

CONTACT

Published by the Church in Loddon

November 2020



Poppies: R Y Ball

Each day during
December a
different
household will
host an Advent
door for you to
open and receive
a surprise.

We start at
All Saints,
Chedgrave on
29th November
between 2pm
and 5pm

A list of addresses for
each day, and times
when the doors may be
opened, will be
available from 21st
November in local
shops and the
churches in Loddon
and Chedgrave.

For more
information,
please contact
Rev Alison on
01508 528126
or by e-mail
[ball880am@
btinternet.com](mailto:ball880am@btinternet.com)



Chet Valley Live Advent Calendar

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: 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	www.chetvalleychurches.org
The Norwich Diocese	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

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Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

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

Please include your name and telephone number.

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

From the Editor

It looks like we're in for a winter of uncertainty. Many activities that hoped to be running once again are not able to do so yet though some clubs continue to have a virtual presence. Our Remembrance Days in the different parishes will not have the usual parades, though wreaths will be laid at the memorials (see Parish Council reports and RBL information p49) and there will be services in the churches as usual.

But it's not all doom and gloom. One thing that is happening as usual, with Covid restrictions in place, is the Autumn Fair at All Saints Church on Saturday 21st November (p37). Stall holders will be masked and gloved. Some stalls will be in the churchyard in the marquee, some in the church centre, and some in the church to enable social distancing. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

And there are some new and different things going on:

Bullrush Babies (p41) is a group for first-time mums which has been formed whilst Noah's Ark is unable to meet.

There is going to be a Live Advent Calendar (p27) this year starting on Sunday 29th November. With both householders and businesses involved, anyone in the community can come to open a door each day—the more the merrier. I wonder which door you will like the best.

Last but not least, do try out the toffee recipe (p33). One of my memories of 5th November is treacle toffee, particularly the year when it got burnt and the pan was exiled to the back door step!!

Alison



Contents

Inside cover: Advent Doors	2	Highlights	
Across the Chet Valley Churches	7-9	Victorian Evening	19
From the Parish Registers	11	Loddon Library	21
Council News	11-19	Live Advent Calendar	27
Community News	23-27	Treacle Toffee recipe	33
Churches	28-29	Autumn Fair	37
Community News	30-41	Wanted: Advertising Editor	39
History Society	43, 45	Bullrush Babies	41
Read Any Good Books Lately?	47, 49	Freedom of Loddon	41
Nature Notes	51	Loddon Buildings Preservation Trust	45
Gardening Notes	53		

Ministerial Musings

November is not the most enlivening of months: the days are short, the weather is becoming chillier, and the flowers that have been brightening our gardens are turning to brown seed heads. As Thomas Hood wrote in his poem about this month:

*No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease, no comfortable feel in any member -
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds -
November!*

Add to this the general uncertainty and nervousness which has been our lot for most of this year and we have a recipe for misery. What are we going to do about that?

We have a choice: we can choose to sink into a collective mood of despondency, or we can fight back. In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy Moses is trying to keep up the spirits of the Israelites, who are (not surprisingly) getting fed up with spending years and years trudging through the desert on their way to the promised land, and so he gives them a pep talk: 'This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life.'

Our journey through the new Covid world has felt a bit of a schlep too, but one of the ways that we can change that feeling is by looking at those blessings, the positive things that brighten the bleakest of days. Most of us have a tendency to give much more thinking time to the negative things- the worries, the disagreements we have with others, the greyness of the day - than to the positive ones. Time spent dwelling on the things that drag us down is not productive, whereas training ourselves to notice the small things that give us pleasure is much more rewarding.

This sounds rather uncomfortably like the sort of thing that a disapproving adult might have quelled a child with in an earlier age ('Count your blessings and stop moaning!') but it really works - I have personal proof of it. Looking outside and seeing a nuthatch hanging upside down on a seed feeder, or hearing a hedgehog crunching cat food outside my back door, or an unexpected phone chat with a friend might be slight events individually, but added together they make my day much brighter.

The Jesuits have a practice called the Examen, where at the end of the day God's presence is discerned in the things that have been experienced during that day. Listening to hedgehogs eating might not qualify in many people's book, but it does in mine. Some people now are learning to use gratitude journals, writing down the things that make life good, no matter how small they may seem. I'm certainly grateful for nuthatches visiting my garden, proof that we still have a wonderful diversity of nature on our doorsteps.

It would be over simple to say 'Just find some reasons to be cheerful and everything will be fine', but I for one prefer to go with Moses, and choose life. It could make November rather more enjoyable.

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

Thanksgivings

Alexander William Clifford 20th September at All Saints, Chedgrave

Matilda June Clifford 20th September at All Saints, Chedgrave

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

Funerals

Barrie Keith George Ritchie who died on 4th September 2020

Funeral: 25th September 2020 at Waveney Crematorium

Maureen Lilian Eleanor Caston who died on 9th September 2020

Funeral: 30th September 2020 at St Margaret's Church, Hardley

Geoffrey Brian Watts who died on 24th September 2020

Funeral: 20th October 2020 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.

1 Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b

News From Your

South Norfolk District Councillor



A group of us have been working hard behind the scenes to put together a permanent local help group for our friends and neighbours who are over sixty.

On the morning of Saturday 10 October we were standing outside the Co-op, handing out our free mugs and fridge magnets, showing our ChetChat phone number. Our number is 07876 050110 – please give us a ring if we can help with anything.

In other news, I've been liaising with Clarke Telecom who are proposing to put up a 2G/4G Vodafone phone mast on the corner opposite the Three Rivers Veterinary Surgery. Please let me know if you have any thoughts, or contact their town planner, Vicky Parsons, direct on 07436 020383.

My regular surgeries will resume when it is safe to hold them again. In the meantime, please ring me anytime on 07733 323581 if I can help you.

Let's carry on looking after each other, especially as winter approaches.

Jeremy Rowe

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Tel: 01508 5220200 Email: clerk@loddonpc.org.uk.

Website: www.loddonpc.org.uk

Remembrance Day Parade: Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Remembrance Parade will not go ahead this year. Rev David Owen will hold a short outdoor Service, as an Act of Public Worship, on 8th November at Loddon War Memorial at 10.55am. Councillor June Strickland will lay a wreath on behalf of Loddon Parish Council. Please adhere to Government guidelines with regard to social distancing.

George Lane Roundabout from District Councillor Kay Mason-Billig: A meeting with all parties took place on 28th September 2020. We are hoping to finalise the legal agreement that has to be in place to secure funding for the roundabout in case the developer fails to complete it. This is required to protect the public money loaned for the construction. It allows step-in rights for the County Council to ensure the build goes ahead. I have asked for a timetable of the next steps after this document is in place and, hopefully, we will have a long-anticipated start date. I will update the Parish Council at their next meeting, 14th October, on all these matters.

Facilities: 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 spread of Covid 19. Unfortunately, the Information Office for Tourists remains closed.

George Lane Junction: South Norfolk DC and South Norfolk Police are aware of the issues with the cars parking on the double yellow lines on the junction with Bridge Street. Please do not park here as it creates a dangerous hazard.

Streetlights: Loddon PC has formally adopted the streetlights from South Norfolk DC on Drury Lane, The Walks and Leman Grove. Please report un-lit bulbs to Loddon PC.

Hall Hire: The rear hall of the Library Annexe is available for hire at £10 per one hour for local community groups, or £15 per hour for birthday parties. To hire the hall for a regular booking or an event, please contact the Parish Clerk or see the website for more information about the facility.

Allotments: Plot number 13 is vacant; details are on the Council website.

Hand Sanitising Stations: South Norfolk Council are encouraging us all to 'Shop with Confidence' so they have kindly installed five hand sanitising stations throughout the Village. Please let the Parish Council know if they need replenishing.

Anyone for Tennis? book online at www.loddonpc.org.uk. £5 per hour per court. All proceeds go to the Playing Field Committee.

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 Wednesday 11th November 2020. Parishioners are welcome to attend via GoTo Meeting (details on the Agenda).

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

Telephone: 01502 730166



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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Eleanor Bannister.

Tel: 77803 124544 Email: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk.

Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

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

Next Parish Meeting: Wednesday 25th November online at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to join – contact the Clerk for details. Agenda will be on the brick bus shelter notice board opposite Masala Garden and the website 3 days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Remembrance Sunday – 3.00 pm Sunday 8th November @ Hales War Memorial – There will be a short service of remembrance at Hales War Memorial to reflect on those who gave their lives and lay a wreath. Current Government guidelines will be followed. Any change to the arrangements will be posted on the website and Facebook.

Hales & Heckingham Compost Scheme – This successful group is continuing to work following social distancing guidelines and they are expecting one more collection this year. The team is currently small but looking to expand. Please contact Alan Mason via alan_mbc@btinternet.com or on 07738 933316.

Hales & Heckingham Playground – New combined five-a-side football posts and basketball hoops have been erected. There are a few free basketballs and footballs available for use. Please see the website and Facebook for details. The rope bridges have also been renovated.

A Countryside Code for All Dog Owners – Details are on our website and Facebook page. We have adopted the Code which is promoted by Ordnance Survey Ltd and signs have now been erected at the Permissive Field and on Hales Green. Thank you for your support in these aims.

Footpath Issues – If you see anything that is not right on a footpath please advise South Norfolk Council through their webpage <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>. It would be helpful if you could also advise the Parish Clerk.

Fly-tipping – Please report any instances to South Norfolk Council through their 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 advise the Parish Clerk. If you see fly-tipping in action call the Police on 111.

2 Parish Council Vacancies – We want to have as diverse a representation as possible so that residents feel involved in the village. 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. The workload is not great and you can choose to concentrate on the issues that interest you.

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please contact Francis Kirkpatrick
01508 520331



All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

Tel: 01508 528310 Email: chedgrave.pc@gmail.com

Website: www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk

The Parish Council held a virtual meeting on 1st October 2020 (in line with Coronavirus Act 2020). Copies of the minutes are available at Loddon Library, on the Parish Council noticeboard and website.

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

Councillor Resignation: Cllr Jackie Bircham noted the resignation of Emma Guymer. Emma was thanked for her contribution to the parish council particularly in relation to Grebe Drive play area.

Councillor Vacancy: There is a councillor vacancy and anyone interested should contact the Clerk.

Neighbourhood Plan: The council resolved to work with Loddon Parish Council on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

George Lane Roundabout: CCllr B Stone reiterated the plan to commence works in Dec/Jan.

Wherryman’s Way: Representatives from the parish council met with NCC. Works to the steps are due to take place on 15/16 October with bridge repairs to follow.

Bulb & Shrub Planting: The parish council made various plans for bulb planting in the Pits and around the village and shrub planting in the Grebe Drive area.

Brian Clarke Room: The room remains closed but the parish council is working with Saffron Housing Trust in a bid to re-open the room to local groups as soon as possible.

“Shop with Confidence”: Two hand sanitisers were installed in the village by South Norfolk Council to help keep local shoppers safe from Covid19 and to boost our valued local businesses. Unfortunately, the one near Chedgrave shops has been vandalised. Anyone with information about possible culprits is encouraged to contact Norfolk Constabulary or the Clerk.

Planning Applications: The following planning matters were considered

2020/1735 – 25 Hillside, approved, no comment.

In addition,

2020/1324 - Location: 2 Rectory Lane, Chedgrave has been approved with conditions.

2020/1270/1271 - 3 Norwich Road Chedgrave has been approved with conditions.

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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LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING

The Victorian Evening working group have been working closely with both Parish Councils on a plan in the hope of offering some reduced activity on Friday evening 4th December. However, watching the increasing restrictions across the UK and the cancellation of any Christmas Lights Switch On in the Waveney Valley, we have regretfully decided that we do not want to attract extra folk into Loddon and risk holding an event that could lead to a breach of Covid 19 rules and guidelines.

Since the start of the pandemic traders throughout our community have been simply brilliant in teasing out the very best ways that they can keep their businesses going and keep serving our community to an extent that most high streets across the country have been unable to do. We do not want to do anything to upset the fine balance that our pubs, cafes, shops and services have worked so hard to establish within the current guidelines. It is to their credit that the many summer tourists have enjoyed our hospitality and appear not to have left us any unwanted virus.

In these generally uncertain times – we can offer this certainty:

- Christmas Day will be Wednesday 25th December;
- The Christmas lights will be on by Saturday 5th December;
- The route through Farthing Green, Loddon, to The White Horse, Chedgrave will have lights strung and lit;
- The Church Plain carpark in Loddon will be lit;
- We will encourage traders and residents along the route to decorate their windows and frontages so we look even more festive than usual;
- We will ask youngsters from our Primary and Nursery schools to decorate plywood Christmas Tree shapes. These will be given to those expecting to decorate buildings on the route to add to their decoration. Some larger versions to hang on railings on the route;
- ‘The Best Dressed House’ and ‘Best Dressed Business’ trophies will be judged on Saturday 5th December this year;
- A video message from Father Christmas will be posted on the Loddon Eye Facebook page together with a video of the presentation of ‘Best Dressed House’ and ‘Best Dressed Business’ Trophies.

We are already making plans, whilst keeping fingers crossed, for Friday 3rd December 2021!

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We look forward to welcoming you back! You can:

- follow our one-way system to browse the shelves
- pre-order a selection of up to 10 books for adults for free through Select and Collect Use the online form at norfolk.spydus.co.uk or call 01603 774777
- borrow our new Grab and Go children's book bags for families
- book one 60-minute session per day on a computer. To book a session or if you need any help using our computers call 01603 774777
- return items through the drop box
- reserve books
- download the FREE Spydus app to check out books on your smartphone
- download eBooks, audio books, newspapers and magazines by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

We've made some changes to keep you safe, so:

- there is no 'Open Library' access
- please bring your library card with you or join in the library or online
- we may ask for details from you to help with Test and Trace
- you will need to wear a face covering in the library
- we have a one-way system for social distancing
- hand sanitiser is available for use on the way in and out of the library
- surfaces and computers will be regularly wiped down
- returned books will be quarantined for 72 hours
- sorry, there are no newspapers, magazines or seats in the library and the toilet is not available.

We've made some changes to our opening hours

Monday	10am - 2pm
Thursday	10am - 6pm
Saturday	1pm – 4pm

Closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday

www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

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Website: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries>

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THE SISLAND CHRONICLE

September saw Harvest Festival at St Mary's held as an open air service; probably the first one since the Church burnt down in the late 1700's. The weather co-operated and although singing was banned a recording of Norwich Cathedral choir was played in substitution. As a great success, it may be repeated next year. Farmers in the parish took advantage of the weather to prepare for harvest in 2021, and at the start of a new farming year, optimistically hoping that it will be less challenging than the last one. Ploughing and drilling seed corn is always a welcome sight but I haven't seen any drilling yet around us yet. Many fields will now be too wet! The recent rains overloaded the river Chet which then flooded some of the meadows at Lodge farm. Unfortunately a bridge between two meadows was damaged and a herd of cattle and their calves separated. Fortunately, apart from the bridge, little harm was done. It is ironic that farmers pay drainage rates though the rivers haven't been cleaned out for many years. Sadly many small members of the natural world are also at risk in such floods.

Rainfall for September in Sisland was 99.4mm (3.91 inches)

SISLANDA

Hi—Freddie here. Late September found me being rushed as an emergency case to the vets in Bungay, and whilst I didn't expect the Air Ambulance (I don't think they do dogs) I thought that T. would have a flashing light on the car. Even Farmer John has one on his tractor! "Now what have you done?" I hear you ask. Well it was my own fault; I saw a bunny in the garden and jerked my lead out of J.'s hand to give chase, with the painful result that my back legs wouldn't work properly. My vet had warned me to calm down a bit – but I didn't! She took me into her room, checked me over, commenting on my splendid biters, then stuck a huge needle into my neck, and told me to act my age! She said I had a touch of arthritis in my knees, and gave me a bottle of stuff to take each day. I got better quite quickly and the next day I had chicken for supper to build my strength up—almost worth the pain! J. got a 'phone call after a few days from my lady vet, Amber, to ask how I was. I expect she worries about patients like me! My friend Smudge has also been in the wars, He had a lump on his leg which hurt and his master took him to a vet near where he was chopping trees down, who removed it. He's now as right as rain, whatever that means, and had to wear a funny plastic collar for a time. We are all much better now, so all's well that ends well. T. says someone called Shakespeare said it – I can't think why! PS. I'm still allowed to sleep in the sitting room. **Take care and Stay Safe. Freddie.**



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

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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) or Rev Alison Ball (01508 528126 (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)

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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£65 per person, £35 for children under 12 yrs, under 5 yrs free
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Live Advent Calendar

Chet Valley Churches are making a 'Live Advent Calendar'. Each day during advent at different addresses in the community, Advent Doors can be opened by knocking at the door or ringing the doorbell between designated hours. Who knows what might be behind the door? It could be something edible, something audible, something beautiful – all will be a wonderful surprise. All are welcome adults and children alike.

The first door will be at All Saints Church, Chedgrave. You can open it on **Sunday 29th November between 2-5pm**. Families can collect a logbook to tick off the doors as you open each of them. There will also be story sheets to and stick in each week.

A list of addresses for each day, and times when the doors may be opened, will be available from 21st November from local shops and the churches in Loddon and Chedgrave.

For more information, please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126 or by e-mail ball880am@btinternet.com

Norfolk Swift Response Service



Norfolk County Council

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.

Chet Chat

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

Phone: 07876 050110



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

Church Services

1st November		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland*
9.30am	All Saints Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
4.00pm	In Memory of Loved Ones	St John, Loddon
8th November		
9.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret Hardley*
10.55am	Remembrance Service	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.55am	Remembrance Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon
15th November		
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11.00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
4.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland*
22nd November		
9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley*
10.45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
29th November		
10.30am	Benefice Service HC	All Saints, Chedgrave
6.30 for 7.00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John, Loddon

***Church Services during the Covid-19 pandemic**

Our churches are open for worship. However, whilst services in Loddon and Chedgrave will go ahead as advertised, the dates and times given for those in Hardley and Sisland are indicative of services that may happen; 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). If you would like a paper copy of the Sunday service, please contact one of the clergy.

Every day Morning Prayer 9.00am <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

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.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches	
Currently suspended	Roman Catholic Mass
Tuesdays 7.30-8.30pm	<p>COME AND PRAY</p> <p>If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to</p> <p>‘Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection’</p> <p>3rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing</p>
Thursdays during school term	<p>XTRA!</p> <p>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 current arrangements for **XTRA!**

Please contact Rev Jill (jillhaylock@aol.com) about current 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 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

Our usual meeting place is All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave at 2pm. Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held there on the 4th 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.

Thank You

Please can I say a HUGE THANK YOU to family, friends and neighbours for supporting me with my annual MacMillan coffee morning. Even though it was very different this year we raised an amazing £1,204.17. It means so much to me to help others as they were wonderful when we needed them. Beryl Smith

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
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



The bad news first. Despite many meetings, copious plans and the very best intentions, the Gym Committee has decided not to reopen the Gym until the spring at the earliest. We are mindful that many of our members have underlying health issues or live with someone who has. We also feel that part of the Gym experience is social - meeting others, having a chat with the person on the next bike, consulting Louise about your programme or asking Mike how to set the treadmill at the right speed. None of this would be possible with machines spaced out and with social distancing. The plans for cleaning the equipment, the hall and Gym members would fill several sides of A4! As we are now officially in the 'second wave' of Covid19 and we don't know how things will develop it seems that the responsible course of action is to postpone the reopening and plan for the spring. When we have an actual date, those on our e-mailing list will be informed by email. Please also check local social media and the website for updates.

The good news is that Gym members (and keen potential members) tell us that they are keeping as fit and as well as they possibly can whilst obeying the ever-changing rules.

And there is more good news. While the gym is closed, Louise will be doing socially distanced, outdoor, Personal Training sessions for anyone who is interested (both members and non members). Louise can be contacted at loupt1@live.co.uk or phone 0753 494 6143. There is more information on our Facebook page and on the website www.loddoncommunitygym.com

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

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

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

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

Treacle Toffee recipe

Perfect for Plot Night!

Ingredients:

2 tbsp water

1 tbsp white vinegar

4 oz unsalted butter

1 lb light, soft brown sugar

8 oz black treacle

Heat water, vinegar and butter together in a fairly large saucepan until the butter has melted.

Stir in sugar and black treacle and stir carefully over a low heat until all the sugar has dissolved. Do not allow to boil.

When the sugar has dissolved, boil to 138°C/280°F.

Remove pan from heat and place on a damp cloth.

Allow the bubbles to subside and then pour the mixture into a well-oiled square sandwich tin.

As the toffee sets, mark into squares with a knife (you may have to do this 2-3 times). Enjoy!



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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

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. 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 have restarted.

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

Our monthly meetings at Hobart High School have still been suspended for the foreseeable future however we are now having "virtual" monthly meetings via Zoom.

Our meeting on Monday 9th November is 'Photography – Work & Hobby' by Alison Jenkins. Alison lectures to schools and camera clubs and is a qualified East Anglian Federation photography competition Judge. View some of her work here www.alison-jenkins.photography

If you are interested in joining us or would like some more information, please contact me secretary@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk or have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. Our annual membership is £15.



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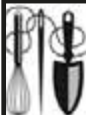
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- To follow up new enquiries for advertising from email account or other sources and provide potential advertisers with information on advertising in contact;
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Parkinsons

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

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

Freedom of Loddon Award

Councillor June Strickland, on behalf of Loddon Parish Council, was delighted to present Algar Taylor with the Freedom of Loddon Award on Tuesday 6th October.

The award was given to Algar for his notable contribution to the community of Loddon.



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Loddon and District Local History Group

September has been a busy month. Several volunteers have started on listing the contents of albums and folders in the archive as the first step towards a comprehensive catalogue. Still plenty to do so more volunteers are always welcome please. The NRO project team are gearing up for training sessions; remote learning is a challenge for us all.

We also dug two test pits in gardens on the east side of the Street, which was great fun after a two year gap. More clay pipe stems and bowls and some interesting old potsherds to add to the records.

The Ipswich Journal - Saturday 14 October 1758



Dipping into my filing system I came upon an Ipswich Journal clip of October 14 1758 reporting the end of the proceedings of the Norfolk Sessions at Norwich. It was reported that: "Mary Guymer, for Petty Larceny, was to be publicly whipped at East Dereham: And Moses Lenny, for leaving his Wife and Family chargeable to the Parish they belong to, was ordered to be publicly whipped next Market Day at Loddon; and another Man for the same Offence to be whipped in Bridewell."

Moses Lenny was a son of Reynald Lenny was baptised in Holy Trinity 30 Jan 1708/9. On 17 Aug 1747 Moses married Elizabeth Forder in Chedgrave, both were from Loddon. A son James was baptised in Feb 1752. We hear no more in the Parish Records until 1757. In June 1757 *Lenny's Wife* is twice in receipt of 1/- from the overseers, she was *at need* and she also appears on the list of those receiving money each week, as she received 26 payments of 9d on the four accounts for 1757 & 1758. This was "out relief" paid to paupers living in their own homes.

We have no way of knowing why Moses left Elizabeth, or how the Overseers were able to locate him, apparently in Norwich. The Accounts show the cost of the legal process and expenses for journeys etc. as 15/-. Presumably it was felt to be a worthwhile expenditure to make an example of him as a deterrent to others. It appears that he remained in Loddon until his burial there on March 1st 1761. What happened to Elizabeth is not known, but quite possibly son James married Mary Betts in Chedgrave on 20 Feb 1778. At this time the Overseers (two of the parish worthies who were voted into the role) raised about £150 each year to cover the cost of Out Relief, and the upkeep of the Parish Workhouse for maybe five old people at 18d per week and sometimes children at the same rate.

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Loddon Buildings Preservation Trust – The Hollies



Here is an update on everything that has been happening at the Hollies in 2020. Like everyone, we have been heavily affected by the COVID-19 lockdown. All users stopped using the hall until very recently. The trustees have been meeting regularly using Microsoft Teams software.

The good news is that Country Markets are back on Tuesday mornings and the Christadelphians are back every Sunday. Loddon Band restarted on the 17th September.

During lockdown, some good things happened:

- We were given 100 good quality blue stacking chairs by St Luke's church in Beccles as they needed to replace them with even more stackable chairs due to a lack of space. The total cost was £105 for the van hire and a donation to the church: new chairs would have been well over £1,000.
- To return after lockdown, the Christadelphians asked if we could install wi-fi as they now have a large Zoom congregation. This has been installed and we expect Country Markets to start using it to enable a move away from cash to credit cards.
- Like all businesses, we were given £10,000 by the government. This has covered the loss of rental income and we will use it to start repairs to the doors and windows.

We are considering opening one or both halls at The Hollies during the day for co-working. This would enable people who are working from home in difficult conditions to rent space to work at a table with good broadband. Clearly, we would need to work out some COVID details, but nothing appears insurmountable. If you are interested in co-working at The Hollies, please email loddonbpt@gmail.com.

Finally, our minute secretary is moving away from the area and we need to find a replacement. If you would like to be involved in your local community and have reasonable IT skills, this voluntary role takes about 3-4 hours a month, which includes attending the monthly meetings. We are always keen to hear from anyone who would like to us to maintain this lovely building for the community to use. For more details, please email loddonbpt@gmail.com.

Choir for Carols



Hooray! The community choir is coming together once again this year to sing. However, it seems unlikely that we will be holding the usual carol services so we will be carol singing in the neighbourhood instead. We will sing on several evenings in different parts of the Chet Valley community. People of all ages are welcome. We will not be having any rehearsals so it will be helpful

if everyone is familiar with traditional Christmas carols. This is what one of the younger members of a previous community choir said: *"It is a lot of fun. We all enjoy the singing and getting to know others in the community."* We will adhere to the Covid guidelines in December. If you would like to take part please contact Rev Alison e-mail: ball880am@btinternet.com or 01508 528126

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

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Martin Luther, 1483-1546

"Expectation," by Anna Hope

A story about three young women from the 1970s onwards. Having met as students in London, even afterwards they remain in the flat they shared throughout their college life, leaving only when one by one their lives take them in different directions. The three of them are very different in character from each other and there are times when it seems as if one of them may be lost to the other two.

This is a beautifully story, written by an author who shows sensitivity, understanding and compassion alongside sadness and happiness.

"The Country Child," by Alison Uttley

Better known for her "Sam Pig" and "Little Grey Rabbit" books for children, this delightful book is the story of a child's life in the late 19th Century and is based on Alison Uttley's own childhood. It was first published in 1931. Susan Garland is the only child of a farmer and his wife, Tom and Margaret Garland, whose farm is at the top of a high hill - it's an isolated Victorian life. Susan, however, is an imaginative child. Living where the family does, there is no other child nearby to play with so she grows up thinking of the trees, birds and animals as her friends and talks to them all, as well as making up her own games to play. She goes regularly to school, but to do so she has to walk four miles there and back through what she calls "The Dark Forest." In the darker days of the year she takes a little lantern with her to help her on the way home.

This is a book written with real feeling. It gives a vivid picture of a rural life with all its difficulties and pleasures of more than a century ago. It's quite remarkable.

"The Photograph," by Penelope Lively

Penelope Lively is an author whose books one can read and re-read. She has a gift of understanding all kinds of people and writing novels which demonstrates this; she gets right to the heart of them. In addition to this, she is definitely not a formulaic story-teller - one can never tell quite what will lie in the pages between the cover of one of her books!

The photograph of the title is found unexpectedly and was taken many years ago. It brings major retrospective memories to come back to the fore, causing all sorts of happenings and emotions to be re-assessed by the family and friends of Kath - the central character of the story. There is grief and loss with equal amounts of humour to help bear them. Penelope Lively shows a deep understanding of how we see ourselves and how others perceive us, while being very aware and understanding of the kind of façade we can put on when we feel it necessary! Families don't always understand one another

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

“Wild Card,” by Ken McClure

A very alarming thriller written about an unknown virus, highly infectious, which threatens to become a global pandemic. This book was written in 2002 - eighteen years ago, before any of us had even dreamt of the pandemic we are experiencing now. Ken McClure's medical knowledge is extraordinary and his ability to predict things is uncanny.

Loddon WEA

What the immediate future holds is unclear so there is no news to report at present. However, the Committee of the WEA Loddon Branch wish you all well. For any further information, phone: 01508) 521036 or 558453.

Royal British Legion-Loddon & District Branch

Here is what the Legion currently understands about arrangements for this year's Remembrance.



POPPY STALL will take place probably for two hours at a time on odd occasions during the week of Monday 2nd to Saturday 7th November. It will probably still be outside Anne's Crafts on Church Plain, or somewhere nearby to ensure social distancing and entry to the shop. However, POPPY TRAYS will be in local shops from at least 2nd November onwards.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER there will be no parade through Loddon and only a very small commemoration at the war memorial on Church Plain consisting of no more than six people, from 10.50am onwards. However, there will still be a bagpiper and bugler and wreaths will still be laid by the Royal British Legion and Parish Council. Members of the public will be allowed on to Church Plain car park but are asked to keep well back, in groups of no more than six, and maintaining strict social distancing at all times.

There will be NO FOLLOW ON HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SERVICE this year.

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMISTICE at 11.00am on Wednesday 11th November will take place at Loddon war memorial but in a very simplified short commemoration. You can attend but must, again, keep well back, in groups of no more than six, and social distancing to keep yourselves safe.

Government and Legion guidelines at present are governed by fluctuating local coronavirus figures and worries of further breakouts and lockdowns. However, rest assured that our commemorations this year, although entirely different and without precedent, will be as dedicated as they always have been. Please still support us, but stay safe.

For up to date information as we receive it, please phone our branch secretary Christine Hartley 01508 521136.

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Nature Notes

I had decided, because of the inclement weather on Saturday 3rd of October, that I would start writing November's Nature Notes. Just before I opened "Word" I checked if any interesting birds had been discovered in our area, only to read that a Rustic Bunting had been located at the Links carpark in Lowestoft. It is a bird I have never seen, so my mind started working overtime. The dogs love walking along the shore there, but what are the chances of finding the bird especially as it had first been seen over two hours previous and the forecast is for the rain to get worst? My decision was let's go for it, and as I pulled into the Links carpark (never looks a wide enough entrance to me), I could see a group of bird watchers looking intently at the base of some marram grass, which is always a good sign. Sure enough, the bird was still there and hopping around in full view a few feet in front of us. I was surprised how striking the head markings were on this sparrow-sized bird. Rustic Buntings breed in Sweden and across Russia and spend their winters in South East Asia. Obviously, this bird could not tell its right wing from its left! I was so glad I took the chance to see it, and yes, our two elderly dogs thoroughly enjoyed their walk along the shore dodging the waves.



Unfortunately it doesn't always work out like that, the previous week, without the dogs, because of the heat, I had driven to Wareham Green, near Wells, as a Brown Shrike had been in that area for a few days. Unfortunately I was a day too late though I enjoyed exploring an area I had not been to before. I had the option of going on to the other side of Wells where a Red Breasted Flycatcher had been seen but decided against as I needed to get back home. That was the wrong decision as the bird was showing well at the time I would have been there. So, you win some and lose some, but there is always another day.

Two other recent walks with the dogs have been more successful: Covehithe Broad, which was virtually empty of water, had an obliging Curlew Sandpiper; and the North end of Kessingland Beach gave very good views of four Lapland Buntings, a bird I have only seen a couple of times before. The Curlew Sandpiper is a regular migrant, breeding in arctic Siberia and wintering in Africa. The Lapland Bunting is another Arctic breeder but tends to overwinter in Southern Russia, though a few each winter are to be found round our Eastern coast.

Our garden bird list has remained static with sadly nothing new to report. We have however had a Hummingbird Hawk Moth feeding on Verbena flowers viewed from our kitchen window. Also, a squirrel appeared. How do they know that the Hazel nuts are ready? We do not see them for most of the year.

Looking at the birds that have turned up in Norfolk and Suffolk so far this Autumn it has been an exceptionally good time for passage migrants. As I am finishing this off on the 5th of October there is a Red Breasted Flycatcher in Lowestoft, a Steppe Grey Shrike and a Great Grey Shrike at Benacre and a Raddes Warbler and Firecrest at Southwold. Well maybe tomorrow I may go looking.

Richard and Rachel Hull

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Gardening Notes

From the Garden

Jobs for this month include planting bulbs and bedding plants to provide a display over winter and into spring. I shall be planting tulips and hyacinths in pots to provide a colourful display for spring and I love the scent from hyacinths but it is too powerful for indoors. I am planting Tulip Purple Dream, Hyacinths Blue Jacket, Carnegie which is white and City of Haarlem a creamy yellow. It is a good time to dig up and divide perennials to provide you with more plants or for swapping with a friend. Hardy geraniums, delphiniums and primulas are some which are very easy to divide as long as the ground is not frozen, you might not want to do it if your garden is still water logged! November to March is a good time to plant hedges or bare root trees, the price of bare root trees is lower than pot grown trees and planting at this time allows the tree to get roots established before the leaves appear. The choice available is vast and top of my list is a Ginkgo the maidenhair tree. It is a slow growing tree with bright green fan shaped leaves in spring which turn a lovely golden yellow colour in autumn. This is also the time to fill the bird feeders in the garden, sit back in the warm with a hot drink and browse the seed catalogues deciding what to grow for next year.



From the allotment...

As I write in October the weather has swung from one extreme to the other from arid to soaked, and things that weren't growing suddenly are.

November planting includes garlic and broad beans. There are two sorts of garlic, hardneck and softneck. Hardneck varieties store better though the cloves are smaller. Softneck are usually bigger and plumper but only store for around three months. There are also some very early varieties on the market and last year I harvested some bulbs in early May. To plant gently break the bulb into cloves and plant the clove root down in a shallow hole 2.5cm (1") deep, 15cm (6") apart and rows 45cm (18") apart. They need to be watered well in dry weather.

I will also be planting a couple of rows of autumn broad beans and will follow this up by planting another couple in Spring to give me a longer picking season. I plant these over a trench of raw compost, which peas and beans love, and which uses up compost material that would otherwise sit in a heap all winter. Dig a trench roughly the width of a spade and slightly deeper. If on clay break up the bottom to help it drain and if on sand line the bottom/sides with newspaper or cardboard to retain the moisture. Fill loosely with compost, backfill and firm the soil before planting. You can continue trenching across your pea and bean area to get ready for Spring.



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