



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

March 2026



Mothering Sunday Songs of Praise

A Joyful Celebration of 'Mothering'.

Join us as we give thanks for our mothers and all who have been like a mother to us in our lives

Sunday 15th March

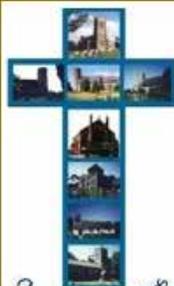
10.45 St John's Church, Loddon

Children are invited to treat their mum to a posy of flowers and a slice of cake

We look forward to welcoming you!



Oxet Valley Churches



Oxet Valley Churches

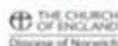
Lent Lunches

The Lecture Hall
St John's Church, George Lane.

Wednesdays 12.00 – 1.00 p.m.
February 25th March 4th 11th 18th 25th

All are welcome to come and share a simple meal of homemade soup, bread, and tea or coffee.
Arrive between 12:00- and 1:00 p.m.

Your meal is free, but any donations will go to the Bishop's Lent Appeal, which this year is for people in Papua New Guinea



The Bishop's Lent Appeal

The Bishop's Lent
Appeal 2026 is
raising money for
the people of
Papua New Guinea.

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| Miriam Fife: | 07593 163920 | rector.cvb@gmail.com |
| Jill Haylock: | 01508 520248 | jillhaylock@aol.com |
| Ros Hoffmann: | 07572 965271 | roshoffmann2011@gmail.com |
| Martin Keenan: | 01502 560178 | martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk |



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

For prayer requests and home communion please contact Rev Ros.

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

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

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

Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches www.chetvalleychurches.org

The Diocese of Norwich www.dioceseofnorwich.org

Chet Contact

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
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Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

Please include your name and telephone number.

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From the Editor

Winter, what Winter? I don't think we've had more than about ten days of frost going by my car windscreen. So, Spring is hopefully about to leap out on us. Having said that we will probably have a late February Freeze! The Beast from the East was in Feb/March eight years ago.

New events are starting up, as well as old favourites, so trawl through and see what is going on. Easter will be next month so the church calendar is full as always at this time of year with the many events we all associate with it. They feature in several places as you read through and are highlighted below.

A quiz on February 28th is a mention a bit late for those reading now, perhaps, but I mention it because it is the first step for an exciting new venture in our community. The Loddon and Chedgrave Arts Festival in July will be a really super time with a series of events over several days. Lots more will be appearing in these pages in the coming months. Look out for them all.

So, get ready for all those Spring garden chores which are about to descend on us just to stop us getting too lazy, as the seasons move forward towards warmth and sun-loungers in all our near futures. Time for my grandson to worry what I may be asking him to help with next.

Roger



| Front Cover: <i>Garden Supervisor</i> Ed. | | | |
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Ministerial Musings

On the farm in March. During the recent cold, wet, and windy conditions, work on the land has been hampered, but hedges are trimmed and machinery and building maintenance is done. Land which has not already been cropped has had to wait until surface water drains and soil dries out enough to allow ploughing to continue. The hungry seagulls have been swirling around while this work is done. The winter barley, winter wheat, beans, and oil seed rape sown in the autumn also need drier and warmer conditions for good growth and development. Hopefully there will now be some fine days to enable drilling of spring barley into good seed beds. The cows and younger livestock are sheltered from the cold weather in the cattle yards, enjoying fresh bedding every day having hay and silage, and some barley meal for feed. The cows are calving now which means keeping a close eye on them to make sure the calves are born safely and are getting the rich colostrum milk from their mother. It is wonderful to watch healthy new calves running around the yard within a few days of being born! All on the farm was calm until a few bigger energetic cattle escaped. They enjoyed their freedom running down the road on to the marshes! This reminded me of the calves mentioned in the Bible. “You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall” (Malachi Chapter 4 verse 2) In the Church calendar Lent continues right through March until April 2nd. A time when millions of Christians around the world make space to pray, read Bible verses and reflect on God’s love. A time of fasting, some choose to give up comforts or luxuries such as chocolate, wine, social media or television. Some choose to take action making a difference to other people.

Jill Haylock.





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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), Common Worship, informal or Celtic style. See weekly news sheets for details or speak to a member of the ministry team.

Morning Worship is held regularly in Loddon, Chedgrave and Hardley.

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

Café Church is on the first Sunday of the month at All Saints Chedgrave. T

This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. Open between 10:00am and 12.00 you can join in with as much or as little as you wish; every session will be a variety of coffee, cake, discussion, crafts, games, stories, reflection and song, suitable for all ages.

Last Sunday Praise: Contemporary Evening Worship Service is held in St John's Chapel every last Sunday of the month. Refreshments from 6.30, service begins at 7pm. A warm welcome awaits at this informal, Spirit-filled service!

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.

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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Church Groups

Friends and Neighbours

Don't be Lonely!

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

Future Meetings:

March 5th - at the Lecture Hall, George Lane Loddon. Lunch at 12.30 pm followed by music and Movement with Mavin Shulver

March 26th— Spring outing to the Old Feathers restaurant for lunch, 12 for 12.20pm.

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. You will be made very welcome.

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



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 the Church Office

Noah's Ark



Wednesdays 9.15—11.30

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms & Thanksgivings

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

Cecil James Nicholls who died on 15th November 2025 aged 99yrs.

Funeral: 12th December at Waveney Crematorium.

Gladys Lilian Jordan who died on 16th December 2025 aged 97 years.

Funeral: 9th January 2026 at All Saint's, Chedgrave.

Gladys Ann Trask who died on 20th December 2025 aged 86 years.

Funeral: Waveney Crematorium on 20th January 2026.

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

We pray for all the couples looking forward to marriage in our benefice in 2026.

May they know the peace and joy of Christ as they prepare for their special day.

All Saints Spring Fair is on May 9th

We would be grateful for your help in making the annual Fair a success!

We need your cuttings, seedlings, and other plants!

When you are potting up or pricking out this Spring please do a few extra plants for us!

THANK YOU.



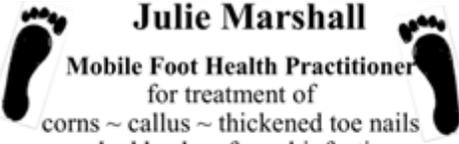
Thank You

Mary and Edwin Smith would like to thank all those who helped to celebrate Edwin's 90th birthday on Saturday 10th January, in particular those who helped out on the day. Also, thanks to Spoon Cake for their excellent catering.

Mrs Sylvia Nicholls and family thank all who attended Cecil's funeral service at Waveney Crematorium on Friday 12th December and for donations which amounted to £314 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Thanks also for the many cards, kind messages and flowers received, and to Gordon Barber Funeral Directors, and Rev Jill Haylock for a very comforting service. Thanks also to Caroline from Rosy Lees Tea Rooms for the excellent buffet for the wake at the Jub Club.

Julie Marshall



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News from Your Local Councillors



The government have made a decision to postpone the County Council elections that were due this May. There has been a legal challenge to this, so we have to await the final outcome.

We will shortly find out what the new shape of local government will look like for Norfolk. Whatever the number of unitaries chosen (1, 2 or 3), all County, District and Borough Councils will cease to exist and be replaced by a new authority. The elections for these will be held in May 2027. The new council(s) will provide all local government services for the area, so a one-stop-shop, which should be less confusing for residents. Concern is that the new system may cost more than the old (what a surprise) and there will be major upheaval during transition.

Those of us who will be involved in managing the hand over, will do our very best to ensure that council business carries on as usual. If you are at all concerned, or you know of something that has been missed, please let me know.

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

As we carry on through cold February, I hope we can remember the words of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who wrote that: "Winter, slumbering in the open air, Wears on his smiling face a dream of Spring!"

Spending time in Loddon, I'm constantly struck by how vibrant our community is. The work of our schools, clubs, local charities, Town and Parish Councils, all underpinned by thousands of individual examples of support and kindness, make this a very special place to work and to live.

Thanks in particular to everyone involved in this year's fantastic Panto. Everyone involved put on another stunning show, with the added bonus of hearing Maureen and Titch as part of the cast!

In terms of Chairing the Scrutiny Committee, on behalf of residents, our February meeting is looking in depth at South Norfolk's 2026-27 Revenue Budget and Council Tax, which obviously has an impact on all of us.

Finally, my next two surgeries are taking place 2-3pm Saturday 28 Feb. & Saturday 9 May, both held in Loddon Library.

If there is anything I can help with, please get in touch. We are elected to serve you, and will always do that.

Jeremy 07733323581

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Chedgrave Parish Council

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Email: clerk@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: <https://chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

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



Council Meeting – 5th February 2026

The Pits Play Area: Fundraising continues with grant applications in progress.

Councillor Vacancies: Please consider joining your Parish Council as we currently have **two vacancies**. Our friendly and committed team are looking forward to welcoming new members. If you'd like to bring your perspective to local decision-making, please contact the Clerk at clerk@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Chedgrave Courier: The next issue will be the **Spring edition**. Please get in touch if there are topics you'd like included.

Parking on White Horse Plain: Please park considerately so the space can be used effectively by all.

St Felix Park Street Names: The developer has incorporated the council's suggested names. Thank you to everyone who contributed ideas.

Brian Clarke Room: A bright, modern space with kitchen, wheelchair access and hearing loop. Ideal for parties, meetings and clubs. Contact Georgina Buckle: 07981 856270 or brianclarkeroom@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Allotment Vacancies: A $\frac{1}{2}$ **plot** is currently available. Residents of Chedgrave and nearby villages may apply. Please contact the Clerk.

Dogs: Please keep dogs on leads, out of play areas, and always pick up after them.

2026/27 Precept (Summary)- The Council has set the 2026/27 precept at **£57,195**, a **15% increase**. For a Band D household this is **£19.41 per year** (around **£1.62 per month**). The rise reflects higher service costs, ongoing commitments, and planning for future projects. A full budget summary will be published on the Council website.

Contact the Clerk with any questions..

Next Meeting: Thurs. **5th March 2026**, 7.00pm, Brian Clarke Room, Chedgrave.



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Tennis Court Resurfacing Fundraising

Loddon Tennis Club is more than just a place to play — it's where children grow in confidence, adults connect, and our walking tennis community stays active. But, aging courts now need resurfacing to remain safe and enjoyable for everyone.

The Playing Field Committee will cover most of the resurfacing costs, and a CrowdFunder page has been set up to support the club's fundraising efforts. Even better, every pound donated will be match-funded up to £2,500 by County Cllr Kay Mason Billig — so: Your £10 becomes £20, Your £25 becomes £50. If the club has meant something to you, your friends, or your family, please consider donating via: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/qr/dyR55qJn. With thanks to everyone who has already donated, and to Loddon Players for their generous contribution.

Chet Valley Community Larder

Meal bags are distributed at the following sessions in Loddon Library:

Community Larder Sessions: Mon: 12.00 – 1.30pm Sat: 1.00 – 2.00pm

Please register for support via: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk/community-larder.

For the latest updates, follow the Chet Valley Community Larder Facebook page.

Love Loddon Community Group

If you'd like to join this friendly group and help keep Loddon blooming, please come along! The group meets at 10am on Church Plain, unless otherwise stated.

Upcoming dates: Sunday 1 March 2026 | Sunday 22 March 2026

Love Loddon? Why Not Become a Town Councillor?

Help shape Loddon's future. Champion local projects. Work with great people.

We meet monthly, no experience is needed — just passion, team spirit, and a willingness to get stuck in! Full training and support are provided. Let's make Loddon even better — together!

Small Grants

Loddon Town Council has recently awarded several grants to local organisations. If you would like to apply on behalf of a local group or organisation (generally up to £100), please visit our website for more information and an application form.

31 Stay in Touch For meeting dates, contact details, and the latest community news, visit www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01508 522 020.

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PILATES
WITH KATRINA

New Pilates Mat Class
Langley Village Hall, NR14 6AD
Mondays at 10.15am

Strengthen, Stretch, and Energise Your Week

Contact Katrina to book a space or for more information.

07725 527669

katrina@pilateswithkatrina.co.uk
www.pilateswithkatrina.co.uk
facebook.com/pilateswithkatrina

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looking to deepen your practice,
this class is designed for everyone.

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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

For all enquiries please contact:

clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Hales & Heckingham Parish



Next Parish Council Meetings: Monday the 2nd of March and the 16th of April 2026 and 2nd of March 2026 @7.30pm

Meetings held on the 1st Monday of Every Month

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 3 days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

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

Dog Walkers – A polite reminder to observe the Country Code, especially at this time of year with livestock around. Please pick up your dog's poo, 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 which are displayed on the public notice boards around the common.

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

Councillors Vacancies – Due to resignations from 3 of our Parish Councillors. We have vacancies on our Parish Council. We provide a voice for concerns, ideas, and initiatives that help promote village life. If you care about where you live 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:1508 533933](tel:1508533933) or via email at helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. Opening hours are 8.15am until 10.00pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays)



**Loddon and Chedgrave Arts Festival
Quiz and Supper on 28th February
at 7.00pm in The Hollies**



We are raising funds to help run this summer's inaugural Loddon and Chedgrave Arts Festival in July. We are putting on a Quiz and Supper evening with jacket potatoes coupled with a variety of fillings (including vegetarian) and great puds. Come on your own or as a group – each table of 8 will play as a team.

**Booking Essential - Tickets from Jane Hale 01508 528875
£12.50 full price; concessions £10.00; families £35.00**

Notes from Sisland

For those who have visited or simply passed the church over the last few months you will have noticed that the church tower needs some work to the wooden slats, both to the front and side.



In addition, during the period of snow we discovered a small leak from the roof. A drone will go up shortly to see where the problem is, though we suspect it is at the base of the squirrel weathervane. The present wooden tower dates to the late eighteenth century and it was re-clad with Western Red Cedar in 1963. At the same time the original squirrel weathervane, formerly an exhibit at the Royal Norfolk Show, was put in place. The terrible storm in 1987, where so many trees were lost, so badly damaged the squirrel that it had to be replaced, the work being completed in February 1990. So he may well need a little attention!

The work to the roof will be added to that which is needed on the tower so the need to fund raise is even more pressing. **On the first May Bank Holiday weekend (2nd, 3rd, 4th May) we will be running a three-day book sale. On Saturday 2nd May there will be a coffee morning from 10am-12pm and on Monday 4th May we will be providing tea and cake between 2pm and 4pm. We will have a range of fiction and non-fiction, reference through to children's books available, in the church.** We would welcome anyone who would like a browse and to pop in. **If you have any book donations then please contact me, details below, and we would be happy to pick them up.** We are also aiming to run the very successful Sunday afternoon teas throughout August, this year there are 5 Sundays so an extra weekend to enjoy the beautiful setting with tea and cake. We were incredibly lucky last year to have Sundays which were dry, and many friends and neighbours supported us.

Sisland Church will continue to be open throughout the year, even if the door is closed it will be unlocked, so please take the opportunity to visit us if passing, for a moment of reflection.

Rowena Bryce Churchwarden, Sisland

Contact details: family.bryce@btopenworld.com

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

All enquiries-

contact the Locum Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

Answerphone: 07516 361239 Email: clerk@langleywithhardley-pc.gov.uk

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

Find us on Facebook!



Langley with Hardley Parish Council held its meeting on 13th January 2026

Budget 2026/2027: At its January meeting, Langley with Hardley Parish Council agreed its annual precept for the coming financial year. The parish precept is a local tax set by the parish council but collected by South Norfolk Council as part of your council tax bill.

In our community, the precept helps to fund essential village services such as play area maintenance (including new equipment and repairs), grass cutting, the purchase and upkeep of benches and bins, and the regular emptying of dog waste bins.

Last year's precept was £10,137.63. For 2026/2027, the council has set the precept at £10,543.14, an overall increase of 4%, reflecting inflation and rising costs. For the average household, this represents an increase of just £1.32 for the entire year—less than the cost of a Starbucks latte, a 100g bar of Dairy Milk, or even a single copy of the EDP!

Despite this small rise, the council will still face a budget deficit of approximately £730, which will be covered from parish reserves.

Dogs: Please keep your dogs on a lead and under control at all times in public places. There have been instances of aggression which at best is frightening and at worst dangerous. Please also keep them out of our play area and PLEASE remember to pick up any poo left by your dog and not leave bags hanging on fences and hedges etc! **Thank you!**

Coming up: The council is planning a community litter pick around Easter. Please look out for further details in due course and come along to help!

Correction: Your Locum Clerk apologises for an error in the last update advertising a councillor vacancy. There are presently no vacancies on the council.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th March 2025 at 7.30pm, Langley with Hardley Village Hall. All welcome!

Sport

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 every other Tuesday night at Langley School (NR14 6BJ), 7:00pm-8:30pm. More info: www.loddonhockey.com; email hello@loddonhockey.com.

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 Swan Bowls Club

If you've never bowled at our club please come and give it a try.

We have a very competitive evening league, a cup competition monthly and Roll-Ups Mon, Wed and Fri at 2pm and Tues, Wed and Sat at 10am.

Subs are £30 (Sept to April) Match Fee £3

Come and give us a look, you will be very welcome.

Further information from—Paul Clemence (Chairman) on 07833 764698.

Loddon Community Gym

The Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX

Tel: 07534 946143 www.loddoncommunitygym.com



Whatever your age, there's strong evidence that physical activity helps with a healthier and even happier life. People exercising regularly can have lower risk of many chronic diseases, heart disease, stroke, type-2 diabetes and some cancers. Research shows regular exercise can boost self-esteem, mood, sleep quality and energy levels. Here at your Community Gym in the Library Annexe we are well-equipped, affordable and not-for-profit and for over 11 years have 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! For more information why not drop by to see us or call our qualified trainer, Louise on 07534 946143. We are open every weekday to those 16 years old and over. Full details of our hours and costs can be found at www.loddoncommunitygym.com or scan the QR code shown.



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

We meet on a Tuesday afternoon, 1:30-3:00pm in the Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon, and are a very friendly non-competitive 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. Info from—Sara: 01508 521958 or Sheryl: 01508



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 at £5/hour. Website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LoddonTennisClub>.



Email: loddontennis@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk

Grab a bargain and help us fundraise for new **Loddon Town Tennis Courts!**

Special community event serving:

Home-made soup, rolls, teas and coffees Savoury & sweet treats

Pre-loved quality clothes Books Bags Jewellery Scarves Cake stall

Friday 6th March 11:30 - 13:00 St Johns Hall, George Lane, Loddon

All welcome!

Community Groups, News and Events

Loddon Bell Ringers

Quarter peals have been rung by members here at Loddon and also at North Lopham, St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, Felmingham, Catfield and Barton Turf.

We have supported a six bell practice held at Bergh-Apton and a twelve bell practice held at Gt. Yarmouth Minster.

We took part in a peal of 5040 seven Surprise Minor Methods at St. Mary's church, Watton which took 2 hours 37 minutes to complete. **Steve Rabong**

Loddon & Chedgrave Social Group

Talk at John Lewis, Norwich, Thursday 19th March, 10.50am for

11.00am, £3.00pp payable in advance An illustrated talk on the history of John Lewis in Norwich from it's small beginnings as Bonds Drapers in 1879 to the John Lewis & Partners store it is today. There will also be a short 'behind the scenes' look in the Georgian Cottage, now used as offices. Places are limited. To book your place on the tour please contact Sharon Brown - lcssecretary@gmail.com - 07546 973017. The £3.00 charge for this event will be donated to The Nook Hospice (this year's AGM charity speaker). Please pay in advance. We will meet in the TV Department. How to join - Throughout the year we run a variety of events for our members including walks, talks and visits to gardens, museums etc. Hopefully there is something of interest for everyone. If you would like to join our friendly group the annual fees are only £6.00. Please contact Hillary Meredith (Membership Secretary) on 01508 520457 or email Sharon Brown (Secretary) at lcssecretary@gmail.com.

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

Our RBL County Conference, on 7th February, is behind us now, to which our branch Standard attended. Amongst numerous others from the county. We all move forward in 2026.



There are events on the agenda which members and veterans are welcome to attend. Numerous Services and there are also Veterans breakfasts & Coffee mornings, to which they can pop along to. Details are on our RBL Noticeboard. Which is situated on wall in recess of Meningitis Charity Shop.

We can be contacted on 01508 521136 or RBL Direct for help on 08088028080. We meet every 3rd Monday of month, at 7pm. In Lecture Hall. Light refreshments after branch meeting. For a time to relax with a warm cuppa.

Church Services

| 1st March Lent 2 | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 9:00am | BCP Holy Communion | St Mary, Sisland |
| 10:00-12 noon | Café Church | All Saints, Chedgrave |
| 10:45am | Holy Communion | St John's, Loddon |
| 8th March Lent 3 | | |
| 9:30am | Holy Communion (BCP) | All Saints, Chedgrave |
| 10:45am | Morning Worship | St John's, Loddon |
| 15th March Lent 4 | | |
| 10:45am | Holy Communion | St John's, Loddon |
| 11:00am | Morning Worship | All Saints, Chedgrave |
| 4:00pm | Evening Prayer (BCP) | St Mary, Sisland |
| 22nd March Lent 5 | | |
| 9:30am | Holy Communion | All Saints, Chedgrave |
| 10:30am | Morning Worship | St Margaret, Hardley |
| 10:45am | Morning Worship | St John's, Loddon |
| 29th March Palm Sunday | | |
| 10.45am | Benefice Service | St John's, Loddon |
| 7:00pm | Last Sunday Praise | St John's, Loddon |

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

All Saints Church, Chedgrave has a lovely church centre. It has two rooms (one upstairs), a kitchen and a loo. Wheeled tables are easy to move. It is warm even in winter! Available to book for £8 per hour. If you're looking for a meeting venue, a party or activity space, contact Anne Jackson who is responsible for hall bookings on 01508 502278

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------------|
| Morning Prayer 9:00am <i>All Welcome</i> | Monday | St John's, Loddon |
| | Tuesday | St Margaret, Hardley |
| | Wednesday | All Saints, Chedgrave |
| | Thursday | St John's, Loddon |
| | Friday | St Mary, Sisland |

Lent In the Chet Valley Benefice

Journey with us through Lent

All are welcome to this friendly group as we discover more about our Bible, our Faith and ourselves as we look ahead to Easter.

This year's Lent study is looking at Michael Baughen's study series on the **Passion of Christ** through Paul's letters. Wednesdays during Lent, in St John's Church 2.30pm—4.00pm. First session was 25th February.

All welcome. Further information from Belinda:
belindabarwick@yahoo.co.uk or phone the church office.

YOUTH 4C ~ 4C ~ 4C GROUP

We meet in St John's Loddon on Fridays in term time, 4.30 – 6.00pm.

Working with Youth For Christ. our young people have fun, question and explore Christian faith through games, media, discussion and more, including all their 4C's (come along to find out what they are!) **Open to all Y6 – Y11 students**

£2 per person; £3 for two or more from the same family. To join contact Rev Miriam on 07593 163920 or Gary Watson at gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk.

Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation

21 Uppate, Poringland, NR14 7SH

Priest-in-Charge: Fr Andrew Eburne

✉ andrew.eburne@ocdea.org.uk

☎ 01508 494770

Weekday Mass times may vary – please

check our website:

www.ourladyporingland.wordpress.com

Church Room available for hire, with modern AV facilities.

For services in Beccles and Bungay see

www.WaveneyValleyCatholics.church

Mass times:

Saturday 6pm
(*anticipatory*)

Sunday 9am

Weekdays

10am / 6pm

EASTER BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



If you would like the name of your loved one(s)
Entered in the Holy Trinity Easter Book of Remembrance
**Please use this form adding their name(s) and leave
The Church Office, St John's Chapel, George Lane.**

A donation towards the cost of the Easter Flowers
would be very much appreciated.

Your name

Phone number

Names for the Book of Remembrance

.....
.....
.....

**Please copy this form or detach from magazine and return
by Monday 16th March**

SAXON HOUSE



Inter-generational Music Group

We are a group of parents and carers who bring pre-schoolers along for a
fun session of singing together with residents at Saxon House.

Working with the Chet Valley Churches, we meet every Thursday from
10.00– 11.30am and share refreshments and chat afterwards.

Some of our toddlers have moved up to Nursery school, so we have places
for newcomers. If you would like to join us,
please contact the Rector (see page 3 for details) in the first instance, who
will put you in touch with the group.

**A great way to meet others with little ones and connect
with older generations.**



We can imagine you are all looking forward to the longer days and more sunshine. By the time you read this article hopefully the weather will improved and we will have seen the last of the cold and wet, and sometimes, snowy weather! As it is still relatively “The New Year” it is never too late for those resolutions to include giving up smoking. Starting the new year smoke free can make a huge difference to your health, finances and general wellbeing. Remember help is always available at the Surgery to help you achieve this goal. Please also do remember to cancel your appointment if you cannot make it. It is so very easy to do; just ring the surgery on the usual number and use Option 1 and it will guide you through the process of cancellation easily. Let’s make it a priority this year to reduce the number of Did Not Attend figures. We would also remind you about the NHS app, a simple and secure way to receive messages from the surgery as well as consultant updates from the hospital. You can also read blood/urine test results on the app. So all in all a very good tool to use. Just go to: www.nhs.uk/nhs-app As always, you can contact your PPG on ChetvalleymedicalpracticePPG@gmail.com

Loddon & Chedgrave Jubilee Hall

The Annual General Meeting of Loddon and Chedgrave Jubilee Hall will be held in the upstairs room at The Swan, 23 Church Plain, Loddon on Monday, 9th March, 2026 at 7.45pm. Any questions should be submitted to hall@jubileehallloddon.org by 3rd March, 2026 to allow for answers to be provided where possible at the meeting.

Davy Place Enquiries to Carol Castle on 01508 826488.

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

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

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

Come along for a relaxing time. All welcome. Enquiries to Carol on 826488.

Loddon Library

Bounce & Rhyme – call out for volunteers!



We're still looking for volunteers to lead our

Thursday Bounce & Rhyme session, on a fortnightly basis,

10:15am – 10:45am. Spread the word or pop in and speak with a member of staff.

We'd love to have you on board!

Is there something you'd like to see at your local library? Pop in and have a chat with us, send us an email, or give us a call. We're always open to new ideas for how to make your library work for you.

Loddon.lib@libraries.norfolk.gov.uk (01508 520678)

Parkinson's UK Charity Shop, Loddon

2 Little Money Road, Loddon Industrial Estate.

Look forward to seeing you all there.



Jenny

Chet Valley Patchworkers

We are a small group of friendly sewers who get together on the last Wednesday of the month to enjoy their shared pastime at The Brian Clarke Rooms, Chedgrave 9:30am to 12:00 noon where we share our quilting successes, failures and learn from and with each other. Whilst we do not 'teach' how to do patchwork or quilting we do share the vast amount of knowledge we have within the group—so those starting out in the craft can pick up how to, tips and tricks; somebody is always willing to give advice or show you how. If we don't have anything to work on at group meetings we often bring along other crafts such as crochet or knitting and enjoy a show and tell of finished items and each other's company. If this is something you think you might like to come along to, your first meeting is free - we pay by annual membership, which is decided each May. Contact Vicki Radley on 01508 538461 or email vicrad@live.co.uk. We look forward to welcoming you.

Chet Valley Voices



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

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

Breathing/Vocal Technique Sessions

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

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

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

Bridget M Ward



The Loddon Band

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



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

Email: Loddon.band@gmail.com or phone 07463 770068.

Loddon and District Women's Institute



We hope that some of you managed to find one our Valentine's Day hearts! Now we can look forward to the Spring, and the start of British Summer time on March 29th, bringing longer days and hopefully some sunshine! As ever Loddon WI is looking forward to various activities and outings, among them a visit to Norwich Castle when we will be able to look around the recently renovated Keep, which is now fully accessible, and have a guided tour around the highlights of the collections.

Meetings for March

Thursday 5th Open House for members

Thursday 12th Knit, Natter & Crochet. Loddon Library, 2.30 – 4.00 p.m. **a community event open to all.**

Wednesday 18th Monthly meeting - Tai Chi. 7.00pm for 7.30pm at St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon

Saturday 21st SEWING AND CRAFT DAY – 10.00am - 4pm at St John's Lecture Hall, George's Lane, Loddon £5 - includes tea/coffee - bring a packed lunch. To book a place ring 01508 528912. **Open to all.**

Our membership is still open, so if you think you might like to join us or find out more about what we do, just come along to the next meeting, or we can be contacted through our Facebook page or at loddonwi@gmail.com

The 2026 World Day of Prayer Service

A wonderful time to be connected with people praying and singing around the world. From the beginning of the day on **Friday 6th March** in the East until the end of the day in the West, people will gather for this service in their various countries and languages.

The service here is in **St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon on that day at 7pm**. Each year the service is prepared by Christian women from a different country. This year this has been prepared by Nigerian women. Everyone is welcome. There will be a **practice of the songs at St John's Chapel on Monday 2nd March at 10am** if you would like to come to enjoy that.

Loddon & District Day Centre

The Day Centre meets at Saxon House, Kittens Lane, Loddon, 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!

Contact Karen on 07765 866 507 or via loddondaycentre@gmail.com.

Loddon Flower Club

Spring is approaching fast and the bulbs are starting to poke their heads through, it won't be long before there's a bit more colour in our gardens. We had a lovely talk in February by Rosemary Ward on Plants for Summer Colour giving us ideas on what we could grow in the coming months.

Our next meeting is -

Tues. March 3rd - a demonstration by Janet Dye, "Reuse, Recycle"

All welcome, whether you have flower arranging skills or not, visitors £7.50, it would be good to see you for a fun and relaxing evening, tea, coffee and cake in the interval, when we can chat and catch up with each other.



April's meeting will be on Tuesday 7th, when Lorraine Gagen will give us her take on 'Into the Wardrobe'. All arrangements made by our demonstrators are raffled at the end of the evening. Our meetings are held in St John's Lecture Hall on George Lane, Loddon, doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

If you would like more information email us at loddonflowerclub@gmail.com or give Tricia a call on 01508 480522. We also have a Facebook page, and a website - www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk

Hope to see you soon

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Spud Club-Friday 6th March 11-1

Raffle, Bric-a-brac, books, clothes, craft stall to enjoy as well as delicious food and great company!!!

Easter Bingo!!!! Saturday 28th March Arrive at 7 for 7.30 start. Amazing prizes and raffle.

To hire hall call Jane or Tibby on 01508 520184.

Loddon Community Cinema

Our Next Presentation is: "THE ROSES" Rated 15.

Life seems easy for picture perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch), successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. Beneath the ideal life a storm brews. Theo's career nosedives, Ivy's ambitions take off, hidden resentment ignites. A reimagining of 1989 classic, The War of the Roses.

SHOWING THURSDAY MARCH 5th at 7.30, St. John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon Adults £4, under 16, £2. On the door or in advance from Loddon DIY. DOORS OPEN 7pm.



HOW IMPORTANT IS BIODIVERSITY?

I am sure that you have all heard the latest 'buzzword', Biodiversity, but do you really know what it means? The importance of all living creatures relying on one another for their existence is, I think, the best description. The government has recently issued guidelines for all councils to draw up a ' Biodiversity Plan and these are supposed to have now been adopted by all. The Bishop of Norwich has apparently drafted a plan which is hoped to be adopted by all churches, for the management of their churchyards but I am afraid that many of them still don't seem to have got the message. In this modern world there seems to be less and less care for our smaller creatures on which our existence depends, for so many reasons. Climate change, pollution, and our current way of life is sadly the cause in their demise and it is really time that we got together to stop this decline.

During the months of winter, migrant birds are visiting us, as they fly here to escape the harsher winter in more northerly countries. They come to feed up on the abundance of food found in our countryside but will there be any? As I travelled about this area last autumn I noticed that, despite all government guidance, hedges were already being cut back far too early and in some instances flayed, thus destroying any fruits that could have been provided. During the previous summer months, garden lawns and roadside verges been cut to within an inch of their life leaving nowhere for our insects to live out their life cycles. It is all very well to plant pollinator friendly plants for adult insects to feed on nectar but many require much more than that. Butterflies and moths rely on very specific conditions to complete their metamorphosis. They need long grasses, in many cases, for their caterpillars and chrysalis to overwinter and specific plants according to species.

We have all noticed the recent decline in insects and the birds that rely on them, particularly during the breeding season and now is the time for all of us to step up and take notice. So please, do not decimate your hedges. Please, when planning your gardens for this next year, try to factor in some areas to leave as wild spaces and please do not mow the verges outside of your properties thinking that you are doing a public service. If verges are not cut, it is the policy of the owners and not your place to do it. In Loddon and Chedgrave alone, there are many acres of private gardens that could provide homes for all of our native creatures from harmless hoverflies to hedgehogs we can, collectively, help them all with a little thoughtful management. If you would like advice on how best to help, please get in touch with me and maybe we can make this area a wildlife haven once again.

Thank you.

Carol Webb.

Contact details: tel: 01508 500602. e-mail: chetcottchippy@hotmail.com

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, 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month,at 10am.

3rd March “Hidden in Plain Sight” - Mary Newton

17th March “What the Normans did for Norwich—Adrian O’Dell

Come to our meetings and try us out; no pressure to join.
Keith Fulleylove, Secretary, on k.mfulleylove@btinternet.com



Chet Valley Probus Club

Chet Valley Probus Club welcomes people who are retired, semi-retired or approaching retirement and who’ve 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, sat 10:30am, lunch is optional.

Next meetings:

10th March "St. Paul's Cathedral- An Unusual Guide. Stories and Scandal" Speaker, Gary Powell

24th March: "Gold, Gold, Gold! The Klondike Gold Rush " Speaker Richard Mann.

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

Loddon and District Horticultural Society



We have a talk on Peonies by Sarah Hammond who is a florist and grower from English Peonies near North Walsham at our next meeting on 11th March. Visitors are welcome at £2 and refreshments are available and a raffle held.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, Loddon meetings start at 7-30pm. Doors open from 7. For more details contact our Chair Jean Cope on 01502-710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or our Secretary Hazel Copland on 01508-520890 or happyhaze50@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook with photos from meetings. Membership for the year is £10.



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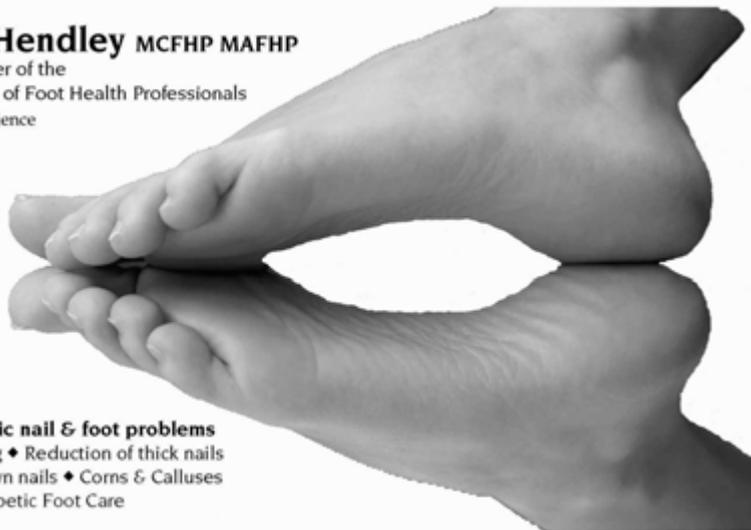
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Loddon Lifelong Learners (formerly Loddon WEA)

We are looking forward to a series of lectures on the History of Great Yarmouth with Mary Fewster starting 2nd March, 2026 for 4 weeks. This will look at the importance of the port in the past and today, the fishing trade, and Great Yarmouth as a holiday destination. The cost for this course will be £40.00 payable in cash at the first session. We also have a course arranged for the Autumn Term on Archaeology of Norwich as well as one on Iran and its history and culture. Further details will be posted nearer the time.

We meet in the Jubilee Hall Club Room in Loddon on Monday afternoons from 2– 4pm. Further details will be on posters and sent to our mailing list.

If you have attended our courses in the past you will know that we are a lively group who enjoy a good discussion! If you would like to be informed of developments and join our mailing list, or have any suggestions for a lecturer, please contact Sharon, email swsmith949@gmail.com or Alison on 01508 921576.

Hardship Funds Available in the Chet Valley

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

Loddon Town Estate Trust: Contact Julie on 07976 902487.

Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund: Contact Rev Miriam, rector.cvb@gmail.com or treasurer Richard Ball on 01508 528126.

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

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

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Waveney Valley Arts Society



We are a friendly group who meet at the Fisher Theatre in Bungay on the first Wednesday of every month. Events provide a welcoming place to hear expert lecturers share their specialist knowledge. The theatre is open from 10.00am and our lectures start at 11:00am.

Wed. March 4th - The influence of Japanese Art on Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Painting — Oliver Gosling.

AGM will take place at 10.45am.

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

<https://theartssocietywv.org.uk>

Social Whist#



Back into our routine of gathering on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, in March we are meeting on the 13th and 27th.

Commencing at 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start, we meet in the back room of The Hollies for a few hands of whist, a cup of tea or coffee, a biscuit and a chat. Do join us for a fun evening, you don't need a partner as many attending either come alone or are single. If you need a lift, please contact me to arrange one. Hope to see you there.

Jane 01508 528875

Tuesday Market



Spring is just around the corner, so we will soon have the first blossoms at the market. Until then, why not

come in for a warming cuppa and cake, and meet your friends?

We always have a varied array of tasty cakes and meal options, jams and pickles, fresh local eggs, and seasonal vegetables and plants.

There is always a good selection of local crafts too, ideal for gifts.

We look forward to seeing you at the Hollies, 10.00 to 11.30 every Tuesday.



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Chedgrave Art Group

This friendly painting group has **relocated** to the **Brian Clarke Meeting Rooms, Chedgrave** & will now meet there every Thursday morning 10.00 - 12.30. Information from—

Sandra snowart05@gmail.com or Linda linda@ashehamhouse.com

Chet Valley Photography Club



Our monthly club meeting in March is on Monday 9th at Brian Clarke Meeting Room, Chedgrave, doors open 6.45pm for 7pm start.

Paul and Pat Farrow from Bungay Photographic Club join us with their talk titled 'Our Photographic Journey'. Paul held his own exhibition in Kirby Cane in June 2024 displaying his Norfolk and Suffolk Wildlife images, will he (and Pat) plan another exhibition in the future or was the one enough?

Visitors and potential new members will be made very welcome. 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.

"Hardley Mill

Please note this years Spring Clean will be on Thursday 19th March, we start at 10:00 am. There will be a Friends meeting following the cleaning so bring some lunch if you feel you need it.



If you know of anyone willing to volunteer to support or, if reading this please feel free to come along and participate. We have so few "Friends" able to get to the top of the tower that we may have to restrict our opening to one day at the weekend, probably Sunday. We hope to continue to open the Mill between April and September from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. It would be such a shame to see this fine Grade 2 listed building closing down through lack of support. Please continue your support anyone wishing to help will get full support from the current members".

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Loddon and District Local History Group

David Crease returned for our December talk, the second part of his 'brief history of beer and brewing'. This time he covered the Tudor period to the early nineteenth century. David brought samples for members to taste and these were greatly appreciated.

After a quick review of the brewing process, David discussed ale and how it eventually became seen as a health food once alcohol levels started to drop. It is often referred to now as 'botanic beer'. Beer, in general, evolved differently in different parts of the country often as a result of the type of water or rock found in different parts of the country.

Large breweries began to appear in towns and cities as working class homes were too small to allow brewing space. More employees were needed and horses drove the pumps until steam engines were developed. London breweries started to expand and introduce porter which became very profitable for them. Porter is a dark beer and had to be matured for a while which meant vats became very large. Barrels were made of wood with iron bands. In Staffordshire paler beers were made because of the high quality barley grown there and improved transport meant that this beer could be sold in London. Porter was made stronger and darker to compete with the new beers and became known as stout. Eventually considerable amounts of our beer was exported.

Our January talk was by Adrian Marsden who gave us a talk about Samuel Pepys and 'his hoard of golden Guineas'. Adrian started by describing why 'hoards' are buried and mentioned two Norfolk hoards that have been found, one in Dersingham and then another in Haddiscoe. Mostly the hoards consist of coins which helps with the dating of the hoard.

Samuel Pepys, the famous Stuart diarist, had acquired a lot of money from 'presents' given to him through his work as a naval administrator. In 1667 Pepys became worried when the Dutch Fleet sailed into the Thames Estuary (not that far from his house) so he decided to send his father and wife to Brampton near Huntingdon with £1300 in gold, giving them instructions to hide it in the ground at his father's house. Four months later he decided it was safe to retrieve it. 30 guineas had been lost as the bags had become rotten or the neighbours may have stolen it. A fascinating talk.

Carole Rylands

Next meeting: Wed. March 18th - History on a stick by Adrian Tuttell.

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

All welcome. For more information email Elvie: Elvie.herd@uwclub.net.

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

Wuthering Heights, by Emily Brontë

I revisited this in anticipation of the film, which came out last month. Brontë's deeply flawed characters, the harrowing and unsettling plot and the toxic romance has possessed its legions of fans throughout history. There have been many interpretations and I'm looking forward to seeing this one, although I'll probably want to book a visit to Yorkshire straight after, the moors are as big a character as anyone in this classic!

One Enchanted Evening, by Katie Fforde

I've liked this author's books for a long time. She has a knack of being able to transport you to a delightful canal boat or a French chateau or a secret garden and her characters are always likeable and face adversity admirably. They're never taxing reads but for a little light relief I quite like to pick one up. This one is slightly different in that it's set in the swinging 60's. Meg's an aspiring chef (unusual for a woman at this time) and she's helping rescue a hotel in Dorset.

Bridgerton: To Sir Phillip, with Love, by Julia Quinn

With the eagerly awaited fourth series now out following the fortunes of Benedict Bridgerton I saw this in the library and picked it up. This story is Eloise Bridgerton's story and I won't write too many spoilers. It's probably fine to say that she does find love and all ends well! I look forward to seeing it on screen - although that won't be for a few years I imagine.

I'm about to read

Karla's Choice, by Nick Harkaway

John le Carré's Smiley is back in this novel by his son, Nick. One of my favourite reads last year was *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* (on at the Theatre Royal in Norwich later this year) and so I picked this up with interest. It has won critical acclaim so the signs are good!

Ruth Redford



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Nature Notes

I confess not yet having gone to try and see either the Eastern Black Redstart at Sheringham or the Zitting Cisticola at Walberswick. I did manage to take a friend to Hickling to catch up with the Black Winged Kite. After what seemed a long trek beyond Stubbs Mill Raptor Viewpoint we arrived to be told that it had just flown off!! Fortunately, it returned quickly, and we had good views of this stunning Kestrel sized bird of prey. Retracing our steps we got even better views, even though more distant, of the bird flying round and hovering while hunting. En route we had called in at Filby Broad and although not able to pick out a couple of rarer ducks we had wonderful views of Goldeneye, a duck overwintering here. Then onto Ludham aerodrome where ten Bewick swans were regularly being seen. There were far more than ten swans out on the grass and we were pleased to find Whooper swans with them, allowing comparison of the two. On leaving Hickling after seeing the Kite we saw two Common Crane in fields we drove past, a good day's birding.

The first days of February have seen a noted increase in bird song variety in our garden, plus nesting activities. In thirty minutes the other morning I saw or heard nineteen different species. I am determined this year to at least hear Woodlark. So, I went to Westleton Heath, on arriving all I could hear was the raucous call of Carrion Crows, but undaunted I continued onto the Heath where I was rewarded with the melodic song of Woodlarks. Trying to locate the singer, I finally saw it on a dead branch of a stunted Silver Birch. After admiring the bird for a while it fell silent, so I returned to the car. Just before I got there a Woodlark started singing accompanied this time by a Skylark, a real treat. Which bird has the best song? I will leave you to decide. Just go online and listen to them both.

Also, in January, hoping of seeing Shorelark, another winter visitor, the dog and I went to Kessingland. The birds, four in total, were normally seen close to the shoreline, this meant navigating numerous brackish pools. Reached the shoreline and joined another birdwatcher, visiting from Wales. He had looked for all morning, to no avail, and was returning to his car. We walked and chatted when suddenly, I saw movement amongst an area of pebbles and detritus and said, "what are those ahead of us?", thinking they were skylark. A pat on my shoulder and a hearty thankyou made me realise I had found the elusive shorelark. We enjoyed fantastic views and were able to attract other bird watchers who were also searching for them. I do not know what was best, finding the birds myself, or enabling others to see them. Whichever it was, it definitely gave me the feel-good factor. Engaging with nature does lift one's spirit, so why not give it a go. **Richard Hull**

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Gardening Notes

I am glad to be by the wood burner writing this today, as outside the Scottish term Dreich (dreech): A combination of dull, cold, grey, and misty/drizzly weather, fits the description perfectly.

I enjoyed a couple of days in the garden last week, digging out a large tree peony and wrestling with a clump of Cardoons in readiness for replacing some fence panels and taking down a poor old Damson tree which really has seen better days and is beyond any pruning and care to justify keeping it.

In the greenhouse I turned out a number of plants that had died in the cold snap. I split up a bush Chrysanthemum, potted up various cuttings and pricked out Coleus seedlings that are now in a heated propagator, which a kindly neighbour had put out the front of their house to take for free. I'm most grateful for it.

There are green spears of bulb shoots everywhere in the garden, including the invasive wild onion from Asia, the Few-Flowered Leek, *Allium paradoxum*. It fills the flower bed on top of the bank outside the kitchen window, growing in amongst the other plants. It's delicious, succulent and all parts are edible, even the clumps of Bulbils that form at the top of the stems beneath the flowers when mature. They're highly nutritious, naturally antibacterial and antioxidant, containing sulphur compounds, vitamins A and C, iron, calcium, magnesium and phosphorus. Their taste is a cross between onion, chives and garlic and can be used to make pesto or added to salads, sandwiches and soups. In fact a perfect plant to chase away winter colds and viruses. However, be aware that this plant is listed on schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside act and it is illegal to plant or help spread it in the countryside.

Flowering in the garden today are Winter flowering Jasmin, Snowdrops, Primroses and a profusion of different Hellebores, a prelude to spring, renewal, growth and new beginnings.

Hazel Copland





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