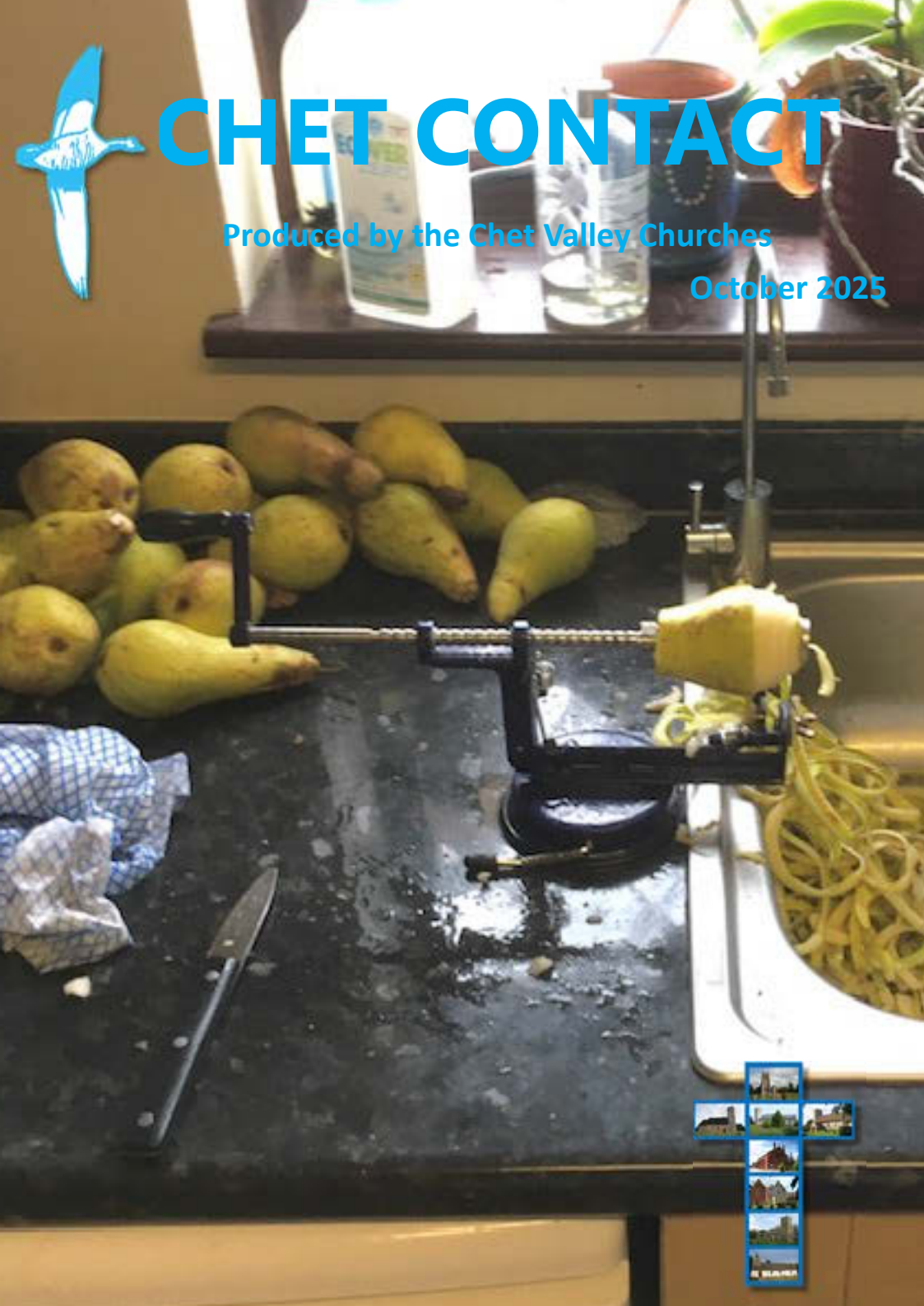




CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

October 2025





Chet Valley Churches

QUIZ

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Starting at 7:00 pm

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Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy



Miriam Fife:	07593 163920	rector.cvb@gmail.com
Jill Haylock:	01508 520248	jillhaylock@aol.com
Ros Hoffmann:	01508 548200	roshoffmann2011@gmail.com
Martin Keenan:	01502 560178	martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk

To arrange a wedding, funeral or interment of ashes, 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

The first signs of winter are here! - Ads preparing us for the Victorian evening in early December, churchyard clear-ups, concerts and so on. We are lucky living here that there is always something of interest, on top of the countless clubs, groups and teams.

I'm off on holiday this month for a few weeks, slipping in a visit to my short grandson at both ends of it, but I know I will be pleased when I turn back on to that well known car park - the A146 - and know I will be home in a few minutes more.

Why don't you look through this month's mag and see what there may be for you, a chance to get out and around and meet new people and try new things.

I've lost my editing pal as of this month and my thanks for all her input are included further on in the magazine, **Roger**



Front Cover: <i>Harvesting the Pears. Ed.</i>			
Regular items		.Highlights	
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Ministerial Musings

Did you know that October 17th is International Day for the Eradication of Poverty? That got me thinking, what do we actually mean by poverty? One dictionary defines poverty as “being extremely poor”.

Do you remember the Make Poverty History campaign during the early years of this century? I wondered what effect it had and what happened to it? The campaign actually halved the number of people living in absolute poverty across the world. But we are in danger of more people living in absolute poverty now because of withdrawal of aid, ruined harvests because of changing weather patterns, war and other factors. Is there a difference between being poor and being poverty stricken? Being poverty stricken or living in absolute poverty surely means having nothing; no means of providing shelter or buying food. It means being destitute with no hope of even subsisting.

Jesus was brought up in a working-class family and his parents brought a poor person's sacrifice of two pigeons when he was presented in the Temple as a baby. His earthly father worked as a carpenter for a living, and so did Jesus before he began preaching. He didn't own a house and borrowed a boat and a donkey. He was even buried in a borrowed tomb.

When Mary anointed Jesus' feet with very expensive perfume, the disciples objected and said it was a waste. The perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. In answer to this criticism Jesus said that we would always have the poor with us. What did he mean by that and what was he expecting us to do about it? Mary's act was an extravagant gesture of love for Jesus, which he accepted. “You will always have the poor with you” is part of a quotation from Deuteronomy 15: 7-11. which says that if someone from your community becomes poor, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against that poor person, but you shall open your hand to them and lend them sufficient for their needs, whatever they might be...For the poor you will always have with you and it is God who commands you to open wide your hand, to any poor person in your community. And Jesus expects his followers to help anyone because he taught us that anyone in need is our neighbour, wherever they live,

So Jesus words are to spur generosity to the poor, by giving in an open-handed way to those in need, with no thought of getting anything back.

What a challenge!

Ros Hoffmann



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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.

Morning Worship is held regularly in Loddon 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. 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.

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: Join us as we sing and pray together in this informal service of Contemporary Worship.

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

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

Future Meetings:

2nd Oct.— 1.30pm, St John's.

Service in memory of Loved Ones.

Followed by Tea in the Lecture Hall

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 Rev Miriam on 07593 163920.

Noah's Ark

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

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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

Jean Edwards who died on 25th July 2025

Funeral: 18th August 2025 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Richard Melton who died on 30th July 2025

Funeral: Waveney Crematorium on 3rd September 2023

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

Weddings

Becky Jones & Josh Knights

2nd August 2025 at St. Margaret's, Hardley

To arrange a thanksgiving or baptism (christening), weddings, or funerals or interment of ashes at one of our churches or at the crematorium, contact Rev Miriam on 07593 163920 or rector.cvb@gmail.com.

4C ~ 4C ~ 4C ~ 4C ~ 'FOUR C'?

WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

'4C' is the name our young people have given to the Friday Youth Group which meets in St John's Loddon in term time, 4.30 – 6.00pm.

Working with Youth For Christ. We 'foresee' them designing a new logo for themselves, having fun, asking questions, exploring 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.

You can sign up for an exciting outing planned for September 19th!

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I was very pleased to be asked to officially open the Loddon and Chedgrave First Responders new base at the Loddon Fire Station. This is the culmination of 18 months work to get them a secure central facility from which they can operate their much needed and valued service for local people. They can be on the scene before an Ambulance arrives, and save lives by being quick to respond in an emergency. If anyone is interested in volunteering, they will be very pleased to hear from you. Look out for their fund-raising activities locally, please support this essential service.

Many of you know that it is my ambition to make some drastic but essential changes to the High Street and Bridge Street in Loddon and also Norwich Road and Langley Road in Chedgrave. Not forgetting the other roads that serve the residential areas. The main focus on this will be to slow the traffic down to a more acceptable level and try to prevent the logjams we see when large vehicles try to pass each other alongside pedestrians and cyclists. I would welcome your views on these problems and invite you to contact me with your suggestions.

If you have any issues or I can help in any way, please contact me at

kay.masonbillig.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Kay Mason-Billig

I hope that everyone is well, and looking forward to Autumn, the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” as Keats wrote so beautifully.

I'd like to highlight one of our important businesses in Loddon – Andrew Carver and his brilliant team at Loddon DIY, a fantastic store that I know we all value and rely on.

I've now allocated all of my £1000 Members' Grant to a range of important local groups and causes. Best wishes to all those excellent groups.

We're continuing our important work at the South Norfolk Scrutiny Committee, exploring a range of areas on behalf of the residents of South Norfolk. Members of the public are very welcome to attend these meetings, or watch them live – or at a later date – on YouTube.

The next of my regular surgeries is in the Library, scheduled for **27 September 2pm**. Please come down if there's anything I can support you with, or, as ever, give me a ring on 07733323581; I was elected to work for you.

Jeremy Rowe

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Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.
Tel: 07592 933174 Email: clerk@chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: <https://chedgraveparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chedgrave-Parish-Council>



Chedgrave Parish Council held its meeting on 4th September 2025.

The Pits Play Area: The project is progressing and the council has received quotes for the new equipment from various contractors which will be considered at the October meeting. In the meantime, fundraising efforts are underway. Thank you to those who submitted suggestions and ideas – these will be considered by the Working Group.

Grants: The council awarded grants to Loddon United Football Club for pitch maintenance and All Saints Church Chedgrave for churchyard maintenance. If your group wishes to apply for a small grant, please contact the Clerk.

Council Vacancy: Following a councillor resignation, there is a vacancy on Chedgrave Parish Council. Please consider joining this friendly and committed team whose sole aim is Cherishing Chedgrave for all of us.

External Audit: The council received the auditor's report giving a clean bill of health.

Councillor Surgeries: The council found the surgeries held over summer extremely helpful but would like to hear your views as to the timing and location to encourage more people to participate. Please contact the Clerk with your ideas.

Chedgrave Courier: The next issue will be distributed towards the end of the year. Please get in touch if there are any topics you would like to see discussed.

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

Allotment Vacancies: The allotments currently has a ½ plot vacancy. Residents from Chedgrave and surrounding villages can apply. Please contact the Clerk.

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

Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd October at 7pm, Brian Clarke Room.



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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 for info on meetings, etc.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/loddontc



Love Loddon Community Group

Thank you to our wonderful Love Loddon Community Group volunteers for keeping all the planters watered and deadheaded throughout the dry hot summer. Their efforts have resulted in fantastic displays! We are also grateful for all the positive comments that we have received, thank you.

If you would like to join this friendly group, the dates are below.

The group meet at 10am on Church Plain unless otherwise stated.

Sat 6/9-Sun 21/9-Sun 28/9-Sun 19/10-Sun 30/11 – more info online

Chet Valley Community Larder:

Thank you to the people that have volunteered already, but we still need more help to run the sessions, help and support will be given. If you would like to know more, please contact Kerry: finance@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk. Thanks to all who have helped to run the initiative The donations and support are much appreciated.

Opening hours: Monday between 12.00 - 1.00pm and Saturday between 1.00 - 2.00pm in Loddon Library. Please see our Facebook page for updates.

Allotments: If you live in Chedgrave or Loddon and wish to be added to the Allotment waiting list, please contact Jo: admin@loddontowncouncil.gov.uk.

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.

Local Support: If you need support, South Norfolk Council's Help Hub can direct you and is available via 01508 533933. They also now have a handyman service available. More information is available via: www.loddontowncouncil.gov.uk/local-support.

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

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New Pilates Mat Class

Langley Village Hall, NR14 6AD

Mondays at 10.15am

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Contact Katrina to book a space or for more information.

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katrina@pilateswithkatrina.co.uk

www.pilateswithkatrina.co.uk

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Whether you're new to Pilates or
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Start your Mondays the right way—move, breathe, and feel great!

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



Next Parish Council Meetings:

Monday the 6th October and 3rd November 2025 @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 – If you care about where you live, we have vacancies on our Parish Council. We provide a voice for concerns, ideas, and initiatives that help promote village life. Please get in touch with our Parish Clerk on the above email.

Do you need help? – South Norfolk and Broadland's hub assist with a wide range of problems. Contact details [Tel: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)

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Natalie Wilson Answerphone: 07516 361239

Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com



Web site: <https://langleywithhardley.pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk> Find us on Facebook.

Our Victory in Japan evening went well with Sam's swing band providing a suitable atmosphere of the times. Bunting and war-time posters decorated the hall, inside and out. A display of wartime memorabilia, including Jane's son's WW2 RAF personal collection of Spitfire and Mosquito parts. Food was laid on at half time and enjoyed by all with the tombola adding some fun and welcome revenue.

A good turnout meant that the entrance fee and tombola raised £106.69 profit after costs. We are suggesting that this be donated to a forces based charity like the RBL (to be discussed at the next meeting).

Thank to all who turned out for the event giving their time and cash. A special thanks to Tibby and co. Not only did they decorate the hall, organise the food, inform everyone of the event but even taxied residents to and from the hall.

Without their hard work, the evening would not have been the success it was.

On a separate note, Cllr Bunn tells us that the last litter pick was awarded £20 from the council but also an extra £200 due to winning a prize draw!

Residents may also wish to know that we are organising certain repairs to our playground in the near future, to ensure its safety.

The new 30mph speed limit seems to be working well through Langley, hopefully this will continue now the schools are back

Another polite reminder that dogs should be kept on a lead at all times when walked through the villages please, especially when approaching other dog owners and livestock.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd September, 7.30pm at Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Langley with Hardley Village Hall



For hiring the hall call 01508 520184 Jane or Tibby. The hall has a well equipped kitchen, disabled access, disabled toilet. Good sized space for any function.

Notes from Sisland

Writing this at the start of September, I want to take the opportunity to thank all those who supported the Sunday Teas at Sisland church throughout the month of August.

Not only an opportunity to catch up with friends, old and

new, but for the latter to be able to appreciate the beauty of the building and the years of history that it contains. With the lovely summer we had only one of the days, and there were five this year, which was damp.

As you will be aware the maintenance and care for this building takes both time and effort as well as a range of fundraising. Sisland is an incredibly small parish and so the money raised by the Sunday Teas, are main event of the year, is key to the investment we can make in providing support for this building now and to make it available for future generations to benefit from the peace and tranquillity that it provides.

Harvest has been celebrated, I am sure, since the earliest days when crops were sown, cut and stored for use over a longer period. Eating is something that we all have in common, wherever we reside, in this country or around the world. What we consume and how easy it is to obtain may vary. We can all, however, say thank you to not just those who work in agriculture and horticulture, but for the supply chains, the processors, the retailers, the shop workers as well as those who prepare our own food and drink. The service of harvest festival, in Sisland this year, will be at **5pm on Sunday 19th October**. The service will contain all the traditional elements that you would expect and will allow us to connect with the environment around us, so key to the farming season, and the wider community. We hope to see you there.

The church will continue to be open through the rest of the year, for prayer and quiet reflection, we hope to see you soon. **Rowena Bryce, Churchwarden**



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

The last few weeks have been traumatic, investigating a problem with one of our rinks, finding serious rot to joists beneath. The trustees acted quickly, a good builder, Dave, replaced the joists, Tony plus son and many members chipped in. Fast forward—carpet fitters have returned, carpets relayed, cleaners removing all the debris.

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.

Re-opening 8th September!! 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 of age 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 677272 .



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



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.

Community Groups, News and Events

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. We meet 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.

Loddon and Chedgrave Social Group

Norwich on the Dark Side - a talk by Paul Dickson -Thursday 9th October, 7.00pm in Chedgrave Church Rooms. £10.00 per person payable on the night (cash only please). Includes wine and nibbles.

Many will have heard Paul talk before or attended one of his popular tours in Norwich. This evening we will learn about historical crime, punishment, filth and misery in Norwich - sounds fun!!!! Please email Sharon Brown at lcsg.secretary@gmail.com or phone 07546 973017 to book your place.

Throughout the year we run a variety of events including walks, talks and visits to gardens/museums etc. Hopefully there is something of interest for everyone. Annual fees are only £6.00. If you would like to join our friendly group please contact Hillary Meredith on 01508 520457 or email lcsg.secretary@gmail.com. We will be happy to answer any questions.

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!

Please contact Karen on 07765 866 507 or via loddondaycentre@gmail.com for more information

Loddon Bell Ringers



We rang the bells at Bergh-Apton for two weddings held there last month. We have attended practice nights held at Beccles and Redenhall.

Our ringers commemorated the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day by ringing a special quarter peal of 1260 changes of Plain Bob Triples here at Loddon. The ringers were 1. Rona Sporle 2. Paul Norris 3. Sandra Norris 4. Ann Webb 5. Jeannine Roe 6. Michelle Clutten 7. David Webb (Conductor) 8. Levi Lovelock.

We have also rung quarter peals at Wingfield, Kings Lynn Minster Church of St. Margaret, Terrington St. Clement, St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich and St. Mary's, Bungay.

We also took part in a peal at Upper Sheringham in North Norfolk to celebrate the Tower Captain's significant birthday. The 5040 changes in six minor methods took 2 hours 38 minutes to ring.

Steve Rabong

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



" After a wonderful following from you all in Loddon &

Chedgrave, the VJ Services went very well. Thank you for

following us on Loddon Eye Noticeboard also. We had our Loddon Standard and the Army Cadet Unit Standard present, at the National VJ Service in Norwich. Well done to be amongst a total of 40 Standards.

Our next event is **Remembrance, 9th Nov.** We require knitted & crochet Red Poppies please, for our Stalls. If you could help us, that would be brilliant.

You do not need to have served in the Forces, to join.

Our branch meetings are held on the 3rd Monday evening of each month at 7:00pm in The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Sometimes we are in the chapel, adjacent to Hall. Meetings are followed with light refreshment of coffee/ tea and biscuits: time for a friendly chat and catch ups.

Contact Chairman Colin, if any queries, on 01508 521136.

Church Services

5th October

9:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
10:00-12 noon	Café Church	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon

12th October

9:30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship Harvest Festival	Holy Trinity, Loddon

19th October

10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
5:00pm	Harvest Festival	St Mary, Sisland

26th October

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

The Children's Society Box Opening 2025

Dear Box Holder, I will be at home—I0 Garden Ct. Loddon NR14 6LP on Monday 6th October. Please return boxes, or cash/cheques, that day if possible. Alternatively, return to All Saints church Chedgrave on Sunday morning 5th October, or ring to talk to Anne.

Many thanks, Anne Baker. Tel. 01508 520533

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

Every day Morning Prayer 9:00am	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	WATCH THIS SPACE— Starts 6th Nov Friendship-Faith-Craft & more See full ad on page 18	

Prayer at Home	'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>
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The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation

21 Ugate, 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.

For services in the Waveney Valley, please check:

www.waveneyvalleycatholics.church.



THANK YOU ALISON,

Some of you will have noticed that Alison Ball's name no longer features on page 3 as co-editor with me. Also that she has disappeared from all church related articles. Alison resigned as a priest in our community almost two months ago and a brief announcement was made in each of our churches on the following Sunday. It came close to my deadline for the last issue and I wanted time to reflect, so this is my chance to say thank you.

Many of you have known her for years and perhaps were even taught by her before her move into ministry. Now some of you have your own children who have been active in the many child/parent initiatives she largely contributed to in our community. Family and community seemed to me to be at the heart of her work within the church here.

That may have been one reason why she and I took over editing Contact, now Chet Contact, years ago now. Those of you who know her will know she can be opinionated sometimes, she and I have butted heads on a lot of occasions, but in my experience it was always in the pursuit of improving whatever we were arguing about.

Editing Chet Contact with her has been one of my great pleasures since moving here, getting on for ten years ago, during which time she and I worked to adapt the magazine where needed, overhauled the distribution and delivery network, maintained strong personal links with John Roberts our local printer—who forgives and quickly corrects our mistakes – nearly always mine! - and we've always been open to new ideas.

On a separate note, as Churchwarden at All Saints, Chedgrave, I have worked closely with Alison and our church family in much the same vein of family, community and caring for all. Her input there will be missed by us all I am sure.

Thank you Alison, for all that your friendship and kindness has meant to me personally over these years and I wish you happiness going forward.

Roger, Editor

THE CHURCH IN LODDON OPEN HOUSE

Loddon's Victorian Evening will take place as usual on the first Friday in December, and the Church in Loddon will once again be inviting you to its Open House.



Past stall holders will receive an invitation in due course, as will those who have kindly decorated windows in the church.

If you have not taken part before but would like to do so, please contact Tricia Bell at jandpbell@btinternet.com

PLEASE NOTE the event is for charity stalls or community organisations only.



The annual Loddon and Chedgrave Victorian Evening will once again take place on **Friday 5th December 2025 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm.**

The Evening commences on Church Plain where there will be a “grand switch on” of the Church Plain Christmas lights by Father Christmas before he heads off to his grotto at Bay Tree House where he will be receiving children of all ages. Many activities are planned for the evening, such as Punch & Judy, and the town centre shops will be open and hosting Christmas festivities, welcoming customers old and new.

Further details will be announced in November's Chet Contact!

Loddon Library



Halloween Craft Session

Join us for a spooktacular Halloween craft session, led by our fabulous volunteer, Abbie, of Story Magic. Thursday afternoon on October 30th. Exact time to be confirmed.

Read 2 Dogs with Maisy

The delightful Maisy, golden Labradoodle, will be back for stories at 4pm on Monday, 6th of October.

Bookends

Too eager for some crafting fun to wait until half-term? Then join volunteer, Belinda, 3:30pm – 4:30pm alternate Thursdays for story time and themed crafting.

Family Social

A quick, relaxed play session for neurodivergent children with our expert volunteer, Jane. Whether it's Lego, colouring or another activity, there's a safe space to play with our expert volunteer, Jane. Alternate Thursdays, 4pm – 4:30pm.

Just a Cuppa

Drop in for a cuppa and chat. 10:30am – 12:30pm on Fridays. Early bird gets the custard cream!

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.

Chet Valley Voices - A Date for your diary 6th December 2025

Chet Valley Voices will be hosting their annual Christmas concert on Saturday 6th December, there will be some different and unusual Christmas songs along with traditional carols and our bumper raffle. Tickets, £7.50 Children under 16 free including refreshments, will be on sale from beginning of October from Anns Crafts, Loddon DIY & Garden Centre, Rosy Lees Tea Room and online, we advise booking early as last year was a sell-out. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Contact chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com for more information.

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



September got off to a flying start, when we won first prize for our entry at the Loddon Horticultural Society's Show.. The theme was a TV show, and our band of talented ladies produced a beautiful diorama depicting Gardeners World –it was a testament to team work, something recognised and appreciated by the judges. Congratulations to all those involved. Also in September we had another Sewing & Craft Day, an event very much enjoyed by those attending. We're looking forward to the months ahead, with the inevitable build-up to Christmas. But first – to October!

October Meetings

Thursday 9th:- Knit, Natter & Crochet at Loddon Library. 2:30 – 4.00 p.m.

Wednesday 15th:- A speaker from Clinks Care Farm, and, hopefully, produce for sale.

Book Group and Open House for members – time and venue to be announced.

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

Loddon Flower Club

Hello, time is flying by and Autumn is on it's way, with the rich colours this season brings. Come and give our flower club a look and discover ways to make the most of this season's flowers.



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th October when Crystall Dyball will show us her interpretation of 'Behind the Shed door' !! Following this in November, David Wright will give us his take on 'A Broadland Tour', this will be on Tuesday 4th.

We have a short break during the evening for refreshments when we can also catch up and all arrangements made will be raffled at the end of the demonstration.

We hold our meetings in St John's Lecture Hall, on George Lane, Loddon, doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

If you would like further information about the meetings or would like help with family flowers for any occasion please get in touch in any of the following ways: email loddonflowerclub@gmail.com, call Tricia on 01508 480522 or Jenny on 01508 520254. We also have a Facebook page - Loddon Flower Club and a website - www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk. We look forward to seeing you.

Social Whist

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



Dates—Oct. 10th & 24th

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

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

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



Next Meeting: Wed. 29th Oct.—.we will welcome Sally and her dog Pedro talking to us about their work and involvement with the guide dogs for deaf people.

An annual fee of £10 is charged, plus £3 for each meeting attended. New members always welcome. Any queries please contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society



In September we had a really good attendance at our Annual Open Show. There were 340 entries with 48 entrants which included 19 new ones. Some entrants had recently moved to Loddon and took the time to enter our show, which we are most pleased about. We hope they will enter again next year and we might even have some new members! Many thanks to our hard working members who helped with everything that it takes to put on the Show. It is a lot of hard work. Well done Loddon and District WI for winning the WI trophy and Ditchingham and Thurton, Ashby and District coming second and third.

Our next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting on 8th October. We will also be having the last table show of the year for the Copland Cup and the winner will be announced in November. There will also be a bring and buy.

Our meetings are held at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, Loddon usually on the second Wednesday of the month. The meeting starts at 7-30pm and there will be a raffle and refreshments. Contact our Chairman Jean Cope on 01502-710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or our Secretary Hazel Copland on 01508-520890 or happyhaze50@gmail.com. Follow us on our Facebook page.

Loddon Community Cinema



Next Presentation is: PENGUIN LESSONS.

107 minutes.

Rating 12. Starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. A comedy-drama, based on a true story. Tom Mitchell (Coogan) taught English and Rugby at a boys boarding school in Argentina in the 1970s. During a holiday in Uruguay, Tom saved an orphaned penguin who was soaked with oil, named it Juan Salvador and took it back to the school. This is the story of the effect the penguin had on the schoolboys and all who came into contact with it.

Showing on **THURSDAY, October 2nd** at St. John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm. Adults £4, under 16 £2. Pay on the door, or in advance from Loddon DIY. Tickets: £4 adult, £2 under-16, available on the door or in advance from Loddon Garden & DIY. Email: loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk.

Chet Staithe Probus Club

We are a club for retired gentlemen, and friendship. The atmosphere is relaxed, jovial, with little formality. Dress code is casual. We have a good mardle, and a different speaker every meeting on varied subjects. Afterwards, members either go home, adjourn to the bar, or stay for a pleasant lunch. Your choice. We meet at The White Horse, 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month,at 10am.

Next meetings:

7th October Julian Barnwell HMS Gloucester

21st October Charlie Haylock Dialects

Come to our meetings and try us out; no pressure to join.
Clive Boyd, Secretary, on 520547, cliveboyd28@gmail.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:

14th October "Banished, Beheaded and Burnt" Speaker Juyna Lewis.

28th October "Hidden in plain sight" Speaker Mary Newton.

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

Loddon Young Farmers—October Programme



Mon 6 Oct- H&J Chocolate experience (£20 each)

Mon 13 Oct-George & Dragon Thurton

Wed 22 Oct—Prime Evil

Mon 27 Oct-Pumpkin Carving

All meetings at 7.30pm

Keep up to date, check locations and changes on Instagram and Facebook.



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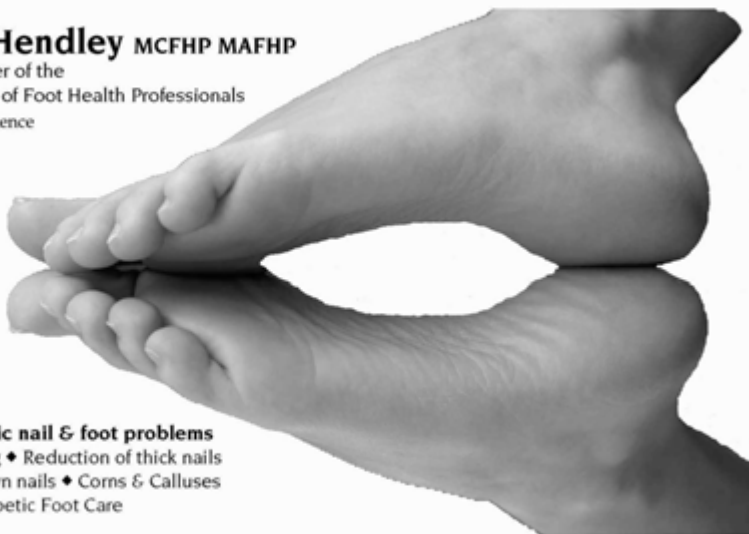
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WEA Loddon Branch

We are looking forward to a series of exciting courses in the Autumn Term. We have worked hard to bring these face-to-face lecturers to Loddon – no other courses are available in Norfolk from the WEA apart from dreaded online ones!

Starting on 6th October, Nigel Herwin will give a series of lectures **Exploring the Films of Stanley Kubrick**, Course No. Q00023969.

Joe Williams will be giving a course on **English Poetry from Shakespeare to Today** starting 3rd November, Course No. Q00024485.

Finally, Neil Storey will be looking at **Three Different Views of Norfolk** during the 1st and 2nd World Wars and also the social history of the Norfolk Coast starting 24th November, Course No. Q00024233.

No previous knowledge of the subject is necessary and you can be assured of a lively discussion! Each course will be of three weeks duration and take place in the Jubilee Hall, Loddon on Monday afternoons from 2.00 – 4.00 pm. Each course will cost £48.00. To enrol: Visit www.wea.org.uk and search course code, location or title and pay online, or phone: 0300 303 3464. Remissions are available for those receiving certain benefits.

If you would like to join our mailing list for the WEA please contact Sharon, swsmith949@gmail.com tel. no 01508 520386 or Alison, 01508 521976.

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 Ponsford on 07976 902487.

Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund: Contact Churchwarden, Roger Outlaw 01508 528710, or treasurer Richard Ball on 01508 528126.

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

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

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Waveney Valley Arts Society



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

Next meeting: Wednesday 1st October - The Founders and Treasures of the Wallace Collection - Stephen Duffy.

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

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Look forward to seeing you all there.

Jenny



Tuesday Market



It's been lovely to see so many of our customers enjoying teas and coffees with their friends (and one of our delicious cakes!) Why not join us all-(refreshments are a bargain £1 a cup), especially as the days are getting shorter.

You'll always find a warm welcome at Loddon Tuesday Market, 10 - 11.30 at the Hollies. We always have freshly baked sweet and savoury dishes, local eggs, preserves, seasonal vegetables, fruit, plants and flowers as well as a great selection of locally made crafts, ideal for presents.

Orders and enquiries to Sheila Ford (chairman) 01508 520752



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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.

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

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.

Chet Valley Photography Club

Our monthly club meeting in **October is on Monday 13th** at Brian Clarke Meeting Room,

Chedgrave. Doors open 6.45pm for 7pm start and this month we plan to have in-club discussion around back to basics, camera settings, and composition. We are

working on a programme for 2024/25 and will try and

facebook have a mixture of practical evenings and speakers. Please see our page (search Chet Valley Photography Club) which details some of the things we have done over the past few months. You do not need expensive equipment at all – most images today are done using a mobile phone. Please contact Jackie Franklin,

email secretary@chetvalleyphotography.org.uk or have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information if you are interested in joining the club. Potential new members will be made very welcome. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.



A shout-out to the Rev Alison Ball

Huge thanks for all the compassionate guidance given locally and your love and commitment to our children and the planet. (I will miss the sight of you surrounded by the little ones singing happily in the churchyard!).Your dynamism and clear sightedness is an inspiration in these confused times. Thank you again.

Eleni

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Loddon and District Local History Group

The August talk was given by Sandra-Jane Stock who has been a nurse for most of her working life. She gave us a description of children's nursing from 1982 to the present, outlining the changes she witnessed through these decades.

Sandra is the oldest of 5 children and when she was 9 her mother was diagnosed with M.S. so her school years were not always easy. While she was a pupil at Norte Dame in Norwich she was allowed to visit the Great Hospital for one afternoon a week where she worked on the wards and learnt about hygiene. This experience influenced her wish to become a doctor but she realised that her sciences were not good enough for her to get into medical school. Instead she turned to nursing.

In October 1982 Sandra started her first year of student nursing at St Mary's in Paddington. An introductory 6 weeks was followed by 8 week placements with two weeks of training in between the placements. The uniform was much stricter then and not always comfortable. Sandra described some of the types of equipment she first experienced - mercury thermometers, mercury sphygmomanometers, stainless steel bedpans and oxygen tanks as there was no piped oxygen then. Patients were allowed to smoke on the wards and alcohol was sometimes given out.

When Sandra qualified as a Registered General Nurse she was awarded a 'Mary's Penny' which she showed us. In 1986 she started working with children at Great Ormond Street and she outlined some of the practices employed. Bubble wrap was used to keep children warm and they used a headbox for babies in need of oxygen. Toddlers with croup were nursed in oxygen tents.

By 1989 Sandra was a paediatric sister in the Hillingdon hospitals. In 2002 she gained her degree and between 2007 and 2021 she worked as a Paediatric, Respiratory and Allergy Clinical Nurse. Altogether she has worked with children for 40 years.

Sandra has witnessed huge technological and social changes in hospital care and the audience asked her to expand on this. She mentioned how computers and machinery had developed as diagnostic tools but she thought that sometimes staff forgot to look at the patient. In the 1960s parents were not allowed to stay with their children in hospital but today they are. Training of nurses has changed and new roles have been introduced like nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists but pay for nurses is still not that good.

An interesting talk which was enjoyed by everyone present, particularly those with nursing experience.

Next meeting: October 15th - Claire Jowitt 'The Gloucester; Why the Wreck of the Gloucester in 1682 matters.

All meetings are held in St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon starting at 1:30pm. Admission £3 (includes light refreshments). All welcome. For more information email Elvie: Elvie.herd@uwclub.net.

Visit our website at: www.loddonhistorygroup.co.uk.

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

One, by Eve Smith *Guest reviewed by Katie Cox, from the Angel book club*

Set about two generations in the future, where humankind have nearly irreparably damaged the planet. Due to the need to limit the population there is a strict one child policy, policed by the Ministry of Population and Family Planning. The story follows one of the employees, Kai, who discovers a long-kept family secret, which if discovered by the authoritarian state, will mean severe penalties for her and her parents.

This book is an uncomfortable read, with me questioning whether our actions could possibly lead to a future like that portrayed. Not my usual choice of a book - but I found the story gripping and exciting.

That Night, by Gillian McAllister

I found this a very tense and chilling read, but couldn't put it down! It asks the question about how far you'd go to protect your loved ones, and then examines how lies and betrayal can spiral. Frannie accidentally kills a man with her car late one night and she turns to her siblings to help cover up the crime. Their family holiday in Italy turns into tragedy, the fall-out lasts for years. The sibling relationships in this are neatly done and it's a real page-turner!

Butter, by Asako Yuzuki *Translated by Polly Barton*

The cover of this book was one of the main attractions for me initially! But having seen it everywhere last year I decided to pick it up and wasn't disappointed. It's inspired by a true story about a female chef, who is also a serial killer. Manako Kajii will not speak to anyone when she's arrested but she can't resist replying to Rika Machida who writes asking for her beef stew recipe. However, Rika is also a journalist... I love reading about food and this book was a pleasure!

I'm looking forward to reading...

Nexus, by Yuval Noah Harari

The acclaimed author of the modern classic *Sapiens* turns his attention to the power of information networks and their importance to human evolution in this insightful and entertaining tour de force.

The internet promised infinite knowledge but the algorithm learned our secrets – and then turned us against each other. What will AI do next?

Ruth Redford

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Nature Notes

Autumn is well and truly upon us; summer migrant birds have mostly left, replaced by birds from further north. Leaves of our deciduous trees change from green to hues of reds, oranges, yellows and browns, amazing in the autumn sun.

Looking out of the window typing this, today's weather is anything but summery. Earlier we were amused by a Woodpigeon unsuccessfully trying to break off twigs from a plant for nest construction, you don't even need to go out to enjoy the natural world. Last month I mentioned that my list of birds seen or heard around Hardley Staithe had reached 92, the question being will I reach 100 by the end of the year. Well, with the addition of a Willow Warbler seen earlier in the bushes near the Staithe car park, as of the 4th September the number moved to 98.

August was an interesting month with two surprises, one one not a bird. Number 93 was a juvenile yellow wagtail. I thought I had seen one the day before but wasn't sure. It conveniently landed on the shed as I got out of the car, excellent views. Yellow wagtails used to be regular summer visitors but in recent years are rarely seen. Three days later I saw a Hobby as I set off with the dogs, elated at finally catch up with this migrant bird of prey. Little did I know what was yet in store. Returning up the Staithe I noticed what I thought was a large gull, but on looking closer my heart raced and jaw dropped. Fumbling for my phone I put out the message that a White Stork was circling over my head. In my excitement I forgot to check if it had rings on its legs so I would know if it had escaped from somewhere or part of the Sussex reintroduction scheme. Mid-August I saw House Martins there, I know they nested in Hardley Street and was surprised I hadn't seen them before at the Staithe. On the puddles on the lower track I caught up with a Green Sandpiper, a migrating wader. I saw it again this morning. The non bird I saw was a Seal in the river, I thought at first it was just some flotsam floating up the river but then it dived and I knew what I was looking at.

Knowing what waders have been seen both at Buckenham marshes and opposite at Cantley Sugar Beet ponds we do miss some flooded areas on our side of the river. In past years there have been some parts of fields between the Staithe and the Mill semi flooded and it attracted a variety of waders. Though it would do little regarding crop yields for our farmers. Will September get me to 100, I will just have to wait and see and continue enjoying the amazing beauty of the nature all around us.

Richard and Rachel Hull

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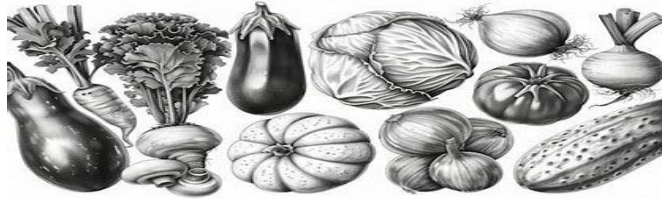
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Gardening Notes

Andrew is taking a break, last seen leaning on his spade contemplating plans for the next gardening year.



From the garden

Hello I am standing in for Hazel who is enjoying a few days away and will be back here next month. My garden beds have increased in size over the last 18 months mainly with dahlias as I find more varieties that I can't live without. The range of colours and forms is increasing all the time. I have grown a new local variety, Normandie Farewell, a pink miniature decorative flower and it produces lots of blooms. The blooms should last until the frosts and then I will dig them up, dry the tubers remembering to attach a label with the variety noted, store cool and dry until next march when I will pot them up and hopefully take cuttings to increase the number of plants. August and September have been busy as there are several dahlia shows locally to visit and/or exhibit.

Another change for next year is that I have decided to get rid of the grass, my soil is free draining and the summers are getting dryer so I decided to create a drought tolerant garden along the lines of Beth Chatto's dry garden and over the autumn I will clear and replant with drought tolerant plants. I don't expect it to be low maintenance and it will need watering in the first year to help it get established. Now is the time to plant bulbs and winter bedding, my colour choices for this year are blue and orange. Enjoy your garden.

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