

CONTACT



Published by the Church in Loddon

October 2019



The Hales and Loddon Cricket Club end of season youth awards—see page 31

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, LANGLEY

presents a concert of late 19th Century music with

AURIGA CAPELLA

URSULA PANK (cello) and JOHN NICHOLSON (piano)



Popular pieces
showcasing
talented
musicians

In the
Ballroom of
Langley Hall,
NR14 6BJ

7.30pm Saturday 26 October 2019

TICKETS: £10.00 Adults £8.50 Friends £2.00 Students/Children

(Includes wine/soft drinks and nibbles)

Concert proceeds will go towards refurbishment of the Church

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

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Church Office

St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon NR14 6NB
Phone: 01508 521 179, Email: office@chetvalleychurches.org
Open: Mon & Fri: 10am-4pm; Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10am-1pm



Baptisms, Weddings, Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of a Child

To arrange any of the above please contact the Church Office.

Church Websites

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

Contact Magazine

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Please include your name and telephone number.

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Similarly, the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Church in Loddon.

Editorial

I love the Autumn. Although the nights are drawing in, and the trees are dropping their leaves, it has often marked the start of a new chapter for me - a new school or university year, moving house, moving countries even. I moved back to Norfolk nine years ago after a couple of years away, and there is something about the light at this time of year, the rustle and smell of leaves, and the colours of the season that bring it all back. It is also my birthday this month, which may or may not have something to do with it.

This Autumn I am starting as a volunteer ambassador for a brilliant charity called Get Me Out The Four Walls. You can find out more about what they do on page 15. With all this talk of Autumn, is it too early to think about Christmas?... Not if you want to take part in a Choir for Carols (page 19) or the Victorian Evening (page 45). A fair few musical events to purchase tickets for too: Auriga Capella (page 2), Annie The Musical and Libricini (page 17) and The Loddon Band (page 21). What takes your fancy?

Check out the Community Groups and Events section from page 30 onwards; we welcome a couple of new entries this month.

And finally, you should have received an envelope with your copy of Contact this month. Contact is delivered to every household in Loddon for free. If you would like to contribute to the costs of producing Contact, this is an opportunity to make a donation. Cash or cheques (made out to "Contact Magazine") can be dropped into the Church Office using the envelopes provided.

Now, I'm off to scuff in some leaves and look for conkers...

Megan



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Ministerial Musings

Pass It On

A bunch of people sat round the table and pondered the theme of 'Pass It On', which will form the basis of the church's Xpressions Café in October. What do we pass on to others, and what do they pass on to us?

It's an interesting thought. My granddaughter is seven months old, and in that little person are some of the same genes that I hold. I've passed them on, down the family. As time goes by, I'd like to think I can pass other things on too – my interests and beliefs and my support as she grows up.

Passing things on to a new generation is important, partly because we want to share our enthusiasms and interests, and partly because we hope that younger people will have some of the same values and concerns that we do. But we must remember that life changes with each new generation. We probably live very differently from our parents or grandparents.

As Rector I am responsible for a number of ancient buildings that have been a focus for faith for hundreds of years. They are solid, but not static, as they have all changed radically over time, both in how they are arranged and how they are used. We would be very mistaken if we thought that what we have now is the way they have always been!

When churches consider new activities or new ways of setting up the building they are following a long tradition of adapting to suit current and future needs. They know that if they don't adapt, eventually they die. I have no wish to see any of the local churches die, but I'm conscious that this will happen within my granddaughter's formative years if we fail to pass on our faith in a manner that appeals to a new generation – people who are used to choice, comfort and access to transport.

It's a challenge! We want keep the lovely buildings that have been a beacon of faith for so long, and yet we must also allow our expressions of faith to be vibrant, attractive and looking to the future rather than the past. Will you work with me to do this?

David Owen

ADVERTS

Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley



You are welcome to join us at any of our services.

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

Services of **Morning Worship** are held in Loddon and Hardley.

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

All Together Worship is on the third Sunday every month at All Saints, Chedgrave (January, March, June and September have a later start and are followed by shared lunch).

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

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

Xtra! is an exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church. Refreshments from 3.15pm, service starts ~3.45pm. Open to all; particularly suited to children and young people.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is an opportunity to enjoy a chat over refreshments after the service.

There are toilets and baby-changing facilities at All Saints, Chedgrave and St John's, Loddon.

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

Home Communion: If you would like home communion, because you are unable for any reason to get to a Sunday service, please contact the clergy or the Church Office and we will arrange for someone to bring communion to you.

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

ADVERTS

Thanksgivings & Baptisms



You are welcome to request thanksgiving and baptism for your children.

Thanksgiving Services may be held at any time in the churches by arrangement with the clergy. They are an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of a new child and to celebrate this with family and friends in the presence of God.

Baptisms are usually held within the Sunday worship in our churches. They are an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the new life we have in Jesus and to welcome a child into God's family, the Church.

Please contact Rev Alison Ball on 01508 528126

ball880am@btinternet.com or the Church Office on 01508 521179

Noah's Ark

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



Wednesdays 9.15am - 12 noon.

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

Small Groups

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



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

If you would like to join one, or just to know more, please contact David Owen (01508 522993).

Friends and Neighbours

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

Next Meeting:

3rd October at 12.30pm

Memorial Service at St John's Chapel, followed by Afternoon Tea in the Lecture Hall.

If you are interested in joining the group ring 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 10am-12pm**. Come and go as you choose. On average there are about 17 people who come to Mardles, and there's room for more! You will be made very welcome.

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

Xtra! Join us in St John's Church for an exciting, informal service **every Thursday after school**. Refreshments, activities from 3.15pm. Service starts 3.45pm.

More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

ADVERTS

From the Parish Registers

Weddings

Martin Peter Wells and Rebecca Leigh Rose
married on 10th August 2019 at St Michael's Church, Langley

Matthew Charles Lambert and Kathleen Joan Thetford
married on 23rd August 2019 at St Margaret's Church, Hardley

Funerals

Muriel Phyllis Hoffmann who died on 10th June 2019 aged 98 years
Funeral: 10th July 2019 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Laurence Eric Wilkinson who died on 3rd August 2019 aged 99 years
Funeral: 20th August 2019 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

Thank you so much to all of you who took part in **Loddon Art Exhibition** over the August Bank Holiday whether you were one of the army of stewards, cooks, makers or painters, pourers or buyers, typist or copiers, those who erected the marquee and moved the boards before and after; it was great fun and we could not have done it without you. Over £2250 was raised for The Church in Loddon and we are truly grateful. **GG and AB**

For those of you who missed it this poem by an unknown author inspired a marvellous sculpture:

Messenger

The man whispered, 'God speak to me', And a meadow lark sang. The man did not hear.

So the man yelled, 'God speak to me', And the thunder rolled across the sky, But the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said, 'God let me see you' and a star shone brightly, But the man did not notice.

And the man shouted, 'God show me a miracle', And a life was born but the man did not know.

So the man cried out in despair, 'Touch me God and let me know you are here'. Whereupon God reached down and touched the man.

But the man brushed the butterfly away, And walked away unknowingly...

ADVERTS

THE SISLAND CHRONICLE

An encouraging sign in the countryside is the number of trees and hedges that farmers and gardeners have planted in recent years. They do need some tender care to get them started, but the young trees in our parish have started to make a visual impact – growing quite quickly when established, so the effort is worthwhile. Every tree and hedge plant makes a steadily increasing contribution to helping to reduce the CO2 which is fuelling the warming of our planet. Local nurseries have been involved in supplying a wide variety of trees for most of the last century. From cricket bat willows and the great black poplars which grow along our southern rivers, to willows and poplars that surprisingly prefer the old slag heaps of redundant coal mines, which they help to stabilise. Local trees also helped to ‘green’ new town expansions such as Peterborough, providing a pleasant environment for the inhabitants. The late Eric Wilkinson, our local tree warden for many years, will long be remembered for his work in Sisland Carr and the surrounding area. And as an express train driver, commencing in the steam age, he had a treasury of stories about his long railway career, including driving the Royal Train. He was a great raconteur with a ‘friendship’ with the many trees that he planted during his ‘second’ career.

SISLANDA.

Hi Freddie here -



As T. is writing this down for me (I haven't got the hang of holding a pencil yet) it is very hot again, and I have spent a lot of my time indoors where it is cool. One of my best friends, Tiggy, has just been graduated – whatever that means – she knows a lot about rocks and things, and T. told her about me stuck down a hole, which she thought very funny – which it wasn't. It was dark, cold, and wet – but it did smell of bunnies! Moles spend all their time in holes, and drive T. mad when they come up in his lawn, they must find it difficult to see where they are going in the dark. We all went for a very long walk on Sunday, some lovely smells came from miles away on the wind, but being on a lead I can't go and investigate, which I think is very unsporting of them!

Cheers, Freddie.



Sisland Saturdays

Come for Coffee, etc. in the Church
The first Saturday of the month
10am to 11.30am



What's Coming Up in All Saints, Chedgrave

11th October
27th October
23rd November

Quiz & Supper
Libricini in concert at 4pm
Autumn Fair

What's Happening in Loddon Library

Open Libraries gives you access to Loddon library even when the building is unstaffed. To find out more and to sign up, please visit the library and speak to a member of staff or call 01603 774777 to sign up over the phone.

Library Opening Hours

Monday	8am-7pm	(Staffed 10am-7pm)
Tuesday & Wednesday	8am-7pm	Open Library access only
Thursday	8am-7pm	(Staffed 10am-7pm)
Friday	8am-7pm	(Staffed 2-7pm)
Saturday	8am-4pm	(Staffed 1-4pm)
Sunday	10am-4pm	Open Library access only

New to the area? Never used a library before? Haven't been for a long time? Come along to Loddon library and we can join you up, renew your card or update your details. To register for a new library card, bring something with your name and address on it and we will do the rest. **We look forward to seeing you!**

Reading Pathways: Free 1-2-1 Support in Norfolk Libraries, helping you to be a better reader. Take that first step and get involved today! Pop into any public library in Norfolk for more information.

Facebook: Follow us on Facebook—search for Loddon Library or visit facebook.com/loddonlibrary

DVD Hire: for just £2 - Top Titles for 2 nights and other DVDs for a week. We have a 2 for 1 offer on Thursday and Friday afternoons and Monday evenings!

Baby Weighing Scales: A set of scales is available during opening hours.

Special Events: Make Spooky Slime! on Thursday 24th October, 2:30pm - 4pm

Suitable for children aged 5+. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. £4 per child. Booking essential: call the library on 01508 520678 to book.

Children & Parent Groups:

Stay & Play: Mondays 11am-12pm. Chat with others while your children play.

Bounce & Rhyme: Thursdays 10.15-10:45am. Songs & rhymes for ages 0-5.

Bookends: Listen to a story & join our volunteer in a craft activity related to the book, Friday 11th & 25th October 3.30-4pm

Craft Club: a children's craft club, on Saturday 5th October making Autumn photo frames & Saturday 19th October doing spooky crafts

Adult Groups:

Coffee Morning: Mondays 10am-12pm. Pop in for a friendly chat and cuppa.

Computer Buddy : friendly computer help on Mondays from 10am-12pm.

Crochet Group: come and crochet on Thursday 3rd & 17th October 2-3pm.

Community Book Group: Thursday 3rd October 10.45am.

Loddon Loves Books book group: Friday 25th October 5.45-6.45pm.

Volunteer opportunity: we are recruiting a Bounce & Rhyme volunteer. For more information please email jasmine.wilson-daze@norfolk.gov.uk

Loddon Library, 31 Church Plain, NR14 6EX – 01508 520678



Get Me Out The Four Walls is a registered charity whose purpose is to help parents and carers get out of the house. We believe by helping people to venture out and meet others in a similar situation, we can help improve your mental health and meet new friends.

We have volunteer ambassadors all over Norfolk, and are now making the move into Suffolk as well. Our ambassadors hold meets across the counties, everywhere from cafes and soft play to museums and beach trips.

We are always looking for more people who might want to become ambassadors – all we ask for is a commitment to hold at least two meets a month, and to promote them via our Facebook page. In return we offer the chance to make a difference to parents and carers in your area, a comprehensive training programme, and a valuable role to put on your CV.

All the meets can be found in the event section of our Facebook pages:

Norfolk: www.facebook.com/groups/gmotfwnorfolk

Suffolk: www.facebook.com/groups/gmotfwsuffolk

Please do come along to one of our meets and get out of your four walls!

For more information, visit www.getmeout.org.uk or email info@getmeout.org.uk

NEW! Meets now happening in Loddon. Meets in September included coffee and cake at Spooncake and a visit to Kittens Lane playground. Upcoming meets for October, November and December include an Autumn scavenger hunt, a library visit, and more coffee and cake...

Check the GMOTFW Norfolk group on Facebook for dates and details.

(If you don't use Facebook, email Megan at megan.getmeout@gmail.com)



Help Wanted!

Naomi is taking over as Rainbow Leader and she needs one more person to assist her.

From September, they will meet on Wednesdays from 5-6pm in the Brian Clarke Rooms, Chedgrave.

Please contact Naomi on naomi@28KL.UK , or 01508 528107 or 07530 607307 if you can help, or for more information.

ADVERTS



Annie THE MUSICAL

Have you booked your tickets yet?

Over 70% of all tickets have now been sold. We have a limited number available for all 4 shows:

NOVEMBER 2019

Friday 1st - 7.30pm / Saturday 2nd - 2.30pm & 7.30pm /
Sunday 3rd - 2.30pm at Langley School

TICKETS Adults £14.50 / Children £12.50 (under 16)

BOOKINGS By email to loddonplayertickets@outlook.com
In person at Funky Feet school of Dance, NR14 6HD (unit GE) –
opposite The White Horse. Saturday mornings 9am-10am from 28th
September.

More details at our web site – www.loddonplayers.com

Sunday 27th October 2019 at 4pm
All Saints Church, Chedgrave

“Give us Grace”

Performed by Libricini

Directed by Robert Brooks



Illustration by Helen Egan Smith

A programme of gorgeous classical and contemporary vocal music by
Brahms, Taverner, Leonard Bernstein, Sarah Quartel and others.

Refreshments will be served after the concert.

Tickets £10 (concessions £7.50, under 16s free)
from Alison Ball 01508 528126 or ball880am@btinternet.com
or from the church office 01508 521179.

Proceeds to be divided between Parkinsons UK and church funds.

ADVERTS



Have your children grown?!

Do their clothes no longer fit?

Have you cleared out old clothes to make space for new?

If so, we would be delighted to receive good quality second-hand autumn and winter clothes for the under-5s at Noah's Ark for our 'Freecycle'. They can be passed on to new owners - good for their purses and good for the environment.

Lots of families have benefitted from the clothes and nappies that have been donated to us over the 10 years or so that 'Freecycle' has been open. It is, as the name suggests, all free though some people make a donation which goes towards new toys and books for Noah's Ark.

Any clothes may be left in The Church Office, George Lane, Loddon, labelled 'Freecycle'.

Many thanks. Rev Alison

Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark is a weekly drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their parents and carers. Open Wednesdays 9.15am - 12 noon. All Welcome. Freecycle is open the last Wednesday of each month ~10am - 12 noon.

Choir for Carols

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

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

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

The carol service is on Sunday December 22nd at 5pm

There will be four rehearsals and it is best if you can attend at least three:

Saturday	30th November	3 – 4pm
Sunday	8th December	3 – 4pm
Saturday	14th December	2 – 4pm
Sunday	22nd December	3 – 4pm

(refreshment break before the service)



If you would like to take part please contact Alison Ball

e-mail: ball880am@btinternet.com or 01508 528126

Many thanks and hope to see you there. *Rev Alison*

ADVERTS

Holy Trinity Bell Ringers



On Saturday 24th August, a training event was held at Great Yarmouth Minster. This was an introduction to ten and twelve bell ringing for people who rarely get the opportunity to ring on higher numbers. It proved very popular and another is planned for late September. The same day we enjoyed a BBQ hosted by some ringers from South Walsham and the chance to explore Ormesby broad by boat in the evening.

On Monday 26th August we had our annual Eastern branch outing which this year took in five towers along the A47 corridor towards Swaffham. We started the day at All Saints, Necton with a newly rehung six bells which we all enjoyed ringing. Moving on to the six at Shipdham, we rang from the ground floor with the large West door opening out to the churchyard. As it was a hot day, this was most welcome as the breeze kept us cool! After a fine lunch we ventured to the church of St. Peter's in Yaxham. Another ring of six bells. Then to the very light ring of six at Reymerston and finally the last tower of the day which was All Saints in Mattishall. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Quarter peals rung at Loddon have included two of Multi Doubles methods, Swindon Surprise Royal and Stedman Caters rung on the simulator.

Steve Rabong.

The Loddon Band

in association with The Church in Loddon present

“Eternal Flame”

a concert of favourite brass band music



Holy Trinity Church
Saturday 12 October
7.30pm



*Fundraising for Loddon Band and the
Church in Loddon The Chet Valley
Churches serve the communities of
Loddon with Hales and Heckingham,
Sisland, Chedgrave, Hardley and Langley*

Tickets priced £9 (under 16s free of charge) to include interval refreshments

Available from the Church Office at St

John's Chapel (01508 521179)

or from Val Counter on 01508 520702,

email valancounter@gmail.com

PARKINSONS

Would you like to meet other Parkinsons sufferers? We meet on the first Monday of the month at the Chedgrave White Horse at 12.15pm. Partners are also welcome. For further details please ring Michael Osborne on 01508 522034.

ADVERTS

Co-opted Parish Councillors: Loddon Parish Council has two vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you are interested in local issues and how they affect and impact the local community and would like to work as part of a team to improve amenities and facilities, we would very much like to hear from you. You would be co-opted onto the Parish Council – which means you do not stand in a contested election but are appointed directly to the Parish Council. Qualifications for appointment are not onerous: you must be over 18, be an elector within the Parish, and you live or work in, or within three miles of, Loddon.

Budget 2020/21: the Parish Council will shortly be considering its budget requirements for the next financial year. If there is a project you feel would benefit the community then we would like to hear from you. We will investigate costs but if it appears viable the project can be considered for inclusion in the annual budget and project programme.

Allotments: This is a good time of year to take on one of our few remaining vacant allotments near Loddon Staithe. You will have a couple of months of decent weather to prepare the ground for spring planting and to start enjoying the benefits of allotment gardening. If you are interested in securing a plot please contact Andy Hartland, secretary of the local allotment society, on 01508 520005 or at andyhartland@btinternet.com

Staithe Public Toilets: We know from comments from residents and visitors that these facilities are a welcome asset within the village. However, there have been a number of incidents recently where the toilets have been both vandalised and subjected to ‘dirty protests’. On all these occasions the cleaners have returned the toilets to a hygienic state and all damage has been repaired. The cost, however, is becoming a significant item of expenditure and if such actions continue the Parish Council will need to look at ways to mitigate, for example, reduced opening hours. In the meantime, the Parish Council would like to hear from anyone, in confidence, who has information about any of these incidents.

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: All meetings commence at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month. The next two dates are **14th November** and **12th December**. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and will be given the opportunity to speak. The agenda will be displayed on the noticeboard on Church Plain and on the council’s website (see below) at least three days before the meeting.

Contact Us: Please telephone the Parish Council on 01508 522020, or email on clerk@loddonpc.org.uk. The office in the Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 9am and midday if you would like to visit in person. More information is available on the parish council’s website: www.loddonpc.org.uk or find us on Facebook under Loddon Parish Council.

ADVERTS

News From Your South Norfolk District Councillor



In August I attended an informal meeting about the proposed new roundabout for Loddon. I left feeling confident that this would be up and running next year.

The local enquiries continue to come in – it's a privilege to help people with whatever issue might be concerning them.

The next of my promised regular surgeries will take place in Loddon library on Saturday 28th September 2pm-4pm and Saturday 14th December 2pm-4pm.

I can also be contacted by emailing at jrowe@s-norfolk.gov.uk or ringing 07932970718. I guarantee that I'll get back in touch within 48 hours.

In terms of Parish Council meetings, I have now attended meetings at Chedgrave, Hales and Heckingham, and Langley with Hardley. I will regularly attend those, as well as the meetings at Loddon and Norton Subcourse. I'm also grateful to Colin Gould for taking the time to meet me (over a couple of pints!) to give me his advice about the role of local councillor.

In terms of South Norfolk District Council, things have been very quiet over the summer. In September I attended training on homelessness, the Electoral Arrangements Committee and the Full Council.

As mentioned last month, in our community I have been able to authorise two payments so far to local groups; there are so many people in Loddon, Chedgrave, Hales and beyond working hard to make a real difference - there are three ways to access grants. As a District Councillor I have an annual budget of £1,000 to spend on local projects. If your project is looking for funding, please get in touch.

Finally, it's great to see The Angel open again. Congratulations to all involved.

Please get in touch if I can help.

Jeremy Rowe—Councillor for Loddon and Chedgrave.

Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 23rd October, 7:30pm-9:30pm at Hales Village Hall, Briar Lane, Hales.

If you have any questions, please contact our Clerk, Eleanor, by

email: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

phone: 07703124544

or visit our website: halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk and

www.facebook.com/Hales-Heckingham-Parish-Council-376256126151222

ADVERTS



All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson

6 Farm Close, Chedgrave, NR14 6HQ. Tel : 01508 528310

Email: chedgrave.pc@gmail.com Website: www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk

The Parish Council met on 5th September 2019. Copies of the Minutes are available at Loddon Library, on the Parish Council noticeboard and website.

Councillor Vacancy: Please contact the clerk for information.

Big Back Lane wildlife area & permissive footpath: The landowner has informed us that he intends to bring this section of the field back into cultivation in the near future. This will also mean that the permissive footpath created alongside this area will come to an end and the posts marking the footpath will have to be removed.

Brian Clarke Room: To book the Brian Clarke Room, please contact Georgina Buckle via brianclarkeroom@gmail.com or 07981856270. The cost per hour is £7.50.

Grebe Drive Play Area Regeneration Project: Fundraising continues and our thanks go to Allens Cadge & Gilbert Solicitors and Autotechnic who have kindly sent generous donations. Volunteers are welcome to join the group.

Christmas Lights: A final decision has not yet been made regarding Christmas lights on White Horse Plain.

Wherryman's Way: A group is to be formed to tackle the issue of its closure. The aim is to establish a firm progress plan for its reinstatement. Any volunteers who would like to join, please contact the clerk. We continue to urge parishioners and visitors to the area to make complaints to Norfolk County Council.

Scam Alerts: For cold call scams & rogue trader alerts register at www.norfolk.police.uk/services/police-connect or www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk

Ragwort: Parishioners are urged to remember their responsibility regarding the management of ragwort. It spreads very easily and is extremely toxic for animals. The best periods to spray ragwort are early spring (February to Mid-March) or late autumn (Mid-September – Mid-November).

"Winter Ready" Preparations: Please refer to the booklet & emergency telephone numbers delivered to your homes last winter. Up to date information & actions may also be found on the PC website.

Defibrillator outside White Horse Public House: Councillors agreed that the current defibrillator has come to the end of its life and should be replaced with a new one.

Faulty street lights, potholes, problems with roads, 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

The next meeting of Chedgrave Parish Council will be held on Thursday 3rd October 2019 at 7.30pm at the Brian Clarke Room

Church Services in October

Sunday 6th October

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland
9.00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10am—12 noon	Xpressions Café	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon

Sunday 13th October

8.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Harvest Festival, <i>followed by Bring & Share lunch</i>	Holy Trinity, Loddon <i>St John, Loddon</i>

Sunday 20th October

9.30am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon

Sunday 27th October

9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.30am	Morning Worship with Baptism	St Margaret, Hardley
10.45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
6.30pm for 7pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John, Loddon

Every day Morning Prayer 9.00am <i>All Welcome</i>	Monday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Tuesday	St. Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave

Other Services in St John's, Loddon	
Every Saturday 6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass
Tuesdays 7.30pm- 8.30pm	<p>COME AND PRAY</p> <p>If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to</p> <p>'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection'</p> <p>3rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing</p> <p><i>All are welcome</i></p>
Thursdays during school term	<p>Xtra!</p> <p>Join us for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3.15pm, Service starts 3.45pm More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126</p>

Service of Remembrance

A service to remember those infants who never had the chance to live or whose lives were precious but short.

Tuesday 15th October at All Saints Church, Chedgrave, starting at 7pm.



COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Women's Institute

The summer seems a long time ago now, but looking back to a beautiful afternoon in August, members enjoyed each other's company and afternoon tea in Carol's beautiful garden. Many thanks to her for making us so welcome. At the time of writing, our September meeting and Coffee morning are still to come.

16th October: 'Cambodia: the Forgotten Country' by Robert Maidment.

We meet at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at the Jubilee Hall. New members always welcome.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

A perfect summer's afternoon for our annual garden meeting in August. A big thank you to Liz and her husband for letting us share their delightful garden for this event which was enjoyed by our members. Lots of goodies to eat and an unusual quiz to keep us all guessing.

At our next meeting we will be having a Silent Auction, so start sorting out suitable items for this. Home produce, cakes, jam and pickles are always welcome.

Tuesday 22nd October - Silent Auction at All Saints Church Centre, 2pm.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month.

Tuesday 15th October *Pigs and Troughs*, by Tony Good
Langley with Hardley Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Friday 25th October *coffee morning* in St John's 10am-12pm
Cake stall, tombola etc. £3 entry, to include coffee.

Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

Calling all bowlers and non bowlers. Do you fancy bowling throughout the year? Why not give Short Mat Bowls a try. FREE taster session on your first visit. Then just £2.50 a week. Join us on **Tuesday afternoons 1.30-3.30pm** at the Jubilee Hall. Bowls can be provided, just bring indoor flat shoes.
Further information from Sara: 01508 521958

Short Tennis Club

Come and join our friendly non-competitive club on **Tuesdays 11.30am - 1pm** at the Jubilee Hall.

All welcome. For more information call 01508 520589.

B I N G O

In the Library Annex Friday nights.

Eyes down at 7.30pm. All welcome. Two jackpots that regularly top £100 with 10 games per session plus a flyer game. Evening usually ends around 9pm.

Footballers Wanted!

We are a friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astroturf every **Monday** evening from 8.30-9.30pm for a non-competitive kick-about to keep fit and socialise. We are looking for like minded people to join us.

Cost £2.50 per session, first session free.

For more details, please contact Terry on:

Email: tezzahayden99@gmail.com

Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club



Hobart Badminton Club

We meet on **Fridays** 7.30-9.30pm at the Sports Hall, Hobart High School. We play socially and are not in a league. New members, aged 18 and over, welcome. Some previous playing experience required.

Membership: Trial Members: £4 per session for 4 weeks

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

Visitors: £5 per session

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



Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

Hales and Loddon Cricket Club held their end of season youth awards at the Green. *Turn to the inside front cover to see a photo of the winners of the awards.* Chairman Pete Dye thanked Sir Nicholas Bacon and Raveningham Gardens, as well as SNYAB, for their continued support. Without their help, we couldn't do half the things we do. Our Club is all voluntary and youth is a key to its success, so the support we receive makes a real difference. Sue Haste presented an award in memory of Graham, her late husband, who played for the Club, and Marion Pigney presented the Girls Award in memory of David and Ann - with David playing and holding position of Chairman in his time at the Club. This year there has been real development throughout all ages; all the players have worked so hard.



Youth nets start at Langley on **Monday 28th October**.

For more details email Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk.

SOUTH NORFOLK
SNYAB
YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

ADVERTS

Loddon Community Gym



September was a busy month at the Gym. Thank you to all those who supported the Cyclathon, our biggest fundraising event for a while. I will report next month on how it all went. At the AGM a committee to serve the Gym will have been elected/re-elected ready to work hard to keep the Gym up and running and ready to develop to the benefit of our members.

As you read this we will be well into the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', the children/grandchildren will be settled back in school, the garden will be less demanding and maybe you feel you have a little more time for yourself.

January is traditionally the time for new resolutions but as our clubs and societies start up again after the summer break could now be the time to look again at our health and fitness. The Gym is warm, dry and welcoming and a good place to exercise and make friends when the weather outside is cold, wet and uninviting for a walk. Whatever your age or level of fitness there is a programme that can be devised just for you and you will be very welcome.

If you would like to find out more please contact Louise on 07534946143 or visit our website www.loddoncommunitygym.com

We are open in the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon as follows:

Mondays: 1.30pm-6pm, Tuesdays: 4.30pm-8.30pm, Fridays: 10am-1pm.

Chet Valley Photography Club

We do not have a speaker for our October meeting (14th) as we will be preparing for our Annual Exhibition which will be held in November at St Johns Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon – full details will be in the November edition.

For more details about our club, visit: www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

Social Whist

We have been meeting every second Friday each month for many years and our numbers are still growing. There is no pressure to attend every month but following a request we are going to increase our evenings to the second and fourth Friday of each month. Our next meetings are **11th October** and **25th October**.

We welcome any new players. We meet in the back room of The Hollies and start playing at 7.45pm. The evening consists of 12 hands of Whist, each with a different partner, a drink and a biscuit at half time together with lots of chat. You don't need a partner and if you need a lift to get there this can be organised. All proceeds are for local charities.

If you need a lift please call Jane Hale on 01508 528875.

ADVERTS

Chet Staithe Probus Club

Have you recently retired or just moved to the area? Are you missing male company, on your own, or just want to get out from under your wife's feet?

Then why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club which is held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the White Horse, Chedgrave. The meetings start at 10am and usually finish around midday with the option of staying for lunch if required. Several of our members do.

We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required, with members ranging in age from 60 to almost 100. At each meeting we have a guest speaker and the topics can range from clocks, Whitehall, cartoons, space and even stagecoach journeys to Norwich.

Speakers for October are:

1st October Melita Rouse What Are You Worth?

15th October Caroline Spinks Care-Tax-Toyboys (Part 2)

We really look forward to seeing you. Please contact Clive Boyd on 01508 520547, or e-mail cliveboyd@btconnect.com

Chet Valley Probus Club

The Chet Valley Probus Club (*for retired Professional & Businessmen or any who have held some measure of responsibility in any field of endeavours*) meets at the White Horse Chedgrave on the second and fourth Tuesday morning, monthly. Good company, speakers, and food.

8th October "H", by Mike Hill

22nd October Maud's Story - The life of a Norfolk Trading Wherry,
by Linda Pargeter

*For further details and an application form please contact the secretary
John McCormack, 5a Norton Road, Loddon NR14 6JN. 01508 521899.*

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

At our meeting on **Wednesday 30th October** we will welcome Mr Roger Outlaw, a retired Prison Governor, talking on A Life in Prison.

We are a group of very friendly ladies usually meeting on the last Wednesday of each month in the Jubilee Hall club room.

After a very informal meeting with a speaker we have tea/coffee, a raffle and time to chat. £6 joining fee, plus £3 for each meeting attended.

Do come along to our meetings and make new friends or for more information contact Hillary 01508 520457 or June 01508 528853

ADVERTS

Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

Why not come and meet some new people?

We play games, do crafts and exercises, chat and have a two course lunch.

9.30am-2.15pm, each Tuesday and Friday, at the Brian Clarke Room, Chedgrave.

Just drop in or ring Bev on 07826 299290.



Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

Wednesday 2nd October at 2pm. Invitation to view at Hoveton Hall, a Regency house owned by the Buxton family. Walled garden and water gardens, extensive grounds. House tour includes tea with homemade cakes and biscuits. £17 each. Bookings now closed.

***Advance notice* Thursday 5th December** Pre-Christmas meal at the Old Feathers, 6.30pm for 7.00pm. **Booking before 1st November with a deposit** of £10 cash each. Full payment to be made with choices by 17th November. Please contact me in plenty of time. Menus will be given when available. Contact June 528853.

Membership is open to all for an annual subscription of £6.00 to the Membership Secretary, 01508 520457.

Davy Place Social Club

We have been busy planning our Autumn/Winter programme of events.

On **Friday 18th October** we will be visiting Dunwich for our annual fish and chip lunch at The Flora Tea-Rooms. We will be stopping at Yoxford Antiques Centre on the way.

On **Monday, 18th November** at 10am till 12 noon, Karen of "Clothes Line" will be coming to the Davy Place Common Room with her rails of men's and women's new Autumn/Winter fashions. Tea, coffee and cake will be served. Please come along and get yourself a bargain. Everyone welcome!

On **Wednesday 27th November** we will be looking forward to the return visit of the 1st Loddon Beavers when we will be playing board games, singing and enjoying a hot dog supper!

Our Christmas Meal at Warners Corton Holiday Village (complete with pantomime entertainment) has been booked for **Sunday 15th December**. We will be dropping into Cherry Lane Garden Centre on the way for morning coffee and some last minute Christmas Shopping.

We would like to say thank you for the lovely compliments received on our summer floral display of tubs and baskets. They have been abundant and colourful this summer due to the tireless efforts of the gardening and watering team. It is very pleasing to know that our gardening handiwork is appreciated by the community. We shall be planting up for Autumn and Winter during October and November.

Enjoy the Autumn season! Thank you from all at the Davy Place Social Club.

ADVERTS

Loddon & District Horticultural Society

Our next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting to be held at the Jubilee Hall on **Wednesday 9th October**. We will also have a bring & buy sale and raffle, everyone welcome. If you would like more information on our friendly society, please contact Ali Barwick on 07707029940, email alisonbarwick@gmail.com or find us on Facebook!

Loddon Flower Club

We meet at St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB. Doors open at 6-45pm for a 7pm start. Refreshments will be served and a raffle held for the arrangements. Visitors £6.

Tuesday 1st October - Tim Green - My Life in Flowers.

Tuesday 5th November - Lorraine Scott - It's all about the Sparkle.

Contact Chairman Tricia Godfrey on 01508-480522 or email tricia646@aol.com

Loddon Community Allotments Society

First annual Tallest Sunflower competition

Judging took place on our first annual competition on Sunday 1st September. Prize winners were as follows:

Adult section: Andy Hartland (fix, they cried!)

Organised youth section: Loddon Scouts

Unorganised youth section: Freya Dunning

Thanks to everyone who entered, to Richard Graveling for organising and judging and to Rachel for her inimitable and entertaining presentation to the winners.

Thanks especially to Jo and Henry Fillery for providing a gazebo, tea and the most wonderful apple cake.

This is a good time of year to take on one of our few remaining vacant allotments near Loddon Staithe. You will have a couple of months of decent weather to prepare the ground for spring planting and to start enjoying the benefits of allotment gardening. If you are interested in securing a plot please contact Andy Hartland, secretary of the local allotment society, on 01508 520005 or at andyhartland@btinternet.com.

South Yare Wildlife Group

Join the South Yare Wildlife Group for an illustrated talk on "The Future of Farming and Conservation", by Martin Lines, the Chair of Nature Friendly Farming.

Meet at Poringland Community Centre, Overton's Way, Poringland, Norwich, NT14 7WB at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Cost: Non-members £2; members and under 16's free. No booking required. For further information about this and other activities, please visit www.southyarewildlifegroup.org



ADVERTS

Loddon & District Local History Group

Our evening meeting on 21st August was well attended for the talk on the Must Farm Bronze Age Settlement excavation by Alex Fisher. The enthusiastic description of his experience at Must Farm during the dig with illustrations and reproductions of some of the swords found at the site and a slice of one of the oak piles, (kept safely wet in a plastic bag) which we were able to handle kept us enthralled.

Described as Britain's Bronze Age Pompeii, the archaeological site was discovered in 1999 when a series of posts were noticed sticking out of the quarry edge near Peterborough and the Flag Fen site. Historic England and Forterra, the quarry owners, combined to fund the most recent work which took place during 2015 and 2016. Earlier exploratory work in 2004 and 2006 had revealed eight bronze age log boats. The boats are now preserved and displayed at nearby Flag Fen.

The burnt remains of round houses built on a platform above the river were found, along with domestic goods. The houses had burnt down to water level and then slipped into the silt of the river where they were preserved. Other finds included a nearly complete wooden wheel, a sickle, shears, a wicker eel trap, a dagger and jewellery. There is no explanation for the fire or why the residents did not return to salvage their belongings.

The anaerobic mud in the bottom of the meandering ancient river preserved the organic material just as the ash and larva preserved Pompeii. At the end of the dig the site was covered and the land returned to the extraction company who needed it as an access route.

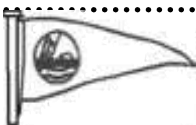
The excavation of the site has provided valuable evidence of life in East Anglia from around 1000 BC. The extensive finds mean that researchers will be working on them for decades to come. More information on the site can be found on the Must Farm website: www.mustfarm.com.

Some of the finds are displayed at Flag Fen, locations for others is still to be decided.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 16th October: Pip Wright returns to talk about The Class of 63, A Story of an Earl Stonham Charity School.

Wednesday 20th November: Dr Victor Morgan from UEA, The Guild Feast in Norwich, c.1560-1730, or, How They Ate Their Values – and you may Eat Your Hat.



Coldham Hall Sailing Club

Surlingham (NR14 6AN)

Full details on the club website: www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk

ADVERTS

Royal British Legion-Loddon & District Branch



September's Outdoor Bowls Tournament was a big success, with any rain holding off and sixteen entrants enjoying a good afternoon's bowling. The worthy winner was Jim Deuchars, with Rita Winterton an equally worthy runner up. Grateful thanks go to everybody who made it happen, with special thanks to the Swan Bowls Club not only for the generous use of their facilities for the event, but also for providing very welcome tea and cakes afterwards. A sum of £76.50 was raised for branch funds.

A reminder that November is Remembrancetide and the Legion's annual Poppy Appeal, so next month's report will give full details of dates and timings of Poppy stalls and all events leading up to Remembrance Sunday 10th November and beyond to our war memorial 11.11.11 commemoration.

The next branch meetings will be on **Tuesdays 15th October** and **Tuesday 19th November** (2019 AGM), as usual at the Kings Head pub starting at 7.30pm.

For further details and general Legion advice please phone our branch secretary Colin Hartley on 01508 521136.

Patient Participation Group

No open meetings are taking place during October.

Saturday Flu Clinics for those over 65 only

28th September surnames A-J

5th October surnames K-Z

Both clinics will be from 08:00-12:00. No appointment necessary. Clinics will be arranged for those under 65 in at risk groups. This is due to a national delay in the delivery of vaccine for the under 65s. This will arrive later in October.

Loddon Community Cinema

Our next presentation is "**All is True**" rated 12. Directed by and starring Kenneth Branagh, with Judi Dench and Ian McKellan.

In 1613, William Shakespeare is acknowledged as the greatest writer of the age. But when disaster strikes and his beloved Globe theatre burns to the ground he is of course devastated.

He returns to Stratford to the family he has neglected on the path to his fame. This is now the time to try and rectify his failings as a husband and father and face up to some uncomfortable truths.

This polished trio of acting talents glide through a colourful and well staged historic biopic that will provide a good entertaining evening.

Showing on Thursday 3rd October at The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7pm, show starts 7.30pm. Adults £4, Child £2.

Tickets on the door or in advance from Loddon Garden & DIY.



ADVERTS



LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING

The annual Loddon and Chedgrave Victorian Evening will take place on **Friday 6th December 2019 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm.**

The Evening commences outside Bay Tree House, opposite Church Plain, where there will be a “grand switch on” of the Loddon Christmas lights by Father Christmas who will then be welcoming children of all ages in his Grotto.

Many activities are planned for the evening including the ever popular Punch & Judy show. In addition, most of the local shops will be open and hosting Christmas festivities, welcoming customers old and new. To encourage you to dress appropriately for a Victorian Evening this year a new “Jo Public” award will be presented.

If you belong to a local organisation and wish to participate or if you are a business or homeowner in the high street planning to ‘light up’ in a festive manner and would like to display a festive snow white (pre-decorated by a children’s group) please get in touch with Heather Tew on 01508 520528 or email: tew.heather@yahoo.com

For information on the Open House Churches contact: Nina Owen on 01508 522993 or email: theroamingfenlander@gmail.com

Open House

at the Victorian Evening

Friday 6 December
in Holy Trinity Church and St John’s Chapel, Loddon

If you are fundraising for a charity or you are a community group wanting publicity you can book a table for the evening and set up your stall. The house will be open—do come in!

Contact Nina Owen on 01508 522993
or email theroamingfenlander@gmail.com

ADVERTS



Chet Valley Churches **All Saints, Chedgrave**

**Come to the Quiz and Supper on
11th October 2019**

**Starting at 7:00 pm, a supper of baked
potatoes + fillings and delicious
puddings from Spooncake will be
interspersed with quiz rounds.
Suitable for all ages.**

**£8.00 full price; concessions £6.50;
families £25.00**

***Come on your own or as a group—
each table of eight will play as a team.***

A box of delicious hand-made biscuits for the winners

Tickets from Church Office or Rev Alison 528 126

ADVERTS

Read Any Good Books Lately?

"Tis the good reader that makes the good book." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"From the Heart," by Susan Hill

A sad little novel. A young woman, Olive, a child of the 1950s, leads an ordinary sort of life as she grows up, but things change after her mother's death which happens when Olive is just 17 years old.

Olive goes on from school to university, knowing very little of anything outside her studies, as innocent of sexual matters as most young women of that era. Events take over, things change for both Olive and for her father and, in the course of the next few years Olive experiences several kinds of love - as well as happiness and sorrow.

It's a touching story, beautifully written by Susan Hill.

"Dear Mrs. Byrd," by A.J. Pearce

Set in London with the background of World War 2, this is a highly entertaining novel with moments of hilarity and some of sadness. The author writes it cleverly, using the kind of language of the early 1940s - no swearing, of course, except for a very occasional "Bloody" when under extreme provocation in an air raid or some such thing. Beyond that, "Damn" was the strongest expression and that was usually apologised for!

Two young women, Bunty who works for the War Office, and Emmeline, who is an aspiring journalist, are the central characters. We hear nothing of Bunty's work as that is classed as hush hush, but a lot about Emmeline's. She replies to an advertisement in a daily paper in hopes of becoming a War Correspondent; however, things don't work out quite as she expects!

"Girl on Fire," by Tony Parsons

Published only last year, this is the most recent Max Wolfe thriller. A definite page-turner, from the word go, the very first page is intriguing (and nightmarish). This is a story of terrorism, racism and immigration, all involving one family living in London. Coupled with this is DC Wolfe's home life and relationship with his ex-wife.

Tony Parsons wrote family-type novels before he branched out into writing his Max Wolfe thrillers and this book gives a happy marriage of the two different genres. He is very skilful in the way he writes, bringing all his characters to life on the page, seemingly effortlessly. Any of his books can be classed as "a good read."

ADVERTS

The other afternoon at the bottom of our garden whilst enjoying a cup of tea we were entertained by three separate charms (flocks) of goldfinches merging and landing in our neighbour's trees. There must have been between fifty and sixty birds. No wonder our sunflower seeds go down so quickly! Mind you, despite what we are told about goldfinches and their love of niger seeds they rarely seem interested in ours.

In August we had another encounter with goldfinches. We were invited to a reserve near Ditchingham to watch bird ringers at work. While we were there, they only managed to catch goldfinches. It was fascinating watching the ringers measure, weigh and attach leg rings. Ironically, it seemed that every time the ringers went to check their nets, a turtle dove would appear but would have flown off by the time they returned. Fortunately, I had been able to get a photograph on my phone to validate that we had seen it. The bird ringers were also hopeful of catching some of the many swallows that were swooping around but these birds were far too canny to get caught in the nets.

Last weekend at Hardley Staithe there were loads of swallows flying round, sometimes high in the sky, sometimes low over the fields, and more often seemingly flying straight at me as I walked our dogs along the path. I have had similar experiences in the past with both swifts and swallows along the footpath by Hardley Flood. You think they are going to fly straight into you, then at the last second change direction but they flew close enough for you to feel the draft caused by their wings. Talking of Hardley Flood, I would encourage you to contact Norfolk County Council as this footpath has been closed now for four years and it is about time that they came up with a plan to reopen it.

At both Hardley Staithe and Langley Dyke I have recently seen young stonechats which would lead me to believe they are breeding in the area.

During August there were so many butterflies in the garden, especially Red Admirals. There are also good numbers of dragonflies, but as they rarely settle for long, we have only been able to identify the red bodied Common Darter. I also found a large caterpillar by our front door which I was able to identify as an Elephant Hawk Moth, which when frightened can withdraw its head into its body.

A couple of days ago a small group of us were doing the last survey for Norfolk Wildlife Trust on Chedgrave Common. This time last year the hot weather had scorched most of the plants but this year we were able to find three new species that we hadn't found before, one being Water Pepper. There were also a good number of dragonflies including an Emerald Damselfly.

Still no sighting of a spotted flycatcher. However, at the start of September we did find a Winchat at Lowestoft, a moorland migrant making its way back to Africa for the winter. There have also been numerous sightings of pied flycatchers migrating south, especially at coastal sites. I was fortunate to see a male bird resplendent in its black and white plumage during their spring migration in Lowestoft.

Richard and Rachel Hull chetnaturenotes@btinternet.com

ADVERTS

Gardening Notes

With the weather at this time of year cooling down, and more rainfall, it's the best time to plant out hardy shrubs and trees. Dig a hole bigger than the root ball and fill the hole with water. Soak the roots of the plant for about an hour before planting then put the roots in the hole and back fill with compost and soil. Heel in well to make sure the plant will not rock back and forth in the wind, knock a post in next to trees and tie the tree to the post for extra support. If the weather stays dry after planting make sure to water every couple of days.

Some of the summer annuals will be dying off by now, so remove the plants, have a good weed and plant some autumn bedding, i.e. pansies, violas and wallflowers etc. Make sure to apply a granular feed to the soil to keep the plants growing well. These will give you some colour all winter. Autumn bulbs should be planted now: follow the instructions as to how deep and how far apart they should be planted, and think ahead when planting the bulbs so they don't take up space where you want to plant next spring.

In the veg garden most of the summer crops will be coming to an end; any remaining crops left in the soil should be harvested before we get any frosts as they will rot and be wasted. If you have any bare soil then plant over-wintering lettuce, spring cabbage, onion sets, garlic, etc. Scatter some mustard seed over any remaining bare ground - this will feed the soil when you dig it in and also smother weeds, saving you a job next spring.

Lawns have again had a challenging season; the hot dry weather has left most of them very brown. It's not as bad as last year so I hope most lawns will survive. When they green up it would be a good idea to give them an autumn feed and moss killer. This will build up the roots and prepare the lawn for next year's weather onslaught.

It's been a hot dry summer, and I for one am very pleased to have the cooler days and nights.

Andrew Carver, Loddon Garden and DIY



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Inside Back Cover

ADVERTS

Back cover

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