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June 2024





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St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon NR14 6NB

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The e-mail account is being monitored regularly.



Weddings, Funerals and the Interment of Ashes

To arrange any of the above please contact Rev David on 01508 522993.

Church Websites

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



Chet Contact

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From the Editor

Our crazy spring weather continues as I'm writing this and after a week of warmth and sun it's raining hard overhead in my conservatory! I haven't even seen a Swallow yet, let alone a House Martin returning from Africa or one of the Swifts that scream around our homes in the summer. The Cuckoo is back at least, calling down by the river last Wednesday, although that won't please some small bird families!

Hopefully the sun will be back soon as there are as lot of events coming up in June and then on through the summer. Fairs and Fetes, BBQs and Open Gardens and Trips out with various local societies. Be sure to check through to find out what interests you.

One particular event I wanted to highlight is that the 10.45 Service at Holy Trinity church is our Rector, David Owen's, last service before he retires. All are welcome and the service will be followed by a gathering, nibbles and a few words (I hope!) from various leaders and members of our community. Even if you can't make the service please come to join us in thanking David and his wife, Nina, for all the work they have done for so many here over the past ten years.

Roger



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Ministerial Musings

Moving On

It's all a bit chaotic in the Owen household just now. For someone like me, who prefers things to be in their proper places, it's a challenge, but it's one that I have to accept.

The reason for the upheaval is that Nina and I are moving on from the Chet Valley, and I will be retiring. It's an odd experience – most people don't have to move house when they retire (although this might be their choice), but once I stop being the Rector of the Chet Valley Churches, we have to move out of the vicarage. It's a time for passing things on to other people and making plans for the future.

Over the past ten years I have made a lot of friends in these villages, whom I hope will want to keep in touch. There have been countless other people whom I've met briefly and whose life stories I have shared. It has been a privilege to do so. There have been events and celebrations within the churches and their communities, but there have also been challenges and sad times. We've experienced huge changes in our national life – the Jubilee, the Coronation, the Covid experience and more. In our churches we've experienced change too, both nationally and locally as new people have come in and others have moved on.

So what am I going to pass on to others? Well, obviously there are a lot of administrative tasks which must now be carried out by volunteers, and I am very grateful to those who offer to help with some of these. But there is much more than that. I would like to pass on a sense of unity and friendship within our group of churches. They are all very different both in buildings and their styles of worship, but together they offer more than most village churches are able to provide.

I also very much want to pass on my enthusiasm for what Jesus offers. After giving his disciples a commission Jesus told them, to “remember I am with you always to the end of the age” (Matthew 28. 20). He was there for those first disciples, and he is there for all of us today, offering reassurance, love and a bridge through which to reach God.

That is the most important thing to pass on, not just to the Chet Valley communities, but to people everywhere. Thank-you for the support and friendship you have given me. I will continue to pray for you.

David Owen



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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 the Rector or 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:

1.30pm Thurs. 6th June. Maureen Larkin and Anthony Bunting will be sharing stories of their time with Loddon Players and Pantomime. This will be followed by Afternoon Tea.

If you'd like 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

Thanksgivings

Leo Pentecost

Alex Grimwood

on 18th February 2024 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

Tove Ragnhild Blake who died on 4th April 2024

Funeral: 2nd May 2024 at Waveney Crematorium

Linda Helen Barber who died on 18th April 2024

Funeral: 17th May 2024 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

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

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 David on 01508 522993, or david.chetvalley@gmail.com. To arrange a funeral, at our churches or at the crematorium, contact Rev David on 01508 522993, or david.chetvalley@gmail.com. Rev David can also be contacted about interment of ashes.

The Loddon, Chedgrave and District Society

We have donated a new bench for Farthing Green in memory of our late Queen Elizabeth II and to commemorate the coronation of our new King Charles III.

Please enjoy using it.

Thank You

The family of Margaret Turner would like to thank all those who generously gave donations at her funeral on 4th of March. We raised an incredible £1002.50 for the British Heart Foundation.

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News From Your Local Councillors



I was very pleased and grateful to be re-elected to the Council last month. The last year has been a very busy one but there is so much more yet to do. Not least to bring extra money to Norfolk through devolution to spend on economic development, adult learning, redevelopment of brownfield sites and to fund projects like community centres and road improvements. We live in challenging times with the legacy of the cost-of-living crisis and the aftermath of Covid. Every year central government gives us more money to provide services for our residents, but it's never enough to keep pace with the growing demand. We have to find ways to do things smarter and more efficiently in order to keep funding what matters to people. We have to make some pretty difficult decisions if we are to fund, not just our core services like Adult Social Care and Childrens Services, but other important things like museums, libraries, holiday clubs for children, support for sport and art, all the extra things you need, and we want to give you.

Sometimes we find solutions by bringing together organisations to support each other and one example of this is the Loddon Fire Station supporting the Loddon First Responders. This exceptional voluntary organisation supply on call support to assist the Ambulance service. They were looking for a new base and with the help of a local sponsor, I have secured an (almost) new portacabin, which will be installed in the fire station grounds for the First Responders to use when they are on call and for essential training. We rely on our emergency services and initiatives such as this will help save lives. My thanks to all who have made this possible.

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

I'm still working closely with our friends and neighbours in St Georges Park, to work through their concerns. As I've previously stated, my ongoing support won't stop until those residents, who have made such a huge commitment to our community, are content. The good news is that, following a meeting last week, there does seem to be some actions planned, which is good news for everyone. To be able help local people is what I was elected for, and what I'll always do.

As well as responding to a range of completely understandable local concerns, I'm also working hard chairing the South Norfolk Scrutiny Committee, working with an excellent cross-party team to ensure that South Norfolk residents are treated properly. Our next meeting, which I'm preparing for at the time of writing, is about the very serious issue of residents experiencing domestic abuse.

My next surgery is 2-3pm May 25th at Loddon Library. Please come down if there's anything I can support you with, or, as ever, give me a ring on 07733323581.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe

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Chedgrave Parish Council

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Website: <https://chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chedgrave-Parish-Council>



The Chedgrave Annual Parish Council meeting was on 2nd May 2024

Election of Chair: Cllr Jo Sinfield was re-elected as Chair and Cllr Bob Demain was re-elected as Vice Chair. Other roles were allocated and full details can be found in the minutes. Jo Sinfield presented her annual report and this will also be available on the parish council website. Thanks to all for their continued efforts.

Wherryman's Way: Planning permission has been granted for bridge work and the council is seeking an update on when the works will begin. The council has also asked that a damaged section of path adjacent to Chedgrave Carr is also repaired.

St Felix Park Development: Phil Varney continues work on this, currently focusing on the Construction Traffic Management Plan. He awaits confirmation of the final plan, trying to ensure the best outcome (or least bad!) for the village.

Litter: There is an increase in littering and anti-social behaviour around the teen shelter at Grebe Drive. A fire was also lit and was reported to Police. The mooring at Chedgrave Common has also seen more littering. Please can EVERYONE use the bins provided!

Bench at Chedgrave Mooring: The council has approved buying and installing a bench at Chedgrave Common mooring to replace the mast which was removed. It should be installed soon so walkers can enjoy a sunny rest in this lovely spot!

Grants Awarded: The parish council has recently awarded grants to Chedgrave Parochial Church Council to contribute towards All Saints churchyard maintenance and Chedgrave Common Charity towards maintenance of Chedgrave Common. To apply for a grant please complete the form on the parish council website.

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, meetings and clubs. Please contact Georgina Buckle to book 07981 856270 or brianclarkeroom@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk.

June Meeting Change: The agenda for the meeting on 6th June will close on 24th May due to staff holiday. Thank you.

Next Meeting: Thursday 6th June 2024 at 7pm, Brian Clarke Room. All welcome!

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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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



The Big Litter Pick – Sunday 26 May 2024 – 10.00am – 12.00pm: 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 a group photo. We hope to see you there!

Get Involved! We currently have TWO Councillor vacancies. This is YOUR opportunity to get involved and become a TOWN COUNCILLOR. The Council oversees many different projects, facilities and open spaces and we guarantee that you will be surprised at how diverse and interesting this volunteer role can be! Please come along to a meeting, pop into the office or contact us for more information.

Chet Valley Summer Fete – 6 July 2024: Planning is now in full swing for the Chet Valley Summer Fete. Please email events@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk if you would like to have a stall (community groups, charities and businesses all welcome) or if you can volunteer for an hour or two on the day!

Freedom of Loddon: Do you know someone who lives in Loddon who has made a notable contribution to the community? The Town Council welcomes your nominations for the Freedom of Loddon Award. If you know someone who you think should receive this award, please email your nomination to admin@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk by the 31 May 2024.

Local Support: The contact telephone number for South Norfolk Council's Help Hub is 01508 533933. They also now have a handyman service available. We also regularly update our website with local support information: 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.

Chet Valley Community Larder: The larder is in Loddon Library/LPC's lobby and is open to everyone. Open Monday to Friday - 8.00am – 7.00pm, Saturday - 8.00am – 4.00pm, Sunday - 10.00am – 4.00pm. All donations gratefully received.

Meeting dates, contact information and updates can all be found on the Council website: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01508 522 020.



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

George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB

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-&-Heckingham-Parish-Council)



Next Parish Council Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **11th June 2024, starting at 7:30pm** at the Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas will be posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on our website 3 days before the meeting. Minutes will be displayed in the same places.

Chair's Annual Report

The past year has been relatively quiet for us, time to adjust after bidding farewell to two long-standing councillors. It gave us the opportunity to reflect, find our footing, and grow more confident in new responsibilities within the parish council.

Last spring, we welcomed Martine as our new clerk. She has seamlessly integrated into her role, taking on challenges and proving to be a valuable asset to us all.

Despite having full-time jobs, Craig, Keith, and Manik have all stepped up to fill the gaps left by departed councillors. Craig, in particular, has been instrumental in overseeing the Yarmouth Road development and its upcoming second phase. I extend my heartfelt thanks for their hard work and dedication to our parishes.

I am grateful to outgoing councillors Sheila, Andy, and Alan, who have been available to offer reassurance and advice when I've had questions regarding parish business.

We recently celebrated King Charles's coronation with a small event at Masala Gardens. Martin Sisley once again provided excellent entertainment, and local teenagers ran stalls, raising £115 for parish community projects. My thanks go to Martin, Masala Gardens, and everyone who contributed to a successful day.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the volunteers who made our carol service at Heckingham Church possible once again.

While we strive to keep the council's running costs to a minimum, like everyone else, we have seen our bills rise while our income remains steady. This, however, does not mean that we are not committed to initiatives that benefit our parishes. For example, we would like to repurpose the composting site into a community garden. However, to achieve this, we need three important things:

Input from the community (because it's your parish too!)

Volunteers (we need people to organise events like fetes and fun days)

More councillors - we have two vacancies and would love to see them filled.

Looking ahead, we hope to hold a fun day in July at Masala Gardens, begin planning the development of the composting site, and gauge interest in the carol service so that we can begin planning accordingly.

Best regards, **George**

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Emma Webster Tel: 07516 361239

Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com

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

Find us on Facebook



Councillor Vacancies: A fantastic opportunity to get involved in supporting your local community. Work with a team to address local issues and improve the village environment. If interested please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

Dog Fouling: There are still reports of dog fouling in the area, Stone Lane and Langley Staithe. Please pick and bag your dog poo, it's a health hazard and spoils our beautiful countryside. Signage is up and dog waste bins will be installed.

Speeding Vehicles: After a successful campaign, the lowering of the speed limit along Langley Street has been agreed.

Vacancy for Parish Clerk: Would you enjoy clerking for Langley with Hardley Parish Council. The position will be available from the end of May. All enquiries to the present Clerk – Emma Webster for more details.

Annual Parish Council Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st May in Langley with Hardley Village Hall at 7.30pm. This will be the annual Parish Council meeting and begin with the election of the Chair and Vice Chair. It will be preceded by the annual Parish meeting at 7.00pm where community groups and the Parish Council have an opportunity to inform residents of their activities for the previous and for the coming year.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall



Friday 7th June—D-Day Café:

11:00am-1:00pm. From 1:00-2:00pm Graham and Audrey will entertain us. We will enjoy cakes while we sing along to 1940s music. Come dressed in 1940s clothes if you would like to. All the committee will be in 1940s dress. We will have photos of Langley with Hardley in 1940 displayed.

Saturday 22nd June—Bingo:

Doors open at 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start. Great evening of fun with great prizes.

If you need to book the hall, call 01508 520184. Tibby or Jane.

Thank you to everyone who supports us.

Notes from Sisland

I always start writing my entry by looking back, much like a diary, at the previous entries. For 2023 it was the day after the Coronation weekend. The tree, planted by the oldest and youngest resident, is thriving in the geographic centre of the village. Thanks to Peter Burgess for watering and clearing around it for the last twelve months. We followed this with tea and cake at the church. There will be another opportunity for spending time together and welcoming others to join us on Sunday July 14th at Lodge Farm, Sisland when we will be offering Strawberry Teas. The afternoon will run from 2pm until 5pm and all are welcome to join us during the afternoon. The church tower requires some attention to the window slats and although the work is not substantial, we need to take every opportunity to raise funds to enable the continuous maintenance of this very special building.



For those who are able to visit us this spring and early summer, the grass in the graveyard is left uncut as we want to welcome the wildlife and wildflowers as well as humans to our corner of the parish. It is looking stunning as I write this with bluebells and meadow saxifrage. Churchyards are the single most important refuge for many wildflowers typical of old meadows in Norfolk. The churchyard at Sisland can boast of supporting four of the six 'churchyard dependent' wildflower species – meadow saxifrage, oxeye daisy, lady's bedstraw and burnet saxifrage - these are native species which have at least 50% of their Norfolk population in churchyards. We want to allow them to be able to seed before cutting, which we always try to do before the Sunday teas in August. We are looking forward to the latter and welcoming friends, old and new, for tea and cake. The church is open throughout the year, even if the door is closed, it will be unlocked so please take the opportunity, if you can, to visit us and find a quiet space for reflection.

Rowena Bryce Churchwarden, St Mary's, Sisland

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 11:00-12:00noon. 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 .

Loddon Flower Club

Spring is here (I think!) and the garden is filling with colour. Friday May 3rd was National Flower Arranging day, and club members left small arrangements around the surrounding villages, were you lucky enough to find one?, if you did, why not come along to one of our meetings and use your free pass and get some ideas on how to make the most of your garden flowers or a bunch from the supermarket.



Tuesday 4th June Stephenie Laing is demonstrating on the topic 'Influenced By'. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served during a short interval, arrangements made on the night are raffled at the end of the evening.

Our July meeting is on Tuesday 2nd, when we will be holding a slideshow of the Flower Festival we held last September, followed by a demonstration by our President and Treasurer (aka - Diane & Penny) Homemade cake, tea and coffee at the interval and arrangements raffled at the end of the evening.

Meetings are in St John's, George Lane, Loddon, , 6.30pm for 7pm.

Our website is www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk and we are available to arrange flowers for family occasions. For more information contact Tricia on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Jenny on 01508 520254 or jf53rf50@gmail.com

We have a few seats available for an outing to Hunstanton, on Sunday June 16th, visiting the NAFAS Flower Festival, which is free to enter, the cost of the coach would be £32 if all seats are filled. If you would like to join us please let Jenny know asap (preferably by the end of May if you get your magazine by then)

Parkinson's UK Charity Shop, Loddon

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

We are now fully open at:

Prospect House, 2 Little Money Road, Loddon Industrial Estate.

We have lots of new stock. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Jenny

Church Services

2nd June		
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	Holy Trinity, Loddon
9th June		
9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
16th June		
10:30am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
10.45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship with Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
5:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
23rd June		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
30th June		
10:45am	Benefice Holy Communion*	Holy Trinity, Loddon
7:00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John's, Loddon

David's Retirement

*Rev David Owen is retiring on the last Sunday of this month, June 30th.

You are all warmly invited to join with us in the morning as we celebrate his 10+ years of ministry amongst us, and to wish David and Nina well as they move from the Chet Valley to pastures new.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

Every day Morning Prayer 9:00am <i>All Welcome</i>	Monday	Holy Trinity, Loddon*
	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon*
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave
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 David 01508 522993 or 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) <i>All are welcome</i>	

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation

21 Uppgate, Poringland, NR14 7SH



Mass Times:

Sunday 9:00am; Tuesday 6:00pm; Wednesday—Saturday 10:00am;
 Saturday 6:00pm (Vigil Mass)

Please check newsletter online for latest information.

Priest in charge: Father Andrew Eburne (Tel: 01508 494770)

e-mail: frandreweburne@gmail.com

www.ourladyporingland.wordpress.com

Messengers Holiday Club 2024

I wonder what your children are doing in the first week of the school holidays. Why not book them in to holiday club? We are open to children who have been in full time primary education (Year R through to Year 6) in this school year.

From Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August every morning at All Saints, Chedgrave, we will be having fun: sharing stories and songs, eating things, making things, doing a bit of cooking, playing games... at *Messengers*

Loddon Bell Ringers

Our newest recruits are progressing well and are all now ringing with us regularly every Sunday morning. Our Tuesday practice nights continue to be well attended. Last month was again busy for our more

experienced ringers out and about ringing with others in the region.

We have rung quarter peals of Bristol Surprise Major at Hethersett, Uxbridge Surprise Major at Ashill, Bristol and Superlative Surprise Major and St Clements Bob Minor here at Loddon. We also rang in a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor at the Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre in Norwich, which was specially arranged with a coffee morning held nearby to raise funds for the Norfolk Guide Dogs Association. £1060 was raised in total.

We rang in a peal of Bristol Surprise Major at St John the Baptist church in Danbury, Essex. This was arranged in memory of a Norwich ringer who originated from there, who passed away last year. The 5120 changes took three hours to complete.

We have attended twelve bell practices held at St Nicholas Minster in Great Yarmouth and St Peter Mancroft in Norwich and helped out training some new ringers at St Michael's, Rumburgh.

We rang with others on a local day out at Blofield, Acle, South Walsham and Ranworth. This was organised by a ringer from Upper Sheringham as a birthday treat.

Over fifty new ringers throughout Norfolk were voted in to join the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers at an AGM held at South Walsham. Included were four of our new ringers at Loddon. Congratulations to them.



Steve Rabong

Sport

Footballers Wanted!

A friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astro Turf every **Thursday** from 8:00-9:00pm for a non-competitive kick about to keep fit and socialise. £3:00 per session. First session free. More information from Terry: tezzahayden99@gmail.com



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

We are currently taking a break for the summer as many of us are now playing outdoor bowls, but we will be back on Tuesday 3rd September at 1:30pm. Watch this space for more details nearer the time.



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 and pay and play is also available at £5 per hr.

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

Email: loddontennis@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk



Hobart Badminton Club

Players wanted! Come and join our friendly club of all ages from 16+. Playing experience desirable. We meet at Hobart sports hall, **Tuesday** evenings from 7:30-9:30pm. Cost £5:00, first session free!

For more information contact Terry on: tezzahayden99@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



Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

Our branch has recently presented Rev'd David Owen, Rev'd Ros Hoffman, Loddon Town Council and Loddon Army Cadet Unit, with Certificates of Appreciation, for all their Support given to us over the years.



Our Gazebo will be at the Summer Fete in July, on the Jubilee Playing Field.

Pop along and say hello or come to a meeting, if interested in joining the branch.

We meet the 3rd Monday evening of each month, at the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. 19.00hrs.

For information, ring Chairman Colin Hartley, on 01508 521136.

Tuesday Market



Now the better weather is here you will find our colourful flower and plant stall outside the Hollies. Inside you'll find a friendly welcome with stalls of delicious baking both sweet and savoury, preserves, vegetables, local eggs and crafts..... woodwork, jewellery, cards and textiles.

Why not join us and your friends for a cuppa and cake? We are open every Tuesday from 10.00 to 11.30 am at the Hollies next to the Post Office.

Contact Sheila Ford 01508 520752 for orders or enquiries.

Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)

Our monthly club meeting in June is Monday 10th in St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon - 6.45pm for 7pm start. Details will be posted on our website when available. We have an open facebook page (search Chet Valley Photography Club) detailing various events of recent months.. Please have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information if you are interested in joining the club. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. Advanced notice that our 2024 Annual Exhibition will be held on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July in the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Free admission.



We have an open Facebook page (search Chet Valley Photography Club) which details some of the things we have done over the past few months. Expensive equipment is not required—many images taken today are done using a mobile phone. Please have a look at our website: www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information if you are interested in joining the club. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

Advanced notice that our 2024 Annual Exhibition will be held on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July in the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Free admission.

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 was 10 years old in April and has, from day one, offered the opportunity for our members 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.



Loddon Swan Bowls Club

The outdoor bowls green season has commenced. The club is situated behind The Loddon Swan. The club plays in several evening leagues plus a Thursday afternoon league. Roll ups are available for everyone on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons; also on a Wednesday morning.

If you are a seasoned bowler or a beginner you are very welcome please just turn up. Alternatively give club chairman, Paul Clemence, a call on 01508 218078.

Social Whist

We meet every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start in the back room of The Hollies, Loddon. It is £6 for the evening including a chance to chat, play some whist, enjoy tea/coffee with a biscuit, all in great company. No partner needed or to have played before, just an enjoyable evening out. If you need a lift, please call me (Jane) on 01508 528875. Looking forward to seeing our regular players and meeting any new ones.



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? Please contact Bev on 07826 299290 for more information. We'd love to see you!

Chet Valley Art Society

This friendly painting group now meets every Friday morning 10 - 12 noon at Chedgrave Church Centre, Chedgrave. New members welcome. All abilities inc. beginners. Please contact Vee on 07557 402211 for further details. email - veepond22@hotmail.com

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 only any good if people use them! In the past money has paid for white goods, carpets, solicitor's bills, rent, food... To access the funds:

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

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

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



Present -

“Spotlight express”

28th and 29th June 2024

7.30pm @ The Lecture Hall,
George Lane, Loddon.

A fast-paced showcase of talent, where a one-act play “The last bread pudding”, written by Nick Warburton, an hilarious look at local amateur dramatics group committee meeting, collides with musical interludes and comedic skits.

Contains moderate adult language and may not be suitable for under 16's

Tickets on sale from 5th June 2024 at 9am. via loddonplayers.co.uk or Telephone 0333 666 3366 (Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm) *(Please book early as there are limited tickets.)*

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:

June 4th Sally Sibley The Pretty Family

June 18th Rowena Burgess Evolution of 19th Century Education

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 at Chedgrave White Horse and meetings start at 10:30am and lunch is optional.

11th June "Poisons used in Agatha Christie's Murders" - Mike Wabe.

25th June ""Airport Management" - Trevor Eady.

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

Loddon Community Cinema

Our Next Presentation is "ONE LIFE" Rated 12A. 110 minutes. Starring **Anthony Hopkins and Helena Bonham Carter**. The true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children from German-occupied Czechoslovakia.



Showing on Thursday, June 6th, at St. John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7:00pm, film starts 7:30pm. Tickets £4 adults and £2 child available on the door or in advance from Loddon DIY.

email; loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk



Hardley Windmill
Midsummer Evening

Saturday 15th June 2024

BBQ, Bar and Music

From 7:00pm to 11:00pm

**Transport available from Langley or park at
Hardley Staithe and stroll up the river
bank.**

Community Groups, News and Events

Loddon and District Women's Institute

At the time of writing we've been enjoying some lovely sunny days so let's hope that the weather continues to be kind as we look forward to all the summer events in the pipeline. One of these is the Church in Loddon's 'Open Gardens' which takes place on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June. On the Saturday Loddon WI will be having a couple of stalls in the front garden of 12, Filbert Road. There will be plants, crafts, homemade jam, etc., and, weather permitting, a display of handmade quilts, so do come and give us a look! Talking of quilts, the quilting course is well under way and we're looking forward to showing off the results of our endeavours at the end of the course.



Meetings for June

Thursday 13th - Knit, Natter & Crochet at Loddon Library 2.30pm – 4pm. This is a community event; all are welcome the library kindly makes the tea and someone usually brings a packet of biscuits.

Wednesday 19th - Monthly Meeting St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane. 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Subject: **Dumisani African Drumming**

In addition there will be the usual monthly Open House and the Book Club, which take place in a member's house. Are you interested in finding out more about what we do or think you might like to join, we can be contacted via our Facebook page or by email to loddonwi@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.



Our meeting on **June 26th** will be our usual short walk followed by refreshments at the White Horse Public House. Walkers please meet at Church Plain car park at 6.30pm. If you are not walking then please join us at the White Horse for 7.30pm approx.

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

WEA

After a period of reorganization at the WEA, we hope that they will be able to offer more courses for us to choose from for the Autumn Term. Look out for details in forthcoming editions of Chet Contact.



For more information please telephone Sharon on 01508 520386 or Alison on 01508 521976.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society



We won't be having a meeting in June, as we have our annual outing on June 12th which this year is a visit to Chet Valley Vineyard.

We will be back at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom in July with our Rose, Fuchsia and Sweet Pea show for members.

Our Society took part in the Spring Show of the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society in March, entering classes in the Affiliated Society Classes. We did very well, awarded firsts and a second in the classes we entered. Two of our members also entered some classes and were awarded some prizes. Some more of our members have joined in volunteering for the 'Love of Loddon Community Group', by planting up some of the flower towers and tubs around the village.

Our meetings usually take place on the second Wednesday of the month. Membership is £10 per year. For more information, contact Jean Cope (Chairman) on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or Hazel Copland (Secretary) on 01508 520890 or happyhaze50@gmail.com. You can follow us on our Facebook page.

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

All Saints Church, Chedgrave has a lovely church centre open for over 25 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.

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

We are a friendly group who like walking, visiting interesting gardens, historic buildings, and the occasional social evening. New members welcome. £6 membership fees due please. More information from June on 01508 528853 or junecs@btinternet.com. For membership contact Hillary on 01508 520457 or meredithhp3@sky.com.

5th June, we are going on a train Journey, please refer to programme for full details or Contact June on 528853.

15h June, Midsummer Frolic at the Mill. Contact Frances on 520331 for further information.

Chet Community Larder

The Chet Community Larder has been running for over 18 months and seems to be well-used. However, the way the larder is used needs to be re-organised. This is because some people have been taking more than they require, sometimes coming several times a day, and leaving little for the rest of those in need in the community. The volunteers who currently run the larder feel they are doing their best and are extremely sad that the current way of providing help has to change.

From June, we are considering opening the larder for two sessions per week, one morning and one late afternoon with volunteers assisting and refilling the shelves where necessary. We think it will stop multiple visits in one day by some people and also stop those coming from outside the Chet Valley area when there are community larders in their own towns.

We would like your views as on how best to help those that are really in need. We are going to provide a suggestion box in the larder for your suggestions and comments as to the best way forward to support those that need it within the Chet Valley. Alternatively, you can visit our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/chetvalleycommunitylarder/>) and let us know your views.

XPRESSIONS CAFÉ

Come and join us on the first Sunday of the month , every month at All Saints, Chedgrave, for craft, chat, delicious refreshments and a different way of doing church. 10:00-12:00noon. All welcome.

Waveney Valley Arts Society

We are a friendly group who meet at the Fisher Theatre in Bungay on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding July and August). 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: Wednesday 5th June - The Aztec Legacy: Continuity and Change by Chloe Sayer.

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://theartssociety.org/Waveney-valley>.



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REMEMBERING

We are sure that many of you will still remember **Christina Crease** whose presence in the area was well known for all of her involvement in local issues. Sadly, after a brave fight, she died in 2014 and was a great loss to the community. Following her death several attempts were made to install a bench, in her memory but a suitable place for all concerned could not be found. So, after all this time and with the support of Loddon Town Council and the Love Loddon Community Group, we have at last found a space. Near to the Town Sign that her mother, Margot Kendle, designed in the image of her father, Morgan, we now have a new seat. **Funded by Loddon and District Local History Group**, with the help of donations from those who knew her, we are delighted that on the tenth anniversary of her passing we can acknowledge her at last.

Thanks to all who have been involved in fulfilling this project and we do hope that many of you will now be able to sit for a while to view Loddon Street and contemplate it's past history and it's future.



Loddon Open Gardens 2024

22nd & 23rd June – 11:00am–5:00pm

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Loddon and District Local History Group

Our April talk was by Adrian (Zolkowski)-O'Dell about Poles in Norfolk including case studies collected by the Norfolk Polish Heritage Group (NPHG). Adrian's own father was in the Polish Airforce and escaped to England during the Second World War to join a Polish Squadron to continue the fight. 17,000 other Polish airforce men also arrived which meant that 17 Polish Squadrons could be formed and 10 of these were based at 4 of the bases in Norfolk (Swanton Morley, Docking, Hethel and Coltishall) at different times. Coltishall was the only operational airfield in Britain to be controlled by a foreigner and he was Polish. Between 1946 and 1948 the Polish squadrons were disbanded but 11,000 of the men joined the Resettlement Corps as they did not want to return to Poland now that it had become a communist country. Altogether 200,000 Poles were offered British citizenship after the war in recognition of what they had done in the war. 265 former military camps were used to accommodate them, 11 of these were in South Norfolk. Not all parts of the country welcomed them but many integrated, intermarried and used their good work ethic to do well. Membership of the EU later on meant more Poles came here for work and by 2018 there were 831,000 Poles in the U.K. and Polish is the second most widely spoken language in Britain.

In 2016 the N.P.H.G was set up in Norfolk, (Adrian is Chair), to research, record and disseminate information on Poles living in Norfolk which was then lodged in the Norfolk Record Office. So far 30 case studies have been researched and of these 12 are still alive and a third are Polish women. The other two thirds are on men from the military. Adrian gave us some examples of these case studies. Boleslaw Pietocha (1911-84) became the resident psychologist at St Andrews after the war, having been a medical officer in squadrons during the war. He received an MBE for his work. Alexander Pietrzak escaped to England and flew Spitfires from Northalt shooting down V1 rockets. He died in 1945. Ewelina Wachnicka, born in 1984, gained an MSc in Food Science in Poland and came to Norwich in 2010 to do a PhD at the Institute of Food Research. She is now a microbiologist and food safety expert in the U.K.

Adrian succeeded in showing us the huge contribution Poles have made to our life in Norfolk and the country as a whole.

Carole Rylands

Next meeting: Wednesday 19th June: The 1874 BMA Meeting, 'When the Medics Came to Norwich' - a talk by Phyllida Scrivens.

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

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

C.J. Sansom

One of my favourite authors over the last twenty years has recently passed away. C.J. Sansom is the author of a series featuring a character called Shardlake, set in Tudor Britain. Shardlake is a lawyer who solves murders and mysteries but also often becomes too close to the machinations of court, putting him in great peril. The first book in the series is called *Dissolution* and the final novel was the seventh book, *Tombland*, set in Norwich around the time of Kett's Rebellion. *Tombland* was launched in Norwich Cathedral and I had the pleasure of attending the reading by C. J. Sansom and hearing him answer questions about the series. He will be sadly missed by all booklovers. Disney+ have just released a series called *Shardlake* based on C.J. Sansom's books.

The Divided Spy, by Charles Cummings

It's a bit of a spy theme this month! I hadn't read Charles Cummings before but really enjoyed this tale of a disillusioned MI6 agent, Thomas Kell. It encompasses a double plot of a jihadi terrorist planning an attack in Brighton and a Russian agent who Kell blames for the death of his girlfriend. With many twists and turns, the story keeps you hooked until the end.

Exposure, by Helen Dunmore

We read this as our book group read and it generated some lively discussions. Set in the heart of cold war paranoia it tells the story of a family torn apart by false accusations and betrayal. With echoes of the *Railway Children* (father is taken away to prison, family leave to remote location) it's a nuanced and well-rounded story, although the ending did leave our group divided!

I'm going to reread...

The New York Trilogy, by Paul Auster

I last read Paul Auster about twenty years ago but following news of his recent death, I was reminded of how much I enjoyed his books. The *Trilogy* is three novels that are interconnected and use the props of detective fiction but become something far more. His writing is a unique blend of surrealism, murder mystery and postmodernism, and I'm intrigued to see how much I enjoy his novels a second time around.

Ruth Redford

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Nature Notes

“They’re back” I shouted into the house as I was exiting our back door at 7:30 this morning to walk our dogs (May 5th). Overhead I watched two Swifts chasing each other, their screams always indicative of the arrival of Summer. It is amazing to think that these two ariel masters have been flying nonstop since they left their nest last August. The only time they deliberately land is at their nest, all else they do on the wing, and I mean everything. At least the weather today is in agreement with them, being the heralds of Summer. Whereas I saw my first Swallow of the year on the 12th of April and the old saying that “one Swallow doesn’t make a Summer” has proved to be very true. It was another couple of weeks before I saw any more.

Overall, a wet, windy and not that warm, April has had a negative effect on birds singing, claiming territories and attracting mates. Especially true of summer migrants that have already arrived. Walking along the Yare and Chet has mostly been accompanied by an eerie silence from the reeds. But in the last few days that has changed as the songs of Reed and Sedge Warblers as well as our resident Reed Buntings have finally been heard as it warms up. To date I have yet to hear a Cuckoo, although Rachel has. However, I have seen two of them flying over fields, their overall shape and size is similar to a small bird of prey, like a Kestrel, but they have a longer tail and a good view of one makes the correct identification easier.

It’s been amazing to watch as trees have put on their summer finery, though the Sycamore we can observe from our kitchen window is still in bud and the Birch tree opposite looks a long way from being resplendent in its greenery. It seems that despite the inclement weather, in the plant world Spring seems to have come early.

Our local Robins have mastered feeding from our bird feeders, but I was surprised when I saw a Dunnock doing the same, something I have never noticed before. They usually feed around the base of our feeder picking up any dropped food.

The inclement weather has dampened my enthusiasm to travel further afield. I had thought of going to Westleton Heath to listen to and perhaps see Nightingale, also catching up with Dartford Warblers and Woodlark. Or to scan the flock of Common Scoters to try and pick out the Surf Scoter that is reportedly with them. Common Scoter are sea duck, common to the shores around us whereas the Surf Scoter is a rare American vagrant. Hopefully the change in weather will encourage us all to get out and explore further afield and see some of these species.

PS Walking the dogs at Rockland Broad yesterday evening I was serenaded by a Cuckoo.

Richard and Rachel Hull

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Gardening Notes

Growing Fruit and Veg from scratch: Part 4

Finally, we move out of the house/pots into the garden/allotment. The first thing to do is take time to understand it. Even within short distances the aspect changes and the soil changes which can have a profound influence on what you can grow.

Aspect is a vital consideration and effects temperature, sunshine, drainage, shelter from wind and how frost impacts. Trees/hedges can have positive or negative effects. Grass tends to be longer under trees and hedges and they can bring up vital nutrients with their roots, lock in moisture and improve the soil with their leaf fall. They also protect your plants from wind burn, but I once had a garden next to a leylandii hedge which had incredibly long roots that stole both nutrients and water.

So don't rush, weigh up different factors and how you can mitigate any deficiencies. If you can, find out how the previous occupant gardened and talk to neighbours about what grows best. If the previous occupant let things get on with it or left a while ago, then there should be some good clues. Busy luxuriant weeds and tall nettles indicate a rich soil, this should be good for most vegetables. Dig in the tops of the nettles as a green manure but avoid the roots. Stunted weeds make it easier to clear but be prepared to add lots of organic matter. **Andrew Milner**

From Another Garden

The cottage garden has a real lushness, flower beds filled with strong vibrant green growth and a mist of Forget-me-nots, accented by bursts rich yellow from Calendulas, Cowslips and Dandelions. Forget-me-nots were the first seeds I ever sowed as a tiny tot, they seeded my love of gardening. The little Bramley apple tree, voluptuous Rosemary and beautifully fragrant Rhododendron Luteum are in full flower. Exotic Iris's are flowering in succession, ferns are unfurling their fantastic shaped crosier fronds and plump round Peony buds are set to open.

The greenhouse is a vast forest of young plants. Unfortunately I lost a few cucumber plants to the last frost and I was a bit eager to sow the beans which are winding around each other and getting caught in my hair, I think they will have to be planted in the garden and hope the weather will be kind to them before May is out.

We are at the beginning of summer, with the cold wet weeks behind us.

Our friendly neighbourhood hedgehog has been around, leaving it's 'calling cards' as Dad used to call them and making strange mating calls in the evening. Thank goodness as there are plenty of slugs out there for them to feast on.

Groundworks are complete, a path actually leads somewhere and the car has hard standing with different varieties of creeping thymes around the edges, surrounded by pea shingle and it all looks great. Now for the next stages. **Hazel Copland**



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