



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

December 2023



Christmas Fayre



Saturday 2nd December

St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon

10am to 1pm

- Christmas Gifts, Jewellery and more
- Homemade Cakes and Preserves
- Books and DVDs
- Tombolas, including Basket Tombola
- Raffle
- Coffee, tea and light lunches served

Children - Santa will be here in his grotto from 11am

Fundraising for the  Church in Loddon

 Chet Valley Churches

Christmas Begins Here

The Carpenter's Tale

Holy Trinity, Loddon

24th December. 4:00pm



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

The end of the year seems to be hurtling towards us! Only seven weeks to go until Christmas with much to pack in before we get there.

I wonder if you have ever been to the Crib Service. Some have said that it marks the start of Christmas for them and return year-on-year irrespective of whether they have children or not. People grumbled a bit last year because there wasn't a performance so we are pleased to announce that *The Carpenter's Tale* will be told on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm in Holy Trinity Church. It's got action, carol-singing, a band, a baby and is suitable for all the family. Why not come dressed up as one of the characters in the Christmas Story?

If you don't fancy a carol service in church, you could always join us at The White Horse on 10th December for a carol service there. It starts at 6:30pm, the singing is always good—something to do with the mulled wine, I think—and there are usually mince pies to follow. And earlier in December there are several Christmas Fairs as well as Victorian Evening and Open House. Perhaps I'll see you there.

It's a season for giving, so if you can contribute to the Community Larder Christmas appeal, the ChetChat hamper appeal, please do. Or maybe you would like to benefit from either of those, or any of our hardship funds—details are within these pages.

Thanks to all our distributors and wishing our readers a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year from all our contributors and the Chet Contact team.

Alison



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Ministerial Musings

What Can We Do?

When you visit a friend or family member at Christmas, you probably expect them to open the door, smile and say, “Come on in!”

If you’re visiting a company, or checking in at a hotel, you generally expect a friendly, “Good afternoon”, followed by some instructions that make you feel welcome.

Our world today is full of so much uncertainty and aggression. Against that background, making people feel welcome and wanted is extremely important whether we’re the Ritz or the local hostelry, or even the church.

At this time of year most people in our local communities get into the mood of Christmas and start to sing carols about a child born in a stable in Bethlehem. We remember that Mary and Joseph could find nowhere to book in on the night that Jesus was born, and that they had to bed down with the animals. It sounds terrible to our Western minds. But maybe we miss one aspect of the story—the inn-keeper was prepared to welcome the young couple, and to take the risk of offering what he had even if it was not much.

Maybe this Christmas and New Year could be a chance for us to offer what we can, and to give without expecting something in return.

Could we give a gift (however small) to a charity that cares for those who are often not made welcome?

Could we be more mindful of our fragile world and use less packaging or send our Christmas greetings electronically?

Most of all, could we offer friendship to those around us at a time of year when some people are struggling or feeling lonely while others are partying?

If you come and join us at the church over the Christmas season, we hope you will find us a welcoming bunch of people. And if we don’t see you to say it personally, may we wish you a happy and blessed Christmas.

David Owen



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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 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 Meetings:

7th December—Christmas Lunch at The Old Feathers, 12:00 for 12:30pm.

14th December—Carol Service at St John's, 1:30pm, followed by afternoon tea in the Lecture Hall.

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

Baptisms

Renly Armiger

19th November 2023 at All Saints, Chedgrave

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.

Weddings

Those whom God has joined together let no-one put asunder.

Funerals

Robert John Chubbock who died on 30th September 2023

Funeral: 27th October 2023 at All Saints, Chedgrave

Michael Cadge who died on 17th September 2023

Funeral: 30th October 2023 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Dorothy Wright who died on 28th October 2023

Funeral: 16th November 2023 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

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), please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126, or ball880am@btinternet.com.

To arrange a wedding, please contact Rev David on 01508 522993, or david.chetvalley@gmail.com.

To arrange a funeral, at any of the churches in our area or at the crematorium, please contact Rev David on 01508 522993, or david.chetvalley@gmail.com.

Rev David can also be contacted about interment of ashes.

St Michael's Langley

Christmas Service of Light

Thursday 14th December at 6:30pm

All Welcome



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News From Your Local Councillors

County Deal: Norfolk County Council has been offered the opportunity to have more powers and funding devolved down to it by central government. This would mean more decisions being taken locally over such things as investing in infrastructure and support for businesses. We would get £20 million pa for 30 years for this purpose (£600M). We would also take control of the Adult Education budget of £12 million pa so that a more local approach to training can be taken providing the right skills for our workforce. Further to this is a £7 million fund for redeveloping brownfield sites for housing.

If the council decide to take this offer, Norfolk will have to change the way the leader of the council is elected. Currently the leader is elected by the other councillors. Under devolution, the leader will be elected by the people of Norfolk in a separate election. Effectively, we would get a Mayor for Norfolk, similar to areas like London, Manchester, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. NCC signed an 'in principle' deal last year but on 12th December this year, we must decide whether to go ahead with devolution and have a Directly Elected Leader. I'm interested in what you think about that. Further information can be found at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal.

If you have any issues or I can help in any way, please contact me at kay.masonbillig.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Councillor Kay Mason Billig

My favourite quote for now is from Hamilton Wright Mabe: 'Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.'

We're launching our Christmas hampers scheme again this year. Please let me know if you'd like to nominate an over-60s friend or neighbour who you feel would appreciate receiving one. Our ChetChat volunteers rely on donations, big or small, to be able to continue this brilliant tradition: if you're able to help, we'll be outside Co-op in Loddon with our red collecting tins from 10:30am on Saturday 2nd and Saturday 16th December. It would be lovely to see you there. Hampers will be delivered from 18th December. We've also launched a fundraising page for anyone who'd like to help us. The link is: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/JeremyRowe?utm_term=g6RKAg9aR

Later this month I'll be allocating the £1000 Members' Grant given annually to each South Norfolk District Councillor. This year I'm supporting six different excellent local groups.

The next surgery I'll be holding, in Loddon Library 2:00-3:00pm, will take place on Saturday 20th January next year. Of course, I'll continue to reply to every communication, as well as regularly attend meetings of every Parish Council when I can.

Finally, our superb ChetChat group volunteers are always on hand, giving help and support to our over-60s friends and neighbours. If you ever need any help give us a ring on 07944 858929.



Councillor Jeremy Rowe

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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: <https://chedgrave-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

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



Chedgrave Parish Council held its meeting on 2nd November

White Horse Plain/Jubilee Oak Works: Works commenced on Monday 6th November and the council acknowledges some initial teething troubles with the traffic management—the traffic lights have been situated further from the junction than originally agreed. The council apologises for the inconvenience and thanks residents for their patience and understanding.

Langley Road Development Action Group: The group is in its initial stages and councillors will be holding a ‘brainstorming’ session on 9th November hopefully to be followed by a session involving residents in early December. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact the Clerk, thank you.

Litter Picking: Many thanks to those members of the public and councillors who turned out to help with this. A lot of litter was collected from around the village, particularly on Norwich Road and Hardley Road verges. Please take your litter home! Thank you to Cllr Deb Downer who provided coffee and cake to us all!

Bulb Planting: The bulb planting session has been re-scheduled for Saturday 25th November at 10:00am. Please meet at the Brian Clarke room, dress accordingly and bring any suitable hand tools you have. Thank you!

Volunteer Group Name: The council is delighted that a small group of people is forming to help with various activities such as bulb planting and litter picking. It has been suggested that we call the group “Cherish Chedgrave” or something similar—please send any catchy name ideas to the Clerk! Thank you.

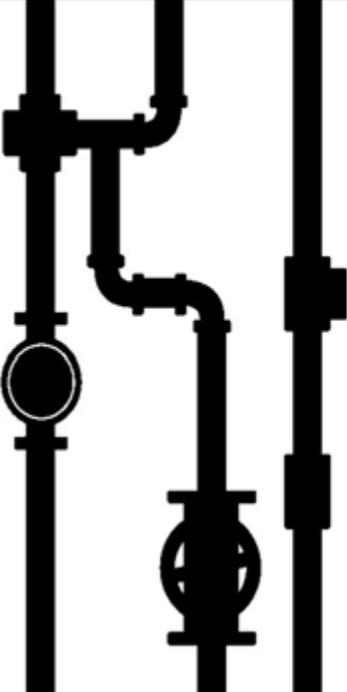
Community Speedwatch: The sites have been agreed and the next step is volunteer training. Sadly, somebody saw fit to move the SAM2 sign so it has not been recording traffic properly this month. Please don’t interfere with this equipment – it’s all part of the effort to reduce speeding.

Council Action Plan: The council agreed its Action Plan for the next year. The top priorities are: complete the refurbishment of White Horse Plain, deliver events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Litter Picks, deliver further issues of Chedgrave Courier and begin the process of replacing The Pits play equipment.

Christmas Lights: Hopefully by the time you read this, the lights will be up and possibly already on! Very Merry Christmas to you all!

Next Meeting: Thursday 7th December at 7:00pm 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@loddonpc.org.uk.

Website: www.loddonpc.org.uk;

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC



Victorian Evening: The formal Christmas light switch on and Victorian Evening will be on Friday 8th December. Thanks to the Chet Valley Festival Group for organising this annual event.

Christmas lights: Loddon has always been known for its beautiful display of Christmas lights and we thank you for your part in that. The Council's contractor will be installing the LED lightweight string lights on the properties and businesses on Church Plain, Bridge Street and the High Street at the end of November. There will also be additional light displays on Church Plain and the Staithe Car Park. Thank you to those who have offered to power the lights and Loddon Swan for sponsoring the Christmas Tree sited outside The Old School. To report faulty lights, please call the Town Council emergency number: 01508 486128 or email: info@loddonpc.org.uk.

Volunteer Event: The Council held this event to showcase the varied voluntary roles within the organisation, such as:

- Councillor
- Emergency Warden
- Litter Picking
- Events Committee
- Love Loddon Community Group
- Community Larder

If you would like to find out more about these voluntary roles, please pop into the office or email us for a leaflet.

Improvements to Footpaths

Both the Sale Court Footpath and Footpath 15 have recently been improved via a joint initiative with Norfolk County Council.

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

Chet Valley Community Larder: Thank you so much for the donations that are being received for the Community Larder. The larder is in Loddon Library/LTC'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. If you would like to volunteer to help with the larder, please get in touch.

Meeting dates, contact information and updates can all be found on the Council website: www.loddonpc.org.uk or call 01508 522 020.



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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Martine Storey
Tel: 07538 738095 Email: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Hales & Heckingham Parish Council](https://www.facebook.com/Hales%20&%20Heckingham%20Parish%20Council)



Next Parish Council Meetings: 12th December and 9th January 2024 starting at 7:30pm. Held at the Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on our website three days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Yarmouth Road Resurfacing: We would like to thank all residents for their understanding during the Yarmouth Road (B1136) resurfacing that took place last month. It's fair to say that the road through the village looks significantly better. We have also conveyed our gratitude to the workers who were consistently polite and helpful to all residents they encountered.

Speed Checks Along Yarmouth Road: Police have already conducted speed checks. These will continue as we enter the festive period.

Overgrown Green, End of School Lane: The Parish Council has been in touch to arrange a meeting with Saffron regarding the trimming of the green around the village sign, as this is supposed to occur twice a year. We will keep residents informed.

Fields of Briar Lane: We will be reaching out to The Environment Agency and Anglian Water to express our concerns regarding the main sewer line; there are significant concerns about its ability to handle flooding and support new and planned properties being constructed off Yarmouth Road.

Community Volunteering Scheme: We continue to seek your help in supporting community projects aimed at improving village life. Please let us know if you would like to get involved by emailing our clerk.

Hales Green Common: We kindly remind residents and visitors to adhere to the bylaws displayed on the public notice boards around the common. Dog walkers, please remember to clean up after your dogs. Thank you.

Would You Like to Be a Parish Councillor? If you are passionate about where you live, we are seeking new Parish Councillors. Our goal is to provide a voice for concerns, ideas, and initiatives that would benefit our village, and we need your help. Please contact our clerk if you are interested.

Do You Need Help? Then call South Norfolk & Broadland's Help Hub on 01508 533933 or email helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. They can assist with a wide range of problems.



Claire Bullard

INDEPENDANT SCENTSY
CONSULTANT

Phone - 07717535080

Email - cl.bullard@hotmail.co.uk

Website - clairebullard.scentsy.co.uk

Facebook = Claire Bullard - Scentsy Consultant



What is Scentsy?

Scentsy offers an alternative to traditional candles. NO flame, NO smoke, NO soot. The concept uses decorative warmers, which use a heating element to slowly melt specially formulated wax, making your home smell SCENT-sational.... we are not all wax though!

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through to my
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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



New Parish Councillor: The vacancy for a parish councillor has been filled by co-option of Mrs. Kimberly Adcock.

Raising the Profile of the Parish Council: Discussion took place on ways of raising the visibility of the Parish Council and the work it does in representing the residents of Langley with Hardley, with the aim of involving greater participation with Parishioners to develop better services and deliver local change

Langley War Memorial: The bricks below the chain railings on the road surrounding the war memorial have been painted white to define the limits of the memorial better. Thanks to Chris Townsend for doing this.

Budgetary matters: Items of expenditure for the 2024/25 budget were discussed.

Biodiversity: New government legislation dealing with the conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity found in the parish was discussed.

Commemorative Tree: A request to plant a commemorative tree with an appropriate plaque marking the life of Mr. Tom Bartlett, a local resident and long-standing former Parish Councillor was agreed.

Volunteer Tree Warden: Following the retirement of Mr. John Wheeler, who has been an exceptional tree warden for many years, there is a vacancy for this position. For further details please contact the parish clerk.

Volunteer for SAM2: A volunteer is needed to look after the SAM2 vehicle speed regulator. This is not an onerous task but requires a person who can occasionally lift weights and wishes to save on the cost of a gym subscription! If you would like to be part of this safety measure and would like further information please contact our clerk.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th January at 7:30pm in Langley with Hardley Village Hall. All are welcome.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Friday 1st December: Café from 11:00-1:00pm.

Festive foods served by Santas helpers.



Thursday 14th December: Family Christmas Festive Fun. Children can make a Christmas craft. Festive foods like sausage rolls, mince pies, chocolate logs, hot chocolate, mulled wine can be enjoyed. Christmas music playing, Christmas lights on, real tree all decorated up. How better to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year? 6:00-8:00pm.

Thank you all for your valued support throughout the year.

To view the halls facilities or book call Tibby or Jane on 01508 520184.



Choir for Carols

Hooray! The community choir is coming together once again this year to sing at the...

Carol Service in Chedgrave Church

Drawn from people of varying ages (~7-90+) we lead the traditional carols as usual and sing one or two items of our own.

*"We all enjoy the singing and getting to know others in the community."
"It is a lot of fun".*

The carol service is on Sunday 17th December at 5:00pm

There will be four rehearsals and it is best if you can make at least three of them:

Sunday 26th November 3:00-4:00pm

Saturday 9th December 2:00-4:00pm

Saturday 16th December 10:00am-12 noon

Sunday 17th December 3:00-4:00pm

(refreshment break before the service)



If you would like to take part please contact Rev Alison:

on ball880am@btinternet.com or 01508 528126

Many thanks and hope to see you there.

Tuesday Market

We have everything you'll need for Christmas: tasty food, mince pies, sausage rolls, shortbread, puddings and much more. Put in your Christmas orders now. Our crafters have a lovely range of presents too: jewellery, turned wood, cards and much more. You'll find us at The Hollies, next to the post office in Loddon, every Tuesday 10:00-11:30 am. Please note we will be closed after market on 19th December and reopening on 13th February 2024. We will also be participating in the Victorian Evening at the Hollies.



Sheila Ford (Chairman)

Chedgrave Shops

The local history group are currently trying to put together a small guide to Chedgrave Shops. Built in the 1960's the eight units have each had several occupants, offering a wide range of goods and services for the local inhabitants. If you have any information on the types of businesses and their owners, particularly in the earlier days, we would appreciate your input.

Please contact chetcottchippy@hotmail.com or telephone 01508 520036 if you think you can help. Thank you. Carol Webb.

Notes from Sisland

We are fast approaching the end of the year and while we have reflected in November, we turn our attention to the celebrations which accompany the Christmas season and the start of a new year. Sisland will be holding a carol service at 4:00pm on Sunday 17th December. It will be a traditional service with readings from the Christmas story, interspersed with traditional carols. Please come and join us, we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after the service. We will also have a service of Holy Communion on Christmas morning at 9:00am.



Did you know that you can raise funds for St Mary's Church whenever you buy anything online, from your weekly shop to your annual holiday, with [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)?

[Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) is an easy way to raise funds just by shopping online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to shop with them at no extra cost to yourself! There are no catches or hidden charges and Sisland Church will benefit from your donation. We would really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely free and only takes a moment. All you need to do is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sislandchurch> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) first to find the site you want and start shopping. You can also download a useful app which can check for you.
3. After you've paid, the retailer will donate to Sisland Church, Norwich at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

Fund-raising continues in order to carry out work on the church tower. Sisland Church plans to run a tombola at the Open House in Holy Trinity, Loddon on Friday 8th December. We already have in our plans Sunday teas again in August but we will try to offer teas one weekend in the spring to coincide with the best of the bluebells in the churchyard and at Sisland Carr. This year they coincided with an additional Bank Holiday for the coronation, so we had a village event and planted a commemorative tree.

Sisland Church continues to be open during the winter, even if the door is closed it will be unlocked, so please take the opportunity to visit us if passing. We look forward to seeing you.

Rowena Bryce (Churchwarden, St Mary's, Sisland).



LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING

On Friday 8th December from 6:30-8:30pm the annual Victorian Evening will take place in the town centre. Starting at 6:30pm outside Bay Tree House, Father Christmas will arrive for the 'grand switch on' of the Church Plain Christmas lights.

Thanks to the generosity and support of many of the town's businesses, we are all set for another fun filled evening of events:

- ◆ Chet Valley Voices singing in the town centre;
- ◆ Father Christmas in his grotto at Bay Tree House from 6:40pm with gifts courtesy of Browne and Sons;
- ◆ Punch & Judy Show at 6:45pm and 7:15pm in the rear of The Hollies courtesy of Loddon Town Council;
- ◆ Funky Feet School of Dance & Performing Arts on the Co-op forecourt;
- ◆ Vintage steam engines at Loddon Mill opposite the Staithe Car Park;
- ◆ Open House at Holy Trinity Church and St John's Church in George Lane with charity stalls, hot drinks and mince pies;
- ◆ Fire engine display and BBQ at the Loddon Fire Station;
- ◆ Country Market at The Hollies with festive goodies and crafts;
- ◆ Judging and prizes for the 'Best Dressed' person, residence and business on the Co-op forecourt at 8:00pm;
- ◆ Find all the Christmas Jingle Bells in a trail throughout the town.

Many of the town's traders will be open and welcoming you. If you need any information on the night, please go to the rear of The Hollies for assistance. Toilets are available at the Staithe, and The Hollies. Additional car parking is available at the Chet Valley Medical Practice and Hobart High School. All car parks will be open as normal.



Charity Stalls at the Victorian Evening—Open House

Every year there are stalls in the churches: Holy Trinity in the middle of Loddon and St John's Chapel just a little way along George Lane. They enable people to fundraise for a favourite charity and allow local community groups to advertise what they do. Do come and support them.

Loddon Flower Club

Our next meeting is our Christmas Open Evening on Tuesday 5th December, held in St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open at 6:15pm, demonstration starts at 7:00pm.

Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate with us. Members £6 and visitors £12. We have stalls to browse and a Christmas buffet including a glass of fruit punch. Our demonstrator for the evening will be Julie Woods with 'Let the Festivities Begin'. At the end of the evening there will be a raffle for the arrangements Julie has made and a hamper raffle; also the result of the Xmas board to win a Christmas Cake.

We have a Christmas Workshop on Saturday 9th December, 1:00-4:00pm, in St John's Chapel, £10, refreshments included. Make a Christmas cracker, with arrangement in the middle, and/or a table arrangement.

There is no meeting in January, as it's our club lunch. We meet again on Tuesday 6th February: Gail Harland—Creating a Cottage Garden.

For info contact Chair, Patricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com, or Secretary, Jenny Frosdick on 01508 520254 or jf53rf50@gmail.com.

We can arrange flowers for family occasions and we have a website www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk where you can see pictures of past events and get an idea of what we do. We look forward to seeing you very soon.



Loddon Bell Ringers

Members have been out to ring Quarter Peals at Buxhall, Gt. Finborough, Woolpit and Ashill as well as one here at Holy Trinity. We will be ringing for Remembrance Day and all the services and events planned leading up to Christmas. The annual peal to welcome in the New Year will be rung at Loddon on Monday 1st January starting at 2:00pm and, if successful, finishing around 5:00pm.

As another year comes to a close, we would like to thank you for your words of encouragement as many people in the area like to hear the sound of church bells being rung.

Steve Rabong



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.

Church Services

3rd December—Advent 1

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

10th December—Advent 2

9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon

12th December—Tuesday

7:00pm	Carol Service	St Margaret, Hardley
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17th December—Advent 3

10:30am	Holy Communion with carols	All Saints, Chedgrave
4:00pm	Carol Service	St Mary, Sisland
5:00pm	Carol Service with the Christmas Community Choir	All Saints, Chedgrave
6:30pm	Carol Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon

24th December—Advent 4—Christmas Eve

11:00am	Carols & Readings	Chedgrave Shops
4:00pm	Crib Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:30pm	Midnight Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
11:30pm	Midnight Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon

Collections at Christmas

All Saints, Chedgrave are collecting for the charity Embrace the Middle East at all of their services (The White Horse Carol Service—10th December; Church Carol Service—17th December; Carols at the Shops—24th December). Please donate if you can.

Church Services

25th December—Christmas Day

9:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
10:00am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon

31st December

10:45am	Benefice Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
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7th January—Epiphany

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

14th January

9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon

21st January

10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship followed by shared lunch	All Saints, Chedgrave
4:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland

28th January

9:30am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Benefice Covenant Service	St John, Loddon

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

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

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation

21 Ugate, 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

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

Now that the outdoor summer lawn bowls has 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 www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/LoddonTennisClub.

Coach Paul Solomon is also delivering junior coaching, group coaching, and cardio tennis sessions; email: loddontennis@loddonpc.org.uk or phone 07368 684806.



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

Wednesday evenings 6:45-7:45pm, 8-14yrs

Thursday evenings 7:30-8:30pm, 15-18yrs

Open to all children aged 10-16 years regardless of ability. on **Wednesday** evenings from 6:45-7:45pm; Jubilee Hall. £4 per session; Rackets and shuttles provided.

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



Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



Thank you to everyone for supporting the RBL and its fundraising partner, The Poppy Appeal. It is important to keep alive the memories of those who served and help support their families. It is not just the two World Wars, it is also the Falklands, Northern Ireland, the Gulf, Afghanistan and many other campaigns, that need to be remembered.

If you have an interest of helping those in our Armed Forces Community, why not become a member of our branch. You don't need to have served at all. Ring us, Colin and Christine, on 01508 521136. We meet every third Monday of the month, at 7:00pm at The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Next meeting: 15th January 2024 St John's Chapel.

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. The charities are 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).

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 under the direction of Frankie Ayers. Our rehearsals are fun and enjoyable so why not pop along to see what we are about. Contact Louis (Secretary) email loddon.band@gmail.com or phone 07463 770068 for more information.

The Children's Society—Thank You

Many, many thanks on behalf of The Children's Society for the wonderful total of £695.16 from your boxes, cheques and cash for 2023. Anne Baker





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.

Whatever your age, there's strong evidence that physical activity can help with a healthier and even happier life. People who exercise regularly can have a lower risk of many chronic diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. Research shows that regular exercise can also boost self-esteem, mood, sleep-quality and energy levels.

Here at your Community Gym in the Library Annexe we are well-equipped, affordable and not-for-profit and for almost 10 years have 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!

For more information why not drop by to see us or call our qualified trainer, Louise, on 07534 946143. We are open each weekday and you need to book sessions via www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym.

Details of hours and costs can be found at www.loddoncommunitygym.com.

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 morning 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 info contact our Chairman, Paul Clemence on 01508 218078.

Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

If you'd like to get out from your four walls to meet others to chat, play games and have a hot meal, please give Bev a ring on 07826 299290. We'd love to see you at the Brian Clarke rooms in Chedgrave.



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.

The Hair Cabin



Shauni Prettyman
Hair Stylist

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thehaircabin2022@gmail.com



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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:

5th December: Great Exhibition of 1851—Peter Lawrence

19th December: Christmas Lunch at The Feathers

Come along 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:

12th December: Christmas Lunch

9th January: The Yellow Caravan—a camping trip around Norfolk in 1912.

23th January: Youth Must Have Some Dalliance.

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

Loddon Community Cinema

Thursday 7th December: Asteroid City, 125 minutes, rated PG 13. Starring Jason Schwartzman, Scarlett Johansson and Tom Hanks plus numerous other well known faces! A comedy/drama written, directed and produced by Wes Anderson. A play within a play, in which Johansson is a 1950s movie icon in a fictional American desert town, where a group of child geniuses are gathered for a science competition that is interrupted by an alien visitor.

An extra show!! Thursday 14th December: Barbie, 114 minutes, rated 12a. Barbie and Ken let loose in the real world. Starring Margo Robbie and Ryan Gosling. Box office smash which like Marmite you either love or hate!!

Both showings at the Lecture Hall, St John's Chapel, 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.

In January we are planning to show Oppenheimer, 180 minutes, rated 15. We hope to show this on Saturday 13th January at 6:30pm with an interval.

email: loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk





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News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon and District Women's Institute

It seems hard to believe that another year has almost gone, and here we are once again looking forward to our Christmas party at the December meeting. Before that some of our members will be meeting to prepare gift bags for our stall at the Open House in Holy Trinity Church as part of the Victorian Evening. Then it will be on to our first meeting of the New Year when one of our members will tell us about her travels on the Silk Road.

Future Meetings:

Thursday 14th December: Knit, Natter & Crochet. Loddon Library. 2:00-4:00pm.

Wednesday 20th December: Members Christmas Party.

Thursday 11th January: Knit, Natter & Crochet. Loddon Library. 2:00-4:00pm.

Wednesday 17th January: The Silk Road—Sue Sursham. N.B. Afternoon meeting, 2:15 for 2:30pm at St John's Chapel George Lane, Loddon.

For further information, we can be contacted through our Facebook page (Loddon & District WI) or by ringing 01508 528912.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Forthcoming meetings:

Tuesday 19th November—Christmas Party. All members welcome.

Tuesday 23rd January—Games Afternoon.

New members are always welcome. Contact Margaret on 01508 528531.

Social Whist

Social Whist is alive and doing extremely well providing an enjoyable evening of chat, tea/coffee and a biscuit together with some mental stimulation. Anyone can come along and give it a go. It is £6 for the evening including playing, a drink and biscuit. There is a huge amount at stake: £7 if you win; £5 if you come second; £3 if you come third; and a £1 booby prize (hard-fought battle for the one/those fortunate enough to get the lowest score!).



We meet in the back room of The Hollies at 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start. In December we will be meeting three times: 1st, 15th and 29th December. In January it's back to normal: 12th (2nd Friday) and 26th (4th Friday) January 2024. It's warm and easy to have a catch up on all that's happening in the villages. If you need a lift, no worries, just give me (Jane) a call on 01508 528875 and I'll pick you up.

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Loddon and District Horticultural Society



This month it's our Christmas meal on Wednesday 13th December at The Old Feathers, Framingham Pigot, so we don't have a meeting. We will be back at the Jubilee Hall Club Room, George Lane, Loddon on Wednesday 10th January when we have Tim Fuller talking on 'Good Companions'. Tim will be talking on hardy geraniums, ornamental grasses and herbaceous perennials that work well together in our gardens.

In December we will also be decorating a windowsill in Holy Trinity Church as part of the Victorian Evening, so do take a look at our display which will be in the church over the Christmas period.

At our Annual General Meeting we welcomed four new members to the Society and there were no changes to the committee.

Our meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon, starting at 7:30pm. As well as holding our own shows, we enter classes in the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society shows in the Affiliated Societies classes.

To join our Society it is £10 per year. Contact Jean Cope (Chairman) on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or Hazel Copland (Secretary) on 01508 520890 or happyhaze50@gmail.com.

Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)



Our monthly club meeting in December is on Monday 11th and in January is on Monday 8th, both in St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. We are awaiting confirmation from potential speakers so please refer to our website as details will be posted when they are available.

We now have a new open Facebook page (search Chet Valley Photography Club) which details some of the things we have done over the past few months. Annual membership is just £18. You do not need expensive equipment at all—most images today are done using a mobile phone.

Have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information if you are interested in joining the club. New members will be made very welcome. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

Christmas Craft Fair—Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon

Saturday 9th December, 10:00am-2:00pm.

Santa's Grotto—11:00am-12:00noon (please book) £2 in aid of Alzheimer's. Face painting. Refreshments available. Phone 07557 402211

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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:

We have no meeting in December but will meet on Wednesday 31st January when we will decide our programme for 2024. Please bring ideas for speakers and outings, and the annual £10 fee. If possible, please also bring a plate of sweet or savoury food to share during the discussion.

Contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

Thursday 7th December—Pre-Christmas meal at The Old Feathers, 6:30 for 7:00pm. Please book before 16th November with a cash deposit of £10. Menus will be available soon; please make choices and full payment by 24th November. Contact June on 01508 528853.

Wednesday 10th January—Blow the cobwebs away and start the new year with our walk at Southwold and Walberswick, weather permitting. Park on The Common near the water tower. Pub lunch. Contact June on 01508 528853.

We are a friendly group of people who like walking, visiting interesting gardens, historic buildings, and the occasional social evening. Membership fee is £6pa. Members will receive a programme. New members welcome.

For more information about our events contact June on 01508 528853 or junecs@btinternet.com. For membership contact Hillary on 01508 520457 or meredithp3@sky.com.

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.



Wednesday 6th December—The Art of Celebrating Christmas by Sarah Pearson.

Wednesday 3rd January—The Invention of Photography and its Impact on Early Modern Painting.

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>.

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Chet Valley Community Larder



Please can you donate to our Community Christmas Bag Appeal?

The Community Larder is here to help people within our community who need food support. On 15th and 16th December we will be at The Hollies in Loddon with larder donations for Christmas.

We need the following items:

Tins of Potatoes, Vegetables, Soups, Fish, Meat, Fruit, Desserts
Gravy, Stuffing Mixes, Flour, Eggs, Oil,
Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, UHT Milk (including non-dairy)
Jars of Mincemeat, Jams, Preserves

Biscuits, Tins of Biscuits, Sweets, Tubs of Sweets, Chocolates,
Cheese Crackers, Bags of Nuts, Oatcakes, Crisps
Christmas Puddings, Desserts, Cakes, Custard,
Pet Food—dry or tinned,

Bags of fresh vegetables—potatoes, parsnips, carrots, brussels sprouts.

Other non-food Christmas items:

Christmas crackers, any unused Christmas decorations and gifts.

You can drop off your donations at:

Loddon Library on Monday, Thursday, Friday
from 10:00am-7:00pm or Saturday 1:00-4:00pm;
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Please can you drop off your donations by Monday 11th December.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

David Wollweber—Buried Treasure of the Blyth Valley—The Halesworth Museum collection. David's lecture was based on the finds from four hoards found by metal detectorists in the Halesworth area:

1. The Wissett Hoard dating from the middle Bronze Age around 1600-1400 BC.
2. The Bramfield Hoard dating from the late Bronze Age around 1200-1400 BC.
3. The Near Blythburgh Hoard of Iron Age coins from 60-75 AD.
4. The Near Cookley Hoard of Roman coins.

The Wissett and Bramfield Hoards were two separate finds but both consist of axes and spears. Some axes were old, others new and some showed casting errors. Tin and copper were used in their production suggesting there must have been more trade in this period than was previously thought. These two hoards are of a similar weight which Professor Bevan thinks may have been deliberate either for trading purposes or for ceremonial reasons. The Cookley and Blythburgh hoards both consist of coins. The Cookley coins date from the Roman period and are a recent find. Twenty plus denarii were found in 2017, and then 60 silver denarii were found in 2018. The oldest coin dated back to 153 BC while the youngest was thought to be from 60 AD when Nero was Emperor. The coins, mainly minted in Lyon, France, were brought over here because the Romans wanted to set up an economy in England without using Iron Age money. David gave us some examples from the coins: one has Julius Caesar's head; another has the head of Augustus on one side and a goat holding a globe on the other; and a rare coin features Caligula's face on one side and God on the other. The coins in the Blythburgh Hoard represent some of the first coinage minted in this country. Ten of them are attributed to King Addedomarus 35-15 BC, King of the Trinovantes. Flowers, horses and possibly hidden faces can be seen on the coins. Coins relating to this king are rarely found in Suffolk, so were they to pay soldiers or were they offerings for a good harvest? Some coins may have been deliberately buried if the owner expected to return but another theory suggests that in times of war the owner might not have been expecting to return. David finished by saying all of the hoards were found on the edges of water either rivers or the sea which shows the significance of water in earlier times. A very interesting talk.

Next meetings:

Wednesday 20th December: Mary Fewster—Christmas Past.

Wednesday 17th January: Titch and Maureen—Loddon Pantomime.

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 (elvie.herd@uwclub.net)

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

A Whale of a Time—A Funny Poem for Every Day of the Year

I love a poem collection and this children's illustrated collection is beautifully done. Including work by John Agard, Maya Angelou, Hilaire Belloc, Brian Bilston, Lucille Clifton, Wendy Cope, Roald Dahl, Edward Lear, Spike Milligan, Ogden Nash, Grace Nichols, Jack Prelutsky, Michael Rosen, Christina Rossetti, Benjamin Zephaniah and many more.

I think this would make a great gift to share with any children in your life!

The Christmas Guest by Peter Swanson

This crime novella was a relatively short read but I really enjoyed it. Not so much full of Christmas cheer as Christmas fear, it comes with a great twist near the end. For a Christmas present for the crime aficionado in your life it might be just the thing! It reminded me of Donna Tartt's *Secret History* in some ways, although it doesn't really match Tartt's brilliance.

The Women in Me by Britney Spears

I've been listening to the audio book of this, narrated by Michelle Williams. A gripping, agonising recount of Britney Spears's life, it has had me gasping at points. It's a bittersweet and cautionary tale on the pitfalls of fame and wealth at a young age. Treated appallingly by the media, her family, her various partners and even the American legal system, it's amazing how she's come through and lived to tell the tale.

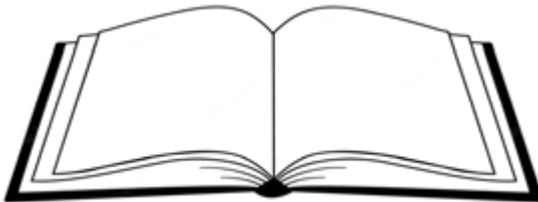
The Golden Mole and Other Vanishing Treasures by Katherine Rundell

This takes us on a globe-spanning tour of the world's strangest and most awe-inspiring animals, including pangolins, wombats, lemurs and seahorses. It highlights the extraordinary abilities and stories associated with a range of remarkable creatures in all too real danger of dying out. It's a call to save nature's vanishing wonders, before it is too late.

I can't wait to read!

Tackle by Jilly Cooper—She's gone to the football world for inspiration this time and it sounds like rip-roaring good fun. With characters called names like Feral, and of course all the old favourites, it should be a great read.

Ruth Redford



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*Chet Valley
Community
Larder*



Christmas Bags

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**The Hollies on Friday 15th December 2:30-4:30pm
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The local community have been kindly donating,
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Allotment Notes

From the Allotment

If the weather stays mild into December you may still have time to plant garlic and broad beans to get them started for the new season. If not, wait until February. Make sure you choose an autumn planted broad bean seed like Aquadulce Claudia. Winter is also the time to plant soft/top fruit.

Moving away from plants and planting advice, I thought I would share some of what I have learned about having an allotment as over the years. I have seen many people come and go, some of them very quickly! I know some people will be considering taking an allotment next year and I don't want to put you off, but you need to be realistic and expect to spend more time than you imagine to be successful. This will be throughout the year as there is always something to do:

- Preparation—which includes feeding the soil;
- Planting—the best bit, but you have to be available at the right time;
- Protecting—against things you haven't thought about like wood pigeons to rats to rabbits;
- Weeding—mulch is your friend: newspaper, cardboard, woodchip, straw, plastic, old carpet;
- Cropping—there is sometimes a small window and it can be hard work ie digging potatoes, or prolonged eg raspberries;
- Storing—you can't eat all your crops at once. How will you store them?;
- Clearing away/composting to start all over again.

Finally, if you have children they may enjoy the allotment, but you'll spend more time supervising them than any help they give you.

Andrew Milner

WEA

Next meeting:

Monday 11th December: Nigel Herwin—Christmas Cracker lecture on festive films followed by appropriate Christmas refreshments!

I look forward to seeing many old and new friends at our Spring Course—please look out for details on the noticeboards in the New Year—starting on 22nd January in the Small Club room at the Jubilee Hall in Loddon.

For more information on the Spring Course, please telephone Sharon, 01508 520386 or Alison, 01508 521976.



Chet Valley Voices—Christmas Concert Saturday 16th December



St Johns Chapel, George Lane, Loddon, 7:00 for 7.30pm.

With traditional carols and something a little different, maybe with some guest performers. Refreshments and raffle at interval.

Tickets: £5 (children under 16 free) available from Lynn 07443 009530; Ann's Crafts, Church Plain, Loddon; or chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com.

For further information contact: Sue on 01508 528069
suemartin303@btinternet.com or chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com



TREASURE ISLAND

After the huge success of last year's Panto, Loddon Players are back and returning to their traditional January performance dates with ticket prices remain frozen at last year's prices.

We have chosen four local community groups to support from our profits this year, The Community Gym, Chet Valley Community Larder and the parish churches of Holy Trinity (Loddon) and All Saints (Chedgrave) window fund raising, after recent vandalism.

“Avast there ye load of lily-livered landlubbers!

Performances of Treasure Island are at The Lecture Hall, George Lane.

There will be eight performances:

Friday 19th January—7:30pm

Saturday 20th January—2:30pm, and 7:30pm

Sunday 21st January—2:30pm

Thursday 25th January—7:30pm

Friday 26th January—7:30pm

Saturday 27th January—2:00pm, and 7:30pm

Tickets, already on sale, are available online at www.loddonplayers.co.uk or by phone 07538 749803 Thursdays and Fridays 2:00-5:00pm.

Adults £10, Children (15 years and under) £5

Families £25 (two adults and two children)

There are limited tickets for performances, book early to avoid disappointment!

Yo ho ho! Shiver me timbers. Order your tickets ye scurvy knaves!



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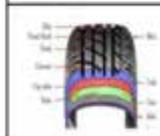
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