

CONTACT

A photograph of a mossy tree trunk in a forest setting, surrounded by dry pine needles and small white flowers. The tree trunk is covered in green moss and is the central focus of the image. The ground is covered with a thick layer of dry, brown pine needles and some green foliage. The background shows a stone wall and more trees.

Published by the church in Loddon Feb. 2020

First signs of Spring?

Photograph—Editor



Chet Valley Churches
All Saints, Chedgrave
Come to the Quiz and Supper on
21st February 2020

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.

**£10.00 full price; concessions £7.50;
families £30.00**

***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

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--|
| David Owen: | 01508 522993 | david.chetvalley@gmail.com |
| Louise Morrissey: | 01728 830733 | delilah.morrissey@gmail.com |
| Ros Hoffmann: | 01508 548200 | ros@hoffmann2011.plus.com |
| Alison Ball: | 01508 528126 | ball880am@btinternet.com |
| Jill Haylock: | 01508 520248 | jillhaylock@aol.com |
| Fr. Padraig Hawkins: | 01508 492202 | office@east-angliadiocese.org.uk |



Church Office

St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon NR14 6NB
Phone: 01508 521179, 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

Email: c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

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|---------------|---|
| Editors: | Alison Ball, Megan Clifford, Roger Outlaw |
| Advertising: | Paul Maddison |
| Treasurer: | Val Counter |
| Distribution: | Roger Outlaw & Helpers |
| Printing: | Roberts & Son 01508 520221 |

COPY DEADLINE IS ALWAYS NOON 8TH OF THE MONTH

Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

Hand written submissions can be handed in at the Church Office.

Please include your name and telephone number.

'Contact' is published monthly, with double issues for July/Aug & Dec/Jan.

DISCLAIMER

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

Editorial

It feels rather strange writing the February editorial only two days into the New Year—I wish you all a Very Happy 2020. By the time you get this issue we will be about four weeks into the year, schools will be back, hangovers forgotten and another year well under way.

I always find this an odd time of year and 2020 is certainly no exception. The continuing mild weather, few frosts and ‘frozen car’ mornings so far makes we wonder what is waiting in the wings. I’m sure I read in one of the newspapers back last Autumn that we should expect a particularly cold winter with 100 days of Arctic temperatures. I must admit I like the cold but I would rather it came soon and not leap out on us into the Spring when it is always so nice to see flowers and new life beginning to show on plants everywhere.

I hope you all found something of interest and enjoyment among the seemingly countless events and activities over Christmas and New Year. It is really very encouraging to see so many people in our community involved in projects that bring pleasure to so many more. Still not over of course, panto still to come as I write this and then all the usual clubs and groups will still be offering us new experiences through 2020.

Try something new perhaps?!

Roger



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Ministerial Musings

February is a funny month. Winter hasn't quite gone (although we haven't had a real winter so far) and Spring hasn't quite arrived. The days are pulling out, the birds beginning sing and pair up and the first early flowers, notably snowdrops, are blooming. But we could still get snowy weather. An old saying alludes to this; February fill dyke, either black or white, that is with rain or snow.

February only has twenty eight days except every four years it has an extra day, as it has this year, which is a Leap Year. These additional 24 hours are put into the calendar to ensure that it stays in line with the Earth's movement around the Sun.

February 2nd is celebrated as Candlemas and is a Sunday this year. It's when we remember the Presentation of Christ at the Temple in Jerusalem. It's also known as the Purification of the Virgin Mary. According to Luke's gospel, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple when he was still a babe in arms. They took two doves which was the poor person's sacrifice according to Jewish Law. While there they met by two people. The first was Simeon who had been waiting a long time for the Messiah. He recognised the baby as the one he had been waiting for and taking the baby in his arms he recited what became known as the Nunc Dimmittis, "Lord now let you servant go in peace because my eyes have seen your glory." He also warned Mary that a sword would pierce her heart, meaning she would at times be heartbroken by what happened to her son.

Another person was Anna, an old prophetess, who was also waiting for the Messiah. On recognising the baby she lost no time in telling all who would listen that here was the one promised by God. I wonder what Mary and Joseph made of all this? What do we make of it?

Ros Hoffmann

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, 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.

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

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

6th Feb. for lunch and AGM

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

Small Groups

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



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

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

Monday Mardles

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



Mardles are held every **Monday 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

Funerals

John Richard Roberts who died on 14 November 2019 aged 87 years

Funeral: 4th December at Heckingham CCT

Mrs Patricia Toms who died on 20th November 2019 aged 94 years

Funeral: 18th December at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Mrs Natalie Carolyn Upson who died on 26 November 2019 aged 59 years

Funeral: 17th December 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

A Visit from our New Bishop

On 5 March the new Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher will be spending a day in this area, getting to know local clergy and visiting a few of the parishes that stretch between Porringland in the west to Burgh St Peter in the east. In the evening there will be an open social evening in Loddon (St John's Chapel/Lecture Hall) with a chance to chat and to hear a bit about Bishop Graham's life story.

More details will be published as they become available – look out for posters / leaflets, or contact Revd David Owen. (01508 522993, david.chetvalley@gmail.com)

ADVERTS

Sisland Chronicles

Another decade is in the past, and although I am assured that time (in this world) doesn't fluctuate, it does appear to rush by these days. Anniversaries crop up with increasing regularity, and, for instance, there are two this year of particular significance to East Anglia (historically Norfolk and Suffolk, and a part of the fens to the west). Four centuries have passed since 1620, when the Pilgrim Fathers set sail in the Mayflower for America. A number of those on board came from Norfolk and Suffolk, and their descendants regularly make return visits, in rather more comfortable, but just as cramped conditions, in Jumbo Jets! In AD 520, fifteen hundred years ago, the Kingdom of East Anglia was founded by the Wuffingas, heathen Saxon raiders in their long-ships, who fancied our fertile land, and whose most powerful ruler, King Raedwold became a Christian in AD 604, and was buried with fabulous Saxon treasure at Sutton Hoo. (Well worth a visit) It is interesting to note that their language became 'Old English', and was the first 'English' spoken any-where. East Anglia is the only old royal kingdom that retains a fragment of its former status, when mentioned in the Weather Forecasts from time to time!

SISLANDA.

Hi – Freddie here. I've been 'in the wars,' T. and J. had to take me to the Vets, only a few days after my MOT there! I over-did things chasing a pigeon. Suddenly one of my back legs didn't work, and hurt a lot when I put it down. Mr. Sabastion, (my vet), said I had hurt a muscle (what-ever that is) and gave me a jab. He said I could only go out – even in the garden – on a lead, and not to go upstairs – where my best window is - I also had some stuff on my breakfast, which I pretended was horrid, but eventually ate it, (it was on chicken!). I couldn't even jump up on my favourite chair, so T. had to lift me up. I felt a bit like a puppy again, but after a week my vet said that I was on the mend (slowly), but must stay on a lead when I went out. He said I should go on two short walks a day – so at least I could sniff what was going on in the village. T. said I've spoilt any chance of winning the Terrier race at the Game Fair this year. It's my own fault I suppose. but I'll try to be more careful in future. One good thing came out of it, all my friends made a fuss of me! Cheers F.

ADVERTS

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. 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](http://www.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.

Ample parking space at the Jubilee Hall. All welcome. There are no exams to take. If you have any questions, please phone 01508 521036 or or 558453.

Friday 6th March 7pm at St John's Loddon World Day of Prayer Services Written by the women of Zimbabwe

Theme: Rise! Take your mat and walk

There is a singing rehearsal at St John's 10.30 am on Monday 17th February to familiarise ourselves with the music – all welcome

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 jackbarwick@yahoo.co.uk or at 2 Hardley Road, Chedgrave.

ADVERTS

1st Loddon Scout Group

“Needs You”!

Have you thought about voluntary work or do you know anyone who could be interested, if so 1st Loddon Scout Group representing Beavers, Cubs and Scouts would welcome a call from you.

The Troop is growing with a waiting list to join.

We know everybody has busy lives so we would like to put together

A squad of people who would be willing to commit to help on an ad hoc basis, to help with things like our regular weekly pack nights or one off events such as outside evening events, outings or to attend one of our weekend or summer camps.

We also need Young Leaders so if you are a young person aged 16 years or over and would like to add volunteering to your Personal Statement then please contact us.

Working on the basis that many hands make light work, the more people willing to spare a few hours each month the better.

We want to encourage and help more young people to benefit from learning life skills by joining Scouting and need your help to achieve this.

Please note, for the Safeguarding of all our members, all volunteers will be required to be DBS checked via the Scout Association at our cost.



Local Contact: Claire Richards 01508 520990 or
Email: crichards_p1@yahoo.co.uk

ADVERTS

Chedgrave Churchyard Spring Clear-up

Saturday March 14th 09:30-12:00

The Churchyard in Chedgrave is due for a clean and tidy to remove winter debris all ready for buds opening in Spring. We will be holding this on Saturday March 14th from 9.30 am onwards. There will be a number of different jobs to do.

If you haven't seen our bird boxes or insect houses in the churchyard it is a chance to come and see what we have already done to enhance this space.

Please bring your own tools.

Refreshments will be provided.



See you there!

In Memoriam: Eric Wilkinson

Eric's family wish to thank the kind donors who sent/gave funds instead of flowers at his funeral. The fund monies as collected by Coppings Funeral Directors reached a splendid £300.

Eric's daughters visited the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, a not for profit organisation, at the end of November to view the Oxygen Chamber at work and to present a gratefully received cheque to the volunteer team on duty.

ADVERTS

What's Happening in Loddon Library

Special Events:

Scams Awareness: How to spot a scam and what to do if you're a victim. Mon 3rd Feb & Thurs 20th Feb. 10.30-12.30pm

Free Computer Help: skills in using a mouse/touchscreen/email/the internet & being safe online. Tues 4th Feb 10am-12pm

Fostering Information: Pop in to Loddon Library where staff from the Norfolk County Council Fostering Department will be on hand to answer any questions you may have if you're interested in fostering. Monday 17th February 12-2pm

DigiFest Coder Robot – Botley: Your chance to get hands-on with a real robot. Can you code fast enough to capture the aliens and avoid the asteroids? Recommended for children aged 6-9 – no coding experience required. Thursday 20th February 3.30-5pm. Booking required pop into Loddon Library or email libraries.iconnect@norfolk.gov.uk

Children & Parent Groups:

Stay & Play – every Monday 11am-12pm. Drop in for a chat with others while your children play.

Bounce & Rhyme – every Thurs 10.15-10:45am. Come along for songs & rhymes for ages 0-5.

Bookends – Listen to a story & join our volunteer in a craft activity related to the book, Friday 14th & 28th February 3.30-4pm

Adult Groups:

Coffee Morning – every Monday 10.30am-12.30pm. Pop in for a chat and a cuppa. Note the new time for this event.

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

Citizens Advice - An advisor is available on Mon 24th Feb 10am-12pm to offer advice and guidance. Booking essential.

Community Book Group – join our friendly book group on Thursday 6th February 10.45am.

Mahjong – come to our new Mahjong group Thursday 13th & 27th February 10.45am

Loddon Loves Books book group – evening book group on Friday 28th February 5.45-6.45pm.

Open Libraries: Open library gives you access to your local library even while the building is unstaffed, making it available at times more convenient for you. For more information and to sign up, visit the library and speak to a member of staff or call 01603 774777 to sign up by phone.

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.

DVD Hire: hire from just £1 - Top Titles £2 for 2 nights and other DVDs £1 for a week.

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

Facebook: just search for Loddon Library or visit [facebook.com/loddonlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/loddonlibrary)

Library Opening Hours:

| | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| Monday | 8am-7pm | (Staffed 10am-7pm) |
| Tuesday | 8am-7pm | Open Library access only |
| 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 |

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

ADVERTS



Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

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

Website: www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk

The Parish Council met on 5th December 2019 & 9th January 2020. Copies of the Minutes are available at Loddon Library, on the Parish Council noticeboard and website.

George Lane Roundabout: At the Dec CPC meeting, NCC Cllr Barry Stone outlined the current situation and it will hopefully be started Spring 2020.

Grebe Drive Play Area Regeneration Project: The Community Café raised £205.80 and the Victorian Evening Stall raised £85. The Name the Reindeer winner was “Zip”. Various grants have been applied for and work to clear the site should be able to start this spring.

Christmas Lights & Trees: The Christmas trees placed at the Lychgate, Chedgrave shops and outside the Brian Clarke Room, the lights outside Beauchamp House and the lights along Norwich/Langley Road will all be in place again for 2020.

Hardley Road Allotments: Currently, there is a vacancy. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested.

Wherryman’s Way: The first Working Group meeting took place on 19th November. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to NCC and to the Broads Authority. The letter would request information, timescales and financial restraints in getting the Way reopened. At the Dec CPC meeting, NCC Cllr Stone reported that the bridges are to be repaired and the Broad Authority is planning a tree clearing and dredging programme. We continue to urge parishioners and visitors to the area to make complaints to NCC.

“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 CPC website.

Councillor Vacancy: Please contact the clerk for information.

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

2020 Meeting Dates have been finalised & can be found on the CPC website.

Planning applications:

2019/2405 Applicant: Mr & Mrs Frost, Location: Land At Junction Of Rectory Lane And Norwich Road Chedgrave Norfolk, Proposal: Erection of new dwelling and garage, Application Type: Full Planning Permission

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

Planning decisions:

2019/2125 - 5 Hillside, Chedgrave, NR14 6HZ. Proposal : Single storey side and rear extension

Decision : Approval with Conditions. Delegated Date of decision : 15 November 2019.

2019/2141 - Location : Land At Junction Of Norwich Road Langley Road Chedgrave Norfolk. Proposal : Works to trees in conservation area - (T1) Oak - crown thin by 10% to leave lower congestion and remove small broken branches. Decision : No objections. Delegated Date of decision : 20 November 2019

The next meeting of Chedgrave Parish Council will be held on Thursday 6th February 2020 Thursday at 7.30pm at the Brian Clarke Room

ADVERTS

News From Your New South Norfolk District Councillor

A belated happy new year to everyone, and thanks again for putting your faith and trust in me to be one of your District Councillors.



It was nice before Christmas to be approached about slippery leaves on a busy pavement, and to be able to ring South Norfolk District Council to get it dealt with. This type of thing really matters to people.

I regularly attend as many of our local Parish Council meetings as possible at Loddon, Chedgrave, Hales and Heckingham, Langley with Hardley, and Stockton; they all do brilliant work on behalf of their communities, for example organising litter picking, which I look forward to helping with later in February, looking after local play areas, trying to lower speed limits and a whole range of important work. At South Norfolk, one of my roles is on the Scrutiny Committee, where we were able to hear about the excellent work done by our local Citizens Advice Bureaus, and to be able to thank them for the excellent work done by our CABs. The next of my promised regular surgeries will take place in Loddon library, on **Saturday 15th February 2-4pm**. I can also be contacted by ringing **07733323581** (new number) or emailing me at jrowe@s-norfolk.gov.uk. If you contact me I guarantee that I'll get

Plans for Holy Trinity

The plans for installing toilets and kitchen, together with a ringing platform and storage facilities are still on display in Holy Trinity Church. The Church Council has agreed on these plans, which it is hoped will be presented to the Diocesan Advisory Committee in the near future, prior to gaining approval to go ahead and begin the process of obtaining funding. As a temporary measure the church is able to purchase a portaloo for use at events and services.

ADVERTS

Holy Trinity Bell Ringers



Looking back a big event was held in Norwich on Saturday November 9th when the Rt. Rev. Graham Usher was enthroned as the new Bishop of Norwich at the Cathedral. At the conclusion of the service all the bells in the city simultaneously rang out as a welcome for him. As the Bishop is Patron of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers, lots of bells were rung to welcome him in churches across the diocese including a quarter peal of St. Nicholas College Bob Major here at Holy Trinity.

That evening the Eastern branch of the NDA held its annual dinner. Nearly forty members attended from across the branch and after the meal were entertained by a talk from a member from Necton who had worked backstage in West End shows in London.

The following day was Remembrance Sunday. The bells at Loddon were rung half-muffled for the morning service and again in the afternoon for a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples conducted by Katie Wright. We also rang for morning service at nearby Haddiscoe in the Ravensingham group of parishes and another half-muffled quarter peal of Norwich Surprise Minor was rung at Norton Subcourse in the afternoon conducted by David Webb.

We rang the bells half-muffled for a funeral held at Holy Trinity on Friday 22nd November. We also rang at Gt. Yarmouth Minster for a memorial service held there. The bells announced the start of the annual Victorian evening and open house at the church on Friday December 6th. We attended the Eastern Branch ABM held at St. Mary the Virgin, Wroxham on Saturday 7th December. Ringing on the six bells took place before a service, tea and the meeting itself all in the church.

We rang a Quarter peal at Norton Subcourse on Wednesday 11th to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the dedication of the bells after their re hang on December 12th 1964. We rang for carol services held at Woodton, St. Peter Mancroft and at Ravensingham. We rang Aldeby bells on the morning of Sunday 22nd for a visitation of the Bishop of Thetford, and again at Loddon in the evening for a carol service. On Monday 23rd we rang a half-muffled Quarter Peal at Norton Subcourse prior to the funeral that day of Reverend Nicholas Will, Rector of the Ravensingham Group of parishes from 2000 until his retirement in 2018.

As Christmas Day neared, the Handbell team entertained at the White Horse in Chedgrave with carols, Loddon bells rang for the crib service on Christmas Eve and again for the Midnight service. They rang out again on Christmas morning.

On the Friday after Christmas we had a festive lunch for all tower members and friends held at the Angel in Loddon. The following Sunday, two of our members rang in a Peal at All Saints, Necton to celebrate Christmas. The 5040 changes of seven Surprise minor methods took 2 hours 50 minutes to complete.

The annual Christmas Peal was successfully rung at Loddon on Wednesday 1st January. The 5021 changes of Glasgow Surprise Major was completed in 2 hours 52 minutes. This is one of the more complex Surprise methods to ring so we were especially pleased to score this peal with the help of a talented conductor, as it was a first for seven of the eight ringers and the first time this method has been rung to a peal at Loddon. The ringers were 1. Adrian Malton (c) 2. Michelle Clutton 3. Janet Garnett 4. Katie Wright 5. Ann M Webb 6. David Webb 7. Michael Cowling 8. Stephen Rabong. The Peal also welcomed in the new year as did two Quarter Peals which were rung on Sunday 5th January.

Steve Rabong.

ADS

JUST DESSERTS



Saturday 8 February, 7pm

St John's Lecture Hall, Loddon

An **EVENING** with the
chance to eat lots of lovely
PUDS without needing to
eat a main course first!

Ticket price includes light starters, followed by lots of puddings and desserts and tea or coffee. Dietary needs catered for if you let us know in advance.

During the evening there will be a raffle or similar fundraiser.

Tickets cost £7.50 (family ticket £25) and are available from Nina Owen (01508 522993, theroamingfenlander@gmail.com)

or from the church office, St John's Chapel



Fundraising for the
Church in Loddon

Church Services in February

| Sunday 2nd February | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 | St John, Loddon |
| 3.00pm | Baptism Re-union Christingle | St John, Loddon |
| 6.30pm | Pantomime Praise | St John, Loddon |
| Sunday 9th February | | |
| 8.00am | Holy Communion | St Margaret, Hardley |
| 9.30am | Holy Communion (BCP) | All Saints, Chedgrave |
| 10.45am | Morning Worship | St John, Loddon |
| Sunday 16th February | | |
| 10.45am | Holy Communion | St John, Loddon |
| 11.00am | All Together Worship | All Saints, Chedgrave |
| 4.00pm | Evening Prayer | St Mary Sisland |
| Sunday 23rd February | | |
| 9.30am | Holy Communion | All Saints, Chedgrave |
| 10.30pm | Morning Worship | St Margaret, Hardley |
| 10.45pm | Morning Worship | St John, Loddon |
| 6.30pm | Last Sunday Praise | St John, Loddon |
| Wednesday 25th February—Ash Wednesday | | |
| 7.00pm | Holy Communion & Ashing | St John, Loddon |
| Every day Morning Prayer 9.00am <i>All Welcome</i> | Monday | St John, Loddon |
| | Tuesday | St. Margaret, Hardley |
| | Wednesday | All Saints, Chedgrave |
| | Thursday | St John, 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

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'

3rd Tuesday **Midweek Communion with Blessing**

All are welcome

Thursdays
during school
term

Xtra!

Join us for an exciting, informal service.
Refreshments from 3.15pm, Service starts 3.45pm
More from Rev David 01508 522993
or Rev Alison 01508 528126

LENT LUNCHES

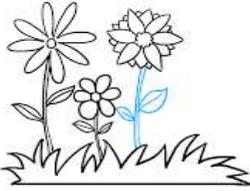
Everyone is welcome to a simple meal of home-made soup with bread, tea or coffee and biscuits on Wednesdays in Lent.

March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and April 1st

Donations in aid of the Bishop's Lent appeal,

supporting the

Diocese of Dogura in Papua New Guinea in buying a car to help their work accessing difficult areas.

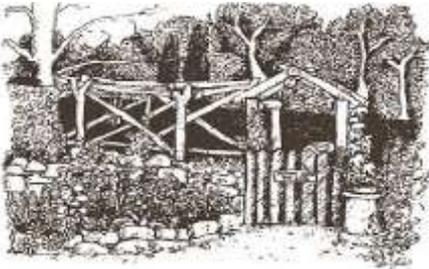


Loddon open Gardens 2020

**It is planned to carry on the successful
'Open Garden' weekends this June.**

**All we need are some gardens—
(LARGE or small)**

And a few volunteers to set up!



**Still planning at the
moment but aiming
for the weekend 6-7
June.**

**For more info and to of-
fer to help contact Nina
-522993 or email—
roamingfenlander@gmail.com**



Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

A huge thankyou to all who supported us in 2019. especially Carol Brown and the Whist players at Beauchamp House who gave a donation of £297 and the Coop and Sisland Tithe Barn for their ongoing contributions.

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. on 01502 677077.

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



Chet Valley Photography Club

Our February meeting (10th) is 'A Greek Odyssey' – Ann & Bob Carpenter. This will be an illustrated talk on Birds, Butterflies and other wildlife Ann & Bob saw on a visit to the area in the North East of Greece. If you would like to come along to our meetings please do. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

For more details please see our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

Why were we going for a walk? On the first Sunday of the year a group from Chedgrave church walked down to the common and along the river.

What happens when we walk with someone? Friends and acquaintances are enjoying a walk down a country lane. All close together. You talk, laugh, listen, and perhaps share your hearts. Your attention is focused on others to the exclusion of almost everything else. You notice the beauty around you as an occasional distraction, but only to point it out to your companions. You share it together. You are in harmony, and you all enjoy the camaraderie.

What better way to start the year!

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Flower Club

Flower arranging demonstration held at St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, **6-15pm for a 7pm start**. Refreshments and raffle held. Visitors £6.

4th February - Christine Hewson - Food for thought.

3rd March - Helen Bird - As the days lengthen.

For further details contact Tricia Godfrey (Chairman) on 01508 480522 or email tricia646@aol.com.

Loddon Women's Institute

We are looking forward to an interesting and active year. **Firstly Loddon WI has changed venue and will be meeting in future at St Johns Chapel** . 7.15 for 7.30PM

The February meeting on the 19th will be a talk by Sue Sursham - 'South Korea & Japan'. Also on Valentine's Day this month we are taking part in the 'Show the Love' WI campaign; so hand made green hearts will be appearing around Loddon - **do take one if you find one!** Why green? These hearts are designed to remind people to think about climate change .

Together we can make a difference."

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

When you read this members will have enjoyed meeting up again at The Feathers for our New Year lunch.

Our next meeting has **Stephanie Israel bringing her therapy dog, Magnus**. It will be on **Feb 25th at 2pm at the All Saints Church Centre**.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

Further details from Secretary Gillian Ball 528182

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 8.30pm-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.

ADVERTS

Loddon Community Gym



Did you make any New Year Resolutions? Many people do and break them almost immediately, usually because they were almost impossible to keep. We all have idealistic intentions but if the things we want to do to improve our lives can't be easily fitted in to our current daily or weekly schedules we are unlikely to keep them up for long. We would like to encourage you to use the Community Gym partly because it is good to get fitter but also because it is a friendly place to meet other like-minded people. If you have children at school or nursery why not slot in a session at the Gym after you drop them off on Friday morning or before you collect them on Monday afternoon? If you usually do your supermarket shop on a Friday why not call in at the Gym on your way home? If you have a job where you sit down all day why not call at the Gym on your way home on a Tuesday? We have to make it easy for ourselves if we are to keep it up.

Call in at any time the Gym is open to see for yourself what we are about. Everyone whatever age or fitness level will have a programme designed especially for them by Louise our fitness instructor. The Gym is not exactly fun but it is rewarding! 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 reopens in 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.

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. The speakers for February are:

Feb. 4th—Phyllida Scrivens— History of the Mayors of Norwich

Feb. 18th—Robert Leeder—Stately Homes of East Anglia

We really look forward to seeing you. For more info please contact Clive Boyd, Phone 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.

11 February Carol Haines—Street Furniture

25 February Penny Parks—Partners, Who'd have 'em?

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

ADVERTS

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

2020 programme currently being revised.

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.

Davy Place Social Club

Hello from everyone at Davy Place,

Last year we were very lucky to be gifted a Yamaha upright piano for use in our Common Room and we would very much like a piano stool to go with it. If anyone can help us locate a suitable piano stool or have one they would be willing to donate to our Social Club, then please let us know. Our contact number is 01508 522115. Thank you.

Our Hoy sessions have been re-scheduled for the second Saturday of each month. The next Hoy Night will be held in the Common Room on Saturday 8th February starting at 7pm.

Our "Gentle Exercise" classes continue on Tuesday mornings at 10 till 11am. Rose is our fitness instructor. We have good exercise and good fun doing the stretching and strengthening exercises that Rose devises for us!

On Friday mornings Mike, from Long Stratton Leisure Centre, takes the "Still on the Go" fitness sessions for the over 55s from 10am till 10.45am.

Both of our weekly fitness sessions take place in the Common Room and are followed by tea/coffee and cake ... and a jolly good chat!

Our Craft, Coffee and Chat Club still takes place on Thursday mornings at 10am till 12 noon. Come and join us!

ADVERTS

Royal British Legion–Loddon & District Branch



Here we are in 2020 already, but you will be pleased to know that November 2019's branch Poppy Appeal has, with your kind generosity, raised a grand total of £7360.00 so far. Well done, and thank you all very much.

November's AGM has resulted in the following officers being elected:-

President Laurie Olsen Vice President Ron Howes
Chairman Colin Hartley Vice Chairman Richard White
Secretary /Events Organiser) Christine Hartley (01508 521136 for help and advice)
Treasurer (and Poppy Organiser) Erika Olsen

February's branch meeting will be on Tuesday 18th February, and next month's will be on Tuesday 17th March, which also coincides with the 73rd anniversary of the setting up of the branch. Meetings as usual in the King's Head starting at 7.30 pm.

Margaret Wallace 01508 520840

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

Meetings are held at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon on the 2nd Wednesday of the month starting at 7.30pm.

12th February - Slugs, Friend or Foe? A talk by Dr Ian Bedford.

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 happyhaze50@gmail.com or Jean on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or take a look at our webpage on www.loddon.org or follow us on our Facebook page.

ADVERTS

November meeting Dr Richard Hoggett introduced an amazing late Victorian academic: Mr M R James 1862 – 1936. A remarkable man, born the son of a Suffolk clergyman, the 4th of 4 children. First educated at home, where he developed his love of antiquarian manuscripts and things medieval. He went to Temple Grove School then Eton and King's Cambridge. He later joined the staff as a Don and then Provost. He catalogued many of the manuscript libraries of the colleges as well as manuscripts in Norwich and Ely Cathedral. His phenomenal memory allowed him to link information in the different manuscripts. This work continues to make these valuable sources accessible for historians.

Using information gleaned from his cataloguing he was able to provide information on the layout of the ruined Bury St Edmunds Abbey and pinpoint the graves of the earliest Abbot which were excavated in 1903. From 1893 to 1908 he was Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum. In 1918 he returned to Eton as Provost and remained until his death in 1936. He lived most of his life in Institutions and consequently without the distractions and responsibilities of domestic life. This must have helped him to continue research and writing. He was remembered as a sociable man, a good and kind friend with a sense of humour. For many years the Christmas treat was one of his collection of Ghost Stories. For most of us it is likely to be for his volumes of ghost stories that he is remembered.

At our December meeting we were joined by eight members of the interpretation team from Blickling Hall who presented 'The End of an Era'. At the beginning of World War II, Lord Lothian, having offered to let the RAF use Blickling Hall as a billet, returned home to discover the effect on residents old and new. The members of this friendly and skilful group had researched the background histories of some of the residents, producing 'snap shots' of happenings in a quiet corner of Norfolk. Their engaging stories revealed life for, Percy the gardener, Lord Lothian himself, a member of the RAF and the house keeper who managed to prevent some RAF boys sawing a hole in floor to get into the wine cellar, and how they coped with unusual events. We all enjoyed their performance which was followed by Christmas food and a raffle provided by the committee. A really big thank you to everyone.

Next Meetings:

February 20th 2020 our speedy AGM followed by updates on the Parish Study, the Archive Project and recent research, and maybe some tales and pictures of Loddon

March 18th **David Wollweber, *The de Argentein Family: Cup Bearers to Medieval Kings***

David has recently written a book which tells the remarkable but little known story of the medieval lords of the manor of Halesworth, Newmarket and villages in Suffolk and Norfolk. A family of crusaders, jousting, matriarchs, and rebels were influential in key historical events. If you like Medieval history and tales of knights, crusades, powerful women, murderers and feuds come along to this talk!

Do take time to visit the Local Studies Room in the Library when the Library is staffed and look at some of our folders and pictures.

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

Admission £3 includes tea and biscuits.

ADVERTS

Patient Participation Group

Patient Participation Group would like to thank all those who supported our stall at the Victorian evening and bought raffle tickets at the surgery. We raised almost £500 which will be used for the benefit of patients at the Practice. The winner of the raffle was Sylvia Sayer of Loddon.

May we wish you a happy and healthy new year and we look forward to seeing you at the Open Meetings which will be advertised during the year. All patients at the Practice are automatically members of the PPG which acts as a liaison between the Doctors and the patients.

COFFEE MORNING AT AVOCET

Saturday 22 February

10.00am to 12.00 noon



Val Counter invites you to a Coffee Morning

at Avocet, Norwich Rd (Opposite Chedgrave House B & B)

Relax, chat, buy a cake or try your luck on the raffle



Any good quality items that could be sold will be gratefully received.

Hooray For Hollywood

In 1996 The Joan Gisborne School of Dance put on a show at the Theatre Royal in Norwich, entitled Hooray for Hollywood. This show also involved Loddon Players, Loddon Singers and many other people from the local area. On **Saturday 15th February**, there will be an informal screening of the recording of this show at Langley School. The doors will open at 1.30pm, with the screening commencing at 2.00pm. This will be an opportunity to meet old friends, to reminisce, to remember those who are no longer with us and to have some fun. There will be no charge for admission, but donations to assist with costs will be welcome, any surplus will be donated to charity. Light refreshments will be available.

For more details, please contact - - chris.a.sparkes@googlemail.com

ADVERTS

Loddon Community Cinema

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6th.

"Downton Abbey" rated PG

What is there to say. Seamlessly transferred from the small screen the well-known cast revel in the big screen treatment. We even have a Royal visit thrown in.



Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30 pm.

SATURDAY 22nd FEBRUARY.

"The Lion King" Rated PG.

Superb Disney reworking of the classic family musical.

Doors open 2pm, film starts 2.30pm.

Both films showing at St John's Lecture Hall.

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

South Yare Wildlife Group



2019 saw a wide variety of events and activities—Jim Bradley, a local wildlife enthusiast gave a talk at our AGM in April about the wildlife on our doorstep in the Yare Valley.

As well as talks, we 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? There will be opportunities 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: www.southyarewildlifegroup.org

ADVERTS

RE-CYCLING PET FOOD POUCHES.

Are you a cat or dog owner?

Do you feed them from pouches,

Whiskers, Felix, Baker's or similar?



This kind of packaging is disposed of in the black bin and would end up in landfill but ***all wet food pouches, pet treat flexible packaging and dry food flexible packaging, irrespective of brand, can be recycled by a company called TerraCycle.*** Please rinse out your packages and place in the collecting box just outside the Benefice Office at St John's church. When we have 7kg I'll send them off and points will be allocated to the Chet Valley Churches. These are then turned into money, paid into the Benefice account and used to fund mission and ministry, including children's work.

TerraCycle turns the packages into useful items like fence posts and park benches. To learn more you can visit <https://www.terracycle.co.uk>

THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE FOIL CONTAINERS!!

If you ever think mythology is boring.....Just remember.....

Cerberus, hell hound and guard dog of the Underworld, comes

From the root Indo-European word *kerberos*, which evolved

Into the Greek word *kerberos*, which became *Cerberus* when it

Went from Greek into Latin.

***kerberos* means "spotted"yes, that's right.....**

Hades, Lord of the Dead literally named his dog "SPOT"!!

ADVERTS

Read Any Good Books Lately?

“The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy,” by Rachel Joyce

This novel is the companion volume (not a sequel) to *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*. We learn much more about Queenie Hennessy this time and we also learn about four other characters in the hospice where she is a patient, each of whom is interesting and - sometimes – remarkably entertaining. Rachel Joyce writes so well that we come to care about all of them. While Harold Fry is walking the length of England to see her in the hospice where she is a patient, Queenie writes a long, long letter to him explaining why she left the brewery in Devon, and confesses her love for him. Surprisingly perhaps, as well as the sadness in the story, there is a lot of humour too.

“Transcription,” by Kate Atkinson

To quote one of the reviews: “this is a novel about identity in which name and nothing is exactly as it seems - a spy novel, in short.”

It is a superb story of wartime espionage and it is clever, witty and a real treat; nothing like any of the books she has written before, and possibly very different from anything most of us will have read before. She could certainly never be described as formulaic in her writing. There is a great variety of characters, with the central one ageing from 18 to 60 and being the link to everyone and everything else that happens. Once again Kate Atkinson has come up with a real page-turner to entertain and absorb her readers. Astonishing.

“How to be Good,” by Nick Hornby

At first this book can appear to be a little depressing, but give it a few pages, because it warms up as the story progresses. Characters begin to come alive and the dilemmas faced by the parents and children of the Carr family become more understandable. You may well find you have begun to have real sympathy for each of them. Not necessarily for the parasitic, self-designated therapist, however! One can believe that the healing which occurred for father and daughter after experiencing Reiki at his hands was successful - it is, after all, a valid and proven therapy. The rest of his ideas, however, are very obviously unrealistic and their aims completely unattainable.

The situation David and Katie find themselves in, particularly the staleness of their marriage, is sad and it’s hard to imagine how things will ever come right for them. Keep reading, though - the author has produced a clever book with a very clever ending.

ADVERTS

Nature Notes

We are still enjoying looking out of our new kitchen window, especially with a hot cup of tea in hand. We have been blessed with sights of the Red Kite and Goldcrest along with the usual array of garden birds.

The image that springs to mind at mentioning dawn chorus is of being up very early, before sunrise, during spring, but even on these dark mornings there is bird song though often less tuneful. Before daybreak the call of the Tawny Owl resonates, then the actual song of robin cuts through the darkness. Scolding blackbirds seem to be calling from everywhere along with the sound of pheasant and red legged partridge all seemingly angry. As the sky lightens the continual “caw” of Rooks and the “jack” of Jackdaws fills the air as they fly over, interrupted by what can only be a Rook with a saw throat. Wood Pigeons and Stock Doves then start up along with the Dunnocks squeaky song. Suddenly a ghostly apparition appears as a Barn Owl is out hunting silently for its breakfast. The honking of a skein of feral Grey Lag Geese, or the “wink, wink” of Pink Footed Geese fills the air as they pass over, along with the bark of a Chinese Water Deer out on the marshes. These are some of the variety of sounds I enjoy each Winter morning.

It came to my attention that an Eastern Yellow Wagtail had taken up residence on Corporation Marshes at Walberwick, a bird which I have never seen. So, I drove to Dunwich with my dogs and set out along the beach towards Walberswick. On route I was entertained by both Little and the larger White Egrets, both now relatively common. In fact, I saw three Great White Egrets at once. In bird books written in the 1980's it would have had them as being found in Eastern Europe and Turkey. So, like the common Collard Dove they have over a short space of time migrated westward. Back to the wagtail, I finally reached a group of birdwatchers looking intently at a rough grass area surrounding a pool where the bird had last been seen. I joined them set up my scope and waited. My dogs are used to my behavior and sit patiently waiting for their walk to continue. While waiting for the wagtail to appear a flock of Snow Buntings kept us amused. Then suddenly a shout went up “that’s its call” “that dot up there in the sky is the wagtail” Could have been anything but fortunately it decided to be very obliging and landed just a few feet from us giving everyone brilliant views. What a bird from East Asia was doing in Suffolk I have no idea.

A few days later I took a friend up to Cley see an Isabelline Wheatear which had taken up residence in the shingle dunes. We were fortunate that it was not afraid of humans and posed for us while we ate our sandwiches, giving us excellent views.

Not all birds are as accommodating as this. We are now in a new year, and although I had decided not to make a new year list (how many different species I could see in a year) I have. More about that next month plus what else we have seen out of the kitchen window.

Richard and Rachel Hull chetnaturenotes@btinternet.com



ADS

Gardening Notes

It's daunting to take over this column following years of good advice from Jim Leathers, Keith Todd and Andrew Carver and see the link broken with Loddon Garden and Seed (now DIY). Andrew is still able to share his knowledge and experience and supply a wide range of garden supplies and services. Thank you and long may Loddon Garden and DIY continue.

The Horticultural Society has taken up the mantle and Shirley and I are going to try a different approach. I will concentrate on fruit and vegetables, which I grow organically on my allotment. Shirley will focus on her garden.

From the Allotment Hello, my name is Andrew, I am a member of the AA (Allotment Association) and addicted to fruit and veg growing. I thought I would start by describing my plot. I have a 250m² plot at Chedgrave, ½ size plots are also available. The allotments are on a north/south slope and enjoy lots of sun. The soil is sandy and stony, so well drained, and slightly alkaline. I work to improve the soil. We have a water supply and an orchard.

If you are interested in an allotment the Loddon ones by the Mill are rather different, usually smaller, with a deep peaty alluvial soil, a rich growing medium, but do tend to soak up water given their location, so rich the roots of weeds were once described to me "as going down to hell". Glass half full! In either case contact the relevant Parish Clerk to join the waiting list if all are taken. February is the time to be setting your potatoes to chit ready for planting out, and I will discuss the various ways I have tried growing them next time.

From the Garden..... Hello, I'm Shirley and I've been a member of the Horticultural Society for over 20 years growing mainly flowers with tomatoes and chillies in the greenhouse.

The seed catalogues have now arrived, and it is so easy to get carried away with all the new and unusual varieties. This year I have ordered Tragopogon which has lavender flowers and dandelion like seeds heads, and Iochroma Australe - a climber with small purple trumpets. I saw this on a visit to the Bishop's Garden last year. The garden visiting season starts again in February with gardens featuring snowdrops. It is always good to see what other gardeners are growing or pick up ideas, along with tea, cake and maybe a plant or two!

The Sweet Peas I sowed on the 1st of December are now about 3 inches tall and will be planted out late April. I will start sowing flower seeds from February as the light levels increase, starting the seeds off in small pots and then pricking out into individual cell trays. Our February meeting is Dr Ian Bedford – slugs, friend or foe? I think he might have his work cut out on that!

Andrew and Shirley



ADVERTS

Inside Back Cover

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