

# CONTACT

Published by the Church in Loddon

August 2020



Wild Flowers: R Y Ball

Chet Valley Churches



# **All Saints Chedgrave**

## **Outdoor Cake And Produce Sale**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August**

**10:00-14:00**



## **Picnic Lunches from 12:00**

**Please order in advance on 01508 528126**

**Filled Roll (Ham or Cheese)**

**Piece of Cake, Fruit (Apple or Orange)**

**£5**



# Chet Valley Churches Information

## Clergy

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## Church Office

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

Phone: 01508 521179, Email: [office@chetvalleychurches.org](mailto:office@chetvalleychurches.org)

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	<a href="http://www.chetvalleychurches.org">www.chetvalleychurches.org</a>
The Norwich Diocese	<a href="http://www.dioceseofnorwich.org">www.dioceseofnorwich.org</a>
The Methodist Church	<a href="http://www.methodist.org.uk">www.methodist.org.uk</a>
The RC Diocese of East Anglia	<a href="http://www.rcdea.org.uk">www.rcdea.org.uk</a>

## Contact Magazine

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

**Please include your name and telephone number.**

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



## From the Editor

It's now 4 months since lockdown began. Restrictions are being lifted little by little and things are being opened up. Some families have been re-united; able to see and hug those they have been missing so much. Some more local writers, young and old, have been reflecting on their experiences.

Many of our shops and pubs and cafes are open. Some of our churches are open for private prayer and Sunday worship. We are trying to get used to seeing people in masks and maybe wearing them ourselves. Thanks to all those in the community who have been making and supplying these.

I am so looking forward to the time when I can fill the pages of Contact with events and activities that are happening. I think I will have to be patient for a little longer!

Roger Outlaw would still be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to add themselves to the list of those who deliver Contact. The more deliverers there are, the less onerous is the task. Perhaps you could also let him know if you are happy to continue on the list of those who deliver. Please leave a message for him: by phone 01508 521179 or e-mail [c.magazineloddon@gmail.com](mailto:c.magazineloddon@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, if you are struggling at the moment, there are people out there to help if they can. There are a number of contact numbers in this issue—do use them.



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# Ministerial Musings

The last four months have been difficult. So much has been bad; so much has been lost: seeing friends and family when we want and being physically close to them; shopping; going out socially to pubs, cinema, theatre and concerts; going to school or work. It has been a shared experience, something we have all endured. Further afield we have witnessed some appalling behaviour such as the killing of George Floyd in America; the selfishness of an American president buying up the world's stock of an anti-covid drug; the neglect of those in Yemen, suffering from prolonged war combined with starvation, cholera and now covid-19; and much more.

Personally, one of the things I have missed most is singing—singing in the choirs of which I am a member; leading the junior choir at school; singing in church; a concert trip to France with other singers; singing with toddlers and residents at Saxon House. The joy and emotional uplift that come from being a group singing together is a great thing, whatever the music.

But there has also been much good which has come about in the last four months. Our sense of community has grown as people have supported and encouraged one another; people have discovered skills in making masks, scrubs and bags for the NHS; we have discovered the true value of many of the poorer-paid workers whose jobs we once overlooked; and we have looked at our natural environment with new attention and wonder.

As we emerge from this time, slowly and surely, I have been wondering what opportunities the pandemic has presented to us. Perhaps it has given us a chance to think again about what we want our local community to be like; what we want our wider society to be like; what we want our world to be like in the days to come.

The prophet Micah lived nearly 3000 years ago. He spoke about the social ills of his day: the rich getting richer at the expense of the poor; wealthy landowners grabbing what they could; the cruelty with which leaders treated other people. He announced God's truth into the situation:

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you? To do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.*

How do we keep the good that we have re-discovered, in our communities and our country and root out and remove that which is bad? How do we build a just society where everyone can flourish irrespective of their wealth, their race, their beliefs? How can we be kind to our environment so that it is valued and protected against further damage? How can we learn humility and put the needs of others before our own?

We must each find a voice and use it, confident that if enough speak out we will be heard and acted on. Then maybe our hearts will sing with the joy that can be found when people are treated justly and with kindness and with true humility.

*Rev Alison*



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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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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## **Saxon House, Kittens Lane, Loddon**



### **Saxon House is a Very Sheltered Housing Scheme**

The scheme provides independent living with individual 24hr assessed care and support. Accommodation is a mixture of 1 and 2 bedroom affordable flats for rent. Saxon House is ideal to enable older people to stay in the area, and to retain independence, choice and control over their lifestyle in a safe environment.

**For further information contact either Lyn Church (Orbit Scheme Co-ordinator) on 01508 528707 or Hales Care Manager on 01508 528971**



## Thanksgivings & Baptisms



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

Thanksgiving Services will be held again by arrangement with the clergy after the emergency. An opportunity to give thanks for the gift of a new child ‘

Baptisms are usually 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](mailto:ball880am@btinternet.com) or the Church Office on 01508 521179

## The activities below are all suspended until further notice

### 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](mailto: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

### Thanksgivings

At this challenging time we give thanks for all the new lives born into our community and we pray for their good health and long life.

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

### Funerals

**Sheila Ethel Manning** who died on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Funeral: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at Waveney Crematorium

**Joan Matilda Maud Swinden** who died on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Funeral: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at Waveney Crematorium

**Samuel James Frost** who died on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Funeral: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at St Margaret's Church, Hardley

*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.*

1 Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b

### News From Your

### South Norfolk District Councillor



A shorter column again this month, due to current circumstances.

As mentioned last month, I've been very proud of the work of the team of 80+ incredible local volunteers we have put together, and for their incredible work, helping people, driving patients to hospital, delivering prescriptions and so on.

As the Covid-19 crisis decreases, we are turning our attention to forming a permanent group - ChetChat – which will tackle loneliness and isolation amongst our older friends and neighbours. Our aim is to end loneliness for this group across Loddon, Chedgrave and Hales & Heckingham. I am convinced that the people involved will not rest until this has been achieved.

To help to fund this group, I am currently virtually cycling the length of Britain to raise money to help set up this group: at the time of writing this report, I have raised £638, which will go towards training and resources. If you would like to contribute to this, please go to **Just Giving/Jeremy Rowe**.

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

Thanks for putting your trust in me when you voted last year. We're here to work for you, and must never forget that.

**I tried walking up a hill without a watch but had neither the time nor the inclination.**

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Website: [www.loddonpc.org.uk](http://www.loddonpc.org.uk)

**Good News:** The Play Area, Skate Park and Staithe Public Conveniences have re-opened. Please ensure that social distancing guidelines are adhered to, and hand sanitiser is used regularly to prevent the risk of Covid 19.

**Bad News:** The Staithe Public Conveniences have unfortunately been vandalised. Two weeks following their re-opening, the Council were disappointed to discover that the shower cubicle has been damaged, and essential repairs are now required. If you have any information relating to the incident, we would be very grateful if you could contact South Norfolk Police, PC Stephen Banes.

**Vacancy: Responsible Financial Officer:** We are currently seeking a part-time RFO to join our friendly and hardworking team. We are looking for a candidate that has excellent bookkeeping PAYE and VAT skills. For more information see our website; [www.loddonpc.org.uk](http://www.loddonpc.org.uk). Closing Date for applications: 31 July 2020.

**Freedom of Loddon Award:** Thank you for your nominations. The Parish Council will discuss them and inform the nominee later in the year.

**Allotments:** Now is the growing season and we have vacant plots available.

**Loddon Tennis Courts:** book online at [www.loddonpc.org.uk](http://www.loddonpc.org.uk) £5 per hour per court.

**Footpaths:** Norfolk County Council has an [interactive map of the Public Rights of Way throughout Norfolk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/interactive-map-of-the-public-rights-of-way-throughout-norfolk). The map can be viewed here; <http://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/> and NCC footpath issues can also be reported on this map.

**Vacancy - Parish Councillor:** We have a vacancy to co-opt a Parish Councillor. If you are interested in local issues and would like to work as part of a team to improve community amenities and facilities, we would like to hear from you. You must be over 18, be an elector within the Parish, live or work within three miles of Loddon.

**Small Grants Policy:** The Parish Council has created a specific fund for local clubs and organisations to access small sums of money when putting on events or providing services. Please contact the Clerk for details and an application form.

**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 is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Pavlov is sitting at a bar, when all of a sudden the phone rings. Pavlov gasps, "Oh no! I forgot to feed the dogs".

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Take a look at our website for details on our **on the day competitions and activities** and for details of making a donation or sending in sponsorship money.

*Many historic churches, chapels and meeting houses are battling to survive. Roofs leak, lead roofs are stolen, ancient timbers rot and medieval stonework crumbles. **Now you can help** by joining a sponsored bike ride or walk discovering beautiful churches, which also raises money for their repair and preservation.*



All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

Tel: 01508 528310 Email: [chedgrave.pc@gmail.com](mailto:chedgrave.pc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk)

The Parish Council held a virtual meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 (in line with Coronavirus Act 2020). Copies of the minutes are available at Loddon Library, on the Parish Council noticeboard and website. **It is possible that future meetings will also be virtual. Members of the public are welcome to attend – please contact the Clerk for details.**

**Coronavirus:** For urgent help, including for those not “on-line”, please contact South Norfolk Help Hub on **01508 533933** or [earlyhelphubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelphubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk)

**Councillor Vacancy:** Anyone interested in becoming a councillor should contact the Parish Clerk. As a councillor representing your community you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team. Please contact the Clerk for details.

**Play Areas: The Pits** is now open. Parents are reminded to ensure children observe social distancing. Frequent use of hand sanitiser is recommended. **Grebe Drive** will remain closed on safety grounds and while awaiting refurbishment.

**Grebe Drive Refurbishment:** The original decision to implement a play scheme by Kompan was revoked on cost grounds. A new quote from Action Play and Leisure was adopted. Approximately £32k has been raised so far and a further £18k is still required. Fundraising is on-going.

**Brian Clarke Rooms:** Currently closed but plans are being made for re-opening.

#### **Licensing Applications:**

20/00321 - New Premises Licensing Application - HSS Supplies Ltd T/A Cannell's Farm Produce, 1 Langley Rd, Units GA, GG and GH, Chedgrave NR14 6HD - various views were expressed and the Clerk is to seek further clarification on some details. The PC response will include: general concern at the increased availability of liquor in the village, disabled access to the premises and a query on the precise area for alcohol sales within the shop.

**Wherryman's Way:** The Working Group held a meeting and it was agreed that a letter will be sent to NCC requesting a meeting and further clarification on their plans.

**Grass Cutting:** Matters relating to grass cutting were discussed. NCC and the Environment Agency are responsible for Langley Rd and Wherryman's Way paths respectively and they have been made aware of parish concerns re mowing. Some changes to the Pits mowing schedule were agreed on a 1-year trial basis with a view to encouraging more pollinating insects.

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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](mailto:clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk).

Website: [www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk)

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

**Next Meeting:** At 7.30 pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at Hales Assembly Hall (formerly Village Hall), Briar Lane, Hales. If a face to face meeting is not possible it will be held online. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to attend online. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on the website 3 days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Thank you to Martin Sisley and his family for their generosity in hosting a fantastic, socially-distanced picnic for the villages with great live music.

The Composting Scheme has adopted new processes to enable it to continue for the time being and at the same time follow the Government's safety guidelines. The group are looking for new members and if you are interested please contact Alan Mason: [alan\\_mbc@btinternet.com](mailto:alan_mbc@btinternet.com) or 07738 933316.

Sadly, Alan Mason is retiring from the Parish Council after many years' dedicated service to it and the villages. Thus we now have two vacancies. If you are interested in helping to shape the future of Hales & Heckingham or supporting an aspect of our work and village life, please get in touch for more information.

The Parish Council are proceeding with the installation of goal posts and basketball hoops at the Playing Field as well as undertaking repairs to some items of equipment and the surfaces surrounding them. In our efforts to reduce speeding traffic in the village we are applying for a grant under the Parish Partnership Scheme to help us buy a new, more advanced speed activated sign. In recognition of his contributions, we are exploring a daffodil planting scheme which was suggested by Alan.



Chedgrave Parish Council Needs You!

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BECOME A  
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For more information please contact Hayley Goldson, Parish Clerk via [chedgrave.pc@gmail.com](mailto:chedgrave.pc@gmail.com)

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## What's Happening in Loddon Library

The Millennium Library in Norwich is re-opening its Ground Floor. For the most up to date information about the Libraries reopening procedures and revised opening hours, please visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/coronavirus-update](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/coronavirus-update) or call 01603 774777

All borrowed items will be automatically renewed until further notice, and we are asking people to keep library books at home for the time being.

You will not be charged overdue fees, and any existing charges, as of 17 March, will not increase over time. This covers all items, including books, DVDs and music.

Unfortunately, you will not be able to reserve items, or request inter-library loans whilst our libraries are closed.

From home you can join the Library via the Norfolk County Council website. If you have a library card but can't remember your PIN, email [libraries@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@norfolk.gov.uk)

You can download a range of eBooks, eAudio books, eNewspapers, and eMagazines from a range of different apps, including Libby, Overdrive, Zinio and PressReader.

For a full list of our apps visit: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/find-an-item/ebooks-and-eaudio> If you have any issues downloading your titles, you can get support from staff by emailing [libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk)

For children there are regular Storytimes, Bounce & Rhyme sessions, Brick Building Club, reading challenges, and a virtual reading group, among other things. All are available across our social media channels – more info below.

Online reference subscriptions available from home include Encyclopedia Britannica, Times Digital Archive, plus others. Login requirements may vary between titles.

The Business and Intellectual Property Centre can answer enquiries by email, contact [bipcnorfolk@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:bipcnorfolk@norfolk.gov.uk)

If you need help learning how to use online services, register for Learn My Way and enter the name of your local library into the 'Centre' box for free online learning. <https://www.learnmyway.com/>

There are a range of Norfolk Library podcasts to brighten your mood.

The Norfolk Heritage Centre Podcast; Norfolk Libraries – Escape with a Poem; Around the World in 80 Books: Classics in Translation

If you're missing your local book group, why not join the Norfolk Borrowers Facebook group? You'll be able to share what you're reading with others and get lots of recommendations to add to your 'to be read' piles. Just search The Norfolk Borrowers in Facebook.

Website, Social Media, and Contact Info: Facebook: @NorfolkLibrariesUK or @LoddonLibrary; Twitter: @NorfolkLibs; Instagram: norfolklibraries; YouTube: NorfolkLibraries; Email: [libraries@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@norfolk.gov.uk) or [loddon.lib@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:loddon.lib@norfolk.gov.uk) Website: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries>

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Q. Are they worried about SATS or do they just need some extra confidence?

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Contact Leigh Cole on **07766 705988** or [leighcole1@gmail.com](mailto:leighcole1@gmail.com)

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## The Sisland Chronicle

Keeping in touch these days, at the drop of a keyboard, or a mobile phone, has made the long days of lockdown almost bearable. No looking for the writing paper and “where are the stamps?”, but a tapping finger can put one in touch with a friend – be they in the same parish or Alaska – such is the miracle of modern electronics, and it is all virtually free! My discussions have ranged far and wide, from questioning letting loose Beavers in East Anglia, where we grow most of the special willow trees, *Salix alba caerulea*, that provide the bats for both Village, County and Test cricketers, noting that top of the gourmet list of a beaver’s diet is willow! – To advising a friend on how to tame an unruly beech hedge which is making a takeover bid for his garden. One can even be face to face on ‘Facetime’, a no holds barred way of keeping in touch, all a far cry from the days when one spoke to the local exchange, who dialled the number and put you through for a three minute call!

At last the rains came in June, and in Sisland, 67.3 mm was recorded, mostly in two downpours; the benefit to plants and crops was dramatic. Our peas plumped up, and fruit, which we had been irrigating, looked far happier as a result, their first proper shower for months. Nectar of the Gods!

*Sislanda*

**Hi – Freddie here.** J. says that the rules have changed and they don’t have to stay at home anymore, but I am not included. As far as I’m concerned the gates are still shut, and I can’t go exploring the sniffs that come from farmer John’s fields. They reckon that I might get lost – what rubbish! It’s not fair, but I can go in the car



when we go for picnics. I like a place where we often go that J. calls Suffolk, (she was born there) – where I saw a wriggly thing; the poor chap hadn’t got any legs, so I thought I’d give it a bit of a nip and put it out of its misery – but T. said not to, as they have nasty bites, which might make me very ill, so I didn’t! I go for a quick walk, a forced march really, every night at 10 o’clock. One night I was pushed out into pouring rain, and got soaked, and the next morning my coat was all curly (I’m sort of rough coated) I quite liked the new style, but after a good brush it went back to normal again. Perhaps rain is good for it, but I’m not going to volunteer to find out! T. said that the gardeners in Loddon are having a competition – growing Monkey nuts. Now I am very partial to them, when we have treats after supper, and if they have any to spare ... Freddie’s your dog!

*Cheers, and take care – Freddie.*

## Holy Trinity Bell Ringers

As with every other aspect of our daily lives, Coronavirus hit the bellringing world with all events and local plans immediately cancelled after the Government announcements. The ringers at Loddon are all of various ages and some went into self isolation straight away to keep away from others. To stay in touch, a Whatsapp group was set up and has proved 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**



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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 either Rev David Owen (01508 522993 [david.chetvalley@gmail.com](mailto:david.chetvalley@gmail.com)) or Rev Alison Ball (01508 528126 ([ball880am@btinternet.com](mailto:ball880am@btinternet.com)))

### **Foodbank**

Please contact Rev David Owen about how to access Foodbank boxes in the Chet Valley (01508 522993 [david.chetvalley@gmail.com](mailto:david.chetvalley@gmail.com) )

### **The Hollies**

Food is available to collect by people in need in the front lobby of The Hollies thanks to @morrison's. It is open from 9am—4pm, Mondays-Saturdays. Take a bag and fill it with what you need.

Please contact Heather Tew 01508 520528 for further details of how to access this resource.



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

### Churches and Lockdown Consequences

During lockdown all churches were closed both for worship and for visiting, just like everywhere else. It has been a worrying time for church treasurers everywhere, as well as for the team who deal with the finances for the church as a whole.



This time of year is when we would usually be receiving the most money, either from fees or fundraising events, but of course that can't happen. In a good year, our local group of churches almost manage to cover their costs, and pay their share into the central pot for Norwich Diocese, but it does have to be a good year. Needless to say, this is a very poor year.

If you value the church in your locality would you consider making a donation? Maybe you might donate the money you've saved by not being able to go to the hairdresser, or out for an evening's entertainment, or making long journeys by car. Maybe you could also GiftAid your donation. If you know your church treasurer, you could get in touch direct or drop a donation into St John's Chapel in Loddon, clearly marked for your preferred church. Otherwise, you can contact the Revd David Owen on 01508 522993, email [david.chetvalley@gmail.com](mailto:david.chetvalley@gmail.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 Jack Barwick who is responsible for hall bookings on [jackbarwick@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jackbarwick@yahoo.co.uk)

## Church Services

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland
9.00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10am—12 noon	Xpressions Café	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
<b>9<sup>th</sup> August</b>		
8.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret's Hardley
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
<b>16<sup>th</sup> August</b>		
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11.00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>		
9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10.45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
<b>30<sup>th</sup> August</b>		
10.30am	Benefice Service HC	Holy Trinity, Loddon
6.30 for 7.00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John's, Loddon

### Church Services during the Covid-19 pandemic

The government has allowed our churches to open for worship. We continue to explore how we might do this whilst following guidelines so that all remain safe. The dates and times given are indicative of services that may happen in the Chet Valley; please look at our website for up-to-date information. On Sundays, our services are available on our YouTube channel: Chet Valley Churches. The URL for each service and a pdf are on the church website ([www.chetvalleychurches.org](http://www.chetvalleychurches.org)). If you would like a paper copy of the Sunday service, please contact one of the clergy.

<b>Every day</b>  <b>Morning Prayer</b>  <b>9.00am</b>  <i>All Welcome</i>	Monday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Tuesday	St. Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave

Holy Trinity (Mon-Sat) and All Saints (Mon-Sun) churches are open for private prayer . 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.

<b>Other Services in St John's, Loddon</b>	
<b>Every Saturday</b> <b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Roman Catholic Mass</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>7.30pm-8.30pm</b>	<p align="center"><b>COME AND PRAY</b></p> <p>If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to</p> <p align="center"><b>‘Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection’</b></p> <p align="center"><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing</b></p>
<b>Thursdays</b> <b>during school term</b>	<p align="center"><b>XTRA!</b></p> <p align="center">Join us for an exciting, informal service.  Refreshments from 3.15pm, Service starts 3.45pm  More from Rev David 01508 522993  or Rev Alison 01508 528126</p>

Please contact Rev Alison (ball880am@btinternet.com) about arrangements for Xtra!

Please contact Rev Jill (jillhaylock@aol.com) about arrangements for Tuesday Prayer and Reflection.

Please contact Father Padraig (office@east-angliadiocese.org.uk) for details of Catholic services.



## COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

### Loddon Flower Club

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

### Loddon Women's Institute

The members of Loddon WI have been keeping in contact with each other. We have circulated a monthly newsletter to keep everyone up to date with the Federation News and our own. It is unlikely that we shall meet together again as a group until later in the year. However, we are hoping to maybe have an afternoon outdoor meeting in August. We have been busy puzzling, reading, gardening and crafting. Prem baby hats are still be knitted. We are also hoping to produce a 'Lockdown Journal' with a contribution from each of our members. Contact us through our website; or Facebook, or via [LoddonWI@gmail.com](mailto:LoddonWI@gmail.com).

### Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our usual meeting place is All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave at 2pm. Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held there on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, at 2pm. For further details, please contact Rosemary Whettem on 01508 528291

### 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.



**Church Cycle Ride** Please do consider cycling for one of the local churches. All you need to do is get some people to sponsor you and then have an enjoyable cycle round the countryside raising some money as you go. Half of the money will come to the church that you nominate and half to the Norfolk Churches Trust. They'd be very grateful. Details on pp 16 and 17.

### Footballers Wanted!

A friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astroturf every **Monday** evening from 8.30pm-9.30pm for a non-competitive kick-about to keep fit and socialise. We are looking for like minded people to join us once restrictions are lifted. Cost £2.50 per session, first session free.

For more details, please contact Terry on:

[tezzahayden99@gmail.com](mailto:tezzahayden99@gmail.com)

Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club



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### 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

Further information from Barbara Boardman: Email: [tomenelli@btinternet.com](mailto:tomenelli@btinternet.com)



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### 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](mailto: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.

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### Loddon Community Gym



Lockdown has been eased and shops, pubs, restaurants and hairdressers (thank goodness!) are opening up again. Many of us feel anxious about rejoining the social whirl whilst others are desperate to return to 'normal' life whatever that turns out to be. For now, indoor gyms have to remain closed so keeping fit and healthy will still be walking, cycling, gardening and those daily stretches that help to keep us as agile and flexible as we can be.

When the government allows and when our committee feels it is safe to do so, the Gym will reopen. Those on our e-mailing list will be informed by email. Please also check local social media and this website for updates

[www.loddoncommunitygym.com](http://www.loddoncommunitygym.com)

Take care, until we meet again at Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon

**Mondays: 1.30pm-6pm, Tuesdays: 4.30pm-8.30pm, Fridays: 10am-1pm.**

### Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

Calling all bowlers and non bowlers. Do you fancy bowling throughout the year? Why not give short mat bowls a try. Free taster session on your first visit. Then just £2.50 a week. Join us on Tuesdays 1.30-3.30pm at Jubilee Hall. Bowls can be provided, just bring indoor flat shoes. Further information from Sara 01508 521958

### Royal British Legion-Loddon & District Branch



Although lockdown restrictions are gradually easing, there is no plan for a July branch meeting and the one scheduled for 18th August may still be in doubt, but do check with Christine Hartley (branch secretary) on 01508 521136 nearer the time when things should be clearer.

The commemoration of the 75th anniversary of WW2 Victory Over Japan Day (VJ Day) takes place on Saturday 15th of this month. In Loddon and other villages locally, this will take the form of a short wreath laying ceremony at the war memorial followed by a national two minute silence at 11.00am.

Look out also for our VJ Day display in Young's Funeral Director's window.

### Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

Contact June on 01508 528853 for further details unless otherwise stated.

All bookings for lunches, walks, events etc. must be made in good time through the person named. Events marked with an \* must be booked or paid in advance by the date noted to guarantee a place.



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## Loddon Community Cinema

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

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## Social Whist

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

---

## Chet Staithe Probus Club

Have you recently retired or just moved to the area? Are you missing male company, on your own, or just want to get out and meet new people? Why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club which is held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the White Horse, Chedgrave. Meetings start at 10am and finish around midday with the option of staying for lunch. Several of our members do.

We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required. Members range in age from 60 to almost 100. We have guest speakers with topics range from clocks, Whitehall, cartoons, space and even stagecoach journeys to Norwich.

Meetings are: currently suspended.

Please contact Clive Boyd on 01508 520547, or e-mail [cliveboyd@btconnect.com](mailto:cliveboyd@btconnect.com)

---

## Chet Valley Probus Club

The Chet Valley Probus Club (for retired Professional & Businessmen or any who have held some measure of responsibility in any field of endeavours) meets at the White Horse Chedgrave on the second and fourth Tuesday morning, monthly. Good company, speakers, and food.

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

*Undaunted, and despite being a non-profit organisation with limited funds, the Club has decided to contribute the generous sum of £500 to the Cambridge University Covid-19 Research Programme - <https://shar.es/aHqXxZ> . This is in addition to its usual more modest donations to local charities each year.*

For further details contact the secretary: John McCormack, 5a Norton Road,

---

## Chet Valley Photography Club

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For more details about our club please see our website:

[www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk](http://www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk)





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alternatively, please get in touch with  
Councillor Jeremy Rowe: 07733 323581  
([angliahome96@gmail.com](mailto:angliahome96@gmail.com)), Loddon

Eleanor Bannister: 07703 124544  
([clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk)),  
Hales & Heckingham

Steve Crisp: 07725 162424, Chedgrave

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## **Local Writers: Life Under Lockdown**

### **Observations on shielding.**

To say this is a year to remember is definitely an understatement. Overnight in March we were virtually placed under lock and key, a certainly life changing experience. Thankfully there was still a garden, but for a while the rest of the world disappeared and we relied on other family members to fetch food and prescriptions and shop for all the things we realised we had not got.

Anxious to be 'doing something' we ventured into the garden but bitterly cold winds prevented much activity. These were followed by extraordinarily high temperatures which were equally unacceptable. However there were plenty of jobs for indoors so cupboards were spring cleaned and there was much sweeping and dusting, and a good number of filled dustbin bags.

Probably the biggest difference we noted was silence. No constant traffic noise, fewer aircraft and a sky brighter and more blue than it had been for many years. Those who rose early were treated to a dawn chorus which was quite amazing. In May the swifts returned and showed us an extraordinary display of aerobatics. Somehow with their return the world seemed a better place.

Late in June my granddaughter took me for a ride in the car. This was strange. The last time I had been out the trees and hedgerows were almost bare. Now they were in full leaf and flowering. Eventually in July I had my first real trip out, and oddly enough it was to a graveyard. Walking in the sunshine and looking at the flowers was sheer delight, and it was so enjoyable to hear again the calls of the doves and the jackdaws.

However, this first outing was not all pleasure and in fact it was quite worrying. Should I be here? Should I speak to anyone? Ought I still to be safe at home? Will I take the virus home? How strange the whole world is threatened by an organism much too small to see.

Perhaps we needed a lesson on what in life is really important. What we want and what we need are two very different things. We have learnt just how much the family means. As free gifts we have sun, blue skies, clear air, flowers and birds. It is time to look at what we have and be very grateful.

**Grace Corne**

### **Plants for Sale**

Chedgrave Spring Fair and Plant Sale and Loddon Open Gardens were cancelled. However...

#### **Chedgrave Spring Fair**

Plants are available on a stall at the bottom end of Hillside in Chedgrave.

#### **Loddon Open Gardens**

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## PARKINSONS

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

---

### Davy Place Social Club

Hello from everyone at the Davy Place Social Club.

Thank you to two very kind people who have donated a piano stool and a tea trolley for our residents to use in the Davy Place Common Room. We are very grateful for your generous gifts.

Our exercise classes on Tuesday and Friday mornings continue to be good fun and are proving to be very beneficial. We have a few spaces available for our Friday morning sessions with personal fitness instructor Mike, of Long Stratton Leisure Centre. If you are interested in joining us contact Janet—see below

Bingo is held every Monday afternoon, eyes down at 2pm.

Please contact Janet 01508 522115 for further information about any or our activities or events. 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

Schedules for our Annual Open Show in September are likely to be reviewed in the light of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Show Secretary Tricia on 01508 520273 or [patricialoades@btinternet.com](mailto:patricialoades@btinternet.com). Will produce information when available.

For other information contact:

Secretary Hazel on 07765098345 or [happyhaze50@gmail.com](mailto:happyhaze50@gmail.com)

Chairman Jean on 01502 710024 or [jeancope52@gmail.com](mailto:jeancope52@gmail.com)

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Q: How do you think the unthinkable?

A: With an ithberg!



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## Loddon and District Local History Group

Sadly there is no news yet of meetings resuming. The speakers who were booked have agreed dates for next year. Activity has not stopped completely.

We have had several communications from **Robin Sampson & Laura McCourt the Archive Project staff** who are now in post and are as frustrated as we are that they cannot yet get out to visit the various groups. They are busy ordering equipment for us all to use to digitise items in the archive and also lap tops for each of the participating group.

The mini biographies in Loddon Churchyard have been renewed and some updated.

Work is underway to produce tithe map information for the surrounding parishes similar that for Loddon and Chedgrave on display in the church.

This month's item from the **Churchwardens Accounts** is again related to the defence of the nation. In February 1626 Charles I was crowned and later, in July, he dissolved Parliament. England unsuccessfully invaded La Rochelle in support of the Heugonots.

In the 1626 Churchwardens Accounts of William Belson & Robert Davey we find the following:

laid out to Kempe the Cunstable upon a warrant that Cam from the Leftenant for the making of mounts at yarmouth	£1=4=0
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We find from Norfolk Heritage Explorer <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/> that the walls of Yarmouth were not strong enough for canons to be mounted upon them, so that mounds or Mounts were built as canon emplacements, the first in 1569 which became the **New Mount** in 1588, the second, **South Mount** was built in 1570. These defences seem not to have been very effective. It was not until 1626 that the **Main Guard** was built in response to raids by pirates. The good people of Loddon were required to contribute to its construction. The **Main Guard** was levelled in the 1970's.

We find in **Norfolk Archaeology, Or, Miscellaneous Tracts Relating to the Antiquities of the County of Norfolk, Volume 2 1847** an article by James Copeman Esq Solicitor of Loddon tells us that: (please see Table on p45)

A copy of the complete article is held in the Parish Deposit at the NRO, and, when we are able to have access to our archive again, can be seen in the Local Studies Room in Loddon Library.

Elvie Herd July 2020

Q: What's the difference between ignorance and apathy?

A: I don't know and I don't care.

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You will know to what this refers. A Copy of the Warrant of the Deputy Lieutenant, dated from the Maid's Head, Norwich, 6th April, 1626, is given in Swinden's *History*, p. 119, addressed to the Chief Constables of every Hundred in Norfolk, for a "Contribution towards the repairs of the Town of Yarmouth, and the walls, bulwarks, and forts there, in this time of danger, against attempts of the enemy; and it is to be presumed that there is no man that carrieth a true heart to his sovereign and to his country, but for the honor of the one, and the security of the other, he will willingly contribute."

### Sunshine on Open Gardens

Everyone spent the early part of the summer gardening, so it was sad that Loddon Open Gardens had to be cancelled. But that doesn't mean that the gardens are not on show. We have put together an online tour of the gardens that were due to take part, showing them all in glorious sunshine. Just for the record, the weekend we were going to hold the event was cold, wet and very windy! To see the gardens go to [www.chetvalleychurches.org](http://www.chetvalleychurches.org) and click on the link to Open Gardens. It's a free tour, but it would be great if you liked it enough to give a donation to the Church in Loddon – there's an opportunity to do so by text at the end of the tour, or you can pop a donation in an envelope and drop it in to St John's Chapel. Meanwhile, we're making plans for next year – maybe we'll see you then!

Nina Owen (01508 522993)





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## Read Any Good Books Lately?

*"I went away in my head, into a book. That was where I went whenever real life was too hard or too inflexible." Neil Gaiman (The Ocean at the End of the Lane)*

### **"Once Upon a River," by Diane Setterfield**

Diane Setterfield has written a most unusual book, with the Thames at the heart of it. One night a man stumbles into a village pub carrying a baby girl who is, to all intents and purposes, dead, having drowned in the river. From then on the story includes kidnapping, miraculous recoveries, floods, families, pig farming, community, early photography, evil doers and good neighbours! All in the early nineteenth century. It is beautifully written and compulsive reading.

### **"The Wardrobe Mistress," by Patrick McGrath**

This is written in an odd, but intriguing way, in that the story appears to be written by a group of unseen/invisible beings. The wardrobe mistress of the title, Joan, was married to one of the lead actors of a theatre company. When the story opens he has just died and his funeral is taking place. The couple have a daughter, Vera, who is an actress - also a significant character in the story.

The novel is set in the period of Moseley and the Blackshirt Fascists of the 1940s. The author captures the post-war atmosphere with real authenticity, including the poverty of a great many people and the scarcity of food, etc., as well as the rivalry amongst many thespians. He also shows the reader an understanding of how Joan's behaviour after the funeral is a result of grief mixed with anger that her husband had died.

### **"Change of Heart," by Jodi Picoult**

Titles of books are often one of the interesting things which make us pick up a book from a shelf - the others usually being the cover and the name of the author. This particular title is a very clever one. The story is based on the transplanting of a heart for a young girl. It's not a straightforward situation; the thirty three year old man wanting to donate his heart to the girl is a convicted murderer, convicted for killing her father and half-sister seven years earlier.

Jodi Picoult has written many books with complex and moving situations at the centre of them. This one is particularly complex and very moving - more so than most. She has created some really vivid characters, all very different from any of the others. There are questions of religion and the law to be considered, as well as the seeming resemblance (in many ways) of the believed murderer to Jesus Christ. There are also questions regarding the rights and wrongs of capital punishment, and the different methods used. Many issues of all kinds are debated, but they are never boring and you may well find yourself caught up intellectually and compassionately by them, possibly even caring very much for some of the characters - and especially being most concerned as to how things would end.



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## Read Any Good Books Lately?

### **“Without Reservations,” by Alice Steinbach**

A non-fiction book written by a middle-aged American lady, who is a journalist by trade. Having come into sufficient funds, she decides to take a year off from work in order to travel to places she's always wanted to see. Wherever she goes (Italy, France, the UK) she easily makes friends and, to help preserve some of the memories later on, she writes postcards to herself, sending them to her home so that she can re-read them later. It's an unusual sort of book, but it is interesting.

## Loddon WEA

The decision has been taken by the WEA National Office that there are to be no face-to-face talks this Autumn in any of the branches. A number of talks are nevertheless going to be given on line. Anyone who is a member of the WEA will be able to sign up for any of these talks from July 13<sup>th</sup> (July 20<sup>th</sup> for non-members) but this will have to be on the initiative of the individual; the local Loddon branch will not be involved in the on-line programme. To find what is on offer, go on line to: 'WEA Eastern region', and then to the section labelled: "Find a course".

If all goes well, the usual ten-week programme of face-to-face talks on Mondays in the Jubilee Hall will resume in January 2021. It had been arranged for Mr. Stephen Poulter to come to Loddon this September to start a series of talks on "The History and Heritage of E. Anglia". Our hope is that he will still be able to come here in January instead. As the song says, however: "The future's not ours to see", but we hope for the best! There will be another announcement in November or December. Meanwhile - keep safe! The Committee of the WEA Loddon Branch wish you all well. For any further information, phone: 01508) 521036 or 558453.

### **Local Writers: Life Under Lockdown**

When lockdown started I was quite excited as I knew I could spend more time with my family. I wasn't really worried about the virus affecting us but was sad it meant I couldn't see Grandma.

As it continued I asked "Come on! When is this going to end?". It's been different doing schoolwork at home but it's been fun too. We also have what we call School of Mum and have learnt how to read an OS map, stargazed for meteors and satellites, camped in the garden a lot, made an amazing rocket, learnt about different trees, made African masks, watched owls and done lots of other cool things. I miss being with my friends though.

Sometimes it's been like we've been on an alien planet. The streets empty, mum and dad working from home, not being able to enjoy freedom of going out. Mum sang and dad ran even more than normal...Oli and I played more PS4!

The best bit so far was seeing Grandma again and being able to hug her. I am looking forward to being with my friends again and people to be safe.

**Gareth Nunn**

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## Nature Notes

Richard and Rachel Hull are having a break this month so why don't you go outside and see what you can see for yourselves? There are some wonderful minibeasts to be discovered if you look very carefully: tiny hoverflies, ladybirds and their larvae, tiny grasshoppers (or are they crickets?).



### Local Writers: Life Under Lockdown

"Lockdown has been hard but fun". We have really missed seeing our friends and our family who don't live with us.

We have been on lots of bike rides; Tabitha has learnt to ride her bike without stabilisers (Amelie already could!) and we both have learnt to ride our bikes safely on the road. This has been good as we have been able to go out cycling with mum and dad on family cycle rides.

We have enjoyed going on our daily walks – we have found new footpaths and places to see nearby. It also meant that we sometimes saw our friends and could wave across the road and shout "hi!"

We are so pleased that it has been mainly good weather, as we have been able to play in the garden and have our paddling pool out. We have also done lots of baking, cooked a dinner party and made mocktails!!

Home school has been okay ..... The best thing about it is that it is only half a day but it is not as fun as school. We have now both gone back to school two days a week. We were a bit anxious about this before we went, but it has been brilliant – really good fun. We've done lots of activities outside and it's been so good to see our friends and teachers.

This year, we are not so excited about the summer holidays as we are normally - but more looking forward to going back to school in September!!

**Amelie & Tabitha Cox**

### Local Writers: Life Under Lockdown

Lockdown has certainly changed my daily life, no longer do I get up, put my uniform on and go to school to see my friends. Instead I get up (later!) and check my laptop to see what school tasks I have been set for the day. At the beginning of lockdown, my days were filled with baking, Joe Wicks' exercises and even a family Olympics! Littered throughout the week were family quizzes, with the loading and accidental screen sharing, they were a good distraction and a fun way to spend an evening! Now as we come out of lockdown, I am so excited to see my friends and family and to go to school in September. I am even excited to wear my school uniform again!

**Celia Rowe**

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

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## Gardening Notes

### From the Garden...

Looking back over the year so far, some things weren't very successful, the Tragopogon seeds I sowed germinated but haven't grown big enough to plant out in the garden, so I will overwinter them and plant out next spring, and only one Lochroma seedling appeared so I will try again next spring. The peanuts are looking good but I will only find out at harvest time if there will be enough to go with my Friday night G&T. The three varieties of tomatoes were very successful; I may be looking for 101 ways to cook with tomatoes!

Like many I have revitalised an area of the garden whilst in lockdown, planting a shady corner with Hydrangea Pink Diamond (the white cone shaped flowers will fade to pink) and Choiysa Ternata Brica (otherwise known as Sundance - not sure why it has several names). I have used it in other parts of the garden as it adds a lovely yellow splash in the border with white scented flowers. I have also added Hakonechloa Macra Aureola, a golden grass which will grow to 30cm and a hardy Geranium Midnight Ghost with dark purple leaves and white flowers. In order to introduce some height I have planted a climbing fuchsia, Lady Boothby.

Many of our local gardens are now opening for visitors; some will need to be pre booked and although they won't be serving teas they will still have plants for sale. Raveningham Hall and Bressingham Gardens are both on my list for a visit. Raveningham have a new stumpery which I am keen to see.

### From the allotment...

Hopefully, you are all enjoying your fruit and veg harvest, busily picking and eating, freezing and preserving. Keep feeding those crops still growing. I use liquid seaweed, widely on sale, but prefer to make my own comfrey or nettle feed. This is simple; all you need is a bucket stuffed with either and then filled with water. Leave it two weeks until it rots down. You'll know when it is ready from the smell. Dilute and use.

Also continue to plant those vegetables that will grow quickly enough to be harvested before winter or will stand over it. The usual things to consider are those quick growing crops like lettuce, rocket, radish and winter salads. There is still time to grow more chard and beetroot. I have had success planting autumn carrots in late July/August and harvesting into December. To avoid carrot fly don't plant into the same space as the early carrots. In my rotation these will go into the space left in my seedbed after planting out my leeks. The leeks will go where the new potatoes grew.

It is also time to collect and dry seed from peas, beans, and squashes. These are all simple to do, but if you feeling adventurous try some others. You should also start putting some things to bed e.g. cutting down the finished summer fruiting raspberry canes and tying in the new canes. Cut back the tops so they don't extend too far above the top wire to avoid wind damage.



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