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Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

April 2025



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**More from Reverend Alison (01508 528126;
ball880am@btinternet.com)**

or Gary Watson (gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk)



Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy



Miriam Fife:	not available yet	rector.cvb@gmail.com
Alison Ball:	01508 528126	ball880am@btinternet.com
Jill Haylock:	01508 520248	jillhaylock@aol.com
Ros Hoffmann:	01508 548200	roshoffmann2011@gmail.com
Martin Keenan:	01502 560178	martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk

To arrange a wedding, funeral or interment of ashes please contact Rev Miriam.

To arrange baptisms or thanksgivings please contact Rev Alison.

For prayer requests and home communion please contact Rev Ros.

Postal address: St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon NR14 6NB.

Phone: 01508 520897, Email: website.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com

This phone and e-mail account are also being monitored regularly.

Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches	www.chetvalleychurches.org
The Diocese of Norwich	www.dioceseofnorwich.org



Chet Contact

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Please include your name and telephone number.



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From the Editor

Just back from the Norfolk County Music Festival with Loddon Junior School Choir. The songs they performed were *I Can See Clearly Now* by Johnny Nash, and an arrangement of two sea shanties: *A Drop of Nelson's Blood* and *Drunken Sailor* by their conductor.

Here's what the adjudicator said, "*Beautiful sound from the choir and excellent use of 2-part harmony all the way through. Watching your conductor like hawks and singing and projecting brilliantly.*" and "*Unaccompanied section very accomplished with no loss of pitch. Exciting performance with spirited singing throughout.*" Finishing with "*Excellent, Well done*".

Not surprisingly the choir received a much-deserved Highly Commended Plus. I'm very proud of them indeed!

What was particularly good to see was those children who sometimes find it hard to focus being on the top of their game; those who were very nervous, blossoming in the performance. And a shout out for Year 6 for being great leaders in all respects—they will be missed when they move on to high school.

Allison



Contents

<i>Front Cover: Daffodils—Richard Ball</i>			
Regular items		Highlights	
Across Chet Valley Churches	7/9	XALT! New Youth Group	2
From the Parish Registers	11	New Bereavement Group	11
From Your Local Councillors	13	Meet Miriam—our new Rector	29
Parish Council News	15-21	Library	30
Church Notices and Services	26-27	Trek 24—volunteers wanted	32
Sport	22-23	Community Cinema	34
Community News	24-41	Chet Valley Community Larder	37
Local History Group	43	Help if you are in need	37
Book Reviews	45	Lent Lunches	39
No Nature Notes this month	47	Food In the School Holidays	47
Allotment/Garden Notes	49	Easter Book of Remembrance	51

Ministerial Musings

April is a month of promise: the promise of Spring and fairer weather and the promise offered to all by the Easter message. There is no more beautiful witness to the mystery of Easter than nature bursting with new life and colourful flowers. The image of new life is everywhere if we take time to notice and listen to the wonder and love of God. Time and again God shows his love and presence in the world through his creation and all that surrounds us.

In the church our joyous Easter celebrations are preceded by the most sombre week of the church year; on Palm Sunday we recall the moment when Jesus rode triumphantly into the holy city of Jerusalem, to cries of 'Hosanna!'. Then, each day throughout Holy Week, we recall the events leading up to the betrayal, arrest and crucifixion of Jesus, who could at any moment have stopped it all (he was God, after all!), but chose to let it happen, just as it had been predicted in the ancient Scriptures.

He did that to fulfil the best promise of all; he conquered death, rising from death to life after three days (not a ghost – he even ate fish on a beach with his friends afterwards!), before rising to be with his Father in heaven. Because of this, we don't have to be afraid of death when it comes to us and our loved ones. We know that we have a place in heaven where life is everlasting and we will see those we love again.

The pain we feel when someone we love dies can feel too much to bear, and is heart-wrenching and awful. But knowing they have gone to a better place, where there is no more pain, no more tears, and only goodness and light, and that we will see them there one day, can bring us a deep sense of peace and comfort that nothing else can give.

This is what God has promised for all of us (Yes! Even YOU!).

If you want to find out more, do join us at any of our Easter services or get in touch. The Easter Bunny will spread quite a lot of joy (who doesn't look forward to a chocolate egg?), but the gift of joy and hope that is ours for the taking is everlasting, and we can't wait to share it with you.

With every blessing,

Miriam



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Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley

You are welcome to join us at any of our services



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

Morning Worship is held regularly in Loddon and Hardley.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Thanksgivings & Baptisms



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

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

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

Noah's Ark

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



Wednesdays 9:15am-12:00noon.

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

Small Groups

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



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

To join or just to know more, please contact Rev Alison on 01508 528126.

XTRA!

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

Friends and Neighbours

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

Future Meetings:

Thursday 3rd April: Lunch at The Gillingham Swan. 12:00 noon for 12:30pm.

Thursday 1st May: Lunch 12:30pm (ham salad, fruit jelly & ice cream). Talk: Four-season gardening—Lynton Johnson.

To join the group, please ring Rev Jill on 01508 520248.

Monday Mardles

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



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

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

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms & Thanksgivings

Danielle Olefunke

Thanksgiving: 8th December 2024 at St John, Loddon

Daisy Woolner

Thanksgiving: 2nd February 2025 at All Saints, Chedgrave

Ryan Curl

Baptism: 16th February 2025 at All Saints, Chedgrave

Lexi Curl

Baptism: 16th February 2025 at All Saints, Chedgrave

Isaac Curl

Baptism: 16th February 2025 at All Saints, Chedgrave

Heavenly Father, we praise you for all children.

*Surround them with your blessing that they may know your love,
Be protected from evil, and know your goodness all their days.*

Funerals

Beryl Carver who died on 11th February 2025

Funeral: 13th March 2025 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Judith Read who died on 20th February 2025

Funeral: 20th March 2025 at St Mary, Sisland

Heather Lovick who died on 18th February 2025

Funeral: 31st March 2025 at All Saints, Chedgrave

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

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

To arrange a wedding, contact Rev Miriam at rector.cvb@gmail.com.
Phone number not yet available.

To arrange a funeral, at our churches or at the crematorium, contact Rev Miriam at miriam.fife@btinternet.com. Phone number not yet available.
Rev Miriam can also be contacted about interment of ashes.

The clergy can also be contacted through our e-mail: address:
clergyCVB@gmail.com.

New Support Group for Bereaved

If you have lost your life partner during the earlier years of your life and would like to meet once a month with others in the same situation, please contact Jill Haylock on 01508 520248 or email jillhaylock@aol.com for more information.

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News from Your Local Councillors



The government is consulting on devolution for Norfolk and Suffolk and wants your opinion on whether you think a mayor for both counties is a good idea. The closing date is 13th April and you can find the survey here:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/lggc/norfolk-and-suffolk-devolution-consultation>.

You may have read about Local Government reorganisation in the press, abolishing the eight councils to replace them with new unitary authorities, one stop shops for all council services. Over the summer you will be consulted on the shape of these and whether we should have one, two or three councils in Norfolk. The rationale for the change is to be more efficient and provide better value for money. There are certainly some big savings to be made which will free up more money for front line services; also fewer Chief Executives on large salaries and fewer councillors. This is the greatest shake up in local government for 50 years, so we have to get it right. Your opinion will be important in helping government to decide on the best option.

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

Kay Mason-Billig

This month I'd like to start my column by passing on a huge thank you to Simon Peck and his family for their incredible contribution to the life of our community, as he hands over the reins of The White Horse. Simon has done an incredible job over the years, promoting and supporting a huge range of good causes. He has been a wonderful friend to many people.

Each District Councillor has a Members' Grant of £1000 for local causes each year. Please let me know if you feel that your group could benefit from some financial assistance during the 2025/26 financial year. There are so many important groups, doing great work, across our community.

I'd like to highlight two aspects of local life this month. The first is The Loddon Band, our local brass band who are keen to welcome new members, and who can be booked to come to play at local events. Please get in touch with Louis Bloice for more details: 07463 770068. Secondly, on 10th May 2025 the Norfolk Trek takes place, passing through Loddon and Chedgrave. This sponsored walk is to raise money for the Norfolk Air Ambulance. More details on p32.

Finally, my next surgery, at Loddon Library, is on 26th April 2:00-3:00pm. Please come if there's anything I can support you with, or give me a ring on 07733 323581.

Jeremy Rowe

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Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.
Tel: 07592 933174 Email: clerk@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: <https://chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
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Chedgrave Parish Council held its meeting on 6th March 2025.

Proposed Development of Langley Road Industrial Estate: The council has been advised by South Norfolk Council Planning that they have confirmed to the applicant that permission for Langley Road Industrial Estate cannot be supported primarily due to non-compliance with Chet Neighbourhood Plan Policy 11 (Protecting Key Employment Sites) and the scale of the proposed development.

Rumble Strip Trial: NCC Highways will be installed on 17th March. The SAM2 sign will be positioned to record the results of the trial which will be communicated in due course.

Wherryman's Way: County Councillor Kay Mason-Billig reported that works to fully reinstate the Wherryman's Way are unlikely to go ahead due to the state of the ground and riverbank. Alternative routes will be considered with the aim of avoiding Hardley Road.

Save the Dates:

The ever-popular Easter Egg Hunt will take place on 21st April at 10:00am. More details to follow but keep any eye out for posters and on Facebook.

The Big South Norfolk Litter Pick will take place, starting in The Pits, on 18th May at 10:00am. All welcome, equipment provided.

Brian Clarke Room: Do you need a bright modern room to run your club or association? The Brian Clarke Room is adjacent to the play area, has a fully equipped kitchen, is wheelchair accessible and has a hearing loop. It's great for parties, family gatherings, meetings and clubs. Contact Georgina Buckle to book: 07981 856270 or brianclarkeroom@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Allotment Vacancies: The allotments currently have vacancies and the council is also considering creating more half plots. Residents from Chedgrave and surrounding villages are welcome to apply. Contact the Clerk.

Next Meeting: Thursday 3rd April at 7:00pm, Brian Clarke Room.

Highways issues such as potholes, footpaths or public rights of way, road safety, flooding and overgrown trees and verges should be reported to Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 or online at www.norfolk.gov.uk. Criminal & illegal activities, public disorder & nuisance, anti-social behaviour, speeding, uncontrolled dogs, should all be reported to the Police on 999 or 101 (non-emergency) and can be reported online at www.norfolk.police.uk.
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All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis
Tel: 01508 522020 Email: clerk@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/loddontc



Community Consultation on Community Spaces: The Town Council has offered to carry out a consultation on behalf of two of Loddon's Community Spaces: The Hollies and The Jubilee Hall. We would be very grateful for your views. Our survey is available at: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk/consultation. Paper copies are also available from LTC. Deadline 31st March 2025.

Get Involved! We currently have a councillor vacancy. This is your opportunity to get elected, get involved and become a town councillor! The council is involved in many different local projects, such as the community larder, Christmas lights, events, local facilities and open spaces. Please contact us if you would like to know more about this role.

The Big Loddon Litter Pick: Saturday 26th April, 10:00am-12:00noon.

Please come and join us for the annual litter picking event in Loddon. We will meet on Church Plain at 10:00am for registration, equipment and group photo. Hope to see you there!

Love Loddon Community Group: The next session is on the 6th April, 10:00am and will be focused on the Staithe B-line flower bed. All welcome.

Chet Valley Community Larder: Thank you so much for all your recent donations. In particular, we would like to thank the Loddon Players for donating £500, the staff at Chet Valley Medical Practice for their donation of £30.00, District Cllr Jeremy Rowe for his Members' Grant of £450 and Chet Valley Voices for their donation of £50.00.

The Community Larder is available every Saturday from 1:00-3:00pm and every Monday from 12:00noon-2:00pm in Loddon Library. Bags can be collected for a £1 donation. More information is available on our website: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk/community-larder.

Local Support: The contact telephone number for South Norfolk Council's Help Hub is 01508 533933. They also now have a handyman service available. More information is available via: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk/local-support.

Allotments: If you live in Chedgrave or Loddon and wish to be added to the Allotment waiting list, please contact our Allotment Officer Jo.

Small Grants: LTC have recently awarded several small grants to local organisations. If you would like to apply for a local group/organisation (generally up to £100), please see our website for more info/application form.

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

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Very competitive rates

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website.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com

Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

For enquiries contact: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

FB [www.facebook.com/Hales & Heckingham Parish Council](https://www.facebook.com/Hales%20&%20Heckingham%20Parish%20Council)



Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 7th April, 7:30pm.

Please note, monthly meetings are now on the 1st Monday of the month. These are held at the Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on our website three days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Signs, Potholes & Footpath Issues: If you see anything that is not right please advise South Norfolk Council through their webpage: <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>.

Dog Walkers: A polite reminder to observe the Country Code, especially at this time of year with livestock around. Please pick up your dog's poo. It is a health hazard as well as being unpleasant. Thank you.

Hales Green Common: We remind residents and visitors to abide by the bylaws which are displayed on the public notice boards around the common.

Community Volunteering Scheme: We continue to seek your help in supporting community projects to improve village life. We are currently looking for volunteers who would be interested in changing the composite site into Community Gardens. Volunteers needed for Summer Fete or VE day celebrations. Please let us know if you would like to get involved by emailing the Parish Clerk.

Come and join us: If you care about where you live, we have vacancies on our Parish Council. We provide a voice for concerns, ideas, and initiatives that help promote village life. Please get in touch with our Parish Clerk on the email above.

Do you need help? South Norfolk and Broadland's hub assists with a wide range of problems. Contact details Tel: 1508 533933 or via email at helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. Opening hours are 8:15am-10:00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Natalie Wilson

Answerphone: 07516 361239

Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com

Website: <https://langleywithhardley.pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>

Find us on Facebook.



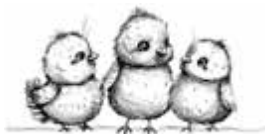
The Langley with Hardley Parish Council met on Tuesday 4th March, when Garry Moore was elected as the new Chairman with Tim Smith as Vice Chairman.

We also welcomed Joe Conlin as a new councillor to the Parish Council. We are pleased to say the next heritage sign should be installed by the end of March at Gentleman's Walk.

Plans are also coming along for the VE/VJ day celebrations with a proposed date of 30th August. The date is later than expected due to an existing booking in the village hall in May. Should anyone wish to volunteer to help on the day, please let the clerk know.

And finally we now have a tree warden. Joe Conlin has kindly agreed to take on the additional role.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th May at 7:30pm. This will be preceded by our Annual Parish Meeting at 7:00pm. If you have anything you would like to put forward to enhance our villages of Langley with Hardley please let the clerk know or come to the meeting.



Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Friday 4th April: Café—Jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings and apple crumble for dessert. There are also cakes and sausage rolls. All to be enjoyed in lovely, friendly company.

Saturday 12th April: Easter Bingo—Doors open at 7:00pm for 'eyes down' at 7:30pm. Great prizes to be won, and a big raffle.



To book the village hall call Jane on 01508 520184.

Notes from Sisland

I would like to start with noting the recent death of Judy Read, who, as the previous contributor to Chet Contact on behalf of Sisland, kept many informed about this rural location. Our thanks to her for her many contributions to this place.

At St Mary's Church we will have a service of Holy Communion, using the Book of Common Prayer, at 9:00am on Easter Day. This year Easter is quite late, though not as late as it can be which would be the 25th April. Easter will next occur on that date in 2038—a span of 95 years since it was last on that date.



It is at this time of the year that the annual meeting of parishioners (also referred to as the Annual Vestry Meeting) is held to elect churchwardens and deputies (if any) for the forthcoming year. The meeting must take place by the 31st May but in Sisland it is held before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Both meetings take place on Tuesday 15th April from 7:00pm at St Marys, Sisland. Members of the church who are on the electoral roll and people resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors can attend the Vestry Meeting.

Over the first May Bank Holiday weekend, we are planning a second-hand book sale, with refreshments. On Saturday 3rd May from 10:00am-12noon we will have a coffee morning and on Monday 5th May we will be offering tea with cake from 3:00-5:00pm. We will have a range of fiction and non-fiction, reference through to children's book available, in the church. We would welcome anyone who would like a browse and to pop in. The church will be open all three days from 9:00am-5:00pm so please make a note of the dates in your diary.

For those who have visited the church over the last few months you will have noticed that the church tower needs some work to the wooden slats, both to the front and sides. We are waiting on some updated figures to give us an indication of both costs and timescales, but the book sale will be the first fundraising event for this.

We hope to see you soon.

Rowena Bryce (Churchwarden, Sisland)

All Saints, Chedgrave—Spring Fair and Plant Sale

Advance notice that the All Saints Spring Fair and Plant Sale is on Saturday 10th May. We wonder if you could pot up some cuttings, sow a few seeds, split some plants before they really get going this Spring... to donate to the Plant Sale. We would be grateful to receive them.

Sport

Footballers Wanted!

A friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart High School Astro Pitches every Monday and Thursday from 8:00-9:00pm. Come along and join us for a non-competitive kick about to keep fit and socialise. £3:00 per session. First session free. For more info, contact Terry via email: terryhayden.sportsclub@gmail.com.



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

With the outdoor lawn bowls season finished why not come and try indoor short mat? We meet on Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-3:00pm, in the Jubilee Hall and are a friendly little group. Beginners are very welcome; just bring flat indoor shoes and we can supply some bowls. The right money, £3, and a sense of humour are also appreciated. More information from Sara: 01508 521958 or Sheryl: 01502 677272.



Loddon Ladies Hockey Club

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

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



Loddon Tennis Club

Loddon has two floodlit courts, situated adjacent to the Loddon & Chedgrave Playing Field. We are a thriving tennis community with over 150 members. Memberships are affordable; pay and play is also available at £5 per hour.



Website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LoddonTennisClub>

Email: loddontennis@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk

Hobart Badminton Club

We are looking for players to join our friendly club of all ages from 16+. Playing experience desirable. We meet at Hobart High School sports hall, every Tuesday from 7:30-9:30 pm. Cost £6:00 per session, first session free. More information from Terry: terryhayden.sportsclub@gmail.com.



Loddon Junior Badminton Club

Held at Jubilee Hall, sessions are just £3.50.

Wednesday evenings: 6:45-7:45pm, children aged 8-14 years

Thursday evenings: 7:30-8:30pm, children aged 15-18 years

Open to all children regardless of ability.

Sessions run by qualified coach. Rackets and shuttles provided.

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



Loddon Community Gym

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



New for 2025 at your Community Gym!

Exciting times at the gym with fantastic new toilet and shower facilities, thanks to a Pride in Place grant!

The gym was created to provide a facility for residents of Loddon, Chedgrave and the surrounding areas, although users from further afield are also very welcome. You'll find a relaxed, friendly space with no pressure and all the support you need.

If you're not sure where to start, or would value some advice about how to get the most out of your sessions, our experienced instructor, Louise will work with you to create the perfect programme to suit your needs. You can call Louise on 07534 946143 or pop in to the gym when you see the Gym Open sign on the railings outside the Library.

We are grateful for the ongoing support from Loddon Town Council, Chedgrave Parish Council and a number of local businesses.

Full details are on our website or scan the QR code shown.

We are open every weekday to those 16 years old and over.

There is a small annual membership fee and sessions can be paid for daily or, at a reduced rate monthly.

Sessions are bookable via www.loddoncommunitygym.com.



Loddon Swan Bowls Club

Our green will open Saturday 12th April at 2:00pm for the 2025 season.

Anyone new to bowls, please come along and give this sport a try; current members will be on hand to help. We have some spare bowls in the clubhouse, flat shoes must be worn. If new to the area, or fancy a change of club, please come along.

Practice sessions (roll-ups) are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons also Wednesday mornings. The club plays in many local leagues in the evenings, also Thursday afternoons. Inter-club competitions are held on Saturday afternoons.

Come on, join in the fun. A warm welcome awaits.

Any further information needed, please give me a call. Paul Clemence (Chairman) on 07833 764698.

Community Groups, News and Events

Davy Place

Bingo is on a Monday afternoon at 2:00pm. All money taken is given back as winnings.

Hoy is on the last Saturday in the month at 7:00pm.

Cards is on a Wednesday afternoon at 2:00pm.

Come along for a relaxing time. All welcome.

Enquiries to Carol Castle on 01508 826488.

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

All Saints Church, Chedgrave has a lovely church centre open for 30 years. There are two rooms (one upstairs), a kitchen and a loo. Our wheeled tables are easy to move and put up. It is warm even in the winter! It is available to book with a suggested donation of £8 per hour. If you are looking for a venue for a meeting, a party, or an activity do contact Anne Jackson who is responsible for hall bookings on 01508 502278.

St Michael's, Langley—Big Book Sale

St. Michael's Church, Langley, The Avenues, Langley, NR14 6BL



The slightly smaller big book sale is being held on from 2:00pm-4:30pm on:

Sunday 6th April

Saturday 12th April

Sunday 13th April

Thousands of new and used paperback books (fact and fiction)

Books for adults (£1) and teenagers/children (50p)

Free admission. Light refreshments available.

Organised by the Friends of Langley Church. Proceeds for the church renovation fund.

Loddon Bell Ringers



Another busy month has seen our ringers out and about ringing quarter peals with others at South Walsham, Aylsham, Marsham, Necton, Castle Acre, North Lopham as well as here at Loddon. We rang in a peal of 5088 Lessness Surprise Major at Ashill which took 2 hours 51 minutes to complete successfully.

Members attended a ringing social get together at South Walsham on 8th February. This included ringing on the six bells at St. Mary's church and a fine ringers' tea afterwards.

On 15th February, one of our members joined others from St Peter Mancroft in Norwich to ring in an annual twelve bell striking competition which took place at Bishops Stortford. This is a competition open to bands from the East Anglian region and this year seven teams took part: Waltham Abbey, Chelmsford, Saffron Waldon, Bishops Stortford, St. Mary le Tower, Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds and St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich. After a draw to decide which order the teams perform, a pre-selected piece of ringing is rung and judged by two top ringers who don't know who is ringing at the time. This is then judged for any faults and the teams placed in order. A very close contest saw some excellent ringing with Norwich being placed first on this occasion. This was the first time Norwich has won the trophy, so was a great achievement for us.

Steve Rabong

Loddon & District Day Centre

The Day Centre meets at Saxon House, on Tuesday and Fridays from 10:00am-2:00pm. We chat, enjoy games, talks and light exercises, together with refreshments and a home made two course lunch. Why don't you come and join us? We'd love to see you! Please contact Bev on 07826 299290 for more information.

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



We hold our meetings the 3rd Monday evening of the month. Apologies for no meeting in March; the branch was invited to Rev. Miriam Fife's service at Holy Trinity. We look forward to getting our branch gazebo to Seething Tower Museum's Open Days again from early May. Meeting with the veterans and supporters.

If you wish to support the RBL and be a member, you need not have served in the military, please contact 0800 307773, register into Loddon branch. Or contact Chairman Colin on 01508 521136.

Upcoming Meetings: 21st April, 19th May and 16th June. Starting at 7:00pm, our meetings are for a catch up of branch details, followed with a chat and cuppa. They are held at The Lecture Hall, George Lane. Loddon.

Christine Hartley (RBL Loddon & District Branch Secretary)

Church Services

6th April Passion Sunday

8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12 noon	XPRESSIONS CAFÉ	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00am	Holy Communion followed by APCM	St John, Loddon

13th April Palm Sunday

9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	Starting at Holy Trinity moving to St John, Loddon

17th April Maundy Thursday

7:00pm	Service for Maundy Thursday	St John, Loddon
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18th April Good Friday

10:00am	Children's Reflection	All Saints, Chedgrave
12:00 noon	Walk of Witness	Starting at Holy Trinity moving to St John, Loddon
2:00pm	At the Foot of the Cross	All Saints, Chedgrave

20th April Easter Sunday

9:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret's Hardley
11:00am	All Together Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity



Church Services

27th April

9:30am	Holy Communion followed by APCM	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
7:00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John, Loddon



Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

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
Thursday during school term	XTRA! Join us at St John's for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm. More from Rev Alison 01508 528126.	
Prayer at Home	'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection' 'If you would like to receive the weekly prayer and reflection sent out by email, please contact Rev Jill (jillhaylock@aol.com)	

Tuesday Market



Now that longer days and (hopefully) better weather are here we will have some spring flowers for you in time for Easter.

We look forward to seeing you at our weekly market, every Tuesday at the Hollies, 10:00-11:30am. Why not join us for a cuppa and a freshly baked cake? We have lots to choose from, also savoury dishes, preserves, fresh eggs, seasonal plants and vegetables and locally made crafts.

We need your support to enable the market to continue!

Orders and enquiries to Sheila Ford (chairman) 01508 520752.

Loddon, Chedgrave & District Society

Norwich Riverside Walk and Lunch: Wednesday 23rd April, 11:00am.

We will be taking a stroll along the river in Norwich with a few stops of interest on the way. For those who don't mind a steep slope, the walk will begin at the top of Carrow Hill (nearest bus stop is Corton Road, Bracondale). We will meet anyone else at the junction of King Street and Alan Road, near Carrow Bridge (nearest bus stop is County Hall). Walk length will be approximately three miles with only a few steps to negotiate at the side of The Compleat Angler pub. Walkers and non-walkers can join us for lunch at Pizza Express, 15 St Benedicts Street at 1:00pm. Please contact Gill Egan on 01508 495338 or email lcdistrictsociety@gmail.com to book the walk and/or lunch by Wednesday 16th April (restaurant numbers are limited).

Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 7th May, 7:30pm, Chedgrave Church Rooms. Jenny Bemment from our local Parkinson's charity shop will give a short talk followed by society business after which wine and nibbles will be served. The annual membership fees of £6.00 are due this evening (cash only please).

Somerleyton Hall: Thursday 8th May, 11:00am, £15.00pp. We are lucky to have been granted permission for a guided tour of part of Somerleyton Hall. The cost includes the house tour and access to the gardens. There is a cafe (vegetarian) on site. Latest date for booking is Tuesday 8th April. Payment required (cash only please) by Thursday 24th April. Please email lcdistrictsociety@gmail.com or phone Sharon Brown on 07546 973017. This is likely to be a very popular event and numbers for the tour are limited so please don't delay to book.

If you would like to join our friendly group, please contact Hillary Meredith on 01508 520457 or email lcdistrictsociety@gmail.com. We will be happy to answer any questions.

Reverend Miriam Fife

Allow me to introduce myself...

Originally from Cambridge, I have travelled, lived and worked in various places until settling in Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk where I met and married my husband, Russell, in 2004. Our two children were born in 2006 and 2007 and I began my journey toward ordained ministry when they were very young. Throughout my theological studies we remained in Suffolk, moving to mid-west Norfolk where I was ordained Deacon in 2017 and served initially as curate, then as Rector.



We quickly grew to love the deeply rural surroundings and Norfolk way of life. We are now very much looking forward to exploring more of Norfolk here, closer to the broads and the coast. I enjoy long-distance walking, and for many years I have had a particular interest in pilgrimage, having walked thousands of miles in England, France and Spain, and visited the Pilgrimage Centre in Vadstena, Sweden. I enjoy the beauty of nature and all cultural pursuits which reflect that, in music, art and reading.

Since moving in to The Rectory in Loddon, we have been very warmly welcomed by so many of you, so I take this opportunity to thank you for all the cards, gifts and good wishes we have received. We are looking forward to getting to know you better over the coming weeks, months and years. It always takes a while to get one's bearings when moving somewhere new; please be patient with us while we learn the geography of the area and all your names and please forgive us if we ask you more than once. Change is never easy and can take a while to get used to. When all is new and unfamiliar it is good to be reminded that God is bigger than all the change and that He has a plan and a purpose for each of our lives. In the Bible we read:

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”.

We firmly believe that God has brought us here, and look forward to having his plans revealed.

With every blessing

Miriam



Loddon and District Women's Institute

Celebrations this month! Loddon WI will be marking its 95th birthday by lunching out on 10th April and then continuing the celebrations at the April meeting. There will also be the usual monthly events of Open House and Book Club for members, and Knit & Natter at the library. Looking ahead, some of us are going to see Joseph at the Theatre Royal in May, and we're planning a trip to East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens in June. Lots going on and to look forward to.



April Meetings:

Thursday 10th April: Birthday Lunch for members.

Thursday 10th April: Knit, Natter & Crochet, Loddon Library. 2:00-4:00pm.

N.B. This is a community event, so although the usual WI members won't be there, it will take place.

Wednesday 16th April: Birthday celebrations. 7:15pm for 7:30pm start. The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.

For more information we can be contacted through our Facebook page or at loddonwi@gmail.com.

April at Loddon Library

April is Autism Awareness month so do remember Loddon Library regularly offers the following:



For adults, **Spectrum Connect**, a supportive and understanding social group for neurodiverse individuals. Meets the 3rd Friday of every month, 12:30-1:30pm. For children, volunteer-supported after school activities. Suitable for all kids and their families. All ages welcome and suitable for neurodiverse children, 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

Bounce & Rhyme is offered on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:15am.

Get one-to-one digital support with our volunteer **Computer Buddy**. They can help answer your IT queries, help you get online, set up an email account, search for jobs online and more. Weekly appointments available between 10:00am and noon. Speak with library staff or call 01508 520678 to book.

As always you can:

Borrow books, eBooks, audiobooks and online magazines for adults and children; Borrow a laptop, use our computers, or connect to our Wi-Fi on your own device; Print, copy & scan (even during unstaffed hours).

Pop in to see us at Loddon Library to see what else we have on offer.

Chet Valley Voices



Chet Valley Voices is a community choir of varying ages from 15-80+. We enjoy singing a variety of music from classical to modern and are a happy friendly bunch. Come along, make new friends and get to know others in the community. Singing is good for your mental health and well-being, so you will leave rehearsals feeling uplifted. Why not come to a free taster session?

Rehearsals: Thursday 7:00-8:30pm (doors open 6:45pm) in St Johns Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. £5 on the night, £3 for under 18s. New members always welcome, especially men. More information from: Sue 01508 528069; suemartin303@btinternet.com or chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter: @ChetValleyVoices. www.chetvalleyvoices.co.uk.

Breathing/Vocal Technique Sessions

Do you enjoy singing but feel that your breath control could be better? Are you a non-singer but feel that you could do with help to improve your breathing? Would you like tips on vocal technique?

Tanya Chelovskaya is a trained vocal coach leading sessions at Chedgrave Church Centre on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00noon. The cost is £8, which includes refreshments. If interested, please contact Tanya at t.chelovskaya@gmail.com or WhatsApp on 07737 765098.

"I come away from Tanya's sessions, uplifted and with the knowledge that I can own my voice, and possibly even have the confidence to sing. Breathing, vocal and gentle physical exercises combine and lead to a wonderful sense of well-being."

Bridget M Ward



The Loddon Band

We are a friendly and dynamic brass band in the historic town of Loddon. We are currently seeking the following players to come and join us: Cornet, Tenor Horn, Euphonium, Eb Bass. We welcome all brass players and percussionists.



Rehearsals are at The Hollies, High Street, Loddon on Tuesday evenings, 7:45-9:45pm. Our rehearsals are fun and enjoyable so why not pop along to see what we are about. For more information, contact Louis (Secretary): Email: Loddon.band@gmail.com or phone 07463 770068.

Chedgrave Carr Charity

John Lurkins lived in Chedgrave all his life, and was a parish councillor for over 40 years. He was passionate about the welfare of Chedgrave.

Just before he died in 2023, John acquired Chedgrave Carr, a wonderful area of wet woodland situated on the outskirts of the village. It lies between Chedgrave Common and the River Chet. He immediately bequeathed the Carr to the Chedgrave Carr Charity, created to arrange for the Carr to be made accessible for local residents to enjoy. John appointed his daughter, Rachel, and a few close friends to be trustees. The Carr has been left unattended for decades, but limited access will be made in a manner sympathetic to the natural environment.

There is much work to be done, which means the charity needs more trustees. If you would like to know more about this project and may like to be involved, then send us an e-mail telling us about yourself to: cliveboyd@btconnect.com.

Volunteer with East Anglian Air Ambulance at Trek 24—Norfolk! Route from Reedham to Whitlingham, Saturday 10th May

Trek 24—Norfolk, an East Anglian Air Ambulance flagship fundraising event, simply wouldn't be possible without the remarkable volunteers who, not only help everything to run smoothly, but who support, cheer and champion our Trekkers every step of the way.

We're looking for people to join us as volunteer marshals on Trek day in the beautiful Norfolk Broads on Saturday 10th May.

As our Trekkers will be passing through Reedham, Heckingham, Loddon, Chedgrave, Langley, Rockland Staithe and Surlingham before finishing at Whitlingham Country Park, we'd love your help if you can offer a few hours of your time. You'll be a vital part of the team helping at checkpoints, registrations, and generally contributing to the day's feel-good factor! If you would like to join our happy team for the day and be involved, please get in touch on volunteer@eaaa.org.uk or call 03450 669999 (Monday to Friday 8:30am-5:00pm).



Loddon Flower Club

Spring has Sprung!!

Celebrate spring with a night out at our next meeting on Tuesday 1st April. We have Naomi Wells demonstrating for us, her title being 'Stories'. All arrangements made during the evening are raffled at the end of the evening. Refreshments are served during a short interval, when we can chat, get ideas and advice, for arrangements and our gardens, all very informal.



St John's Lecture Hall, on George Lane, Loddon. 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. Visitors £7.50.

Our demonstrator in May, on Tuesday 6th, will be Jennifer Thompson giving us her take on 'Flowers in Rhyme'. There will also be a competition called 'Springtime'.

This year our annual outing is to Houghton Hall, on 23rd July. If anyone would like to join us we're hoping the coach will leave from Loddon (other pick up points available) around 9:30am, returning from Houghton at 4:00pm. Please get in touch for further details, email: loddonflowerclub@gmail.com or call Tricia: 01508 480522 or Jenny: 01508 520254.

If you need help with flowers for any family occasion, please get in touch, email or ring. We also have a Facebook page—Loddon Flower Club—and a website: www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.

All our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St John's Chapel or Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the last **Wednesday** of each month in the back room of The Hollies, Loddon High Street.



Next Meeting:

Wednesday 30th April: Christina Chamberlin—'Norfolk's own Pam Ayres'—Life Poems & Norfolk Humour.

Please bring along your friends.

An annual fee of £10 is charged, plus £3 for each meeting attended. New members always welcome.

Any queries please contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society



Our Spring Mini-Show will be held at our next meeting on Wednesday 9th April. This show is for members only. The meeting starts at 7:30pm. A raffle is held and refreshments are available.

Some of our members will be taking part in the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society's Spring Show on Sunday 13th April. We hope to enter the Affiliated Society classes again, as we have done very well over the past few years in them and won trophies too. The show is held at the Costessey Centre, Longwater Lane, Costessey, Norwich from 10:00am-4:00pm.

Advanced Notice: Saturday 10th May, we are holding our Plant Sale at The Hollies, High Street, Loddon.

Our meetings are held at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon, usually on the second Wednesday of the month. Membership £10 per year. For more details contact Chairperson Jean Cope: 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or Secretary Hazel Copland: 01508 520890 or happyhaze50@gmail.com. Follow us on our Facebook page.

Social Whist



We meet in the back room of The Hollies at 7.30pm for a 7:45pm start. We have twelve hands of whist with a hot drink and a biscuit and some local chat.

All enjoyed in a friendly atmosphere. If you need a lift to The Hollies, please call Jane on 01508 528875. We look forward to seeing you.

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Loddon Community Cinema



Our next presentation is *Gladiator 2*. Starring Paul Mescal and Denzel Washington. Director: Sir Ridley Scott. 148 minutes, rated 15.

After his North African home is conquered by the tyrannical twin emperors who now lead Rome, Lucius is forced to enter the Colosseum as a gladiator under the control of Macrinus to return the glory of Rome to its people.

Thursday 3rd April Showing at The Lecture Hall, St. John's, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7:00pm, film starts 7:30pm.

Tickets: Adults £4, under-16 £2, are available on the door or in advance from Loddon Garden & DIY. Email: loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk.

Chet Staithe Probus Club

We are a club for retired gentlemen, and friendship. The atmosphere is relaxed, jovial, with little formality. Dress code is casual. We have a good mardle, and a different speaker every meeting on varied subjects. Afterwards, members either go home, adjourn to the bar, or stay for a pleasant lunch. Your choice. We meet at The White Horse, first and third Tuesday of every month, start time 10:00am.

Next meetings:

- 1st April Industrial Activity in the 19th Century in Norfolk's Market Towns—Adrian O'Dell
- 15th April Cases That Made British History—Gary Powell
- 6th May Piper Alpha—Roger Woodward



Chet Valley Probus Club

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

Next meetings:

- 8th April AGM
- 22nd April Fishermen, Quakers, Bathers and Beach Folk—Helen Murray
- 6th May Chairman's Lunch

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

WEA

This Spring Term we have had a series of stimulating and exciting courses given by PhD students at the University of East Anglia which we all thoroughly enjoyed. It was interesting to hear a young person's opinions on such diverse subjects as Ecology, Gossip and Sport and to be able to discuss the topics with them.

We break now for the Summer Term and will start again in the Autumn.

If you are interested in attending our courses, please contact Alison on 01508 521976 or Sharon on 01508 520386.





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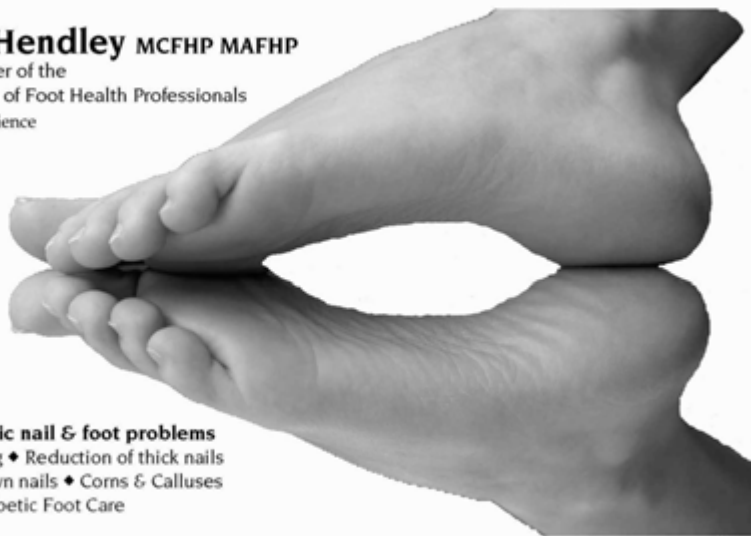
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Chet Valley

Community Larder

The community larder is open in the library every Saturday from 1:00-3:00pm and every Monday from 12:00noon-2:00pm. This service is open to residents of the Chet Valley (Loddon, Chedgrave, Hales & Heckingham, Langley & Hardley, Sisland).

On completion of a registration form, you can collect a food bag with items to make a couple of meals, together with additional items on the day, for £1. Once you are registered you can collect a food bag whenever you are in need of food support. If you need urgent food support, outside of the library larder times, please contact the Loddon Town Council office on 01508 522020 or email either clerk@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk or jane@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk.

The donation shelves and fridge are still open in the library annexe every Monday-Friday 8:00am-7:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm. The shelves have donations from the public.

Hardship Funds Available in the Chet Valley

If you are struggling to make ends meet at the moment, there are funds available to help. Local charities were set-up to help people in need in Chedgrave, Hardley, Langley and Loddon. If you are one of those people, please draw on these funds.

To access the funds:

Loddon Town Estate Trust: Contact Julie Ponsford on 07976 902487.

Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund: Contact Rev Alison or churchwarden, Roger Outlaw (phone numbers on p3), or treasurer Richard Ball on 01508 528126.

Hardley and Langley Discretionary Fund: Contact Rev Miriam or churchwarden (details in Hardley church porch).

Langley Trust Fund: This can be applied for via its Trustees, who are: Barbara Leathersich (01508 521979); Stephen Lutkin (01508 480989); Stella Wright (01508 520102); Susie Wheeler (01508 528429); Shirley Keeler (01508 528939).

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Waveney Valley Arts Society



We are a friendly group who meet at the Fisher Theatre in Bungay on the first Wednesday of every month. Events provide a welcoming place to hear expert lecturers share their specialist knowledge. The theatre is open from 10:00am and our lectures start at 11:00am.

Next meeting: Wed. 2nd April - The Emperor Qianlong, 'Son of Heaven, Man of the World' - David Rosier.

Guests are welcome to join us for an individual lecture but there will be a charge of £10 and pre-booking is essential. If you wish to join the waiting list to become a member of our society, the contact details are on the website: <https://theartssocietywv.org.uk>.

Lent Lunches



All are welcome to come to the
Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon,
between **12:00 and 1:30pm**
for a simple meal of homemade soup,
bread, and tea or coffee.

Wednesdays in Lent:

April 2nd and 9th

If you have never been, you have missed
one of Loddon's annual treats!

Your meal is free, but any donations will go to the Bishop's Lent Appeal, which this year is for YANA (You Are Not Alone), a local charity supporting rural mental health.



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Chedgrave Art Group

This friendly painting group meets every Friday morning at Chedgrave Church Centre, All Saints Church, off Hardley Road 10:00am-12:30pm.

New members welcome: all abilities, including beginners.

For further details, please contact either Sandra sandash34@icloud.com or Linda linda@ashehamhouse.com.

Chet Valley Photography Club



In our new meeting venue of The Brian Clarke Meeting Room, Chedgrave, NR14 6JB, our monthly club meeting in March is on Monday 14th. Doors open 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. We have Andrew Stringer joining us to give a

presentation entitled 'Smoke and Mirrors'. Andrew's talk will be about the life of a fire fighter and how he got interested in photography.

You do not need expensive equipment at all—really good images and creative images can be taken using a mobile device (phone, tablet) or a basic 'point and shoot' camera. If you want to take photographs and want to know more, please come along to one of our meetings. New members will be made very welcome. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

Have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk or search Chet Valley Photography Club on Facebook for more information.

Holy Trinity—Church Watch & Welcome Team

Can you help?

For some years we have had a team of people who have looked after the many visitors that Holy Trinity Church receives during the spring and summer seasons, to welcome and help those visitors, as well as keeping an eye on the church.



We need to find more people who can help. Church Watch is from ~10:00am-3:00pm, Monday to Friday. Actual hours and day(s) of your choosing within that time frame. You could share the responsibility with a relative or friend. You do not need to be a regular church attender to become involved in Church Watch.

If you would like to help, please call Paul Mizen on 01508 520535 or Email: website.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

The February meeting started with the AGM chaired by Bryon Sparkes.

Bryon mentioned Carol Webb's efforts in producing a new edition of the Guided Historical Walk of Loddon and in organising the digitalisation of the Primitive Methodist Chapel Roll of Honour. Bryon would like the original to go to the Imperial War Museum.

Bryon led two test pits last year at Hardley Hall and a geophys study is planned for this year. Elvie reported that the website continues to grow with as many as 100 visitors on some days. Currently we have £2000 in the bank which will be used to book a variety of speakers.

All the committee are prepared to stand again: Bryon, Elvie, Christine, Anne, Alison and Carole. We do need others to help with meetings and cataloguing.

For the rest of the meeting Elvie gave us an interesting talk on Loddon Ingloss. This is the largest farm estate in the parish at just over 300 acres and is mentioned on the 1840 tithe map where it shows that the farm was mainly arable. The land had been given to Langley Abbey until the dissolution of the monasteries when it was taken over by the crown. The land was sold in the eighteenth century to the Berney family who rented it out to tenant farmers. Tax records, poll books and wills give us information about these owners and farmers.

One family that stands out is the Alexanders who rented the land for much of the eighteenth century starting with Samuel, mentioned in the overseers' accounts in 1741. The Alexanders were pillars of the community. Both Samuel and William Alexander acted as church wardens in Loddon. William even collected the tithes for the Bishop of Ely. They have a large tomb in Loddon churchyard.

The Ingloss estate was sold to the Parkerson family in the early nineteenth century and then changed hands several times before being bought by the Symonds family. In 1904, Nathaniel Symonds was taken to court for cruelty to working horses. He was fined £5 and warned. He died in 1911 with effects of £7,590. Various people then ran the farm until Mr G. Daplyn sold both the farm and stock in 1951. Mr A. Young is listed as running the farm in 1962.

Carole Rylands

Next meeting:

Wednesday 16th April—Mediaeval women as healers by Joy Hawkins.

All meetings are held in St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon starting at 1:30pm. Admission £3 (includes light refreshments). All welcome.

For more information email Elvie: elvie.herd@uwclub.net.

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

Atomic Habits, by James Clear

This non-fiction book is full of simple life hacks to help you make real and sustainable changes. The author James Clear has discovered that real change comes from the compound effect of hundreds of small decisions—doing two push-ups a day, waking up five minutes early, or holding a single short phone call. He calls them atomic habits. There are some inspiring stories of Olympic gold medallists, leading CEOs and distinguished scientists who have used the science of tiny habits to stay productive, motivated and happy. What I particularly liked about this book was that it feels achievable and might actually work for me!

A Secret Garden, by Katie Fforde

Katie Fforde has written many romantic novels and this is one of her older ones but it's still a nice, gentle read. Gardener Lorna and her friend Philly work together in the grounds of a beautiful manor house in the Cotswolds. Even though they are surrounded by family and friends, the door to true love remains resolutely closed, but as their social circle widens they find new relationships and love. It's a sweet story about finding love when you don't think it will occur and of course there is a happy-ever-after ending!

Revolution in the Head, by Ian MacDonald

This is a rigorous examination of the Beatles' entire recorded output, with incredible studio insights. MacDonald delves into the minutiae of each track, offering detailed musical analysis. He presents a compelling perspective on the Beatles' creative process, prompting readers to reconsider familiar works. While his assessments can be controversial, and his opinions strongly stated, the book's enduring value lies in its commitment to serious musical criticism of one of the greatest bands to emerge from these islands.

I'm looking forward to reading...

Freedom, by Angela Merkel

For 16 years, Angela Merkel was Chancellor of Germany. She led the country through numerous crises, shaping both Germany and international politics with her actions and attitudes. In her memoirs she reflects on her life in two German states—35 years in the German Democratic Republic, 35 years in reunited Germany. Her book offers a unique insight into the inner workings of power – and is a compelling plea for freedom.



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We are aware that money is tight for some families at the moment, so it can be hard to put a meal on the table every day. Hopefully, this will be a help.

When?

Thursday 10th April; 12:00noon-1:30pm.

Where?

All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave (next to The Pits playground).

What's for lunch?

A choice of one-pot meals, followed by a selection of cakes, fruit and drinks. There will be a vegetarian option.

How much does it cost?

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How do I book?

Book in by Tuesday 1st April:

Email Rev Alison: ball880am@btinternet.com or phone on 01508 528126.

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Gardening Notes

Growing Fruit and Veg from Scratch: Part 6a Crop Rotation

In the last articles I discussed various mulches and techniques to maintain soil health. Crop rotation is also important. Avoid growing the same crops in the same place each year as this causes pests and diseases to build up and the same crops will take the same nutrients out of the soil reducing its fertility. Adding organic matter and rotating crops can keep a healthy soil going indefinitely. Potatoes and brassicas are particularly prone to soil pests. Onions are susceptible to white rot if grown in the same place. There are generally agreed rotations which are known to work from long experience. On an allotment a basic four-rotation plan would be:

Potatoes → Roots → Brassicas → Peas & Beans → Potatoes.

Potatoes are a hungry crop so [manure in autumn/spring](#). You can plant leeks once new potatoes are harvested. If you add lime after harvest this will have the most effect when the brassicas arrive in the rotation. **Roots** add compost in autumn/spring. You can plant a green manure over winter. **Brassicas** manure in autumn/spring. Brassicas tend to be slow growing and so ideal for planting lettuce, radish or other quick growing crops between rows. **Peas & Beans** add compost in spring or, as I do, plant over trenches filled with raw compost. After harvest plant overwintering brassicas so they will be in the correct space. The key to rotation is simple; keep a record of where you plant things each year! A bit more detail next time.

Andrew Milner

From Another Garden

Well it's all happening out there. The recent days of glorious full sunshine have opened the bright faces of so many blooms. Even the poor neglected bulbs I planted late in January are coming up with buds on. After sawing up the wood pile and getting 'Arnold Schwarzenegger' arm for my toils, I can now see the many blooms under the apple tree from the kitchen window. I'd forgotten how many species of spring flower we have. Each year as they naturalise, the carpet of colour grows.

I have been excavating a very long metal scaffold pole! Perhaps it held up a washing line in the past; it is right in the middle of a planned flower bed. I'm about three feet down and still it won't come out!

The seeds I sowed in February are up and ready to be pricked out. In the greenhouse this month I've potted up lots of lily corms (corms actually being short, swollen underground stems modified for storage as opposed to bulbs which are modified leaves that store nutrients). Seeds of tall antirrhinums, double white *Aquilegia vulgaris* and African marigolds have been sown and for a local man I've put in a packet of hellebore seeds which may take 18 months to germinate.

It looks as though the cannas have survived the winter, together with the dark blue salvias and chrysanthemums, so now I'm dividing up the plants. I love that with patience, an initially expensive plant can become many and that the nurturing of them creates a real relationship over time. Yes, I do talk to my green leafy friends.

Hazel Copland



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