



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

April 2021



First Edition

Why Chet Contact?

Many of our readers may be surprised by the arrival of this new magazine through their letterboxes, particularly as the last two editions of both Chet News and Contact were on-line because of Covid restrictions. So here is a little background information to explain why we have a new magazine on the block. Chet Contact is the successor to both Chet News and Contact.

Chet News was produced for over 50 years by the church in Chedgrave. It was started by Rev Guy Moss and Jack Barwick as a service to the community to spread news and information. Jack continued to edit throughout, for which he surely deserves a long-service medal, and Chet News continued to fulfil that brief. Delivered to households in Chedgrave, Hardley and Langley, it was edited, printed, assembled and distributed by a large group of volunteers.

Contact was started at about the same time, with the same function, and was produced by the Church in Loddon. It was distributed to households in Loddon, Hales, Heckingham and Sisland though many copies 'crossed the border' into the Chet News area. It was edited and distributed by a large team of volunteers and printed by Roberts & Son, in Loddon.

The church parishes of Chedgrave, Hardley and Langley merged with those of Loddon with Hales and Heckingham and Sisland in about 1997. While the churches were then operating as one group, known as the Chet Valley Benefice, the two parish magazines continued to be produced independently.

Towards the end of 2020, Jack Barwick indicated that he no longer felt able to edit Chet News. The small team that had been helping him with the printing did not wish to take on the task. The Chet Valley Benefice wished to continue to provide valuable service to the community by producing and distributing a magazine free of charge to every household in all its parishes. It seemed obvious that the best way forward was to produce a new, combined, magazine—the same for everybody.

Thus,  Chet Contact was born!

Our thanks are due to everyone who has been involved with both Chet News and Contact over the years. We are delighted that the majority of the volunteers will continue their sterling work with our new magazine. And we are very pleased to welcome a new Advertising Editor, Katy, to the team.

We hope that  **Chet Contact** continues to provide information and interest to the communities it serves for many years to come. *Alison Ball*

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
Padraig Hawkins:	01508 492202	office@east-angliadiocese.org.uk



Church Office

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

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

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



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

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

Church Websites

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



Chet Contact

Editors:	Alison Ball, Roger Outlaw
Advertising:	Katy Wrighting
Treasurer:	Paul Mizen
Distribution:	Roger Outlaw and team
Printing:	Roberts & Son 01508 520221

Copy Deadline is always noon on the 8th of the month.

Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

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

Please include your name and telephone number.



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

Disclaimer

Advertisements are included in good faith, but Chet Valley Churches do not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised. Similarly, the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Chet Valley Churches.

From the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of  **Chet Contact**, our brand new magazine, covering the area of the Chet Valley Benefice. I think it is exciting that we will now have just one magazine for this area—certainly it will be easier for contributors as there will only be one address to which to send things: c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

It is also exciting that we seem to be able to look to a more hopeful and open future. As I write, we are facing a loosening of Covid restrictions so that once again we will be able to meet up, travel about, see long un-hugged family and friends. And I will be able to see my new granddaughter in the flesh rather than having a video call with her—it all feels a bit one-sided at the moment though she does smile and chuckle back down the phone. Let's hope that it is a long-lasting freedom this time and that we won't find ourselves back where we started the year.

It is good, too, that all the things that have been put on hold for nigh on a year will now be able to take place; that groups which have only been able to meet sporadically will be able to get together again. Let's be gentle with one another as we emerge into a new normal; maybe sharing with each other stories of how lockdown was for us.

Meanwhile, let me wish you all a very Happy Easter!



Contents

		Highlights	
<i>Inside cover: Why Chet Contact?</i>	2	Girl Guides Association	13
Across the Chet Valley Churches	7-9	Easter cards for sale	17
From the Parish Registers	11	Foodbank	23
Council News	13-19	Remembering Rosie	23
Community News	21-27	Recipes	26, 41
Churches	28-30	Healthwatch Norfolk-Cancer	27
Community News	31-45	Spring jokes	35
History Society	47	Tribute to Jack Barwick	43
Read Any Good Books Lately?	49	Loddon Library	45
Nature Notes	51	Once We're Open Again...	52
Allotment & Garden Notes	53		

Ministerial Musings

The uplifting song from the musical *Carousel* is a favourite again. By singing the words “With hope in your heart, you’ll never walk alone” we can find the strength to carry on. So many people have endured so much, and the hope and joy of life has been hard to find. Easter is a time of hope and changes everything in more ways than one! The things we look forward to seeing at Easter such as spring flowers, chocolate eggs, chicks, ducklings and lambs are signs of new life. Easter is widely considered as the most important Christian festival of the year, as it commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after he was crucified at Calvary. The joyous festival of Easter and the hope we have because of this happening is celebrated in many ways throughout the world.

Christians celebrate Easter at special church services with prayers, music and singing, lighting candles, and the ringing of church bells. It is also a tradition in France to ring Easter bells, ‘*les cloches des Paques*’. People often decorate their home and church with pretty flowers and also beautiful Easter lilies which symbolise grace and purity. The first recorded use of decorated eggs was in the 13th century. The tradition of egg painting is called *Pysanka*; people in the Ukraine use dyes and wax to do this. In the United States, Easter baskets are left out for children to find on the morning of the Easter holiday. Spectacular musical parades take place in many cities of the world. Special food is also prepared for the Easter festival. In Greece, *Magerista* which is chopped lambs’ liver, wild greens with egg and lemon sauce is served. Neapolitans bake *Casatiello*, a savoury pie made with bread stuffed with salami and cheese. In Russia a special bread called *Kulich* is served. Serbian people enjoy *Paretak*, which are traditional Easter pastries, and in France, roast lamb is served with *Gratin Dauphinoise*.

In the church calendar Eastertide lasts 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. Each Sunday during this season is treated as a ‘Sunday of Easter’. During these weeks, the Bible readings at church tell of the times when the disciples and other people saw Jesus, spoke with him, and shared food with him after he had risen from the dead. One morning Jesus cooked fish for their breakfast on the beach! The retelling of these written accounts give us a spirit of joyous faith and sure hope. Our churches will be open again for regular weekly services from Easter Sunday onwards. Come and hear the good news of how Jesus Christ changes everything. Joy and peace to you all.

Jill Haylock.



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Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley

You are welcome to join us at any of our services.



Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at one or other of the Chet Valley Churches, either Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship, with an informal Holy Communion service once a month in Chedgrave.

Services of **Morning Worship** are held in Loddon and Hardley.

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

All Together Worship is on the third Sunday every month, 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 at about 3:45pm. Open to all; particularly suited to children and young people.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is an opportunity to enjoy a chat over refreshments after the service.

There are toilets and baby-changing facilities at All Saints, Chedgrave and St John's, Loddon.

Families are welcome at all of our services but are particularly catered for on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month in Chedgrave.

Home Communion: If you would like home communion, because you are unable for any reason to get to a Sunday service, please contact the clergy or the Church Office and we will arrange for someone to bring communion to you.

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

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Thanksgivings & Baptisms



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

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

Baptisms are held within the Sunday worship in our churches.

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

Please contact Rev Alison Ball on 01508 528126
ball880am@btinternet.com or the Church Office on 01508 521179

Noah's Ark

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



Wednesdays 9:15am-12 noon.

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

Friends and Neighbours

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



Next Meeting:

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

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

Small Groups

Some of us like to meet during the week in small groups where we can enjoy each others'



company, study the Bible together and pray for one another and for others.

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

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

Monday Mardles

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



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

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

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

More from Rev David 01508 522993
or Rev Alison 01508 528126

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

There have been no baptisms or thanksgivings so let us pray for all children who live in our villages.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for this child. Surround her with your blessing that she may know your love, be protected from evil, and know your goodness all her days. Common Worship

Funerals

Rosemary Whettam who died on 16th November 2020
Funeral: 7th December at Waveney Crematorium

Anthony Wilfred Jones who died on 23rd November 2020
Funeral: 17th December at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Molly Smith who died on 26th November 2020
Funeral: 15th December St Margaret, Hardley

Anthony Jean Edwards who died on 3rd December 2020
Funeral: 18th December at Earlham Crematorium

Alan Arthur Cook who died on 3rd December 2020
Funeral: 21st December at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Roger Percy Baker who died on 6th February 2021
Funeral: 11th March at All Saints, Chedgrave

Brian Reginald Read who died on 7th February 2021
Funeral: 8th March at All Saints, Chedgrave

Gwenyth Iris Moore who died on 11th February 2021
Funeral: 12th March at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Richard Sergeant who died on 12th February 2021
Funeral: 10th March at All Saints, Chedgrave

Bruce Kenneth Corke who died on 14th February 2021
Funeral: 15th March at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Shirley Crabtree who died on 15th February 2021
Funeral: 17th March at Waveney Crematorium

Terrence Peter Hunt who died on 16th February 2021
Funeral: 9th March at Earlham Crematorium

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

I Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b

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News From Your South Norfolk District Councillor



Our Chet Chat help group volunteers are working hard to reach out to our over-60s friends and neighbours who need our help, with shopping, phone calls and collecting prescriptions.

Over Easter we are aiming to distribute one hundred Easter eggs, hot-cross buns, daffodils and cards across our area, which we hope will bring a bit of cheer, and remind people how important and cared for they are.



The number, to reach our fifty Chet Chat volunteers, is **07867 050110**.

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.

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

Let's carry on looking after each other. The end of the lockdown is in sight; I hope that we come out of this stronger.

Girl Guide Association



During the global pandemic Girlguiding groups have been continuing to offer their programme to girls aged between 5-7 Rainbows, 7-10 Brownies, 10-14 Guides and 14-18 Rangers and we are looking forward to returning to face to face guiding in due course.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there are three groups (units), Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, offering a wide and diverse programme to unit members. More information about our exciting programme, including unit meetings, external activities, camping, residentials and much more can be found on the Girlguiding website.

Adult volunteers are always welcome in varying different roles and these are also found on the Girlguiding website. Adults are offered a wide range of training programmes and also have the opportunity to enjoy socialising with other volunteers too.

Register your interest with Brooke and Loddon District, Loddon and Chedgrave Rainbow, Brownie or Guide units on:

www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus



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Loddon Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis.

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

Website: www.loddonpc.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC



COVID-19 Update Lockdown restrictions are lifting, and the 'Stay at Home' rule will end on 29th March 2021. The current guidance suggests that the Council office may reopen from the 12th April 2021. The Tennis Courts may reopen on 29th March 2021. Please see the Parish Council website for more information.

South Norfolk Council Help Hub If you need any assistance, please contact SNC Help Hub on 01508 533933 or email: communities@s-norfolk.gov.uk. The Help Hub will redirect your request to a local group of volunteers. SNC Help Hub is also able to help with financial support for residents and businesses. www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-information

Volunteers Thank you to Carole Webb for installing the tree plaques on the village commemorative trees. Thank you also to Patrick Webster and Gary Allard for each offering to renovate a Parish notice board. The Council would be glad to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer for tasks in Loddon.

Precept 2021-2022 The precept is the Parish Council's share of the council tax. Loddon Parish Council is delighted to report that the amount charged to each household for 2021-2022 remains the same as last year.

Councillor Vacancy The Parish Council plays a key role in Loddon life. If you are interested in local issues and would like to work as part of a team to improve community amenities and facilities, we would like to hear from you. You must be over 18, be an elector within the Parish for twelve months, live or work within three miles of Loddon. Email to register your interest: clerk@loddonpc.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan Loddon and Chedgrave are considering producing a Neighbourhood Plan. If you would like to play a part in shaping the future development in the community. Please contact Loddon or Chedgrave Parish Council if you would like to volunteer.

Streetlights Loddon Parish Council has formally adopted 30 streetlights from South Norfolk Council on Drury Lane, The Walks and Leman Grove. Please visit www.loddonpc.org.uk to report any issues.

Allotments There is a waiting list for the allotments. If you wish to be added to the allotment waiting list email; finance@loddonpc.org.uk.

Future Meetings 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 Annual Meeting of the Parish and next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held remotely on Wednesday 14th April 2021 at 7:00pm. Parishioners are welcome to attend (details for remote access are available on the Agenda).

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

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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)

Annual Council & Annual Parish Meetings

The Annual Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 7:00pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7:30pm. You are welcome to join either or both – contact the clerk for details. The agenda is on the brick bus shelter notice board opposite Masala Garden and on our website three days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Wild Flowering

We want to make grass areas in Hales better for bees and other pollinators. Thank you to Saffron Housing and Chet Valley B-Line who are helping us find the right areas and giving advice. Notices explaining how we will do this will be put up on each area. Most of the planting will take place in the autumn. During this summer some grass will not be cut so that we can see what wild flowers and plants are naturally there. We hope you will bear with us during this time but please get in touch with the clerk with any comments.

Hales Green

South Norfolk Council are improving the parking spaces and signs at the entrances. We want all users to enjoy Hales Green but also to improve the biodiversity on the common.

Dogs

We have more complaints about inconsiderate dog owners than anything else. Please pick up after your dog. Please don't let your pet get too close to other people or their dogs—they may not like your dog. If your dog does not come back when called please keep it on a lead.

Councillor Vacancies: We have two vacancies.

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

Unsung Heroes: If you know someone you think we should say thank you to, please get in touch with the clerk.

Easter Cards

It's still not too late to buy Easter cards to send to people this year. It's a lovely way of keeping in touch and a wonderful surprise for someone to have a card dropping through their letterbox.

If you haven't already bought some, you can purchase some lovely cards in Holy Trinity Church. Nina Owen has produced these and they are on sale in aid of the churches in the Chet Valley.



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Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

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

Website: www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk

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



Chedgrave Parish Council held a virtual meeting on 4th March 2021.

Coronavirus: For urgent help contact South Norfolk Help Hub on **01508 33933** or earlyhelphubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

Grebe Drive Play Area: The fencing has been installed. Play equipment should be delivered on 15th March with installation by the end of March.

The Pits: Many thanks to the B-Line project for the kind offer of wildflower seeds which will soon be planted in The Pits.

Planning Matters: Three planning applications were considered:

2019/1465 White Horse Plain Works - approve, no comment

2021/0294 3 Norwich Rd - approve, no comment

2021/0334 Monpet - approve, no comment

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

2020/2042 Phone mast – approved 29th January 2021

2020/2401 12 Hillcrest – approved 1st February 2021

Neighbourhood Plan: Councillors agreed to include the whole parish. Members of the public interested in helping should contact the Clerk.

A146 Junction: The council agreed its response to the NCC Highways consultation on the matter, objecting to proposals on safety grounds.

Chet News: Chedgrave Parish Council would like to thank Jack Barwick for over 50 years' service producing "Chet News" and wish him well in his retirement. Chet News has been an invaluable source of local church, social, business and parish council information. **THANK YOU!**

Pits Lane Development: Councillors voiced concern at issues in relation to the Pits Lane development. The Clerk will contact the developer.

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

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Notes from Sisland

When I was writing these notes last month the snow was falling outside but I didn't realise quite how much snow we would have. In Sisland we were snowed in for a couple of days with some impressive drifts in the roads which required clearing by local farmers. Today, although overcast, we can appreciate the signs of spring with the snowdrops in the churchyard and the daffodils showing colour in gardens.



We are looking forward this month to being able to see some work in the church. I mentioned last month that one of the windows in the church was in need of restoration. Delays caused by the pandemic and lock down have delayed the work, but we are hopeful that it will start by the end of March.

On the things that we have all missed in the last year is that opportunity to celebrate life events with family, friends and communities. Did you know that almanacs and calendars from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries gave tables of the forbidden times of year for marriage ceremonies as

From the 27 of November til January 13;

From Februarie until April 18; and

From May 16 until June 5.

In effect, if the periods of Advent, Lent/Easter and Rogationtide were strictly observed then marriages may have been excluded in a "forbidden" period or went ahead without being officially recorded.

April and Easter are traditionally the periods when we contemplate new life and new beginnings, as well as saying farewell to the old year and in Sisland we are doing just that. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, open to all, will take place in April, where we will be able to reflect this year on the last two years in the community. Although we may be online the date has been set as 20th April 2021. We also look forward to an Easter service in the church, although we will still need to have restrictions on distancing due to the width of the church and pews. We look forward to seeing friends, old and new, very soon.

Rowena Bryce
Churchwarden.

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

Foodbank

If you need a Foodbank parcel, contact the Foodbank by phoning: 0300 365 1123—it's a free number. They will ask you for your details and will ask various questions so that you can receive the right level of support. The Foodbank will arrange for a parcel to be delivered to you through the local distribution centre. A log of who is receiving parcels is kept but there is presently greater flexibility in how many times a person or family can receive support from the Foodbank.



Remembering Rosie

“It is now thirty-seven years since I left Loddon. I hope that some older friends will still remember me, my wife, Rosemary, and Timothy, the little boy we were fortunate enough to adopt; particularly audiences at the pantomimes that I introduced to the village in the 1970s; and former pupils of Hobart High (who will be in their fifties and sixties now). Sadly, Rosemary died on 10th February, having suffered for exactly 50 years with multiple sclerosis. She already had it while living in Loddon—I knew, but she did not. Timothy is now 47, a lot taller and far more handsome than I (!), and married with two step-children. I shall always be grateful for my good memories of Loddon and its people, and send all my old friends still living there my kindest regards and best wishes. **John Harris**, Heacham.

And from **Maureen Larkin**: Rosie was a gifted musician. One of the instruments that she played was the double bass—the instrument on which she accompanied Michael and Ian on their ukes at many concerts in Loddon and surrounding areas. Michael always used to say of Rosie, “As a musician, she was pitch perfect”. She also taught piano lessons, and our daughter was one of her pupils. Rest in Peace, Rosie.

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Helping Hands

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

Loddon Town Estate Trust

What does the Trust do?

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

Who can apply to the Trust?

The Trust is for anyone who lives in Loddon.

What might the Trust pay for?

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

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

How do you apply to the Trust?

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

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

Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund

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

How do you apply to the Discretionary Fund?

Please contact

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

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

EASTER RECIPE:



MINI EGG BLONDIES



Preparation time - less than 30 mins || Cooking time - 10 to 30 mins || Serves - 16

INGREDIENTS

250g/9oz cold unsalted butter, cut into 6–8 pieces

150g/5½oz light soft brown sugar

125g/4½oz caster sugar

2 large free-range eggs

1½ tsp vanilla extract

pinch sea salt

300g/10½oz plain flour

225g/8oz chocolate mini - eggs

Recipe By Justine Pattison (BBC Good Food)

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 190C/170C Fan/Gas 5. Grease and line a 20cm/8in square loose-based cake tin with baking paper.

2. Melt the butter in a saucepan over a medium–low heat. Stir in both sugars and cook for 1–2 minutes, or until the butter is absorbed and the mixture turns a creamy toffee colour and looks smooth and glossy. Take off the heat and set aside.

3. Whisk the eggs, vanilla and salt together in a large bowl. Whisk in the melted butter and sugar mixture until thoroughly combined, then whisk in the flour until smooth. Pour the batter into the prepared tin and bake for 20 minutes.

4. While the blondie is cooking, cut 125g/4½oz of the chocolate eggs in half. It's best to use the heel rather than the tip of the knife and work with just a couple of the eggs at a time.

5. When the 20 minutes is up, take the blondie out of the oven and scatter the halved and whole chocolate eggs on top. Carefully press the eggs into the blondie mixture and don't worry if the surface cracks a little. (Take care as the sides of the tin will be hot.) Return to the oven for a further 10 minutes or until the blondie is pale golden-brown.

6. Cool the blondie in the tin for at least 10 minutes before cutting into squares. Serve warm or cold.

Healthwatch Norfolk

At Healthwatch Norfolk we are launching a project alongside Healthwatch Suffolk to find out how people affected by cancer have accessed their appointments during the pandemic. We are working with the people in charge of cancer services in Norfolk and Suffolk to help shape the way appointments are accessed in the future, so it is vital that we get as much feedback as possible to get an authentic sense of patient opinion.



If you live in Norfolk or Waveney and have had a cancer diagnosis, referral or treatment since March 2020, Healthwatch Norfolk and Suffolk would love to hear from you. Whether you have had virtual appointments (by phone or video call, for example), in-person appointments, or a combination of both your experiences could help shape future provisions.

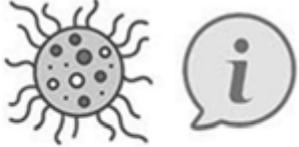
If you would like to participate, please contact Healthwatch Norfolk by calling 0808 1689669, or emailing: enquiries@healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk. Alternatively, the survey can be completed online by visiting: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/cancerappointments/

Healthwatch Norfolk and Healthwatch Suffolk are the independent voices for patients and service users in our counties. We gather your views of health and social care services to ensure they are heard by the people in charge. For more information about what we do, visit our websites: www.healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk and www.healthwatchesuffolk.co.uk.

Have you been getting the information and support you need during COVID-19?

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Holy Trinity Bell Ringers

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



Steve Rabong

Church Services

1st April—Maundy Thursday		
7:30pm	Watch and Vigil	Holy Trinity, Loddon
2nd April—Good Friday		
10:00-12noon	Go Wild! Good Friday*	All Saints, Chedgrave
12noon	Walk of Witness	Holy Trinity, Loddon
2:00pm	Good Friday Reflection	All Saints, Chedgrave
4th April—Easter Sunday		
8:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
8:00am	Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship with Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
11th April		
9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
18th April		
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
5:00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
25th April		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon

*Go Wild! Good Friday—Booking Essential

Contact Rev Alison: 01508 528126; ball880am@btinternet.com

Prayer Requests

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

Church Services

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

*Every Saturday 6:00pm	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Roman Catholic Mass</h2>	
**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> <p><i>All are welcome</i></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>	
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

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

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

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

Church Activities

Church Services during the Covid-19 pandemic

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

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.

Private Prayer

Our churches are open as follows:

All week All Saints, Chedgrave; St Margaret, Hardley;
Holy Trinity, Loddon;

Wednesday and Sunday St Mary, Sisland.

Please adhere to government and Church of England guidelines about maintaining social distancing, use of hand sanitisers etc in the buildings.

Please be mindful of instructions if you visit one of our churches.

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, from 9:45am-11:45am at All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave.



After Easter, we can have up to a maximum of 15 mums and their babies in the group. We hope to re-open on 14th April.

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

Thank You for the Angel

Rev Alison would like to thank the kind person who has knitted and delivered an angel for our nativity set. She is very grateful!



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

Community groups, news and events



News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute

Loddon Women's Institute

Like most other clubs and societies, Loddon WI seems to have been hibernating for a year now, but in spite of everything we've somehow managed to survive, keeping in touch with emails, phone calls and a monthly newsletter. Various activities were organised, including story writing, flower arranging and quizzes. In the summer, when things were relaxed a bit, some members met for a socially distanced picnic on the playing field. As a treat at Christmas we all received a Christmas card, a gift voucher, a Christmas quiz, and a small bag containing chocolates, a raffle ticket and two small candles to light on the evening when we would have held our annual Christmas party. Several of us did this and raised a glass to absent friends.

Now it's 2021, and although at the time of writing we are still not absolutely certain how things will develop, we are looking forward to a better year. The majority of our members have renewed their membership and we will be planning things to do, hopefully including some sort of socially distanced event to mark 'Women Walk the World' day on 29th. April Loddon WI celebrates its 91st birthday this year, and we're pleased to report that we're still alive and kicking! Our best wishes to all.

Contact us through our website; or Facebook, or via LoddonWI@gmail.com.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Chedgrave & District WI reached their 50th anniversary in March. We send good wishes to all our members and look forward when we are able to meet. For information please contact Angela Dance on 01508 521120.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

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

Loddon 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 & 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 8:00pm at the Brian Clarke Meeting Rooms, Mallard Close, Chedgrave. For more information contact Hillary 01508 520457 or June 01508 528853.



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Cost £2.50 per session, first session free.

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

Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club.



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:

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

Trial Members: £4 per session for 4 weeks. Visitors: £5 per session.

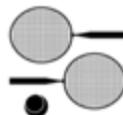
Further information from Barbara Boardman: Email: tomenelli@btinternet.com



Short Tennis Club

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

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



Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

With the Summer fast approaching, as we come out from lockdown, why not get involved with cricket at Hales and Loddon Cricket Club. We run two adult sides on a **Saturday**, as well as youth cricket for five years upwards on a **Monday** night from the end of April until the end in July in both softball and hardball. We also run sides at U10/11 and 13, so there really is cricket for all at Hales and Loddon. For more details email: Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk. All coaches are ECB qualified and have attended safeguarding courses.



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.





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Loddon Community Gym

As the country slowly opens up after a year that no one could have imagined, we are making plans to reopen the Gym. If everything goes according to plan, we will open to new members on Monday 21st June. Before that all our equipment will need servicing after a year in storage. After that, and before 21st June, the Gym will open for current members—the date will depend partly on the continued successful roll out of the vaccination programme. For everyone's safety there will be restrictions at first to keep to social distancing and sanitising of equipment. All the information will be emailed out to current members and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

For information keep an eye on our Facebook page and on the website www.loddoncommunitygym.com

We will be open in the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon as follows:
Mondays: 1:30-6:00pm, Tuesdays: 4:30-8:30pm, Fridays: 10:00am-1:00pm.



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

Unfortunately, we are not currently running sessions on Tuesday afternoons. But watch this space, as we hope to restart as soon as possible in the New Year.

For more information call Sara on 01508 521958.



Patient Participation Group

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

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

For more information about who we are and our events, please contact June on 01508 528853.

Thank you

The Haverson family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages, tributes and donations to Inger for Parkinsons UK and the East Anglia Air Ambulance. The sum raised so far is £1033.75.

Also a big thank you to Rev Jill Haylock for an excellent service, and Rosedale Funeral Home for funeral arrangements.

Spring Jokes

When do monkeys fall from the sky?
During Ape-ril showers!



What did the trees say to Spring?
What a re-leaf!

Does February like March?
No, but April May!

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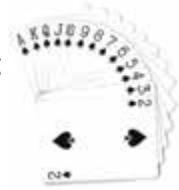
Loddon Community Cinema

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 10:00am and finish around midday with the option of staying for lunch. We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required. Members range in age from 60 to almost 100. 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

We are continuing our monthly meeting virtually via Zoom. Our meeting on Monday 12th April is "Looking Local" by Chris Shepherd. After receiving a camera for Christmas in 2000, Chris has developed a wide variety of subjects. He says, "As photographers we often suffer from 'Locational Myopia', constantly wishing we were in some exotic location with the best possible equipment." In this presentation Chris details his fight with Locational Myopia and ways to overcome it as well as personal journey to become a landscape photographer. See Chris' gallery here: www.shepherdpics.com/-/galleries



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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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 on 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.



Loddon and District Horticultural Society

For information contact:

Secretary Hazel on 07765 098345 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



Loddon WEA

We now know for certain that we shall not be able to offer a face-to-face course of lectures in January. The spread of the Covid virus is too unpredictable to make firm arrangements which might have to be cancelled at the last moment. However, the WEA does offer a wealth of courses 'virtually'.

Full details can be found on line if you go to either: eastern@wea.org.uk or www.wea.org.uk. We are very sorry to have to announce this and we shall miss our weekly meetings with friends.



Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

It is with regret that we record the recent passing to Higher Service of one of our long standing branch members Bruce Corke from Loddon. We send our sincere condolences and thoughts to his family and friends.

Because of the lockdown we still cannot hold meetings or events. For up to date information phone our Secretary Christine Hartley on 01508 520840.



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Simnel Cake

Simnel cake is a light fruitcake which has become a traditional cake for Easter Sunday. The cake is topped with eleven marzipan balls to represent the eleven apostles of Christ, minus Judas.

Ingredients

For the cake

175g/6oz light muscovado sugar
175g/6oz butter, softened
175g/6oz self-raising flour
3 large eggs
50g/1¾oz ground almonds
3 tbsp milk
100g/3½oz sultanas
100g/3½oz glacé cherries, washed and quartered
100g/3½oz dried apricots, cut into small pieces
Zest of 1 lemon
2 tsp mixed spice

For the topping

450g/1lb marzipan
3 tbsp apricot jam
1 egg, beaten



Method

1. Heat the oven to 160C/140C Fan. Grease a 20cm/8in round, deep-sided, loose-bottomed tin with butter and line the base with baking paper.
2. Put the cake ingredients into a large bowl and beat together until well incorporated. Spoon half the mixture into the prepared tin and level the surface.
3. Roll one-third of the marzipan to the same size as the base of the tin and place on top of the cake mixture.
4. Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top of the marzipan and level the surface. Bake for 1¾-2 hours or until golden-brown on top and firm in the middle. If the cake is beginning to brown but not cooked through cover it with tin foil. Leave the cake to cool for ten minutes before removing from the tin.
5. Heat the apricot jam in a pan, then brush the top of the cooled cake with a little warm jam. Roll out half of the remaining marzipan and place it on the cake and use your thumb to crimp around the edges .
6. Make 11 balls from the remaining marzipan and place these around the edge of the cake fixing them to the marzipan with a little beaten egg.
7. Brush the marzipan with the egg and glaze under a hot grill for about five minutes (turning the cake round to ensure even browning).

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Jack Barwick—What an Achievement

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

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

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

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

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

Revd. David Owen

Jack writes...

After 53 years of publication as an independent magazine a final edition of Chet News has been distributed. Any element of sadness is dismissed by the excitement of joining with Contact to become the new  **Chet Contact** for the people of the Chet valley.

Jack Barwick, Editor and the team of the old Chet News.



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Loddon Library



Norfolk County Council

Good News: Some of our libraries will be open from Monday 8th March for At the Door service. We're sorry you can't come into library buildings or on mobiles yet. We are working within Government regulations to get library services back to normal as soon and safely as possible. Libraries are:

Acle, Attleborough, Aylsham, Caister, Cromer, Dereham, Diss, Downham Market, Earlham, Fakenham, Gaywood, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Hellesdon, Hunstanton, King's Lynn, North Walsham, Plumstead Road, Sheringham, Swaffham, Thetford, Wroxham and Wymondham.

There will be a Mobile Library at the Millennium Library.

You will be able to:

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- Try our Grab & Go selections
- Pick up Toiletries To Go / Tricky Period items

At the following libraries you can book computer sessions if you need support filling in your Census form online:

Cromer, Great Yarmouth, Hellesdon, King's Lynn, Thetford and Wymondham. ☎ 01603 774777 to book.

We are planning to open the rest of our libraries for the same click and collect services the following week, beginning on the 15th March.

Opening times may have changed at your local library so please check our website for the latest.

Any items out on loan are still being automatically renewed until further notice and will not be charged any additional overdue or renewal fees

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Loddon and District Local History Group

Along with most other groups our normal arrangements have been on hold for nearly a year. Our February meeting is normally our AGM, but of course this like all others had to be cancelled. At last year's meeting our Chairman of 18 years finally persuaded us to accept her retirement. Jan Bensley stepped forward in 2005 when Christina Crease and the then Carol Carpenter appealed for help with the History Group monthly meetings which were proving so popular. Since then Jan has chaired our monthly meetings and most importantly arranged the programme of speakers, first with Jenny Bemment, but later singlehandedly. The willingness of speakers to return to Loddon shows her attentiveness in making them welcome before, during and after meetings.

In 2005 Jill Chandler took on the role of Treasurer, which she managed admirably. In 2012 Christine Hartley agreed to take over and has been the friendly face at the desk since then. Jill has continued with us ensuring that the after speaker tea was made and the biscuits were fresh and varied. Jill, Christine and Colin Hartley have also stepped down this year. Our sincere thanks goes to them all.

Carol Webb, Anne Crossman and Elvie Herd have agreed to remain on the Committee for the coming year. Happily three volunteers have come forward Alison Carver, Carole Rylands and Bryon Sparkes. Bryon has kindly agreed to be our Treasurer.

The new committee hope to resume meetings as soon as this is possible.

In the meantime, thanks to Carol Webb, a revised version of two of the original *Before Your Time* Booklets, now combined as *The Changing Face of Chedgrave and the Riverside* is to be available soon.

The archive catalogue is growing steadily, which will make it easier to locate information in the future. More of the local tithe maps have been georeferenced, and we hope to display the results of this work, when restrictions are lifted. Additionally thanks to the staff at Youngs Funeral Directors, Carol Webb and Colin Hartley, we have been able to continue displaying local information and pictures throughout lockdown.

Jan has sent round a monthly newsletter since April last year. I hope to continue this. If you would like your name added to the mailing list please send an email to me at: elvie.herd@uwclub.net

Elvie Herd

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

“When I was about eight I decided that the most wonderful thing, next to a human being, was a book.” Margaret Walker, poet and writer, 1915-1998

“I Let You Go” by Clare Mackintosh

This is quite a disturbing thriller, with a deeply upsetting beginning. The author has cleverly used the first person singular for each of the two protagonists much of the time, while interspersing this with a background sub-plot involving the police officers who are trying to solve a difficult hit-and-run case. The characters are well rounded and Clare Mackintosh’s descriptions of locations—particularly the Welsh location—paint vivid pictures for the reader. There are several aspects to this story: dangerous driving, bereavement, domestic abuse and family alienation, and also friendship, love, fear and guilt. All of these play their part in producing a novel which is well worth reading.

“The Jewel That Was Ours” by Colin Dexter

A “Morse” story, which you may or may not have read before—or perhaps seen it on television. Set in 1991 a group of Americans are on a ‘Historic Cities of England’ tour. Having done Cambridge, they move on to Oxford, where various crimes occur to delay their scheduled visits to Stratford-upon-Avon and to Bath. Naturally, Sergeant Lewis and Chief Superintendent Morse are called in to solve the crimes before the tourists can leave Oxford. The initial crime appears to be the theft of a very valuable jewel belonging to one of the female tourists, and the action goes on from there... Colin Dexter’s writing has a distinctive style of its own. At times, particularly in the exchanges between the two detectives, his writing is quite amusing. As the reader would expect, the plot is a complex one, but, of course, in spite of the complexity Morse succeeds in solving it!

“Lost for Words” by Stephanie Butland

Loveday is a young woman who has found her ideal job working in a bookshop in York. There are secrets in her life which she is determined not to reveal to anyone. There are also happenings in her childhood which make her feel that she should never begin to love and rely on anyone. Her employer (the owner of the bookshop) is a lovely character—a fairly elderly man called Archie, who is kindness itself and very caring of Loveday. We learn early in the book that Loveday had a happy childhood until the age of ten, and bit by bit throughout the story we learn a little more. Contrary to her own wishes Loveday does fall in love with a young man; he shares her interest in books and poetry, but her instinct is to push him away. This is not just a romance; there are all sorts of beautifully drawn characters and interesting events in the very cleverly devised plot of “Lost for Words.” It’s a real page turner.

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Nature Notes

18th February: The snow had all but disappeared though there was the threat of rain. Unperturbed I took the dogs for a walk at Hardley Staithe towards Hardley Cross and the River Chet. It was windy but our walk was punctuated by birds of prey. Firstly, a majestic red kite that seemed to fly effortlessly despite the wind. Hunting for carrion it seemed to become annoyed with a couple of carrion crows which it kept on harrying. Normally carrion crows bother birds of prey but on this occasion the boot was on the other foot. Then quartering the marshes were several marsh harriers and buzzards; always worth watching not just for the beauty of these birds but also what they may flush out of the reeds. Up went the lapwing with their lazy flight and then a flock of around 20 smaller waders flying frantically in formation, their long beaks giving them away as common snipe. The rain started just as we got home, so thankfully the dogs and I stayed dry.

At home one day I woke from dozing and saw what I thought was a wood pigeon perched on top of the pole supporting our bird feeders. It was in fact a sparrowhawk, a stunning bird that had obviously not dropped in to feed on fat-balls and sunflower hearts but on the birds feeding there. This time without success! During the snow, a fieldfare took up residence in our crab apple tree defending the fruit from any other bird that dared to approach. On the 21st February, we had the first butterfly in the garden, a beautiful yellow male brimstone, and bumble bees were also putting in an appearance. Mind you it was a very warm day for the time of year. We did see a couple of siskin from our kitchen window at the end of February, another new bird seen in or from our garden during lockdown.

On the marshes behind our property, we can see part of one of the drainage ditches which doesn't seem to freeze over. Over a couple of days there were little egret, heron, moorhen, mallard, teal, common snipe and yes, another green sandpiper. On the whole, those birds disappeared with the snow.

It was fascinating watching barn owls flying over the snow-covered fields, especially the lighter-coloured ones which seemed to keep disappearing as they blended into their surroundings. The snow also made it easier to see hares out on the fields, always a sight to gladden your heart. During March you can see them boxing and it's not the males fighting over a female but rather a female putting a male (s) into their place.

On two occasions during February, I saw kingfishers at Langley Dyke, both times the bird was perched. I saw some curlew in the field on the other side of the River Chet by Chedgrave Common. On the 4th March, the oystercatchers were back on the marshes having overwintered on the coast.

By the time you read this, Spring will be well and truly here and hopefully we will be enjoying warmer weather. Even by the end of February there are reports of sand martins from a number of sites, so by April migration will be in full swing.

Richard and Rachel Hull



Once We're Open Again...

The Chet Valley churches have been thinking of events that members of the community might enjoy. Here are some of the things that we are hoping will be able to take place later in the year. Do watch out for confirmation of dates in due course.



Spring Fair at All Saints, Chedgrave on 22nd May

Time to start baking, making, taking cuttings, planting seeds...

August Teas at St Mary, Sisland on Sundays in August

From 3:00-5:00pm delicious cakes and drinks will be served. We look forward to welcoming you back this year.

Libricini workshop at All Saints, Chedgrave on 7th/8th August

We hope that it may be possible to have a short presentation of the choral music that has been worked on at this weekend.

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

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

Flower Festival at All Saints, Chedgrave on 11th/12th September

Icons of Norfolk is the title for the flower festival. What will it be? The Canaries, Wherries, Windfarms...? Come along and see for yourselves.

Quiz at All Saints, Chedgrave on 22nd October

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

Exhibition at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Did you take up a new hobby, learn a language, perfect your baking skills? It is hoped that there will be an exhibition featuring new or improved skills that were discovered during lockdown. Watch out for further details.

Hymn Singing in All Saints Chedgrave

I wonder if you have been missing singing during the Covid restrictions. Well, James, one of our lovely organists, has offered to put on a hymn-singing evening (or more if popular) once we are allowed to sing together indoors.



With time for a warm-up and then several hymns, a break for refreshments and some more hymns it should be a lovely event. James would like you to think of which hymns you have really missed singing and would like to sing at an evening like this. Please email him on: lally950@btinternet.com to let him know your choices, then he can find the music and practise so he will be on top of the dots for the evening.

Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

You should now be planting out your onions and shallots. The easiest and most reliable way is to grow them from 'sets', which are small young bulbs. Feed with concentrated seaweed extract, homemade comfrey feed or wood ash once they get going. They also need lots of water to get to a good size. Loddon Garden and DIY sell onion and shallot sets loose, which is less wasteful than the tiny bags garden centres mostly sell them in. There is less choice bulk buying this way, but I have found them to be reliable varieties.

Comfrey is simple to grow and spreads rapidly. The leaves can be cut at least twice a year and added straight to the soil or to compost or made into a liquid feed. The flowers are also great for pollinators. It is rich in potash, phosphorus, and calcium ideal for boosting vegetables, flowers and tubers. Nettle feed is better for green leaf crops or giving things a boost e.g. after frost damage, as it is rich in nitrogen, mineral salts and iron.

At its simplest you can stuff the comfrey or nettles in a bucket and fill it with rainwater. After two weeks it will be ready to use and smell a lot. For this reason, some people either buy a specialist container (I have one from Hozelock) or use a small barrel with a tap. The feed is always used diluted and can be either sprayed onto crops or applied around the plant roots with a watering can.

From the Garden

This month the garden centres and nurseries will be tempting us with lots of lovely plants for our hanging baskets and pots. If you are tempted remember they will need to be protected against frost until the end of May. Planting up now will allow the pots or baskets to get established before placing in position. But where do you start? Pots are generally easier to look after as they can be watered easily and dead headed. Hanging baskets can look stunning but watering can be difficult and steps might be needed to remove the spent flowers, as once the basket is up and full of plants it can be very heavy. Hanging baskets are available with a built in water reservoir to reduce watering.

The top three most popular plants for hanging baskets are Begonia, Fuchsia and Petunia, but other plants that have caught my eye as possible for this year's display are Bacopa which has small blue or white flowers and Calibrahua Million Bells (trailing petunia) Mini Rosebud Romantic Peachy with small orange flowers or Carnival Mix with red, yellow and purple flowers. When you have decided on your plants and container, remember to add some slow release fertilizer, this will keep your plants fed throughout the season.

You can also plant your hanging basket with Tomatoes, cherry varieties are best. Cherry Falls or Tumbling Tom are two varieties suited to baskets, you will need to feed regularly and place in a sunny spot.



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