

Published by the Church in Loddon December 2019—January 2020

Chet Valley Churches presents



You are invited to our Crib Service on Christmas Eve in Holy Trinity Church, Loddon starting at 4pm

Children are especially encouraged to dress up as a character from the Christmas Story.

You are all very welcome. Do come early to ensure you have a seat!

Chet Valley Churches Information

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Church Office

St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon NR14 6NB Phone: 01508 521179, Email: <u>office@chetvalleychurches.org</u> 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 The Norwich Diocese The Methodist Church The RC Diocese of East Anglia www.chetvalleychurches.org www.dioceseofnorwich.org www.methodist.org.uk www.rcdea.org.uk

Contact Magazine

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Editorial

December and January—It's cold. It's dark. There's an election looming. What is there to look forward to?

As far as the election goes, I think that some words of John Wesley, from 6th October 1774, are particularly appropriate so here they are:

"I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them:

To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy;.

To speak no evil of the person they voted against; and

To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

Well said, Mr Wesley!

Wouldn't it be lovely if we woke up in 2020 and found no-one speaking evil of anyone else, and found no-one sharpening their spirits on those who disagreed with them. I could look forward to that.

Given that that's probably pie in the sky, I will content myself with looking forward to carol singing, candlelight, and re-telling the Christmas story to all sorts of different people; to silhouettes of bare trees all twiggy, mist over the river, and low sunlight over the fields; to the

start of another new year and the promise of Spring.

I wonder what you are looking forward to.

Whatever it is, I wish you every blessing at Christmas and the New Year.



Alison

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Ministerial Musings

Listening to our grandchildren retelling stories they have heard with such excitement, prompted me to reflect on experiences of storytelling. Sometimes thrilling and sometimes terrifying, stories grip our imagination. Biographies, history books and films are intriguing as they give us a glimpse into lives lived in another time. Our own life stories are important too, and we often find we have things in common with other people when we tell our story.

My family's experiences include farming the land with horses and the little grey 'Fergie' tractors, women in service, train driving, and life as a Coldstream Guard. There is much interest in finding family history and life stories on the internet today. On television we can watch a camera crew follow famous people as they discover their family history, which can be good or not so good! I have had many interesting conversations with people who recall their childhood, or their experiences at home, at work, their hobbies or their travels. Life stories are often shared at birthday or anniversary celebrations, at a funeral this is often a time of sharing so many memories. Reminiscing and sharing at these times helps to keep us connected.

Storytelling has a very important tradition of passing down knowledge and morals. There is usually a lesson teaching us to love, to appreciate what we have, to forgive others, to be just, and to strive for better things.

As we move through the four weeks of Advent, and into the season of Christmas, there will be lots of stories told about the real meaning of Christmas. The amazing story about the birth of Jesus can be enjoyed and experienced in various ways in the Chet Valley: singing carols at services in the churches, in the pub, or attending the Crib Service. The Midnight Communion service on Christmas Eve is a very special time too. Just imagine, this good news has been celebrated and passed on in the same way through many, many generations! But there's more, this story doesn't stop at Christmas; there is so much more to explore and experience every day.

Looking ahead to the New Year, resolutions are made and we hope for better things to come. The ongoing message of hope brings to life ways in which people have loved and supported each other, and give us an understanding of the wonderful possibilities life has to offer.

Jill Haylock.



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

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

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

Xtral is an exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church. Refreshments from 3.15pm, service starts ~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 1^{st} and 3^{rd} 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.





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 <u>ball880am@btinternet.com</u> 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: <u>ball880am@btinternet.com</u>

Small Groups

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



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

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

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

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

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 Meetings: 5th December 12noon for 12:30pm Christmas lunch

12thDecember at 1.30pm Carol Service at St John's Chapel followed by afternoon tea.

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!)



From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

Ivy Brackenbury-Read 20th October All Saints, Chedgrave
Jack Eames 20th October All Saints, Chedgrave
Neo Brown 27th October St Margaret's, Hardley
Evie-Rose Cousins 27th October St Margaret's, Hardley

George Cousins 27th October St Margaret's, Hardley

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

Weddings

Ashley Tall and Ellis Tall 12th October St Mary's, Sisland David Pilmore and Jessica Beres 31st October Holy Trinity, Loddon God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them. 1 John 4:16

Fune ra k

Pamela Mary Smith who died on 16th September 2019 aged 86 years Funeral: 23rd October 2019 at St Margaret's, Hardley

Jeanne Bowden who died on 27th September 2019 aged 82 years Funeral: 17th October at Waveney Crematorium

George Arthur William Bircham who died on 22nd October 2019 aged 73 years Funeral: 15th November at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Frederick William Hinde who died on 17th October 2019 aged 78 years Funeral: 18th November at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Peter Philip Taylor who died on 30th October 2019 aged 63 years Funeral: 22nd November at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord for ever. 1 Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b

Advent: the house is a mess. Nothing is in its place, some things are missing. I'll never be ready—but help is on its way.

Advent: the conductor raises his baton, the choir takes a collective breath.

Advent: are we nearly there yet? Yes! Yes, we are!

Tiny Advent Poems by Amy Scott Robinson



forecast hard weather ahead, but the 'Jetstream' which fashions some of our climate seems to have had a mind of its own recently.

The Sisland Chronicle

The weather in Sisland seldom seems to conform to the forecast. October rain replenished the rainfall and the trees stopped shedding leaves so that at the end of the month everywhere looked a lot greener than we expected. Cattle enjoyed a little late grass before going into the yards for the winter. Various 'experts'

October brought forth both migrating birds and balloons. One balloon floated over the parish just above the treetops, complete with waving occupants, and landed just over the border in Loddon.

A delivery of groceries this morning brought back memories. Everything used to be delivered until the advent of supermarkets. I remember going to the grocers with my Mother to select her order, which often arrived the same day. Both country and town benefit these days, although the milkman is still a rare bird.

SISLANDA

Hi, Freddie here. T. & J. have been writing a book—as if there aren't enough in the house already—and would you believe they have been using a feather to show how writing was done in the olden days (whatever next?) T. managed to spray inky stuff all over the place and got told off. Now he's painting the walls a dark colour so it won't show I suppose!

I'm due for my annual visit to the vets soon for my 'MOT', the nice lady vet sticks a great big needle in my neck and checks my name on the chip. I'm being weighed at home to make sure I'm not getting fat, in case she notices, but there's little chance of that with all the walks we go on.



Happy Christmas. Cheers. F.



Sisland Saturdays

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



Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

All Saints Church Chedgrave has a lovely church centre attached to it which has been open for over 25 years. There are two rooms, one upstairs, a kitchen and a loo. There are wheeled tables which are easy to move and put up. It is warm even in the winter! It is available to book with a suggested donation of £8 per hour. If you are looking for a venue for a meeting, a party, or an activity do contact Jack Barwick who is responsible for hall bookings on <u>jackbarwick@yahoo.co.uk</u> or at 2 Hardley Road, Chedgrave.



WEA Loddon Branch

In the Spring, there will be ten talks by Mary Fewster on 'Defence of the Realm'. These talks will focus on East Anglia, concentrating on the period from the Middle Ages to the early years of the 20th C. The aim is to show what evidence of warfare and defence there is, both 'on the ground' and in documents. Also to be explored is the impact of military activities on civic and town life and on family relationships.

The talks, each lasting 1½ hours, will be given on Mondays in the Clubroom of the Jubilee Hall (NR14 6NB), Loddon, starting on 13th January at 2pm. There will be a half-term break on 17th February; the final talk will be on 23rd March. The fee for the ten talks will be £58.

Enrolment for the course now has to be completed at least two weeks before the starting date. To enrol there are two options:

Either *on line*: go to www.wea.org.uk/look or wea.easternregion/courses and follow the prompts. You will need to know the title of the course (Defence of the Realm) and reference number (C2226747), and *you will be asked to pay the fee on line* by means of a credit or debit card.

Or *by phone*: The number to phone is 0300 30 33 464. The line is open Mon-Fri 8am to 8pm, and Sat. 8am-1pm. There is a recorded 'menu' from which you need to choose Option 1. You will also need to know the course title and reference number (as above). The course fee can be paid at the same time or you can give a cheque to the Branch Treasurer at the first talk.

There is ample parking space at the Jubilee Hall. Everybody is welcome. No previous knowledge is required; there are no exams to take.

If you have any questions, please phone 01508 521036 or or 558453.

Holy Trinity - Windows and More

Our window displays in Holy Trinity Church for this year are on the enticing theme of **Welcome Strangers – Expect the Unexpected.**

This will be mirrored in the thoughts of our Christmas trail, ending in the Crib.

But what's unexpected about Christmas? Well, if you think carefully about the Christmas story, the answer could be 'Absolutely everything!'





What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa? A rebel without a Claus.

> What do you call an elf who sings? A wrapper!



NEW YEAR'S WALK—Sunday 5th January

Spent too much time indoors over the Christmas period?

Want to burn off a few calories?

Need some conversation with someone other than the family?

Then come and join our New Year's reflective walk.

Starting and finishing at the lychgate outside All Saints Church in Chedgrave, we will be going for a walk lasting about ¾ hour. Taking in the River Chet and Chedgrave Common, it should be suitable for pushchairs. Come and meet new people and enjoy the chance to reflect on the importance of our natural world. Do come appropriately dressed for the weather. Unless it is very inclement, the walk will be going ahead.

Parking is available at the start of the walk.

If you need sustenance before you start or at the end of the walk, you could always drop into Xpresso, the free café, downstairs in the All Saints Church Centre. There is also a loo there. All welcome, including well-behaved dogs.

Chet Valley Photography Club

Thank you to everyone that visited our 9th exhibition in November. The winners of the trophies as judged by EAF A panel judge David Saunders CPAGB were:

Club Members Trophy (sponsored by Youngs Funeral Directors), 1st "Smiler in The Family", Pat Jacobs; 2nd "Brief Encounter", Pat Jacobs; 3rd "Fly's Eyes", Jonathan Orland.

U18's Category (sponsored by Loddon MotorTec Ltd), 1st "A Bunch Of Keys", Becky Orland; 2nd "Mmmm Succulent...", Becky Orland; 3rd "Splash", Becky Orland.

Public Choice Trophy (sponsored by Auto Technic), 1st "The Stars At Cley", Rose Sapey; 2nd "Balance Of Nature", Norman Wyatt; 3rd "Evening Light", Jonathan Orland.

Wittiest Title Trophy (donated by Roy Aldous) was "Fishing For Tips", Bernie Webb chosen by David Saunders. All of these photographs can be view on the club website <u>www.ChetValleyPhotography.org.uk</u>

9th **December** Club Meeting Evening. This will be a social buffet evening at our normal meeting room for club members and family.

14thJanuary 'Storm Chasing' by Chris Bell. Chris, originally from Houston, Texas, joined the Weatherquest team in 2005. Along with his role as a forecaster and public relations at Weatherquest, he teaches part of the weather forecasting course at the UEA and can also be seen as a weather presenter on BBC Look East.

The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. All Welcome. For more details please see our website.



St Michael's Church, Langley presents



THE BLYTH FIVE CHRISTMAS CONCERT



in the ballroom of Langley Hall 7.30pm Saturday 7th December TICKETS: £10.00 Adults, £8.50 Friends, £2.00 Students/Children (Includes mulled wine/soft drinks and mince pieces) Advance ticket reservations 01508 520210 Concert proceeds will go towards refurbishment of the Church.

Bungay Choral Society Christmas Concert St. Mary's Church, Bungay Saturday 14th December at 7.30pm Musical Director Jason Collins

Jason has selected a variety of music with arrangements of our well- known traditional carols plus a selection of old and more modern popular classics. We will be joined by the choir of Ellingham Primary School who will sing some of their own items as well as joining with the choir to perform with them.

Tickets: £10 in advance available from Wightmans, Earsham Hall Tea Rooms or from Jason via email: <u>jason@cantaria.co.uk</u>. £12 on the door .

In the New Year we will be rehearsing for two concerts: one on Saturday 9th May and the other being The Bungay Proms on Saturday 11th July.

New members are always welcome. No auditions are required, just come along on a Wednesday evening to the Emmanuel Church Rooms in Bungay every Wednesday at 7.15pm, make music and give it a try! We enjoy singing and try to present choral music which is enjoyable to perform as well as pleasant to listen to and sometimes has a little bit of a challenge.

Rehearsals next term start at 7.15pm on Wednesday 22nd January 2020. More details on our website: <u>www.bungaychoral.co.uk</u>



What's Happening in Loddon Library

Library Opening Hours

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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

NB Change in library hours: 24th December 8am-12noon; 25th & 26th December library closed; 31st December 8am-4pm; 1st January library closed .

Are you new to the area, have never used a library before or just haven't used the library for a long time? Then come along to Loddon library and we can join you up, renew your card or just update your details. To register for a new library card, just bring something with your name and address on it and the staff 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: just search for Loddon Library or visit facebook.com/loddonlibrary

DVD hire: DVD prices start at £1—Top Titles for 2 nights and other DVDs for a week.

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

Mondays

Coffee morning: every Monday 10am-12pm. Pop in for a friendly chat and a cuppa. **Stay and play:** every Monday 11am-12pm. Drop in for a chat with other families while your children play.

Computer buddy: friendly computer help on Mondays from 10am-12pm. **Citizens Advice:** A CAB advisor will be available on Monday 16th December & 27th January to offer advice and guidance. Booking essential.

Thursdays

Community Book Group: join our friendly group on Thursdays: 5th December and 2nd January 10.45am.

Crochet Group: come and crochet together on Thursday 5th & 19th December, & 16th January, 2pm-3pm.

Bounce & Rhyme every Thursday 10.15-10.45am. Come along for songs & rhymes for ages 0-5. There will be no session on the 26th December or the 2nd January.

Fridays

Bookends story and craft: Listen to a story and join our volunteer in a related craft activity on Friday 6th & 20th December, 3rd, 17th & 31st January 3.30-4pm. **Loddon Loves Books book group:** join our evening book group on Friday 31st

January 5.45-6.45pm.

Special Events:

Friday 6th December: As part of the festivities of the Loddon Victorian Evening we will be running a craft activity for children and a quiz for adults.



Chedgrave Parish Council

Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson. Tel: 01508 528310 Email: <u>chedgrave.pc@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk</u>



The Parish Council met on 7th November 2019. Copies of the Minutes are available at Loddon Library, on the Parish Council noticeboard and website.

Grebe Drive Play Area Regeneration Project: Fund raising continues and our thanks go to K. Bertram for the latest generous donation. Volunteers are welcome to join the group.

Christmas Lights & Trees: Christmas trees will be in place at the Lychgate,

Chedgrave shops and outside the Brian Clarke Room.

Victorian Evening: CPC will be having a stall at the Langley Road Estate. This will be a fundraising stall for the Grebe Drive Play area.

Hardley Road Allotments: There is availability of a half size allotment plot. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in taking it on.

Wherryman's Way: Thank you to those volunteers that have shown an interest in joining the group. The group will have had their first meeting in November and so we hope to have news to report in the New Year. We continue to urge parishioners and visitors to the area to make complaints to NCC.

Councillor Vacancy: Please contact the clerk for information.

Brian Clarke Room: To book the Brian Clarke Room, please contact Georgina Buckle via <u>brianclarkeroom@gmail.com</u> or 07981-856270. The cost per hour is £7.50.

Planning applications:

2019/1950 - Applicant: Mr Alan Jones, Location: Land at Junction of Hardley Road Pits Lane Chedgrave Norfolk, Proposal: Reserved matters application following outline permission 2018/1553 for the erection of 5 dwellings including access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale. Application Type: Reserved Matters. The PC agreed to **OBJECT** on grounds of safety, design and conservation.

2019/2125 - Applicant: Mr Luke Mynott, Location: 5 Hillside Chedgrave NR14 6HZ, Proposal: Single storey side and rear extension, Application Type: Householder. The PC agreed to **APPROVE** subject to there being no objections regarding overlooking the adjacent property.

Planning decisions:

BA/2019/0296/TPOA, Address: Toplight, 21^A Church Close, Chedgrave, NR14 6NH, Proposal Details: T3: Oak—remove; T4: Oak—reduce to 15m in height; T6: Crack Willow—remove; T10: Crack Willow—remove; **Approved (following 2nd site visit).**

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 <u>www.norfolk.gov.uk</u> Criminal & illegal activities, public disorder & nuisance, antisocial behaviour, speeding, uncontrolled dogs, should all be reported to the Police on 999 or 101 (non-emergency) and can be reported online at <u>www.norfolk.police.uk</u>

The next meeting of Chedgrave Parish Council will be held on Thursday 5th December at 7.30pm at the Brian Clarke Room



News From Your New South Norfolk District Councillor



As the General Election takes place nationally, it is quite refreshing to be able to focus on local issues,

and to remind ourselves that, at least at the District Council level, my colleagues and I tend to put party politics to one side, to help people and to get things done locally.

As usual, I am regularly attending as many of our local Parish Council meetings as possible. At South Norfolk District Council I was impressed by the mental health awareness training that was put on recently.

In terms of the £1,000 that each Councillor is given to support projects in their area, I have now allocated all of this for 2019. I'm really pleased that I have been able to help and support a range of brilliant local causes, including local choirs, the History group and others.

The next of my promised regular surgeries will take place in Loddon library, on **Saturday 14th December 2-4pm** and **Saturday 15th February 2-4pm**. I can also be contacted by emailing me at <u>irowe@s-norfolk.gov.uk</u> or ringing **07932 970718**. If you contact me I guarantee that I'll get back in touch within 48 hours.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas; please don't heckle if you spot me in the Crib Service on Christmas Eve!

Jeremy Rowe—Councillor for Loddon and Chedgrave.

Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

St Gregory's Church, Heckingham and St Margaret's Church, Hales: Both churches are in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. The Parish Council voluntarily arranges and pays for the churchyards to be trimmed and tidied twice a year. As the churchyards are also a haven for nature we hope this balances the wishes of relatives with the needs of our wildlife. Pictures of the churchyards are on our website.

Composting Scheme: Although the scheme is very popular with residents wishing to donate garden material, we are in need of volunteers to help with collections and processing the compost. If you would like to volunteer for a couple of hours a month, please get in touch with the clerk. It's cheaper than the gym and more fun!

Next Meeting: At 7.30 pm on Wednesday 11 December at Hales Village Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Residents are most welcome and are given the opportunity to speak. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on the website at least three days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

<u>clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk</u> Phone 07703124544. Website: halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk. Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/Hales-</u> <u>Heckingham-Parish-Council-37625612615122</u>.



Holy Trinity Bell Ringers

Our practice nights have been well attended over this last year and the bells are regularly rung every Sunday morning all year round. We have recently supported other local practice nights held at Beccles, Bungay, Woodton, Brooke, Lowestoft, Ditchingham and St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich. We rang to celebrate a wedding held at Pakefield during October.



Quarter peals have been rung at Loddon including Wembley Surprise Royal which was a first for all the band. We have been out ringing Quarter peals at Necton, Worlingham, Woodton, North Lopham, Hopton, and Gislingham.

We have rung two Peals. One at Gt. Ryburgh in memory of a fallen soldier in the Great War and another at Woodton which was a first for two of the ringers and also first as conductor for our own Ann Webb. The 5040 changes of eleven Doubles methods took 2 hours 42 minutes to complete.

We plan to ring the bells at Loddon for all the Christmas services and events over the festive season as usual. The annual Christmas Peal is scheduled for Wednesday 1st January starting at 2pm and finishing around 5pm.

As another year comes to a close, we would like to thank you for your words of encouragement and appreciation for what we do over the year and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Steve Rabong.





On **Friday 6th December** the Victorian Evening will take place in Loddon centre.

Starting at 6.30pm outside Bay Tree House, Father Christmas will arrive for the "grand switch on" of the Loddon Christmas lights.

Thanks to the generosity and support of many of the town's businesses, we are all set for another fun filled evening of events. Listen out for announcements from the Town Crier on the night.

Visit Father Christmas in his grotto at Bay Tree House;

Find the festive Snow Whites in a trail throughout the town;

Punch and Judy Show in the Library Annexe at 6:40pm and 7:10pm. (NB ONE adult per child or family group so more younger residents can enjoy the show);

Dress in Victorian costume and have a chance to win the best dressed "Jo Public" award:

Open house at Holy Trinity Church and St John's Church (see below);

Fire engine display and BBQ at the Loddon Fire Station;

The Women's Institute at The Hollies—festive goodies and crafts;

Vintage steam engines on the Co-op forecourt.

Many of the traders in the town will be welcoming you to thank you for your custom and support this year and in the future.

Information on the night at the Library annexe.

Thanks to Loddon Parish Council for allowing the use of the Library annexe.

Additional car parking available at Chet Valley Medical Practice and Hobart High and town car parks will be open.

ICTORIAN EVENING Open House Dictorian Evening



Friday 6th December in Holy Trinity Church and St John's Chapel

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

THE CHURCH IN LODDON **CHRISTMAS** FAYRE Saturday 30 November 10am to 1pm St John's Chapel George Lane, Loddon **CHRISTMAS GIFTS** *Homemade cakes and preserves *Basket Tombola *Raffle *Books *Refreshments

Church Services in December and January

Sunday 1 st December			
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland	
9.00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave	
10am—12 noon	Xpressions Café Peace	All Saints, Chedgrave	
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon	
Sunday 8 th Dece	ember—Second of Advent		
8.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley	
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) All Saints, Chedgrave		
10.45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon	
Sunday 15 th December—Third of Advent			
10.30am	Carol Service	St Margaret, Hardley	
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon	
11.00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave	
3.00pm	Carol Service	St Mary, Sisland	
7.30pm	Pub Carol Service	White Horse Pub, Chedgrave	
Sunday 22 nd De	cember—Fourth of Advent		
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley	
5.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service	All Saints, Chedgrave	
6.30pm	Carol Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon	
Tuesday 24 th December—Christmas Eve			
11.00am	Carol Singing	Outside shops, Chedgrave	
4.00pm	Crib Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon	
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave	
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon	
Wednesday 25 th December—Christmas Day			
9.00am	Catholic Mass	St John, Loddon	

Wednesday 25 th December—Christmas Day			
9.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley	
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland	
10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave	
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon	
Sunday 29 th Dec	ember—Benefice Servi	ce	
10.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave	
Sunday 5 th Janua	ary		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland	
9.00am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave	
10am—12 noon	Xpressions Café	All Saints, Chedgrave	
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon	
Sunday 12 th January			
8.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley	
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chedgrave	
10.45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon	
Sunday 19 th January			
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon	
11.00am	All Together Worship*	All Saints, Chedgrave	
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland	
Sunday 26 th January—Benefice Service			
10.30am	Covenant Service with HC	St John, Loddon	
6.30 for 7.00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John, Loddon	

*All Together Worship is followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. All welcome!

Other Services in St John's, Loddon		
Every Saturday 6.00pm	I	Roman Catholic Mass
Tuesdays 7.30pm- 8.30pm	COME AND PRAY If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to 'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection' 3 rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing All are welcome	
Thursdays during school term	Xtral Join us for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3.15pm, Service starts 3.45pm More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126	
Every day Moming Prayer 9.00am	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	St John, Loddon St. Margaret, Hardley All Saints, Chedgrave St John, Loddon
All Welcome	Friday Saturday	St Mary, Sisland All Saints, Chedgrave

Collections at the Christmas Services

At the Christmas Services the churches take a cash collection for a variety of charities. This year the charities are as follows:

Hardley Carol Service	Hardley Church
Sisland Carol Service	The Children's Society
Chedgrave Carol Service	Crisis
Loddon Carol Service	Church in Loddon
Carol Singing out side the Shops	Sing for Syria—Hands Up Foundation
Crib Service	The Children's Society
Loddon Midnight Communion	Dementia UK

Just £2 for a Christmas Present...

With households spending between £300 and £500 for a present for one of their children, two pounds for a present sounds quite cheap doesn't it, especially when it is for someone who has next to nothing in the world.

At Chedgrave Church we are offering the chance to give someone a present for just two pounds through Embrace, one of the charities that we support, who work in the Middle East.

We have purchased 24 presents each at £2. The gifts include: vitamins and medicine, art supplies, school dinner, peanut butter, eye test, and toothbrush and paste. If you would like one of these to be from you, please donate £2 and put a gift label on our gift tree during Advent signifying your gift.

We have also purchased 4 gifts at £10 each – called Away in a Manger, this gift supports a community clinic so mums and babies have somewhere local to go for checks, treatment and advice.

Donations (£2 or £10) can be made through the church office (in an envelope with Embrace gift written on it, addressed to Rev Alison) or at Chedgrave church at a Sunday service when you can hang your own label on the tree:

December 1st Xpressions Cafe 10-12noon,

December 8th Holy Communion 9.30am,

December 15th All Together Worship 11.00am,

December 22nd Carol Service 5.00pm,

December 24th Midnight Communion 11.30pm



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.

Just drop in or ring Bev on 07826 299290.



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

Loddon Day Centre-Thanks

Loddon Day Centre would like to thank everybody who supported our Chet Festival Fundraiser - with a special thanks to the local businesses who kindly contributed to our raffle: The Coop, Loddon Garden and Seed, The Swan, The White Horse and Morrisons (Beccles). Also to Bryan and Christine and our very generous members.



How many gifts can Santa squeeze in an empty stocking? One. It's not empty after the first one.

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Flower Club

3rd December: Open meeting with David Wright and his title of "Christmas Dreams". Refreshments including a light buffet, raffles, stalls including jewellery, cards and willow. Held at Hobart High School, Kitten's Lane, Loddon, 6.15pm for a 7pm start. Visitors £12, members £6. Everyone welcome.

6th **December:** We are having a stall at the Victorian Evening being held in Loddon and decorating a window sill in Holy Trinity Church for Christmas.

17th January 2020: Lunch at The White Horse, Chedgrave.

We would like to wish readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and say that we are available to arrange flowers for celebrations. For further details contact Tricia Godfrey (Chairman) on 01508 480522 or email tricia646@aol.com.

Loddon Women's Institute

By the time you are reading this we will have held our Annual Meeting and (hopefully) have elected a new committee to see us into the future.

Future Meetings

18th **December:** we will enjoy each other's company at our Christmas Party.

15th**January:** all being well, Elvie Herd will give us Part 2 of her talk on Loddon.

Meetings are held at the Jubilee Hall, George Lane, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. New members will be made very welcome.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Christmas Party: Tuesday 10th December at 2pm, All Saints Church Centre. Our members look forward to this fun afternoon. We will, amongst other things, have our usual Secret Santa.

Looking ahead to 2020, we will start the New Year with lunch at a restaurant. Date and venue still to be arranged.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

Tuesday 17th December: Carol Service in Hardley Church Further details from Secretary Gillian Ball 528182

Advent is the hush in the theatre between the house lights going down and the curtain going up.

Tiny Advent Poems by Amy Scott Robinson



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 8.30pm-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 are running Youth nets on Monday's at Langley School throughout the winter. These sessions are with Ben France and Sam Arthurton, who are County players and ECB Coaches. There are a few spare places with hard ball, for more details please text Pete Dye, Chairman on 07931711323 .Senior nets will be starting early March, with new players always welcome.

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.


Loddon Community Gym

Use it or lose it! This common saying applies to many things but particularly to flexibility, strength, energy and zest for life as we get older. It is a proven fact that being physically fitter improves our mental health and sense of wellbeing and doing this in a social, friendly setting reduces isolation and loneliness. Many GPs now



include 'social prescribing' alongside medication to improve a person's health.

'Use it or lose it' also applies to our community facilities such as the Gym here in Loddon. We only exist for our members so the more that people use it the better the atmosphere and the facilities we can provide. Food for thought when we think about New Year's Resolutions.

We would love you to join us at the Gym but we know it is not for everyone. However, if you would like to support us in other ways look out for our stall at the Victorian Christmas Market where we will have a fantastic Christmas Hamper to raffle. Another way to support the Gym is by signing up to GoRaise which is a website through which online purchases trigger donations to the Gym without affecting the price you, the buyer, pay. To get started and register free go to

www.goraise.co.uk/eastern-rivers-community-gym-at-loddon/?refid=10850.

It really is that simple.

From all of us at the Gym we wish you a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. We will be closed over the Christmas holidays from Monday 23rd December -Friday 3rd January inclusively. Otherwise, we are open in the Jubilee Hall, George Street. Loddon as follows:

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

Loddon Swan Bowls Club

The Club was founded well over 100 years ago and is looking to expand its membership. The Green, which is probably the best in South Norfolk, is a pleasure to play on and is much admired by



opposing teams and visitors alike. It is situated behind The Swan with signed access from the car park.

The Green reopened on Saturday 13th April and afternoon sessions will be on Monday, Wednesday & Friday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm for practice and pleasure. In addition the Green can be opened on Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm if required. Please phone Mike on 01508 521049 for details.

If you are interested please come along to any of our sessions and you will be made most welcome. The only requirement is that you wear flat soled shoes. We have a limited number of bowls to lend at no charge and instruction will be available to help you master the game if you have not played before.

We are a friendly and amiable group and we look forward to seeing you.



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.

The speakers for December and January are:

3 rd December	Rob Bylett	Romans on our Doorstep
7 th January	Tony Brown	The Broads and its Wildlife
21 st January	Ruth Smith	Life with Nanny

We really look forward to seeing you.

Please contact Clive Boyd Phone 01508 520547, or e-mail <u>cliveboyd@btconnect.com</u>

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.

10th December Christmas Lunch
14th January: Sarah Doig; A-Z of Curious Suffolk.
28th January: Alan Mains; Engineering Medicine.
For further details contact the secretary:

John McCormack, 5a Norton Road, Loddon NR14 6JN. 01508 521899.

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.

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 o'clock Club

We are a group of very friendly ladies who meet on the last Wednesday of each month (with some exceptions) in the Jubilee Hall club room. We have a very informal meeting with a speaker followed by tea/coffee and a raffle and time to chat. £6 joining fee, plus £3 for each meeting attended.

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



Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

December 5th Pre-Christmas meal at the Old Feathers, 6.30 for 7.00pm. NB Menu choices and full payment by 17th November.

January 8th 2020 Another year gone and a new one started. Blow the cobwebs away and join us on a walk round Southwold and Walberswick. Park on the common by the water tower. Pub lunch.

Contact June 528853 for further details.

Social Whist

We meet every second and fourth Friday of the month though there is no pressure to attend every month We welcome new players. We meet in the back room of The Hollies and start playing at 7.45pm. The evening consists of 12 hands of Whist, each with a different partner, a drink and a biscuit at half time together with lots of chat. You don't need a partner and if you need a lift to get there this can be organised. All proceeds are for local charities.

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

Davy Place Social Club

Hello from everyone at Davy Place Social Club.

Thank you to all those who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning. We raised £235.09 which has been sent to Macmillan Cancer Support. Well done everyone.

Secondly, we are all excitedly looking forward to the events that are planned for the 'Festive Season'. Our December programme includes a visit by pupils from Loddon Primary School and an invitation from them to attend their school Christmas play.

Other events in December are:

Monday 9th Christmas Prize Bingo. Eyes down at 2pm. This is the final bingo session of the year but weekly bingo will restart on Monday, 18th January 2020 at 2pm. Saturday 14th Christmas Coffee Morning with Christmas Tombola and Raffle, 10am to 12 noon. Sunday 15th Our Christmas Lunch with Panto entertainment is at Corton Holiday Village. Friday 20th Join us at 3pm in the Common Room for Carols Around the Christmas Tree. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Saturday 28th Christmas/New Year Holy Night at 7pm. Dress up if you like, BYOD and nibbles. Tuesday 31st New Year Celebration!

On Tuesday mornings through December and January we will be enjoying our regular 'Gentle Exercise' classes .Join us? On Friday mornings we are participating in Sport England's 'Still on the Go' fitness sessions for the over 55s. Both these activities take place in the Common Room and if you would like further information please contact Janet on 522115.

Thank you to all those kind people, friends, families and neighbours who have supported our Social Club activities and events throughout the year. We do appreciate it. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Have fun!



Royal British Legion–Loddon & District Branch

Thank you all for your support of our November's Poppy Appeal and Remembrance commemorations. It is too early yet to report how much money has been raised, but we should have more of an idea by next month.



There being no branch meeting this month, our next two meetings will be next year on Tuesday 21st January and Tuesday 18th February, as usual 7.30pm at the King's Head. New members are always welcome to join us.

In the meantime, we send our sincere best wishes to you all for a Merry and Peaceful Christmas.

Margaret Wallace 01508 520840

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

We don't have a meeting in December as we will be holding our Christmas meal at The Old Feathers, Framingham Pigot. We wish our members all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

8th January 2020: Donna Hobbs from Pretty Cactus—Macramé workshop.

Meetings are held at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon on the 2nd Wednesday of the month starting at 7.30pm. Membership is now due at £10 pa. If you are thinking of taking up gardening for 2020 then please give us a look.

For more details contact Hazel on 07765 098345 or <u>happyhaze50@gmail.com</u> or Jean on 01502 710024 or <u>jeancope52@gmail.com</u> or take a look at our webpage on <u>www.loddon.org</u> or follow us on our Facebook page.

Christmas Community Choir rehearsal reminder

There will be four rehearsals. It's best if you can attend at least three:

Saturday Sunday Saturday Sunday 30th November 8th December 14th December 22nd December

- 3 4pm 3 – 4pm 2 – 4pm
- 2 4pm

Carol Service 5pm



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

Many thanks and hope to see you there. Rev Alison





Loddon & District Local History Group

The Class of '63 researched by Pip Wright.

Pip Wright returned, to share the story of his researches into the Earl Stonham Charity School which led him to write The Class of '63 (1763). His enthusiasm for his research with snippets of background information about his characters and the way the village was run in the 18th century created an informative and entertaining meeting.

Like many other parishes before the days of State funded and compulsory education, Earl Stonham had a charity school funded by a gift of land which was rented out to local small farmers. Eight boys, sons of the 'deserving poor' were to be provided with a uniform and educated by a paid schoolmaster. In 1763 the schoolmaster was Thomas Warren, formerly a journeyman wheelwright, who was paid the princely sum of £8 per year and provided with a home for his family which doubled as the schoolroom.

Pip's research using the comprehensive Parish Chest Records of Earl Stonham with any other sources he was able to locate; provided him with sufficient background information on the boys and their master to create a fascinating novel based on their lives after 1763 which I have thoroughly enjoyed reading. A copy will be lodged in the Local History Room in the library. While you are there have a look at some of the folders you should find something of interest.

OUR MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL

18th December: The Blickling Interpretation Group will perform: The End of an Era

In the early 1940s Lord Lothian returned to Blickling Hall to find his home had been taken over by the RAF. Meet the characters who lived there.

15th January 2020: Dr Mary Fewster, A Moving story; Transport and Travel in East Anglia.

Meetings are held at 1.30pm in The Lecture Hall, George Lane

Admission £3 includes tea and biscuits.

CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

6.30pm Thursday 12th December

St. Michael's Church, Langley

Join us for our Service of Light with traditional Christmas Carols, readings and seasonal refreshments.

All Welcome





Patient Participation Gm up

The flu clinics for over 65 year olds went well with over 600 vaccines being administered on each of the Saturdays. The Practice buys sufficient vaccines for all their eligible patients and so if you decide to go elsewhere it comes at a cost to the surgery. There was virtually no queueing on each day apart from the initial early rush.

As the PPG we are entrusted with funds to be used on behalf of patients and to that end we have recently purchased an electric examination couch. We also supply the drinking water in the surgery so would ask patients to use it sparingly.

As part of our fundraising efforts we will have a stall in the hall at St Johns for the Victorian evening, so please do come and support us, as money is used purely for the benefit of patients.

Poetry Competition

Are you a budding writer? The Mobile Library is running a poetry competition from 7th October to 21st December. The theme: The Mobile Library—a fantasy journey, a real-life experience or memory; the choice is yours. The team will pick their winners and the authors will have the chance to be filmed reading their poems on the Mobile Library for a Digital Anthology which will be shown on our internal screens throughout the New Year.

Poems can be given to drivers or emailed through to us at <u>central.mobiles.lib@norfolk.gov.uk</u>

For routes and times visit: <u>www.norfolk.gov.uk/mobilelibraries</u> or contact the team on: 01603 222267

Visit the Mobile Library for inspiration and to sign up for a free library card!



Chedgrave MS Therapy Centre

Christmas Fayre—Jubilee Hall

The Chedgrave MS Centre Christmas Fayre will be held at the Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon on **Saturday 14th December 12noon until 2.00pm**. There will be a tombola, cake stall, Christmas goodies, Father Christmas in his grotto and a raffle (first prize a hamper worth £100). Please come and support us and get into the Christmas spirit. Ample parking. All welcome.

Hooray for Hollywood

All are welcome to attend a screening of Hooray for Hollywood, which was performed at the Theatre Royal in 1996. This will be held at Langley School on Saturday 15th February 2020. Doors open at 1.30pm, with informal screening from 2.00pm. The show involved the Joan Gisborne School of Dance, Loddon Singers and Loddon Players. This will be a lovely opportunity to meet up with old friends!

For further details, please contact Chris Sparkes: chris.a.sparkes@googlemail.com 01508 528325



Loddon Community Cinema

Our next presentation is: **Yesterday**, rated PG, starring **Himesh Patel, Lily James, Ed Sheeran, James Corden** and **Gorleston!**

Directed by Danny Boyle it tells the story of a world-wide power outage that leaves everyone without any knowledge of the Beatles, who the foursome were and no

memory of any of their songs. However, it appears there is one person who does remember them and their music. As a struggling singer he could be on the brink of the big time....

A great hit with audiences and a guaranteed musical feast of songs it makes for a nice pre-Christmas treat.

Showing on Thursday 5th December , at the Lecture Hall, St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7pm; film starts 7.30pm.

There is no film in January as it is panto time.

Tickets £4 adults, £2 child. On the door or in advance from Loddon Garden & DIY.

South Yare Wildlife Group

Annual Winter Walk: Sunday 8th December. Meet at The Ferry pub at 2pm. Mulled wine and mince pies available at 4pm. The walk has uneven surfaces and is likely to be muddy, please wear suitable footwear. Sorry it is not accessible for wheelchairs. Please ring 01508 538069 or 07834 810181 to book.

Our committee is busy planning an exciting and educational programme of events for 2020. Here are a few highlights:

23rd **January**: Nick Acheson will give a talk, "Conservation in Norfolk—Bringing back the Wild to our Lives". Ashby and Thurton Village Hall, Ashby Road, Thurton NR14 6AT at 7.30pm. Nick is a naturalist who has worked extensively abroad and recently for Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Norfolk Hawk and Owl Trust. Nick's talks are renowned for being entertaining and giving real food for thought.

Jim Bradley, a local wildlife enthusiast will give a talk at our AGM in April about the wildlife on our doorstep in the Yare Valley.

As well as these talks, we will have our ever popular "Breakfast with the Birds" walk in May, a summer walk around local footpaths and a winter walk in December.

How are your birdwatching skills? Reg Land, naturalist and South Yare Wildlife Group Committee member will hold two "Introduction to Bird Watching" workshops in the Spring and Autumn. These will be designed to introduce and improve skills out in the field.

There are still more events in the pipeline so do keep your eye on the web site: <u>www.southyarewildlifegroup.org</u>









Nominations are now open for the Broadland & South Norfolk Business Awards

The 2020 Broadland & South Norfolk Business Awards, organised by South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council, celebrate the excellence, innovation and best practice shown by businesses across the combined area.

All 12,500 businesses that have an operating base in Broadland and South Norfolk are now able to nominate themselves for an award online, in any of the ten categories to celebrate their outstanding work and success.

Residents also have the chance to win £100 of shopping vouchers by nominating their favourite retailer. The Retailer of the Year award recognises high street businesses that have gone the extra mile.

Sponsored by Fosters Solicitors with media partner Radio Norwich, the awards' categories are:

Excellence in Digital Creative and ICT Excellence in Life Sciences Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing Excellence in Financial Services and Insurance Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Drink Visitor Economy Experience New Business **Business Growth** International Business Growth **Environmental Impact**



Retailer of the Year—open for public nomination

You can view the criteria and nominate online by 30th December 2019 at www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/businessawards.

Retailers can request a marketing pack to advertise the Retailer of the Year award to their customers by emailing awards@s-norfolk.gov.uk

Gardening Notes

The editors would like to thank Andrew Carver for all of his contributions to Contact Magazine over the last few years. They have been much appreciated.

As yet, they have not found anyone to take over this spot. However, the winter is very much a time for looking forward and planning so why not put your feet up with a seed catalogue and decide what you would like to grow in the Spring when the weather warms up again.

If you have green fingers, enjoy writing and would like to offer tips and advice for gardeners, why don't you offer your services as a guest writer for gardening notes? The editors would be pleased to hear from you.





Read Any Good Books Lately?

"The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry," by Rachel Joyce

A quirky and beautifully written story, most unlikely ever to happen but written in such a way that it becomes wholly believable! Essentially about a walk by an elderly man from one end of the country to the other, in an attempt to expiate his guilt for a past action to a friend. Along the way he remembers much of his past, experiences regret for all the things he didn't do for his wife and son, and finds himself the subject of media coverage—consequently attracting an assortment of odd characters who join him for part of the "pilgrimage. When this book was first published in 2013, a review in *The Times* said it was impossible to put down once started—a review with which (if you choose to read the book) you may well agree.

"The Care and Management of Lies," by Jacqueline Winspear

The setting of this book is what appears to be the author's favourite period: World War One. It is a simple tale of three young people. One is the daughter of a vicar and his wife, and the other two a brother and sister brought up on a farm. Education is obviously important to Jacqueline Winspear, featuring in her Maisie Dobbs series and again in this novel. In this case it plays a part in bringing together Tom, Thea and Kezia. Love in its various forms is at the heart of the story and anyone who reads it will almost certainly come to care about the three main characters. Pacifism and the suffragette movement are touched on and the sheer brutality of war is cleverly, and with feeling, brought home to the reader.

"Exposure," by Mal Peet

Born in North Walsham in 1947, Mal Peet died in 2015. His books were never formulaic—quite the opposite—and all the more worth reading because of that. Each book could be a surprise! *Exposure* is loosely a modern day take on Shakespeare's play "Othello." The hero is called Otello and is a famous footballer; his wife is called Desmerelda, and she is a singer who is renowned for several reasons, one being her voice of course, and others because she is very beautiful and the daughter of a millionaire Senator in a South American country. That's the background... Unlike the plot of the Shakespeare tragedy this story has two or three impoverished children among the central characters. It is cleverly written and in the plotline of the book, the author uses race, jealousy and sheer evil in the form of a trusted colleague who is anything but trustworthy.

"The Uncommon Appeal of Clouds," by Alexander McCall Smith

A delightful story in the Isabel Dalhousie series. As always there are the usual supporting characters, including Isabel's young musician husband, Jamie; their son Charles, who is now just over three years old; their sort-of-housekeeper, Grace; and Eddie, who works in Isabel's niece's coffee shop and delicatessen. Isabel is well-known as being someone who will always try to help others when asked, and in this instance she assists a retired country gentleman farmer who has had an extremely valuable painting stolen from his house. As with so many of McCall Smith's books, his writing is gentle, quietly humorous, thoughtful and perceptive. A joy to read.



Nature Notes

Well here we are at the beginning of November, having to write the Nature Notes for December. Rachel and I have a new hobby, or rather a new kitchen window that overlooks our garden and the trees beyond. So, we are enjoying the new view and what we can see, noticing today that the sycamore, hazel and apple tree are all losing leaves, which will make it easier birdwatching. The silver birch leaves have gone a glorious golden colour and the whole scene is set off by several pine trees. It's been fascinating watching *Long Tailed Tits* and *Goldcrest* hunting for food in the sycamore tree.

It is always worth watching flocks of *Long Tailed Tits* foraging through trees and bushes as they are usually accompanied by other small birds. Earlier in October, I was able to see both *Chiff Chaff* and *Garden Warbler* amongst such a flock in the garden, the latter having the notoriety as being a small brown bird with no distinguishing features. There is always the possibility of a rarity passing through like *Yellow Browed Warbler* or *Pallas's Warbler* both of which have been seen nearer the coast as they migrate south from Northern Europe. Although I have seen both species in previous years, I have failed this year so far. Much like my failure to see *Spotted Flycatchers* this year. Despite not finding the reported *Yellow Browed Warbler* at Sparrows Nest in Lowestoft, I did see two *Purple Sandpipers* with the *Turnstones, Rock Pipit, Black Redstart* and surprisingly a very obliging *Shorelark* at Ness Point.

I was reminded in the middle of October that migration was in full swing when driving to Seething. I saw a large skein of geese, which because of the number and general shape of the flock I thought were *Pink Footed Geese*. This proved to be correct as several more skeins of pink feet passed over my head, calling with their distinctive "wink, wink" call, later in the morning. Also, this last week we were seeing more and more *Fieldfares*.

I was also at Minsmere watching the bird ringers at work and that day they caught a lot of *Goldcrest*. This is the smallest British bird but these, because of the numbers caught, were assumed to have come from Europe. It's amazing to think that a bird so small can fly across the North Sea. At this time of year many of the familiar *Blackbirds* and *Robins* we see in our gardens will also have made the same journey.

On the last day of October, I took the dogs to Winterton and apart from walking them did some sea watching. Although the wind was not favourable, coming from the south west I still managed to get good views of a couple of *Little Auks*, a *Common Guillemot*, *Velvet Scoter* along with the more numerous *Common Scoters*, *Gannet* and *Red Throated Divers*. The problem with sea watching is that often the birds can be well out to sea and, even if there is only a slight swell, they can disappear into the troughs very quickly.

Come January we will be sharing more of what we have seen. Why not sit in the warm, with a cuppa and nature watch from your window. It can definitely brighten up the dullest day and it's apparently good for us.

Richard and Rachel Hull chetnaturenotes@btinternet.com





THE LODDON PANTOMIME January 2020:

"Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs"

BOOKING FORM

<u>Adults</u> £7.50. <u>Concessions</u> £5.50. (Senior Citizens & Children 15 years and under) Write under the date the number of seats you require at each price

Week One	Week Two	Week Three
Friday 10 th 7.30 p.m.	Friday 17 th 7.30 p.m.	Thursday 23 rd 7.30 p.m.
£7.50	£7.50	£7.50
£5.50	£5.50	£5.50
Saturday 11 th 2.30 p.m.	Saturday 18 th 2.30 p.m.	Friday 24 th 7.30 p.m.
£7.50	£7.50	£7.50
£5.50	£5.50	£5.50
Saturday 11 th 7.30 p.m.	Saturday 18 th 7.30 p.m.	Saturday 25 th 2.30 p.m.
£7.50	£7.50	£7.50
£5.50	£5.50	£5.50
Sunday 12 th 2.30 p.m.	Sunday 19 th 2.30 p.m	Saturday 25 th 7.30 p.m.
£7.50	£7.50	£7.50
£5.50	£5.50	£5.50

TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE: £ Please include cheque for total amount payable to 'Loddon Players' and send the completed form to Mrs Hazel Catchpole, 4 Proctor Avenue, Chedgrave, Norwich NR14 6HP. Please include a stamped addressed envelope.

N.B. Postal bookings <u>only</u> from 11th November to 22nd November 2019.

Telephone bookings from Monday 25th November 2016 on 01508 520162 *(between 9.00am. and 9.00pm please.)*





