

CONTACT

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March 2021



Matt Houchin

Jack Barwick – What an Achievement

What do you say about someone who has been a channel of communication for a local community for over 50 years, printing the news every month regardless of the inconvenience of deadlines? I know from my own experience that printing a local newsletter is both a joy and a massive commitment!

Many in Loddon and the surrounding villages may well be aware that Jack Barwick has decided that the time has come to step down from producing **Chet News**, the monthly news that goes to each household in Chedgrave, Langley and Hardley, although he certainly didn't take that decision lightly. After all that commitment he wanted to make sure that the communities covered by Chet News weren't going to lose out and that news and information from both the church and local groups would continue to be made available to everyone.

The answer lay in producing a single publication for the communities covered by both Contact and Chet News, naming the magazine as **Chet Contact** and offering a focus for activities that currently draw people from across the Chet Valley area.

Of course I couldn't let Jack go without a big thank-you for all that he has contributed to local news distribution over the years. Before Facebook, Twitter and local websites (not all that long ago!) local newsletters were the only comprehensive channels of local news, and they still fulfil a significant role. Where else do you find all the information about little local groups and organisations, and adverts of tradespeople who deal with every eventuality?

So, a big thank-you Jack for being a trailblazer who offered to get involved with setting up Chet News in the first place, and being the committed volunteer who ensured that the newsletter ran for so long. We hope that Chet Contact will continue to serve the communities for many years to come.

Revd. David Owen

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen:	01508 522993	david.chetvalley@gmail.com
Louise Morrissey:	01728 830733	delilah.morrissey@gmail.com
Ros Hoffmann:	01508 548200	ros@hoffmann2011.plus.com
Alison Ball:	01508 528126	ball880am@btinternet.com
Jill Haylock:	01508 520248	jillhaylock@aol.com
Fr. Padraig Hawkins:	01508 492202	office@east-angliadiocese.org.uk



Church Office

St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon NR14 6NB
 Phone: 01508 521179, Email: chetvalley@btconnect.com
 Open: Mon & Fri: 10am-4pm; Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10am-1pm



Baptisms, Weddings, 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

Contact Magazine

Email: c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

Editors:	Alison Ball, Roger Outlaw
Advertising:	vacant at this time
Treasurer:	Val Counter
Distribution:	Roger Outlaw & Helpers
Printing:	Roberts & Son 01508 520221

COPY DEADLINE IS ALWAYS NOON 8TH OF THE MONTH

Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

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

Please include your name and telephone number.

'Contact' is published monthly, with double issues for July/Aug & Dec/Jan.

DISCLAIMER

Advertisements are included in good faith, but the Church in Loddon does not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised.

Similarly, the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Church in Loddon.

From the Editor

Another month online I'm afraid,, hopefully as the vaccine programme progresses we can soon slowly return to normal—whatever the new normal will be.

While much is still 'not happening' there are some things that are, one of which is the B-line scheme (p45), with Loddon DIY, offering FREE Wildflower seed for gardens. Rev. Alison has set aside part of her garden for this and it looked lovely last summer—just like the pic. on page 45!

Page 23 offers various choices for just getting out of doors for a walk.

Winter slips behind us and there are also tips for our fruit and veg fraternity as things begin to warm up(p53).

From next month, you will notice something different about your magazine as we incorporate Chedgrave's 'Chet News' into it, creating the new 'Chet Contact' which will be delivered to all villages in our benefice.

Jack Barwick has edited and managed it through 60 years and is finally hanging up his blue pencil. I'm sure all in Chedgrave, and indeed across the benefice, will wish to thank him and wish him well. Alison and I will fortunately still have him close by if we have any questions or need for advice. The Rector's own thanks are in this issue on page 2.

Roger



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Ministerial Musings

It was a year ago this month that all of our lives changed dramatically, a year that we will be talking of for many years to come: a cataclysmic milestone, the point when the world changed.

For far too many people the changes wrought by the pandemic were and will continue to be painful, with loved ones lost, bodies weakened by long Covid, jobs disappearing, mental health in tatters and businesses ruined.

We cannot move to anything like normal human life until we acknowledge the body blow that this pandemic has dealt us, perhaps by expressing the anger we feel about this 'wasted' year, shouting at God as the Psalmist did many centuries ago, 'You have plunged me into the lowest abyss, into the darkest regions of the depths, your wrath bears heavily on me, you have brought me all your fury'.
(Psalm 88, 6-7)

This is the season of Lent in the Church, a time of soul searching and reflection, a time to think about where our lives are going and whether that is the right direction. For all of us, whether we observe Lent or not, whether we believe in God or not, this stage of the pandemic as we tentatively start to open up our lives is a time to think about the direction in which we are heading.

Can any good come out of the pandemic? I believe that it can, but only if we choose to learn some of its harsh lessons: that our actions have consequences and those consequences can mean life or death to others. That the people, the animals and the plants that make our world are fragile. That we are all connected and that we ignore those connections at our peril.

Chief Seattle of the Squamish tribe is said to have spoken to those in power in America in the 1850s, stating: 'The earth does not belong to man. Man belongs to the earth. Man has not woven the net of life: he is just a thread in it. Everything he does to this net he does to himself.'

Perhaps after all these years, as we begin to emerge from a global pandemic, we may begin to see the wisdom of those words.

Belinda Barwick



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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 10am and 12 noon, you can come and go as you please for coffee, cake, discussion, crafts, games, stories, reflection and much more.

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

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

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

XTRA! is an exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church. Refreshments from 3.15pm, service starts ~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.

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 10am-12pm**. 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

Baptism

None recorded in the past month

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

Funerals

Doreen May Payne who died on 11th January 2021

Funeral: 27th January 2021 at Earlham Crematorium

Russell Charles Alderton who died on 19th January 2021

Funeral: 12th February 2021 at Waveney Crematorium

Inge Haverson who died on 23rd January 2021

Funeral: 25th February 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.

Margaret Cook and family would like to thank you for all the cards, messages and comforting words received following the sad loss of Alan. Thanks also to Chet Valley Medical Practise, the community nursing team and a particular mention to Dr Draeger for his kindness and care shown.

Finally thank you to Rev David Owen for conducting a supportive and fitting funeral service for Alan, under difficult restrictions. **Thank you all again.**

Saving The Planet– One Small Step

What do you do with your teabags once you've made a cuppa? Do you know that many varieties are actually made using PLASTIC! If they end up in the compost they will end up contributing to polluting the ground. Putting them in the general rubbish isn't much better. There are common brands that don't use plastic, surely that's the way to go—and the tea is pretty good too!

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Notes from Sisland

March 2021

As I sit writing this the snow is swirling outside and we are still unable to attend a church service at St Mary's, Sisland. We have, however, continued to be open for private prayer on both Wednesdays and Sundays. We have seen a few visitors spending some important time in our special church at this difficult period.

One of the challenges of this period of lockdown has been how to raise funds for both payment of our bills; the parish share and the insurance in particular (although the electricity bill has been extremely low as we have not been using the building!) In addition, we need to do some work on one of the windows in the church. Hopefully the work will be able to take place towards the start of March and I will be able to update everyone in the next issue of Chet Contact.

Did you know that Sisland Church is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online? Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations can make a real difference to us, so if you take the opportunity to shop online in the next few weeks, could you take a moment to sign up and support us and a number of other wonderful charities. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sislandchurch/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=en-e1

We certainly hope to be able to return to some fund-raising events later this year to supplement those opportunities we have online, and I will be able to share these when we have confirmed them.

With thanks for your continued support.

Rowena Bryce

Sisland Churchwarden

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A REWARDING
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The Council currently has two councillor vacancies to be filled by the co-option process.

No formal qualifications are required, and knowledge of local Government is not necessary. Support and training will be given.

Residents interested in becoming a Parish Councillor are invited to email a single sheet of typed A4 giving details of personal history and reasons for wishing to serve on the Council.

The Council wishes to fill these vacancies as soon as possible. Applications will be considered at the next available Parish Council meeting.

For further details please contact:

Carla Petersen, Parish Clerk

Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com

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COVID-19 19 Update: Many Parish facilities remain open during this latest set of pandemic restrictions but the Tennis Courts have had to close. Ensure for everyone's safety that social distancing guidelines are adhered to, and hand sanitiser is used regularly to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the Play Area, Skate Park, Allotments and Staithe Public Conveniences.

South Norfolk Council Help Hub: South Norfolk Council is here to help you throughout the pandemic. If you need any assistance, please contact SNC Help Hub on 01508 533 933 or email: communities@s-norfolk.gov.uk. The Help Hub will redirect your request to a local group of volunteers. SNC Help Hub is also to help with financial support for residents and businesses. www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-information

Precept 2021-2022: The Precept is the Parish Council's share of Council Tax. Loddon Parish Council is delighted to report that the amount charged to each household for 2021-2022 remains the same amount as it was in 2020-2021.

Councillor Vacancy. Would you like the opportunity to become a Parish Councillor? The Parish Council plays a key role in Loddon life. If you are interested and would like to work as part of a team to improve community amenities and facilities, we would like to hear from you. Qualifications are: you must be over 18, be an elector within the Parish, live or work within three miles of Loddon. Please email the Parish Council office to register your interest; clerk@loddonpc.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan: Loddon and Chedgrave are considering producing a Neighbourhood Plan and are looking for interested people who would like to play a part in shaping the future development in the community. Please contact Loddon or Chedgrave Parish Council if you would like to volunteer. "The Plan is written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place." <https://locality.org.uk/services.../neighbourhood-planning/>

Streetlights: Loddon Parish Council has formally adopted thirty streetlights from South Norfolk Council on Drury Lane, The Walks and Leman Grove. Please visit www.loddonpc.org.uk to report any issues.

Allotments: email Georgina to be added to the waiting list; finance@loddonpc.org.uk.

Hand Sanitising Stations: South Norfolk Council have kindly installed five hand sanitising stations throughout the village. Let the Parish Council know if they need replenishing.

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: The Agenda will be displayed on the notice board on Church Plain, and on the Council's website at least three working days before the meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held remotely on Wednesday the 10 March 2021 at 7pm. Parishioners are welcome to attend remotely via 'GoTo Meeting' (details for remote access is available on the Agenda).

Contact Loddon Parish Council: The office is currently closed due to COVID-19. Please contact the clerk via email; clerk@loddonpc.org.uk or the finance officer; finance@loddonpc.org.uk. If there is a genuine Parish emergency, please call; 01508 486 128. The new website: www.loddonpc.org.uk and Facebook page is regularly updated: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC

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please contact Francis Kirkpatrick
01508 520331

Hales and Heckingham Parish Council

Next Parish Meeting: Wednesday 24 March 2021 online at 7.30 pm. All welcome— contact Clerk for details. Agenda on the bus shelter notice board opposite Masala Garden and on the website 3 days before meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.



2021 Census: Census day is 21 March. The nationwide survey of housing and the population. Households will receive a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

Unsung Heroes: The villages have residents who quietly do things that improve all our lives. If you know someone we should say thank you to, get in touch with the Clerk.

Neighbourly Spirit: Do you know whether your neighbour is ok? Now that Spring is coming and it is easier to be outside and remain physically distanced, if you don't already do it, it's a good time to check in with neighbours to make sure they are all right. Please be the neighbour you would like.

Help Hubs: If you need urgent help please contact South Norfolk Help Hub on 01508 533933 or earlyhelphubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

Roads and Footpath Issues: If you see anything that is not right on any of the roads or footpaths in the parishes please advise South Norfolk Council through their webpage <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>. There is also a link on our webpage. It would be helpful if you could advise the Clerk too.

Fly-tipping: To have the greatest effect please report to South Norfolk Council. It is tempting to post instances on Facebook but this only works if others report it too. There is a link on the parish website to the webpage: <https://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/residents/neighbourhood-issues/street-cleaning-fly-tipping-and-litter/report-fly-tipping-or-littering>. It would be helpful if you could also tell the Parish Clerk. If you see fly-tipping call the Police on 111.

Composting Group: The Group is hoping to recommence in the Spring. Contact Alan Mason for more details: alan_mbc@btinternet.com or on 07738 933316.

Working Groups & Parish Councillors: If you would like information about any projects around the village, get in touch with the Clerk. The Parish Council is looking forward to carrying out community engagement on a neighbourhood planning project. If there is anything you would like considered please let the Parish Clerk know.

Councillor Vacancies: If you are interested please get in touch with the Clerk. It is only necessary to attend two thirds of the meetings held each year. We want to have as diverse a representation as possible so that residents feel involved in the village.

Parish Clerk: Eleanor Banister clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk or by phone 07703 124544
Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

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

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Chedgrave Parish Council



All enquiries to the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson. Tel: 01508 528310

Email: chedgrave.pc@gmail.com Website: www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk

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

The Parish Council held a virtual meeting on 4th February 2021 (in line with Coronavirus Act 2020). Copies of the minutes are available on the Parish Council noticeboard, website and Facebook.

Coronavirus: For urgent help, including if not “on-line”, contact South Norfolk Help Hub on **01508 533933** or earlyhelphubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk. Support grants are also available.

“Chet Chat”: Need help? Phone a Friend! Call **07876 050110** for support.

Business Grants: South Norfolk Council has launched an **“Additional Restrictions Grant”** primarily aimed at businesses who have not qualified for other Covid-19 grants. Businesses may consult www.south-norfolk.gov.uk for eligibility criteria.

Grebe Drive Play Area: Turf has been laid and fencing will soon be replaced. The new equipment expected end of February/early March with re-opening by the Easter holidays.

Mobile Phone Mast: A recent planning application to install a mobile phone mast in Chedgrave has been approved. More detail regarding will be provided when available.

Brian Clarke Room: Currently closed.

Planning Matters: There were no planning applications to consider. The council declined to take further action in relation to a planning appeal (APP/L2630/W/20/3263886 - 2020/1154: - Land East of The Manor Norwich Road Chedgrave Norfolk). Planning approval granted for a mobile phone mast, see above.

Neighbourhood Plan: Chedgrave Parish Council is progressing a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Loddon Parish Council. Residents interested in helping should contact the Clerk.

White Horse Plain: An updated plan not impacting current parking arrangements was circulated. The council awaits feedback from Norfolk County Council.

The Pits: New bulbs have been planted (aconites and bluebells). Many thanks to those who helped with this socially distanced task.

A146 Junction: The council considered proposed changes to the junction and will respond to Norfolk County Council expressing some concerns.

Easter Egg Hunt: Unfortunately, councillors decided not to hold the Easter Egg Hunt again this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Litter Picking: The council welcomes Ros Mitchell as a volunteer litter picker and thanks everyone who helps to keep Chedgrave tidy.

Faulty street lights, potholes, problems with roads, 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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News from your Local District Councillor

March 2021

In conjunction with South Norfolk's excellent early Help Hub, our ChetChat group are continuing to offer help and support across our area. The number, to reach our fifty volunteers, is **07867 050110**. If you would like to speak to the Help Hub team, their number is **01508 533933**.

The Covid vaccinations, a testament to both our NHS, and world-class British science and research, are providing genuine hope for so many.

My regular surgeries will resume when it is safe to hold them again. In the meantime, please ring me anytime on **07733323581** if I can help you.

As well as an increasing number of issues that matter to people locally, I've also been following the progress of the proposed Norwich Western Link road, linking the western end of Broadland Northway with the A47, which is planned to be open and in use in late 2025. A public consultation is planned for later this year, which I would encourage getting involved in.

Thanks for putting your trust in me when you voted; it has been a great privilege to be able to serve the voters of our fantastic community.

Let's carry on looking after each other during winter. One day, all will be well again, and we will come out of this stronger.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe

Loddon Parish Council have asked for the following to be displayed



All of South Norfolk district is covered by a Public Spaces Protection Order made under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

This Order makes it an offence for any person in control of a dog not to clear up their dog's faeces immediately on land that is open to the air and to which the public is entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment.

You can report dog fouling on SNC's web-site; www.south-norfolk.gov.uk or by calling **01508 533 633**."

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Contact Leigh Cole on **07766 705988** or leighcole1@gmail.com

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Walking in Norfolk www.walkinginengland.co.uk/norfolk is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk alone or with a group the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Norfolk (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the website and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Short Walks round our churchyards

If you only want a short walk close to home any of our church grounds can offer you a potentially interesting stroll and they are always open.

With Spring now under way there are countless crocus, snowdrops, and soon daffodil bulbs bursting into bloom. Mind your feet because they pop up everywhere and in places you will find it hard to miss them.

Following on will be swathes of Bluebells a bit later plus the blooms in the hedges and trees.

On top of that there are the many birds and other occasional animals that regularly visit.

They are peaceful and valued parts of our community.

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During these difficult times we are aware that some people are in need. Perhaps these can be of help to you:

Loddon Town Estate Trust

What does the Trust do?

We can offer small grants to people who live in Loddon who are going through a difficult time in their lives. The Trust is made up of two strands, welfare and education. Grants are made in proven circumstances, which means you must prove that you need help. However, we really want to help if we can!

Who can apply to the Trust?

The Trust is for anyone who lives in Loddon.

What might the Trust pay for?

These are some of the things we might help to fund:

- Household necessities such as a washing machine or cooker.
- Disability aids.
- Bathroom adaptations such as shower.
- Equipment for educational activities.
- Help to access education or training opportunities.

How do you apply to the Trust?

To find out more about how the Loddon Town Estate Trust might help you, contact the Secretary: Ann Lumley: 01508 528141 or by post to 1 Harvey Green, Loddon, NR14 6UB.

Please remember that we will need to ask some questions about what you can afford, and why you need a grant. We don't have a big pot of money, so we must make sure we use it wisely.

Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund

We can offer small grants to people living in the parish of Chedgrave who are going through a difficult time in their lives. Please remember that we will need to ask some questions about what you can afford, and why you need a grant. We don't have a big pot of money, so we must make sure we use it wisely.

How do you apply to the Discretionary Fund?

Please contact

Rev David Owen: david.chetvalley@gmail.com 01508 522993;

or Rev Alison Ball: ball880am@btinternet.com 01508 528126

Chet Chat

Offering a friendly helping hand to our over-60s friends and neighbours across Loddon, Chedgrave, Sisland and Hales & Heckingham.

Phone: 07876 050110



Norfolk Swift Response Service



Our Norfolk Swift Response Service is available 24/7 by calling 0344 800 8020 and choose option 1 when prompted. Swift Response provides help, support and reassurance when someone has an urgent, unplanned need at home but doesn't need the emergency services. The Swift Response team can assist with emergency care needs if, for example, your usual carer is suddenly unavailable. If you have fallen, but are not injured, the team can use special lifting equipment to help make moving as safe as possible. Staff wear Personal Protective Equipment and social distancing measures are also used where appropriate to minimise the risk of infection to staff and those they are supporting. Can you help us share this information with friends and family who may be vulnerable?

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

Foodbank



If you need a Foodbank parcel, currently this is what you should do: contact the Foodbank by phoning 0300 365 1123 - it's a free number.

They will ask you for your details and will ask various questions so that you can receive the right level of support. The Foodbank will arrange for a parcel to be delivered to you through the local distribution centre. A log of who is receiving parcels is kept but there is presently greater flexibility in how many times a person or family can receive support from the Foodbank.

Holy Trinity Bell Ringers



Coronavirus continues to affect the bellringing world. The ringers at Loddon are of various ages; some went into self isolation straight away to keep away from others. A Whatsapp group is proving very useful not only for communicating but also for our mental well-being and to be able to make sure everyone is ok and not lonely at this challenging time. I'm sure as and when we are all able to get back to some form of normality, the bells at Holy Trinity will once again ring out over Loddon.

Steve Rabong

Church Services

7th March		
9.30am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
14th March		
8.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
21st March		
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11.00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
28th March—Palm Sunday		
9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon

Services during the Covid-19 pandemic– see current govt. advice

Our churches may not be open for daily worship. We believe all Sunday services will go ahead as advertised. ***Please look at our website for up-to-date information.*** On Sundays, 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 would like a paper copy of the Sunday service, please contact one of the clergy.

Our churches are open for private prayer. Holy Trinity (Mon-Sat), All Saints and St Margaret (Mon-Sun), and St Mary (Wed, Sun pm). We have to adhere to government and Church of England guidelines about maintaining social distancing, use of hand sanitisers... in the buildings. Please be mindful of instructions if you visit one of our churches that is open.

Church Services

Morning Prayer at 9.00am *All Welcome—currently suspended under Tier 4*

Wednesday

All Saints, Chedgrave

Saturday

All Saints, Chedgrave

Morning Prayer is currently being said by members of the clergy in their homes on the other days of the week. If you have any prayer requests, please let one of them know and they will be included in the daily prayers that we make.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

****Every
Saturday
6.00pm**

Roman Catholic Mass

***Tuesdays
7.30-8.30pm**

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’

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**** Please contact Father Padraig (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!

The War of 2020

A Hobart student's take on the last twelve months

For all of us, 2020 has been particularly trying; it has been a war, a war in which we have not been defeated, a war that was waged against us, by forces we could not control and yet even when the odds were not in our favour, as a human race we stood up and we said "NO"! We fought back, we united, and it made us all the more powerful. We united to fight the virus that plagued our nations, we united to fight the never-ending pandemic of prejudice and we united to support one another through a crisis; the like of which has never before been witnessed by humanity.

Of course, we have the obvious heroes: the carers, nurses, and teachers, who dedicated a year of their lives to supporting us and even in the darkest hours, however scared they were, they kept fighting for us, so in return we fought for them. This year it was the civilians who really came together and surprised the world with the unity they achieved.

People took to the media teaching us to be professional chefs, dance gurus and the Da Vincis of the future and Greta inspired the activists to come. Binmen danced to bring happiness to residents and postmen dressed up to delight children. Scotland became the first ever nation in the battle against period poverty and Americans voted in the first female BAME vice president. The lack of travel means nature is on the mend and we got a vaccine for a never-before-seen disease in 9 months. We stood with Marcus Rashford in his fight for free school meals and students fought for rent reductions in accommodation. People around the UK came to their doors to clap for carers and the nation was covered in rainbows in a sign of appreciation. So, when all is said and done it could have been worse.

We can agree that 2020 was overall pretty awful but the world has become a better more unified place and though we mourn the loss of roughly 2.2 million people worldwide, we need to remember that we were stronger when we were a community, we were more empowered when we worked as a society, we stood together to crush prejudice when we integrated ourselves and we can progress to do more if we stand together and work as one.

So, bring on 2021 because humankind has got it covered!

Anon, aged 14

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Flower Club

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

Loddon Women's Institute

Like most other groups and societies, Loddon W.I. is sad that we are unable to meet in our usual way. We have been trying to keep in touch with all of our members via monthly newsletters and phone calls. A recent survey among our members was encouraging in that it showed clearly that once it is safe to do so everyone will be 'coming back'! Meanwhile, like everyone else, we wait. We're thankful and grateful for the community we live in, and for the care shown to all those who have needed help. Best wishes to all. Contact us through our website; or Facebook, or via LoddonWI@gmail.com.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Chedgrave & District WI should be celebrating their 50th Birthday this month. We send good wishes to all our members and look forward to when we can meet again.

For information please contact Angela Dance, 521120.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

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

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

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

Patient Participation Group

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



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For more details, please contact Terry on: tezzahayden99@gmail.com
Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club



Hobart Badminton Club

We meet on **Fridays** 7.30-9.30pm at the Sports Hall, Hobart High School. We play socially and are not in a league. New members, aged 18 and over, welcome. Some previous playing experience required.

Membership:

Trial Members: £4 per session for 4 weeks.

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

Visitors: £5 per session



Short Tennis Club

Come and join our friendly non-competitive club on **Tuesdays 11.30am - 1pm** at the Jubilee Hall. All welcome. For more information call 01508 520589.

Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

For details contact Pete on 07931711323 or Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk

The Club run teams in the Norfolk Alliance as well as the Norfolk League, as well as teams at U9/11/13 age groups.

If you would like to play, whatever your age or ability, you'll be very welcome at Hales and Loddon. All our Youth Coaches are DBS checked and are qualified to work in youth Cricket. We are just off the A146 after the roundabout near Hales.



Ashby St Mary Cricket Club

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

Come and join us—you will enjoy it! For more information, please contact Paul on 01508 218078.

Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

We are delighted to announce our indoor training sessions at Langley School, starting from Monday 2nd November with Ben France. There will be two sets of 7 sessions from 6-7pm and 7-8pm. For more details e-mail Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk.



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Loddon Community Gym



As you read this many things may be the case. We may be engulfed in a 'beast from the east' as we were in 2018; we may be enjoying the first warmth of spring, crocus and daffodils bringing colour to our gardens.

We may be emerging from the third lockdown or, heaven forbid, be struggling against yet another variant of the covid-19 virus. Hopefully, the vulnerable will have received at least one dose of the many vaccines on offer and children will be back in school. Who knows? One thing 2020 surely taught us is that we never know for certain what lies ahead. One certainty however is that the Gym Committee is well prepared for the day when we can open again and welcome you back.

Until then we must all do our best to keep fit and active. Louise's plan to offer socially distanced, outdoor, Personal Training sessions for anyone who is interested (both members and non members) is on hold (at the time of writing) but she can be contacted if you are interested - loupt1@live.co.uk or phone 0753 494 6143.

Until we meet again at the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon keep an eye on our Facebook page and on the website www.loddoncommunitygym.com

Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

Unfortunately, we are not currently running sessions on Tuesday afternoons. BUT WATCH THIS SPACE, as we hope to restart as soon as possible in the New Year.

For more information call Sara 01508 521958.

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

Contact June on 01508 528853 for further details about the society.

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 Jack Barwick who is responsible for hall bookings on jackbarwick@yahoo.co.uk

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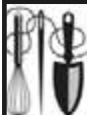
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Loddon Community Cinema

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

Social Whist

We meet every second and fourth Friday of the month though there is no pressure to attend every month We welcome new players. We meet in the back room of The Hollies and start playing at 7.45pm. The evening consists of 12 hands of Whist, each with a different partner, a drink and a biscuit at half time together with lots of chat. You don't need a partner and if you need a lift to get there this can be organised. All proceeds are for local charities. If you need a lift please call me, Jane Hale, on 01508 528875.

Chet Staithe Probus Club

Recently retired or just moved to the area? 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 are 10am - midday with the option of lunch. We are a friendly and informal club. Ages from 60 to almost 100. Regular guest speakers Meetings suspended until further notice.

Please contact Clive Boyd on 01508 520547, or e-mail cliveboyd@btconnect.com

Chet Valley Probus Club

All meetings are regrettably cancelled due to the current health crisis.

For further details contact the secretary: John McCormack, 5a Norton Road, Loddon NR14 6JN. 01508 521899..

Chet Valley Photography Club

We are continuing our monthly meeting virtually via Zoom. Our meeting on Monday 8th March is "Japanese Winter Wonderland" by Robert Snary. After starting off with a box brownie 620 film camera, Robert has progressed to being a PAGB Lecturer. This presentation is of a trip in Japan Jan/Feb 2020 including Culture, Snow Monkeys, & Tokyo.



We have some images from past annual exhibitions currently being displayed in Youngs Funeral Directors window for you to enjoy whilst you are on your exercise walk or shopping in Loddon. The display is available to view until end of March.

If you are interested in joining or for more information, secretary@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk or www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk.

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Would you like to meet other Parkinsons sufferers? We will normally meet on the first Monday of the month at the Chedgrave White Horse at 12.15pm. Partners are also welcome. For further details please ring Michael Osborne on 01508 522034.

Davy Place Social Club

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

Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

Why not come and meet some new people? We play games, do crafts and exercises, chat and have a two course lunch.

For up to date info contact Bev on 07826 299290.

9.30am-2.15pm, each Tuesday and Friday, at the Brian Clarke Room, Chedgrave.



Loddon and District Horticultural Society

For information contact:

Secretary Hazel on 07765098345 or happyhaze50@gmail.com

Chairman Jean on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com

Follow us on our Facebook page or take a look at our webpage on www.loddon.org

Bullrush Babies

Bullrush Babies is a group for first-time mums and their babies. It is a place to meet others for support and encouragement. We meet on a Wednesday morning at All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave. Group size is limited to 6 mums and their babies. We have one full group running at present and spaces to start a second group.



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

01508 528126 or ball880am@btinternet.com

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Loddon WEA

We now know for certain that we shall not be able to offer a face-to-face course of lectures in February. The spread of the Covid virus is too unpredictable to make firm arrangements which might have to be cancelled at the last moment. However, the WEA does offer a wealth of courses 'virtually' Full details can be found on line if you go to either: eastern@wea.org.uk or www.wea.org.uk.

We are very sorry to have to announce this and we shall miss our weekly meetings with friends.

Royal British Legion-Loddon & District Branch



We are obviously unable to do anything publicly yet, but we are as a branch still working diligently behind the scenes, albeit remotely like everyone else at the moment.

And we are still here if you need help and advice (ring Christine Hartley branch secretary on 01508 521136).

The Royal British Legion nationally celebrates its 100th birthday this year - it was set up originally to help soldiers returning from World War 1 and their families, and the widows of those whose menfolk did not make it through. It is certainly to the Legion's credit (and probably to its surprise) that it is still going strong and, with a few necessary tweaks here and there, still performing a very similar role a century later.

Re-cycling of Cheese Wrappers and Ring Carriers

There are boxes in Holy Trinity Church porch for recycling of various items. These now include any brand of individual plastic cheese wrappers, any brand of sliced cheese protective plastic film, any brand of flexible plastic cheese pouches, labels from Cathedral City minis packs of 6 and any brand of plastic nets for mini cheeses. You can also put your flexible plastic ring carriers to hold cans in the boxes. The church can raise much-needed funds through this venture.



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Hopefully, many of you saw the display in Young's (Loddon) window recently regarding the Chet Valley B-Line created by your local wildlife groups to improve habitats for bees, hoverflies butterflies and other pollinating insects along the Chet from Poringland to the Yare. The continuing loss of pollinators is a conservation disaster and has huge economic consequences for global agriculture. **CAN YOUHELP?**

Do you think you could dig over a patch 1 to 2 m sq in your lawn, flower bed or border to plant with cornfield annuals this spring? The seeds will attract a variety of pollinators and brighten your summer days.

If in your front garden or verge, they will help cheer up your neighbours too! Packets include full growing instructions, and the seeds are ready mixed with sand to aid sowing. They will also grow in pots.

If you would like some seeds, please let us know and we will aim to deliver them ASAP or if you have questions, ideas for projects or want more information please contact:

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Other local parishes: contact Andrew 07939 134326

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Loddon and District Local History

Nearly a year after the arrival of Covid and the progress of the vaccination roll

out I am optimistic we will meet again soon. Cataloguing of the Archive is going well and research continues. My thanks as ever to those who are working so hard on our behalf.

This month I write about George who had a hard start in Victorian Loddon.

Before 1839, keeping order was the responsibility of the Churchwardens with the Parish Constables. Norfolk founded its Constabulary in 1839 and built police stations around the County. Loddon's impressive Victorian Police Station built in 1847 stands on Beccles Road. Superintendent Hubbersty was there in 1851, he moved away soon afterwards to Winchester where he became Head Constable.

Inspector George White 1834-1924 was one of the 4th generation of his family to live and work in Loddon. His parents were George White and Susannah Stratford.

Great grandfather Jeremiah White 1753-1737; Grandfather William 1785-1824 and father George are all described as bricklayers when their children were baptised.

Jeremiah owned a large plot of land, west of the Street. His home was possibly the present Ivy Cottage near Vine Court. After Jeremiah's death his estate was sold and the money raised was used to pay his debts and give legacies to his children, particularly his daughters. Part of the property was sold to Mary White's husband, Henry Riches Blacksmith.

Both George's father George and grandfather William predeceased Jeremiah. So George, the policeman, was raised in a one parent family.. His widowed mother Susanna was a shoebinder as was his sister Elizabeth. He possibly attended the village National School, run in the Guildhall and by 1851 George was working as a bricklayer's labourer.

Norfolk Constabulary was founded in 1839, one of the first county forces formed. Applicants had to meet standards of education, health, height and good character, and I think be 21 years old. George must have worked hard, and done well at school to be appointed.

In 1861 he is a Police Constable married to Eliza Bales, living in Swaffham. He rose through the ranks to Inspector, retiring to Loddon. By 1891 he is widowed (Eliza d1883) and living in High Bungay Road with his youngest, Walter, a Clerk in a Merchant's Office (maybe Woods, Sadd, Moore?). They are listed next to Alfred Ward who by this time owned Rose Cottage.

In April 1899 George was a witness at the Inquest of Alfred Merry Ship. Alfred Ship's widow Maria later married George Herbert White, George's eldest son, who had also returned to Loddon and ran a business as a carrier (taking over from Alfred Merry Ship?). George Herbert and Maria lived in The Grove, one of the properties that George senior owned.

Youngest son Walter went off to work Deptford in a confectioner's shop later moving into the butchery business in Greenwich.

William Theophilus White the middle son joined the Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

George lived in the High Bungay Road until his death on February 12th 1924, after which probate was granted to his son George Herbert White, a Carrier. His effects were £175.10s

He is buried in the Churchyard in the family plot, to the right of the footpath leading from the Church Porch to the Beccles Road.

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

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"Consequences," by Penelope Lively

Penelope Lively is extremely good at writing family-based novels and this one has to be one of her very best. It begins in the 1930s and goes on through three generations, the link being chiefly the women of each of the generations through the years - first Lorna, then Molly and finally Ruth. This is a truly beautiful book which can absorb a reader utterly. If you choose to read it, do not be surprised to find yourself smiling frequently at times and being moved to tears at other times. The story is not just about the women; there are, of course, men of real interest too. For characterisation, description, empathy and the sheer understanding of humanity there is nobody better than this author.

"Sarum," by Edward Rutherfurd

This is one of the best historical novels ever written. If you are interested in reading it, be prepared for a long read - it has more than 1,300 pages! (Perfect for something to enjoy during lockdown). As you would think from the title, the setting is the Salisbury/Stonehenge region of England. It begins thousands of years ago and finishes shortly after the end of World War II. Five families link this novel which gives a wonderful picture of the way our civilisation has developed. It is full of fascinating characters and happenings through the ages, describing the ups and downs of people in every century, good and bad. One of the blurbs given inside the cover says, "Bursting with action, supremely well crafted and a delight to read." Very true.

"The Future Homemakers of America," by Laurie Graham

Set mainly in America, but at times in England - particularly in the Fenland area of East Anglia - this is a very good story of the lives of several women who are married to USA Airmen and who form friendships with each other which last lifelong. While over here in East Anglia they become friends with a young English woman called Kath, and that friendship too becomes a lifelong one. The female characters are very different from one another as are their Airmen husbands, and they come to life vividly under the pen of Laurie Graham. Her descriptions of the differences between the England and America of the post-war time of the 1950s are really interesting, the quality of life for much of that time in the two countries being very different. It is an excellent and rather unusual novel.

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Nature Notes

It was Jan 21st, the second day of high winds brought to us courtesy of storm Christoph. I decided to walk the dogs around the circuit starting at Chedgrave Church and across Chedgrave Common. I had my binoculars with me but because of the wind I didn't expect to see anything much. To confirm this, by the time I was walking along the alleyway behind the church I had only seen a Wood Pigeon and a Black Headed Gull. Then walking down towards the footpath that takes you along the Chet to the Common, the sound of the wind in the trees was interrupted by the harsh call of a couple of Jays, one of which was very obligingly out in the open. Expecting this to be the highlight of the walk my attention was then drawn to a small bird flitting about among the vegetation along the Chet. It was perching on the top of stems which gave me good views of what was a female stonechat. A little further along the path and I saw the male, although not in his full spring attire he was still a very handsome little bird. On reaching the Common I proceeded to walk along the fence line by the trees, while the dogs enjoyed some freedom. Scanning through a small flock of goldfinches at the top of some Alder trees I realised it was in fact a mixed flock also containing Lesser Redpoll and Siskin. This walk was got better and better, wind or no wind. Leaving the Common a male Bullfinch suddenly appeared in the hedge; then topped by a couple of buzzards flying overhead. Not bad on a windy day!

Earlier that day, in Seething I watched a Barn Owl trying to fly in the wind, it kept landing in the road, so I kept having to stop. I got brilliant views of it through the windscreen.

Our garden bird list has finally moved forward again, a male Stonechat seen on the marshes perching on reeds and fence posts. There seems to be a good few of them about this year.

Driving into Chedgrave the other morning just before it was fully light, we noticed something moving ahead of us along the side of the road. Fortunately, it decided to cross over the road, and we were confronted by a fox, the white tip to its tail was very obvious. It was the first time Rachel had ever seen one in the wild. You never know what might turn up.

I know recently in Nature Notes I mentioned the fact that I hadn't seen Green Sandpipers overwintering in this area for the last couple of years. Well, whilst out with the dogs recently walking this time along the bank of the river Chet towards Hardley Cross, I heard a bird call and was able to locate it flying away from me. Its size and prominent white rump led me to identify it as a Green Sandpiper. On a different day in the same area, but this time the silence of the countryside was periodically broken by gun fire from both sides of the river. Suddenly a bird flew across our path from the woods opposite us and by its colour and general shape I knew it was a Woodcock. Woodcocks don't normally fly during the day and are very well camouflaged, it had been flushed from its resting place in the woods.

Today it is snowing, yet Spring is on the way. Recently I have heard Song and Mistle Thrush singing, along with Skylark. A friend recently told me how they were enjoying the dawn chorus, the bonus being you don't have to get up early to hear it! **Richard and Rachel Hull**

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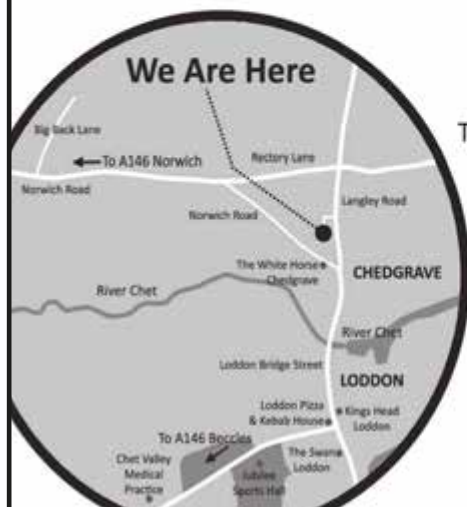
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Gardening Notes

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

As we enter the 'Hungry Gap' I am still eating stored onions, potatoes and garlic (going over now) and picking autumn sown carrots, winter sown lettuce and rocket and frozen soft fruit. The latter not an option available to our ancestors.

The autumn planted broad beans are well up and the spring broad beans are in and showing, the autumn planted early garlic is well advanced, and even the late harvest variety is appearing. My potatoes are chitting and I would like to get the first and second earlies in soon. I know this will expose the growing tips to the inevitable late frosts. I will protect against this by covering them with straw or fleece when a frost is imminent. I will also plant my parsnip seeds as soon as the ground has warmed up as they are slow to germinate.

I will also sow seeds in the greenhouse (or on a windowsill) for tomatoes, chillies, aubergines, and peppers. Last year I had a good crop of peppers from the seed of a supermarket pepper and I know another allotmenteer who had good results with saved seeds from tomatoes. So I may give it a try.

From the garden-What a difference a year makes, this time last year I was looking forward to the spring show, suddenly it was lockdown, working from home and zoom meetings. Hopefully when you read this we will be arranging to meet up with friends and family. I started the new year with a couple of zoom talks, one with Adrian Bloom of Bressingham Gardens, - The Winter Garden, planted with trees, conifers and perennials is glorious in summer and well worth a visit, but the star in winter was the *Cornus sanguinea* Midwinter Fire. White flowers in May/June, berries in the Autumn, bright orange/red stems in winter. Prune a third of stems to the ground in spring to ensure young colourful stems. Plant in full sun, overall height and spread 2m. The second was a talk with Simon White from Peter Beales Roses, a whistle stop tour of 25 gardens in East Anglia, and many more missed! A brief visit and a little history on each one was enough for me to start planning road trips for the summer. Simon mentioned the slug free hostas on display in some of the gardens and the use of a product called Strulch which is disliked by slugs and snails. Now off to sow more seeds and dead head the bulbs.

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