



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

September 2023



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1958-2023



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Saturday 23rd September 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday 24th September 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Proceeds to Loddon Flower Club & The Church in Loddon



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

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
www.dioceseofnorwich.org



Chet Contact

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Please include your name and telephone number.



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From the Editor

I've just got to the end of a wonderful week of holiday club so have turned my thoughts to this issue of Chet Contact. I'm still hoping for some sunny days hence the picture on the front—I thought we could all do with reminding what bright blue sky looks like! But in spite of the grey we have had enough warmth to produce a bumper crop of beans in my garden (runner and French), some of which have made their way to the community larder. If there's anyone else out there with surplus fruit or veg from garden or allotment, do give the larder a thought; any donations don't stay on the shelves very long.

Our young people will be returning to school and college this month; some starting somewhere new. Let's hope it all goes well for them and that they enjoy the challenges and opportunities that come their way. Good luck also to those who have received results and are moving out of education into the big wide world.

Much of the harvest will be completed this month and our churches are holding their Harvest Festivals. Do go to celebrate and be thankful for the fruitfulness of our land and the work of our farmers. Details are on p26.

My co-editor is recuperating post-op so we wish him a speedy recovery and thank those who have taken on distribution and delivery in the meantime.

Alison



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Ministerial Musings

I think it is true that conversations between people living in Britain are most likely to be about the weather. It can be very unpredictable, affecting church and community activities. Work schedules are often changed for those involved in businesses such as farming, market-gardening and tourist attractions to name but a few. Working with nature through the seasons, sometimes waiting for whatever the weather allows, means much patience is needed, as in August through the regular heavy rains!

As Autumn begins, harvesting of oats, barley, wheat, oil seed rape and field beans should be finished, and gathering of blackberries, plums, damsons, greengages, late season raspberries and vegetables will be a delight. Nature will also show us a dazzling selection of glorious gold, red, green and brown colours as the flowers and trees change.

Winter brings a new landscape but we can be sure that Spring will come again bringing new life. It is right and good to be grateful and give thanks for all of this abundance, to sing songs and praise our creator God for his generous provision. Harvest Festivals at the churches in all of the Chet Valley parishes are a good opportunity to get together, to be glad and to show our gratitude.

A Harvest Prayer using letters of the word itself:

HARVEST time is here again.

We HAVE brought the flowers, fruit and vegetables
that we HAVE grown in the summer HEAT.

We STARE at the HARVEST of EARTH and SEA.

We RAVE over the lovely flowers arranged in a VASE.

Thank you, Lord God, for the HARVEST.

We throw good food away as TRASH for RATS
to EAT at an alarming RATE.

We HAVE so much, while millions STARVE.

SAVE us from greed and selfishness.

Help us, Lord, to SHARE the good things you HAVE given,
that everyone may HAVE enough to EAT.

STAVE off the pangs of hunger and AVERT starvation.

Take away all HATE from our HEARTS

and fill the EARTH with your love from EAST to west and back again.

HEAR our prayer, Lord of the HARVEST.

Jill Haylock



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Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley

You are welcome to join us at any of our services



Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at one or other of the Chet Valley Churches: either Book of Common Prayer (BCP) or Common Worship, with an informal Holy Communion service once a month in Chedgrave.

Morning Worship is held regularly in Loddon and Hardley.

Evening Prayer (BCP) is on the third Sunday of the month in Sisland.

XPRESSIONS CAFÉ is on the first Sunday of the month at All Saints Chedgrave. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. Open between 10:00am and 12:00 noon you can come and go as you please for coffee, cake, discussion, crafts, games, stories, reflection and much more.

All Together Worship is on the third Sunday every month at All Saints, Chedgrave, starting at 11:00am. January, March, June and September are followed by a shared lunch. The service is designed to be as inclusive as possible: a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness. We hope it will have points of contact with people of all ages and all backgrounds.

Last Sunday Praise is held on the last Sunday of the month in Loddon: a chance to worship together including hymns and songs, old and new.

XTRA! is an exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church. Refreshments from 3:15pm, service starts at about 3:45pm. Open to all; particularly suited to children and young people.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is the chance to enjoy a chat over refreshments after services. There are toilets and baby-changing facilities at St John's, Loddon and All Saints, Chedgrave.

Families are welcome at all of our services, but are particularly catered for on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in Chedgrave.

Home Communion: If you would like home communion, because you are unable for any reason to get to a Sunday service, please contact the Rector or one of the clergy.

Times and details of the services can be found in the centre pages of the magazine.



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Thanksgivings & Baptisms



You are welcome to talk to us about thanksgiving and baptism (christening) for your children. Thanksgiving Services give an opportunity to come to the church and give thanks to God for the gift of a new child. Baptisms (Christenings) are an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the new life we have in Jesus and to welcome a child into God's family, the Church.

Baptisms and Thanksgivings are both held within Sunday morning worship in our churches.

Please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126 ball880am@btinternet.com

Noah's Ark

A drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their parents and carers at St John's, George Lane, Loddon.



Wednesdays 9:15am-12:00noon.

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

Small Groups

Some of us like to meet during the week in small groups where we can enjoy each others' company, study the Bible together and pray for one another and for others.



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

To join or just to know more, please contact Rev David on 01508 522993.

XTRA! Join us in St John's Church for an exciting, informal service every **Thursday after school**. Refreshments from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm. More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

Friends and Neighbours

If you've been widowed or have lost your life partner join us at St John's Lecture Hall on the **first Thursday of the month**. Make new friends, enjoy tea or lunch together.

Next Meetings:

Thursday 7th September 12:30pm: Hot lunch of baked potatoes with various fillings followed by a talk by Elvie Herd.
Saturday 16th September 10:00-12:00 noon: Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

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

Theo Mario Charalambous & Lucy Marie Watson
22nd July at St Margaret's Church, Hales

Funerals

John David Lurkins who died on 9th July 2023
Funeral: 11th August 2023 at All Saints, Chedgrave

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

1 Thessalonians 4:14, 17b

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

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

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

Rev David can also be contacted about interment of ashes.

South Yare Wildlife Group

The South Yare Wildlife Group (SYWG) held its Wildlife Activities



Afternoon at the Jubilee Hall on Saturday 15th July. The weather forecast was dire but, although we didn't escape the gales, the rain didn't materialise. Fortunately the Jubilee Hall is large enough to have everyone inside. We hope everyone enjoyed the activities and exhibits.

Fourteen local groups very kindly agreed to lend their support and SYWG is very appreciative for their enthusiasm and time. Because of their support there was a range of things for children to do and participate in. For example, 12 bird boxes and over 20 bee houses were made. It was also an opportunity for people to meet and discuss ideas. Several people told me that that was one of the most enjoyable things about the afternoon. The refreshments provided by The Church in Loddon greatly helped towards the conviviality of the afternoon with thanks to Val Counter and helpers.

Rodney Aldis (SYWG)



Julie Marshall

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News From Your Local Councillors



Beccles Road development: Despite our best efforts to object to the planning application from Hopkins Homes, permission was granted for 180 new houses off the Beccles Road. Town Council members and I, along with some representatives of local residents, attended the meeting to make our views known. To give South Norfolk Council its due, they were in a difficult position, being faced with agreeing to the application or facing an appeal if they refused it, which they would certainly have lost, thereby costing £100,000+ of taxpayers' money. The developers knew this and pushed for a decision; this is what we are up against until the nutrient neutrality issue is solved, and we once again can demonstrate a 5-year land supply in the district. I will continue to push Hopkins to make improvements to their plans they have for the site and will resist any further developments that fail to consider local people's views.

AI46: Many of us have been frustrated by the road works on this major route caused by Anglian Water's failure to fix their pipes effectively. This is a problem that has existed for many years. I bumped into their Chief Executive at a meeting in London recently and impressed upon him how important it is that this is sorted out once and for all. He has promised to look into it.

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

Councillor Kay Mason Billig

I've now run my first meeting as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee at South Norfolk, looking into the Council's Leisure Recovery Plan, and the Member Ward grant (see below) and Community Action Fund. The Scrutiny Committee is important; I'll keep you posted about what we do. You can watch meetings on YouTube as well as attend in person.

Soon I'll be allocating the £1000 each Councillor receives to promote local groups and causes; I've been delighted to be able to help dozens of groups over the last four years. Do get in touch if your group would like any help.

Councillor Surgeries: Saturday 30th September and Saturday 18th November in Loddon Library 2:00-3:00pm. Of course, I'll continue to reply to every communication, as well as regularly attend meetings of every Parish Council when I can.

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



Councillor Jeremy Rowe (07733 323581)

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Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

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

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

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



Chedgrave Parish Council held its meeting on 6th July 2023 and there was no meeting in August.

John Lurkins

It was with great sadness that the parish council received the news of the death of longstanding member, Councillor John Lurkins, on 9th July 2023. John moved to Chedgrave at the age of eight and over the years was instrumental in many projects to the benefit of our community such as the development of the Jubilee Hall and the Brian Clarke Room. John was an active member of the parish council for many decades (at least 46 years!) and his service spanned both the Silver and Platinum Jubilees of the late Queen Elizabeth II. John was involved in many projects over the years but he really seemed to enjoy the annual Easter Egg Hunt, and, in his words "seeing happy children with their families gathering for the Annual Easter Egg hunt in The Pits play area." The council is grateful for John's many years of service.

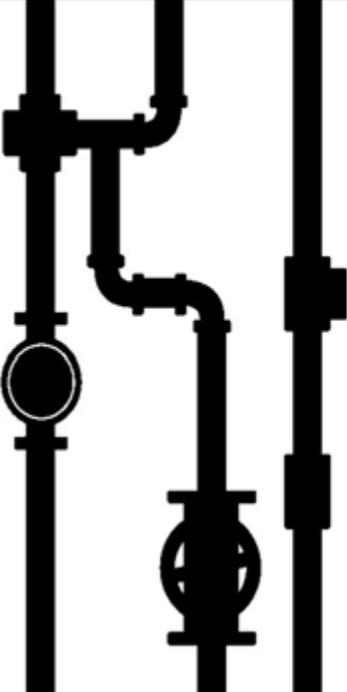
Paths in and around Chedgrave: The council is very much aware of various issues relating to footpath maintenance around the village and the frustration it is causing. Councillor Deb Downer has been following up on this matter with NCC Highways and continues to do so and the council will be writing to our County Councillor for help in this matter. The council is also considering the option of an interim cut to supplement NCC mowing to help prevent the problem in future.

Footway Lighting: As previously updated, the council is considering fitting 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. If you have any final comments on this idea, please contact the clerk.

Chedgrave Common: The council is Sole Trustee of Chedgrave Common Charity (255453) and now that the majority of Chedgrave Common has been registered, the council is in the process of migrating the management of Chedgrave Common over to the charity. Management will remain in line with Broads Authority and Norfolk Wildlife Trust guidance but will hopefully give more scope for greater community involvement.

Next Meeting: Thursday 7th September at 7:00pm in the Brian Clarke Room. All welcome!

Highways issues such as potholes, footpaths or public rights of way, road safety, flooding and overgrown trees and verges should be reported to Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 or online at www.norfolk.gov.uk. Criminal & illegal activities, public disorder & nuisance, anti-social behaviour, speeding, uncontrolled dogs, should all be reported to the Police on 999 or 101 (non-emergency) and can be reported online at www.norfolk.police.uk.



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Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC



Planning Application 2021/2437 & 2021/2522, Beccles Road, Loddon:

The planning application for 171 dwellings with access, parking, open space and landscaping and outline planning permission for a phased development for the erection of nine self-build dwelling on Beccles Road was approved at [South Norfolk Council's](#) (SNC) Development Management Committee on the 2nd August. LTC Cllrs attended, and disappointingly LTC's request for a revised layout was not taken into consideration. Due to 'Nutrient Neutrality', SNC cannot demonstrate a five-year land supply for housing. Loddon is not affected by Nutrient Neutrality and is very vulnerable to speculative planning applications. The recording of the meeting can be accessed via our website.

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 off Beccles Road at the Jubilee Hall on the 25th September from 2:00pm-7:00pm. They have agreed to feedback the results of the consultation at the Council meeting on the 11th October in The Hollies.

Vandalism: Unfortunately, there have been several incidents of vandalism in the last few weeks. The jeep at the Kitten's Lane Play Area had its springs broken by young adults. We are seeking quotes for repair, but unfortunately it will be out of use for some time. Two wooden footbridges that access Pyes Mill were damaged. The bin on the bus stop on High Bungay Road was damaged and the phone box outside the Co-op had two of its windows smashed. Please report incidents to the Police via 101, or their website: www.norfolk.police.uk/contact-us/6-report-it.

Chet Neighbourhood Plan: Thank you to everyone who took the time to reply to the Regulation 14 Consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Please see the ChetNP website for more information: www.chetnp.info/news.

Volunteering Opportunities: We are looking for volunteers to assist with community projects, such as redecoration of the Sustrans cycling post at the Staithe. We will be holding an event soon to advertise these opportunities. Please get in touch if you would like to know more.

Chet Valley Community Larder: Thank you so much for the donations that are being received for the Community Larder. The larder is in Loddon Library/LPC's lobby and is open to everyone. Open Monday to Friday: 8:00am-7:00pm; Saturday: 8:00am-4:00pm; Sunday: 10:00am-4:00pm. If you would like to volunteer to help with the larder, please get in touch.

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



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t: 01508 480351

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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

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



Next Parish Council Meetings: 5th September and 17th October starting at 7:30pm

Held at the Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas 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 off Yarmouth Road—HAL1: Regarding the Yarmouth Road development designated as HAL2, the progress is evident to residents from both Yarmouth Road and Briar Lane. As for the subsequent stage of the development (HAL1), which is presently undergoing consultation as part of the preliminary planning process, substantial discussions and evaluations remain. It is important to note that we have received an extensive response from the developers, FW Properties, after their public consultation held on 10th May 2023. Should you wish to learn more about what they have said in reply to the many questions raised, we strongly encourage your attendance at our forthcoming Parish Council meeting on the 5th September. However, if you are unable to attend, please let our clerk know and we will provide you with a condensed summary of the feedback received.

Hales Green—Hales & Loddon Cricket Club site: The Parish Council have been included in discussions with FMG Consulting to explore the feasibility of developing the Hales & Loddon Cricket Club site. A preliminary meeting has taken place as part of the process to investigate the viability. This study aims to determine the potential for establishing a sports hub on the existing Hales Cricket ground site. This proposed hub would encompass the facilities of Hales Cricket Club, Hales Bowls Club, and potentially Loddon United Football Club. The initial focus of FMG's work involves collaborating with all pertinent stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of their viewpoints and ambitions for the site's potential development. We are committed to keeping you informed about the progress of this study as it unfolds.

Christmas Carol Service, St Gregory's Church: We have provisionally reserved Sunday 10th December at 3:00pm. Numbers will be limited to 60 people. Volunteers are now sought to help with the organisation and management. Please contact our clerk if you can spare us a little of your time.

Composting site: We welcome all ideas regarding the repurposing of the old composting site on Briar Lane. Please contact our clerk if you have thoughts regarding how we could use this space to the benefit of our community.

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

Hales Green Common: We remind residents and visitors 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.



Loddon & District
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Annual Open Show 2nd September

92 classes of Vegetables, Fruit,
Plants, Flowers and Cookery
for anyone to enter!

The Jubilee Hall, Loddon

8:30AM - 10:45AM Staging of Exhibits

11:00AM - 1:00PM Judging

1:00PM - 4:00PM Public Viewing (free admission)

4:00PM - 4:30PM Presentation of Trophies



Find us on 



This event is part-funded
using a grant from
Loddon Parish Council

Ride, walk or drive to raise
funds for historic churches



THE NORFOLK
CHURCHES TRUST

www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk

Saturday 9th September



Visit the Pop-Up Café
and Giant Book Sale
Holy Trinity Church Loddon

St Michael's Church, Langley

Open Afternoons:

Sunday 27th August, 24th September, 2:00-4:30pm.

Retreat from a busy world and take the opportunity to relax in the verdant, leafy churchyard, or just be at ease in the cool, calm atmosphere of the interior of this beautiful church. Refreshments provided free of charge.

Sponsored Bike Ride:

Saturday 9th September

Heritage Open Days:

Sunday 10th and Sunday 17th September, 2:00-4:30pm.

Discover the architecture and history of this medieval treasure on a free guided tour taking place on the hour. No booking required.



Langley with Hardley Parish Council

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



We welcome the election of two new Councillors: Rob Baldwin and Stuart Adcock, after the Parish Council elections in May. Cheryl Frost, a recent member, and Frances Kirkpatrick, a long-standing member with many years of sterling service, have both retired from the Council. We thank all for their service to the community.

Good public attendance at the July Parish Council meeting resulted in plenty of engagement and feedback.

Residents have recently highlighted an increase in dog fouling on public footpaths, especially Fish's Lane, Hardley. In response to this the Parish Council has placed 'Dog Fouling Bag and Bin' signs in the area and agreed to install a dog bin at the bottom of Fish's Lane. Please ensure you 'pick and bag' all dog refuse to keep our area clean and beautiful.

A new picnic bench has been installed in the Hardley with Langley Play Area. Highways have recently repaired the reported road potholes within the Parish. Please continue to report any potholes on the Norfolk County Council/Highways Department website. It's a really simple and effective tool to use.

We now have a Facebook page with current information on what your Council is doing in the area. Please have a look and post a comment.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at Langley with Hardley Village Hall on Tuesday 5th September at 7:30pm. Please attend and meet your new Parish Council.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Friday 1st September: Café—11:00am-1:00pm.

Friday 15th September: Macmillan Coffee Morning—11:00am-1:00pm.

To view the hall, to look at the facilities, to enquire about costs, or to book the hall, please phone Tibby or Jane on 01508 520184.

Thank you to all those who support us.



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.





The Regulation 14 Consultation of stakeholders and residents on the draft Chet Neighbourhood Plan took place in June and July. Four consultation events, two in Chedgrave and two in Loddon, were well-attended. They produced helpful comments on the policies we have written to influence planning decisions in Loddon and Chedgrave. We have also received many completed surveys.

All the comments we have received will be carefully considered as we finalise the plan. Once that is done, it, and supporting documentation, will be submitted to the planning authority for approval. When that is achieved there will be a referendum, open to all electors of Loddon and Chedgrave, to approve (we hope) the final version, which will then have legal status.

Key reasons for developing a neighbourhood plan:

- It is the best way for a community to influence development decisions
- It allows us to influence the location, design, mix and type of new homes
- It protects important green spaces
- It sets priorities for infrastructure improvements
- It increases Community Infrastructure Levy payments from 15% to 25%; this will assist us to deliver infrastructure improvements

All our documents are available on our website: www.chetnp.info.

Please do keep an eye on progress. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the steering group via the website:

[Chet Neighbourhood Plan | Contact \(chetnp.info\)](http://www.chetnp.info)

or in writing. Letters can be left in the postbox for Loddon Town Council, situated to the right of the blue door to the library.

Thank you.

Chet Neighbourhood Plan Team



Notes from Sisland

As I am writing this in early August, I want to thank all those who have supported the Sunday teas at Sisland church, whatever the weather. It has been lovely to catch up with old friends, as well as welcome new visitors who have discovered our beautiful church. We all know what challenges we have all faced in recent years but the opportunity to sit, reflect and share has been enjoyed by many. Although it is the main fundraiser for St Mary's it offers so much more to so many. *(Scones and cake were delicious; we met some new folk too. Ed.)*



The very mixed season meant that although some of the churchyard had been cut by the start of August—in fact in early July—the lack of some continuous dry days lead to other challenges in finishing cutting. As we move from the summer months into the autumn, our attention turns to the change in seasons. The word ‘harvest’ comes from the Old English word *hærfest* meaning ‘autumn’, apt for the season when we gather in so much of our local produce. In the UK, harvest festival, which is also known as the harvest home, has traditionally been celebrated on the Sunday nearest the harvest moon. This is the full moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. In 2023, September’s full moon will be on 29th September. As the moonrise comes shortly after sunset there can be an abundance of moonlight early in the evening, which enabled farmer workers to work later into the evening to complete the harvest. Although we now fix and plan for this celebration, without reference to the moon, in the past the harvest festival differed, based on a date when all the crops had been brought in; a period when the whole community, including children, needed to help right up until the end, as lives depended on the success of the harvest.

The Harvest Festival service in Sisland this year, will be at 5:00pm on Sunday 17th September, not as close to the September moon as in some years! The service will contain all the traditional elements that you would expect and will allow us to connect with the environment around us, so key to the farming season. We hope to see you there.

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

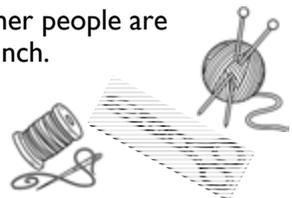
Loddon WI Sewing and Craft Day—Saturday 30th September

St John's Lecture Hall. George Lane, Loddon from 10:00am–4:00pm.

Bring whatever you are working on and see what other people are doing while enjoying a relaxing day. Bring a packed lunch. Tea/coffee available.

£5.00 a table. To book a place ring 01508 528912.

This event is open to the community.



Bike Active Norfolk



We are a recently-founded adult disability cycling group. Most of our volunteers are from the Long Stratton area, although we cycle out from Earsham village hall close to Bungay, every other Monday morning.

We use adaptive bicycles to ride as a group 3.5 miles along the quiet route of National Cycle Route 30 that is bypassed by the A143 and runs along the scenic River Waveney past the otter trust. Our volunteers are trained in the use of the adapted cycles we use and all are subject to DBS checking. Our route is fully risk assessed by suitably qualified persons. We are fully insured so as we can deliver a safe fun ride.

Our group is in the process of becoming a registered charitable organisation. You can read about it on our website BikeActiveNorfolk.org. If you are an adult with any type of disability, you need not reveal this to us, and would like to come out cycling with us then take a look. If you have any questions, please contact me through the details on the website or by phone (number below).

If you are the parent or carer of any adult with a disability and you think they may enjoy a cycle ride with our group, please take a look. We are confident we can take most people out to enjoy a cycling experience on our many adapted cycles. Volunteers and clients often make a beeline for Grumpy's Cafe after working up a thirst on the ride as it is very close by.

We are always looking for volunteers who can help deliver the cycling experience to our clients. Please contact me, Jez Briggs, on 07716 103072 if you are interested.

Happy cycling!

Annual Church Cycle Ride—Saturday 9th September

Each year a band of intrepid cyclists set off on a sponsored cycle ride to raise money for the Norfolk Churches Trust and also for their local churches. The money helps in keeping the buildings standing and in good repair so that they can remain open.



There are usually cyclists from four of the churches in the Chet Valley Benefice (Chedgrave, Hardley, Loddon and Sisland). I know they would welcome your sponsorship. Anyone can cycle to support a church, whether or not they are part of the congregation.



**THE NORFOLK
CHURCHES TRUST**

You can also be sponsored to walk between churches and those providing refreshments and manning the churches on the day can be sponsored too.

Do join in in some way if you can.

Loddon Flower Club

Tuesday 5th September—Floral Cocktail, a flower arranging demonstration by Crystal Dyball.

Tuesday 3rd October—My Family and Other Animals by Elizabeth Robertson. A competition for members will also be held at this meeting with the same title.

These two meetings will be held at the Lecture Hall, St John's, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open at 6:30pm for 7:00pm. A raffle will be held at the end of the evening for the arrangements and refreshments will be available. Visitors £7.50.

We are holding a flower festival to celebrate our 65th birthday at Holy Trinity Church, Loddon from 22nd-24th September, 10:00am-4:00pm to raise money for our club and The Church in Loddon. The title is Hobbies and Pastimes. If you would like to promote your club within the festival please get in touch with our Chairman Tricia with the idea of either displaying your information, sponsoring an arrangement or even doing one of your own. Refreshments provided by the pop-up café of the Church in Loddon throughout the festival.

For more information contact our Chairman, Tricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Secretary, Alex Pinder on 01508 493869 or nmark@aol.com. We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions. Do take a look at our website at www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.

Tuesday Market

Come and join us in The Hollies for our friendly market selling home bakery, preserves, fresh local eggs, cut flowers, plants and crafts.

We're open every Tuesday from 10:00-11:30am.

We are looking for new cooks to join our team. Interested? Come and chat to us on Tuesday or contact Sheila Ford (Chairman) on 01508 520752.



Loddon Bell Ringers

We have attended monthly practices held at Woodton and at St. Nicholas Minster in Great Yarmouth. Last month we rang the bells at St. Peter and St. Paul, Bergh Apton for a wedding held there and early August we tolled the Tenor bell for a funeral at St. Mary's, Haddiscoe.

Quarter Peals have been rung by our members at Ashill, Wymondham Abbey and St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich. We also took part in a Peal of seven minor methods at Troston in Suffolk, which was the first ever peal rung on the bells.



Steve Rabong

Church Services

3rd September

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

10th September

9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon

17th September

10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	Harvest Festival*	All Saints, Chedgrave
5:00pm	Harvest Festival	St Mary, Sisland

24th September

9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Harvest Festival	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Harvest Festival**	Holy Trinity, Loddon

*Harvest Festival Collection in Chedgrave

All Saints Church, Chedgrave will be taking a cash collection for Water Aid at the harvest festival. There will also be a collection of tins and boxes for the Chet Valley Community Larder.



Shared Lunch in Chedgrave

There is a bring and share lunch after the harvest festival at All Saints. All welcome. Bring a plate to share, or else just come. There is usually more than enough food for all.

**Harvest Festival in Loddon

This will be in the pop-up café alongside Holy Trinity while the flower festival is going on inside the church building.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

Prayer at Home	<p>‘Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection’</p> <p>If you would like to receive the weekly prayer and reflection sent out by email, please contact</p> <p>Rev Jill (jillhaylock@aol.com)</p> <p><i>All are welcome</i></p>													
Thursday during school term	<p>XTRA!</p> <p>Join us at St John’s for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm.</p> <p>More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126</p>													
<p>Every day</p> <p>Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:00am</p> <p><i>All Welcome</i></p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Monday</td><td>Holy Trinity, Loddon</td></tr> <tr><td>Tuesday</td><td>St Margaret, Hardley</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>All Saints, Chedgrave</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday</td><td>Holy Trinity, Loddon</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday</td><td>St Mary, Sisland</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday</td><td>All Saints, Chedgrave</td></tr> </table>	Monday	Holy Trinity, Loddon	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave	Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon	Friday	St Mary, Sisland	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave	
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Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon													
Friday	St Mary, Sisland													
Saturday	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 6th September: David Hockney—The Old Master of the Modern World by Douglas Skeggs.

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 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. After our summer break we shall resume rehearsals on Thursday 7th September 2023 at our usual venue, St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. 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 or 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



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 01508 521958



Loddon Ladies Hockey Club

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

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

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



Loddon Tennis Club

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

Pay and Play is available for £5 per hour via www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/LoddonTennisClub.

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



Hobart Badminton Club

Players wanted! Come and join our friendly club of all ages from 16+. Playing experience desirable. We meet at Hobart sports hall, **Tuesday** evenings from 7:30-9:30pm. Cost £5:00, first session free!

For more information contact Terry on: tezzahayden99@gmail.com



Loddon Junior Badminton Club

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

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

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

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



Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



Our Loddon Standard has been busy on its travels to a Memorial Service for The Desert Rats near Thetford and at our own VJ Day Service. We have been invited to the Beccles Battle of Britain Service in September (Passport is ready for the border crossing!)

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (but not in December) for those interested to pop along and support veterans. As you know, people no longer need to have served in the forces to join the Royal British Legion. Meetings are held at St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. For more information, contact us on 01508 521136.

Social Whist



We meet every 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Usual start 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).



Chet Valley Community Larder

*Helping each other out,
reducing surplus food waste,
sharing with the whole community.*

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



Loddon Community Gym

The Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX
Tel: 07534 946143 www.loddoncommunitygym.com

The gym is open on some part of every day Monday to Friday:
Monday 1:45–5:25pm; Tuesday 4:45–7:05pm; Wednesday 9:00–11:20am;
Thursday 6:00pm–8:20pm; Friday 10:15am–12:35pm.

It's been twelve months since the Community Gym took the bold but successful step of relocating to the Library Annexe in Loddon. Since then there have been many tweaks and changes to both the committee and the operation of the gym. However, the one thing that remains unchanged is our commitment to Loddon, Chedgrave and the surrounding villages to provide a local, not-for-profit, friendly and affordable fitness facility which, to date, has not been provided by the Local Authority. This is recognised by South Norfolk Council who continue to offer their support when needed. We also have the support of a number of local businesses, but could always do with more. Let us know if you feel you could help!

Unlike many gyms, our instructor Louise is qualified to help those referred to us by local GP practices through the Active Now scheme. This has proved hugely beneficial to many of our members. If you feel that your fitness and wellbeing could be improved, just drop by for a chat. We also recognise that those less mobile than some also wish to improve or maintain their fitness levels. For those we started chair-based exercise classes on 12th July. Please contact Louise if you are interested.

For more information visit 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. Alternatively, to book a first session, ring Louise on the number above.

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:

5th September: Mary Fewster—Norwich Pleasure Gardens

19th September: Jan Bensley—The Elizabethan Garden

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



Chet Valley Probus Club

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

Upcoming Meetings:

12th September: Adrian O'Dell—The Spiritual and Practical Use of Water in Medieval Monasteries

26th September: Charles Lewis:—Tulipmania

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

24th October: Chris Crowther—Bush Pilot; Now a Crime Writer

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

Loddon Community Cinema

Thursday 7th September: The Fabelmans. 115 minutes and rated PG13. Directed and co-written by Stephen Spielberg. Starring Gabriel laBelle and Michelle Williams.

The story is a semi-autobiographical portrayal of Spielberg's adolescence and his early years as a filmmaker. Well received by critics.

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





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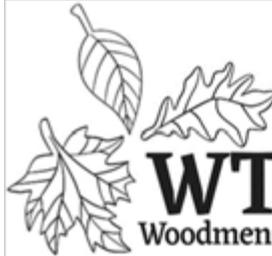
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Community Groups, News and Events

News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon and District Women's Institute

Looking back over the summer, Loddon WI members have had a good time! We have enjoyed an Afternoon Tea Garden Party in a member's garden; a visit to Oxburgh Hall, a really fun evening of country dancing, and a visit from Mrs Rosie Wilkin. During her talk about food and drink from the 5th to the 15th Century, we had a taste of homemade mead, pottage and nettle tea. Never a dull moment!

It looks as if September will also be keeping us busy. As well as our usual meetings, on 1st September some of us will be going to the Duxford Quilt Fair; we'll be taking part in a competition at the Horticultural Society's Annual Show on 2nd September; and we will have a stall at Loddon Flower Club's Flower Festival.

Next Meetings:

Thursday 14th September: Knit, Natter & Crochet—2:30pm–4:00pm. Loddon Library. (This is open to anyone in the community).

Wednesday 20th September: Peter Lawrence—Eyes along the Norfolk Coast. A talk about the National Coastwatch. 7:15 for 7:30pm. St. John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon.

Thursday 28th September: Book Club—10:30am–12:00 noon.

Saturday 30th September: Sewing & Craft Day 10:00 am–4:00pm, St John's Lecture Hall. Further details on p23.

If you would like to find out more about our group, why not come along to one of our meetings? We'd be very pleased to meet you. We can be contacted via our Facebook, or by ringing 01508 528912.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

At their meeting in June, members were entertained by June Strickland's account of her time as a Marriage Registrar. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 26th September at 2:00pm in the All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave.

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

Chet Valley Art Society

Are there any artists out there that would like to join Chet Valley Art Society? We meet every other week at Highways Garden Centre.

We will book a trip to London to visit galleries. Do get in touch if you would like to join us. Phone Vee on 07557 402211.

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Loddon and District Horticultural Society

On Saturday 2nd September we are holding our Annual Open Show at the Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon. It is open to both members and non-members and if you would like to show any vegetables or fruit please contact Tricia, Show Secretary, for a show schedule on 01508 520273 or

patricialoades@btinternet.com. There are 92 classes for a variety of items. Doors open at 1:00pm. If you are thinking of showing something in the future please come along and have a look at what is involved. Refreshments will be available.

Because of this show we do not have a meeting on the second Wednesday but will be back to normal in October.

For more details contact Jean Cope (Chairman) on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or Hazel Copland (Secretary) on 01508 520890 or happyhaze50@gmail.com. It is £10 per year to join our Society. Follow us on our Facebook page.



Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)

A big thank you to all who visited our 11th annual exhibition in July. We had many visitors over the weekend and it was lovely to be able to put together another exhibition for visitors to come along to and enjoy.



The result of the CVPC Public Choice vote is as follows:

1st *Two Foxes* Norman Wyatt; 2nd *Speckled Bush Cricket Nymph* Jonathan Orland; 3rd *Two Otters* Norman Wyatt.

These photographs can be view on our club website:
www.ChetValleyPhotography.org.uk.

If our exhibition has inspired you and you would like to come along to our meetings then please do. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. For more details please see our website or email: info@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 4th September, 7:00pm start, at St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon.

Further details for our Monday 11th September club meeting will be posted on our website when they are available.

Upcoming Events

If you like to get things into your diary early, then note that these events are coming up in October: Loddon Band concert in Holy Trinity, Loddon, on 14th; the October Quiz & Supper on 20th as well as 'Cake & Rake' following the Autumn churchyard cut on 28th—both at All Saints, Chedgrave.

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Chet Valley Patient Participation Group (PPG)

All GP practices are required to have a Patient Participation Group for the purpose of obtaining the views of patients on the services delivered. The role of the PPG is to be a supportively critical friend to the practice, to advise them on the patients' perspective, and to provide an insight into the quality of the service provided. When the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspect the practice, they want to know how involved the public are and how the staff engage with them.

The Chet Valley Medical Practice PPG consists of members who meet on a quarterly basis, or as required. It has an elected Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Members must be registered as either a patient or a carer of a patient at the practice. They must remain objective; this is not a forum for raising individual complaints. It is however a forum for showing the practice how their services are perceived and for suggesting improvements. Would you be interested in joining the group? Why not come along to an open meeting to find out more about it and how you could help.

Open meeting:

Monday 5th September at 6:00pm at Chet Valley Medical Practice.

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 £10.00 is charged plus £3.00 for each meeting attended. New members always welcome.



Next Meeting:

Wednesday 27th September: Sylvia Cundy will demonstrate how to make corn dollies and instruct us in attempting to make our own corn dolly. Please bring with you a damp tea towel (for keeping the corn damp) and a small pair of scissors.

Contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

Wednesday 27th September: Walk at Reydon Marshes. 10:30am. Another chance to explore this lovely landscape; walks to suit all abilities. Lunch at the lovely café on site. Contact June 528853.

We are a friendly group of people who like walking, visiting interesting gardens, historic buildings, and the occasional social evening. Membership fee is £6.00pa. Members will receive a programme. New members welcome.

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

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Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm (Open Libraries access only)

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We are delighted to say that Loddon and District Local History Group have just published a new booklet:

What's in a Name

It has information on the origin of some of the street names in Loddon and Chedgrave.

Copies are available in the library for £5.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

In June Chris and Stephe Kolonka-Weet gave us an interesting talk about 'Defending Norfolk 1940-1942: The Home Forces'. There was an imminent threat of German invasion so to counter this the Julius Caesar plan was drafted and implemented by Sir Walter Kirke. 1941 saw the consolidation of existing defences and further construction of pillboxes, with three slit trenches for each, anti-tank islands and barbed wire placed along the coastline. New weapons systems were introduced for the Regulars, the Territorial Army (TA) and the Home Guard who were given more responsibility to free up the rest of the army's units. By 1942 the immediate threat of invasion was considered over and coastal defences were reduced. In December 1944 the Home Guard was disbanded.

East Anglia was particularly vulnerable to an attack as an invasion fleet from North Germany could be landed in a night and once France and Belgium fell in June 1940 the north east became vulnerable too. By the end of 1940 the south coast became equally vulnerable. Chris then outlined the home forces available: the Royal Navy and coastal command would provide an early warning; the RAF's bomber and fighter command would bomb beach heads and attack any enemy infantry should they land; the Royal Artillery and Coastal Batteries could intercept landing craft while troops from the Regular and TA would hold up any invading troops. The Home Guard were to be a localised defence and could guide the regular army but they were badly equipped to begin with and were not intended to be the front line.

Chris then mentioned some of the Commanders-in-Chief of the Home Forces who had to provide equipment and training and plan where troops should be deployed. In Norfolk there were two divisions with 8-10,000 in each. Between June 1940 and January 1941 they operated a series of defence lines around where roads and rails connected near towns like Yarmouth. One type of line (red) needed enough supplies so that they could hold out for seven days while a second type (green) aimed to hold out for two days with fewer supplies.

Chris and Sophie then mentioned some of their research methods like the use of archaeological recording of surviving defences, aerial photographs and use of GIS. Today, the role and post-war legacy of the home forces is largely forgotten but Chris argued that there is much more to learn.

Next meeting: 20th September 'Stones, Bones and Herbs—Treating Everyday Ailments in Medieval England' by Joy Hawkins. All meetings held in St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon starting at 1:30pm. Admission £3 (includes light refreshments). All welcome. Email: Carol (chetcottchippy@hotmail.com) or Elvie (elvie.herd@uwclub.net)

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

Someone Else's Shoes by Jojo Moyes

Nisha and Sam have nothing in common but their worlds collide when their lives start to fall apart. I really enjoyed this story of two forty-something women having midlife crises and coming out on top. It was a fun, easy read—as Jojo Moyes tends to be—and perfect for summer/early autumn. Although she's easy to read Jojo Moyes plots are cleverly interwoven and her characters are relatable and empathetic.

Romantic Comedy by Curtis Sittenfeld

I've enjoyed many books by this writer. This feels a departure from some of her more political novels, but it's a great one. Sally's a script writer for a late night comedy show on TV. She sees a lot of gorgeous, successful women fall for averagely successful men but never the reverse. So she decides to write about it. But life and love overtake her by surprise and she finds her expectations turned on their head. Funny, bittersweet and a great dissection of modern romance.

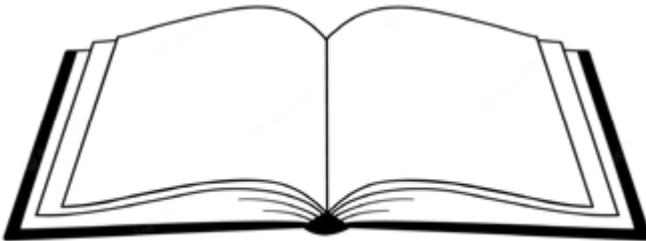
A Very Short Introduction to... various authors

This series of books are brilliant at giving you an expert's guide to a particular subject. I've recently had reason to read the Plagues and the Viruses one for work and they are wonderful at helping you to understand a complex subject without dumbing it down too much. There are multiple titles covering all kinds of themes, all written by experts in their fields. Titles like Philosophy, Socialism, Art Theory and many more.

Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton

Booker prize winner Eleanor Catton returns with a novel set in her home of New Zealand, about a group of activist farmers called Birnam Wood who perform acts of guerilla architecture. It's a savvy book about modern technology and politics, with writing so good you'll want to stop and either read it again or make a note of passages for future reference. Building towards a tragic but entertaining ending, Birnam Wood is a literary thriller that gathers pace in the second half and sucks the reader into a whirlpool of intrigue.

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Nature Notes

As you read this, we will be entering the season of autumn; the nights drawing in, and summer's visiting birds will be leaving our shores to be replaced by our winter visitors. As I write, I am wishing I was outside in glorious sunshine, rather than inside watching the rain pour down and wondering just when I will be able to walk the dogs in the dry.

My bird-watching recently has been restricted to local walks with the dogs. While I haven't seen any new species for my depleted year list, just seeing what is around has none-the-less been enjoyable. Yesterday, at Seething, we were entertained and enchanted by both a red kite and a buzzard circling overhead, followed by the laughing *yaffle* of a green woodpecker as it flew across the field in its undulating flight. A few weeks back I was watching a male yellowhammer running round on the ground lifting its wings vertically above its back. It became obvious what it was doing when a female came out of the shadows: he was showing off his prowess. Was he successful? I don't know as they both flew off!

At the beginning of July there was a lack of birds using our feeding station, but as the month progressed it became inundated with young blue and great tits and a regular male greater spotted woodpecker (recognized by the red cap at the rear of its head).

While walking the dogs across the track from Cross Stone Street to Hardley Hall, I was first aware of a small flock of birds flying from the wood to one of the oak trees in the hedge, followed by a call that initially I didn't recognise. Having my binoculars with me I scanned the tree and discovered that at least some of the birds in the flock were blue tits. My brain then engaged, and I realised the call I had heard was a nuthatch and sure enough it wasn't long before it appeared round a branch on its search for food. I was able to enjoy its foraging exploits for a few minutes before continuing with the walk.

One thing the wet weather has made more obvious are amphibians. We have noticed several frogs in the garden. Also, on a late evening walk with the dogs we came across a toad on the road which fascinated our young dog. I was able to take some good photos of her puzzled expression, only to discover looking at them later that we had failed to spot a newt which was also there. On an excursion to Hardley Staithe, I noticed a grass snake by the side of the road thrashing about. Thinking it was injured, I parked safely and went to investigate only to discover that it was attempting to remove a squashed frog, which it finally succeeded in doing, slithering off into the roadside undergrowth. I also found a grass snake sunbathing against our front doorstep!

You never know what you might come across as you are out and about or even looking through a window, that can brighten any day, so enjoy.

Richard & Rachel Hull





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Allotment & Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

For the allotments, at least, the rains came just at the right moment to revive the beans, brassicas and squashes which had been marking time, though it was too late for my onions as rabbits got under the netting and took the tops off. Normally the onions would revive and continue growing but this was followed by the very hot dry spell and some of the onions bolted. More positive news is we have been eating delicious earthy new potatoes since early July though these are also generally small.

Gooseberries, early summer raspberries and blackcurrants are all picked and eaten or frozen. The rhubarb also revived in the rain and is once again ready to eat. In the polytunnel, cucumbers, tomatoes and aubergines are ripe. The peppers and chillis will be a little longer. I also have one melon from my experimental planting!

My avid reader will remember that a friend with an orchard took cuttings from some old Norfolk apple varieties in our orchard and was pleased that seven of these grafts have taken. We are happy to help preserve these old varieties and share cuttings with anyone else who wants them. The allotment holders were busy in June thinning the apple crop to a double or single fruit at each cluster to encourage larger fruits to develop, particularly as the June drop didn't appear to take place. However, the crop is still small, and the earliest apples were ripe before the end of July. **Andrew Milner**

From the Garden

Well, 2023 has certainly been a bit different from last year; hot and dry and then wet and windy! This year the strong southerly winds have battered some of the taller plants, so may have to move them or increase the supports. The dahlias have been flowering well, they are not so tall this year, maybe due to the extreme winter temperatures. Only one variety, Thomas Edison, didn't survive and I have replaced this as well as adding a few more varieties. The three outdoor amaryllis I planted earlier in the year all flowered but not at the same time which was a bit disappointing as I had planted them in one large pot. The bank around the pond flowered well first with daffodils, then camassia and then alliums so the remaining bank will be planted up in the same way in October/November. We plan to add yellow rattle and wildflowers to the bank to extend the season beyond June. The pond plants are doing well and we have had three flowers on the water lily so far. The pond has been visited by lots of wildlife, dragonflies, damselflies, small birds, water snails and frogs amongst others.

Jobs for this month: take salvia cuttings to increase my plants, as I did lose a couple over the winter; and sow collected perennial seeds to overwinter in the greenhouse. The spring bulbs will now be available in the garden centres.

Enjoy your garden.

Shirley Cross

End Piece

Sometime around the late 1980s/early 90s Chedgrave had a fete in The Pits with a poetry competition displayed in Chedgrave Church. I decided to write about our actions towards the planet that we live on, a subject which concerned me. To my surprise my poem was chosen for a prize! It seemed that many locals agreed with the sentiments and related to the situation. I wonder what those living here now think, all this time later? Despite countless pleas from so many organisations it seems that there is less regard for the environment we live in now than there was then. Surely we must realise that climate change is a reality and although we cannot turn back time we can at least, in small ways, attempt to delay our destruction for a while longer, with a little effort.

Here is the prize piece, as apt today as it was then, to my mind anyway.

Help

The land cries out for help, will anybody listen?

The sea that once was clear and blue

So full of life, can it be true

That everything that we once knew

Is slowly dying?

The sky cries out for help, will anybody listen?

The air is heavy, still and grey,

Our lungs are struggling with each day,

And still we throw the junk away

That we are making.

The earth cries out for help, will anybody listen?

Cement and tarmac everywhere,

Engines filling up the air,

No-one even seems to care.

What are we doing?

Our bodies cry for help, will anybody listen?

What legacies are we to leave?

Will our children even breathe?

Can we only sit and grieve

While time is passing?

Protestors cry for help, will anybody listen?

Must they fight until the end?

Persecuted by their friends,

Will Almighty ever send

What they are asking?

Carol Webb



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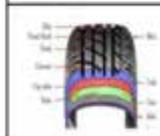
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