



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

December 2021 / January 2022



 Chet Valley Churches

Christmas Starts Here

Barols

Prophets

**It's
Christmas!**

Wise Men

Baby!

Shepherds

Star

Feast

Herod

Angels



24th December 2021

4:00 pm at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Come early to get a seat

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen: 01508 522993 david.chetvalley@gmail.com
Louise Morrissey: 01502 717797 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
Andrew Eburne: 01508 494770 andrew.eburne@rcdea.org.uk



Church Office—closed at present.

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

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

The e-mail account is being monitored regularly.



Weddings, Baptisms, Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of a Child
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
The Methodist Church www.methodist.org.uk
The RC Diocese of East Anglia www.rcdea.org.uk



Chet Contact

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Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

Please include your name and telephone number.



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From the Editor

How lovely to be able to look forward to a Christmas which is less constrained than last year. Given that I am writing this in early **November, let's hope that that remains the case!**

There is lots happening once again this year: Victorian Evening and Open House; various carol services on successive Sundays during December, including the one at the pub; and Midnight Communion in both All Saints, Chedgrave and Holy Trinity, Loddon as well as the **earlier Crib Service in Holy Trinity on Christmas Eve. Why don't you come along and see what is going on?**

I am looking forward to being with family members this year—how many of us were disappointed last year to have to celebrate Christmas alone—though I realise that not everyone is so fortunate. Perhaps you could do something for your neighbour if you find that they will be on their own.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our contributors and all of our distributors without whom production and delivery of

 **Chet Contact** across all of our villages would not be possible.

Merry Christmas to all!

Alison



Contents

<i>Cover: Loddon Lights by J Orland</i>		Highlights	
Across the Chet Valley Churches	7-9	It's Christmas, Baby!	2
From the Parish Registers	11	Charitable Funds Available	11
From Your Local Councillors	13	Charity fundraising	25, 30, 31
Parish Council News	15-23	Pantomime Tickets	26
Church notices and Services	27-29	Christmas Community Choir	27
Community News	31-43	MS Fayre	41
History Society	47	Loddon Library	47
Read Any Good Books Lately?	49	Victorian Evening	54
Nature Notes	51	Open House	54
Allotment + Gardening Notes	53	Margaret's Message	56

Ministerial Musings

Wisdom—the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good **judgement; the quality of being wise...**

A member of our family would remind us that the years progress in a seven-year cycle of good times and bad times. They had most likely read in the Book of Genesis about the seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. Joseph had good advice for Pharaoh of Egypt as he warned him to find wise and experienced people who would collect and store up an abundance of food produced in the good years and store it for good use in a time of famine.

There is no denying that we are all living through bleak times and many people are facing very difficult situations. From where do we draw wisdom to guide us in providing all needs for future generations?

In October we celebrated the 100th birthday of an aunt who came with her family to live in Sisland when she was 4 years old. She has had experience of many a hard time, and some wonderfully happy years. She often has some words of wisdom for us, tempered with her quick wit and her sense of humour!

We are all looking forward to the winter solstice when the amount of light starts to increase again, and even more so, looking forward to **Christmas Day when we remember Jesus' birth and the fulfilment of the Scriptures through him.** The people of his time lived in dark and **difficult times. Jesus' mission was to teach a different and more** hopeful way to live in relationship with God. The parables he told, which are recorded in the Bible, pose questions which help us to question our way of life. Understanding these things brings us to find wisdom, courage, hope and a guiding light in the world around us.

As we move into the new year the light of day lengthens quickly. It is always encouraging to notice new shoots of green even in the worst winter. We need light and hope for a healthy life in body, mind, and **soul. Taking auntie's advice of having faith and keep moving on, we** can always hope that experience, knowledge, good judgement and wisdom will prevail in our world today.

Jill Haylock

ADVERTS

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 at All Saints, Chedgrave, starting at 11:00am (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 both 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.

Xtral **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, Covid restriction permitting.

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.

ADVERTS

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

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:

We have suspended meetings for the time being to keep everyone safe until Covid levels have subsided in South Norfolk.

If you are interested in joining the group ring Rev 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 Rev David on 01508 522993.

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

ADVERTS

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

*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

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

1 Thessalonians 4:14, 17b

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 . He can also be contacted about interment of ashes.

Local Charitable Funds

There are two local charities to help local people in need: Loddon Town Estate Trust (for people living in Loddon); and Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund (for people living in Chedgrave or who are regular members of the congregation at All Saints). These have received a boost from monies raised by the monthly quiz at The White Horse during 2021. The charities are only any good if people use them! In the past money has paid for **cookers, carpets; has gone towards solicitor's bills and rent. Please do not feel** ashamed or embarrassed to call on the funds if you need them.

You can access the Loddon fund by contacting Ann Lumley on 01508 528141 or email: annlumley150@btinternet.com. The Chedgrave fund can be accessed by contacting Rev Alison, Rev David or the church warden, Roger Outlaw—contact details on p3.

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 Anne Jackson who is responsible for hall bookings on 01508 502278.

ADVERTS

News From Your Local Councillors



Kay Mason-Billig & Jeremy Rowe

Loddon George Lane and A146 junction roundabout: We are now a couple of weeks into the closure of the George Lane and A146 junction for the construction works. Many people have commented that traffic continues to try to **enter George Lane from Bridge Street, even though this is clearly signposted 'No Entry' and a temporary one-way system is in place.** For access to George Lane, please use Kittens Lane. It is a nuisance and frustrating for those who live off George Lane but Highways assure me it is needed as a safety measure, especially for the school buses. Be aware, the police will be attending and will prosecute anyone they catch flouting this.

Fibre Optic Broadband: I am pleased to report that BT Openreach are going to upgrade the Loddon telephone exchange. Everyone who has a land line connected to it, will get fibre optic broadband to their property from 2023.

Big South Norfolk Litter Pick: Thanks to those of you who turned out to help the litter pick on Sunday 24th October in both Loddon and Chedgrave. Over 30 bags of rubbish was picked up around the villages, well done everyone. (*Sad that there was that much rubbish.* Ed.)

Christmas Lights: We are all looking forward to the switch on of the Christmas lights in December alongside the return of the Victorian Evening. This year there should be more lights than ever with new tree wraps in the Church Plain car park and extra lights at the staithe. I hope to see you all there on the night.

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

Councillor Kay Mason-Billig

Hi, everyone.

With Christmas fast approaching, I'm delighted to say that at ChetChat we're going to be giving out our Christmas hampers again this year. If you would to nominate someone who is over-60 to receive a hamper, can you let me know, either via Messenger or on 07733 323581. We'll be collecting money to go towards the hampers outside Coop on Saturday 11th December 10:00am; any money that people can give, no matter how small, will be gratefully received, and will definitely go towards a good cause.



On Monday 8th November I was delighted to receive a plaque, on behalf of our community, to recognise the community work that groups like ChetChat did during the pandemic. The plaque was presented by Matthew Hutton, representing Lady Dannatt, Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk.

My regular surgeries will start up again in the new year, by which time it should be safe to hold them again. In the meantime, please ring me anytime on 07733 323581 if I can help you.

Finally, I'd like to say how much I'm looking forward to the Victorian Evening, which is back on again this year, taking place Friday 10th December.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe

ADVERTS

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 4th November 2021.

Coronavirus: For urgent help contact South Norfolk Help Hub on 01508 533933 or earlyhelphubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

Traffic Matters: There is increased traffic during the George Lane roadworks resulting in some congestion and frustration.

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY AND COURTEOUSLY IN OUR VILLAGE!

Brian Clarke Room: The room has re-opened. Booking enquiries should be made to Georgina Buckle via brianclarkeroom@gmail.com or 07981 856270.

Council Vacancies: There are two parish council vacancies and your help is needed! If you are interested in your local community and would like to be part of the friendly team which makes decisions about your village, please contact the clerk.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The parish council is considering whether to organise a celebration of some kind. Volunteers are warmly invited to join in with the planning of this and give their ideas. Please contact the clerk, thank you!

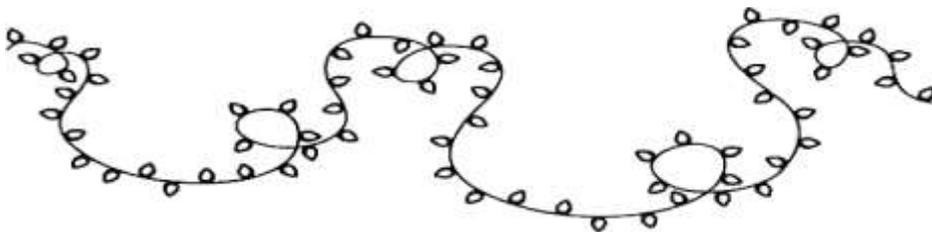
Keeping In Touch: The council would like to improve how it engages and communicates with residents. Do you have any suggestions? Please contact the clerk with your ideas.

Christmas Lights: Switch on will be 10th December and should provide a magical **display once again. Thank you to those households and businesses for "hosting"** lights or providing power.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at the Brian Clarke Room on Thursday 2nd December at 7:00pm. All welcome to attend.

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
& CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG



ADVERTS

Loddon Parish Council

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



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 will be using a contractor to install the LED string of Christmas lights on the properties and businesses on Church Plain, Bridge Street and the High Street. We will be contacting businesses and residents for permission to put up the lights shortly and your prompt response would be appreciated. There will also be additional displays on Church Plain and the Staithe Car Parks. The lights will be in place by the last week of November and removed as soon as possible after Twelfth Night which is 5th January 2022.

Victorian Evening—Friday 10th December 2021, 6:30-8:30pm:

Thanks to the Victorian Evening Committee, the Victorian Evening will **return for 2021, and the event will be the official switch on for Loddon's Christmas lights.**

6:30pm: Church Plain; 'the grand switch on' of the Christmas lights

6:30pm: Father Christmas will be in his grotto at Bay Tree House

6:45pm & 7:15pm: Punch & Judy Show in the Library Annexe Rear Hall

Big South Norfolk Litter Pick—Sunday 24th October 2021: Thank you to everyone who joined us and took part in the Big South Norfolk Litter Pick. There was a fantastic turnout with several sacks of rubbish collected. **LPC has a 'Womble group' and if you would like to join, please contact the office; info@loddonpc.org.uk**

Loddon Parish Council Small Grants: If you would like to apply for a local groups or organisation grant (generally up to £100), please see the PC website for more information and an application form

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: The Agenda will be **displayed on the notice board on Church Plain, and on the Council's** website at least three working days before the meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at the Library Annexe on Wednesday the 8th December at 7:00pm and parishioners are welcome to attend in person. The minutes of the meetings are available on the website:

www.loddonpc.org.uk.

Contact Loddon Parish Council: The office is open between 9:00am-12:00noon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. A face mask will need to be worn as it is a public building. Should you wish to contact the Council, please email: info@loddonpc.org.

If there is a genuine Parish emergency, please call 01508 486128; at any other time, please use 01508 522020. The website: www.loddonpc.org.uk and [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/LoddonPC) is regularly updated: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC, so please follow the page for regular updates.

ADVERTS

Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Eleanor Bannister.

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

Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

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



Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 7:30pm in Hales Assembly Hall (formerly Village Hall), Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on the website three days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Hales Green Cattle Grid: Norfolk Highways were informed of the damaged cattle grid last November. There have been further notifications but it has not been mended and is now dangerous. Please be aware and avoid using it.

Neighbourhood Watch: Do you like being in the know? Alan Hale is giving up this role at the end of December and we would like to thank Alan for his work over many years to help protect villagers. The village needs a new co-ordinator. It involves about four hours a month to prepare the information. Please contact the clerk or Alan (alanhale8@icloud.com) for more information.

Proposal for a 20mph Speed Limit on School Lane: The Parish Clerk welcomes your views by email or letter. Regretfully it is not possible to make representation on the basis of Facebook postings or anonymous emails. The Parish Clerk, however, is able to remove your contact details if you wish.

Neighbourhood Planning: Please tell us your ideas, concerns and questions, so that we can work to improve the village for everyone.

Help and Neighbourly Spirit: Please keep in touch with your neighbours to **ensure that they are alright. If you need help but don't want to ask your neighbour** please get in touch with our Parish Clerk or the South Norfolk Help Hub on 01508 533933 or earlyhelpubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

Road Safety: Please drive considerately and safely. Be prepared to slow down and dip your headlights for pedestrians on our narrow lanes without footpaths. If you are walking, cycling or riding please make sure you are well lit.

Dog Poo: Please pick it up!

Would you like to be a Councillor? We have a vacancy which we would like to fill with someone who is passionate about where they live. The aim is to provide a voice for concerns, ideas and initiatives that could benefit the villages. We are especially seeking residents in Heckingham Park. Full training is offered and time commitments vary based on your level of involvement.

Hales & Heckingham Compost Scheme—Reducing your CO₂ emissions: We have our own Composting Group in the village so there is no need to drive to Bergh Apton to get rid of your garden waste. Please contact Alan Mason for details: alan_mbc@btinternet.com.

Roads and Footpath Issues: If you see anything that is not right on any of the roads or footpaths in the parishes please advise South Norfolk Council through their webpage <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>. There is also a link on our webpage. It would be helpful if you could advise the Parish Clerk too.

Wishing you a Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year

ADVERTS

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Carla Petersen

Tel: 01502 730166 Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com

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

Facebook: To be developed



Speed Awareness Monitoring (SAM): We mentioned in our article last month that Langley with Hardley Parish Council have the use of a SAM device which we share on a three-monthly rolling basis with Claxton PC. This device is mounted on a pole and monitors and records the speed of every vehicle passing the site and indicates the speed on a digital display. You may have seen these with a smiley or frowning face—ours just gives the speed. The theory is that most drivers do not speed intentionally and if they are reminded that they are breaking the limit they will slow down. We have no authority to prosecute speeders—this is purely a gentle reminder but we do get lots of data which we can analyse if we have a speeding problem.

We have five approved locations for the camera: Two on Langley Street, two at Langley Green and one in Hardley Road. The following information has been analysed from the camera data covering July and August 2021 **when the SAM camera was located in Hardley Road opposite 'Whitehaven'** on the entrance to the village. Over these two months, 600 cars per day entered the village. Mondays were the busiest with 700 vehicles and the weekends were only slightly lower with 550. The busiest times were, as expected, from 8:00am to 4:00pm where the average is 45 vehicles per hour. The busiest weekday hour is 5:00-6:00pm when 62 cars entered the village.

The SAM dataset provides two measurements of speed. The average of all vehicles for each hour of every day—there is a lot of data!—and the speed of 85% of all the traffic. This is a more useful measurement than the average as this can be made up of some vehicles doing 15mph and others doing 45mph! The good news is that the 85 percentile speed over these two months was 25mph—the limit is 30mph. A very high proportion of all vehicles were travelling below 20mph. We can conclude from this analysis that we do not have a problem with speeding at the entrance to the village.

The camera will be located in Langley Street outside house number 16 on the 40mph repeater sign post from 21st December to 22nd February; six weeks in one direction and then turned round to face the other way for six weeks.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me:

Roger Stone: rojstone@gmail.com

ADVERTS

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 the new year. As in many villages, Sisland will be holding a carol service at 3:00pm on Sunday 19th December 2021. A traditional service with a number of readings from the Christmas story and traditional carols. Please come and join us if you can. 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? Did you know that whenever you buy anything online—from your weekly shop to your annual holiday—you could be raising free donations for Sisland Church, Norwich with easyfundraising? Easyfundraising.org.uk is an easy way to raise funds just by shopping online. You don't pay anything extra. Sisland church is a registered charity on the site. There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation—including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S—and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

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 first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. **After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Sisland Church, Norwich at no extra cost to you whatsoever!**

There are no catches or hidden charges and Sisland Church will benefit from your donation.

As in previous years Sisland Church will also have a stall at the planned Open House in Loddon. We aim to run a tombola stall for church funds. We look forward to seeing you there.

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.

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



ADVERTS

Loddon Bell Ringers

Our members have been out supporting other practices which are **slowly opening up in the area including St. Mary's in Bungay.**



We have rung two eight bell quarter peals: Turramurra Surprise Major at North Lopham, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Diss for an evensong service.

Two weddings have taken place at Holy Trinity during October at which the bells were rung to celebrate.

As at many churches around the country, bells rang out at 6:00pm on Saturday 30th October on the eve of the COP26 meetings in Glasgow to highlight the need for action on climate change.

Here at Loddon we rang a quarter peal of three doubles methods lasting 43 minutes.

The ringers were: 1 Rona Sporle 2. Val Counter 3. Michelle Clutten 4. Ann M Webb 5. David Webb (conductor) 6. John Green.

Steve Rabong

Jen's Genius Square Challenge

On 23rd-24th October, I successfully completed my 24-hour Genius Square challenge, where I completed puzzles non-stop, while chatting on Zoom, for 24 hours! It was tiring and tedious, but also good fun.

Most importantly of all, you helped me to raise a handsome sum of money for **Parkinson's UK in honour of my brother-in-law**, who was recently diagnosed with **this debilitating progressive disease. This will really help to change people's lives**, both now and in the future, and is much appreciated by the charity!

You can see how I got on by visiting my JustGiving page at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jennifer-Hayden

(Ed: If someone donates another £1, Jen will have reached £1500).

Davy Place

Hi all! Nice to see returning faces and some new ones.

Bingo is well and truly up and running; Mondays at 2:00pm.

Friday 3rd December: Coffee morning on at 10:00am, tea cakes and a few stalls.

Friday 10th December: Trip to Cherry Lane then on to Caister Carvery. There are a few seats available: £25 residents, £30 guests.

Friday 13th December: Xmas bingo—the last bingo till after Christmas.

All the other clubs are still going on. All welcome.

Everyone have a safe and happy Christmas. We will see you in the new year.

Carol Castle 01508 826488.

Chet Valley Voices

We have decided not to start singing for the moment. Please watch out for further information in due course about a new start date.



Sue Martin, Secretary. Tel: 01508 528069; e-mail: suemartin303@btinternet.com

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

Thank you to all volunteers, new ones and our regulars, for all their help during Poppy Appeal week on our stall. Thank you also to Meningitis Shop for the space for the stall and to all the businesses for your Remembrance Displays. Also thank you to Loddon Parish Council for their work to ensure the parade went ahead. Thank you to all who supported our recent branch Remembrance commemorations and Poppy Appeal. The branch also laid wreaths in several other districts.



On Victorian Evening, we will have our gazebo at Cannell's at Chedgrave and a stall also in Holy Trinity Church.

New members are always welcome. These days you don't need to be ex-Forces to join us. Just a wish to support the Royal British Legion. We meet in rear room of Church Plain Library Annexe, every 3rd Monday. Upcoming branch meetings in the new year have been arranged for Monday 17th January 2022 and Monday 21th February; 6:45 for 7:00pm

We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and supporters.

As usual, Loddon Branch Secretary Christine Hartley is available on 01508 521136 should you need help, support or general Legion information.

Loddon Players Pantomime—Beauty and the Beast

Performances at The Alston Theatre, Langley School, NR14 6BJ:
Friday 28th January (7:30pm); Saturday 29th January (2:30pm, 7:30pm);
Sunday 30th January (2:30pm) 2022.

Tickets are on sale from 1st December.

Book on-line at www.funkyfeetperformingarts.com Click on store to purchase tickets;

Book by phone 01508 520301 (from 2:00-5:00pm);

Book in person weekdays (from 2:00-5:00pm) at the Funky Feet dance studio: 1 Langley Road, Chedgrave. NR14 6HD (opposite The White Horse) (Tickets will also be available at the Loddon Victorian evening)

Early Bird Offer (available until 3rd January):

Adults £8, Concessions £6.50, Children (*15 years and younger*) £5,
Family ticket £24 (*2 adults and 2 children*).

From 4th January:

Adults £10, Concessions £8.50,
Children (*15 years and younger*) £6,
Family ticket £28 (*2 adults and 2 children*).



Church Activities

Church Services during the Covid-19 pandemic

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

Our services are also 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 cannot attend church and would like a paper copy of the Sunday service, please contact one of the clergy.

Community Choir for Chedgrave Carol Service

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.

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

We very much expect that the church carol service will take place once again this year having had a year in abeyance due to coronavirus.

The carol service is on Sunday 19th December at 5:00pm

There will be four choir rehearsals. It is best if you can make at least three of them:

Sunday	November 28 th	3 – 4pm
Saturday	December 4 th	2 – 4pm
Saturday	December 18 th	2 – 4pm
Sunday	December 19 th	3 – 4pm

(refreshment break before the service)



To take part, please contact Alison Ball on 01508 528126 or e-mail: ball880am@btinternet.com. Many thanks and hope to see you there.

It's Christmas, Baby!

Our annual Christmas Eve extravaganza returns to Holy Trinity this year. There will be kings, shepherds, angels, the Holy Family and more as the characters tell the Christmas story in their own words. We will also be singing all your favourite Christmas carols. If you have a youngster who would like to dress up and join in with the spirit of the Christmas story that would be splendid. We will be starting at 4:00pm but it probably worth getting there a bit early to make sure you get a seat.

Church Services

5 th December		
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12 noon	Xpressions Café—Preparations	All Saints, Chedgrave
6:30pm	Carol Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon
12 th December		
8:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
7:30pm	Pub Carol Service	White Horse Pub
19 th December		
10:30am	Carol Service	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
4:00pm	Carol Service	St Mary, Sisland
5:00pm	Carol Service	All Saints, Chedgrave
24 th December—Christmas Eve		
11:00am	Carol Singing for 1 hour	Outside Chedgrave shops
4:00pm	Crib Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:30pm	Midnight Service	All Saints, Chedgrave
11:30pm	Midnight Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon
25 th 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
26 th December		
10:45am	Benefice Holy Communion	St John, Loddon

Church Services

2 nd January		
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12 noon	Xpressions Café	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
9 th January		
9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
16 th January		
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship*	All Saints, Chedgrave
4:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
23 rd January		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
30 th January		
10:45am	Benefice Covenant Service	St John, Loddon
7:00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John, Loddon

*All Together Worship will be followed by a bring and share lunch to which all are welcome.

Private Prayer

Our churches are now all open all week. Usually this is between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm. Please be patient if the building has not been unlocked. It usually means that whoever opens it is unavoidably busy elsewhere.

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.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches		
*Every Saturday 6:00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	
**Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing <i>All are welcome</i></p>	
Thursdays during school term	<p style="text-align: center;">Xtra!</p> <p>Join us at St John's for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3:15pm; Service starts 3:45pm More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126</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 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.

Christmas Charity Collections

This year all collections at Christmas services will go to UNICEF supporting **children across the world. If you would like to make a donation but can't get to a service, please leave it in an envelope at St John's Church, George Lane** clearly marked Christmas Donation for UNICEF. Many thanks.

News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon and District Women's Institute

At our October meeting members were treated to a most interesting talk about diamonds. We learned about their formation in the earth, the history of their discovery, and the process which transforms them into the sparkling finished item.

I don't think the majority of us had any idea of all that is involved!

By the time this goes to print we will have had our AGM in November. We will have looked back over a somewhat strange year, but one which gradually brought us together again.

Current Government guidelines suggest caution when meeting in large groups indoors and we will do our best to follow the advice, encouraging members to wear masks and to give each other space. We are fortunate to be able to meet in St Johns, with its large airy room! We look forward to 2022, and hope it will be a better year for everyone. Meanwhile we wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Next Meetings

15th December: Christmas Lunch for members at The White Horse.

19th January: **Speaker: Sue Sursham 'A Trans-Siberian Train Journey'. 2:15 for 2:30pm, (Note change of time), St. Johns Chapel, George Lane.**

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our October meeting was great fun. Members brought their treasures to show **and tell. Among these were Victorian craft artefacts, jewels from King Solomon's mines, a fossilised sea urchin, Victorian handmade handkerchiefs and figures of Colombian copper miners.** These were passed to members to see and discuss. We were so engrossed we nearly forgot to make tea!

Christmas party: 14th December 2:00pm at All Saints Centre, Chedgrave.

New members and visitors welcome.

More details from Angela Dance: 01508 521120 or Audrey Cox: 01508 528393.

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.

Children's Society Box Opening

Many, many thanks to all eighteen box holders for raising £556.14 this year. A wonderful result considering the lack of coins in circulation!



Anne Baker (Box Co-ordinator for Chedgrave)

ADVERTS

Sport

Footballers Wanted!

A friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astro Turf every Thursday evening from 8:00-9:00pm for a non-competitive kick about to keep fit and socialise. We are looking for like-minded people to join us now restrictions have been lifted.

£3:00 per session. First session free.

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



Chedgrave Table Tennis Club

We are a small, mixed group who would welcome a few new players who are able to attend on a Thursday afternoon on a regular basis. We are neither beginners nor league players and play mainly doubles. If you are interested, please phone Carole on 01508 520589.



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

If you have never tried short mat bowls why not give it a go? We are a very friendly, non-competitive club, that plays in groups of up to four people. New members and beginners are very welcome. We meet on Tuesday 1:30-3:30pm in the Jubilee Hall. Just bring flat indoor shoes (no heels), the right money—£3, and a sense of humour. We have spare bowls. For more information call 01508 521958.



Short Tennis Club

Come and join our friendly non-competitive club on Tuesdays 11:30am-1:00pm at Jubilee Hall. All welcome. For more information call 01508 520589.



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?

At the Loddon Ladies Hockey Club 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 Monday nights at Langley School (NR14 6BJ), 7:00pm-8:30pm.

For more information please see our website at www.loddonhockey.com or email hello@loddonhockey.com



Ashby St Mary Cricket Club

We are a small village club, which plays home games at Ashby Hall “The Meadow”, a wonderful location.

For more information, please contact Paul Clemence on 01508 218078.

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



ADVERTS

Loddon Community Gym

Fantastic news! The gym has been awarded a substantial grant to fund new gym equipment as part of the Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund 2021. We are delighted as this is a vote of confidence from Norfolk County Council and will improve the quality of service that we can offer to the people of Loddon and the surrounding area. It is now seven and a half years since the gym first opened and all the current equipment was bought at that time. After thousands of uses in over 900 sessions this is a fantastic opportunity for us to buy brand new, modern, replacement equipment. To maximise funds and make space for the new equipment we will be selling nine items of our existing gym equipment in a bidding process that will start on the 21st November and run until noon on 31st December. Details of the equipment and how to bid are featured on our website.

In the meantime, we continue to welcome back members and are pleased that several new members have joined. We continue to take strong Covid measures to ensure the safety of us all and the pre-booking of gym sessions will continue. <https://www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym> This ensures that there are never more than ten people at any one time and social distancing can be kept. It also means that there is always equipment available for you without having to queue. If you need help with booking please contact Louise and she will book you in.

The annual fee remains at £20 and a cashless payment of £5 per session on arrival is required. For more information keep an eye on the website.

Gym opening hours in the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon as follows:
Mondays: 1:30-6:00pm, Tuesdays: 4:30-8:30pm, Fridays: 10:00am-1:00pm.
Any minor changes to these times will be clear when you book.

Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

Did you know there was one? Where? It's in the Old Town Hall situated in The Swan pub car park. It's a members' club: inter-club league matches every evening; roll ups on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (restricted to the first 12 turning up). The club is in the process of being updated: suspended ceiling installed; new LED lights; hall redecorated.

New members are always needed, just £12 annual subs. Rink fee £2 per session. Just turn up; give it a try. For further information, please contact Paul Clemence (chair): 01508 218978

Hales and Loddon Cricket Club

Hales and Loddon Cricket Club start their indoor coaching programme on Monday 1st November. There are a few places available: Softball 6:00-7:00pm and Hardball 7:00-8:00pm. The sessions will be led by Norfolk player Sam Arthurton.



Volunteers wanted: After a success season on the field, where the club won the T20 cup Division 4 East title as well as the Fair Play Award, we are looking to push ahead and provide a new facility to improve the club for years to come. We would like to build a new clubhouse on our Hales ground and we are looking for people to help us with grant applications etc. If you have a few hours spare, please contact chairman Pete Dye: Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk.

ADVERTS

Social Whist

We are back and meeting every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month.

We meet in the back room of The Hollies at around 7:30pm for a

7:45pm start. The evening is just what it says, 'Social Whist'—a

chance to get together and to play 12 hands of whist with a cup of tea/coffee, a

biscuit, and a chat, half way through. You don't need to have a partner, or even

know how to play well. If you want a fun social evening, with a bit of thinking added

in, this could be for you. We are very mindful of COVID 19 regulations and are

listening to our players to ensure they feel safe. Do join us. If you need a lift to/

from The Hollies this can be arranged—**please call me (Jane) on 528875 and we'll** see what can be organised.

All funds raised are for charity.



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.

Contact cliveboyd@btconnect.com or 01508 520547.



Chet Valley Probus Club

Chet Valley Probus Club is a group of retired business people who meet at

the White Horse Chedgrave on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month

commencing at 10:30am.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be in the new year; we have no speaker in December.

We are a friendly welcoming group who enjoy interesting talks, good company,

good food and just meeting others of a like mind. For further details and an

application form please contact the Secretary, John McCormack: 5a Norton Road,

Loddon, NR14 6JN; Tel: 01508 521899.

Chet Valley Photography Club

Since September our monthly club meetings have resumed as in-person

meetings at our new venue St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane,

Loddon. Doors open at 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. We currently do not

have a programme for 2021/22 so details for our December and

January meetings will be posted on our website when they are available.

Please contact Jackie Franklin: email secretary@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk or

have a look at our website: www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more

information if you are interested in joining the club. The club is open to everyone

regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.



ADVERTS

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

Wednesday 8th December: Christmas meal at The Gull, Framingham Pigot. Menus are available.



Wednesday 12th January: **Jane Steward will come to talk on ‘Medlars— A History’. Jane will be bringing some fruit, medlar jelly and chutneys** for us to taste and buy. Visitors £2. The meeting will be held at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon and starts at 7:30pm.

If you would like to join us you will be most welcome. Our membership is £10 per person per year, which is really good value for money!

For more details contact Chairman Jean Cope on 01502 710024 or email jeancope52@gmail.com or Secretary Hazel Copland on 01508 520890 or email happyhaze50@gmail.com.

Loddon WEA

We are planning for a series of ten face-to-face talks next **Spring (2022)**. We had hoped to have talk on “What is **Criminology?**”, by Mr. Jack Fawbert. Unhappily, his wife has become seriously ill so he has withdrawn.



Luckily for us, Mary Fewster has agreed to step in with ten 1½ hour talks on “The Company of Preachers”. These will show how the religious changes that have taken place in East Anglia over the centuries since the Reformation are revealed in buildings, artefacts and documents, and will also describe the vibrant characters of **‘the preachers’**. **The first talk will be in the Jubilee Hall Clubroom on Monday 17th January, starting at 2:00pm.** There will be no talk on 16th February so the series will end on 28th March.

To enrol for the course, please phone 0300 303 3464 and ask to register for the course by name, giving the WEA reference number, which is C222 8492. The cost will be £59.25, which can be paid either over the phone or by handing a cheque to the branch treasurer at the first talk.

We cannot see the future. We hope that nothing will prevent the talks going ahead, but please be assured that we will take all the precautions still considered necessary at the time. Any further queries, please phone: 01508 521036 or 521976.

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O’clock Club

Welcome back!

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the last Wednesday of each month for a talk from a guest speaker and refreshments. Meetings are held at the Brian Clark Rooms Chedgrave at 8:00pm. A yearly fee is charged and £3.00 for each meeting attended to cover refreshments and outlays. Our first meeting of 2022 will be held on Wednesday 26th January. No speaker at this meeting as we need to discuss whether there is enough interest to continue with the club and be able to afford to invite speakers. Existing members please attend if possible and new members will be most welcome.



For more information, please contact Hillary or June Tel: 01508 520457 or 528853.

ADVERTS

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

Hi everybody! We are currently planning a couple of events for the rest of the year to try to get everybody to socialise again. I also intend to start planning for next year so that we can get a programme of events out during January 2022.

Please note the following: It is important to notify in plenty of time if you intend to join us.

Our ever popular evening with a light hearted quiz and supper. Please bring your own drinks and condiments. Chedgrave Church Centre. £8.00 each including supper. Contact Hillary: 01508 520457.

Pre-Christmas Meal: Thursday 2nd December.

By popular demand, we will have a pre-Christmas meal at the Old Feathers, 6:30pm for 7:00pm. Booking and choices to be made early November with a deposit of £10.00 each. Please contact me in plenty of time. Menus will be given when available. Full payment to be made with choice two weeks beforehand. Contact June: 01508 528853.

Loddon Community Cinema

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



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.

Chedgrave MS Centre Christmas Fayre

Every one welcome to come and join in on Saturday 4th December from 11:00am- **3:00pm at St John's Lecture Hall. Cakes, tombola, raffle and much more.**



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). Our 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.



The next two lectures will be as follows:

Wednesday 1st **December: 'Origins of our English Christmas' by Roger Askew;**

Wednesday 5th **January: 'Petra: Caravan City of the Ancient Arabs' by Dr Neil Faulkner.**

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

ADVERTS

Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

The Day Centre is meeting again, so 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.

Parkinson's

Would you like to meet other Parkinson's sufferers? We will normally meet on the first Monday of the month at the Chedgrave White Horse at 12:15pm. Partners are also welcome.

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

For further details please ring Michael Osborne on 01508 522034.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Sunday 12th December Wintertime Art and Craft Handmade Gift Fair.
Sellers: 8:00am. Buyers: 10:00am-4:30pm.

Discos for Learning Disabilities

Saturday 11th December Christmas Disco

7:00-9:30pm; £5 entry and drinks; All ages welcome.

Contact Jane on 01508 520184 to book a place.

Loddon Flower Club

Tuesday 7th December: Wendy Goodliff—Countdown to Christmas.

Members £5, visitors £10, includes refreshments. Raffle for a Christmas

hamper. St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon, 6:30pm for 7:00pm start.

Saturday 11th December: Christmas workshop. We will be shown how to make three different wreaths and make one. A list of items required is available. Cost £8 to include refreshments. 1:00-4:00pm. To be held at The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.

Friday 14th January: New Year lunch at The White Horse, Chedgrave.

Tuesday 1st February: Lois Gill—The Queen. Lois will be bringing her **knitted Queen to St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon. Visitors £6.** 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start.

Contact Tricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Alex Pinder on 01508 493869 or nmark@aol.com. We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions. Take a look at our website at www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.



ADVERTS

Loddon Library is open!

We look forward to welcoming you back! You can

Browse the shelves

Place and collect reservations

Book one 60-minute session per day on a computer

Collect Tricky Period products

Return items through the drop box or self-service kiosks

Download the FREE Spydus app to check out books on your smartphone

Download eBooks, audio books, newspapers and magazines by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

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

There is no 'Open Library' access

Please bring your library card with you or join in the library or online

Hand sanitiser is available for use on the way in and out of the library

Sorry, there are no newspapers or magazines

We've made some changes to our opening hours

Monday, Thursday, Friday 10:00am-7:00pm; Saturday 1:00-4:00pm

Closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Sunday.

Events

One-to-One PC support will be available each Monday with our volunteer from 10:00am-12:00noon. You can book in advance on: 01508 520678 or just turn up on the day.

Bounce and Rhyme: Mondays from 10:15-10:45am. Please just drop in.

Bookends: Listen to a story and join our volunteer in a craft activity related to the book, alternate Fridays, 3:30-4:00pm

Just a Cuppa – pop into the library for a free tea or coffee. Chat to others in the library or our staff. Fridays 10:30am-12:30pm.

We have plans to restart all our regular events. If there is anything in particular you are missing please give us a ring on 01508 520678 or email us at loddon.lib@norfolk.gov.uk and we will do our best to get these started again this autumn.

www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries



ADVERTS

Loddon and District Local History Group

The fascinating lecture in October by Mike Pinner outlined the findings from the latest digs by the Caistor Roman Project volunteers. These had taken place in Temple Field situated one and a half miles from the Roman Town. **Previous digs in this field in the 1950s had discovered remains that had probably belonged to a temple. Then, in 1989, metal detectors or 'nighthawks' found 1st and 2nd century coins which were earlier than similar finds in the main Roman town. This field was deemed to be an important site and worthy of further excavations, so in the 1990s it had been grassed and scheduled in order to protect it. Caistor Roman Project had to draw up plans and submit them to the Inspector of Ancient Monuments before new work could begin.**

In 2018, with the help of aerial photography, four trenches were dug. No sign of a gateway was found but the southern outer wall of the temple began to appear showing that there had been an upper floor too. Some of this was decorated and plastered. The building material was weighed, examined and then returned into the ground. Finds included a 3rd century green Roman coin, 1st and 2nd century pottery and a tessellated pavement within the building.

In 2019 and again in 2021 ground penetrating radar was applied and the shapes of two temples were seen. The first had probably been built in the 1st century A.D. but then demolished so a second, larger temple could be built on top later. It was noted that higher status building material had been used. **From the evidence found the researchers concluded that:**

Both temple buildings were demolished around the middle of the 3rd century A.D.



Pottery recovered indicates a good life e.g. stamped Samian pottery and quality glass.

The temple complex may well pre-date the town.

The religious focus may be the **reason for the town's existence.**

Evidence of occupation before the Roman invasion of AD 43 is shown by pieces of Iron Age pottery and a rare gold coin pre-dating the Romans.

Another large-scale excavation is planned for 2022 in a field close to Temple Field.

Future Meetings:

15th December: Rowena Burgess—'Swing Riots in Norfolk'.

19th January: Dave Wollweber—'The de Argentein Family: Cup Bearers to Medieval Kings.'

All meetings held in the St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, starting at 1:30pm. Admission £3.

Carole Rylands

ADVERTS

Read Any Good Books Lately?

The Christmas Eve Tree written by Delia Huddy

A poignant tale, illustrated by Emily Sutton, of a small fir tree that isn't wanted by anyone. But when the tree is taken by a homeless boy and decorated it comes alive and gives hope to all who see it. Once Christmas is over the tree thinks it's the end, but then comes a new life and it turns out just the beginning! A beautiful children's Christmas story of tolerance and hope with an environmental theme too.

Sorrow and Bliss by Meg Mason

This is a heartrending story of a woman with mental health issues and how it affects her and everyone around her. The examination of relationships and growing up (and older) is profound and honest. It explores the way we **treat ourselves and other people when we are sure we're the worst or best person alive and comes up with the truth that we're all probably ordinary, doing our best, trying not to muck everything up.**

Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stewart

Shuggie is the youngest of three children and suffers the spiral of his **mother's descent into addiction the most. He's also the child that stays the longest to try and help his mother.** The love that shines through from his mother despite her struggle with alcoholism, the poverty that they never **manage to break free of, despite feeling that this isn't who they really are** and the never ceasing hope that people can change, are elements that made this novel stand out. It was hard to put it down!

On the 'To Be Read' Pile:

Piranesi by Susanna Clarke – **I keep seeing this recommended and it's my next read although it's hard going at first apparently. One for when I have enough time to properly concentrate!**

Wintering A season with Geese by Stephen Rutt – The Times Nature Book of the Year back in 2019 and one that caught my eye recently. **It's all about the migration of geese to the UK at the start of winter.**

Ruth Redford



ADVERTS

Nature Notes

It's 4:30pm and it's already getting dark. Well, the clocks have gone back so at least it's lighter in the mornings. The pink footed geese are back, flying around in disorganised skeins, having bred in the arctic tundra of Greenland, Iceland and Svalbard. We first heard them on 26th October over our home in the afternoon. That morning a red kite flew in circles over the garden long enough for me to get my phone and take some recognisable photos of this pristine bird of prey. I have also heard siskins flying over the garden regularly since the 1st November.

Dog walking around Hardley Staithe near the beginning of October, a great white egret flew over the River Yare, across the re-constructed duck pits, finally disappearing over Hardley Street. It is much larger than the more numerous little egrets; has black feet instead of yellow; and a yellowish bill as opposed to black.

Come to think of it I haven't seen little egrets locally for some time. On 23rd October, again dog walking downstream along the River Yare from Hardley Staithe, I saw another (or maybe the same bird) great white egret over the marshes on the opposite bank. I also saw common snipe, curlew, the usual marsh harriers and heard the pinging call of bearded reedling. Three days previous at the same spot toward Limpinho Drainage Mill, which is a few hundred yards from Hardley Staithe on the opposite bank, was a bittern flying along the river.

During October, again in the garden, this time at dusk we had a young hedgehog disappearing under our side gate. Then a couple of days later under our bird feeders there was an adult and young one. This leads me to surmise that they must have bred in the area, possibly even in our garden. Another surprising find was on the brick work outside our back door: a dark bush cricket, which I was able to identify from the photos I took of it.

Other high points include a possible honey buzzard flying over the garden (though I only caught a fleeting glance of it so was unable to check all the salient points I should be looking for to confirm the species); a merlin and a single golden plover at Seething; kingfishers and a tree creeper entertaining my lunch times while at Earsham Wetland Centre along with the two female fallow deer. (The centre is still shut, I just happen to volunteer there.) Finally, the escaped harris hawk is still around the Hardley/Langley area; it must be some years now that it has enjoyed its freedom.



May we take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year which is blessed by observing the wonderful countryside we live in.

Richard and Rachel Hull



LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING

On Friday 10th December, 6:30–8:30pm, the annual Victorian Evening will once again take place in the town centre. 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:

- Find all the Christmas puddings in a trail throughout the town;
- Father Christmas in his grotto at Bay Tree House from 6:30pm;
- Punch & Judy Show at 6:45pm and 7:15pm in the Library Annexe thanks to Loddon Parish Council;
- **Open house at Holy Trinity Church & St John's Church in George Lane;**
- Fire engine display and BBQ at the Loddon Fire Station;
- Country Market at The Hollies with festive goodies and crafts;
- Vintage steam engines on the Co-Op forecourt;
- Outdoor and indoor craft stalls, food & wine, bar, BBQ & Hog Roast plus live music by Gary Winter at Langley Rd Trading Estate, Chedgrave;
- Brass Band outside The Terrace Bistro;
- Traders throughout the town will be open and welcoming you!

Many of the town's traders throughout the town will be open and welcoming you to thank you for your custom and support throughout the year. We hope good sense will prevail. Please come prepared to wear masks when in close quarters indoors and be aware of social distancing.

If you need any information on the night, please go to the Parish Council Office in the Library Building. Additional car parking is available at Chet Valley Medical Practice and Hobart High School and both car parks will be open.

Open House at the Victorian Evening

Friday 10th December

in Holy Trinity Church and St John's Chapel, Loddon

Stalls will be available for individuals raising money for charities and for local community groups. We are mindful that this is a popular event, and will take steps to ensure safety as much as possible.

To register your interest contact Nina Owen on 01508 522993, email theroamingfenlander@gmail.com

Subject to regulations, the house will be open—do come in!

Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

Winter is the time to prune most fruit trees (except plums as the Silver Leaf **fungus is prevalent when it's cold and damp**) and **plant new bare root fruit trees**, bushes, and canes. Wait until the trees and bushes are leafless and completely dormant. This varies from year to year but seems to be getting later as coming into leaf is getting earlier.

Remember every wound from pruning carries a risk but there are ways to minimise this by cutting straight rather than at an angle to leave the minimum area exposed and allow a callus to form quickly. As a rule, branches should be removed at their point of attachment. Alternatively, they should be shortened down to a lateral branch at a minimum of one third of the diameter of the removed part of the branch. Any ragged ended damaged limbs should be cut below the point of injury. It is preferable to allow the tree to heal naturally, but there are proprietary wound dressings.

This year I have been considering how to prop up some leaning apple trees at the allotments. I will tension the trees in the opposite direction to the lean using rope running through an old piece of inner tube or hosepipe to stop it rubbing. There needs to be some slack to allow for movement and though it seems contrary indicated I have been advised to prune branches on the opposite side to the lean which promotes new strong growth there.



From the Garden

December is the end of the gardening year and the last gardening shows will have been staged last month all being well; first the autumn mini-show held at the Jubilee Hall for the Loddon and District Horticultural Society, followed by the late autumn show for the Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society at St Faiths Centre. It has been almost two years since these societies have held shows. It will be good to see what people have been growing, there is always something new. The Loddon autumn-mini show has a smaller schedule this year, but hopefully we will see a good turnout. The Norfolk & Norwich show is being combined this year with the Norfolk Chrysanthemum Associations late show.

Chrysanthemums have had quite a revival recently along with dahlias as new varieties and colours have been cultivated. I have tried growing Fleur de lis, a fantasy variety, but no flowers as yet—hopefully next year. Lift and store any dahlias and check all climbers are securely tied to their supports. The sweet peas have been sown and the seed order complied.

I am hoping to overwinter a few plants this year in the greenhouse, along with a new collection of cactus and succulents, plus a small banana plant I purchased at the Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society get together in September. If it survives I will plant it in the new Mediterranean bed being constructed over winter. Now off to clear the never-ending piles of leaves on the decking.

If you would like to
advertise here,
please let us know...
c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

Margaret's Message

This summer we lost a very dear friend and neighbour, Margaret Farrell. During our time as her neighbours (20+ years) we looked upon her as family and she us. We spent many happy occasions together at our home **and I would very often sneak her a little slice of "something nice" the next day if she hadn't been included or had declined an event/party.**

As the years went on we were concerned about her welfare as a lady living alone and, without any immediate family close by, we made an arrangement with her that each morning when she got up she would pull her vertical blinds open so that we knew she was ok. We decided from the start that if she did not do this by 9:00am one of us would go round and check all was well; of course it always was but we did have some anxious moments over the years.

Towards the end, as with all older people, she would have the occasional fall or mishap and one of us would be on hand to assist in some way. We persuaded her to invest in an emergency alarm bracelet and it was this that alerted us one morning after she had made the normal signal when unfortunately shortly after she fell in her kitchen. If we had not had that call from the alarm company we may not have known she was in trouble until the next morning as we did not always see her personally every day. Who knows how that scenario could have panned out?

Anyway to cut the story short we would like to put it out there that if you have an elderly neighbour, or in fact anyone that lives alone and could be vulnerable, may we suggest you perhaps you make a similar arrangement; even a sign on a card in the window that says "OK" would suffice.

"Margaret's message" would be a lovely way to remember this marvellous and inspirational woman that we affectionately thought of as our **"mum next door"**.

Thank you, Sue & Nigel Edwards

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