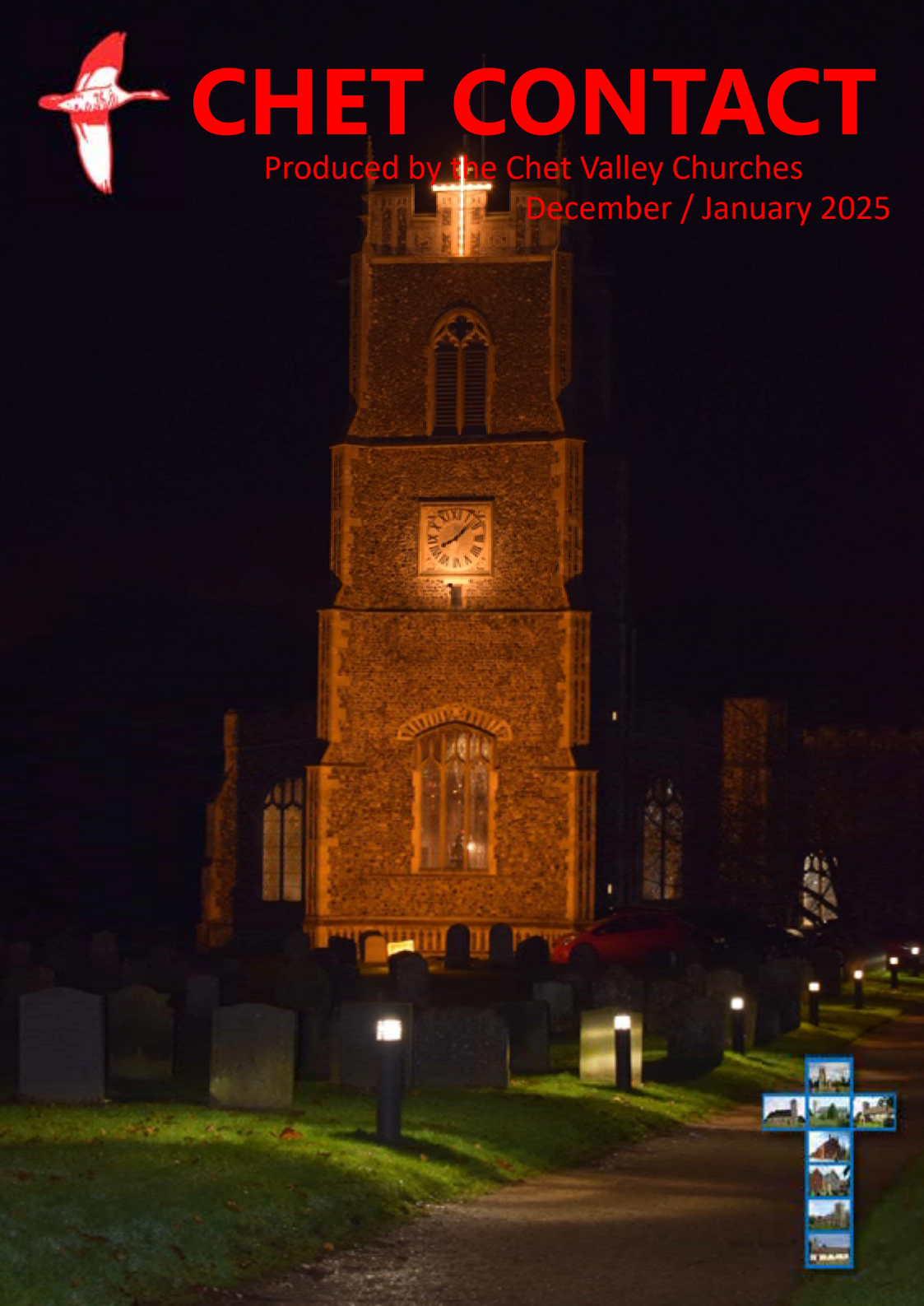




CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

December / January 2025





Carol Services in Chet Valley Benefice

15 th December	3:00pm	St Mary, Sisland
	7:30pm	White Horse, Chedgrave
19 th December	7:00pm	St Margaret, Hardley
22 nd December	5:00pm	All Saints, Chedgrave with the Christmas Community Choir
	6:30pm	Holy Trinity Loddon

Carol Services will be followed by seasonal refreshments

Christmas Eve

There will be the usual carol singing outside Chedgrave Shops from 11:00am-12:00noon. All welcome.

There will be services of Midnight Communion at both Holy



Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

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 contact Members of the Clergy during the vacancy, please use this e-mail address: clergyCVB@gmail.com

To arrange baptisms and weddings please contact Rev Alison.

To arrange a funeral or interment of ashes please contact Rev Jill.

For prayer requests or 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

Editors:	Alison Ball, Roger Outlaw
Advertising:	Peter Webster
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Copy Deadline is always noon on the 8th of the month; earlier submission is welcome. We have to deliver to the printer on the 9th of the month.

Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

Please include your name and telephone number.



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From the Editor

Since I last wrote, the hour has gone back and we are being treated to lighter mornings but long dark evenings. The days are quite grey and drear and it's definitely colder. If you want to lift your spirits, there are activities aplenty in this edition of Chet Contact which you can come and join in with: Victorian Evening & Open House, carols, a concert, the Loddon Players pantomime as well as all the usual sport, music and other community-led groups. Perhaps something there will take your fancy. Perhaps 2025 will be the year when you join something new.

As we are jam-packed this edition, there is little space for the usual Christmas frivolity and jokes, so here are two just so you don't miss out:

What says, "Oh! Oh! Oh!?" *santa walking backwards!*

What happens if you eat Christmas decorations? *!s!t!n!t!s!*

We end the year with thanks to all our deliverers, those who have been doing it for a long time and those who have just joined the team. Without your help, we couldn't get the magazine out to all the households in the Chet Valley area. We are very grateful.

On behalf of the Chet Contact Team, I wish you all peace this Christmas and a New Year full of hope.

Alison



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<i>Front Cover: Holy Trinity, Loddon by Ian Martin</i>			
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Ministerial Musings

December and January: the two darkest months of the year, when the days are short and the sky is a dismal grey far too frequently. Many of us feel driven into our own separate homes, in search of warmth and light, any distraction from the gloom. Then comes the danger of cutting ourselves off from contact with other people, a recipe for social isolation and all the problems that come with it.

On top of that, this past year has been a difficult one for many, with concerns about the cost of living and events on the world stage, far beyond our control. It can be difficult to resist the prevailing feeling of despondency. Mercifully, into the middle of all of this comes Christmas and the New Year, just when the dark threatens to overwhelm. Thank goodness for the lights and glitter and heartening traditions that dispel the darkness and remind us of what really matters in our lives.

Christmas has developed in our society to be about many different things. Clearly it is about shopping, spending, presents and having a good time, but much more importantly for many people, it is to do with family and friends, the people we have known for many years and the ones who hold a special place in our lives. It's a chance to get in touch, to remember old friends and to meet new ones, to emerge from our separate homes and enjoy being with other people.

For Christians, Christmas is about all those things and more, because for us the deeper meaning of Christmas is the spark that lights the whole season. Jesus' birth was God's gift to the world, a gift that showed his love for all humanity. The carols, the decorations, the presents, the good food and the celebrations are a reflection of his love, a love which can transform seasonal blues into positivity and sadness into lasting joy.

That baby that we see in nativity plays and on Christmas cards, born to a humble family in an obscure part of the Roman Empire, grew up to change the world. His message of love and hope is still relevant and necessary today. As we start a new year we can choose: is it going to be a year when we hold on to optimism and hope, or are we going to let the darkness descend again? The words at the beginning of Saint John's Gospel are read every Christmas: 'Life was in him, and this life was the light of the human race. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' May you find that light and hope this Christmas and carry it with you through the months to come.

Belinda Barwick



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Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley

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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.

Next Meeting:

Thursday 5th December: Christmas Meal at The Old Feathers Restaurant, 12:00noon for 12:30pm.

Thursday 12th December: Carol Service at St John's Chapel, 1:30pm followed by afternoon tea.

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

Funerals

Clifford Farrow who died on 5th October 2024
Funeral: 4th November 2024 at All Saints, Chedgrave

Ralph Upton who died on 15th October 2024
Funeral: 5th November 2024 at St Faith's Crematorium

Heather Potter who died on 10th October 2024
Funeral: 5th November 2024 at St John's, Loddon

Myra Brown who died on 2nd October 2024
Funeral: 12th November 2024 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

John Kipps who died on 25th October 2024
Funeral: 28th November 2024 at Waveney Crematorium

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 Alison on 01508 528126 or ball880am@btinternet.com.

To arrange a funeral, at our churches or at the crematorium, contact Rev Jill on 01508 520248, or jillhaylock@aol.com. Rev Jill can also be contacted about interment of ashes.

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

Thursday
during school term

XTRA!

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More from Rev Alison 01508 528126.

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News From Your Local Councillors



This month I have been busy trying to rescue our devolution deal that was turned down by the Government, we are still in talks about what can be salvaged. It does rather feel like Norfolk is being overlooked and the loss of the £600 million that was promised, is going to hold us back. Our county has so much to offer, but at the moment we seem to be just a convenient place to use for energy production for others, rather than the Eastern Powerhouse that we have the potential to be.

Locally I have been looking at more traffic calming measures, as many of the complaints I receive are about speeding. I am hoping to trial some new ideas in the New Year which may help drivers to think about their speed and slow down. I will let you know what, where and when soon.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to assure you that I will continue to champion Loddon, Chedgrave and the surrounding villages, as well as Norfolk as a county, to retain what is important to us but to look to the future as well.

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

Councillor Kay Mason-Billig

We're finally gearing up for Winter and Christmas, which will give us all a well-deserved break from challenging international and national news.

Great to see the Indian Palace in Loddon up and running—delicious food and great people is always a winning combination.

As well as local concerns, including regular meetings about the work promised on the St George's Estate, I'm continuing to work hard chairing the South Norfolk Scrutiny Committee, working with our cross-party team to ensure that South Norfolk residents are treated properly. Our last meeting was looking at the council's work to support young people across our area, which, as well as being important, was very interesting.

I'm delighted to announce that our ChetChat group will be distributing Christmas hampers again this year. If you know someone aged 60 or over who you think would appreciate the thought that goes behind this, please let me have their name and address. I know that this local tradition is something which has become very important. It's a great symbol of how strong our community is. If you'd like to donate to help us to continue this work, we'll be collecting money outside Co-op 10:00-11:00am on Saturday 14th and 21st December. Special thanks to South Norfolk District Council and Chedgrave Bowls Club for their brilliant support for the Christmas hampers.

My next surgeries, at Loddon Library, are 14th December and 15th February, 2:00-3:00pm. Please come down if there's anything I can support you with, or, as ever, give me a ring on 07733 323581.

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



Chedgrave Parish Council held its meeting 7th November.

Warm Spaces: Following the summer councillor surgeries, the council is currently planning some winter sessions which will hopefully provide residents with some warmth, information about support and information for those struggling with winter bills and another opportunity to meet your council and make your views known. Please keep an eye on noticeboards and Facebook etc. for further information in due course.

Community Payback: Over the last few months, Chedgrave has been fortunate to have had several visits from Community Payback. They have re-stained the allotment sheds, strimmed and tidied the area, re-stained The Pits play equipment and cut back the brambles as well as weeding, sweeping and path edging around the Brian Clarke Room. This has really tidied up some of our outside spaces and the only cost to the parish council has been for some minor sundries such as paint etc., the labour was all free. Hopefully there will be more visits in future to help keep our village well maintained. Thank you, Community Payback.

Dogs: Please keep your dogs on a lead, keep them out of our play areas and please remember to pick up any poo left by your dog!

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. Please 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. Please contact the clerk.

Next Meeting: Thursday 5th December at 7:00pm, Brian Clarke Room.

Merry Christmas! Finally, wishing you and yours a very merry Christmas!

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 and illegal activities, public disorder and 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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01508 520688

Loddon Town Council (LTC)

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



Victorian Evening—6th December 2024: The formal Christmas light switch on and Victorian Evening will be on Friday 6th December. Thanks to the Chet Valley Festival Group for organising this annual event.

Christmas Lights: Loddon has always been known for its beautiful display of Christmas lights and we thank you for your part in that. The council's contractor will be installing the LED lightweight string lights on the properties and businesses on Church Plain, Bridge Street and the High Street at the end of November. There will also be additional light displays on Church Plain and the Staithe Car Park. Thank you to those who have offered to power the LED lights and Loddon Swan for sponsoring the Christmas tree sited outside The Old School.

To report faulty lights, please call the Town Council emergency phone line: 01508 486128 or email: parishwarden@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk.

Chet Valley Community Larder: The community larder is now available every Saturday from 1:00-3:00pm and every Monday from 12:00noon-2:00pm in Loddon Library. During these sessions, £1 food bags will be available to collect. Registration will be required. More information is available on our website: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk/community-larder. The larder is open to residents of the Chet Valley (Loddon, Chedgrave, Hales & Heckingham, Langley & Hardley, Sisland). The donation shelves and fridge are still open. Any donations you can make, including cash donations, are much appreciated and can be handed to volunteers or the Town Council office.

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.



Claire Bullard

INDEPENDANT SCENTSY
CONSULTANT

Phone - 07717535080

Email - cl.bullard@hotmail.co.uk

Website - clairebullard.scentsy.co.uk

Facebook = Claire Bullard - Scentsy Consultant



What is Scentsy?

Scentsy offers an alternative to traditional candles. NO flame, NO smoke, NO soot. The concept uses decorative warmers, which use a heating element to slowly melt specially formulated wax, making your home smell SCENT-sational.... we are not all wax though!

We have a whole range of products to scent your world 🌍
Kids buddies, Fan diffusers, Air purifiers, Laundry and body products.

Living in Hales, I'm your local Scentsy consultant

Do contact me if you would like to know more information... or use the QR code to link through to my website.



PILATES WITH KATRINA

MIXED ABILITY MAT PILATES

LANGLEY Monday 9 -10am **THURTON** Monday 6 - 7pm

THURTON Wednesdays 9 - 10am

LODDON Fridays 9 - 10am and 10 15 - 11.15am

Seated Class 11.30am -12pm

See website www.pilateswithkatrina.co.uk

Call Katrina for more information 07725 527 669

St John's Chapel and Lecture Hall

ROOM HIRE

Excellent facilities, fully equipped kitchen, disabled toilets, parking
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Very competitive rates

**For details & to book please email us at
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 Meetings: 10th December and 7th January 2025 at 7:30pm.

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.

Remembrance Sunday: An Act of Remembrance was held at the War Memorial on 10th November at 3:00pm.

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, as it is a health hazard as well as being unpleasant. Thank you.

Hales Green Common: We kindly remind residents and visitors to abide by the bylaws 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. 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 above email.

Do you need help? South Norfolk and Broadland's hub assist with a wide range of problems. Contact details: Tel: 01508 533933 or via email at helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. Opening hours are 8:15am-10:00pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

Children's Society Thanks



**The
Children's
Society**

Many, many thanks on behalf of The Children's Society for the wonderful total of £704.65 from your boxes, cheques, notes... for 2023-2024.

Anne Baker

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com

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

Find us on Facebook.



Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd December in Langley with Hardley Village Hall at 7:30pm. All welcome.

Small Grant Award: The Parish Council has recently been awarded £250 by the Adnams Community Trust to purchase spring flowering bulbs and wildflower seeds for our verges.

Dog Fouling: Due to ongoing issues with dog fouling a new dog waste bin has been agreed and will be installed at the entrance to Langley Staithe. Please help to keep our area safe and clean with 'bag and bin'.

Litter Pick/Bulb Plant: A really successful Autumn litter/bulb event took place. Great attendance, with villagers and councillors working together to plant over 1500 spring flowering bulbs throughout our two villages and collecting three large bags of litter!

Vacancies: We currently have two Councillor vacancies. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved with supporting your local community. Working with a team of councillors to address local issues and improve the village environment. If interested please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

Parish Clerk: We had to cancel our November Parish Council meeting unexpectedly due to losing our clerk. However, we are pleased to welcome our new clerk, Natalie Wilson.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Friday 6th December: Christmas Café, open from 11:00am-1:00pm. From 1:00-2:00pm Graham Orpitt will entertain us all!

Come dressed in Christmas clothes if you would like to join the committee in the Christmas festivities. We will all be full of Christmas cheer! There will be a great raffle and stalls for bric-brac, clothes and books.

Friday 3rd January: Café—Cowboys and Cowgirls are our theme for the first café in 2025. Do join in dressing up for this if you would like to.

Thank you to everyone who supports us. Have a great Christmas and a happy new year!!

To book the village hall call Jane on 01508 520184.



Carol Service—St Michael, Langley

There will be a candlelit carol service on Tuesday 12th December starting at 6:30pm. It will be followed by seasonal refreshments. Parking in the field adjacent to the church.

Notes from Sisland

We are fast approaching the end of the year and while we have reflected in November, we turn our attention to the celebrations which accompany the Christmas season and the start of a new year. As in many villages, Sisland will be holding a carol service at 3:00pm on Sunday 15th December. It will be a traditional service with readings from the Christmas story interspersed with traditional carols. Please come and join us. We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after the service. We will also have a service of Holy Communion on Christmas morning at 9:00am.



Did you know that you can raise funds for St Mary's Church? Did you know that whenever you buy anything online—from your weekly shop to your annual holiday—you could be raising free donations for Sisland Church - Norwich with easyfundraising? Easyfundraising.org.uk is an easy way to raise funds just by shopping online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them at no extra cost to yourself! There are no catches or hidden charges and Sisland Church will benefit from your donation. We would really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely free and only takes a moment.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sislandchurch> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping. You can also download a useful app which can check for you.
3. After you've paid, the retailer will donate to Sisland Church at no extra cost to you whatsoever.

Fundraising continues in order to carry out work on the church tower. We have met with the architect, and they are currently working up the plans for tender and faculty applications. Sisland Church plans to run a tombola stall at the Open House in Holy Trinity, Loddon on Friday 6th December. We already have in our plans Sunday teas again in August but we will be looking to other fundraising events during the year.

Sisland Church continues to be open during the winter, even if the door is closed it will be unlocked, so please take the opportunity to visit us if passing. We look forward to seeing you.

Rowena Bryce, Churchwarden

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

The gym is open on some part of every day Monday to Friday:

Monday 1:45–5:25pm; Tuesday 4:45–7:05pm; Wednesday 9:00–11:20am;

Thursday 6:00pm–8:20pm; Friday 10:15am–12:35pm.

Your Community Gym in Loddon Library Annexe is well-equipped, affordable, friendly and not-for-profit. The gym offers our members the opportunity to achieve and maintain a level of fitness to help improve their wellbeing and quality of life. There is a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and a genuine feeling of a social environment, and definitely no pressure. Our chair-based exercise classes are proving very successful and we continue to hold them every Wednesday morning.

We are open on each weekday and full details of our hours and costs can be found at www.loddoncommunitygym.com. For more information why not drop by to see us or call our qualified trainer, Louise, on 07534 946143.

To book sessions go to www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym.



Walking Football is Coming to Loddon

Walking football has become increasingly popular since its creation in 2011. It is a sporting activity suitable for participants over the age of 50 of all skill levels including those who have been inactive for some time, or even have never played sport before.

I am looking to start the sessions from March 2025 if there is enough interest. So if you are over the age of 45 and this sounds like something you would be interested in, then contact Terry for more information via email terryhayden.sportsclub@gmail.com and hopefully we can bring walking football to Loddon.



Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

We meet in the extension to the Old Town Hall, entrance via The Swan car park. It is clearly marked. We are a members club with internal league matches every weekday evening, roll ups on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons commencing at 2:00pm and on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. Numbers are restricted to the first 12 arriving. Subscriptions are £20 per year, £2 per sessions for roll-ups and competitions and £3 for league matches. We'd love to see you so just turn up and give it a try.

For information contact our Chairman, Paul Clemence on 01508 218078.



LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING

Victorian Evening

On Friday 6th December from 6:30-8:30pm the annual Victorian Evening will once again take place in Loddon town centre. Starting at 6:30pm, outside Bay Tree House, Father Christmas will arrive for the *grand switch-on* of the Church Plain Christmas lights.

Thanks to the generosity and support of many of the town's businesses, we are all set for another fun-filled evening of events:

- * Chet Valley Voices performing outside the Co-op from 6:15pm
- * Santa arriving by special escort to the Co-op forecourt at 6:30pm to switch on the Christmas lights
- * Visit Santa in his grotto with gifts courtesy of Browne and Sons
- * Punch & Judy Show at 6:45pm and 7:15pm in the rear of The Hollies funded by Loddon Town Council
- * Funky Feet School of Dance & Performing Arts in the St John's Church Lecture Hall where the competition team are performing at 7:00pm and 8:00pm
- * Vintage steam engines in operation at Mutton Cottage opposite Loddon Garden & DIY
- * Open House at Holy Trinity Church and St John's Chapel, in George Lane, with charity stalls, hot drinks and mince pies
- * Fire engine display and BBQ at the Loddon Fire Station
- * Country Market at The Hollies with festive goodies and crafts
- * Judging and trophies for the best-dressed residence and business on the Co-op forecourt at 8:00pm
- * Find all the Christmas baubles in a trail throughout the town
- * Traders throughout the town will be open and welcoming you

Victorian Evening—The Church in Loddon Open House(s)

As usual, Holy Trinity Church and St John's Chapel are open with charity stalls and material to promote the various organisations. Do go and support them.

Welcome to Loddon Library

In this issue we would like to highlight our **Reminiscence Kits**. Designed for people with dementia and Alzheimer's these kits contain a range of objects, books and images to trigger memory and keep conversation flowing.

- Useful for groups and individuals to use at home or in care settings.
- Topics include Childhood Days, Seaside, Pets, Football, Shopping and many more.

Available to borrow free of charge.

Our **Warm & Well** supplies are now available alongside our regularly stocked hot drinks, toiletries and tricky period supplies. For these chillier months we have available blankets, draught excluders and hot water bottles.

Bounce & Rhyme is offered twice a week and sessions are regularly attended by support groups such as Early Help and Family Support and SENDIASS. Bounce & Rhyme sessions are held at 10:15am on Mondays and Thursdays.

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 from 10:00am-12:00noon. Speak to library staff or call 01508 520678 to book.

If you're newly arrived from another country **Migrant Support** offer focussed drop-in sessions on a fortnightly basis. Get connected to a range of organisations who can assist you in finding the information and advice you need to settle in.

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 and scan (even during unstaffed hours).

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

Email: loddon.lib@libraries.norfolk.gov.uk/.

Deliverers on St George's Park—Thank You



Thank you to those who responded so quickly to our request for more deliverers on St George's Park. The estate is now covered for the moment.

Church Services

1st December—1st Sunday of Advent		
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
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
8th December—2nd Sunday of Advent		
9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
15th December—3rd Sunday of Advent		
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
3:00pm	Carol Service	St Mary, Sisland
19th December		
7:00pm	Carol Service	St Margaret, Hardley
22nd December—4th Sunday of Advent		
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
5:00pm	Carol Service	All Saints, Chedgrave
6:30pm	Carol Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon
24th December—Christmas Eve		
11:30pm	Midnight Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
11:30pm	Midnight Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
25th December—Christmas Day		
9:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9:00am	Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
10:00am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon

Church Services

29th December		
10:45am	Benefice Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
5th January		
9:00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12 noon	XPRESSIONS CAFÉ	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
12th January		
9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
19th January		
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship*	All Saints, Chedgrave
4:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
26th January		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon

* All Together Worship in January, at All Saints, Chedgrave, is followed by a Bring and Share Lunch to which all are invited.

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



Chet Valley

Community Larder

The community larder will be available 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.

This year we will be operating a Christmas bag service through the library times. If you are registered you will be able to collect items from us.

Chet Neighbourhood Plan



By the time you read this, we will have the referendum results. More information will be in the February edition. Thanks to all who spent such a lot of time and effort putting the Chet Neighbourhood Plan together.

Loddon & District Day Centre—40th Anniversary

Loddon Day Centre turns 40 on January 4th 2025—an amazing achievement! That first meeting was held after months of planning, supported by Norfolk County Council and the Red Cross. We would like to thank everybody who has supported us over the years, through volunteering, fundraising, grants or coming to our meetings. Would you like to help us achieve another 40 years? We always welcome new members and volunteers to help at each meeting, on Tuesday and Fridays. Hope to see you soon!

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.

Tuesday Market



Our crafters have been busy making a wonderful selection of gifts for Christmas, including cards, jewellery, turned wood, bags, knitwear etc. Why not do your Christmas shopping on your doorstep?

Our cooks will be preparing mince pies, sausage rolls, shortbread, cakes etc... all the traditional Christmas treats and more. We also hope to have some winter foliage for decorating your homes.

We will be open in the Hollies for the Victorian Evening on Friday 6th December, providing refreshments as well as lots of nibbles and Christmas Fare.

Our last market this year will be Tuesday 17th December, at the Hollies, 10:00 - 11:30am, and we will reopen on 11th February, 2025.

We send seasonal greetings to all our customers, old and new.

Contact Sheila Ford (chairman) 01508 520752 for orders or enquiries.

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



RBL wishes to thank everyone for their support, with our branch and the Loddon Poppy Appeal in 2024.

We wish you all a good enjoyable Christmas with your families and best wishes for 2025.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 17th February, at The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Starting at 19:00hrs.

If a veteran requires our help, please ring our Chairman—Colin Hartley on 01508 521136.

Loddon Bell Ringers

Another busy month for our members ringing quarter peals at Bressingham, North Lopham, Necton, Kenninghall, Raveningham, Haddiscoe, and Pulham Market.



We also rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples here at Loddon in memory of John Kipps, a former member of our band. We took part in two peals, one at Watton and another at Norton Subcourse which was in memory of two more ringers we lost recently: Michael Stokes who rang at Loddon with us and David McLean who was a former tower captain at Lowestoft.

Holy Trinity hosted ringers from the Ladies Guild for a practice meeting. We rang with others on an outing to South Lincolnshire visiting Holbeach, Spalding, Surfleet, Kirton in Holland, Gosberton and Sutterton.

We attended a twelve bell practice at Great Yarmouth and helped on a course for novice ringers at Upper Sheringham. We will ring the bells for all the festive events and services leading up to Christmas. We plan to ring in the New Year with a peal at Loddon on 1st January.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Steve Rabong

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.

Christmas Community Choir Rehearsals

There are four rehearsals (best if you can make at least three of them):

Saturday 7th December 10:00am-12:00noon

Saturday 14th December 2:00-4:00pm

Saturday 21st December 10:00am-12:00noon

Sunday 22nd December 3:00-4:00pm

(refreshment break before the service)



If you would like to take part please contact Rev Alison by 3rd December.

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

The carol service is on Sunday 22nd December at 5:00pm.

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 Thursday 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 .



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Call for home visits 07584 040478 or 01603 280944 mhendley3@yahoo.com

Loddon Flower Club

Well, it's nearly here, and we hope that however you spend the festive holidays you all have a great time.



Why not start your celebrations by coming to our Christmas Open Evening on Tuesday 3rd December? It's open to all and includes a glass of punch and Christmas nibbles. We have a tombola, a quiz to win a garden voucher, a picture board to win a Christmas Cake, and a festive stall where you can buy Christmas wreaths, table decorations, cakes and fudge. We also have raffles for a Wine & Cheese hamper and a Beauty hamper. The arrangements made during the evening by our demonstrator will also be raffled at the end of the evening. All this for £12! Start your Christmas celebrations with us, bring your friends too.

Our demonstrator for the evening will be Linda Kingcott. Her arrangements have the title *It's a Sort of Magic*. Doors open at 6:15pm for a 7:00pm start, held as usual in St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon.

We hold our annual lunch in January so we have no meeting but on Tuesday 4th February, we have Gail Harland returning to give us a talk and slide show about Hellebores, calling it *A Cure For Madness or the Start Of One*. Should be very interesting and informative. Usual place, St John's Chapel, the doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. Visitors £7.50.

We have a website www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk and a Facebook page (work in progress!) where you can see what we're up to. If you need help with family flowers, or would like more information about the club, please contact Tricia on 01508 480522, or Jenny on 01508 520254, or email the club: loddonflowerclub@gmail.com.

Wishing you, your family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope to see you soon.

Chet Valley Voices Christmas Concert



Saturday 14th December Chet Valley Voices present a Christmas Concert with traditional carols and something a little different. There will be a bumper raffle.

St Johns Chapel, George Lane, Loddon 7:00 for 7:30pm.

Tickets £6 including refreshments. Children under 16, free. Available from Anns Crafts, Church Plain, Loddon, and Loddon DIY & Garden Centre, Bridge Street, Loddon. Also available on-line. QR code is on posters.

For more information contact, Sue:

01508 528069 or suemartin303@btinternet.com.



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Chet Staithe Probus Club

We are a club for retired gentlemen, and friendship. The atmosphere is relaxed, jovial, with little formality. Dress code is casual. We have a good mardle, and a different speaker every meeting on varied subjects.

Afterwards, members either go home, adjourn to the bar, or stay for a pleasant lunch. Your choice. We meet at The White Horse every first and third Tuesday of every month, start time 10:00am.

Upcoming meetings:

3rd December: Odd & Interesting Part I—Jill Mann

17th December: Christmas Lunch

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



Chet Valley Probus Club

Chet Valley Probus Club welcomes people who are retired, semi-retired or approaching retirement and who have had some measure of responsibility in their working life. We are friendly and excellent company, enjoy fascinating talks on a variety of subjects, good food and meeting others of like mind.

Why not come along and give us a try with no obligation? We meet on Tuesdays at Chedgrave White Horse, starting at 10:30am, lunch optional.

Upcoming meetings:

10th December: Christmas Lunch at The Old Feathers, Framingham Earl.

14th January: Hearing Dogs for Deaf People—Rachel Clarke.

28th January: Entertainment in Elizabethan England—Sarah Doig.

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

WEA

We have had three courses this Autumn Term:

Towards the establishment of the NHS with Mary Fewster;

Art History in 100 paintings with Fiona Fitzgerald;

American Short Stories with Joe Williams.

All the courses were enthusiastically received and well attended. Thank you to those who navigated the tortuous WEA enrolment system and came along.

We have yet to finalise a tutor for the Spring Term with the WEA and if you would like details of any course or courses that we might be able to arrange, please leave your telephone number or email address with one of the numbers below and we will contact you.

Further details from Alison (01508 521976) or Sharon (01508 520386).



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Loddon and District Women's Institute



Bollywood dancing in October was very entertaining, both fun to do and fun to watch! We have yet to hear Titch and Maureen's pantomime tales, but are sure they will be entertaining. (Oh yes, they will!). In December we will have our stall at the Victorian Evening Open House—do come and see us—and then our annual Christmas party. In January, some of our members will be going to see 'Singing in the Rain' at the Theatre Royal.

December & January Meetings:

Thursday 12th December and Thursday 9th January: Knit, Natter & Crochet. This is a community event held at Loddon Library 2:30-4:00pm.

Wednesday 18th December: Christmas Party 7:15pm for 7:30pm, St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.

Wednesday 15th January: A talk by a member of the East Anglian Air Ambulance on First Aid, 7:15pm for 7:30pm, St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Loddon WI.

If you are interested in finding out more about what we do or think you might like to join us we can be contacted via our Facebook page or by email to loddonwi@gmail.com.

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

Thursday 5th December: Pre-Christmas meal at The Old Feathers. 6:30pm for 7:00pm.

If you're not yet a member of our very friendly group (membership is only £6.00 for a year) you are welcome to come along and try one of our events before joining. If you are interested in joining us, please contact:

June Strickland on 01508 528853, junecs@btinternet.com;

Hillary Meredith on 01508 520457, meredithp3@sky.com; or

Sharon Brown at loddonchedgravedistrictsociety@gmail.com.

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

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



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

Loddon and District Horticultural Society



We have been invited to decorate a windowsill in Holy Trinity Church as part of the Victorian Evening and Open House in December. The theme is a Christmas Carol and we have chosen *The Holly and The Ivy*, which is most apt for a horticultural society. Please come and have a look at the windowsill which will be decorated until the beginning of January. Then on 11th December we are having our Christmas meal at The Old Feathers at Framingham Pigot. Our first speaker of 2025 will be Tim Fuller who will be coming on 8th January with his talk on 'Good Companions'. Tim will be talking on hardy geraniums, ornamental grasses and herbaceous perennials that work well. The meeting is held at the Jubilee Hall Club room, Loddon and starts at 7:30pm. Refreshments are available and a raffle held. We will also be holding a class for the Copland Cup.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month and it is £10 to join the society.

More details from Jean Cope (Chairman) on 01502 710024 jeancope52@gmail.com, or Hazel Copland (Secretary) on 01508 520890 happyhaze50@gmail.com. You can follow us on our Facebook page. We would like to wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Social Whist



Dates for our next meetings taking us into the new year are: 13th and 27th December; 10th and 24th January.

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.

Loddon Community Cinema



Our December presentation is *Swede Caroline*. Starring Jo Hartley, Aisling Bea and Richard Lumsden. Rated 15, 98 minutes.

A lovely British comedy of skullduggery and scandal involving the theft of prize winning marrows and a national scandal in the hostile world of giant vegetable growing!! Only in Britain could we see films like this.

Thursday 5th December. Showing at The Lecture Hall, St. John's, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7:00pm, film starts 7:30pm.

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

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 meetings:

Wednesday 4th December: From Tchaikovsky to Tin Pan Alley—Uplifting Music for Christmas by Sandy Burnett.

Wednesday 8th January: Carl Faberge—Jeweller to the Tsars by Laurie Wickwire.

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



ADVERTS

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse that collects and delivers shoebox gifts filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies to children in need in over 100 countries of the world. Members of the Friends and Neighbours Group in Loddon and other helpers have packed shoeboxes or provided colourful knitted mittens and hats and other gifts to add to the mission providing aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine. Delivered into the hands of children through local churches, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God's love.



Hardship Funds Available in the Chet Valley

If you are struggling to make ends meet at the moment, did you know there are funds available to help? There are local charities to help people in need in Chedgrave, Hardley, Langley and Loddon. They are only any good if people use them! In the past money has paid for white goods, carpets, solicitor's bills, rent, food... With the winter fuel allowance for pensioners being curtailed, we hope that people will draw on these funds rather than going cold. 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 Alison 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).

Loddon Players Pantomime—January 2025



We proudly present The Pied Piper.

Performances are in January at The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. NR14 6QH.

Evening performances starting at 7:30pm are on: Thursday 16th, Friday 17th, Saturday 18th, Thursday 23rd, Friday 24th, Saturday 25th.

Matinees starting at 2:30pm are on: Saturday 18th, Sunday 19th, Saturday 25th.

Tickets available online at www.loddonplayers.co.uk or from our Box Office on 03336 663366 from 9:00am-7:00pm on Monday-Friday, and from 9:00am-5:00pm on Saturdays.

Adults £10; Children £5 (15 years or under); Family £25 (2 adults+2 children). Tickets are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Chet Valley Photography Club



We plan to have our December meeting (Monday 9th) in Norwich so we can take some outdoor images around the city, taking advantage of the Christmas lights etc. The meeting time and location for this evening will be available on our website nearer the time. Our meeting in January is on Monday 13th and will be back in St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. We hope to have a speaker for this evening and are awaiting confirmation for this. Again, our website will be updated with the details as soon as they are available.

You do not need expensive equipment at all—most images today are taken using a smartphone. For more information, or if you are interested in joining the club, have a look at our Facebook page or website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk. New members will be made very welcome. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. Annual Membership is just £18.

Parkinson's UK Charity Shop, Loddon



2 Little Money Road, Loddon Industrial Estate.

Christmas display now up and running. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Jenny

Chedgrave Art Group

Formerly known as Chet Valley Art Society, this friendly painting group now meets every Friday morning at Chedgrave Church Centre, 10:00am-12:00 noon. New members welcome; all abilities, including beginners.

For further details please contact Vee: veepond22@hotmail.com or mobile 07557 40211.

Hidden Pop Quiz

Translate the clue to find the name of a band or pop star.

1. A haven in the desert.
2. First book of the Bible.
3. The Doctor?
4. Fierce dinosaur.
5. Simians.
6. Cold simians.
7. Can't see clearly.
8. Makes clothes quickly
9. School of Fine Art.
10. Umbra.
11. They gather no moss.
12. Scotch Bonnets.
13. Building support.
14. Staying the same.
15. A white chocolate brownie
16. A Winter's Tale
17. This way only.
18. Just a colour.
19. Sandy males
20. Females permitted
21. Top of the Milk
22. Thriving City Rodents
23. Unwanted Twists
24. Unable to Hear; Unable to Change Spots
25. 'air cuttin'
26. Slim Elizabeth
27. Verdant 24 hours
28. Sprouting Prickly Tree
29. The Moral Siblings
30. Betrayer Vicar
31. Dark Saturday
32. Wireless Capital
33. Velour Subterranean
34. Piquant females
35. Pinions
36. Cops
37. Plumbum Airship
38. Thankful Deceased
39. Home of "Fishermen's Friend"; Raincoat
40. Small Agglomeration

Hidden Pop Answers

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Oasis | 40. |
| 2. | Genesis | 39. |
| 3. | The Who | 38. |
| 4. | T-Rex | 37. |
| 5. | The Monkees | 36. |
| 6. | Arctic Monkeys | 35. |
| 7. | Blur | 34. |
| 8. | Taylor Swift | 33. |
| 9. | Stade | 32. |
| 10. | The Shadows | 31. |
| 11. | Rolling Stones | 30. |
| 12. | Red Hot Chili Peppers | 29. |
| 13. | The Scaffold | 28. |
| 14. | Status Quo | 27. |
| 15. | Blondie | 26. |
| 16. | Cold Play | 25. |
| 17. | One Direction | 24. |
| 18. | Simply Red | 23. |
| 19. | Beach Boys | 22. |
| 20. | Girls Aloud | 21. |
| 21. | Cream | 20. |
| 22. | Boombtown Rats | 19. |
| 23. | Kinks | 18. |
| 24. | Def Leppard | 17. |
| 25. | Ed Sheeran | 16. |
| 26. | Thin Lizzie | 15. |
| 27. | Green Day | 14. |
| 28. | Buddy Holly | 13. |
| 29. | The Righteous Brothers | 12. |
| 30. | Judas Priest | 11. |
| 31. | Black Sabbath | 10. |
| 32. | Radio Head | 9. |
| 33. | Velvet Underground | 8. |
| 34. | Spice Girls | 7. |
| 35. | Wings | 6. |
| 36. | Police | 5. |
| 37. | Led Zeppelin | 4. |
| 38. | Grateful Dead | 3. |
| 39. | Fleetwood Mac | 2. |
| 40. | Little Mix | 1. |

Loddon and District Local History Group

Jonathan Draper, from the Norfolk Archives and Heritage Development Foundation, gave us our October talk entitled 'Fornication and other Misdemeanours. Unlocking the Norwich Consistory court archives.' In past centuries the church could give punishments to people who clergy decided had 'done wrong'. These courts still exist today, mainly to deal with clergy, but in the eighteenth century they had much greater power over their congregations than today. The record office holds 100 boxes from these consistory courts with the oldest document dating from 1491 but the documents have not been analysed in any way until now and this can be challenging as some documents are fragile. Six of these boxes deal with penances for perceived 'crimes' and they give an insight into ordinary lives of the time. Volunteers are cataloguing the data they extract from the documents.

Jonathan gave us some examples of what penances involved. In 1735, Mary Patterson from Heckingham was accused of fornication with James Wiffen. Often it is only the woman who gets accused. As a punishment Mary had to stand in front of the congregation for a whole service, clothed in white, with a piece of paper on her chest outlining her 'crime'. At the end of the service, she had to go on her knees to confess and beg for forgiveness. Another example, this time from 1760, involved the same misdemeanour but with a different outcome. Mary Howlett of Scarning was accused of fornication with James Lacey. She became pregnant and the two then married. In the eyes of the church this was a lesser 'crime' so the penance took place in the chancel before the service took place and the sum of one guinea was paid as a fine. We even had some references to individuals from Loddon. For example in 1765, George Payne was accused of fornication with Anne Skeet but the case was dismissed on the basis of insufficient evidence.

This was a fascinating talk based on documents from the past and showed how attitudes have changed over time.

Carole Rylands

Next meetings:

Wednesday 18th December: Medieval Boozing—David Crease (The Hollies).

Wednesday 15th January: Norwich Pleasure Gardens—Mary Fewster.

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

Email Elvie (elvie.herd@uwclub.net).

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

You Are Here, by David Nicholls

This author consistently delivers on believable relationships between characters and explores encounters that can sometimes leave us bruised and other times exhilarated. This particular book is set on a walk across Britain from the Lake District and then across the Pennines. It's quite inspirational in that it's left me wanting to follow the same route! It follows two main characters, Marnie – who feels like life is passing her by, and Michael – who is reeling from his wife's departure and finding himself unable to process it and move on. As they walk and get to know each other they find themselves having a deeper understanding of each other and themselves.

Glorious Exploits, by Ferdia Lennon

I've become far more keen on fiction about Ancient Greece since reading Madeleine Miller's 'Song of Achilles' and this is a tragicomic tale of young men Lampo and Gelon who discover starving Athenian soldiers held captive in the quarries of Syracuse. They befriend the prisoners who will, in return for bread and olives, recite lines from the plays of Euripides. This gives them the idea of putting on Medea but as the performance draws near, the men find their courage tested in ways they could never have imagined...

The Spy Who Came in From the Cold, by John Le Carré

John Le Carré's classic spy novel is a raw, unflinching portrayal of the Cold War, offering a powerful contrast to the glamorous James Bond novels of the time. Le Carré focuses on the moral ambiguity of the spy game and the psychological toll it takes on the people involved. The novel's exploration of themes of betrayal and the erosion of identity in the service of one's country continue to be relevant in an era of increasing surveillance and mistrust.

I'm looking forward to...

Before the Coffee Gets Cold, by Toshikazu Kawaguchi,
translated by Geoffrey Trousselot

In a small back alley in Tokyo, there is a cafe which has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than one hundred years. But this coffee shop offers its customers a unique experience: the chance to travel back in time.

Ruth Redford



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Nature Notes

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Having said last month (in November) that I had seen some pinkfooted geese calling their wink, wink contact call and flying over to their feeding grounds, they seem to have deserted us as since then they have been noticeable by their absence. I've only seen them twice since then. In recent years we have seen skeins of thousands flying over our home on a regular basis. Two other winter visitors that I have yet to see locally are the two thrushes, fieldfares and redwings; probably the warm autumn we have experienced so far has meant they haven't migrated as far south as usual.

Having shared with you about a family of common crane being around, we were fortunate to see a group of five fly past as we were leaving our home one morning. I thought at first they were herons but quickly realised that they were flying with their necks outstretched whereas herons and egrets fly with their necks kinked. That was a very good start to the morning and the first we have seen from our property though some years ago on a misty morning a pair were trumpeting somewhere between our home and the river Yare; sadly visibility didn't allow us to see them.

My regular walks with the dogs from Hardley Staithe along to the duck pits as produced bittern on a number of occasions a couple of great white egrets, a family grouping of bearded reedlings on a couple of occasions. These are beautiful little birds, especially the colourful males. Occasionally a kingfisher has flashed into view as I have been scanning through my binoculars. The variety of ducks on the duck pits has been building up as autumn progresses. There have been both great crested and up to five little grebes, increasing numbers of shelduck and often gadwall, wigeon, teal, pochard and tufted duck along with mute swans and the regular mallards and mallard-cross farmyard ducks. I almost got excited when I thought I had found a pintail duck there but quickly came back down to ground when I realised it was a plastic decoy. Very often there are marsh harriers flying round this area looking for some unsuspecting prey. This morning there were at least five. Coots no longer seem to be around, but moorhens are usually feeding on the grain put out to attract the ducks.

On one occasion recently while walking the dogs along the Chet towards Chedgrave Common, our young dog lunged to the side of the path and obviously grabbed something which she held hidden in her mouth. Expecting it to be something revolting I told her to "drop it" which she dutifully did. To my surprise a mole having been returned to *terra firma* made its escape. How she got the whole mole in her mouth so that I couldn't see it I don't know!

As Christmas passes onto the New Year, and this magazine covers both months, may I end by wishing you all a blessed New Year. Who knows what it will hold? Every day is a new day and you never know what you might see or hear that will brighten and lift your spirit.

Richard and Rachel Hull

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Gardening Notes

Growing Fruit and Veg from scratch: Part 5.e. Soil Health

This month a few words on liquid feeds. I tend to make my own from nettles and comfrey and supplement this with seaweed feed. You can also use the young leaves of bracken or fill a hessian sack with manure and suspend it in the bucket. This is rather messy as you must give it the occasional squeeze.

I used to make these feeds in a bucket, but now have a Hozelock Pure, a purpose-built container, which makes the process easier, faster and less smelly. Simply fill your container with fresh leaves/stems. Add rainwater. Leave to steep, stirring occasionally, until it smells strongly. It's best to locate the bucket away from the house! Store in an opaque plastic container and use within three months. Nettle provides nitrogen, minerals and iron and is best used in Spring to promote new green growth. Comfrey provides potash, phosphorus and calcium helping flowers, fruits and tubers. So, I start with nettle and move to comfrey. I usually dilute 10:1. Some sources suggest using it as a foliar feed, but you would need to filter the liquid first. I've never used bracken but it is also said to deter wireworm.

Liquid seaweed feed is a good substitute for home-made feeds. Interestingly, commercially produced seaweed is nearly all farmed (98% according to the WWF.). The major producers are China, Indonesia and the Philippines. If you use other commercial non-organic feed please stick to the instructions as the chemicals not taken up by the plants can leach into watercourses.

Andrew Milner

From the Garden

In the shortening daylight I have cleaned the cold frame and greenhouse in readiness for putting my tender plants to bed for the winter, namely cannas, salvias and succulents.

The Bramley apple tree is now bare of fruit and the big woodpile under it is being sawn up for fire wood as I type by my lovely man. The pungent smell of mould coming from beneath it is reminiscent of old walnuts. In fact there was a pile of nibbled walnut shells revealed, the rodents that left them there will have to find a new den now. The deciduous trees have let go their autumnal leaves and the grass had grown long so I gave it a cut. I love letting the garden get a wee bit wild and enjoying the transformation, it always looks so much bigger when the grass has been mown.

Colour in the garden is from chrysanthemums; several pots filled with clumps of little mauve blooms surrounding the bird bath and tall, stately ones that resemble fireworks, multi-coloured with fine long petals that splay out—don't ask me what they're called! Some of the African Marigolds are still flowering brightly, they have been splendid this year. There are cheerful little carpets of white and pink cyclamen and bright red holly berries; will they last until Yuletide or will the blackbirds have feasted on them I wonder.

I will be enjoying potting on plants in my greenhouse with a big mug of coffee and a podcast as the days turn chilly. I plan on getting some solar lights and fairy lights in there so I can be out there as the light fades.

Hazel Copland



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