campaign. However, we would like to reassure all our patients that we have pre-ordered flu vaccines for all those patients eligible so patients can be vaccinated here at the practice. We will be in contact with patients as we work through emerging government guidance moving forwards, so there is no need to contact the practice currently.

Chet Valley Medical Practice

Patient Participation Group

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

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Social Whist

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



Chet Staithe Probus Club

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



Chet Valley Probus Club

14th September Speaker Nick Excel: A Fireman's Lot

28th September Speaker Wally Webb: 40 Years of Radio Norfolk

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. 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

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Monday 6th September via Zoom 7:00pm start.

From September our monthly club meetings will resume as in-person meetings but we now have a new venue: St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. Further details for our Monday 13th September meeting will be posted on our website when they are available.



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

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Loddon and District Horticultural Society

On **Wednesday 8th** September we will be holding our Annual General Meeting at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon, starting at 7:30pm.



Although we haven't held any meetings since March 2020, we did manage a garden visit to one of our members in Loddon in August.

If you would like to join our society please get in touch with Chairman Jean Cope on 01502 710024 or email jeancope52@gmail.com or Secretary Hazel Copland at happyhaze50@gmail.com

Loddon WEA

If all goes well, in September, the Branch will take the first step towards a return to 'normal' life. An Annual General Meeting, in the Jubilee Hall, is being planned for the 27th. Whatever rules are in force at the time, we shall be taking no risks and will adhere to observance of the present measures of distancing, hand sanitising and wearing masks.



Details of the business to be conducted at the AGM will be published later in an agenda, but will include renewal of the committee. There are eight committee members at present, but half of them have served for many years and range in age from 70+ to over 90! We hope to have a guest speaker at the AGM as a reminder of the main focus of the branch. All being well, it will be possible to offer a series of talks on 'The History of Criminology' later in the year and details will be given at the September meeting.

For any further information, please phone 01508 521036.

Colin Shearmur

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

We are slowly getting back into the swing of things after lockdown and are pleased to say that we have arranged a branch meeting for this month on Monday 20th September at 7:00pm in the rear room of the Library Annex, Church Plain, Loddon. Note the change of venue, new day and new start time.



On Sunday 5th September we will be holding a bowls tournament at the Swan Outdoor Bowls Club, so limber up your bowling arms and come along! Book in by 1:30pm for a 2:00pm start. Raffle and Refreshments.

For further information about meetings and events, please phone Secretary Christine Hartley on 01508 521136.

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XPRESSIONS CAFÉ—Eco-Café 5th September, 10:00am - 12:00noon.

Where and what is XPRESSIONS CAFÉ?

XPRESSIONS CAFÉ takes place in the church and church centre at All Saints, Chedgrave, just off Hardley Road next to The Pits play area. It will be open on the first Sunday of each month between 10:00am and 12:00noon.

What is it? *It's church, Jim, but not as we know it!*

Each month there is a theme around which the whole morning is based. The centre of XPRESSIONS CAFÉ is a café, XPRESSO, which is open all morning serving free good quality refreshments (coffee, tea, soft drinks, cakes, biscuits). There is also chance to read one of the Sunday newspapers or chat to others who have dropped in. You can stay there for the whole morning if you wish.

Then there is XPRESSIONS, upstairs in the church centre and open from 10:00am to 11:15am, which offers the chance to express yourself creatively using craft, cookery, games, stories, singing and prayer. This is often the place where families gather but anyone can come and join in.

At the same time in the church, from 10:30am to 11:00am, there is XPLORE FURTHER. Here there is often a discussion or else some other way of exploring the theme for the day.

Lastly there is XPLORE TOGETHER for the final half hour in the church where we use film, music, discussion, activity as we participate in unpacking the theme.

Come and go as you like.

Why not come and see what it is all about?

Our next café is an Eco-Café where the format will be a little different. We will be exploring aspects of our environment and pondering the effects of climate change and how we can respond.

Plant Stalls

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



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

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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.



Loddon & Chedgrave District Society.

Hi everybody, plans are afoot!

Contact June Strickland by 21st July on 01508 528853.

Parkinsons

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 Community Cinema

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



Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

We are a friendly group meeting each month for a talk from a guest speaker and refreshments. Usual time 8:00pm at the Brian Clarke Meeting Rooms, Mallard Close, Chedgrave. We are sadly, not operating at present due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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



Davy Place Social Club

The social club is unable to operate as normal due to current Covid-19 restrictions.

Please contact Janet on 01508 522115 with any questions you may have. Thank you.



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We've made some changes to our opening hours:

Until 12th September:

Monday 10:00am-2:00pm; Thursday 10:00am-6:00pm; Saturday 1:00-4:00pm

Closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday.

From 13th September:

Monday, Thursday, Friday 10:00am-7:00pm; Saturday 1:00-4:00pm

Closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Sunday.

One-to-One PC support will be available, starting back on Monday 27th September from 10:00am-12:00noon. Our lovely volunteer will be in each Monday for support. Feel free to book in advance by calling 01508 520678 or just turn up on the day.

We have plans to restart all our regular events—if there is anything in particular you are missing please give us a ring on 01508 520678 or email us at

loddon.lib@norfolk.gov.uk and we will do our best to get these started again this autumn.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

All being well we can meet up again in September. The Lecture Hall is booked for Wednesday 15th September when we plan to have our own Lockdown Unlocked session, sharing what has been going on historically in Loddon during the last 18 months. Obviously, we will have to abide by Covid safety guidelines but as everything is so fluid, details will be on posters a little nearer the date. For the meetings later in the year most of the speakers who were to speak last year are still available. Topics include: Caister Roman Project; Swing Riots in; and The de Argentine Family: Cup Bearers to Medieval Kings.

The Hardley, Heckingham and Langley graveyard surveys have now been updated, and we await the demise of the tall grass and bracken so that we can tackle Hales later in the autumn. The updated surveys have been given to the churches at Hardley, Langley and Heckingham, for visitors to see.

Recently the test pit diggers met and created two holes in a garden in Langley. Mid-20th century rubbish in one pit was compensated for by some nice old potsherds in both pits; more news of the finds at the September meeting. I hasten to add that the pits were backfilled before we left. We hope to dig more test pits in the coming months. If you would like to join in this very sociable activity, please contact me at: elvie.herd@uwclub.net

Finding the domestic waste pit in the recent Langley dig prompted discussion about when council domestic refuse collection commenced. I remembered my father carrying tins and bottles across the fields to bury them in a small copse before 1954 while living on a small farm in Warwickshire.

Searching the EDP archive online it would appear that regular fortnightly roadside bin collections started in the Loddon RDC area in 1958, and that by 1965 it was deemed necessary increase this to weekly which involved purchasing a second lorry and employing a second team of collectors. Loddon and Chedgrave had weekly collections from the beginning. Elderly people living alone could ask for their bin to be moved by the council staff. Remember these were round metal bins, no wheels. The EDP reports are not always detailed, but it is likely the rubbish went to Bergh Apton, where the canny council had negotiated purchase of a disused pit at a favourable price (£1) while expediting arrangements for the company's access to a new extraction site. In the 1972 local government re-organisation Norfolk County Council took over responsibility for waste disposal and thus acquired this bargain while having to pay several thousand pounds to expand the facility. The new South Norfolk Council took over the weekly collections.



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Read Any Good Books Lately?

“A room without books is like a body without a soul.”

Marcus Tullius Cicero (born 106 BC, died 7th December, 43 BC)

Roman statesman, lawyer, scholar, and writer

“The Night of the Flood” by Zöe Somerville

Set in Norfolk in the time of the 1950s, the main characters are young people living in a Norfolk village. They are well described by the author and there is a love triangle at the heart of this story. It was a time when Americans were stationed over here and were considerably more well-off than their English counterparts, who were struggling with the aftermath of World War 2. The climax comes with the terrible flooding of 1953 in Norfolk. Zöe Somerville’s description of this, and the devastation of the region most badly affected, is very moving, as is her description of the teenagers and their emotions throughout that period.

“A Week in December” by Sebastian Faulkes

This book has a clever plot, with each character connected to the others simply because they, or other members of their families, are to be guests at the same dinner party given at the end of a particular week in December. The detail in the guests’ varied backgrounds—particularly in the case of the hedge-fund manager with his world of high finance, banking and investment trading—is enormous and is finely researched by the author. Some of it is labyrinthine and hard to understand. Faulkes uses a measure of humour in several of his descriptions, which provides a certain amount of relief from the seriousness of the issues dealt with. This is a good read, which (be warned!) requires a very high level of concentration.

“The Midnight Library” by Matt Haig

This imaginative and moving novel surely has to be one of the best novels—if not *the* best novel—written by Matt Haig (so far). In a number of his books his understanding of a great many different characters has been shown to be extraordinary and his ability to bring these characters to life on paper is equally so. Male or female, adult, teenager or child—whoever he writes about, he can describe and energise so well that we can believe in them. He frequently seems to enjoy writing with settings in different periods of time and does this with great skill, as is shown both in this book and in “How to Stop Time.”



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Nature Notes

Here I am at the beginning of August and the mole(s) have made their annual pilgrimage to our small front lawn evidenced by soil heaps suddenly appearing. I have only ever seen a live mole twice. Once when lifting a log in a large, wooded garden and found one underneath it! The other being in my childhood on a family drive in the country; a mole had crossed the road ahead of us and was struggling to climb the kerb.

Back in June Rachel watched a sparrow on our roof catch a largish dragonfly, remove its wings and fly off with the body to feed its young; just hope it didn't choke its chicks. Dog walking along Langley Staithe, again in June, I was alerted by some squeaks and there were two beautiful sleek black mink playing by the reeds. Unfortunately, these non-native escaped mammals are killing machines and cause devastation to the smaller mammals and birds that inhabit our waterways.

A couple of days after this we were entertained by a young greater spotted woodpecker successfully attempting to drink and bathe in our raised pond by clinging to the brick edge. Early in July I discovered a stunned greater spotted woodpecker by our back door, as I bent down to check on it, it immediately screeched and flew off. That evening we had another visitor: a hedgehog was underneath our bird feeders, always a welcome sight.

There have been several rare birds in Norfolk, and I have been fortunate to catch up with a few of them. The first being nine European bee eaters at Great Yarmouth. My first view of them was distant so I could only see their outline as they flew around. Later I got some stunning views of these brightly-coloured European visitors, only to discover I had left my phone at home so no photos. Two trips to Hickling Broad to see the new scrapes they had made brought in some more rare birds, all waders, a collared pratincole and black-winged stilt from Europe and a pectoral sandpiper from America. Later in the month I heard that a long-billed dowitcher (from America) had turned up and Dickleburgh Moor near Diss; I wasn't disappointed with brilliant views of this summer-plumaged wader, with the supporting acts of turtle doves and yellow wagtails. However, I am not always that successful: The following day I was at Carlton Marsh reserve in the hope of seeing a gull-billed tern, which had been seen first thing at Minsmere then had moved onto Carlton Marsh, unfortunately it had left just before I arrived. Both the bee eaters and the dowitcher were birds I had never seen before.

As I write this the buddleia, we can see through our kitchen window has been covered in butterflies, until today it has been mostly red admiral but there now seems to be an equal number of peacocks.

September should see more birds passing through, all heading south, some to stay with us overwinter while others seeking warmer climes. Hopefully I will get to see some more interesting birds and maybe even new species to me.

Richard and Rachel Hull

Once We're Open Again...

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

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



Quiz at All Saints, Chedgrave on 22nd October

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

Autumn Fair at All Saints, Chedgrave on 6th November

Come and join us for refreshments at our sale.

Concert at All Saints, Chedgrave on 7th November

Sadly *Tale Dolce Musica* have disbanded due to the Covid epidemic. We hope that we will still be able to host a concert on this date. Watch this space for further details.

Victorian Evening

The Victorian Evening Committee are once again busy planning for this year's event. All of our fingers are crossed that it goes to plan, and so please save the date: Friday 10th December 6:30pm-8:00pm. More details in next month's Chet Contact.



Beans and Tomatoes

In the community garden at All Saints Chedgrave, we have some tomato plants and some french, dwarf and runner bean plants. All are producing a good harvest. They are there for anyone who would like to pick them.

Don't be shy! Go round the corner of the church porch and there they are.



Hymn Singing in All Saints, Chedgrave Wednesday 8th September

A date has been set for the Hymn Singing Evening when most people will be back from their summer holidays. It's Wednesday 8th September at 7:30pm in All Saints, Chedgrave.



With time for a warm-up and then several hymns, a break for refreshments and some more hymns it should be a lovely event.

Please make a note in your diary. I look forward to meeting you then. Bring your friends, your neighbours and anyone else you can think of. The more, the merrier.

James

Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

Now is the time to cut back the summer raspberries and tie in the canes for next year; prune the blackcurrants by cutting out a third of the older branches back to the stool to promote new growth; possibly a late prune of the gooseberries, redcurrants and whitecurrants to maintain the goblet shape, if a bush shape. If trained as a fan or espalier against a wall remove any crossing or weak branches and tie in strong new growth. The main aim is to have good air circulation which reduces diseases. The autumn raspberries should keep on producing some fruit until the first frosts so feed once or twice a week. These need to be cut completely back to the base when they have finished.

Some apples and other top fruit were ready to harvest early this year and varieties like the allotment Beauty of Bath apples were ready at the beginning of August. These don't keep, so eat straight away. Other varieties will continue into the winter e.g. Winter Majentin; check the varieties you have. You can lightly prune apples and pears now to remove minor crossing or damaged branches, but any serious pruning should wait until the trees are dormant. Depending on the mildness of the winter, this may not be until January.

Stone fruit are the opposite of apples and pears so **DO NOT** prune plums, damsons, gages, etc. from the end of August until June as silverleaf fungus prevalent in damp cooler weather infects through the wounds.



From the Garden

Our garden contributor is taking a break this month.



Blackberry and Apple Crumble Cake

With autumn upon us, it is the season of blackberries and apples so what better than a delicious and simple recipe that uses both.

Ingredients:

250g self raising flour
25g oats
280g soft brown sugar
200g cold butter, cubed
75g ground almonds
2 eggs
350g mix of cooking apples, cored and diced, and blackberries
(I prefer more apple than blackberry)
Flaked almonds if desired

Method:

Mix dry ingredients and rub the butter in until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Fill a teacup with the mixture.

Make a well in the mixture and stir in the eggs.

Spread the mixture over the bottom of a lined traybake tray (17x30cms).

Scatter over the fruit.

Scatter over the reserved crumbs

Scatter with flaked almonds if you like

Bake (180C/160C fan) for 1 hour—1 hour 15 mins until golden and cooked through.

Leave to cool and cut into squares.

It's good with cream or ice cream, or just on its own.

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