



# CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

October 2023



# QUIZ



Chet Valley Churches

## All Saints, Chedgrave

Come to the **Quiz and Supper** on  
**20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

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# Chet Valley Churches Information

## Clergy

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## Church Office—closed at present.

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

Phone: 01508 520897, Email: [website.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com](mailto: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  
The Diocese of Norwich

[www.chetvalleychurches.org](http://www.chetvalleychurches.org)  
[www.dioceseofnorwich.org](http://www.dioceseofnorwich.org)



## Chet Contact

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Please include your name and telephone number.



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## From the Editor

Well, what a month this has turned out to be. Broken glass and fires in Loddon and Chedgrave; solar panel application takes one big step forward (thanks to both our District Councillors for coming to the planning committee to speak in support); massive fundraising to undertake. Oh—and a significant birthday. Onwards and upwards!

Talking of fundraising, there are many lovely events going on with something for everyone: There's a church crawl for the historians; Loddon Band are in concert at Holy Trinity so if you like brass bands then that's for you; or you could stretch your grey matter at the October Quiz at All Saints; and if you are creative, then why not paint or carve a pumpkin for the competition at the Pumpkin Trail at All Saints? Details of all these events are in this edition.

If the outdoors is your thing, then do come and join in the Cake and Rake as we clear the churchyard at All Saints after the wild flowers and grasses have been strimmed. Or you could join the Chedgrave PC litter pick. Both are a great chance for the community to get together.

Following on from that, several of our parish councils have items about either litter or dog poo being left where it should not be. In that context, I rather liked the cartoon I came across on FaceBook—where else?! (see p22) and thought I would share it for the benefit of those not on that particular bit of social media.

Alison



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## Ministerial Musings

It's September again. I always found it strange that the Methodist Church in Britain starts its New Year in September. It is somewhat like school. The new year has begun; we are going into a new class; we have a new teacher!

In the Church of England the New Year begins with Advent.

In the URC the New Year begins in January, as it does for everyone else.

I suppose in some ways it feels like a new year for me because this is the start of my second year here (but I didn't have a 6-week summer break—maybe next year?).

But it got me thinking about new beginnings, and that is what the gospel is all about. Jesus said, *"Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."* He was talking about the results of his death and resurrection—He had to die and rise again so that new life could be given to us.

And we see that pattern in our fallen world as the seasons go by and now, at this time of year, the flowers begin to fade and our gardens go over for the winter. But we always have the certainty of spring and summer as the garden comes back to life again.

We are offered that same certainty in our lives. St Paul writes: *"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."* (Romans 6:5).

And while that is talking about the future, there is also Ephesians 2:1, 4-5, *"You were dead through the trespasses and sins... But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved."*

So death and resurrection—a new beginning—is the theme of the gospel. Everyday we can know that the past is taken care of, dealt with, forgiven. We can know that the future is better than most people's imaginations. And the present can be lived in the assurance that, if we have trusted Jesus, we are *"alive together with Christ"*.

So we can celebrate new beginnings everyday. We don't need someone else's calendar. Today can be a whole new beginning. That is good news!

**Rev 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Meeting:**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 1:30pm.

Service in Remembrance of Loved Ones followed by afternoon tea in the Lecture Hall.

All welcome.

If you'd like to join the group, please ring Rev Jill on 01508 520248.

## Monday Mardles

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



Mardles are held every **Monday 10:00am-12:00 noon**. Come and go as you choose. On average, there are about 8-12 people who come to Mardles, and there's room for more! You will be made very welcome.

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

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## From the Parish Registers

### Baptisms & Thanksgivings

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

### Weddings

**James Hitchcock & Melissa Bailey**

31<sup>st</sup> August at St Margaret's Church, Hardley

**Kieran Hester & Ayla Evans**

2<sup>nd</sup> September at All Saints Church, Chedgrave

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

### Funerals

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

I Thessalonians 4:14, 17b

To arrange a thanksgiving or baptism (christening), please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126, or [ball880am@btinternet.com](mailto:ball880am@btinternet.com).

To arrange a wedding, please contact Rev David on 01508 522993, or [david.chetvalley@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:david.chetvalley@gmail.com).

Rev David can also be contacted about interment of ashes.

### Choir for Carols

Hooray! The community choir is coming together again to sing at the Carol Service in Chedgrave Church this year.

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

*"It lots of fun. We enjoy the singing and getting to know others in the community."*



**The Carol Service will be on  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 5:00pm**

Of course, there will be some rehearsals; details in due course.

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

e-mail: [ball880am@btinternet.com](mailto:ball880am@btinternet.com) or 01508 528126.

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## News From Your Local Councillors



**Housing in Loddon:** Many of you will now be aware that there is another proposed planning application pending for further housing on Beccles Road, on top of what has already been granted. Although South Norfolk will not have their hands tied into approving it, as they can again demonstrate a 5 year land supply now that the nutrient neutrality issue has been dealt with by the government, we still cannot afford to be complacent. The developer will be holding a consultation locally, look out for the advertisements, and they will be coming to the Loddon Town Council meeting in October to answer questions. Make sure you have your say.

**All Saints, Chedgrave:** It was heartening to be able to support the Church in getting their planning application for solar panels past the committee, despite officers' recommendations for refusal. The councillors listened to the concerns of local people and voted in our favour, hurrah. As this is a Grade I listed building, the decision must be referred to government before we are sure we can proceed, that's the law. We just have to hope that the Secretary of State backs us too.

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

**Councillor Kay Mason Billig**

No news from Jeremy this month.

**Councillor Jeremy Rowe**

---

## On-Call Firefighter Vacancies at Loddon

Have you got what it takes to fill these boots, wear the uniform and ride on the fire appliance at Loddon? Do you like a challenge?

You don't have to be superman or superwoman, but you do need to be physically fit and be able to pass some tests. You also need to live or work within five minutes safe-travelling-distance of the fire station in Loddon and be available to attend the station at flexible times, including some during the day, evenings, and weekends. On-Call Firefighters all have different 'day' jobs and different reasons why being an on-call firefighter suits their lives. Some do it because they like being part of a team, some do it because they love getting extra qualifications and skills; but all of them do it because they know how important it is to their community, not just the community of Loddon, but the whole of Norfolk. The extra money helps too!

More information at: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/jobs-training-and-volunteering/work-at-norfolk-county-council/vacancies/norfolk-fire-and-rescue-service/becoming-an-on-call-firefighter>

Or search Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service vacancies and fill in the forms. If you are unsure and want more information you can watch the fitness videos or use the call back function to speak to a firefighter about the role. Alternatively, pop into the station on a Monday from 19:00-21:00 for an informal chat.

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## Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

Tel: 01508 528310 Email: [chedgrave.pc@gmail.com](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Cllr John Lurkins:** Councillors and meeting attendees all observed a one minute silence to remember John Lurkins who died on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**Vandalism:** There has been a spate of vandalism in Chedgrave and Loddon lately, some of it very serious and costly. Parents—please chat with your youngsters about respecting our community and facilities as we all end up paying for repairs in the long run. Any vandalism should be reported to the police as it all helps them to build up a body of evidence and carry out more patrols.

**Footway Lighting:** The council agreed to fit timers to most of the footway lighting in the village (excluding Rectory Lane and the alleyways) so that they switch off during the middle of the night to save on energy and help nocturnal creatures. This will be implemented over the coming months.

**Dog Poo:** The damaged dog poo bin near Big Back Lane will soon be reinstated. In the meantime, please use an alternative bin—don't just dump bags of dog poo. There's no such thing as the dog poo fairy! Thank you.

**Litter Picking:** There will be a litter picking event on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November in The Pits. Please join us—all equipment provided.

**Christmas Lights:** It's that time of year again! Householders will soon be contacted for permission to hang lights from their homes. Thank you to everyone who supports this and help light up Chedgrave for Christmas!

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7:00pm in the Brian Clarke Room. All welcome!

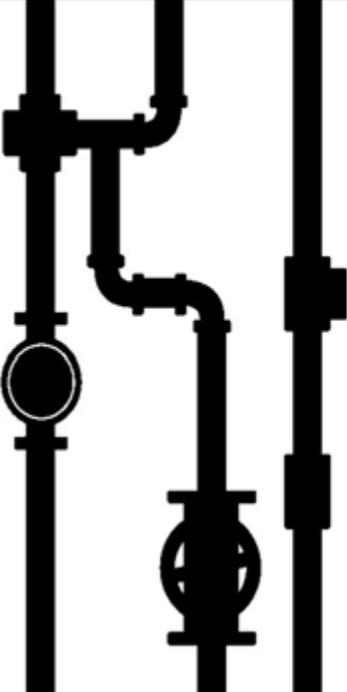
Highways issues such as potholes, footpaths or public rights of way, road safety, flooding and overgrown trees and verges should be reported to Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 or online at [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk). Criminal & illegal activities, public disorder & nuisance, 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](http://www.norfolk.police.uk). Please keep dogs on leads in our play areas and clear up after your dogs.



### *Chet Valley Community Larder*

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Please call Julie on 07976 902487 if you have anything to be collected.



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## Loddon Town Council (LTC)

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis.

Tel: 01508 522020 Email: [clerk@loddonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@loddonpc.org.uk).

Website: [www.loddonpc.org.uk](http://www.loddonpc.org.uk);

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LoddonPC](http://www.facebook.com/LoddonPC)



**Public Consultation on housing application on Beccles Road:** Scott Properties will be holding a consultation event on a prospective housing application, for approximately. 100 houses, on land north of Beccles Road at the Jubilee Hall on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2:00-7:00pm. Their proposal can be viewed on their website [www.loddon.mscott.co.uk](http://www.loddon.mscott.co.uk) from 25<sup>th</sup> September and the deadline to feedback on their website is Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October by 8:00pm. They have also agreed to feedback the consultation results at the next Council meeting, due to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October in The Hollies.

**Flower Towers:** Thank you to all the volunteers who have diligently watered the towers and containers on Church Plain, the staithe and Farthing Green daily over the summer. Plans are underway for 2024, so if you would like to be involved, please let us know.

**Councillor Vacancy:** Cllr Alex Bostock has resigned, but we wish to thank him for his service to the community. If you are interested in becoming a Cllr, please see our website for more information.

**Remembrance Parade—12<sup>th</sup> November:** This year's parade is on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November and will meet on Cannell's Car Park, setting off from White Horse Corner at 10:30am. The parade will arrive at Church Plain at 10:45am and there will be a short service by the War Memorial. This will be followed by a service in Holy Trinity Church. All timings are approximate.

**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/LTC's lobby and is open to everyone. Open Monday to Friday, 8:00am-7:00pm; Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm; Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm. If you would like to volunteer to help with the larder, please get in touch.

**Loddon Tennis Club:** Pay and Play is also available for £5 per hour via: [www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/LoddonTennisClub](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/LoddonTennisClub). Coach Paul Solomon is also delivering junior coaching, group coaching, and cardio tennis sessions. To find out how to become a member of the tennis club phone 07368 684 806 or email: [loddontennis@loddonpc.org.uk](mailto:loddontennis@loddonpc.org.uk).

Meeting dates, contact information and updates can all be found on the Council website: [www.loddonpc.org.uk](http://www.loddonpc.org.uk) or call 01508 522020.



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## Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

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



### Next Parish Council Meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm

Held at the Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane. Agenda and minutes are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on our website three days before the meeting.

**Development of Yarmouth Road—HALI:** Thank you to all those who attended the meeting in September. If you were unable to attend but would like feedback regarding the development, please let our clerk know and we will provide you with a condensed summary of the feedback received.

**Grass Cutting School Lane:** The Parish Council have been in correspondence with the organisation responsible for grass cutting at School Lane, for this to be sorted as soon as possible.

**Christmas Carol Service, St Gregory's Church:** We have provisionally reserved Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 3:00pm. Numbers limited to 60. Please contact the clerk if you can help with this event.

**Community Volunteering Scheme:** We continue to seek your help in supporting community project to improve village life. Please let us know if you would like to get involved by emailing the clerk.

**Hales Green Common:** Please remember to abide by the bylaws which are displayed on the public notice boards around the common. Dog walkers, please remember to pick up your dog's poo. Thank you.

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## Pumpkin Trail Fundraiser for All Saints at Halloween—31<sup>st</sup> October

Have you ever had a go at carving a pumpkin? Now's your chance! We would like as many people as possible to carve, or paint, a pumpkin for a trail in Chedgrave. No gruesome faces, please; we want positive happy faces, goody superheroes, or Christian images. Just £5 to enter the competition.

Finished pumpkins can be delivered to All Saints Church in Chedgrave (just off Hardley Road) on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October from 10:00am-12:00noon.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, follow our pumpkin trail in the dark in the churchyard and church, see painted pumpkins in the church centre, and join us for refreshments. Vote for your favourite pumpkin—there will be a prize for the one with the most votes. Pumpkins can be viewed and refreshments available from 5:00-6:00pm.

More details from Rev Alison (01508 528126; [ball880am@btinternet.com](mailto:ball880am@btinternet.com)).



# AUTUMN CONCERT

Holy Trinity Church, Loddon  
Saturday 14th. October, 7:30pm

Interval refreshments

Tickets from

Val Counter 01508 520702, Email [valcounter@gmail.com](mailto:valcounter@gmail.com)

Nina Owen 01508 522993, Email [theroamingfenlander@gmail.com](mailto:theroamingfenlander@gmail.com)

Please book tickets in advance to help with catering and seating  
Tickets £9, under 16s free admission



[www.theloddonband.org.uk](http://www.theloddonband.org.uk)

## Langley with Hardley Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emma Webster  
Tel: 07516 361239 Email: [langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com](mailto:langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://langleywithhardley.pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>  
Find us on Facebook



**Picnic Bench in the Children's Play Area:** A new picnic bench has replaced the old one in the children's play area.

**Renovation of the Telephone Box Community Library:** This has undergone renovation thanks to the hard work of David Innes. Chris Townsend has kindly offered to pay for materials used in the renovation. If depositing books/DVDs please stack them neatly on the shelves or on the floor in the box provided. Books are available for readers of all ages. Books no longer needed should be left in the box.

**Langley War Memorial:** The bricks below the chain railings on the road surrounding the war memorial are to be painted white to better define the limits of the memorial. Chris Townsend has kindly offered to do this.

**Disposal of Rubbish at Hardley Staithe:** The provision of a new bin at Hardley Staithe was discussed. It was decided that usage of the present bin will be monitored. If you are out walking please take rubbish home.

**Volunteer for SAM2:** A volunteer is needed to look after the SAM2 vehicle speed regulator. If you would like to be part of this safety measure or would like further information please contact our clerk.

**Facebook:** This is being well used by all parishioners since its introduction.

**Coronation of King Charles III:** A plaque was placed beside the tree planted to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. A further plaque is to be placed beside the recently-planted tree dedicated for the life and service of the late Queen.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm in The Village Hall. All welcome.

## Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October—Café. 11:00am-1:00pm.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October—Clever Kelvin's Kwizz. 7:00pm start. Food and drink will be served in the interval. £2 per person. Prize for the winning team. Booking essential on 01508 520184.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October—Children's Halloween Disco. 3:30-5:00pm. Fancy Dress optional. £2 per child.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October—Steven Treadaway: clairvoyant. Doors open at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start. Food and drink provided but bring your own alcohol. £16 a ticket. Booking essential on 01508 520184. Last bookings by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

To book the hall for your own event, to view the facilities or enquire about costs please call Tibby or Jane: 01508 520184. Thank you to all those who support us.





### **A Church Crawl Among Friends**

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Kate Smith will be taking a look at five churches in the Loddon area. The cost of the tour is £10 per person, and the funds will be equally divided between the churches of St. Mary, Saxlingham Nethergate (Kate's own church), and, in the wake of the horrifying recent vandalism, All Saints, Chedgrave.

The tour will start at 10:00am at Thurton Church, NR14 6AN (Grid Ref. TM328006, O/S Landranger map 134). We also plan to visit the churches of Langley, Hardley, Loddon and Chedgrave—a chance to see the extraordinary amount of glass, some English, much continental, financed by the Beauchamp-Proctor family of Langley, around the year 1800.

A pub lunch will be available, which you will have to order at the start of the day, at Thurton. Simon, from The White Horse Chedgrave, is going to pick up the order, so that we don't have to wait long for food.

Leader, Kate Smith, says, "I've been a life-long church crawler from the age of about ten, cycling furiously around Norfolk's rural churches armed with a small book called 'I Spy Churches' (price sixpence). A lot later I read history at UEA, including as much architecture and landscape as possible."

Further information from Kate: 01508 558182.

## Notes from Sisland

Writing this at the start of September, with a few hot days forecast, but with the dew and mists of autumn, I want to take the opportunity to thank all those who supported the Sunday Teas at Sisland Church throughout the month of August. We are truly grateful for every single person who supported us and helped us to make it a remarkably busy summer. Visitors during the summer, or at any time, comment on the peace and tranquillity that this special place provides to all.



As you will be aware the maintenance and care for this building takes both time and effort as well as a range of fundraising. Sisland is an incredibly small parish and so the money raised by the Sunday Teas, our main event of the year, is key to the investment we can make in providing support for this building now and to make it available for future generations.

One of the regular challenges for all of us who live in a rural community are the spiders who like to take residence in our buildings and, especially out of reach in our churches. I was reminded of a quote from Parson Woodforde written on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1774. “I caught a remarkably large spider... this morning and put him in a small glass decanter and fed him with some bread and intended keeping him.” He makes no further reference in the diary but I’m sure he could have kept many when he arrived in Norfolk.

Our next event, in Sisland Church, will be a coffee morning on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October. From 10:00am–12:00 noon, we will be offering tea, coffee and, of course, cake. We plan to have a good selection of second-hand books to purchase. The books will remain in the church all week so if you are unable to make the Saturday morning then the opportunity to browse will remain all week. We hope to see you there as we continue to raise funds for the maintenance of the church building.

**Rowena Bryce** (Churchwarden, St Mary’s, Sisland).

---

## St John’s Chapel and Lecture Hall—Room Hire

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George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB.

Very competitive rates & discount for regular users.

For details and to book email: [website.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com](mailto:website.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com)

## **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 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 or Rev Alison or churchwarden, Roger Outlaw (phone numbers on p3), or treasurer Richard Ball on 01508 528126



The annual Loddon and Chedgrave Victorian Evening will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 6:30-8:30pm.

The Evening commences on Church Plain where there will be a 'grand switch on' of the Church Plain Christmas lights by Father Christmas before he heads off to his grotto at Bay Tree House where he will be receiving children of all ages. Many activities are planned for the evening, such as Punch & Judy, and the town centre shops will be open and hosting Christmas festivities, welcoming customers old and new.

Further details will be announced in November's Chet Contact.

## **Charity Stalls at the Victorian Evening**

Every year there are stalls in the churches—Holy Trinity in the middle of Loddon and St John's Chapel just a little way along George Lane. They are available for people who want to fundraise for a favourite charity and for local community groups to advertise what they do. We have room for sales, games, information boards and more, but space has to be limited to one long table for each stall. Even so, we do try to be flexible where possible.

Please get in touch if you would like a stall this year. Obviously availability is limited by the size of the building, but we usually manage to fit everyone in. It helps if you book early!

We do ask for a small donation from stallholders, in the region of £5, because the church is a charity too, and needs to cover costs.

For more information or to book a space, contact Nina Owen: on 01508 522993, email [theroamingfenlander@gmail.com](mailto:theroamingfenlander@gmail.com).

## Loddon Flower Club

Next meeting: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October—we have a demonstration by Elizabeth Robertson entitled *My Family and Other Animals*. There will be a competition for members with the same title.



Meetings are held in the Lecture Hall at St. John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. We have a short interval for refreshments, and at the end of the evening there is a raffle for the arrangements the demonstrator has made.

We've kept our yearly subscriptions the same as last year: £35 full members, £25 senior members and visitors £7.50 per meeting.

Do come along and see what we do. It's a fun and friendly social evening, with great ideas and tips for beginners through to the advanced arranger.

For more information contact our Chairman, Tricia Godfrey: 01508 480522 or [tricia646@aol.com](mailto:tricia646@aol.com) or Secretary, Jenny Frosdick: 01508 520254 or [jf53rf50@gmail.com](mailto:jf53rf50@gmail.com).

We also have a website: [www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk](http://www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk) and are available to arrange flowers for family occasions.

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

## Tuesday Market

As the harvest season continues we hope to have fresh vegetables, fruits and nuts on sale as well as our home baking, plants and crafts.



Why not join us for a cuppa, you will be made welcome at our friendly market. Every Tuesday 10:00-11:30am at The Hollies next to the post office in Loddon.

Sheila Ford (Chairman)

## Loddon Bell Ringers

Our newest recruits are progressing well and this month we congratulate Kate Booth for ringing her first quarter peal at Holy Trinity: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 43 minutes. 1. Ann M Webb 2. Michelle Clutten 3. Rona Sporle 4. Jeannine Roe 5. David Webb ( Conductor) 6. Kate Booth.



On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August the ringers at Loddon enjoyed a day out ringing local bells at Norton Subcourse, Raveningham and Haddiscoe. This gave our novice ringers experience of ringing on different bells which helps with them learning new skills. We attended practices held at Woodton and Gt. Yarmouth Minster. We have also rung quarter peals at Diss, Castle Acre, Hockwold cum Wilton, Watton and Ashill.

Steve Rabong

## Church Services

<b>1<sup>st</sup> October</b>		
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12noon	XPRESSIONS CAFE with baptism	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
<b>8<sup>th</sup> October</b>		
9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
<b>15<sup>th</sup> October</b>		
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
5:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
<b>29<sup>th</sup> October</b>		
10:30am	Benefice Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave



### Churchyard Cake & Rake



**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October—9:30am-12:00 noon**

The churchyard in Chedgrave is due for a clean and tidy before the winter sets in. The wild flower areas will have been strimmed and we need to rake off the strimmings for composting. There will be other tidying jobs to do in the churchyard as well. The more people there are, the better it will be!

Cake and Rake is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October from 9:30am onwards.

Please bring your own tools. Refreshments will be provided. See you there!

## Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

<b>Prayer at Home</b>	<p><b>‘Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection’</b></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>	
<b>Thursday</b> during school term	<p><b>XTRA!</b></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  <b>Morning Prayer</b>  <b>9:00am</b>  <i>All Welcome</i>	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	Holy Trinity, Loddon St Margaret, Hardley All Saints, Chedgrave Holy Trinity, Loddon St Mary, Sisland All Saints, Chedgrave

### The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation

21 Ugate, Poringland, NR14 7SH



**Mass Times:**

Sunday 9:00am; Tuesday 6:00pm; Wednesday—Saturday 10:00am;  
Saturday 6:00pm (Vigil Mass)

Please check newsletter online for latest information.

Priest in charge: Father Andrew Eburne (Tel: 01508 494770)

e-mail: frandreweburne@gmail.com

## 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. 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.

## 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.

Next meeting: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October—The Sun King and the Court of Versailles by Jane Gardiner.

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>.



## 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](mailto:loddon.band@gmail.com) or phone 07463 770068 for more information.



## Chet Valley Voices

Chet Valley Voices is a community choir aged from 15-80+.

We enjoy singing music in a variety of styles from classical to modern.

Rehearsal nights are Thursdays, 7:00-8:30pm, doors open at 6:45pm.

Fees are £5.00 cash on the night. The method of payment is under review. Free first session. We look forward to seeing old and new faces.

For more information contact Sue on 01508 528069 [suemartin303@btinternet.com](mailto:suemartin303@btinternet.com) or [chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com](mailto:chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com).



## Sport

### Footballers Wanted!

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



### Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

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

For more information call Sara on 01508 521958



### Loddon Ladies Hockey Club

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

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

For more info: [www.loddonhockey.com](http://www.loddonhockey.com) or email [hello@loddonhockey.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:tezzahayden99@gmail.com)



### Loddon Junior Badminton Club

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

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

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

For more info contact Paul on [paulr2677@gmail.com](mailto:paulr2677@gmail.com) or 07903 794613



## Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



With the Royal British Legion (RBL), we have been busy with events over the last few months and our Loddon Standard has covered numerous miles, being in the public eye.

We are now approaching a different busy season, The Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Tide. We can collect for the Poppy Appeal all year but can only have our poppy stalls out with the paper poppies, at appointed time in November. Meantime, our branch has been invited to have a window display at Loddon Flower Festival, in Holy Trinity on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>—Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September, and then we follow with a Flower & Patronal Festival at St Michael's Church, in Geldeston, Friday 29<sup>th</sup>—Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Our next Branch Meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> October and our AGM will be on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

We meet in The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, 7:00pm start. Contact Colin or Christine on 01508 521136 if support is required for veterans or beneficiaries and we can direct you to the correct department within RBL.

## Social Whist



We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month. Usual time of 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start in the back room of The Hollies. A chance to chat, play some whist, enjoy tea/coffee with a biscuit, all in great company. No partner needed or to have played before, just an enjoyable evening out.

If you need a lift, please call me (Jane) on 528875. Looking forward to seeing our regular players and meeting any new ones.

## Worker's Educational Association—WEA



The WEA was founded in 1903 and its mission was to bring adult education within reach of everyone who needs it. Our branch was formed in Loddon over 30 years ago and we meet on Mondays from 2:00-4:00pm in the Jubilee Hall during the Autumn and Spring Terms. Over the years we have had speakers giving talks on such diverse subjects as Local Historic figures, WW2 airfields in the locality, local churches, Quakerism, and even the Wild West!

The WEA have been going through some re-organisation and so are late in sending out their list of speakers. When we have the details we will book speakers for Autumn and Spring, so please do look out for notices giving details of timings and registration. No prior knowledge of the subject is necessary and we are a friendly group who like to meet to keep our brains active and learn more about the locality. For more information, please ring: Alison (01508 521976) or Sharon (01508 520386).



## **Loddon Community Gym**

The Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX  
Tel: 07534 946143 [www.loddoncommunitygym.com](http://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.

The holiday season is over so it is the perfect time to think about your health and fitness as we head into Autumn. We continue to provide an excellent base for exercising and keeping fit for our current members and will always welcome new users.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in or supported our fundraising Cyclathon on 10<sup>th</sup> September; your support was greatly appreciated. We are pleased to announce that our recently launched Chair-Based-Exercise classes have been a big success. They are created for those who are perhaps less mobile than some but want to improve and maintain their fitness levels. If you are interested in the classes, or would like information on our GP Referral scheme provided in conjunction with Active Now, please call our Instructor Louise on the number above or call in when the gym is open.

We are open every weekday to those 16 years old and over. There is a small annual membership fee and sessions can be paid for daily or, at a reduced rate, monthly.

Why not call in and see what we have to offer!

For more information visit [www.loddoncommunitygym.com](http://www.loddoncommunitygym.com) or ring Louise on the number above, or, when the Gym Open sign is on the railings outside the Library on Church Plain, pop in and see what is on offer. We are a relatively compact gym, limited to 11 per session, so you will need to book sessions via [www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym](http://www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym).

## **Loddon Indoor Bowls Club**

We meet in the Old Town Hall in The Swan pub car park, Loddon. It's a members' club with inter-club league matches every evening; roll ups on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons starting at 2:00pm and on Tuesday morning starting at 10:00am (restricted to the first 12 turning up). Just turn up and give it a try. Subs just £12 per year. Rink fee £2 per session. More information from Paul Clemence (chair): 01508 218078.

## **Table Tennis Club**

We are a friendly group who are neither beginners nor league players. We need some new players. We play on Thursday afternoons from 2:00-4:00pm in Chedgrave.



If you are interested in joining us please phone Carole on 01508 520589.

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## 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:

3<sup>rd</sup> October: Huby Fairhead—Decoy Sites in WW2

17<sup>th</sup> October: Timothy Clarke—The Work of the Medical Rehabilitation Centre

Come along to a couple of meetings and try us out; no pressure to join. Clive Boyd (Secretary) 01508 520547, [cliveboyd@btconnect.com](mailto: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 with no obligation? We meet at Chedgrave White Horse and meetings start at 10:30am and lunch is optional.

### Upcoming Meetings:

10<sup>th</sup> October: Mary Newton—Give us a Clue when the Dogs Don't Bark

24<sup>th</sup> October: Chris Crowther—Bush Pilot; Now a Crime Writer

John McCormack (Hon. Secretary) 01508 521899, [probusonline.org/chet-valley](http://probusonline.org/chet-valley)

## Loddon Community Cinema

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October: Allelujah. 99 minutes and rated 12. Adapted from a play by Alan Bennett. Starring Judy Dench, Jennifer Saunders and Derek Jacobi.

The Bethlehem Hospital is an NHS geriatric hospital in Yorkshire, but when it is faced with closure because of government cuts the staff and community strive to save it.

There is an unexpected twist at the end.

St. John's Lecture Hall, George, Lane Loddon. Doors open 7:00pm, the film starts at 7:30pm. Tickets £4, £2 under 16, available on the door or in advance from Loddon DIY. email: [loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk).





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## Community Groups, News and Events

### News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



#### Loddon and District Women's Institute

September got off to a flying start when our entry in the WI Trophy competition at the Loddon & District Horticultural Society's Annual Show won first prize! It was the combined effort of five of our members and they really enjoyed working together to produce it.

Also in September we had an information stall at the Loddon Flower Club's Flower Festival, and would like to say thank you to all who stopped and spoke with us over the weekend. There is far more to the Women's Institute than 'jam and Jerusalem' and we hope we managed to show this.

Our meeting in October (details below) is an Open Meeting to which members of other WIs in the area are invited. A warm invitation is also extended to anyone else who would like to come, WI member or not!

The month was brought to a very happy conclusion with the Sewing and Craft Day. Lots of busy hands, conversation and tea and coffee!

#### Next meetings:

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October: 2:30-4:00pm, Knit & Natter will be back in the library.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October: Open Meeting. 7:15pm for 7:30pm, St Johns Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. The speaker's subject is 'Witches & Witch Hunting in East Anglia'. All welcome. Why not come and say 'hello'? If you would like to come please let us know via email [loddonwi@gmail.com](mailto:loddonwi@gmail.com).

We have a page on Facebook—Loddon & District WI—and can also be contacted through this.

#### Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

There has been no news from Chedgrave WI this month. New members are always welcome. Contact Margaret on 01508 528531.

#### Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

The Day Centre is meeting again, so if you'd like to get out from your four walls to meet others to chat, play games and have a hot meal, please give Bev a ring on 07826 299290.

We'd love to see you at the Brian Clarke rooms in Chedgrave.



#### 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.

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## Loddon and District Horticultural Society



Our next meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> October when we have our Annual General Meeting and Bring and Buy. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon starting at 7:30pm.

We had a really successful Annual Open Show in September, with record entries in the dahlia and cut flower classes, plus the cookery classes. Entries were up overall from last year. The winner of the WI Trophy was Loddon and District WI, second was Surlingham WI and third Thurton, Ashby and District WI. So well done to all those who entered something in the show and many thanks to those who came to look and support our show.

To join our Society it is £10 per year. Contact Jean Cope (Chairman) on 01502 710024 or [jeancope52@gmail.com](mailto:jeancope52@gmail.com) or Hazel Copland (Secretary) on 01508 520890 [happyhaze50@gmail.com](mailto:happyhaze50@gmail.com). Follow us on our Facebook page.

## Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)



Our monthly club meeting is on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October in St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. Following our AGM in September, we are now working on a programme for 2023/24 where we will try and have alternative months with a practical evening one month and a speaker the next month. Details for our October meeting 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.

Please contact Jackie Franklin, email [secretary@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk) or have a look at our website [www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk](http://www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk) for more information if you are interested in joining the club. Potential new members will be made very welcome. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

## Chet Contact Distribution Thanks

You'll be pleased to know that our distribution mastermind, and my opposite number as editor, is getting stronger and fitter day-by-day. So much so, that I think he will be back holding the distribution reins this month. Huge thanks to the people who filled in to ensure that the September edition was out on time; your efforts were much appreciated. Thanks too to all the distribution team. You do a fabulous job!

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## Chet Valley Patient Participation Group (PPG)

We had a well-attended Open Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> September with a very informative report on the practice, post CQC inspection. Our practice is working very hard, with long term plans in place to achieve objectives. This all comes amid very hard recruitment conditions to fill vacant jobs.

Flu and Covid vaccinations will be commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> September. You will be invited by the practice to attend.

## 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:

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October—Georgette Vale with a visit from Queen Victoria to our club.

Contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

## Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October: Tour of Norwich's Historic Pubs with experienced guide, Paul Dickson. 11:00am. The tour starts and finishes at The Maids Head in Tombland and takes about 1 hour 45 minutes. £5pp. Contact June on 01508 528853 by the end of September if you would like to come.

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 Tel: 01508 528853 or at [juneecs@btinternet.com](mailto:juneecs@btinternet.com). For membership, contact Hillary at [meredithp3@sky.com](mailto:meredithp3@sky.com) Tel: 01508 520457.

## Children's Society Box Opening

Dear Box-holder,

I will be at home (10 Garden Court, Loddon) on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October if you could let me have your boxes (or cash/cheques) sometime on that day it would be a great help.

Alternatively, you could bring them to Chedgrave Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October between 10:00am and 12:00noon (**XPRESSIONS CAFE**—*Why not pop in and have a free coffee? Ed.*).

Otherwise, I will try to call during the week.

Many thanks. Anne Baker.



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**Thursday** 8:00am-7:00pm (Staffed 10:00am-7:00pm)

**Friday** 8:00am-7:00pm (Staffed 10:00am-7:00pm)

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I wonder if you have heard about the new booklet published by Loddon and District Local History Group:

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## Loddon and District Local History Group

### **Sir William Paxton of Oxnead Hall** (really Rob Knee in costume)

Sir William told us about his very complicated family: the first William Paston, a judge, his son John, who acquired Caister Castle from Sir John Fastoff, and another John, who was active during the Wars of the Roses. Several generations later Sir William (1610-1663) moved to Oxnead and collected precious objects on his adventurous travels. He commissioned a painting of his great collection, now called the Paston Treasure. After William's death in 1663, his son Robert 1631-1683 saw the painting completed. It was displayed at the Castle Museum in 2018 as the centrepiece of a major Exhibition. When Charles II was restored to the throne, Robert was created Earl of Yarmouth in recognition of his loyal but costly support. His son another William 1630-1685 saw debts mount and Oxnead Hall and contents were eventually broken up and sold (lots went to Blickling nearby).

We know so much about the family because they were great letter writers. The women stayed at home and kept the land holdings and children safe, while their husbands worked in London. These letters and other papers were found in the ruins of Oxnead Hall, by Francis Blomfield, and he and John Fenn from Dereham collated them into a book about the family. The book is still in print. It is a great account of the life and times of an important Norfolk family over many years, and is still a good read!

### **Jonathan Hooton, a Norwich Guide: The Cathedral Close**

18 of us met at the Erpingham Gate and followed Jonathan on an extremely informative talk spanning the time period from before the cathedral was built to the present. The building of the Cathedral then church of the Benedictine Monastery was started in 1096 by William II and Bishop Herbert de Losinger, The Close was an area of several parishes and their houses and churches, all were cleared away. It was finally completed in 1145. Stone was imported from Normandy as were the master masons. Nearly all of the buildings in The Close are listed as either Grade 1 or 2 and each has a fascinating history. Mostly 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century, some hide traces of older medieval buildings. Norwich School now occupies many of the buildings, including the crypt which at one time was used as a charnel house. The river walk took us past the Cow Tower with its fascinating history; the Swan Pit, the last in England, where Swans for the table were fattened as late as 1918; onto Bishops Bridge and Pull's Ferry (the opening of the long filled in canal which carried stone from the river to the masons). Jonathan painted a wonderful picture for us of the changes that had occurred in this lovely area.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October—David Wollweber “The Halesworth Area Hoards” 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)

**Elvie Herd**

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## Read Any Good Books Lately?

### **David Hockney (A Life) by Catherine Cusset**

*translated by Teresa Lavender Fagan*

I have been very keen to go and see the David Hockney exhibition in London at the Lightroom—it's an immersive experience where you walk through the paintings. I didn't know that much about David Hockney though, so I was keen to read this book. It's a hybrid of novel and biography, full of fascinating details of his long, successful career, his family, lovers and friends; from his early years in Bradford, where he was born in 1937, through to his Californian years—via art school in London. I gained an understanding of how far he has come and it helped to give greater meaning to his art, too.

### **Darling by India Knight**

I really like India Knight's newspaper columns but I have to admit I've never read one of her books. This is a reimagining of *The Pursuit of Love* by Nancy Mitford. It's a fabulous read, contemporary, yet managing to stay true to the essence of *The Pursuit of Love*. And it's set in Norfolk, full of eccentric families, wide skies and frothy romance. I think this might be one of my favourite books this year yet!

### **Humankind by Rutger Bregman**

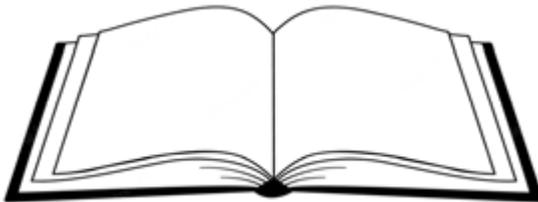
I liked the premise of this book—it contests the idea that we are all innately self-seeking and driven by egotistical goals. We're taught that we are all, by nature, selfish and only out for our own self-interests. This book argues that we should assume people are good and it takes various world and historical events and examines them in this light. It ponders that if we believe in human kindness and altruism then this could potentially drive change in society. Very thought-provoking and uplifting!

**I am about to read...**

### **Fraud by Zadie Smith**

Zadie Smith's first historical novel, this story is based on a real-life nineteenth century imposter trial. I've been waiting for this all year and I'm expecting great things!

**Ruth Redford**



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## Nature Notes

Well, here we are well into Autumn as we begin the month of October.

The moles are active again back in our garden, this time they seem to enjoy tunneling under our patio, somehow managing to push piles of earth out between the half centimeter gaps between our patio slabs. How they manage to achieve this without injuring themselves I don't know.

Out walking the dogs, the other evening, we came across a hedgehog, fortunately both our dogs were content with just a quick sniff before continuing the walk. We have also seen hedgehogs on visits to Brundall.

During August it has been noticeable how quiet and seemingly absent our avian songsters have been. Equally the number of birds on our feeding station has been low. It is only since the beginning of September that wrens and robins, having both raised a family and gone through a moult, have started to sing again. Walks along the riverbanks have been equally quiet; the reedbeds have fallen silent though the other day as a cormorant took off from a dike it obviously upset a water rail which started squealing its objection.

I took the dogs down to Dunwich on bank holiday Monday and enjoyed a walk both on the stones and the grassy path behind the shingle bank. Once we had walked a couple of hundred yards we were virtually on our own, unfortunately that also included birdlife. So, I resorted to looking out for the various plants that inhabited this area. When flowering, identification is much easier. There were small clumps of Sea Aster, Restharrow and the bright yellow Horned Poppy, Sea Mayweed, Lady's Bedstraw and Common Toadflax, these were the ones I was able to photograph and check identification when I got home. By now despite the frequent stops our elderly dog was showing signs of being tired, so, back to the carpark we went. Just as we were passing the last pool a wader flew off calling. My first thought was Redshank, as there had been a couple of them there as we started our walk, but the call was all wrong and the bird had no white on its wings. Next option was Greenshank. I used my phone to listen to what a Greenshank sounded like which confirmed for me that it was a Greenshank, the first I had seen this year.

With October the winter migrants will be making an appearance, so who is going to hear or see the first skeins of Pink footed Geese fly over or the first Fieldfare or Redwing?

With all that is going on both in this country and round the world it's good to get out or even look out of a window and enjoy the beauty of the creation that's all around us.

**Richard & Rachel Hull**



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# Allotment & Gardening Notes

## From the Allotment

Again, I feel it necessary to say when I write this—early September—in a heatwave. Goodness knows what the weather will be when you read this, but it makes it very difficult to look forward and give advice on what to plant or harvest. In the cooler wet spell (summer!) I speculated by planting radish and spinach, which would normally bolt, and was rewarded with a good crop of radish, but nothing from the spinach. I have also planted potatoes for winter harvest. My squashes recovered from a slow start and are prolific, ripening rapidly in the late sun as are the courgettes. The autumn raspberry varieties and blackberry cultivars are also doing well. The French Beans did better than the runners; both are now over, but I have left the last pods to ripen so I can collect the seed. The grape harvest again promises a good year if I can keep the birds off.

October is usually a quiet month in the allotment as you finish harvesting summer crops and start preparing the ground for next year. On my dry sandy allotment this will mean spreading, trenching or digging in as much organic matter as possible to help retain moisture and then after rain covering it over with a mulch/weed suppressant like old carpet, cardboard or newspaper weighed down with grass clippings or wood chip. The cardboard and newspaper will start to decompose over the winter and the remains can be torn up and added to compost in spring.

**Andrew Milner**

## From the Garden

October is the best month for bulb planting and the garden centres will have plenty of choices. We intend to continue planting up the bank behind the pond that we started this time last year. The daffodils looked great, using several different varieties, single and doubles meant we had a longer display followed by camassias and alliums. For the time being I will keep with the blue and yellow colour scheme, but this might change if I get tempted at the garden centre! The temperature as I write is very hot and it is hard to imagine a cold winter and spring! The dahlias have put on a lovely display and hopefully this will last until the late chrysanthemums start flowering. As the number of dahlia varieties I grow has increased I have decided to move them to one end of the raised bed. This will help me to support them better and a planting plan will also help with remembering the names as once the plants have reached flowering height I wasn't able to reach the labels. In August we visited Barnsdale, Geoff Hamilton's garden in Rutland, the gardens he created for Gardeners World in the 1980's and 90's are still there, it is well worth a visit, the allotment garden was bursting with produce and flowers. The gardens are looked after by his son Nick (and a small team), who has a nursery next door and a very nice tearoom. Enjoy your garden.

**Shirley Cross**

## End Piece

### Broken Glass

Imagine the heartbreaking discovery of broken windows in our churches, Holy Trinity in Loddon and All Saints in Chedgrave: flints on the floor, glass all over the place. Imagine the feeling when hearing a log come through your house window.

Many people in our communities will know that this is exactly what happened mid-August. The damage, particularly at All Saints where the mediaeval stained glass has been especially badly affected, is going to be hugely expensive to repair. In Loddon, the estimate is ~£6,000; In Chedgrave the estimate is ~£60,000 for the work.

Fortunately much of that will be covered by insurance but in Chedgrave we have been advised to treat the ancient glass to prevent deterioration of the mediaeval glass, and also such vandalism in the future. That is not covered by insurance and will cost another £35,000-£40,000. How will our congregation cover that?

The evening we discovered our broken windows, there was a news item on the television about an area in Pakistan where there had been mob violence against a Christian community in northern Punjab. At least one church was burned down, four others damaged; and two dozen homes were torched or badly damaged during the riots. It put our sorrow into perspective. The damage to our churches was far less severe and we believe it was mindless vandalism rather than being religiously motivated.

We were reflecting a few days later: at least no-one was hurt in the incidents, and the church is more than its buildings. For us, church is about relationship between people, and not just the church family. It has been heartwarming to have been approached by people in the community, some who I don't know, who have said, "I am not a church person, but that's my church and I am really upset and angry about this. What did they think they were doing? Can I do anything to help?" And I was messaged by a teenager who said, "It's just sad what people are doing these days... a group of kids trying to find something stupid to do and thinking it's funny... it truly is just ruining this generation". Support like this has been so encouraging and we are really thankful for it.

So what can we do? How can the community help?

Clearly there is going to have to be a huge fundraising effort and at a time when people are really strapped for cash. Please watch out for events and come and support us. And if you do have spare money and are looking for somewhere to use it, then donations can be made to our churches:

Account names:

Chedgrave Parochial Church Council	The Church in Loddon
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Sort code: 08-92-99	20-92-08
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Account no: 65310528	60578223
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Reference: Stained Glass	
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