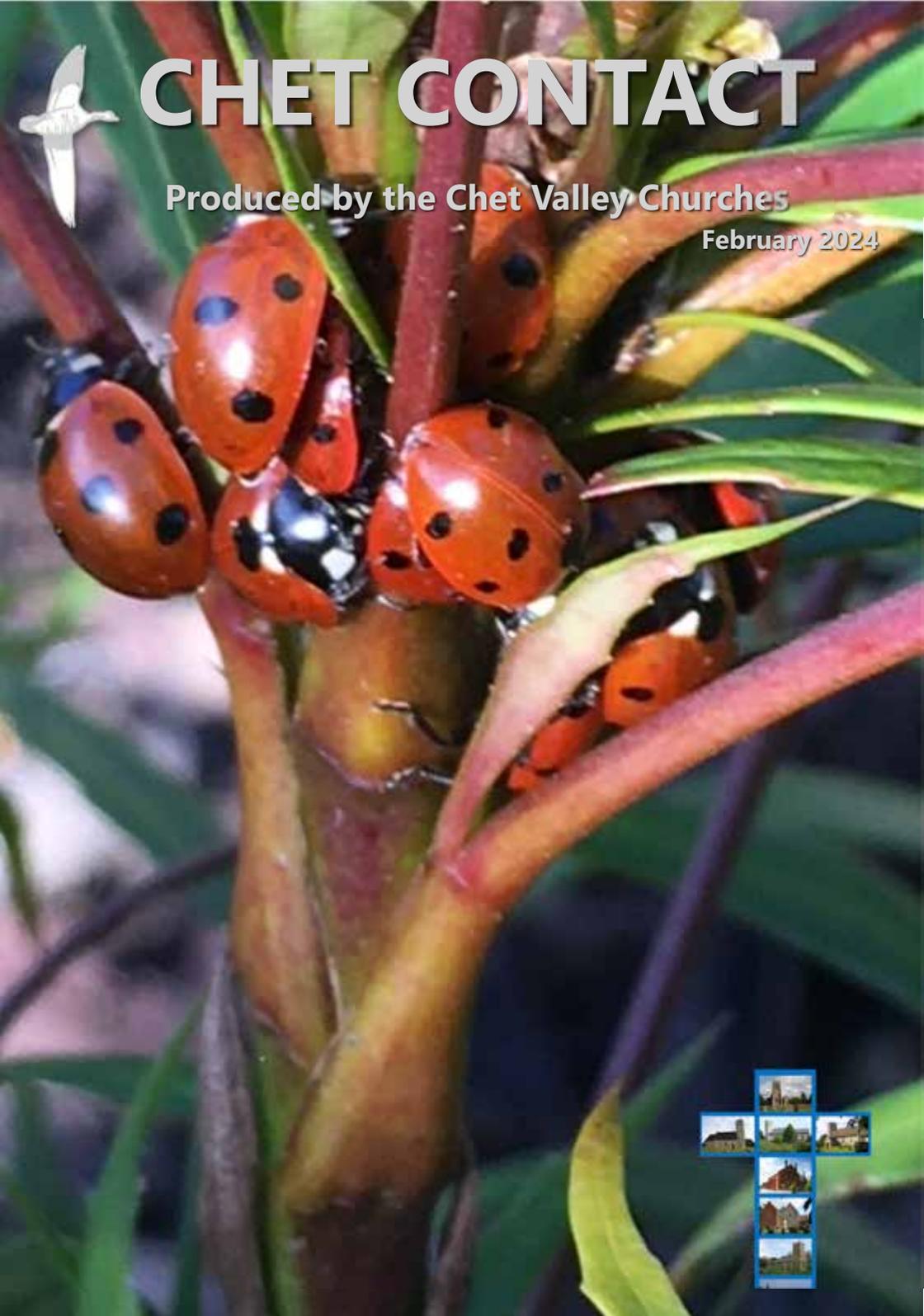


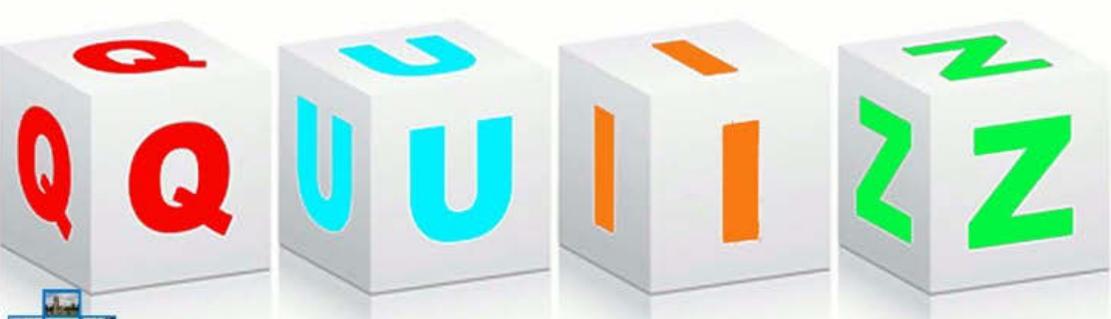


CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

February 2024





Chet Valley Churches

All Saints, Chedgrave

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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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Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

Please include your name and telephone number.



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From the Editor

I'm writing this on New Year's Day and it won't reach you in print for another three weeks yet but, all the same, a Very Happy New Year to you all. I hope you will all find good things happening in your lives and the lives of those you love, in the coming months.

By February we may even find winter has come, apart from a cold week there hasn't been much real frosty weather so far. The article on p50 reminds us of the importance of Trees in our world with February being our next opportunity to consider planting new ones and why it is such a good idea. While I'm on the subject of plants, thanks to Hazel Copland for stepping in at very short notice to cover our gardening section as Shirley is away.

There are quite a few events on this month so be sure to check them out, Highlights below shows where to look.

The team are also looking for one or two extra deliverers and if you've got a little time to spare once a month either email me at the magazine or call me. Details for both on page 3.

Roger



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Ministerial Musings

Dear all,

I am writing this on the 11th day of Christmas (there is the sound of 11 pipers piping in the background!). And to be honest, I was interrupted and didn't get back to it, so now I can hear 12 drummers drumming, as it is now the 12th and last day of Christmas.

I say this because so many times we hear people use the phrase: "All this for just one day", indicating that we have reduced Christmas to a one-day celebration. And our society seems to think that the 12 days of Christmas are *before* Christmas Day. There is a great confusion - coupled with the fact that I bought my first Cadbury's Creme Egg on the 16th December!!

One of the standard Christmas songs from my childhood is, "I wish it could be Christmas everyday", by Wizzard. I understand the sentiment. The song is now 50 years old and is an established part of Christmas TV and radio (and everything else out there).

One day, 12 days, Everyday? Which would be your preference?

2,000 years ago in the Near East birthdays were not celebrated, and we know Jesus wasn't born on the 25th December, but it is his "official birthday". Is that what we are celebrating - Just one day?

Is it right to have an extended 12 day festival? That could be exhausting every year and would exacerbate the loneliness and grief of those alone and bereaved at Christmas.

So how about Christmas everyday, in the sense that what God achieved in and through Jesus when He broke into history can have an eternal effect on us?

As The Message version of the Bible translates **John 1v14**, *The word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood*. That is what happened, and with Jesus in our neighbourhood, in our lives, we can have Christmas everyday - the joy of knowing God personally; of knowing that God hasn't abandoned us; of knowing that peace that the angels said would come with Jesus - the Prince of Peace.

I hope that is your experience, not just for one day, but for everyday.

Martin



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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: We will meet again on Thursday 1st Feb at 12.30pm for lunch, followed by social time and looking forward to what's happening for the group in 2024.

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

Thanksgivings

Ruby Dawn Bradford on 26th Nov. 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

Audrey Turner who died on 28th November 2023

Funeral: 29th December 2023 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Ronald Sidney Howes who died on 13th December 2023

Funeral: 16th January 2024 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Leonard Ricketts who died on 16th December 2023

Funeral: 8th January 2024 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.

Lent Lunches There will be some excellent soups on offer at this year's Lent lunches, which will be held in St John's Lecture Hall between **12noon and 1.30pm on Wednesdays in Lent. Dates of the lunches are 21st and 28th February, and 6th, 13th and 20th March.**



The Bishop's Lent Appeal this year supports a project overseas to raise money to provide water tanks for Ordinands' Homes at Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea, where a new generation of church leaders in the country are training and with which the Diocese of Norwich has a long established link.

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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. 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

Many thanks to everyone for their fantastic support for this year's ChetChat Christmas hampers, which over the years has become a much-loved local tradition.

Having already been delighted to support a range of local groups and causes, I have £300 left from the £1000 Members Grant given annually to each South Norfolk District Councillor; please get in touch if your group needs some financial support.

I'd also like to highlight the Pride of Place Community Grant, which aims to strengthen the social fabric of our communities as well as building resilient, safe and healthy neighbourhoods. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2024.

I'm continuing to enjoy the important role of Chair of Scrutiny at South Norfolk Council, and will continue to ensure that Council decisions, and the work of any group whose work affects South Norfolk residents, is looked at when required.

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: 07592 933174 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 7th December

Happy New Year!

The last meeting was on 11th January after the publication of Chet Contact, hence the limited update.

White Horse Plain/Jubilee Oak Works: Works were completed prior to Christmas. The council will be considering how the area should be used in terms of parking and planters and further updates provided in due course. In the meantime, parking is restricted to cars and motorbikes only please. This is to minimise ground compaction and possible damage to the new surface which could in turn undo the benefit of the work carried out. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

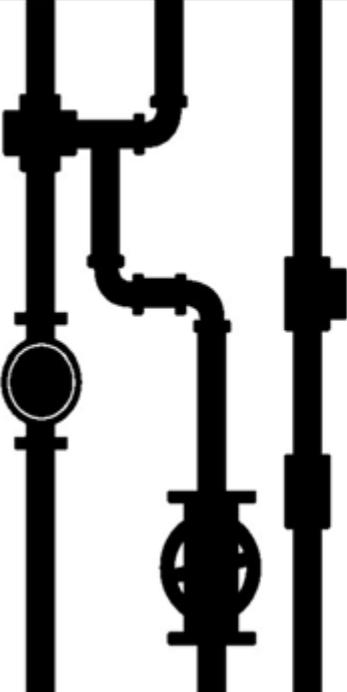
St Felix Park Development Liaison Group: This is the new name of the group established by Cllr Phil Varney to try and secure the best outcome for the development and the village more widely. The group includes members of the public and council and has held two meetings as well as a meeting with Bennetts Housing. Phil has compiled a proposed response to the formal planning application which the council will be considering at its meeting on 11th January.

Pits Play Area: The ongoing works to the play area will hopefully be resolved soon. Please note, there is no driving in the Pits. Thank you.

Cherish Chedgrave: The council agreed to adopt the name “Cherish Chedgrave” for the group of volunteers which carries out various jobs around the parish. Many thanks to those who helped with litter picking, bulb and tree planting at the end of last year. If you wish to get involved, please contact the Clerk, thank you.

Next Meeting: Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7pm 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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Christmas Lights: Loddon has always been known for its beautiful display of Christmas lights and 2023 did not disappoint! Thank you to the Council's contractors; Loddon Garden and DIY for installing the Christmas lights on the houses and businesses on the High Street, Bridge Street and Church Plain and Cozens for once again installing the Christmas lights on the Christmas Tree, the Christmas lights on Church Plain and the Staithe Car Park. Thank you also to the kind people in Loddon that supplied power, including the King's Head, Loddon Garden & DIY, Loddon Swan, The Library, The Hollies and two kind residents on the High Street. Thanks to Loddon **Swan** for kindly providing the Christmas tree. The Council could not do it without your help, so thank you!

Victorian Evening: Thanks to the Chet Valley Festival Group for organising this annual event.

New Police Beat Manager: Josh Ford is the new beat manager for Loddon.
Joshua.Ford2@Norfolk.police.uk

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

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

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

Chet Valley Community Larder: Thank you so much for the donations that are being received for the Community Larder. The larder is in Loddon Library/LPC's lobby and is open to everyone. Open Monday to Friday - 8.00am – 7.00pm, Saturday - 8.00am – 4.00pm, Sunday - 10.00am – 4.00pm. 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.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01508 522 020.



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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

For enquiries contact: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

FB www.facebook.com/Hales & Heckingham Parish Council



Next Parish Council Meeting: 8th February 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 3 days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Power cuts: We are all too aware, there have been ongoing problems with the village power supply. UK Power Networks tell us they are still investigating the root cause of these issues but so far, the fault(s) continue. We are in the process of writing to them to better understand the problems, in addition to outlining our concerns regarding these all too regularly occurrences. If you are vulnerable, please let them know by calling them on 105. The more of us that report these power cuts, the more pressure we can place on UKPN to resolve the problem. Thank you.

Defibrillator: Sited on the wall of Masala Garden along Yarmouth Road, the defibrillator, once switched on, gives spoken instructions and is there to save life. If ever needed, follow the instructions on the cabinet to access.

Hales Green and Permissive Field: Please observe the Country Code and use commonsense. If walking a dog don't let it run up to other dogs or people without permission. If your dog is the aggressor, you are responsible for damages and remember to pick up your dog's poo, it's a health hazard as well as unpleasant.

A not insignificant changeover to our website and .gov domain occurred in December 2023 and thanks go to Phil Grimes for his adept IT skills and hard work.

2024 Village Projects: Next year's budget is starting to be discussed and suggestions for future projects and ideas are very welcome.

Thank you: Resident reported that the Christmas Carol Service held on the 10th of December went very well. Thank you to Reverend David Owen for conducting the service and to all the volunteers who made this possible.

Come and join us – If you are passionate about where you live, we have vacancies to fill. Our aim is to provide a voice for concerns, ideas and initiatives that would benefit our villages and we need your help. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please get in touch with our Clerk for more information.

Do You Need Help? Do get in touch with South Norfolk & Broadland's Help Hub either by ringing 01508 533933 or email helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. They can help with a wide range of problems. Telephones are manned Monday to Friday between 8.15 am and 10.00 pm (except Bank Holidays).



Claire Bullard

INDEPENDANT SCENTSY
CONSULTANT

Phone - 07717535080

Email - cl.bullard@hotmail.co.uk

Website - clairebullard.scentsy.co.uk

Facebook = Claire Bullard - Scentsy Consultant



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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



Next meeting Tues 5 March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome.

Langley with Hardley Parish Council has planted over 200 flowering bulbs around the Parish to give nature a helping hand and brighten up our villages this spring. All the bulbs were kindly donated by a local business. Further bulb planting and litter picks are planned for the coming months.

The Parish Council has been granted a 'Clean up and Bloom' grant funding from South Norfolk District Council. The grant will be used to purchase: litter pick equipment/wildlife conservation (bat/bird and hedgehog boxes)/ seeds and Plants.

**SNOWDROP SUNDAYS – ST MICHAELS, LANGLEY
ENJOY AN EARLY PROMISE OF SPRING BY VIEWING THE
MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF SNOWDROPS IN THE CHURCYARD
AND THE SURROUNDING WOODLANDS OF LANGLEY CHURCH**



**Entrance from The Avenues, Langley, NR14 6BL
Free Entry/Ample free parking in the field adjacent to the Church**

2.00 - 4.30pm Sunday 4/11/18 February 2024

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

The Friends of Langley Church— Proceeds to Church restoration fund



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Notes from Sisland



I always look back at the words of previous entries when considering what I might include in the entry I am composing. Last year my car noted that the temperature was 14°, this morning 5° and raining. We can only comment on the increasing contrasts we see around us. However, for both years, we can reflect on the opportunities of the last few weeks to gather and celebrate the Christmas season, the buzz of activity around the Victorian Evening as well as the carol service where we enjoyed mince pies, mulled wine and the opportunity to chat. We are grateful, with everything that we reflect on in the news, to be able to celebrate and enjoy these occasions. As we progress through the winter months we are looking forward to the longer days and the warmth of spring, but also the plans for community events and other opportunities to gather together.

At the PCC meeting next week, we will discuss other fund-raising opportunities as we wait for initial quotes for the work which needs to be undertaken on the church tower. Although we did need to undertake some work to repair part of the thatch on the north side of the church before Christmas, the work on the tower will require scaffolding as well as the building work and will require an increase in fund-raising activity. This year, as in previous ones, we are hoping to offer Sunday Teas in August as part of this strategy.

The opportunity to come together and share, at Christmas time as well as in the spring and summer is an important part of the Christian faith and demonstrating a supportive community. With so many in our community willing to provide and share food in these difficult times, we will all continue, I am sure, to understand the importance of this work, but also the ability of food to bring many together for the mutual benefit of all.

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

Glass update from All Saints, Chedgrave—January 2024

You may remember that in August last year the windows in the church at All Saints, Chedgrave were vandalised – “The worst damage to a mediaeval window that I have seen,” said the glass conservator, Terry Devlin, about the East window. So what’s been going on since then?

The East window was removed almost immediately and boarded up to prevent further damage or loss of glass. The plain windows that were also broken were removed some time later, and have now been repaired and replaced. That happened a little before Christmas.

We began fundraising in September to raise £38000 required to conserve the mediaeval glass after it has been repaired. We tried crowdfunding through our sister All Saints churches around the country and further afield. Astonishingly they have blessed us with just over £10000 towards our total, and we have been wrapped in prayer. In addition, some individuals have undertaken fundraising specifically for the glass (thanks to Kate and Hayley) and some individuals and businesses in the community have made donations. We were also fortunate to be awarded a grant from Norfolk Churches Trust of £7000. So we are now just over 60% of the way to the total that we require with ~£14000 still to find.

Please look out for our fundraising events during this year and support them. It will be wonderful if we can raise sufficient funds to return the glass to the window before the year is out.

Rev Alison

Tuesday Market



You’ll find us at The Hollies, next to the post office in Loddon, every Tuesday 10:00-11:30 am. Reopening on 13th February 2024.

Indoor Car Boot at Jubilee Hall 10-11 on Sat February 3rd

Refreshments available, 8.45 set up. Contact Vee on messenger or Fb.

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.

Loddon Flower Club

Loddon Flower Club wishes all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.



Start the New Year with a new hobby - Flower arranging!!

It's good fun and we're a friendly bunch, we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday February 6th, Gail Harland will be giving us a talk on - Creating a Cottage Garden.** She will be donating one of her books to raffle during the evening.

The following month on **Tuesday March 6th, Moira Neville will be demonstrating her take on 'Let's Twist'.** Refreshments available during the interval, plus a raffle at the end of the evening for the arrangements made during the demonstration.

Doors open as usual 6.30pm for 7pm start.

Do have a look at our website - www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk - it will give you an insight into what we do other than meet for club nights. We're available to arrange flowers in Churches / Venues for family occasions, for more information contact Tricia (Chairman) on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Jenny (Secretary) on 01508 520254 or jf53rf50@gmail.com.

Loddon Bell Ringers

We rang quarter peals at Loddon and Norton Subcourse on Remembrance Sunday. We have hosted both the Ladies Guild and Norfolk Young ringers at Holy Trinity. Leading up to Christmas, we rang for the Victorian evening, carol and crib services, midnight mass and on Christmas morning itself. We also helped out by ringing for a Christingle service held at St. Mary's, Haddiscoe. We have rung quarter peals at Wymondham Abbey, Woodton, Ashill, St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich and also here at Loddon.



Members took part in two full peals of nearly three hours ringing in each. One at Great Ryburgh, the last of a series of 46 peals commemorating all the men from Great and Little Ryburgh who were killed in WW1. The other at St. Mary the Virgin, Long Stratton. This was the 69th consecutive Christmas Eve peal to be successfully rung at this church. A most remarkable achievement.

One member was recently invited to ring the bells at Westminster Abbey in London following a service held on St. Andrew's day. A special and memorable experience. The annual peal to welcome the new year at Holy Trinity had to be postponed due to covid issues but we hope to reschedule it when we can.

Steve Rabong

Church Services

4th February—Second Before Lent

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

11th February—Sunday Next Before Lent

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

14th February—Ash Wednesday

7.30pm	Lent begins, with Ashing	St John, Loddon
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18th February—Lent 1

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

25th February—Lent 2

9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10.45am	Morning Worship, Methodist	St John, Loddon

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.

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 Upgate, 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

JUST DESSERTS



**Saturday 3rd February, 7pm
St John's Lecture Hall, Loddon**

**An EVENING with the
chance to eat lots of lovely
PUDS without needing to
eat a main course first!**

Ticket price includes light starters, followed by lots of puddings and desserts and tea or coffee. Dietary needs catered for if you let us know in advance.

During the evening there will be a raffle or similar fundraiser.

Tickets cost £8.00 (family ticket £28) and are available from Nina Owen (01508 522993, theroamingfenlander@gmail.com) or at church services in Loddon. For catering reasons tickets are not available on the door.



a fundraising event for the Church in Loddon

Sport

Footballers Wanted!

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



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

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



For more information call Sara on 01508 521958

Loddon Ladies Hockey Club

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

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

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



Loddon Tennis Club

The launch of the Tennis Club was very successful and there are now over one hundred people regularly playing together in Loddon.

Pay and Play is available for £5 per hour via 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 - at Jubilee Hall
Wednesday evenings, 6.45 – 7.45 pm, children aged 8-14 yrs
Thursday evenings, 7.30 – 8.30 pm, children aged 15-18 yrs
Open to all children regardless of ability, just £3.50 per session
Sessions run by qualified coach. Rackets and shuttles provided.



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

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

Our Branch wishes everyone a peaceful and successful 2024.



Loddon Branch and also the Poppy Appeal has had a successful 2023, which is thanks to you all. Both volunteer & those giving their donations.

We look forward to meeting anyone wishing to join our branch - these days, a person does not require to have served in the Armed Forces to join. Just a willingness to help those who have served. The Veterans of all ages, retired/ injured or in need of help.

Our meetings are held in The Lecture Hall, George Lane in Loddon, third Monday evening of each month at 19.00hrs, followed with a cuppa.

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).

Thankyous -Miriam and friends wish to thank everyone who supported the raffle for the Big C at the Victorian Evening. £136 was raised.

Patient Participation Group thanks everyone who supported us purchasing raffle tickets at the Practice and the Loddon Victorian Fair in early December.

Chet Valley Community Larder would like to thank the local community for all their support and donations to the larder throughout 2023 and for all the wonderful donations received for this year's Christmas Bag Appeal. With thanks for collecting donations to: Hobart School, Chet Stores, Co-op, Langley School, Funky Feet and Loddon Library

We thank you for your continued support and send very best wishes

From 'Pat' -I was wondering if I could put a note of thanks to a lovely lady who when I arrived in Chedgrave and was lost took me in her car, showed me the road and then took me back to my car. Her name was Lizzy and she went above and beyond.



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.

What is the best way to shed those extra pounds? By visiting Loddon Community Gym of course! Your Community Gym in the Library Annexe is well-equipped, affordable, friendly and not-for-profit. The Gym will be 10 years old in April and has, from day one, offered the opportunity for our members to achieve and maintain a level of fitness to help improve their wellbeing and quality of life. There is a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, a genuine feeling of a social environment, and definitely no pressure!

We are open on each weekday and full details of our hours and costs can be found at www.loddoncommunitygym.com

Loddon Community Gym. The Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon.

NR14 6EX For more information why not drop by to see us or call our

qualified trainer, Louise, on 07534 946143. We are open each weekday, to

book sessions go to 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 Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri afternoons commencing at 2:00pm and on Tues and Wed mornings at 10:00am. Numbers are restricted to the first 12 arriving. Subscriptions are £20 per year, £2 per sessions for roll-ups and competitions and £3 for league matches. We'd love to see you so just turn up and give it a try.

For 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
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Follow the Gillingham road towards Beccles Quay - just over the bridge on the right; Free parking - call for details



New Branch at 3 Upper Olland Street, Bungay tel:01986 948188

Chet Staithe Probus Club

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

Upcoming meetings:

Feb 6th Wally Webb

Adventures on The Broads

Feb 20th Elvie Herd

Loddon's Past



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

Chet Valley Probus Club

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

Upcoming Meetings:

Tues 13th Feb "Codes and Cyphers and Bletchley Park" - Richard Mann

Tues 27th Feb "The Leprosy Mission" - Daisy Mansfield.

Tues 12th March "Newhaven Court" - Helen Murray.

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

Loddon Community Cinema

Our next presentation is "**A HAUNTING IN VENICE**" **RATED 12, 110 MINUTES. Starring Kenneth Branagh and Tina Fey and directed by Kenneth Branagh. Loosely based on the 1969 Agatha Christie novel "Halloween Party."**

A retired Hercule Poirot living in Venice, invited to a seance and halloween party in a supposedly haunted palazzo, results in a film of jumps and bumps in a gloomy Palace in a storm tossed city.....

SHOWING ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1st 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.

email: loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk





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Loddon and District Women's Institute



Looking back to December, we want to thank everyone who supported our tombola stall in Holy Trinity Church at the Victorian evening – it was a really good evening. Thank you.

2024 promises an interesting programme of events and meetings. February sees 3 meetings including celebrating **Green Hearts Day** – look out for the hearts in and around Loddon and Chedgrave on the 14th, and if you find one take it home to remind you of our concern for the environment and the part we can play in caring for our beautiful world.

Thursday 8th Feb. Knit, Natter and Crochet. Loddon Library. 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

Wednesday 14th Feb. Green Hearts Day

Wednesday 21st Feb. AGM and craft activity. **Afternoon meeting 2.15 for 2.30 p.m.** St John's Chapel George Lane.

Saturday 24th Sewing and Craft Day. 10.00a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Bring whatever you're working on. See what others do. Enjoy a relaxing day.

To book for this event email loddonwi@gmail.com or call 01508 528912. £5.00 per person. Bring a packed lunch. Tea/Coffee, etc. provided.

For further info—see our Facebook page or ring 01508 528912.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our next meeting to be held on Tuesday 27th February will take the form of the AGM. All members are asked to attend if possible.

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. From January it's back to normal: (2nd Friday) and (4th Friday) each month. 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

Our next meeting is on 14th February when we have a talk by Peter Skeggs-Gooch on A complete guide to Clematis. Peter is the third-generation owner of award-winning Thorncroft Clematis. Having grown up living at the nursery, Peter has been surrounded by clematis from 5 years old and his talk will cover all you want to know. The meeting starts at 7-30pm and is held at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon. Refreshments are available and a raffle held. Visitors £2. Our meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday of the month.



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. Follow us on Facebook.

Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)

We meet in St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. Details for our next meeting on Monday 12th Feb. will be posted on our website 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.

COFFEE MORNING AT AVOCET

Saturday 17th February 10am to 12 noon, Val Counter invites you to a Coffee Morning at Avocet, Norwich Road, Chedgrave in aid of the Church in Loddon.



Relax, Chat, Buy a cake or have a go in the Raffle.

Any saleable items gratefully received.

World Day of Prayer – Ecumenical Movement

The women of Palestine write:

“I beg you, bear with one another in love”

Singing practice in St John's on Monday 26th February at 10.0 am

Service on Friday 1st March at 7.0 pm

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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: 28th February

Contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

WEA



We had a very enjoyable light hearted look at Christmas Movies with Nigel Hewin before Christmas and are now looking forward to our Spring Course, which started on 22nd January, on Crime Novels through Time with a lecturer from UEA.2.00 - 4.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall. For more information please telephone Sharon, 01508 520386 or Alison, 01508 521976.

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

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.

Wed7th Feb- London, City of Scientific Discovery by Aaron Hunter.

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>.

Thankyou -All Saints Chedgrave were collecting for Embrace the Middle East at The White Horse Carol Service, the Church Carol Service with the Community Choir, carol singing outside the shops on Christmas Eve and at the Midnight and Christmas Day Communion services. They were delighted to be able to send £416.87 to the charity. Many thanks to all who contributed.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

The November talk was a talk with a difference. Georgette Vale took on the persona of Harriet Martineau and appeared dressed in a purple outfit and bonnet, fashionable in the nineteenth century. As Harriet she spoke about her life. Harriet was born in Norwich in 1802 but later on moved about the country and even visited the U.S.A. as well as countries in the Middle East. Her writing led to her becoming well known and she met a lot of famous people of the time including Wordsworth, Charlotte Brontë, Florence Nightingale and Coleridge.

Harriet's family were reasonably well off but her father lost money from his business and he left Harriet destitute when he died in 1824. On top of this Harriet had realised she was going deaf when she was 12 but by the age of 18 the condition had worsened. She decided not to ask people to repeat themselves but to rely on friends to give her essential information.

Harriet read widely about the social issues of the day and wanted to write about her views for newspapers and reviews. She also needed to earn her own living but it was not thought suitable for genteel women to write professionally so she referred to herself as 'V from Norwich' when she submitted her first articles and was pleased when they were accepted. Her writing career took off so she moved to London to be nearer to her publishers and started to write about important political issues of the day including the Corn Laws, the new Poor Laws, the need to abolish slavery and how to repress contagious diseases. She also wrote articles about religion including publishing 'letters between myself and Henry Atkinson on atheism' which outraged London. Her parents had been Dissenters but she had chosen to become a philosophical atheist. Harriet's pamphlet on 'Eastern Life' illustrated the origins of some of the old established faiths she had met on her travels in the Middle East. She became a successful social, economic and historical writer in her lifetime as well as writing 2 novels.

Unfortunately for Harriet she had several bouts of incapacitating illnesses including a 2 year bout in 1832-33 and another 5 year episode starting in 1839. She later moved to Ambleside in the Lake District and experimented with farming but a heart condition slowed her down for the last 20 years of her life. She died in 1876. She was a remarkable woman which her birthplace, Norwich, has acknowledged by naming Martineau Lane after her.

Next meeting:

Wed 21st Feb: A.G.M. plus info on archive material recently acquired.

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?

Monkeewrench, by P.J. Tracy review by -Drew Bould – Angel Book Group

This thrilling novel was written by mother and daughter duo P.J. Tracy, revolving around Grace MacBride and her eccentric software development team who “... create a computer game where the killer is always caught, and the good guys always win.” Their game soon becomes a nightmare, however, when fictional murders are replicated in real life and the team must come together to identify the murderer. There are plenty of twists and I was immediately hooked from start to finish. Diverse characters enrich the story making this thriller all the more enjoyable and, for those left wanting more, there are a further nine books in the series to date.

Incredible Journey, by Sheila Burnford review by Jacqui Richardson

This timeless classic narrates the difficult and brave journey taken by three pets towards the family they love, over harsh and dangerous terrain in Canada. The animals, Bodger, an old English Bull Terrier, Luath, a young Labrador, and Tao, a stoic Siamese cat are pets of the Hunter family who live in Northwestern Ontario. The family leave for England for a few months and their adored pets are left in the care of a man who then leaves for a two-week hunting trip, Luath urges the other two to take a journey towards their original home which is about 300 miles away.

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow, by Gabrielle Zevin

I think this must be my favourite book I read last year. It's an outstanding coming of age novel about friendship and heartbreak, set in the creative world of gaming. Sam and Sadie connect through video games at a very young age and become very successful at making their own games in later life, resulting in success, money and fame but it's not all plain sailing. A uniquely brilliant novel!

Wolf Hall, Bring up the Bodies and The Mirror and The Light, by Hilary Mantel

I listened to the audiobooks of these over the course of December and thoroughly enjoyed them. Mantel has such a gift for breathing life into history and making you feel like you're back in time with all the characters, and what a set of characters – Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Thomas Cromwell (not Oliver!) and so many more.

I want to read Murdle, by G T Karber

I love a puzzle and a detective series and this seems to have taken both elements and put them together. It's a series of puzzles which help you unlock clues to work out who is the murderer. I believe there is an online Murdle daily puzzle as well so if you get completely hooked you can continue!

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Nature Notes

Firstly, apologies for the absence of Nature Notes in the December. They were written and sent but disappeared into the abyss of lost emails. So, you missed my wishing you all a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year plus a New Year's resolution, to enjoy our beautiful countryside or even watch what is about through a window. The list is endless and even if you don't know what you are looking at, just appreciate and enjoy it.

So now it's 2024. Recent mornings leaving home, we are serenaded by a Mistle Thrush high in the treetops. It's two phrases "Spring is coming, oh yes it is" is supposed to help you recognise its song, but I find I need quite a vivid imagination to match the two. It does encourage us on these wet and windy days that the harbinger of Spring is singing.

I remember that Pinkfoot Geese appeared around mid-October. I was in the garden early and heard and saw two small skeins fly over our home, one of 33 birds and the other of 22. Since then, they have been regularly grazing the marshes between Hardley and Hardley Street. Other times they to feed on the other side of the Yare, so I only get distant views of them flying. Out with the dogs last thing at night I hear them on occasions flying back to their roosts and wonder how so many birds manage to land close together in the dark without causing chaos.

On November 1st I saw a bird on the Yare I have never seen here. Normally they over-winter on the sea. As soon as I saw it, I knew it wasn't one of our usual Cormorants, it was a Diver and I realised it was the most common one, a Red throated Diver, but even so very rewarding so close to home. It was there for a couple of days. This year I've also seen its larger "cousin" the Great Northern Diver, a little further from home at Hamilton docks in Lowestoft. I had been unsuccessfully looking for Purple Sandpiper, a small over wintering wader, when a fellow birder told me about the Diver, so I went along and sure enough I had some great views of the bird. I'd seen 10 Purple Sandpiper at Ness Point the last week of 2023.

Although the weather has been wet and windy it has been mild and on two evenings recently I have seen a Hedgehog. Also, along the Chet by Chedgrave Common I saw odd movement in the reeds and was enthralled to see an Otter slowly make its way down the river. Although you will be reading this in February, it's not too late to make a New Years resolution. Maybe even learning the songs of some of our garden birds, but whatever you decide, enjoy the beauty of what is around us and let it gladden your spirit even on the dull days. **Richard and Rachel Hull**



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Allotment Notes

From the Allotment

My avid reader gave me some helpful feedback on my last article which was about some new allotment holders unrealistically low expectations of time needed.

Firstly, I didn't say how much time, just "a lot more than you think"; so, to be more precise I think my plot of 250 m² takes me around 6-8 hours a week now its established. The time is not spread evenly across the year with more time in Spring and Autumn. It will be more when getting going on a new allotment and even more if you're a perfectionist, neat edges and straight rows! Plants don't seem to notice.

Secondly, that it wasn't helpful to novices, possibly even curmudgeonly! I'm as resistant as the next man to taking advice, but this made me think. I knew about gardening from my grandfather and father, but many people today may not have grown up with such ready examples or even gardens. My grandfather was wounded at Ypres and unable to go down the pit so worked in a tobacconist shop, which did not pay well. However, he had an early council house which typically had large gardens and was able to grow his own fruit and vegetables as an essential contribution to the household. Selling chrysanthemums helped with Christmas.

In my next Contact article, I'll start a series for anyone thinking of growing fruit and vegetables, whether in an allotment or garden, from scratch. **Andrew Milner**

From Another Garden

It was such a treat to wander around the garden this morning to the sound of bells, a gang of Jackdaws and the high sweet notes of a robin and wren, particularly as it's rain free for a change. Luckily our garden is situated quite high up so it's not become swamped, I have had to regularly empty the drip trays containing my nursery plants to ensure they don't rot off.

There are but a handful of red berries left on the Holly tree and Pyracantha Coccinea growing up the wall of the shed, the Blackbirds have been feasting well.

I am filled with excitement to see that green bulb shoots are poking up all over the garden, there are even stems of Narcissus with their blooms still tightly encased. 2 yellow Crocus Specie are out and several of my fantastic Hellebores are blooming. When the first flowers arrive I don't much care what the weather throws at us, the magic has begun and there is no stopping it now!

Last week I pruned the blackcurrant bushes, removed some old woody stems, ensuring a nice 'vase' shape. I cut autumn fruiting raspberries right down and tidied up the gooseberries, removing about a third of the branches and ensuring there were no crossed stems. It's also time to prune apples and pears but avoid pruning cherry and plums in winter, they are prone to disease, wait until the summer.

Hazel Copland

On Behalf of The Trees.

As many of you may already be aware, I was once Tree Warden for Langley with Hardley, for a total of 22 years. Along with my friend Eric Wilkinson, warden for Chedgrave, I planted and cared for many trees in our parishes and also around the Loddon area. The Tree Warden Scheme, run by South Norfolk District Council under the guidance of Robin Taylor, seems sadly to have fallen apart over the past few years. As I understand, there are currently no tree wardens in Loddon, Chedgrave or Langley with Hardley, at the time of writing and consequently the trees in these areas have no one to speak for them. I am sure that, in these modern times, it cannot have escaped anyone's notice how important trees are to our survival. They are the bedrock on which we all depend for life and yet they too are now seriously under threat. Without them we would all die. Trees support all creation in a myriad of ways, too numerous to mention here and yet they still seem to be regarded with disdain. Across the English countryside they have been removed by their hundreds, in recent months, in order to build a new railway, which now seems to be under question as to whether it will be built or not. In our local areas too, I am witnessing trees being cut down just because they are considered to be 'in the way', with no regard as to the vital role they play. February is right in the middle of the planting season and everyone should be planting, not cutting down. If you could all plant just one tree each, this month, just think what a difference that could make. Of course, it is not just planting but also looking after them as they grow. Newly planted trees take time to establish whether they are bare rooted or pot grown. They need regular clearing around the base, ties and guards checked and eventually removed and sensitive pruning to shape them into a desired form for the future. Too often, as we have seen recently with the planting around the new Loddon roundabout, they are put in and just left with no thought of watering in the dry months or any of their other needs. This, as I am sure you have witnessed has resulted in many just giving up and dying. What a waste of time and effort not to mention the cost! So in this coming year I am urging you all not only to plant but to care a little more and if you notice a tree that you think needs attention, don't just ignore it. Contact the land owner and point it out to them or maybe, offer to look after it yourself, until it is mature enough to cope. Trees cannot speak for themselves so I am taking this opportunity to appeal to you all. Please don't ignore the fact that we desperately need trees and tell your children too as it is their lives that will depend on them in the future, along with all of the natural world. Thank you.

Carol Webb.

'Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees'. Rev. 7. V3. (K.J.V).



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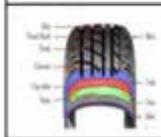
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