



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

May 2021



Chet Valley Churches



All Saints Chedgrave

Spring Fair and Plant Sale

Saturday 22nd May

10:00-12:00

**In addition to the plant stall,
there will be homemade
cakes and other stalls.**

**Stallholders will be masked.
All are asked to ensure social-distancing.**



Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

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Church Office

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

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

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

Weddings, Baptisms, Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of a Child
To arrange any of the above please contact the Church Office.



Church Websites

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



Chet Contact

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

Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

Hand written submissions can be handed in at the Church Office.
Please include your name and telephone number.



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Disclaimer

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Ministerial Musings

As the deadline for material to be published in Chet Contact is the **eighth of the month, I'm writing this on Easter Eve. It seems strange to be looking forward to next month when we've only just started** April but time passes quickly and before we know it, it will be May.

Two important dates in the churches calendar this year occur during May. One of them is Ascension Day, when we celebrate **Jesus' return to heaven as king. It is the fortieth day of Easter and** marks the end of the Easter season. During those forty days, we remember and reflect on the appearances that Jesus made to his disciples. Ascension Day is celebrated on a Thursday, this year the 12th, **and because there's no holiday or gifts and cards associated** with it in this country, it passes most of us by. This is a pity because **if Jesus hadn't returned to heaven, he would not have been able to** form relationships with people through the ages. Neither would he have been able to empower his disciples with the Holy Spirit.



We remember this at Pentecost, fifty days after Easter; this year on the 23rd May. Christmas, Easter and Pentecost are the three main Christian festivals and I would guess that Pentecost is the least well known. Several followers of Jesus had gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem when the whole place was filled with a sound like rushing wind and tongues of fire appeared on each head. The change in the disciples was even more dramatic! No longer afraid, Peter addressed the large crowd, telling them about Jesus and many believed what he said. This was the beginning of the gospel spreading beyond Jerusalem to eventually **the whole world. It's still spreading** because Jesus is alive and sends his Spirit still. This is why Pentecost is often called the birthday of the church.

Thanks be to God!

Ros Hoffmann

From the Editor

What a joy it is to be receiving copy from many of our regulars who for so long have had little to say. Various groups and activities are opening up once again and events are being planned which is great! Whether it is the Community Gym, Bullrush Babies, Photography Club, Monday Mardles, or the Library, hopefully you will find something that will suit your taste.

Of course, at the time of printing, our cafés and pubs will be open for outdoor service. I am sure that all of them would be pleased to **see you; let's hope the weather improves (snow today) so that it will** be a pleasure rather than an ordeal.

I wonder how we will cope with being together again after having been separated for so long. It may not be as easy as we think. For some, after having been separated for so long, it may be a bit of a trial. Some may not be ready for a noisy crowd whilst others may be **wanting to party. So let's be gentle with each other, accepting that** we will all respond differently.

But however strange it may be, I am sure that the thrill of seeing friends and family and being able to give them a hug will make it all seem worthwhile.



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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, starting at 11:00am at All Saints, Chedgrave (January, March, June and September are followed by shared lunch).

All Together Worship is designed to be as inclusive as possible: a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness. In short, we will attempt to provide a service which will have points of connection for children and adults—indeed people of all ages and all backgrounds.

Last Sunday Praise **is held on the last Sunday of the month at St John's**: a chance to sing old and new Christian songs and worship together.

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 request thanksgiving and baptism for your children.

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

Baptisms are held within the Sunday worship in our churches.

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

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

Noah's Ark

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



Wednesdays 9:15am-12 noon.

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

Friends and Neighbours

If you've been widowed

or have lost your life partner come and join

us at St John's Lecture Hall on the first Thursday of the month. Make new friends, enjoy tea or lunch together.

Next Meeting:

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

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



Small Groups

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



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

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

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

Monday Mardles

If you like a relaxed and informal chat with others or are looking to meet

some new friends, join us at a Monday Mardles for refreshments and to swap books at Chedgrave Church Rooms.



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

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

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

More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

ADVERTS

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

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

*Heavenly Father, we praise you for these children.
Surround them with your blessing that they may know your love,
be protected from evil, and know your goodness all their days.*

Common Worship

Funerals

There have been no recent funerals in the registers so let us pray for all families who mourn loved ones who live in our villages.

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

Thanks

The Corke family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages, cards, tributes and donations to Tracyann and Daniel for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Thanks to all involved with the funeral.

LOCKDOWN

On the weekend of 3 July, in Holy Trinity church, Loddon, there will be a chance to celebrate some of the things we did or learned during Lockdown. If you learned a skill, made or designed something, did something for the community, discovered local walks, took photos or anything else, please take part in the display.

If you're a crafter and would like to sell what you've made, there will be a charge of £10 for a table.

There's plenty of space so we can do this safely.

Crafts to buy

Displays to see

Outdoor cafe

Plant stall

UNLOCKED

Details from Nina Owen, 01508 522993,
email: theroamingfenlander@gmail.com

ADVERTS

News From Your South Norfolk District Councillor



As promised, we managed to deliver almost a hundred bags containing Easter eggs, hot cross buns and daffodils to our over-60s friends and neighbours over Easter. Each bag also contained a personally-addressed **Easter card, for which we're grateful to the staff and children from Loddon Primary.**

I'd also like to thank our brilliant ChetChat team of volunteers, as well as Morrison's and Tesco in Beccles for their generous support, and end with a massive thankyou to our friends at Spoon Cake, for an incredible £300 donation, which more than covered the whole project.



Our next ChetChat event will be a sponsored walk from Loddon to Hardley Mill in the afternoon of Saturday 18th September, which will raise money for our group and for very important local causes.

If you know anyone over-60 who might like a regular visit or phonecall, or just some help, please let them know that we are here to help. They can contact ChetChat on 07876 050110.


In other news, South Norfolk, working with the Chet Valley B-Line project, have identified sites in Loddon in which they are planning to leave **some areas uncut, as part of the 'Don't Mow, Let It Grow' initiative. The areas are: Leman Grove, Harvey Green, Gilbert Grove, Filbert Road, The Staithe and Pyes Mill.**

My regular surgeries will start up again later this Summer, 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.

It's a great privilege to serve our fantastic community. Thank you.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe

Holiday Club 2021

For the last sixteen years or so, we have held an annual holiday club in Chet Valley Churches lasting for a week in the school summer holidays. I wonder how many of you remember Pyramid Rock, Paul Aboard, Torchbearers, Eco Warriors, to name but a few. Some who came to the earliest clubs as children became Young Leaders later on and then Adult Leaders when they reached 6th form. Of course 2020 was the year when much was cancelled, so no holiday club. But this year, we hope to be back! Watch out for **further details in next month's**  Chet Contact.

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



Loddon War Memorial Event: May 2021 marks the centenary of the building, unveiling and dedication of Loddon War Memorial. To mark and commemorate this first landmark centenary, Loddon Parish Council cordially invite you to join us at a socially distanced outdoor service of re-dedication at 4:00pm on 23rd May 2021 at Loddon War Memorial, Church Plain. For more details regarding the history of the War Memorial, and the event itself, please see p54 of this magazine or visit; www.loddonpc.org.uk/warmemorial.

Notice Boards: Thank you to Patrick Webster for renovating the Pyes Mill wooden notice board. It has been transformed and the council are very grateful for the time and materials Patrick invested. Thanks also to Panel Graphics for generously donating the perspex and Breydon Enterprises GY for donating some of the oak materials used.

Tennis Courts: Now available for bookings; www.loddonpc.org.uk/tennis-courts.

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

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

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

Future Meetings 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 12th May 2021 at 7:00pm. Until guidance **allows, parishioners must attend remotely via 'GoTo Meeting' (details for remote access is available on the Agenda).**

Contact Loddon Parish Council: The office will reopen to the public on Tuesday 13th April 2021. The office will be open between 9:00am – 12:00 midday on Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Please phone 01508 522020 to make an appointment prior to visiting. A face mask will need to be worn as it is a public building. Should you wish to contact the clerk via email; clerk@loddonpc.org.uk or the finance officer; finance@loddonpc.org.uk. If there is a genuine Parish emergency, please call; 01508 486128, at any other time, please call 01508 522020. The new website: www.loddonpc.org.uk and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC are regularly updated

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)



CHANGE OF DATE

Annual Council & Annual Parish Meetings Wednesday 5th May.

Annual Meeting of the Council at 6:00pm. Annual Parish Meeting at 7:00pm. All welcome to join either or both—contact the clerk for details. Agendas are displayed on the bus shelter notice board opposite Masala Garden and on our website three days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Any Questions at Masala Garden—Thursday 20th May, 5:30pm-7:00pm

You are invited to drop-in to meet a **Parish Councillor and our Parish Clerk. It's a** chance to ask any questions, make recommendations and meet us.

Hope to see you there!

Litter Picking—Saturday 15th May 2, 10:00-11:00am

Meet us in Masala Garden car park for an hour's litter picking session. We have rubbish bags and seven long-handled pickers for use but please bring your own gloves and remember to socially distance from other family groups.

Calling All Dogs!

Could your owner be a Green Dog Walker?

Do they always clean up after you? Dispose of the bag responsibly? Carry extra bags? Gladly give a bag to those without one? Be a friendly reminder to other dog walkers to clean up after their dog?

If so please could you let us know.

Councillor Vacancies

We have two vacancies and would love to hear from you.

Composting Group Contact Alan Mason for more details.

alan_mbc@btinternet.com or on 07738 933316.

Unsung Heroes

Thank you to Stuart Scarlett for your help repairing equipment at the playing field.

Thank you also to Manik for generously allowing us to use Masala Garden as a venue for our drop-in and the car park as a meeting place.

The Lump has Gone!

We are delighted that after two years of lobbying Norfolk County Council we have lost the bund on the roundabout approach.

Plant Stall

The Church in Loddon has a plant stall in aid of church funds at Avocet, Norwich Road in Chedgrave. They would be pleased to receive empty pots for filling as well as to sell you some plants. Please drop them off at Avocet, or leave them in the church porch. Many thanks.



ADVERTS

Chedgrave Parish Council



All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

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

Website: www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk

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

Chedgrave Parish Council held a virtual meeting on 1st April 2021.

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

Grebe Drive Play Area: The play area is open and has been enjoyed by many children already! Many thanks to all involved in funding and delivering this facility.

The Pits: Wildflower seeds, donated by the B-Line, have been planted and should provide a pretty display in the area and habitat for insects.

Neighbourhood Plan: Four individuals were nominated to represent Chedgrave in the joint plan. Any further members of the public interested in helping are encouraged to contact the Clerk.

A146 Junction: Julian Fonseca, NCC - Network Safety & Sustainability, provided an update on proposed junction changes. The aim is to improve junction safety. However, the scheme will not provide breaks in traffic to ease Chedgrave traffic joining the A146 to Norwich during busy times which councillors expressed as the key issue.

Donations and Grants: The council awarded various amounts to Chedgrave PCC, Three Rivers Community Gym, NARS, EACH and Chedgrave MS Therapy Centre.

Footway Lighting: **Councillors agreed to source electricity via “SSE Green” a 100% renewable energy tariff.**

Wherryman’s Way: Efforts continue to reinstate the path. Concern was raised at the state of the mast at the Common and this will be followed up.

Planning Matters: Three planning applications were considered:

2121/0372 – **Land adjacent “Wayside”, Pits Lane** – the council opposed this application because it is outside the development boundary, within the conservation area, **over-develops the site and will be overshadowed by “Wayside”.**

2021/0522 – 28 Proctor Rd – the council opposed this application because it over develops the plot, is an unattractive frontage, is overpowering and out of character.

BA/2021/0097/FUL – 21c Church Close - approved, no comment.

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

2019/1465 – White Horse Plain improvements – approved 11th March 2021.

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

ADVERTS

Notes from Sisland

As we emerge from the colder weather—and it is snowing as I write this—the farming year continues upon its cycle. Spring emerges from the cold of winter as the soil is being prepared for the coming season, and we can appreciate the noise of birdsong in the air. For the organic vegetable grower in Sisland the hungry gap is a beautiful time but also a difficult time of year. Called the hungry gap as we come to the end of the winter vegetables and little is yet ready to harvest from the field. A challenge for growers everywhere.



May, in Sisland, is also the ideal opportunity to visit Sisland Carr. A small wood of mixed trees and managed by the Woodland Trust. There are a couple of paths which circulate around the trees and make for a very pleasant stroll. The wood contains a conifer plantation as well as some stunning mature beech and oak. The site has also recorded some locally rare moths and noctule bats and you can often see rabbits and deer. If you visit you will be able to see the fenced plots which are being used to assess the impact of the deer and rabbits on the vegetation and regeneration of the undergrowth. At this time of year, the area is known for its stunning display of bluebells and in previous years these have been highlighted by some of the national newspapers for the stunning display. A true carpet of vivid colour. There is road access up to Sisland Carr and a small car park, but, as many will be aware, the access road is quite variable so care is required.

May is also an important month for St Mary's as we are hoping to hold our Annual Friends Service on Sunday 16th May at 5:00pm, which will be a service of Evening Prayer. This provides us an opportunity to say thank you to the Friends of St Mary, as well as an opportunity to update members on the work that has been undertaken in the previous twelve months and to discuss planned work required on the tower. If you would like to know more about the Friends of St Mary, which is an organisation which supports the work of preserving and maintaining the building, then please contact the secretary (family.bryce@btopenworld.com) who would be happy to send you further information. As well as the Friends service we also have an annual newsletter to keep everyone up to date with work planned as well as other events in the village. We are certainly hoping that our August teas will also be possible later this year, something that many people missed last year.

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

ADVERTS



Our Norfolk Swift Response Service is available 24/7 by calling 0344 800 8020 and choose option 1 when prompted. Swift Response provides help, support and **reassurance when someone has an urgent, unplanned need at home but doesn't** need the emergency services. The Swift Response team can assist with emergency care needs if, for example, your usual carer is suddenly unavailable. If you have fallen, but are not injured, the team can use special lifting equipment to help make moving as safe as possible. Staff wear Personal Protective Equipment and social distancing measures are also used where appropriate to minimise the risk of infection to staff and those they are supporting. Can you help us share this information with friends and family who may be vulnerable?

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

Foodbank



If you need a Foodbank parcel, contact the Foodbank by phoning: 0300 3651123—**it's a free number. They will ask** you for your details and will ask various questions so that you can receive the right level of support. The Foodbank will arrange for a parcel to be delivered to you through the local distribution centre. A log of who is receiving parcels is kept but there is presently greater flexibility in how many times a person or family can receive support from the Foodbank.

Police

Emergency 999

- A serious offence is in progress or has just been committed
- Someone is in immediate danger or harm
- Property is in danger of being damaged
- A serious disruption to the public is likely

Alternatively you can report non-emergency incidents to us at www.norfolk.police.uk/contact-us/5-report-it or you can pass information on anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Non-Emergency 101

It is important that police are given any information about suspicious activity or any criminal offence, no matter how small the information is. The information will enable police to gather intelligence, build a picture of what is happening in your local area and act upon it. Any descriptions of people or vehicles will help but please do not put yourself in any danger to gather that information.

Beat Manager: PC Steve Banes Stephen.Banes@norfolk.police.uk

Engagement Officer: PC Andy Hudson Andrew.Hudson@norfolk.police.uk.

ADVERTS

Loddon & Chedgrave Neighbourhood Plan

Loddon and Chedgrave are looking to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and are asking interested people, who would like to play a part in shaping the future development of the two communities, to contact us to help put the framework of the plan together.

"A Neighbourhood Plan is written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place."



Please contact Loddon or Chedgrave Parish Council if you would like to volunteer.

Loddon: info@loddonpc.org.uk, 01508 522 020

Chedgrave: chedgrave.pc@gmail.com, 01508 01508 528310

HRH Prince Philip



On Friday 9th April 2021, a statement from Buckingham Palace said: "It is with deep sorrow that Her Majesty the Queen announces the death of her beloved husband, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. His Royal Highness passed away peacefully this morning at Windsor Castle."

The Royal website will have an e-book of condolence set up, which can be found at www.royal.gov.uk. We are encouraged to sign South Norfolk Council's book of condolence, by emailing: condolence@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

Electric and Hybrid Cars

One of the things that I (Alison) relished during the first lockdown was the clean air. With precious few cars driving around it was really noticeable. Since then, I have noticed some hybrid and some fully electric vehicles on the road and so have asked two owners for their views on their cars:

I've been driving a battery electric car since last June—and I love it! It's a Renault Zoe with a range of about 240 miles in Summer and 180 miles in Winter. It cost me about £28,000 (no part exchange for my old clapped-out car), which is quite a lot, though cheaper running costs and maintenance bills will make up for that over time. **I can't have a home charger but the charge points on Church Plain are good; I can** charge my battery from nearly empty to full in about two and a half hours.

The ecological benefits are well-known: no carbon dioxide emitted; no particulate emissions to choke passing pedestrians (not quite true—there are still some emissions from tyres) and no noise pollution (people often comment on how quiet it is, even with the artificial noise it generates when going at under 20 mph). Indeed, I have to admit that I sometimes feel a little smug when driving it. I accept that **smugness is not an attractive quality but it's definitely better than those nagging** twinges of guilt I felt when driving my old diesel.

But the best thing of all is that my Zoe is such fun to drive. It's smooth and quiet and power is instantly available. Put your foot down and you are pushed back in **your seat immediately. It's no Tesla but it still packs quite a punch. And there are** no gears to worry about, just forward and back, so hill starts are a doddle.

Would I go back to an internal combustion engine? Certainly not: I can't think of even one reason to do so.

Buying a second-hand car in lockdown and physically unseen was unnerving, but deciding to make the leap to either a hybrid or a fully electric car made it doubly so. I did a lot of research and finally plumped for a hybrid: Volkswagen Golf GTE (2017). **I was nervous about moving to fully electric but I needn't have been and am** massively reassured that when I move to electric everything will be fine.

The first misconception I had was that a special charger was required—it wasn't—and the car takes about three hours to fully charge from zero using an ordinary outdoor socket, and works in the rain too. Obviously, it would be quicker to have a **dedicated fast charger installed. It locks onto the car so it can't be stolen without** the key. The second was the range of up to 28-30 miles (less when you are using electricity for heating or wipers), which proved to be more than sufficient for most of our journeys to Beccles, Bungay or Norwich. The battery came with a warranty of 8 years or 100,000 miles.

The car has two sets of dials on view for electric and petrol so you can see usage of both and gives you a number of options: Electric or Petrol only; Hybrid—which Volkswagen recommend as the most economical; and self-charging—which seems to use up the petrol quickly.

My home electricity cost has gone up, but much less than petrol has come down. Now to save up for solar panels!

Holy Trinity Bell Ringers Out of Lockdown!

Many people have said how much they miss the bells and we are happy to announce that following government guidance from 21st June we should be back to full ringing for the Sunday service and Tuesday practice nights. We will be able to ring from 17th May but will be restricted to six ringers so will only be able to ring six bells on Sundays before the service. We will still not be able to hold practice nights. However, ringers who have not touched a bell for a year need to practice a little before full ringing resumes in June so we will be arranging short practices of half hour with just six ringers (keeping to the covid rules) from 17th May . When you hear these short practices you will know that we are getting ready to serve the community again. Thanks for your support.



David Webb (Ringing Master at Loddon Holy Trinity)

No Mow May

The charity Plantlife are asking us to leave our lawns uncut throughout May to allow wildflowers and bees to flourish. If you wish you can then join in the next step of counting the flowers between 22nd-31st May.



Previously these counts have shown:

- The highest production of flowers and nectar sugar was on lawns cut once every **four weeks. This gives 'short-grass' plants like daisies and white clover a chance** to flower in profusion, boosting nectar production tenfold.
- Areas of longer unmown grass were, however, more diverse in their range of flowers, with other nectar-rich plants like oxeye daisy, field scabious and knapweed increasing the range of nectar sources for different pollinators and extending nectar availability into late summer.
- Every Flower Counts found that 80% of lawns supported the equivalent of around 400 bees a day from the nectar sugar produced by flowers such as **dandelion, white clover and selfheal. But 20% of lawns (dubbed "superlawns")** were found to be supporting 10 times as many—up to 4000 bees a day.

Visit their website to find out more: www.plantlife.org.uk/everflowercounts/

The Chet Valley B-Line (CVBL) <http://berghaptonconservationtrust.org/> is a local organisation trying help reverse the decline in pollinators, essential to our food supplies, by creating a pollinator friendly corridor from Poringland to the Yare.

The good news is you can help:

- √ Avoid harmful pesticides and herbicides
- √ Plant pollinator-friendly flowers
- √ Provide a home—a patch of long grass and a source of fresh water



For lots of ideas and a great animation go to [South Yare Wildlife Group](#).

But for May, please leave that mower in the shed!

Church Services

2 nd May		
8:00am	Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:30am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
9 th May—Rogation Sunday		
9:30am	Holy Communion for Rogation Sunday	All Saints, Chedgrave
8:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
13 th May—Ascension Day		
3:45pm	Holy Communion at XTRA!	All Saints, Chedgrave
16 th May		
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
5:00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
23 rd May—Pentecost		
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
30 th May—Benefice Service		
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon

Open again!

Our churches are open for Sunday worship. If you have enjoyed joining us **on-line but haven't been to face-to-face church before, why don't you come** and join us at one of our services in church? You will see some familiar faces. All welcome.

Prayer Requests

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

Church Services

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

*Every Saturday 6:00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	
**Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm	Come and Pray If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to 'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection' 3 rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing <i>All are welcome</i>	
+Thursdays during school term	Xtra! Join us for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3:15pm; Service starts 3:45pm More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126	
Every day Morning Prayer 9:00am <i>All Welcome</i>	Monday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave

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

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

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

Church Activities

Church Services during the Covid-19 pandemic

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

Our services are available on our YouTube channel: Chet Valley Churches.

The URL for each service and a pdf are on the church website (www.chetvalleychurches.org).

If you would like a paper copy of the Sunday service, please contact one of the clergy.

Private Prayer

Our churches are open as follows:

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

Wednesday and Sunday St Mary, Sisland.

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

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

Bullrush Babies

Bullrush Babies is a group for first-time parents and their babies. It is a place to meet others for support and encouragement. We meet on a Wednesday morning at All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave.



After Easter, we can have up to a maximum of 15 parents and their babies in the group. We will re-open on 14th April, and our meetings will be outdoors for the time being, from 10:00am-11:45am.

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

01508 528126 or ball880am@btinternet.com

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.

Community Groups, News and Events



News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute

Loddon Women's Institute

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

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

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

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

As we move forward to better times, our members look forward to meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm, at All Saints Church, Chedgrave. For details please contact Angela Dance 521120.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

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

Loddon Flower Club

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

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

Sadly, not operating at present due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We are a friendly group meeting each month for a talk from a guest speaker and refreshments. Usual time 8:00pm at the Brian Clarke Meeting Rooms, Mallard Close, Chedgrave. For more information contact Hillary 01508 520457 or June 01508 528853.

ADVERTS

Sport

Footballers Wanted!

A friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astroturf every Monday evening from 8:30pm-9:30pm for a non-competitive kick-about to keep fit and socialise. We are looking for like minded people to join us once restrictions are lifted.

Cost £2.50 per session, first session free.

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

Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club.



Hobart Badminton Club

We meet on Fridays 7:30-9:30pm at the Sports Hall, Hobart High School. We play socially and are not in a league. New members, aged 18 and over, welcome. Some previous playing experience required.

Membership:

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

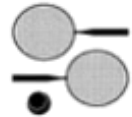
Trial Members: £4 per session for 4 weeks. Visitors: £5 per session.

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



Short Tennis Club

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



Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

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



Ashby St Mary Cricket Club

We are a small village club, which plays home games at Ashby Hall **“The Meadow”, a wonderful location. We play competitive friendlies** on a Sunday afternoon, also midweek 20-over games April-September. If you are new to the area, not played for a while, or perhaps want a change in clubs—call us.

Come and join us—you will enjoy it!

For more information, please contact Paul on 01508 218078.



ADVERTS

Loddon Community Gym

Gym Members Have you returned to the Gym? We appreciate that some of you will have been ready to come back the minute we reopened on Monday 19th April (assuming that happened as planned

according to the Government's 'roadmap') but equally understand that some members will be hesitant about mixing after so long in lockdown. Let me assure you that every effort has been made to keep members safe in the Gym and these measures will stay in place as long as they are necessary. You will have received an email from the Gym setting out all the new arrangements and I promise you they are fairly simple and straightforward. The pre-booking of slots at the Gym is to ensure that no more than ten people are using the Gym at any one time for social distancing and to allow for the cleaning of equipment before and after every use. Cashless payment has been introduced to avoid the handling of money which can also pass on infection.

Not a member yet? **If the government's easing of restrictions continues the Gym will be ready to welcome new members from 21st June.** Again, for more information keep an eye on our Facebook page and on the website www.loddoncommunitygym.com

Gym opening hours in the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon as follows:

Monday: 1:30pm-6:00pm,

Tuesday: 4:30pm-8:30pm,

Friday: 10:00am-1:00pm.



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

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

For more information call Sara on 01508 521958.



Patient Participation Group

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

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

At last it looks as though lockdown restrictions are easing! Therefore I am planning a few events for the summer. Initially it will be outdoor events, walks etc. As it is all still a little uncertain I have not finalised things. My intention is to send out a newsletter for members but anybody can ring me for information after 17th May to see what is planned.

June Strickland 01508 528853.

ADVERTS

Social Whist

We meet every second and fourth Friday of the month though there is no pressure to attend every month. We welcome new players. We meet in the back room of The Hollies and start playing at 7:45pm. The evening consists of 12 hands of Whist, each with a different partner, a drink and a **biscuit at half time together with lots of chat. You don't need a partner and if you need a lift to get there this can be organised.** All proceeds are for local charities. If you need a lift please call me, Jane Hale, on 01508 528875.



Chet Staithe Probus Club

Have you recently retired or just moved to the area? Are you missing male company, on your own, or just want to get out and meet new people? Why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club which is held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the White Horse, Chedgrave. Meetings start at 10:00am and finish around midday with the option of staying for lunch. We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required. Members range in age from 60 to almost 100.

We are hoping to recommence meetings on Tuesday, 6th July. Please could **members advise me if they intend to attend; if the number is sufficient then we'll book a speaker. Otherwise, we can have a good mardle; there'll be loads to catch up on.** During lockdown our treasurer has moved away from the area. Be assured it had nothing to do with me! Please remain mindful that we will need a new treasurer. 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 10:30 am. We are a friendly welcoming group who enjoy interesting talks, good company, good food and just meeting others of a like mind.

All being well our next meeting will be on 22nd June where we will hear

Ralph Jackman on "Agrippina- How to be an Empress".

For further details contact the secretary: John McCormack, 5a Norton Road, Loddon NR14 6JN. 01508 521899.

Chet Valley Photography Club

We are continuing our monthly meetings virtually via Zoom. Our speaker on Monday 10th May is **Kevin Pigney** telling us about his "Passion for **Wildlife**". **Living on the Suffolk/Cambridgeshire border, Kevin has access to a number of private properties and lucky to have many managed nature reserves within easy reach. "I like to achieve clean, out of focus backgrounds which show an essence of the environment without distracting from my subject."** In 2018 Kevin received 2nd and 3rd place in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year. See Kevin's gallery here: www.kjpphotography.myportfolio.com/kjp-wildlife



Please contact Jackie Franklin, email: secretary@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk or have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information, or if you are interested in joining the club. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

ADVERTS

Loddon Community Cinema

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



Parkinsons

Would you like to meet other Parkinsons sufferers? We will normally meet on the first Monday of the month at the Chedgrave White Horse at 12:15pm. Partners are also welcome. For further details please ring Michael Osborne on 01508 522034.

Davy Place Social Club

The social club is unable to operate as normal due to current Covid-19 restrictions. Please contact Janet on 01508 522115 with any questions you may have. Thank you.

Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

Why not come and meet some new people? We play games, do crafts and exercises, chat and have a two course lunch.

For up to date info contact Bev on 07826 299290.

9:30am-2:15pm, each Tuesday and Friday, at the Brian Clarke Room.



Loddon and District Horticultural Society

For information contact:

Secretary Hazel on 07765 098345 or happyhaze50@gmail.com

Chairman Jean on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com

Follow us on our Facebook page

or take a look at our webpage on www.loddon.org



Loddon WEA

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

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



Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

Covid rules still apply, so no branch meetings just yet. Phone our Secretary Christine Hartley 01508 521136 for updates. Meanwhile, look out for our display in the window of Youngs to mark the setting up of the Royal British Legion (then just called the British Legion) nationally in 1921, and pictures from the branch archives.



ADVERTS

Coffee Morning

A socially-distanced coffee morning is being held at Holy Trinity, Loddon, on 29th May from 10:00am-1:00pm subject to government guidelines.

Cakes, scones and pastries. All welcome. Do come!



Do you have any Wrens in your family?

I'm not referring to the tiny, feathered variety in the garden but the indomitable ladies who joined the Women's Royal Naval Service.

Specifically, ladies who joined up between 1946 and 1981 and did their basic training at Training Depot Burghfield/HMTE Burghfield/HMTE Dauntless/HMS Dauntless/Reading.

Dauntless Divisional Photos is a nationwide project, in collaboration with the Association of Wrens, to gather divisional photographs and memories from those training days but also to reunite ladies with old friends, share anecdotes and relive exciting moments.

So if you, your mum, granny, aunt, godmother or even next door neighbour donned a blue suit and aimed for a life on the ocean wave, please get in touch on either ddpwrens@gmail.com or 07765 435295 or 07719 909844.

Mandy Powell & Janette Crisp,
Project Coordinators.

Plant Stall

All Saints, Chedgrave has a plant stall in aid of church funds at 24 Hillside in Chedgrave. With a constantly changing range of plants for sale, it is worth a regular trip to see what is available. If you have cuttings, or have split plants, or grown too many seedlings, then we would be delighted to receive these for the stall, Please drop them off at 24 Hillside, or leave them in the church porch. It would be helpful if you could label what they are just in case it is not obvious. Many thanks.



ADVERTS

THE CHANGING FACE OF CHEDGRAVE AND THE RIVERSIDE



Loddon and District Local History Group
2021

Compiled by

Carol Webb and Elvie Herd

This new publication is available now!

To purchase your copy please contact

Carol on 01508 500602

ONLY £5

ADVERTS

From Monday 12th April, Loddon Library is open.

You can:

- Follow our one-way system to browse the shelves;
- Pre-order a selection of up to 10 books for adults for free through Select and Collect. Use the online form at norfolk.spydus.co.uk or call 01603 774777;
- Collect reservations;
- Borrow our Grab and Go selection book bags;
- Book one 60-minute session per day on a computer. To book a session or if you need any help using our computers or filling in your Census form, call 01603 774777;
- Collect Tricky Period products and Toiletries to Go;
- 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;
- We may ask for details from you to help with Test and Trace;
- You will need to wear a face covering in the library;
- We have a one-way system for social distancing;
- Hand sanitiser is available for use on the way in and out of the library;
- Surfaces and computers will be regularly wiped down;
- Returned books will be quarantined for 72 hours;
- Sorry, there are no newspapers, magazines or seats in the library and the toilet is not available.

We've made some changes to our opening hours:

- Monday: 10am – 2pm; Thursday: 10am – 6pm; Saturday: 1pm – 4pm;
- Closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you back!



ADVERTS

Loddon and District Local History Group

Those of you who walk in the churchyard will have seen the sad sight of the storm damage during the winter. Amongst the casualties a fallen branch from the cedar has damaged the large white Celtic cross which had to be repaired after Storm Doris about five years ago. The family members named are the Reverend John James Smith, Vicar of Loddon between 1849 and his death in December 1883, his young daughter Agnes who died in 1851, son Charles and daughter in law Marion with their three daughters.

Until 1888 Loddon had no vicarage, so the Rev Smith bought Loddon House as his home when he married in 1849 and took up his new post. He had previously been an academic at Caius College, Cambridge. He was the fourth son of Joseph Smith of Shortgrove Park in Essex. Joseph, from Coltishall, had been Private Secretary to **William Pitt amongst other senior posts. Joseph's wife, The Honourable Margaret Cocks, was a niece of Charles Lord Somers. Joseph's younger sons made careers in the church and the law, while the eldest, William Charles Smith, inherited the Shortgrove Estate.**

Rev Smith's second son Charles Mitford Smith changed his name by deed poll in 1911 to Charles Mitford Heriz-Smith, hence Charles, his wife and daughters appear as Heriz-Smith on the memorial.

Charles Heriz-Smith EDP Funeral Report in 1936

Mr. Charles Mitford Heriz-Smith, who died at Four Winds Kessingland, on June 28th, was buried at Loddon Churchyard on Saturday. He was 80 years of age, and was the second son of the late Rev. John James Smith who was vicar of Loddon from 1849 to 1883. Mr. Heriz-Smith was educated at Haileybury and Cooper's Hill, and afterwards entered the Indian Civil Service, Public Works Department. For a number of years he has lived at Kessingland. He leaves a widow and three daughters. His only son, Denzil Heriz-Smith, served as Lieutenant in the Northants Regiment, and was killed at the battle of the Somme. His eldest brother, the Rev. Ernest Heriz-Smith, was Fellow and Dean of Pembroke College, Cambridge. The Vicar of Loddon (the Rev. Richard Dixon) officiated. The family present were Mrs. C. M. Heriz-Smith (widow), the Misses Joan, Sybil, and Gillian Heriz-Smith (daughters), Mrs. E. C. Ransome (sister), Mr. E. C. Ransome (brother-in-law), Miss R. Johnston, and Miss J. Johnston, Mr. C. Johnston, and Mr. and Mrs. W. de L. Devereux. Mr. G. Scofield (nephew) was unable to attend. Amongst others present were Miss Rodwell, an old friend of the family, the Rev. F. W. Emms (Rector of Kessingland). Mr. John Davy,...

The daughters, who had variously been teachers of dancing and dramatic art and an artist continued living in Kessingland until their deaths.

The Rev Smith died at Hampton-on-Thames, but his widow, Agnes, moved to Cornwall where she died in 1897, and she is buried in Ruan Helston Cornwall.

Elvie Herd

ADVERTS

Read Any Good Books Lately?

“After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world.” Philip Pullman, born 19th October 1946 in Norwich, Norfolk, England

“One Breath Away,” by Heather Gudenkauf

Set in the USA in the winter, this is a tense story about a hostage situation at a high school in a rural area of America. Two children are sent to live with their grandparents a long way from home because of a fire in their own home, which has caused severe burns for their mother. She is far too ill to look after the children and is scheduled to be in hospital for a long time. Life becomes very different for **them while living on their grandparents’ dairy farm and, of course, while there they** have to attend the local school. One day, however, a man with a gun walks into the school...

This thriller is well written and the tension in such a situation comes through loud and clear. It is definitely a page turner.

“Light Perpetual,” by Francis Spufford

A very unusual and cleverly written novel, which begins with the bombing in 1944 of a branch of Woolworths in an area of London. Shopworkers, customers, adults and children are killed and the Woolworths building and others nearby are decimated. After describing this event, the author goes on to think about five of the children and imagines what their lives would have held for them, had this terrible thing not happened. Turn by turn he gives each of the children a separate chapter for each decade. It is a fascinating way to have written a book and a really imaginative one, too. For any reader old enough to remember the post-war years through the decades up until 2009, many memories will be revived. For those readers who are younger, there is plenty to interest them and enjoy in the **disparate characters and events created by Francis Spufford. ‘Light Perpetual’ is a** delightful book, well worth reading.

“The Dig,” by John Preston

“The Dig” is a novel based on the real life story of the Sutton Hoo* discoveries. It is a real mixture of fiction based on fact, with some characters being given their factual names and all of the characters written about made believable and interesting, whether they are fact or fiction. The author has written in such a way that anyone reading this book will share in the tensions and excitement felt by everyone involved in the wonderful discoveries made at Sutton Hoo in 1939. He also brings home to the reader a sense of the meticulous care and patience needed by any archaeologist and, in doing so, has written a very good story.

**Sutton Hoo is the site of the grave of an Anglo-Saxon king in Suffolk. Discovered in 1939, it is one of the largest and best-preserved archaeological finds of the Saxon period in Europe.*

ADVERTS

Nature Notes

Well, what a difference a day makes. On Easter Sunday I was enjoying the sunshine while watching a pair of marsh harriers sky dancing on the banks of the Chet towards Hardley Cross. Adding to my enjoyment a solitary sand martin flew past. The next day, I watched a mixed flock of fieldfare, redwings and starlings at Seething through falling snow. Well, I suppose it was a Bank Holiday!

By the 5th March I became aware that the I was seeing the splashes of white blossom in hedgerows, signifying the blackthorn was in flower. At ground level, yellow coltsfoot, lesser celandine and primroses were announcing the arrival of Spring.

There were murmurations of starlings both at Langley Dyke and Hardley Staithe: only small flocks of around 50 birds but equally impressive as they flew as one. I was fortunate many years ago to watch a flock of over a million birds down on the Somerset Levels and that was absolutely awesome!

It wasn't until the 22nd March that I saw my second butterfly, a peacock, but since then I have regularly seen brimstone, comma, peacock and small tortoiseshell on sunny days along with a variety of bees and other insects. Also, I heard my first chiff chaff and saw my first one three days later.

I finally caught up with seeing a pair of grey partridges on 23rd March. Having scoured fields since the beginning of the year, a pair of them landed in front of the car in Seething. I was able to stop safely and watch them for a while. Four days before that, I was fortunate to come across a little owl near Hardley Hall. I had parked by a large oak tree and was aware of a bird flying over my head and disappearing into another oak tree. It took some time to locate it but it offered good views of the little owl once I had.

During the last week of March, I saw a common shrew run across a track. I have rarely even seen shrews except finding dead ones. Just before I started gathering my thoughts to write, a blackcap, another summer visitor, was visible from our kitchen window. I normally hear them first and have to wait until they start singing from a prominent perch.

At the end of last year, I put up two new nest boxes. All this year blue tits have been investigating both boxes which has been fascinating to watch. They will go in **then leave and fly to a different perch and repeat the sequence many times.** It's almost as if they are measuring the distance from the nest boxes to all of their perches. Hopefully, we will have a couple of pairs breeding, I will keep you updated.

By the time you read this we will be into May, and most of the Summer migrants will have arrived, with birds like Swifts arriving during the first week of May. As we hopefully head for warmer weather and the freedom to explore, further afield, do enjoy what you see, hear and smell.

Richard and Rachel Hull

Once We're Open Again...

Spring Fair at All Saints, Chedgrave on 22nd May

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

Lockdown Unlocked at Holy Trinity, Loddon, 3rd/4th July

During Lockdown, did you learn a new skill, discover local walks, do something for the community, take photos? Do come and take part in our display. Craft tables available for you to sell your products (£10).

August Teas at St Mary, Sisland on Sundays in August

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

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

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

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

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

Quiz at All Saints, Chedgrave on 22nd October

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

Autumn Fair at All Saints, Chedgrave on 6th November

Come and join us for refreshments at our sale.

Concert at All Saints, Chedgrave on 7th November

We are delighted that *Tale Dolce Musica* are returning to perform for us. A talented chamber group, they hope to put together a programme to complement our environmental focus that weekend.



Hymn Singing in All Saints Chedgrave

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



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

Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

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

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

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

From the Garden

May is a busy time in the garden, lets hope the weather has warmed up as I write this, I have been sheltering from either hail, snow or strong winds or all three! Hopefully the sun will come out long enough to persuade the seeds to germinate.

As the danger of frosts pass, plant out summer bedding plants, dahlias and cannas. Provide support for tall plants such as delphiniums, lupins and hollyhocks before they get too tall. Plant sweet peas and tie in as they grow; if you pinch out the tips the plants will bush out and give you more blooms. Lift and divide large clumps of spring bulbs and divide primroses, remembering to give all spring bulbs a liquid **feed to build up the bulbs for next year's flowers.** Seeds that can be sown this month for flowering next year are foxgloves, dianthus and wallflowers.

Chrysanthemums can be planted out now and at the Norfolk chrysanthemum show a couple of years ago I came across fantasy varieties; these look very different from the standard chrysanthemum you see in flower bouquets at the supermarket, they are late flowering and I am tempted by a variety called Fleur de lis (purple) and Lava (orange). They can be grown outside in the summer before being moved into a cold greenhouse for flowering. I will let you know how I get on.



LODDON WAR MEMORIAL—100 YEARS

May 2021 marks the centenary of the building, unveiling and dedication of Loddon War Memorial. The focus of Loddon Royal British Legion's annual November remembrance, the war memorial is actually owned, maintained and protected by Loddon Parish Council under the War Memorials (Local Authorities Powers) Act of 1923 and it has, within the last few years, installed steps in front of it to give better access to those paying their respects.

Following the horrors of World War One (the war to end all wars), a committee was set up, under the chairmanship of Mr Edward Cadge, to raise funds to enable the building of a memorial to honour those men of Loddon and surrounding villages who had died because of the war. Using the money raised, the committee employed G. Maile and Son, of Euston Road in London, to build and erect a memorial on consecrated ground, part of Holy Trinity churchyard. Old photographs show that when it was built in 1921, the memorial was behind iron railings, some of which have since been removed. The memorial itself cost £201.10s.4d (about £11,000.00 in today's money), but preparing the ground and digging out a foundation took the cost to nearer £250.0s.0d.

The war memorial is about twelve feet high (approx 3.6 metres) and is made of rough Cornish granite. The names of the twenty-eight fallen of World War One are recorded on its lower half in inlaid imperishable lead lettering. The symbolic design at the top of the memorial incorporates a celtic cross, denoting the eternal (or eternity), and a downfacing crusader's sword, unsheathed, denoting sacrifice and peace—the whole design assuming that World War One would, indeed, be an unrepeatable conflict.

After World War Two, space had to be found to accommodate sixteen extra names. This left little option but to install a plaque, fixed to the memorial, to add the extra names of the fifteen men and one woman (Corporal Muriel Stubbs ATS, who had died in 1945 in Egypt, where she was buried). If you wish to learn more about those named on the war memorial, you can find their potted histories in a folder kindly compiled by the Revd Ros Hoffmann and held in the porch of Holy Trinity church.

To mark and commemorate this first landmark centenary, there will be a socially distanced outdoor public short service of re-dedication at 4:00pm on Sunday 23rd May on Church Plain conducted by the Revd David Owen. Loddon Parish Council cordially invite any who would wish to join them there.

Chairman and Councillors
Loddon Parish Council

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