



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

April 2024



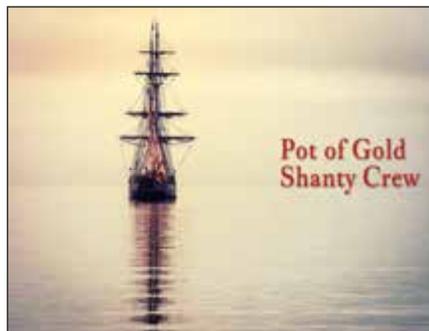
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Tickets £15 Talk + Supper; £10 Talk Only (at 7:00pm)

from Rev Alison 01508 528126 ball880am@btinternet.com



Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

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



Church Office—closed at present.

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

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

The e-mail account is being monitored regularly.



Weddings, Funerals and the Interment of Ashes

To arrange any of the above please contact Rev David on 01508 522993.

Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches	www.chetvalleychurches.org
The Diocese of Norwich	www.dioceseofnorwich.org



Chet Contact

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Please include your name and telephone number.



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From the Editor

Winter , what Winter? I'm always being told I don't feel the cold but although it's been very wet it's not been very cold although I'm sure it's been more windy and that soon creates a chill. Now things are warming up and early season events are getting under way all over the place, look to the highlights column below to see many of them.

One or two of them are looking for contributions from you, either helping out, booking a stall or opening your garden for example. Do join in if you can.

I'm looking out at the lovely white and pink blossom in the garden and enjoying the arrival of Spring (not the daffodils planted before I moved here , sorry, I really don't like daffodils) :-)

Roger



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Ministerial Musings

...

What an exceptionally miserable winter we have had, with record-breaking rainfall levels and innumerable grey days. Even if you have managed to rise above the grim news further afield, there has not been much to keep us upbeat. If you have struggled to maintain any sort of optimism in the past few months, you are not alone in that. Managing our own mental health can be a challenge in this pessimistic era.

But now it is Spring, the most optimistic season: the reasons to be cheerful are increasing. Perhaps the endless rain has brought you some unexpected bonuses, as it has me: my camellia has not flowered for fifteen years, yet this year it is full of bloom.

Easter can be a time of renewal, whether you are a person of faith or not. For Christians it has been a six week slog through Lent, culminating in the harrowing events of Good Friday. On that day hope was put to death. A truly good man suffered a painful death, largely for reasons of political expediency. Tragically, this was not a unique event, as countless unjust executions have shown over the centuries. It has gone on right up to our own day, with the murder of Alexei Navalny in Siberia. A good person who dares to challenge power risks the worst possible outcome.

The resurrection of Jesus was not something his followers expected. They had been left in complete disarray by his death, and yet two days later witnesses saw him alive once more- against all expectation, hope returned.

Hope can return for all of us, when we see the signs of renewal all around us: leaves breaking out of the buds on the trees, birds singing excitedly, seeds germinating, days lengthening. For me the greatest proof of the resurrection is born out every Spring, when life returns to the earth. It reminds me that we live in a beautiful world, that there is always hope to be found and that even the darkest of times do not last forever. Alleluia!

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 (BCP) or Common Worship, with an informal Holy Communion service once a month in Chedgrave.

Morning Worship is held regularly in Loddon and Hardley.

Evening Prayer (BCP) is on the third Sunday of the month in Sisland.

XPRESSIONS CAFÉ is on the first Sunday of the month at All Saints Chedgrave. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. Open between 10:00am and 12:00 noon you can come and go as you please for coffee, cake, discussion, crafts, games, stories, reflection and much more.

All Together Worship is on the third Sunday every month at All Saints, Chedgrave, starting at 11:00am. January, March, June and September are followed by a shared lunch. The service is designed to be as inclusive as possible: a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness. We hope it will have points of contact with people of all ages and all backgrounds.

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

XTRA! is an exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church. Refreshments from 3:15pm, service starts at about 3:45pm. Open to all; particularly suited to children and young people.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is the chance to enjoy a chat over refreshments after services. There are toilets and baby-changing facilities at St John's, Loddon and All Saints, Chedgrave.

Families are welcome at all of our services, but are particularly catered for on the 1st and 3rd Sundays 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 Rector or one of the clergy.

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



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Thanksgivings & Baptisms



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

Baptisms and Thanksgivings are both held within Sunday morning worship in our churches.

Please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126 ball880am@btinternet.com

Noah's Ark

A drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their parents and carers at St John's, George Lane, Loddon.



Wednesdays 9:15am-12:00noon.

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

Small Groups

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



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

To join or just to know more, please contact Rev David on 01508 522993.

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

More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

Friends and Neighbours

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

Next Meeting:

Thursday April 4th. 12 for 12.30 Spring Lunch at The Old Feathers restaurant.

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

Monday Mardles

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



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

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



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From the Parish Registers

Thansgivings and Baptisms

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.*

Funerals

*Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring
with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord for ever.*

I Thessalonians 4:14, 17b

To arrange a thanksgiving or baptism (christening), contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126, or ball880am@btinternet.com. To arrange a wedding, contact Rev David on 01508 522993, or david.chetvalley@gmail.com. To arrange a funeral, at our churches or at the crematorium, contact Rev David on 01508 522993, or david.chetvalley@gmail.com. Rev David can also be contacted about interment of ashes.



Chet Valley Churches
with Chedgrave Parish Council



All Saints Chedgrave

Eco-Fair and Plant Sale

Saturday 13th May

10:00-12:00

If you would like to have a stall selling vegan/vegetarian or eco-friendly products, please contact Rev Alison: ball880am@btinternet.com

or Diana Drecin: diana.drecin@yahoo.com

£10 per stall.

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

All Saints Church, Chedgrave has a lovely church centre open for over 25 years. There are two rooms (one upstairs), a kitchen and a loo. Our wheeled tables are easy to move and put up. It is warm even in the winter! It is available to book with a suggested donation of £8 per hour. If you are looking for a venue for a meeting, a party, or an activity do contact Anne Jackson who is responsible for hall bookings on 01508 502278.

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News From Your Local Councillors



As March gives way to “April, the angel of the months, the young love of the year” we welcome back the swifts and swallows from their long journeys, returning to bring up their young.

My main focus at the moment are the issues facing our friends and neighbors in St Georges Park. I’m working in partnership with my fellow-Councillor Kay to see these concerns addressed.

As Chair of the South Norfolk Scrutiny Committee I’ve overseen three recent meetings, looking at a range of issues including clean economic growth, business support and the 2024/25 budget.

Finally, our superb ChetChat group volunteers are always on hand, giving help and support to our over-60s friends and neighbours. As mentioned last month, we’re looking forward to organising our deliveries of Easter eggs and daffodils again this year; we’ll be using the recent Christmas hampers list, please let me know if you’d like to nominate someone over-60 who’s not already on it, or if you’d like to check. Deliveries start 26 March.



If you ever need any help give us a ring on **07733323581**. **Cllr Jeremy Rowe**



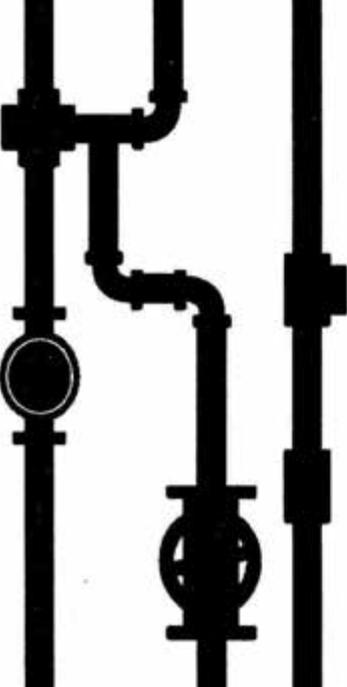
Firstly, my apologies for not contributing to last months magazine, we have been so busy at County Hall trying to produce a balanced budget for Norfolk and I’m sorry that I took my eye off the ball with regard to producing a report for you.

However, I am pleased to report that Norfolk is not facing the same difficulties as some other councils who, in a few cases, are near bankruptcy. There are many reasons for this, it could be due to a legacy from previous decisions, which were perhaps unwise. But one thing we are all facing is the increasing weight of demand for our services, especially in areas such as Special Educational Needs. For example, in Norfolk today the number of children now presenting with SEND is 25%. This comes at a massive cost for the Council, as we have a duty to provide extra services for those children. Please be assured that your Council will continue to strive to provide you with the services you need and deserve, we will work smarter and harder to do this and will always endeavour to provide value for money for you, our taxpayers.

If you have any issues or I can help in any way, please contact me at

kay.masonbillig.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Cllr Kay Mason Billig



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Chedgrave Parish Council

Contact Details: Please note the new council contact information which is also on our website and noticeboard:

Parish Clerk (Hayley Goldson)

Phone: 07592 93374 (please leave a message if no answer)

Email: clerk@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk

Web: <https://chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Also Brian Clarke Room bookings (Georgina Buckle):

Phone: 07981 856270 (no change)

Email: brianclarkeroom@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chedgrave Parish Council held its meeting on 7th March 2024



Easter Egg Hunt! The Easter Bunny has already delivered the eggs! The Easter Egg Hunt will be back again this year on 1st April 2024, 10am in the Pits. This will include an egg hunt, free raffle for children and refreshments (cash donations please) Watch out for further details on noticeboards and Facebook. Good weather please!

Wherryman's Way: Councillors Deb and Simon Downer have been working with NCC and other stakeholders on this important local project. The current situation is that planning permission for the two bridges leading to the bird hide has been submitted. Vegetation clearance is underway and a tender for works is being finalised. Bank reprofiling is due in May and the council will also seek repairs to the crumbling path closer to Pits Lane while this work is underway. NCC expects Phase 1 works (to the bird hide) to be completed in July 2024. Repairs to the bird hide are planned with financial support from NCC.

May and June Meeting Changes: The Annual Parish Council Meeting on 2nd May will take place in Chedgrave Church Centre and the agenda for the meeting on 6th June will close on 24th May due to staff holiday. Thank you.

Pits Play Area: The council apologises for the ongoing works to the play area and following a site meeting with the contractor is hopeful that it will be resolved soon.

Brian Clarke Room: A bright modern room adjacent to the play area – great for parties, meetings and clubs. Please contact Georgina Buckle to book 07981 856270.

Next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7pm followed by the usual parish council meeting at 7.30pm in the Brian Clarke Room. All welcome!

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



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Loddon Town Council (LTC)

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis
Tel: 01508 522020 Email: clerk@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/loddontc



Meeting dates, contact information and updates can all be found on the Council website: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01508 522020.

Chet Valley Summer Fete – 6 July 2024: Planning is now in full swing for the Chet Valley Summer Fete. Please email events@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk if you would like to have a stall (community groups, charities and businesses all welcome) or volunteer.

Freedom of Loddon: Do you know someone who lives in Loddon who has made a notable contribution to the community? The Town Council welcomes your nominations for the Freedom of Loddon Award. If you know someone who you think should receive this award, please email your nomination to admin@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk by the 31 May 2024.

Love Loddon ♥ Community Group: The group are in action again at **10.00am on Sunday 24th of March at Loddon Staithe**. Anyone is welcome to join us for couple of hours, or whatever you can spare, to tidy and plant the Chet Valley B-Line bed with pollinating plants and give the area a general Spring tidy up! Please bring your own tools and protective gloves.

Kittens Lane Play Area: The repairs to the Willy Jeep are due to take place in early April 2024. We apologise for the length of time it has taken to get this work carried out. Thank you for your patience.

Local Support: The contact telephone number for South Norfolk Council's Help Hub is 01508 533933. They also now have a handyman service available. We also regularly update our website with local support information: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk/local-support

Allotments: If you live in Chedgrave or Loddon and wish to be added to the Allotment waiting list, please contact us.

Small Grants: LTC have recently awarded several small grants to local organisations. If you would like to apply for a local group/organisation (generally up to £100), please see our website for more info/application form.

Chet Valley Community Larder: The larder is in Loddon Library/LPC's lobby and is open to everyone. Open Monday to Friday - 8.00am – 7.00pm, Saturday - 8.00am – 4.00pm, Sunday - 10.00am – 4.00pm. All donations gratefully received.



Claire Bullard

INDEPENDANT SCENTSY
CONSULTANT

Phone - 07717535080

Email - cl.bullard@hotmail.co.uk

Website - clairebullard.scentsy.co.uk

Facebook = Claire Bullard - Scentsy Consultant



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Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

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



Next Parish Council Meeting:- 9th April 2024, starting at

7:30pm at the Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas will be posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on our website 3 days before the meeting. Minutes will be displayed in the same places.

Loose manhole cover: Repairs to the loose manhole cover on Yarmouth Road have been carried out, but cracks have reappeared in the tarmac. The matter has been reported again to the Highways Department.

Kissing Gate on Permissive Field: Quotations for the installing a kissing gate between the permissive field and Heckingham Park have been reviewed. We would like to thank Stuart Frost and Hales Fencing and Paving for offering their services.

Dog Walkers' Safety: A polite reminder to observe the Country Code, especially at this time of year with young livestock around. Please also remember to pick up your dog's poo, as it is a health hazard as well as being unpleasant. Finally, with clocks springing forward on Sunday 31st March 2024, please remember that mornings stay darker for longer, so be visible.

Bus Shelter: We are aware of missing panels in both Hales bus shelters. Quotations are currently being obtained for replacement metal panels.

Other matters: We are still trying to resolve grass and tree cutting with Saffron Housing. We have also been in touch with the Environment Agency, who have assessed the drainage situation at the dyke. Following recent heavy rains, we have spoken to Anglian Water regarding excessive water runoff on Briar Lane.

Speed Watch: We are seeking willing volunteers to join our speed watch team. They play a vital role in ensuring our village's safety, and we would welcome your involvement. Meantime, if you do see speeding lorries, where possible, please capture their name and license plate. We can then contact the operators directly.

Useful numbers: A quick reminder that if you need to contact UK Power Networks (UKPN), please call Tel: 0800 316 3105. For water supply, sewerage, and emergencies, Anglian Water can be reached on Tel: 03457 145 145.

Come and join us: If you care about where you live, we have vacancies to fill on our Parish Council. We provide a voice for concerns, ideas, and initiatives that help promote village life. Please get in touch with our Clerk if you want to get involved.

Do You Need Help? Get in touch with South Norfolk & Broadland's Help Hub either by ringing 01508 533933 email helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. They can help with a wide range of problems. Telephones are manned Monday to Friday from 8:15am to 10:00pm (except Bank Holidays).

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Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Emma Webster Tel: 07516 361239

Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com

Website: <https://langleywithhardley.pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>

Find us on Facebook



DO YOU WORRY ABOUT SPEEDING IN LANGLEY AND HARDLEY?

The Parish Council hopes to set up a Community Speed Watch Scheme to reduce speeding in our parish - we require a minimum of six volunteers, required to contribute one hour per week and given training by the Norfolk Constabulary Speed Watch Team. If you are interested please contact the Clerk.

The recent Langley with Hardley 'CLEAN AND BLOOM' EVENT was most successful, many families and residents of the Parish attending. Starting with refreshments in the Village Hall, groups set off on identified routes for the litter pick while families and their offspring explored the play area to identify locations to place boxes for bugs, hedgehogs and bats. Individuals planted bulbs. All met up later at the Village Hall for further refreshments provided by the Village Hall committee. A real community spirit was displayed with the Parish benefiting from a great clean up. A similar event may take place in the Autumn.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 21 May in Langley with Hardley Village Hall at 7.30. This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and begin with the election of the Chair and Vice Chair. It will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm – where community groups and the Parish Council have the opportunity to inform residents on their activities for the previous and forthcoming year.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Cafe-Friday 5th April. 11-1.

Great food, amazing company, a raffle, bric-a-brac stall and hand crafted earring stall. Any age welcome.

Please call Tibby or Jane 01508 520184 with any food allergies you have.

Friday 12th April. Steve Treadway-Clairvoyant evening

7 pm for 7.30 start. Jacket potatoes, filling, salad, coleslaw.

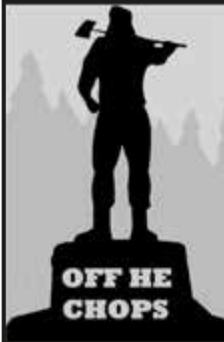
Drinks hot/cold available. Bring your own alcohol.

Tickets must be pre-booked on 01508 520184 Tibby or Jane. Cash only on night., £16 Raffle with good prizes. When booking please make us aware of any food allergies.

The hall also offers Pilates on Monday and Jive Dance Classes on Thursday. For more information on all matters call Tibby or Jane on 01508 520184.

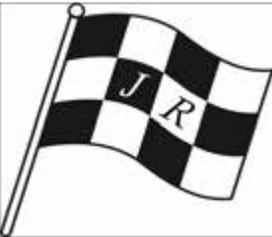
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Notes from Sisland

As you will be aware Easter is quite early this year, but I would like to include an event which will be happening at Sisland starting on Easter Saturday but will continue for the first couple of weeks of April. We are planning is a second-hand Book Sale, which will start on Easter Saturday, 30th March, with a coffee morning from 10am-12pm and continue into the Easter holidays. We will have a range of fiction and non-fiction, reference through to children's book available, in the church. We would welcome anyone who would like a browse and to pop in. The church will be open all day so please make a note of the dates in your diary. We will be raising funds for work which we need to do on the church tower. If you have visited us or past the church, you will notice that the lattice on the tower window is in need of replacing.



Also, it is at this time of the year that the annual meeting of parishioners (also referred to as the annual Vestry meeting) is held to elect churchwardens for the forthcoming year. Known as the Vestry meeting as it was traditionally held in the church vestry. Until the nineteenth century these groups were the main source of parish government and administered much more than just church affairs. The meeting must take place by the 31st May but in Sisland it is held before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Both meetings take place on Monday 15th April from 7pm at St Mary's, Sisland. Members of the church who are on the electoral roll and people resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors can attend the Vestry meeting. The electoral roll is revised annually, have you consider joining one, although you can only be on one church roll. If you wish to join the Sisland Church Electoral Roll, then please contact me at—Rowena Bryce (family.bryce@btopenworld.com).

We hope to see you soon.

Rowena Bryce (Churchwarden).



Loddon Open Gardens

22nd & 23rd June 2024



Do you love your garden?
Would you be happy to let other people enjoy it too?

In June we will be holding OPEN GARDENS around the community, to include gardens GREAT & SMALL.

If you wish to take part, please contact Jules & John Harrington

Email - loddonopengardens@gmail.com or 07756421180

For further information please visit www.loddonopengardens.co.uk

Breathing/Vocal Technique Sessions

Do you enjoy singing but feel that your breath control could be better? Are you a non-singer but feel that you could do with help to improve your breathing? Would you like tips on vocal technique?

Tanya Chelovskaya is a trained vocal coach leading sessions at Chedgrave Church Centre on Wednesdays from 11:00-12:00noon. The cost is £8, which includes refreshments. If interested, please contact Tanya at t.chelovskaya@gmail.com or WhatsApp on 07737 765098.

“I come away from Tanya's sessions, uplifted and with the knowledge that I can own my voice, and possibly even have the confidence to sing. Breathing, vocal and gentle physical exercises combine and lead to a wonderful sense of well-being.”

Bridget M Ward

The Loddon Band

We are a friendly and dynamic brass band in the historic town of Loddon. We are currently seeking the following players to come and join us: Cornet, Tenor Horn, Euphonium, Eb Bass. We welcome all brass players and percussionists.



Rehearsals are at The Hollies, High Street, Loddon on Thursday evenings, 7:45-9:45pm. Our rehearsals are fun and enjoyable so why not pop along to see what we are about. For more information, contact Louis (Secretary) email loddon.band@gmail.com or phone 07463 770068 .

Loddon Flower Club

Firstly we would like to say our thoughts are with the family and friends of Margaret Turner who has sadly passed away. Margaret was a valued member of Loddon Flower Club for many years, having served on our committee and taken on the roles of Treasurer, Chairman and assistant Treasurer. Margaret will be sadly missed by us all.



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 2nd when Brenda Tubb will instruct us on 'Leaf Manipulation', all welcome, come along for a fun evening, If you would like to give it a go it would be good if you could bring a small round container with oasis, a few flowers and bits of greenery and if you have them half a dozen Phormium leaves (there will be a few available on the night.), or just come along and watch. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided and a raffle at the end of the evening.

We meet in St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. 6.30 for a 7pm start.

Have a look at our website, it gives an insight into what we do, we are available to arrange flowers for family occasions e.g. weddings and funerals, in your local Church or other venue. www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk

For more information contact Tricia (Chairman) on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Jenny on 01508 520254 or jf53rf50@gmail.com

Loddon Bell Ringers

We have been out ringing Quarter peals at Ashill and Redenhall over the last month, as well as several here at Loddon on our simulator. Canterbury Pleasure Bob Triples, London Surprise Major, Plain Bob Royal and Little Bob Royal have all been rung.



We took part in a Twelve Bell striking competition in Norwich in which five teams from across the region took part. The band at St. Peter Mancroft was just beaten into first place by a team from Bury St. Edmunds.

We rang a half muffled Peal at St. Mary & St. Margaret's church, Norton Subcourse. The 5040 changes of Cambridge Surprise Minor took 2 hours 51 minutes to complete. This was specially arranged to coincide with a memorial service and the ringing of bells at St. John the Baptist church in Reedham. It was to remember 21 USAF aircrew killed when two B17 "Flying Fortress" bombers collided over Reedham marshes 80 years ago. It was after a mission to Germany, while returning to their base at Great Ashfield in Suffolk. Their average age was 24.

The ringers at Norton were 1. Neil Thomas 2. Stephen Rabong 3. Nikki Thomas 4. Frank Rivett 5. David Webb 6. Richard Carter (Conductor).

Steve Rabong

Church Services

7th April—Second of Easter

8:00am	Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12 noon	XPRESSIONS CAFÉ	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon

14th April—Third of Easter

9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon

21st April—Fourth of Easter

10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
5:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland

28th April—Fifth of Easter

9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon

Annual Parochial Church Meetings 2024.

14th April—All Saints, Chedgrave—after 9.30am service

15th April—St Mary, Sisland—7pm at the church

16th April—St Margaret, Hardley—7pm at the church

21st April—St John's, Loddon—after 10.45am service

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

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

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation

21 Uppate, Poringland, NR14 7SH



Mass Times:

Sunday 9:00am; Tuesday 6:00pm; Wednesday—Saturday 10:00am;
 Saturday 6:00pm (Vigil Mass)

Please check newsletter online for latest information.

Priest in charge: Father Andrew Eburne (Tel: 01508 494770)

e-mail: frandreweburne@gmail.com

www.ourladyporingland.wordpress.com

Methodist Roll of Honour 1914-1918

I am hoping that someone can throw some light on the whereabouts of the framed copy of the Roll of Honour that used to hang in St. John's. I can remember it there some years ago. Later, at a function in Holy Trinity, the original was displayed, minus its frame, at the rear of the church but I have no idea where it went to from there. If anyone knows anything about it, please can you get in touch. I would very much like to copy and reframe it, to go back into the church, if possible. I would also like to have a copy placed with the Loddon and District Local History Group archive to keep with other wartime information. Please contact me on 01508 500602 or email chetcottchippy@hotmail.com if you can help.

Thank you. **Carol Webb.**

Loddon Swan Bowls Club

The new outdoor bowls green season commences on Saturday April 13 @2oc the club is situated behind the SWAN The club plays in several evening leagues plus a Thursday afternoon league roll ups are available for ALL on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons also on a Wednesday morning If you are a seasoned bowler or a beginner you are very welcome please just turn up or call club chairman Paul Clemence on 01508 218078

Social Whist

We meet every 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Usual time of 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start in the back room of The Hollies. It is £6 for the evening including a chance to chat, play some whist, enjoy tea/coffee with a biscuit, all in great company. No partner needed or to have played before, just an enjoyable evening out.



If you need a lift, please call me (Jane) on 01508 528875. Looking forward to seeing our regular players and meeting any new ones.

Hardship Funds Available in the Chet Valley

If you are struggling to make ends meet at the moment, did you know there are funds available to help?

There are local charities to help people in need in Chedgrave, Hardley, Langley and Loddon. They only any good if people use them! In the past money has paid for white goods, carpets, solicitor's bills, rent, food... To access the funds:

Loddon Town Estate Trust: Contact Julie Ponsford on 07976 902487.

Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund: Contact Rev David, Rev Alison or churchwarden, Roger Outlaw (phone numbers on p3), or treasurer Richard Ball on 01508 528126.

Hardley and Langley Discretionary Fund: Contact Rev David or churchwarden (details in Hardley church porch).

Sport

Footballers Wanted!

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



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

With the outdoor lawn bowls season finished why not come and try indoor short mat? We meet on Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-3:00pm in the Jubilee Hall and are a very friendly little group. Beginners are very welcome; just bring flat indoor shoes and we can supply the bowls. The right money, £3, and a sense of humour are also appreciated.



For more information call Sara on 01508 521958

Loddon Ladies Hockey Club

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

We welcome new members of all ages (13+) and abilities. Come and get fit, have fun and meet friendly women from in and around the local area. We train on **Tuesday** nights at Langley School (NR14 6BJ), 7:00pm-8:30pm.

For more info: www.loddonhockey.com or email hello@loddonhockey.com



Loddon Tennis Club

The launch of the Tennis Club was very successful and there are now over one hundred people regularly playing together in Loddon. Pay and Play is available for £5 per hour via

loddontennis@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk

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



Hobart Badminton Club

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

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



Loddon Junior Badminton Club

Held at Jubilee Hall, sessions are just £3.50.

Wednesday evenings: 6:45-7:45pm, children aged 8-14 years

Thursday evenings: 7:30-8:30pm, children aged 15-18 years

Open to all children regardless of ability.

Sessions run by qualified coach. Rackets and shuttles provided.

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



Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



Late February, several of our members attended a Memorial Service in Reedham. To remember 21 USAF Airmen, who died when their 2 x B17 aircraft collided, over Reedham Marshes in 1944.

In March, we had Loddon's well known Panto duo, Maureen Larkin and Anthony 'Titch' Bunting giving a talk about their Panto Memories. A very enjoyable evening and Thank You to Maureen and Titch, for donating their fee to our branch funds.

The RBL is here to Safeguard the Welfare, Interests and Memory of those Serving or have Served in the Armed Forces.

We meet at the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Every 3rd Monday of the month, at 7pm. Our contact is Chairman Colin Hartley. 01508 521136.

Tuesday Market



Spring is here and our gardeners are very busy preparing for the new season. Hopefully we will have some early plants, veg and flowers for you very soon. If you haven't already visited our friendly market, every Tuesday at the Hollies next to the Post Office 10 to 11.30, come and join us for tea or coffee. You'll find a warm and friendly welcome.

Our cooks make delicious sweet and savoury dishes, plus we have preserves, fresh eggs and beautiful local crafts. We hope to see you soon.

Contact Sheila Ford 01508 520752 for orders or enquiries.

Chet Valley Voices



Chet Valley Voices is a community choir of varying ages from 15-80+. We enjoy singing a variety of music from classical to modern and are a happy friendly bunch. Come along, make new friends and get to know others in the community. Singing is good for your mental health and well-being, so you will leave rehearsals feeling uplifted. Why not come to a free taster session?

Rehearsals: Thursday 7:00-8:30pm (doors open 6:45pm) in St Johns Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. £5 on the night, £3 for under 18s. New members always welcome, especially men.

More information from: Sue 01508 528069; suemartin303@btinternet.com or chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter: @ChetValleyVoices. www.chetvalleyvoices.co.uk.



Loddon Community Gym

The Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX

Tel: 07534 946143 www.loddoncommunitygym.com

The gym is open on some part of every day Monday to Friday:

Monday 1:45–5:25pm; Tuesday 4:45–7:05pm; Wednesday 9:00–11:20am;

Thursday 6:00pm–8:20pm; Friday 10:15am–12:35pm.

Your Community Gym in Loddon Library Annexe is well-equipped, affordable, friendly and not-for-profit. The Gym will be 10 years old in April and has, from day one, offered the opportunity for our members to achieve and maintain a level of fitness to help improve their wellbeing and quality of life. There is a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and a genuine feeling of a social environment, and definitely no pressure. Our chair-based exercise classes are proving very successful and we continue to hold them every Wednesday morning.

We are open on each weekday and full details of our hours and costs can be found at www.loddoncommunitygym.com. For more information why not drop by to see us or call our qualified trainer, Louise, on 07534 946143.

To book sessions go to www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym.

Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

We meet in the extension to the Old Town Hall, entrance via The Swan car park and clearly marked. We are a members club with internal league matches every weekday evening, roll ups on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons commencing at 2:00pm and on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. Numbers are restricted to the first 12 arriving. Subscriptions are £20 per year, £2 per sessions for roll-ups and competitions and £3 for league matches. We'd love to see you so just turn up and give it a try.

For information contact our Chairman, Paul Clemence on 01508 218078.

Loddon & District Day Centre—New Location

We have moved! From February, the Day Centre is being held at Saxon House, on Tuesday and Fridays from 10:00am-2:00pm. We meet to chat, enjoy games, talks and light exercises, together with refreshments and a home made two course lunch. Why don't you come and join us? Please contact Bev on 07826 299290 for more information. We'd love to see you.

Chet Valley Art Society

Are there any local artists out there who would like to join the recently-formed Chet Valley Art Society? For further details, please phone Vee on 07557 402211.

RAVENINGHAM COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE TRUST

ENTERPRISE IN ACTION- A LOOK TO THE FUTURE- NOW EXPANDING TO ENCOMPASS A WIDER AREA .

Moving from school to the world of work through training, further education or an apprenticeship is a momentous event. A local Trust exists to provide that helping hand which can make all the difference. Grants are available to assist in realising dreams for the future. Applications are sought to promote success in a wide range of ideas from academic to important practical skills, equipment or retraining for new opportunities.

The Raveningham Community and Enterprise Trust commenced operation over a decade ago. The aim has been to offer assistance through grants to help and encourage young people who seek a kick start to their prospects. The grants are competitive and average £360 with a ceiling of £500. It is as much about encouragement and achievement as financial award. **The age group we target is seventeen to thirty.** This is the period from leaving school , taking up training or further learning to enter the job market. Even if you are sure of your future a bit of assistance with expenditure to help cover fees or tools and study books makes a difference. There are others with school completed or have left HM Forces and less sure of how their lives should develop wishing they could change course or progress further in their existing job.

To reach a wider group of young people it had been decided to increase our area of coverage to include what used to be known as the Loddon Rural District - see our new website for the map.

The above is a brief outline of our work, **do please read our new website .** www.raveninghamcommunityandenterprise.trust.co.uk

Chet Staithe Probus Club

We are a club for retired gentlemen, and friendship. The atmosphere is relaxed, jovial, with little formality. Dress code is casual. We have a good mardle, and a different speaker every meeting on varied subjects. Afterwards, members either go home, adjourn to the bar, or stay for a pleasant lunch. Your choice. We meet at The White Horse every first and third **Tuesday** of every month, start time 10:00am.

Upcoming meetings:

Apr 2nd Mike Wabe Geocashing
Apr 16th Roger Woodard Investigating Major Accidents

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



Chet Valley Probus Club

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

Upcoming Meetings

9th April AGM

23rd April—Jem Mace, Norfolk's Champion of the World - Dale Wiseman

7th May—Chairman's Lunch

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

Loddon Community Cinema

Our next presentation is "The Miracle Club", a comedy/drama Rated 12 , 90 minutes. Starring Laura Linney, Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates and Stephen Rea.



It tells the story of a group of women in a small, close community in Ireland in 1967. They yearn for a chance to win the local raffle to get a break from the confines of their small community and daily life and travel to Lourdes. Each of them needs a miracle so who knows.....?!

Showing on Thursday 4th April at St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7:00pm, film starts at 7:30pm. Tickets: £4 adult, £2 child available on the door or in advance from Loddon DIY.

email: loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk



Nexus Fostering is a local fostering agency who are seeking more local people in Norwich to become foster carers to help look after children who can no longer stay with their birth families. Children from 0 to 18 are looking for foster homes and would need an adult around to support them day to day. We welcome people of all ages, genders, religions, and ethnicities to apply. We are looking for people who have a genuine interest in wanting to help children have positive outcomes. Many children come into foster care due to no fault of their own and need someone with patience and kindness to help them enjoy the childhood they deserve.

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Website - www.nexusfostering.co.uk/office-locations/norwich

Parkinson's U.K. Charity Shop, Chedgrave

After 7 years in Chedgrave (1 year in the parade, 6 years at 2A Langley Rd) our lease expires at the end of this year. That was to be the end of the shop raising money for funding to help find a cure for Parkinson's disease.

We had an offer of a property to rent on Loddon Industrial estate. After discussion with our volunteers and Terry Cunnane, whose late wife Vickie started the shop, and high demand from customers. The lease, for up to five years.

Prospect House 2, on Little Money Road, has been well decorated and carpeted for us. Last week, we started moving stock and furniture, but it will take some time.

Apologies for the disruption, we will move as soon as we can, with the great help we are receiving from customers and friends. We will keep you updated.

Thank you everyone for your support

Jenny

Community Groups, News and Events

Loddon and District Women's Institute

Loddon WI began its life in 1930, so this month is our 94th birthday and we will be celebrating by enjoying a meal out together. We look forward to our 95th year with lots of exciting things planned.



Our Knit, Natter and Crochet meeting in **Loddon Library** is on **Thursday, 11th April at 2.30 pm**. Library staff kindly make tea and there's usually biscuits or cake. This is an Open Meeting, so do come and join us for a pleasant way to spend an afternoon.

Other events -see the Noticeboard at Church Plain or visit our Facebook Page.

Just for interest: The phrase 'all jam and Jerusalem is often used to describe the Women's Institute. This obituary, published in a newspaper on March 1st, gives us a glimpse of the origin and meaning behind those words: 'Olive Clarke, who has died aged 101, was a lifelong WI member. She attended her first WI meeting at Old Hutton WI aged 17 months, sitting on her grandmother's knee. She joined the group in 1938 and retained fond memories of "jam galore" made for the war effort, when a peripatetic canning machine did the rounds of WI halls. "I'm all for jam because it signifies home, and 'Jerusalem' signifies for me the wider outlook and the campaigns we've run to make things better," she recalled in 2015. Olive felt that the WI had "in a way" taken over from the suffragettes "in getting things done" and was particularly proud of the way local members had encouraged women to take up the opportunity for cervical screening in the early 1970's.....'. Olive Clarke, born May 19 1922, died December 18 2023.

We are happy to welcome new members. If interested, why not come as a visitor and see. Contact us via our Facebook page or email—loddonwi@gmail.com.

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the last **Wednesday** of each month in the back room of The Hollies, Loddon High Street. An annual fee of £10. is charged plus £3 for each meeting attended. New members always welcome.



Next Meeting: Wednesday 24th April we will welcome Joan Evans who will take us Behind The Scenes of The Loddon Pantomime.

Contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

WEA The WEA course on Crime Novels through Time ended in March. We looked at several novels from Conan Doyle to Richard Osman and explored general themes and ideas for each as well as local images and effects. It proved to be very interesting and we learnt that a murder novel is 'a box with four sides – a killing, a mystery, an enquiry and a conclusion with an element of satisfaction in it!' Many thanks to our brilliant tutor – Joe Williamson.



After a period of reorganization at the WEA, we hope that they will be able to offer more courses for us to choose from for the Autumn Term. Look out for details.

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Loddon and District Horticultural Society

In February some members attended a Volunteers Day which was organised by the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society to thank people for helping them at their events and shows during 2023. There was a quiz at this meeting and our team won! Members will be helping again this year with the shows. Some of our members have been helping the Love Loddon Community Group by tidying up around Loddon and planting spring flowers.



Our next meeting on April 10th will be our Spring Mini Show which is for members only. We have lots of classes for flowers, plants and cookery. This meeting is held at the Jubilee Hall Club Room, George Lane, Loddon and starts at 7-30pm. Refreshments are available and a raffle held.

ADVANCED NOTICE: Our Annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 11th May at The Hollies, High Street, Loddon from 9-30am to 12-30pm.

Our meetings usually take place on the second Wednesday of the month. Membership is £10 per year. Contact Jean Cope (Chairman) 01502-710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or Hazel Copland (Secretary) 01508-520890 or happyhaze50@gmail.com. Follow us on our Facebook page.

Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)

Our monthly club meeting in April is on Monday 8th in St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. Details for this meeting will be posted on our website when they are available.



We also have an open Facebook page (search Chet Valley Photography Club) which details some of the things we have done over the past few months. You do not need expensive equipment at all—many images taken today are done using a mobile phone. Please have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information if you are interested in joining the club. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

I am sorry that I have not sent out a programme for 2024 this year. It is currently being worked on but after a difficult start to the new year, the first event will be as follows:

APRIL 24th Wednesday. 10.45 am Sainsbury Centre Tour. It is An international art museum. For those not interested in the tour, a short walk round the lake at UEA, same time and meeting place. Lunch in the Modern Life Cafe. £3.00 per person. Contact Gill Egan, 01508 495338 or email, gillegan@hotmail.co.uk to book a place by April 17th

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Could you put something back into our community as a School Governor?.

We are always on the look out for people with life and business experience to join the Governing team at Loddon Primary Federation.. our collective role is to help our Headteacher and team of staff to run our Infant/Nursery and Junior schools. We are not part of an Academy, and so we have responsibility and control of our own budget, premises and employment of staff

A Governor is summed up as being a 'critical friend' to the school leadership. At present our governing team has a fair quota of teachers and parents, or people with close ties to our pupils.

Ideally we are hoping to interest someone who is essentially independent, but with a real interest in giving the young people in our community the best possible start in life. It is an entirely voluntary role with a minimum commitment of 2 meetings a half term, out of school hours

We'd be happy to offer coffee/ cake and a chat to discuss the potential commitment and try to answer your questions.

To express interest, please contact Linda, our clerk at ClerktoGovs@lpfed.org or call Heather (chair of Govs) on 07885273164 / 01508520528

Waveney Valley Arts Society



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

Next meeting: Wednesday 3rd April - How to get down from a Yak: Adventures in Central Asian Nomadic Textiles by Chris Asian.

Guests are welcome to join us for an individual lecture but there will be a charge of £10. If you wish to become a member of our society, the contact details are on the website: <https://theartssociety.org/Waveney-valley>.

Wanted—Distribution Supremo!

After a good number of years in the job, our Chet Contact distribution supremo is looking to hand over the role. He says basically it is three hours' work once a month. It involves collecting the boxed magazines from Roberts and bulk-delivering to village distributors (1 hour), and sorting and then distributing Loddon magazines to deliverers in Loddon(2 hours).

For more info ring the editor on 528710.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

The January meeting was packed with pantomime supporters wanting to hear details from Titch and Maureen about the history behind the current yearly pantomimes that are enjoyed by the inhabitants of Loddon and around.

The idea for a local pantomime came from John Harris in 1975 and he wrote the script for the first one, Cinderella, performed at Loddon High School in 1976. 1977 saw Dick Whittington staged with Maureen as Lulu, the chambermaid, and Derek Lloyd as the cook. By 1978 John was unwell so Eddie Best from the pharmacy stepped in as playwright for the 'Sleeping Beauty' and then 'Aladdin' cowritten with Maureen. Joan Evans then wrote the scripts until 2009 when Steve Burton took over. Joan Gisborne's dancers took part and in 1998 Titch became the Dame. Many other people were mentioned for their help in each production and, sadly, there is not enough space to credit them all here for their hard work.

After the last performance of each pantomime a Songs of Praise has been held in the chapel. In 2016 a 40th anniversary and birthday reunion party was held which 70 past and present members attended. Over the years £75,000 has been donated to local charities and some of the children who took part have moved on to professional roles in the theatre.

The talk ended with Maureen recounting some amusing anecdotes about when things went wrong. Furniture mishaps and problems with the pantomime cow resulted in a lot of laughs.

The February meeting included both the AGM and a talk from Elvie. The AGM covered finance (£2070 in the bank), Carol's two recent books, the digs, the website and this year's programme. The committee was re-elected.

Elvie has worked hard on Loddon's history looking at wills and inventories. She gave us details about some of the people buried in Loddon churchyard like William Fuller, vicar of Loddon between 1670-1702. She also gave us the names of families who had lived in certain houses like Budgen House (1700s the Gilberts) and the Ancient House (John Gunton in the 19th century). An interesting talk.

Next meeting: Wednesday April 17th - Norfolk Poles and stories from the Norfolk Polish Heritage Group Project by Adrian O'Dell.

All meetings held in St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon starting at 1:30pm. Admission £3 (includes light refreshments). All welcome.

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

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The Vanishing Half, by Brit Bennett

Following generations of a family from the Deep South to California through the 1950s to the 1990s this riveting novel explores families, communities and racial identities. It closely looks at what it is to try and lose yourself and become someone else and the repercussions on the individual and people close to them. I really enjoyed this and found it an interesting read although I did find that some of the characters weren't as fully fleshed out as I'd have liked.

Bourneville, by Jonathan Coe

This reads very like a social history of Britain since the Second World War, and I very much enjoyed it, although sometimes I wondered if there was an actual plot! I really enjoyed the blow-by-blow account of the famous West Germany vs England football match in the World Cup, 1966. Seventy-five years of social change, from the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II to Brexit and Covid-19 is a lot to pack into one novel! If you haven't read Jonathan Coe previously then I would suggest starting with *The Rotter's Club* or *What A Carve Up!* – truly exceptional novels.

The Zone of Interest, by Martin Amis

Published in 2014, this Martin Amis novel is back in the news following the recent release of Jonathan Glazer's Oscar-nominated film of the same name, which is loosely based on the book. The kernel of the story is the same in both, centring on a Nazi commandant of a concentration camp who lives with his wife and family in a home adjacent to the camp. The true story of Rudolf Höss and Auschwitz was the historical inspiration for Amis, who tells the story from three perspectives: Paul Doll, the commandant; Angelus Thomsen, a Nazi officer who falls in love with Doll's wife Hannah; and Szmul Zacharias, a Jewish prisoner forced to work in the camp. The love triangle plot is of secondary importance to the novel's general atmosphere of banal evil, as the writer switches perspective from domestic drama to the bureaucracy of the Nazi machine and the efforts to make their genocidal plans more efficient. It's heavy going, but the level of research that informs the book is impressive.

I'm still reading...Stephanie Plum series, by Janet Evanovich

This started off with *One For The Money* back in the early 2000s and has kept on publishing with the latest book called *Dirty Thirty*. They are funny, super-smart crime novels, set in New Jersey, featuring an investigator called Stephanie Plum, who is in love triangle with a cop called Morelli and another investigator called Ranger. If you want a series of books to read that will have you laughing out loud, while reaching for doughnuts, then try these!



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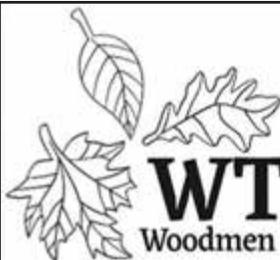
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Nature Notes

Well, by the time you read this Spring will be upon us and hopefully we may be blessed with some warm dry weather so we can enjoy the new life that is all around. Early this morning while out in the garden I noticed a small bird in a neighbour's Chilean pine tree and straight away by its size and behavior I knew was a Goldcrest. It was a joy just to be able to stand and watch it as it went on its search for small insects. Although quite a common bird its high-pitched call and song are no longer audible to me, it was good to see it still around our garden.

While on the subject of bird song, Robins claimed January, then midway through February Song Thrushes started up and now in early March Blackbirds are beginning to sing, at least their songs are still within my hearing range.

The other week while I was out Rachel had a surprise visitor to our pond which was a yellow and grey long-tailed sparrow-sized bird. She worked out that it was a Grey Wagtail, not very common in Norfolk, they prefer fast flowing streams and rivers. That said, there are a pair that nest around Loddon Staithe. A few days later I was privileged to see it again round the edge of our pond, a real delight to see.

On my usual dog walk along Hardley Staithe and along the river Yare a couple of weeks ago I noticed another Diver on the Yare. Last year I found a Red Throated Diver there, which has stayed around throughout the winter but further upstream. This bird though, looked different. As soon as I started watching it started diving and each time it surfaced it was further upstream. On one occasion, while watching where I thought it would surface, I was surprised by a Little Grebe appearing from its dive. Hurrying the dogs along and looking at pictures of divers in winter plumage on my phone, I realised that this was a Black Throated Diver, which I duly recorded. Sadly, it wasn't seen again which caused me to doubt my identification, especially as I knew the Red Throated Diver was still in the area. It must have been a couple of weeks later walking along the bank of the river Yare towards Hardley Mill when I saw the Red Throated Diver, which gave me excellent views and made me confident that my Black Throated Diver was indeed a Black Throated Diver.

Occasional warm sunny days in February, saw Bumble Bees and a solitary Peacock butterfly. By April there should be yellow Brimstone and Orange Tipped butterflies and Spring migration in full flow. I heard Chiff Chaff late in February at Langley Dyke, but they do overwinter, so it was probably one of them.

So, with the coming of Spring get inspired by seeing what you can find.

Richard and Rachel Hull



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Gardening Notes

Growing Fruit and Veg from scratch: Part 2

In this second part I intended to talk about micro veg, simple salads and herbs. I have never grown sprouted seeds* and thought it would be good to learn about this and at least share a good web site if you are interested. Sprouting promises small quantities but high in vitamins, anti-oxidants, etc. I didn't find a website I felt confident in recommending. There is plenty of information if you want to buy a kit.

*The exception is mustard and cress which I grow either on thick damp kitchen roll on a saucer or a thin layer of peat free seed compost in recycled plastic containers. I'm sure you all did this at school and by coincidence two of my grandchildren did exactly that this week. You can make it more interesting for children by saving the shells from boiled eggs (**not raw**), drawing faces on, and putting some cotton wool in the bottom to grow the seeds on which then appear as 'green hair'. Keep the growing medium damp until harvesting for delicious egg and cress sandwiches.

Simple salads are a variation on the sprouting theme and cover pea shoots, varieties of salad leaves and vegetables. They can grow on windowsills, but I grow them all year usually in a cool green house or out on a bench in summer to add to salads.

I was over ambitious with what I could cover in 250 words so will continue next month!

Andrew Milner

From Another Garden

This month I have been busy in the lovely new greenhouse, cleaning pots, repairing my tools and sowing seeds. The windowsills in the house are now full of pots and trays, nothing is showing yet but I can't wait to see the first green shoots.

The cheerful, stimulating yellow of daffodil and narcissus flowers around the garden really wake the place up. Daphne is in flower and the Mahonia will open its blooms shortly, they both give off such delightful fragrances.

A little mouse has been taking dried leaves into the hole in the bank opposite the kitchen window, I sometimes leave a nut or few seeds on the decorative stump nearby to watch it feed. Each spring we get a vole or mouse take residence there, they are fun to watch and never cause us a problem. We have been rain free for several days so I took the opportunity, along with many others to cut the lawn. Ahhh! the heady scent of cut grass and distant droning of lawnmowers.

Last night, as light dimmed and it cooled off, we burnt up a bit of dried lavender and rosemary that I had cut back a month or so ago. The perfumed smoke was glorious, Loddon has been well and truly purified and cleansed by smudging.

Hazel Copland

End Piece



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Correction: Part 2 (See page 50 of March issue for part 1)

On occasion it appears that even the "corrector" can also be in error. Should the editor be insulted having been told in print that he was clearly not born and bred in Norfolk? The truth of the matter is that his family have lived continuously in the county for around 350 years that he can trace so far.

So he will continue to call a ladybird a ladybird - but also, a hernser a heron a dodsman a snail and a pollywiggle a tadpole. After all, there are a lot of incomers who have lived here a lot less time than he who are still catching up with the local language and don't speak "Norfolk" yet.

Editor





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