



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

April 2022



Supporting Ukraine

Prayer

Our churches are all open during daylight hours for people who wish to pray for Ukraine, or anything else. In All Saints, Chedgrave, there are some prayer flags for you to add a word to, for prayer, and then stick onto the prayer board by the door into the church centre.



Ukraine Loddon and Chedgrave Support Group

Unit GB Langley Rd Trading Estate NR14 6HD
(Opposite The White Horse Pub)

This is a non-funded, volunteer-run group taking donations of items for Ukraine; no monetary donations.

Items needed:

- Food/drink—no glass
- Medical
- Hygiene
- Sanitary
- Tools



Please, no clothes, shoes, toys or books.

It is open Monday to Friday 8:00am-7:00pm; Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm; Sunday 10:00am-3:00pm.

Contact 07846 020027 (Simon), 07766 132051 (Eileen)

Monetary Donations—Disasters Emergency Committee

At least 2 million people have fled their homes to escape the conflict in Ukraine. Heavy fighting, shelling and air strikes across the country have had devastating consequences for ordinary people. Homes have been destroyed. Families have been separated.



Lives have been lost. At Ukraine's borders with Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova, huge numbers of people are arriving with only what they can carry.

DEC charities and their local partners are in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries providing food, water, shelter and medical assistance. Please donate at:

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen:	01508 522993	david.chetvalley@gmail.com
Louise Morrissey:	01502 717797	delilah.morrissey@gmail.com
Ros Hoffmann:	01508 548200	ros@hoffmann2011.plus.com
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Andrew Eburne:	01508 494770	frandreweburne@gmail.com



Church Office—closed at present.

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

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

The e-mail account is being monitored regularly.



Weddings, Baptisms, Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of a Child

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

Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches	www.chetvalleychurches.org
The Diocese of Norwich	www.dioceseofnorwich.org
The Methodist Church	www.methodist.org.uk
The RC Diocese of East Anglia	www.rcdea.org.uk



Chet Contact

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Copy Deadline is always noon on the 8th of the month. We have to deliver to the printer on the 9th of the month.

Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

Please include your name and telephone number.



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Disclaimer

Advertisements are included in good faith, but Chet Valley Churches do not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised. Similarly, the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Chet Valley Churches.

From the Editor

I have been sufficiently busy these past few weeks almost to wish myself back into isolation in order to be able to finish editing Chet Contact in time to get to the printers! It's always good to have a lot to do but not when lots of things have a deadline.

You will see that I have chosen to put Ukraine on page two instead of advertising a church activity. It just seemed important. I hope that there will be some resolution by the time you are reading this, but I am not overly hopeful. Perhaps you might do one or more of the things that are featured on page two in support of Ukraine.

It will be Easter this month. If I was up in the Lake District, where I visit my mother, I would be looking forward to seeing all the little lambs with their vertical take-off as they play in the fields. And of course, all those daffodils celebrated by Wordsworth.

But I will be in Chedgrave where it will be good to be able to celebrate Easter with no constraints— singing all those great Easter hymns, loads of Alleluias (saved up during Lent!), and to share bread and wine once again in our communion. That might seem strange to those of you that are not churchgoers, but we have not been able to share wine in church since lockdown.

Whatever you are doing this month, I wish you a joyful Eastertide.

Alison



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Ministerial Musings

The Cross on the Cover

On the front cover of this Chet Contact is a cross. It's the logo of the Chet Valley Churches, and if you look carefully you can identify the churches in Loddon, Chedgrave, Sisland, Hardley, Langley, Hales and Heckingham. But what made us choose it?

This month it will be Easter, with chocolate eggs and spring lambs. It's the most important event in the church's year, and the reason why we chose a cross for our logo. It is crucial to the Christian faith—the word 'crucial' comes from the Latin word 'cruX' meaning a cross.

The events of the first Easter went like this:

Jesus was unpopular with religious and secular leaders since he taught with authority because he was God's son. He didn't impose rules, but focussed on God's love.

Jesus knew that the leaders wanted to kill him, and on the day we call Maundy Thursday he ate a last meal with his friends, preparing them for what was to happen.

Jesus was arrested, and although he was innocent, he was condemned to death by crucifixion, the cruellest of ways to die. We call the day Good Friday, because when Jesus died good overcame evil.

On the day we call Easter Sunday the tomb where Jesus's body had been laid was empty, because he had come back to life. He taught that the events of Easter meant it was now possible for people (including us) to know God and to be forgiven for all our wrong thoughts and actions. That's amazing!

Because of Easter we can have a real faith in God who cares about us no matter what happens to us. The cross isn't a prop to stop us falling over. Rather, it is the way through which we can know God as a friend and guide. It also enables us to be the best possible version of the person we were born to be. That's why we use it as a logo, and why Easter is the most wonderful celebration of the church's year. If you are able, do come and celebrate Easter in church or join us online.

Easter service times are on page 28 and our YouTube channel is: www.youtube.com/c/ChetValleyChurches/featured.

David



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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 or Common Worship, with an informal Holy Communion service once a month in Chedgrave.

Services of **Morning Worship** are held in Loddon and Hardley.

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

All Together Worship is on the third Sunday every month at All Saints, Chedgrave, starting at 11:00am (January, March, June and September are followed by shared lunch).

All Together Worship is designed to be as inclusive as possible: a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness. In short, we will attempt to provide a service which will have points of connection for both children and adults—indeed people of all ages and all backgrounds.

Last Sunday Praise is held on the last Sunday of the month at St John's: a chance to sing old and new Christian songs and worship together.

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

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is an opportunity to enjoy a chat over refreshments after the service, Covid restriction permitting.

There are toilets and baby-changing facilities at All Saints, Chedgrave and St John's, Loddon.

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

Home Communion: If you would like home communion, because you are unable for any reason to get to a Sunday service, please contact the clergy or the Church Office and we will arrange for someone to bring communion to you.

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

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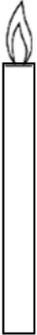
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Thanksgivings & Baptisms



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

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

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

Noah's Ark

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



Wednesdays 9:15am-12:00noon.

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

Small Groups

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



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

To join or just to know more, please contact Rev David on 01508 522993.

Xtra! Join us in St John's Church for an exciting, informal service every **Thursday after school**. Refreshments, activities from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm.

More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

Friends and Neighbours

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



We recently met for a Spring Meal together.

Next Meeting: Thursday 5th May at the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon at 12:30pm. Fish and Chips lunch, followed by 'Music and Movement with Mavin Shulver.

If you'd like to join the group, 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 noon**. Come and go as you choose. On average, there are about 12 people who come to Mardles, and there's room for more! You will be made very welcome.

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

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

There were no thanksgivings or baptisms this month in our churches, so lets pray for all children across the world

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.

Weddings

There are no weddings to report this month.

Those whom God has joined together let no-one put asunder.

Funerals

Jeffery John Rope who died on 28th December 2021

Funeral: 17th January, 2022 at St Mary, Sislund

Brian Leslie Foster who died on 29th January 2022

Funeral: 1st March, 2022 at Waveney Crematorium

Algar Taylor who died on 31st January 2022

Funeral: 7th March, 2022 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Shirley Lingwood who died on 8th February 2022

Funeral: 8th March, 2022 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

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

1 Thessalonians 4:14, 17b

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

To arrange a wedding, please contact Rev David on 01508 522993, or david.chetvalley@gmail.com.

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

Wanted: Volunteer Community Car Drivers



BACT is a not-for-profit organisation offering transport to those in the community who cannot access or struggle to use public services. Based in Bungay, we cover the Waveney district of Suffolk and some areas in South Norfolk. We rely heavily on volunteer drivers but sadly our number of volunteers has diminished significantly over the past two years. Do you have any free time? Could you help? Guaranteed personal satisfaction; helping your local community and meeting new people too. You can make a difference. Expenses paid @ 45p a mile More information from our website: <http://www.bactcommunitytransport.org.uk/> Contact us on: 01986 896896 or email info@bactcommunity.org.uk

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News From Your Local Councillors



Kay Mason-Billig & Jeremy Rowe

Loddon revamp: I have been having discussions with the planners who did the revamp of Harleston last year. I am hoping that they may come up with some exciting ideas for the middle of Loddon to make it more pedestrian-friendly and to enhance the views of the Church and the lovely buildings we have around Church Plain. I will be bringing all this to the Parish Council in due course, watch this space.

Staithe Footbridge: I know that the sad state of the footbridge over the Chet at the Loddon Staithe has been a subject of discussion for many years. I am hoping to bring some good news to you very shortly, as I believe I have finally secured the funds to repair the bridge. This is likely to be done as a Queen's Platinum Jubilee legacy project.

Roundabout on the A146: We are nearing the end of the project and should see this fully opened this month. There is some white lining still to be done, which will require another brief closure, but be assured, we will have our roundabout and an end to the frustrating restrictions very soon now.

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

Councillor Kay Mason-Billig

In conjunction with Loddon and Chedgrave Parish Councils, I'm working on an Emergency Plan for our neighbourhoods, to ensure that help is available in an emergency, for example serious snow or flooding. We'll let you have more details as this begins to take shape.

Over Easter we'll again be distributing flowers and Easter eggs to our over-60s friends and neighbours; please let me have any names of anyone you would like to nominate.

Please get in touch if our ChetChat group can help you if you are aged over 60; times are tough, and I fear they will become more difficult for too many people. It's never been more important for us to look out for each other, as well as restoring some much-needed faith in the good that politics and politicians can do.



If you, or someone over 60 that you know, would like some help and maybe just some friendship, please phone ChetChat on 07876 050110.

Please ring me anytime on 07733 323581 if I can help you; many people do.

Thank you.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe



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Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

Tel: 01508 528310 Email: chedgrave.pc@gmail.com

Website: <https://chedgrave-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

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



Chedgrave Parish Council held a meeting on 3rd March 2022.

Council Vacancies: Please consider joining your parish council and get involved with projects in our village. There is something for everyone—trees and environment, allotments, play areas and amenities, traffic and planning, publicity and events. The council welcomes people from all walks of life, no council experience necessary! There are currently three vacancies and the council will be delighted to hear from anyone wishing to help maintain and improve our community. Please contact the clerk for more information.

Chet Neighbourhood Plan: We need your help and your opinion! Do you live in Chedgrave, Loddon, in a neighbouring village or are you visiting? We are seeking your views through our survey. The deadline for responses is 31st March 2022 via www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ChetNP/. Paper copies are also available from: Holy Trinity Church, Loddon; Rosie Lee's; The Terrace; All Saints Church, Chedgrave; Chet Stores; The White Horse.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Chedgrave Parish Council is pleased to support the celebrations with a Platinum Jubilee Fete being held on the Loddon & Chedgrave Jubilee Playing Field on the 4th June 2022. If you're interested in volunteering, performing or running a stall, please contact info@loddonpc.org.uk. The council also hopes to support an event in Chedgrave and further details will be published in due course.

Langley Road Development: The planning application has been submitted to South Norfolk Council. Chedgrave PC will host a public meeting on 24th March, 7:00pm at the Brian Clarke Room to gather local views and will consider its formal response at the parish council meeting on 7th April. Residents are also encouraged to respond directly to South Norfolk Council planning (ref. 2022/0276).

Brian Clarke Room: A well-equipped modern bright room, including access to free WIFI and table tennis tables. Booking enquiries should be made to Georgina Buckle via brianclarkeroom@gmail.com or 07981 856270.

Next Meeting: Thursday 7th April at 7:00pm in the Brian Clarke Room. All welcome!

Highways issues such as potholes, footpaths or public rights of way, road safety, flooding and overgrown trees and verges should be reported to Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 or online at www.norfolk.gov.uk. Criminal & illegal activities, public disorder & nuisance, anti-social behaviour, speeding, uncontrolled dogs, should all be reported to the Police on 999 or 101 (non-emergency) and can be reported online at www.norfolk.police.uk.

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Georgina Buckle

Email: brianclarkeroom@gmail.com

Tel: 07981 856270

Loddon Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis.

Tel: 01508 522020 Email: clerk@loddonpc.org.uk.

Website: www.loddonpc.org.uk;

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: The Parish Council is pleased to support the celebrations with a Platinum Jubilee Fete being held on the Loddon & Chedgrave Jubilee Playing Field on the 4th June 2022. If you're interested in volunteering, performing or running a stall, please contact info@loddonpc.org.uk.

Litter Picking: The council has an informal litter picking group. If you would like to join, the Council can provide you with the necessary equipment. Please email info@loddonpc.org.uk for more details.

Small Grants: If you would like to apply for a local group or organisation (generally up to £100, but can be more), please see the PC website for more information and an application form.

Tennis Courts: Book online: www.loddonpc.org.uk/tennis-courts.

Hall Hire: If you would like to hire the hall for a regular booking, or an event, please email info@loddonpc.org.uk.

Allotments: There is a waiting list for the allotments. If you live in Chedgrave or Loddon and wish to be added to the allotment waiting list email info@loddonpc.org.uk.

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at the Library Annexe on Wednesday 13th April at 7:00pm and parishioners are welcome to attend in person. The minutes and agendas for the meetings are available on our website: www.loddonpc.org.uk

Contact Loddon Parish Council: The office is open from 9:00am-12:00noon on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays. To contact the council, please email info@loddonpc.org. For a genuine emergency, call; 01508 486128. At any other time, please call 01508 522020.

The website: www.loddonpc.org.uk and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC are regularly updated.

The future of Loddon and Chedgrave: We need your help and opinion!

Do you live in Chedgrave or Loddon, or in a neighbouring village, or are you visiting? Have you filled in our survey? The deadline for responses is 31st March 2022.



You can complete it online on www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ChetNP/; or by using the link within the QR code.

Paper copies are available from: Holy Trinity Church, Loddon; Rosie Lee's; The Terrace; All Saints Church, Chedgrave; Chet Stores; The White Horse.



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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Eleanor Bannister.

Tel: 77803 124544 Email: 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)



Annual Parish Meeting: Will take place at 7:00pm on Tuesday 10th May in the Hales Assembly Hall (formerly Village Hall), Briar Lane, Hales. Sir Nicholas Bacon will also present a memorial plaque to commemorate how our communities pulled together in the challenging times of the pandemic and speak about his interest in the village. There will be refreshments and this is a chance for residents to meet and discuss what happens in the village and what you want to happen in the village. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on the website three days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Friday 3rd June: The Parish Council is arranging a village picnic in the afternoon at the playground. There will be live music, refreshments and some village fete stalls. There will be a newsletter circulated with more details and requesting help and donations for the stalls.

20 MPH Speed Limit on School Lane Proposal: We are still collecting views and evidence so do keep sending emails or letters about this. The Parish Clerk can remove your contact details if you wish but we cannot accept anonymous emails or letters.

Neighbourhood Planning: We are collecting opinions and views about what people in our community want it to look like. Please let us know what you think.

Wild Flowering: The work to improve the grass areas in Hales for bees and other pollinators will continue this year. There will be some areas that will be planted with wildflower seed and during this summer some grass will not be cut so that we can see what wild flowers and plants are naturally there. We hope you will bear with us during this time but please get in touch with the clerk with any comments.

Composting Group: Contact Alan Mason for more details: 07738 933316 or alan_mbc@btinternet.com.

Meet the Councillors Drop in Date: To be advertised on our website, Facebook page and notice board.

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Langley with Hardley Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Vacant
Tel: 01502 730166 Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com
Website: <https://langleywithhardley.pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>
Facebook: To be developed



There was no news from the parish council this month.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Easter Bingo Saturday 2nd April. 7:00pm for 7:30pm start.

Café Friday 8th April. 11:00am-2:00pm. All welcome,.



Michael Flounders—Book Signing

Michael has written a book entitled '*The Year God Introduced Himself with a Prayer for Non-Believers*'. It is the story of his faith journey following a serious, life-changing accident.

He is doing a book-signing at The White Horse Chedgrave on 26th April from 7:00-9:00pm. He intends to use all the profits from his book to help others, for example: the Chedgrave Therapy Centre, the Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund and the Loddon Town Estate Trust. Do join him to hear readings of extracts and poems from the book and have your book signed by the author.

Platinum Jubilee Fete—Saturday 4th June Jubilee Hall Playing Field

We're looking for:

- ⇒ Volunteers to help on the day;
- ⇒ Local community groups to run stalls;
- ⇒ Food Stalls;
- ⇒ Talent/Performers.



If you're interested please e-mail Jessica@loddonpc.org.uk

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Notes from Sisland

Easter is quite late this year, though not as late as it can be which would be the 25th April. As the equinox is fixed the earliest it can be is 22nd March and that will not happen again until 2285! It is at this time of the year that the annual meeting of parishioners (also referred to as the annual Vestry meeting) is held to elect churchwardens and deputies (if any) for the forthcoming year. The meeting must take place by the 31st May but in Sisland it is held before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Both meetings take place on Tuesday 5th April from 7:00pm at St Mary, Sisland. Members of the church who are on the electoral roll and people resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors can attend the Vestry meeting. The electoral roll is revised annually; have you consider joining one, although you can only be on one church roll. If you wish to join the Sisland Church Electoral Roll, then please contact me at the address below.



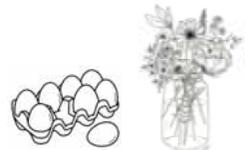
At the end of the Easter weekend, we are planning is a Second-hand Book Sale, which will be held on the Bank Holiday Monday, Monday 18th April. We will have a range of fiction and non-fiction, reference through to children's books available, in the church. We would welcome anyone who would like a browse and to pop in. The church will be open all day so please make a note of the date in your diary. We will be raising funds for work which we need to do on the church tower, of which more in a later edition of Chet Contact.

We hope to see you soon.

Loddon Tuesday Market

Loddon Tuesday Market has restarted at The Hollies on the High Street in Loddon, 10:00-11:30am every Tuesday morning. With the arrival of Spring we will have a lovely variety of plants and cut flowers for sale and some spring vegetables, all locally grown. Our home cooking and preserves are always popular, as are the fresh farm eggs and raw milk. We also have a good variety of local crafts, so why not treat yourself to an Easter gift? We are a friendly market, so come and join us in our café, you will be made very welcome.

For further details contact Chairman Sheila Ford on 01508 520752, or email sheilamford@btinternet.com



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Loddon Bell Ringers



To mark the 70th anniversary of the accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II to the throne, a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung at Loddon on Tuesday 8th February by the local ringers: 1. Rona Sporle 2. Val Counter 3. Jeannine Roe 4. David Webb 5. Ann M Webb 6. Stephen Rabong 7. Katie Wright (conductor) 8. John Green. More ringing is planned for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June.

Quarter peals of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, Ashted and Cornwall Surprise Major have been rung by members at Ashill, Kenninghall and Grundisburgh in Suffolk recently. We also took part in a peal at Saham Tony.

We are always pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in learning how to ring church bells. We are a teaching tower here at Holy Trinity and have good facilities to train new recruits. You may like to contact our tower captain, David Webb, on 01508 528468 to find out more.

Steve Rabong

Struggling with Money? Local Charitable Funds available:

There are two local charities to help local people in need: Loddon Town Estate Trust (for people living in Loddon); and Chedgrave Church Discretionary Fund (for people living in Chedgrave or who are regular members of the congregation at All Saints). These have received a boost from monies raised by the monthly quiz at The White Horse during 2021.

The charities are only any good if people use them! In the past, money has paid for things like cookers and carpets. It has also gone towards solicitor's bills and rent. Please do not feel ashamed or embarrassed to call on the funds if you need them.

You can access the Loddon fund by contacting Ann Lumley on 01508 528141 or email: annlumley150@btinternet.com. The Chedgrave fund can be accessed by contacting Rev Alison, Rev David or the church warden, Roger Outlaw—contact details on p3.

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

All Saints Church, Chedgrave has a lovely church centre attached to it which has been open for over 25 years. There are two rooms (one upstairs), a kitchen and a loo. There are wheeled tables which are easy to move and put up. It is warm even in the winter! It is available to book with a suggested donation of £8 per hour. If you are looking for a venue for a meeting, a party, or an activity do contact Anne Jackson who is responsible for hall bookings on 01508 502278.

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



Our February meeting was well attended, considering the weather! We welcomed two new members wishing to help the RBL.

One RBL motto is 'Service not Self' to help others where they can. We welcome non-military members and veterans. We know meetings are good for people, for social and mental reasons. Our meetings start with a catch up on business and end with a cuppa and chat. They are held in Loddon in the Library Annex back room, 6:45pm for 7:00pm start.

Our next meetings are Monday 18th April (pending Easter decision at March meeting) and Monday 16th May.

For any information or support, please contact: Branch Secretary: Christine Hartley, or Chairman: Colin Hartley on 01508 521136.

Deliverers Wanted—Thank you!

We were looking for more volunteers to deliver to St George's Park, Loddon. Just a few hours after the March edition of Chet Contact went out through people's letterboxes, Roger, our distribution editor, had received several offers of help.



Thank you.

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Freedom of Loddon Award

We Need Your Help!

Do you know someone who lives in Loddon
who has made a notable contribution
to the community?

The Parish Council welcomes your nominations
for the Freedom of Loddon Award.

If you know someone
who you think should receive this award,
please email your nomination to:

info@loddonpc.org.uk

by 30th April 2022.



Church Services

3rd April Passion Sunday		
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12noon	Xpressions Café	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
10th April Palm Sunday		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
14th April Maundy Thursday		
7:00pm	Foot Washing and Last Supper	St John, Loddon
15th April Good Friday		
10:00am	Children's Reflection*	All Saints, Chedgrave
12:00 noon	Walk of Witness	Holy Trinity, Loddon
2:00pm	At the Foot of the Cross	All Saints, Chedgrave
17th April Easter Sunday		
9:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship with Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
24th April		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
7:00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John, Loddon

*Booking essential—see page 30.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches		
*Every Saturday 6:00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	
**Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Come and Pray</p> <p>If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing</p>	
Thursdays during school term	<p style="text-align: center;">Xtra!</p> <p>Join us at St John's for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm. More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126</p>	
Every day Morning Prayer 9:00am <i>All Welcome</i>	Monday	St John, Loddon
	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	St John, Loddon
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave

*Please contact office@east-angliadiocese.org.uk to confirm details of Catholic services.

**Please contact Rev Jill (jillhaylock@aol.com) about current arrangements for Tuesday Prayer and Reflection, or if you would like to receive this electronically.

Church Activities

Lent Lunch

Come to the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, for a simple meal of homemade soup, bread, and tea or coffee between 12:00 noon and 1:30pm, for the last Lent Lunch of 2022.

Wednesday 6th April.

Anyone and everyone welcome.

Donations will be in aid of the Bishop's Lent Appeal, to support the purchase of beds for the Sag Sag Health Centre in Papua New Guinea. Sag Sag is a very remote community, surrounded by rain-forest. It has a building for the health centre, and it has people, but no beds and no equipment. It needs our help!



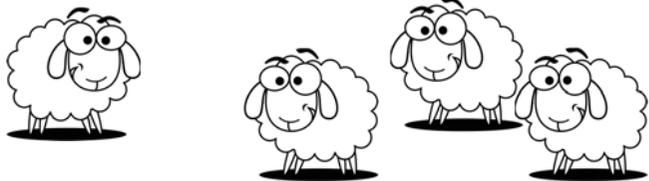
Good Friday Children's Reflection

We have a children's reflection for Good Friday, 15th April from 10:00am-12:00noon. We will explore the Easter Story from Palm Sunday to Good Friday in craft, story-telling, reflection and prayer. If you would like to join us, please book in by contacting Rev Alison: ball880am@btinternet.com or 528126.

Holiday Club Advance Notice

This year's holiday club is already being planned. It is called Baa-Baa Shop. I think there may be one or two sheep in it—maybe even a flock! It's set in a barber's shop, proprietor Barbara Ramsbottom. Filled with the usual mix of fun, food, faith and friendship, there will be craft, storytelling, songs, cooking and games.

And the dates? It will run every morning in the week of 1st-5th August. Put it in your diaries now! Publicity, including booking forms, will be out after Easter.



Community Groups, News and Events

News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon and District Women's Institute

It is said that you shouldn't believe everything you read in the newspaper, and as far as last month's WI news is concerned, that is the case. We said that Lynton was going to give us a flower arranging demonstration at our March meeting—not so! He was going to do that when we originally arranged for him to visit us; that visit was cancelled due to the lockdown. Anyway, by the time you're reading this Lynton will have given us a talk entitled the 'Four Seasons'—no flower demonstration but equally enjoyable! Also in March, some of our members got together for an Open House—a social occasion with tea, coffee and cake and an opportunity to enjoy each other's company. We had a 'Knit, Natter and Crochet' session at Loddon Library. There will be another Open House on 6th April, and a 'Knit, Natter and Crochet' on 14th April

On 20th April, Loddon WI will be celebrating its 92nd birthday with a party and a 'Sing-a-long with Hank' session.

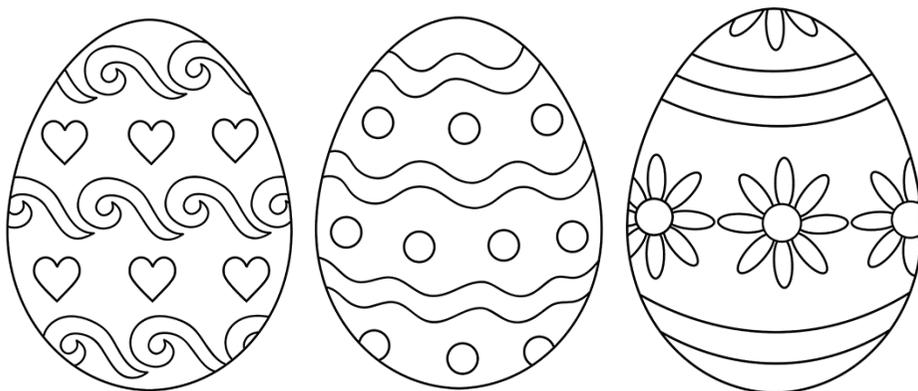
We have continued to welcome new members, and if you are interested in joining what must be one of the longest running groups in Loddon, we can be contacted through our Facebook page or by ringing 01508 528656.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

At our meeting in February we welcomed Nina Owen, who gave us an informative insight into what her life is like married to a rural vicar.

On Tuesday 26th April, a member from the Local History Group will be telling us about the older buildings in the area.

We meet at 2:00pm at All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave. For more information please contact Audrey 528393 or Angela 521120.



Norfolk Home Library Service

Norfolk home library expands service and calls for new users and volunteers.

Calling all book lovers and digital masters! A popular home library service delivered by Royal Voluntary Service and the Norfolk Library and Information Service is looking to expand throughout Norfolk.

A new digital inclusion program is also being trialled, in which specially trained volunteers teach the service's clients how to access critical information digitally, and how to download books online. The expansion means that the Home Library Service is looking to welcome new clients, volunteers, and Volunteer Coordinators to the team.

Volunteers work alongside their local library to select and deliver books and other media to those who may find it difficult to leave the house, have mobility issues, or caring responsibilities. The service also provides regular, friendly social contact to check if clients are safe and well, to discuss reading and listening preferences, and to report any concerns to appropriate services as needed.

Volunteer Coordinators liaise with local libraries, manage a network of local volunteers to arrange book deliveries, recruit new volunteers, and build relationships with local community groups to promote the service. As part of the new digital inclusion program, Digital Service Coordinators may offer their skills in workshops to train volunteers to use various devices, apps, and programs that the service's clients may find challenging.

Alicia Stillman, Service Manager for Royal Voluntary Service Norfolk Home Library Service says: "For people who find leaving their homes problematic, the Home Library Service offers a vital link to the local library and a welcome connection with a friendly face. The Covid-19 pandemic has shone a light on the significant number of vulnerable adults living in isolation. During the last two years, it has also become apparent that many socially isolated people were not able to access vital information due to digital illiteracy. Instruction on downloading eBooks, accessing GP and Council services, and setting up video conferencing can often be more easily explained in person, in an informal setting, one on one. Through the new digital inclusion program, with the help of our dedicated volunteers, we hope to bring clients back to the activities they love, prevent further isolation, and provide companionship and support."

To sign up to the Home Library Service, please contact the Norfolk Library and Information Service on 0344 800 8020 or visit: libraries@norfolk.gov.uk to be added to a round.

To sign up to become a volunteer or coordinator of the Norfolk Home Library Service please visit the Royal Voluntary Service at: www.royalvoluntaryservice.org/volunteer. For further information about the roles, please contact Royal Voluntary Service Norfolk Community Service Manager Alicia Stillman: email: norfolkxls@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or 01603 397998.



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£3:00 per session. First session free.

For more details, contact Terry on tezzahayden99@gmail.com



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

If you have never tried short mat bowls why not give it a go? We are a very friendly, non-competitive club, that plays in groups of up to four people. New members and beginners are very welcome. We meet on **Tuesday** 1:30-3:30pm in the Jubilee Hall. Just bring flat indoor shoes (no heels), the right money—£3, and a sense of humour. We have spare bowls. For more information call 01508 521958.



Short Tennis Club

Come and join our friendly non-competitive club on **Tuesdays** 11:30am-1:00pm at Jubilee Hall. All welcome. For more information call 01508 520589.



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?

At the Loddon Ladies Hockey Club we welcome new members of all ages (13+) and abilities. Come and get fit, have fun and meet friendly women from in and around the local area. We train on **Monday** nights at Langley School (NR14 6BJ), 7:00pm-8:30pm.

For more information please see our website at www.loddonhockey.com or email hello@loddonhockey.com



Ashby St Mary Cricket Club

We are a small village club, which plays home games at Ashby Hall "The Meadow", a wonderful location.

For more information, please contact Paul Clemence on 01508 218078.



Hobart Badminton Club

Players wanted! Come and join our friendly club of all ages from 16+. Playing experience desirable. We meet at Hobart sports hall, **Tuesday** evenings from 7:30-9:30pm. Cost £5:00, first session free! For more information contact Terry on: tezzahayden99@gmail.com





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Loddon Community Gym

It has been good to welcome new members this past month and we hope that they find the programme designed by Louise, our instructor, especially for each of them, helps them slowly and steadily achieve their goals.

Please spread the word that the gym is a friendly, relaxed place to improve your general fitness and mental wellbeing or indeed, train for the next London Marathon if that's your aim.

The new pieces of equipment are well received although the bikes that depend on peddle power, not electricity, for the display to function feel a bit like patting your head and rubbing your tummy at the same time—challenging!

The step machine is a first for our gym and there is a lot of (mostly) friendly rivalry in how many minutes anyone can achieve before their legs go to jelly. For the record I can do ten, not that I am bragging!

We are a not-for-profit business and to keep our fees as low as possible we depend on grants and fundraising to balance the books. Fingers crossed that our current round of grant applications is successful.

Whatever your age, size, shape or fitness level there will be someone like you.

If you want to see the gym in action please call in, see for yourself and talk to Louise or go to our website: www.loddoncommunitygym.com for more information.

Gym opening hours in the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon, as follows:

Monday:1:30-6:00pm; Tuesday 4:30-8:30pm; Friday10:00am-1:00pm.

Annual fee £20; Cashless payment of £5 per session on arrival.

Hales and Loddon Cricket Club

We're hoping to restart our youth training outside (weather permitting) at Hales Green every Monday (apart from Monday 30th May) from Monday 25th April to Monday 25th July. This will amount to 13 weeks of training.

Ben France will be running these sessions on alternate weeks. Our plan is to run three youth teams this year: U9 softball, and U11 and U13 hardball. We will confirm fixtures and all timings closer to the start of the season.

Cost for youth membership will be £45 per child (or £80 for two siblings) including training, club insurance coverage and match fees for all youth games.

Please could all parents pay ahead of the start of youth training where possible (BACS, cash and cheque all accepted). We will also bring the club card machine to the first two sessions to aid with payment.

Additionally, we will also be running All Stars again for 5-8 year-olds from Monday 6th June to Monday 25th July, 6:00-7:00pm. We've capped numbers for this at 16 this season and places are going fast. Booking and payment for this is handled separately via the ECB website: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Course/ebc1355f-5717-4c1a->



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Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

Did you know there was one? Where? It's in the Old Town Hall in The Swan pub car park, Loddon. It's a members' club with inter-club league matches every evening; roll ups on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons starting at 2:00pm and on Tuesday morning starting at 10:00am (restricted to the first 12 turning up). The club is in the process of being updated: suspended ceiling installed; new LED lights; hall redecorated.

New members are always needed. Subs just £12 per year. Rink fee £2 per session. Just turn up and give it a try. For further information, please contact Paul Clemence (chair): 01508 218078.

Chet Staithe Probus Club

Recently retired or just moved to the area? Missing male company, on your own, or just want to get out and meet new people? Why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club? We are friendly and informal; jackets and ties not required. Members range in age from 60 to almost 100. Meetings are on the first and third **Tuesday** of the month at The White Horse, Chedgrave, 10:00am-12:00 noon with the option of staying for lunch. Last month we celebrated our 400th meeting; we must be doing something right! The event was marked by a jovial lunch with many guests also welcomed. Spring and summer activities are now being planned, including a visit to the 'History of Advertising Trust' at Raveningham.

Contact cliveboyd@btconnect.com or 01508 520547.



Chet Valley Probus Club

Chet Valley Probus Club is a group of retired business people who meet at the White Horse Chedgrave on the second and fourth **Tuesday** of each month commencing at 10:30am. Our next meetings are:

Tuesday 12th April: AGM followed by *War in the Air*.

Tuesday 26th April: Robert Tylney *History of Firearms*.

We are a friendly welcoming group who enjoy interesting talks, good company, good food and just meeting others of a like mind. For further details and an application form please contact the Secretary, John McCormack: 5a Norton Road, Loddon, NR14 6JN; Tel: 01508 521899.

Chet Valley Photography Club

Our next club meeting on Monday 11th April is "My Way with Photography" by Dave Couldwell. Dave retired from motorsport photography (British and World Superbikes) after 16 years. His work has been published in papers and magazines around the world. Based in South Yorkshire, he now photographs anything and everything, not yet settling on one genre. Dave's website is here www.deeceei.uk.



If you would like to come along to our meetings please do. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

For more details, please see our website: www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

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Social Whist

We are back and meeting every 2nd and 4th **Friday** of each month.

We meet in the back room of The Hollies at around 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start. The evening is just what it says, 'Social Whist'—a chance to get together and to play 12 hands of whist with a cup of tea/coffee, a biscuit, and a chat, half way through. You don't need to have a partner, or even know how to play well. If you want a fun social evening, with a bit of thinking added in, this could be for you. Do join us. If you need a lift to/from The Hollies this can be arranged—please call me (Jane) on 528875. All funds raised are for charity.



Loddon WEA

Mary Fewster is giving us ten 1½ hour talks on "The Company of Preachers". These will show how the religious changes that have taken place in East Anglia over the centuries since the Reformation are revealed in buildings, artefacts and documents, and will also describe the vibrant characters of 'the preachers'. The course has begun and apparently is jolly good so far. The next talk will be in the Jubilee Hall Clubroom on 28th March at 2:00pm.

To enrol for the course, please phone 0300 303 3464 and ask to register for the course by name, giving the WEA reference number, which is C222 8492. The cost will be £59.25, which can be paid either over the phone or by handing a cheque to the branch treasurer at the first talk. Any further queries, please phone: 01508 521036 or 521976.



Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the last **Wednesday** of each month for a talk from a guest speaker and refreshments. A yearly fee is charged and £3.00 for each meeting attended to cover refreshments and outlays.

Next meeting: Wednesday 27th April. Mr Bill Farrow will give a talk on his work with the Norfolk Blood Bikes. NB: We meet in the back room of The Hollies in Loddon High Street. Same time: 8 o'clock.

For more information contact Hillary 01508 520457 or June on 01508 528853.



Chet Valley Voices

Yes, Yes, Yes, Chet Valley Voices will be singing again!
Can't sing? Oh yes you can! We will teach you, any ability welcome.

After a meeting the committee decided it is time to start again. We will be presenting some music which is easier to do from the beginning, but gives us scope to extend into part singing where appropriate. We will be at our old venue St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. This is a large airy venue. Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday 21st April; 7:00-8:30pm, doors open 6:45pm. Fees will be £5 on the night. We look forward to seeing old and new faces.

For more information contact: chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com,
or Sue: 01508 528069 suemartin303@btinternet.com.



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Would you like to meet other Parkinson's sufferers? We will normally meet on the first Monday of the month at the Chedgrave White Horse at 12:15pm. Partners are also welcome. Further details from Michael Osborne on 01508 522034.

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Loddon & District Society

Next meeting: Wednesday 27th April, 10:30am. Ketts Hill Heights—a guided talk and tour of this site with the best view over Norwich. Warning: Steep steps and climb. A short interesting walk and then we can walk down into Norwich to the Cathedral for coffee and a snack (or do your own thing). Parking at the Car Park outside the Prison in Britannia Road.

Numbers are limited; first come, first served. Speak to June: 528853.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

Wednesday 13th April will be our Spring Mini Show which is open to members only. The meeting starts at 7:30pm and is held at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon. Visitors are £2. Meetings are followed by a raffle and refreshments.



Advanced notification of our Plant Sale to be held on Saturday 14th May at The Hollies, High Street, Loddon from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

Membership fee is £10 for the year and you will be made most welcome. We are delighted to say that again in February, we welcomed two more members.

Further information from Chairman Jean Cope on 01502 710024, email jeancope52@gmail.com or Secretary Hazel Copland on 01508 520890 or email happyhaze50@gmail.com.

Waveney Valley Arts Society

We are a friendly group who meet at the Fisher Theatre in Bungay on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding July and August). Our 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.



The next lecture will be as follows:

Wednesday 6th April: The Bloomsbury Group: The Art of Vanessa Bell.

Guests are welcome to join us for an individual lecture but there will be a small charge. If you wish to become a member of our society, the contact details are on the Website: <https://theartssociety.org/waveney-valley>

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Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

The Day Centre is meeting again, so if you'd like to get out from your four walls to meet others to chat, play games and have a hot meal, please give Bev a ring on 07826 299290. We'd love to see you at the Brian Clarke rooms in Chedgrave.



Loddon Flower Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th April when we have Terri Potter coming along with her demonstration called 'This Way and That'. The meeting is held at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open at 6:30pm and starts at 7:00pm. Visitors are £6. At the end of the evening a raffle is held to win one of the evening's flower arrangements. Refreshments are served.



We are holding an open garden at our President Diane's garden on Saturday 30th April at 33 Stoke Road, Poringland from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. The entry fee is £5 which includes tea and cake. Plants will be on sale.

Future Meeting: 3rd May: Brenda Tubb with her title of Challenges.

Take a look at our website at www.loddonflowerclubco.uk. We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions.

Contact: Tricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or email tricia646@aol.com; or Alex Pinder on 01508 493869 or email nmark@aol.com.

Loddon & Chedgrave Society

Our AGM this year will be held on Wednesday 4th May at 7:30pm in the Jubilee Hall clubroom. Our speaker will be Will Fitch from Wheatfen Nature Reserve. Wine & cheese will be served after the conclusion of business. We are a friendly group of people who like walking, visiting interesting gardens, historic buildings, and the occasional social evening. Membership fee is £6.00pa. Members will receive a programme. We are looking for new members to join our society and perhaps come on the committee. If you would like more information, please contact the secretary June at junecs@btinternet.com Tel: 01508 528853 or membership secretary Hillary meredithp3@sky.com Tel: 01508 520457.

With Gratitude

We would like to express a very big thank you to the first aiders, nurse, police and firemen and the staff at Loddon Co-op who came to our aid following my recent fall on Church Plain car park. Your kind and swift actions have resulted in a quick recovery and are appreciated beyond words. Wendy and Ron Woollorton.

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Events

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- **Bounce and Rhyme** Monday, 10:15-10:45am.
- **Colouring Club** Monday, 3:30-4:30pm. Come and colour yourself calm with our ever-changing array of colouring sheets. Leave them in the library to brighten up our walls. Suitable for all ages.
- **Board Games** Thursday, 3:30-4:30pm. Suitable for all ages.
- **Beginner's Backgammon Club** Thursday, 12:00noon-2:00pm. Learn to play backgammon and play against our volunteer.
- **Knit, Crochet, & Natter** 2nd Thursday of the month, 2:30-3:30pm. Pop in to learn a new skill or to chat to friends whilst you knit. Refreshments provided.
- **Just a Cuppa** Friday 10:30am-12:30pm. Pop into the library for a free tea or coffee, chat to others in the library or our staff.
- **Loddon Loves Book Group** 2nd and last Fridays of the month, 5:45-6:45pm. Come and discuss the chosen book for the month. Advance booking essential. Please use the details below to book.
- **LEGO Club** Saturday 2:20-3:30pm. Suitable for children aged 5+.

Local Book Sale: we will be hosting a local books sale from Saturday 2nd April to Saturday 23rd April. All books will be individually priced and about Norfolk and Suffolk.

Spinners, Weavers & Dyers: The Norfolk and Suffolk guild will be in the library doing a demonstration and allowing you to give spinning and weaving a go on Thursday 28th April from 2-4pm. If you have an interest in such techniques please pop down and give it a go!

Housebound customers: We have volunteers who can deliver books straight to your door. If you are interested in this for yourself or know someone who would benefit from this service, please contact the library on 01508 520678.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

The meeting on 16th February was both the AGM and then a talk by Robin Sampson. Carol Webb chaired the AGM and outlined the work of the group over the last two years:

- Bryon Sparkes has organised digs at Lodge Farm, The Angel and a garden in Langley.
- Graveyard surveys and markers have been updated at Hardley, Langley, Heckingham and Raveningham by Elvie Herd and a large band of helpers.
- Displays in Youngs' windows have shown 'local churches' followed by 'oddities'.
- Elvie has organised two displays in Loddon Church, one on tithe maps and the other on heraldry
- Stalls were set up at 'Loddon Unlocked' and the Victorian Evening.
- Two new publications are on sale: 'The Changing Face of Chedgrave and the Riverside' and 'Aspects of Wartime in Loddon'.
- Elvie and Peter Webster digitised nearly all the maps.

Bryon, the Treasurer, said finances were good with over £1,200 in the bank—enough to finance future projects. The programme of speakers for the rest of this year is nearly complete. The summer outing is to Raveningham Gardens on 10th June (provisionally). The committee stepped down and were then voted back unanimously.

Robin Sampson, Manager of the Community Archives run by the Norfolk Record Office, outlined the support offered to Local History groups like Loddon. His aim was to provide training, support and resources through a project started in 2020. Groups were invited to make an application to join with just over 30 being chosen, including Loddon. Those accepted were divided into six different cohorts who were given ten meetings in tailored sessions while equipment was provided to help with each group's collections.

There were three main areas of help offered: cataloguing archive collections; helping preserve these collections; digitising old photographs and postcards. Each group was given a budget of up to £250 for preservation materials of which Loddon History Group has taken advantage. Advice and training were also given on the best storage conditions. Loddon was given a digitising kit including a camera, stand and dedicated laptop with software. Peter found the processing of the images very time-consuming. After the meeting we were able to see the results of this digitising when we enjoyed a fascinating PowerPoint showing views of Loddon and surrounding villages taken in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Next Meeting: 20th April: Dr Rik Hoggett on 'A very remote period indeed'. Discovering East Anglia's early Humans.

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

Carole Rylands

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

The Arrival by Shaun Tan

This wordless graphic novel is a phenomenon which has been widely praised and awarded. I wanted to include it this month because it's about the displacement of people and their journeys and how they can find themselves without their families. It's a beautiful tribute to refugees everywhere and I really recommend reading it. The surrealist artwork is stunning and draws you into a very different imagined world. It's suitable for children over 8.

The Coward by Jarred McGinnis

The Coward is an autobiographical novel. Jarred's mother dies when he is young and his father, already an alcoholic, becomes abusive and neglectful. Jarred runs away as soon as he can and lives the life of a drifter, living from hand to mouth. But then a car accident makes him a paraplegic and the only person he can call is his (reformed) father. The journey that Jarred takes us on is a very emotional one, at its heart is the broken, damaged relationship with his father. Although it sounds like a misery memoir it's actually darkly funny and heart-warming.

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

I had no knowledge of the greatest maritime disaster of all time until I read this book. 9000 lives were lost when the German boat, Gusthoff Wilhem, was torpedoed by the Russians in the dying stages of WW2. Although this is based on historical fact the characters are all imagined. The author has purposefully chosen the weakest and those least able to decide their destiny when their lives become ravaged by war. Told in short chapters, each character takes their turn to add their perspective as the story unfolds. It's heart-breaking but also a wonderful testament to the human spirit.

Again, Rachel by Marion Keyes

The story of Rachel and her battle with drug addiction in Rachel's Holiday has always been my favourite Marion Keyes book so I was eager to read the sequel (which she said she'd never write!). We come back to the familiar character of Rachel, who is now working in an addiction clinic, as head counsellor. The book focuses a lot on the help various characters receive with their addictions, while gradually revealing that Rachel is still in recovery herself. There is a very moving and harrowing account of the loss of a baby and how the characters cope, or don't, with the grief striking in its raw honesty. But there is also humour, lightness and joy. I very much enjoyed it!

On the to be read pile!

Love Marriage by Monica Ali – I remember reading Brick Lane many, many years ago and this new book from her has gone straight on my wish list!

Ruth Redford



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Nature Notes

It almost seems flippant to be writing these nature musings with all that is going on in Ukraine in early March, and who knows how things will have developed by the time this comes out in April. We are praying for peace.

My year list of birds has increased to 137. My first sortie out in February was to Hen Reedbeds at and Walberswick. Fortunately, the tide was out on Blythburgh Estuary, and I quickly spotted a grey plover out on the mudflats.



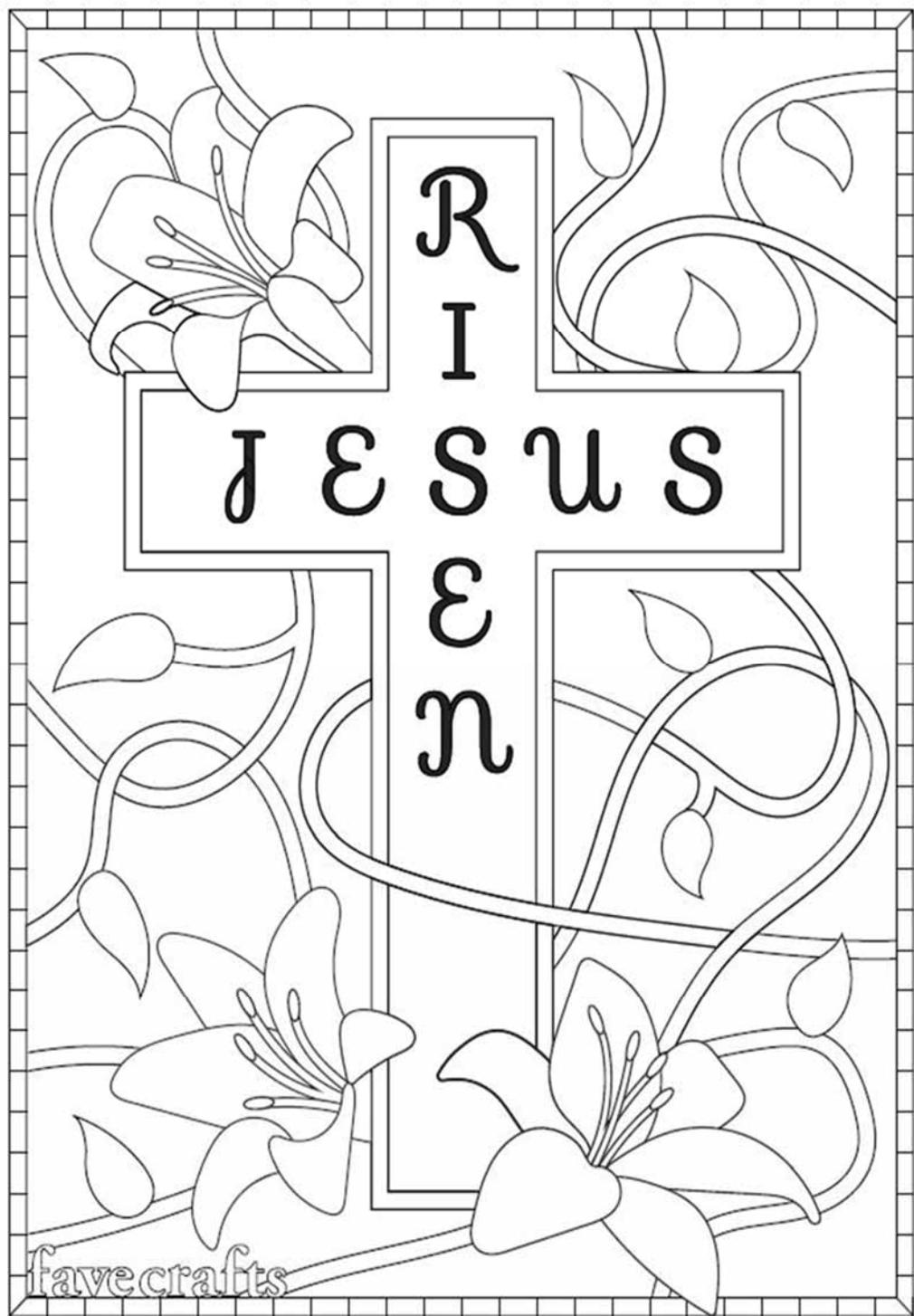
There were also avocets, curlews, dunlin, redshank, black tailed godwit, oyster catcher and ringed plover. I failed to locate the glaucous gull supposedly at the far end of the estuary, so I decided to check through the gulls that were loafing around on a sandbank in front of me: herring gull, common gull, mediterranean gull, black headed gull. Then, there it was, a juvenile glaucous gull, much larger than its companions and biscuit-coloured.

I moved onto Walberswick, where a glossy ibis had been reported in the field inland from the shore car park. It was easy to pick out with its iridescent dark feathers. Glossy ibis, a few years ago, would have been a major rarity, but no longer; in fact, there have been up to three birds in our area, the other two being at Lowestoft and Rockland. I then made my way along the beach towards Dunwich, in search of three more species. I quickly saw a short-eared owl disappearing into the reeds. Checking every redshank I saw on the shore pools in the hope of finding a spotted redshank, another winter visitor, I suddenly struck lucky. Both species standing together enabled me to easily observe their differences. The final bird I was hoping to see was a twite, a sparrow-sized bird similar to a linnet. As there was only a handful of this winter bird between Dunwich and Walberswick, and time was running out, I decided to retrace my steps to the carpark. Then ahead of me in the shingle I could see a small flock of birds. On closer inspection, I could see snow and reed buntings, then amongst them there were the twite, which lightened my step walking back on the shingle beach.

Walking our dog along the Yare, I enjoyed the large flocks of lapwings being put up by several marsh harriers. Another flock of about a hundred waders took off in tight formation on the Cantley side of the river. It took me a few minutes to work out what they were, then the penny dropped, black tailed godwit. Over the years of living here I have only seen small numbers of this bird, so a flock of a hundred (ish) was really pleasing. This time it wasn't the marsh harriers putting them to fright, but a peregrine falcon.

Although only at the beginning of March as I write this, the dawn chorus is in full swing and we have observed blackbirds and sparrows collecting nest material from our garden. Winter visitors are still with us but will be moving north as the month progresses and our summer visitors will start to arrive. So, keep your senses alert, you never know what you might come across.

Richard and Rachel Hull



Gardening Notes

From the Allotment—Andrew Milner

You should now be planting out your potatoes, onions, and shallots. Potatoes need plenty of space, but this varies between earlies (new potatoes) and main crop so follow the instructions on the pack or check the spacings online if you saved your own seed potatoes. You can do this, but it obviously carries a bit more risk that they have a disease so check the tubers carefully before using. This shouldn't be a problem with newly bought seed potatoes but reject any that don't look healthy. If the potatoes are large, you can halve them before planting, making sure there are 'eyes'—new sprouting growth in both pieces.

The easiest and most reliable way to grow onions is from 'sets', which are small young bulbs. Double-check every few days at first and replant any that the birds have pulled out of the ground expecting a worm to eat! They need lots of water to get to a good size. Loddon Garden and DIY sell onion and shallot sets loose, which is less wasteful than the tiny bags garden centres mostly sell them in. There is less choice bulk-buying this way, but I have found them to be reliable varieties.

Aubergines, chillies and tomatoes need a long growing season to produce a good crop so April is the last chance to sow the seed. Lots of other seeds can also be started in the greenhouse or on the windowsill for the first sowings. Early radishes always seem to be the best.

From the Garden—Shirley Cross

This month is a busy time in the garden and the weather can still be a touch chilly for planting. Spring flowering shrubs, such as forsythia and flowering currant can be pruned now they have flowered and prune a third of your dogwood stems to retain the coloured stems. If you place the bright red stem tips from the prunings in water they may produce green shoots and roots so a few free plants and an attractive vase for the windowsill.



One job I always forget is to put my plant supports in now whilst the plant is small. It will grow through the support rather than me trying to squeeze it in later.

Continue to deadhead and feed bulbs and split large clumps of snowdrops, and keep well-watered. You may have seen the news about the yellow snowdrop, Golden Tears, that was sold recently for £1,850 for a single bulb, which beat the previous highest price of £1,390 in 2015 for Golden Fleece, another yellow snowdrop. Yellow marked snowdrops are highly desirable, it's a bit like tulip mania. These bulbs as they increase in numbers will become more affordable. Golden Fleece is now available for £130 a bulb.

Further news on the peat-based compost, I have seen several large supermarkets stocking Miracle gro peat-free compost so will try a bag and report back next month.

Our wildlife pond is finished so now off to plant water lilies and the bog garden.

End Piece

Reading through this month's copy, it strikes me that village life simply cannot flourish without volunteers. They are the life blood of everything which makes living here so good.

Starting with the church—since this is a church magazine—we find that of the church leadership, only the rector David Owen, receives a stipend from the Church of England. The rest of the team: clergy; lay ministers; churchwardens; secretaries; treasurers; are all volunteers.

Chet Contact itself is edited by volunteers and distributed by volunteers. The advertising is managed by a volunteer. Church groups and activities such as Noah's Ark and Friends & Neighbours are run by volunteers.

Moving on from the church, we know that there is a huge amount of time put in by the leaders of the uniformed organisations such as Brownies and Rainbows. So, too, those who run the many sports and social groups in, and for, our villages: football; table tennis; bowls; hockey; whist; badminton; Probus; WI; and many more.

Or what about those who keep our village halls going? Those who volunteer to serve on our parish councils? The people who run groups for those who are interested in history, photography, flower arranging or gardening? Those who run groups such as ChetChat or the Day Centre?

I could more than fill this page with a salute to all those whose activities are featured in the pages of Chet Contact and who work long hours for no financial reward in order to offer possibilities which can enrich the lives of those of us who live in the Chet Valley.

Volunteering originally meant joining an army of your own freewill, rather than being conscripted. Fortunately, it has a less militaristic meaning today. But the notion of free will is still important. Those who volunteer, do so freely because they want to contribute to the community; to share their skills and experience with others; to give back something of the good fortune they have received.

But I worry whether volunteering is something which has had its day. I hear of clubs and societies folding because there is no-one prepared to step up and take on a role. I know that parish councils have vacancies; that much more to enhance village life could be done if only there were people prepared to step up and take a part.

The more people who volunteer, the less each individual has to do. Are you a volunteer? Not yet? Waiting for the right time? Waiting to be asked? Too busy at the moment? We all have reasons to take a back seat but perhaps now might be the moment for you to take that step forward?

Alison.



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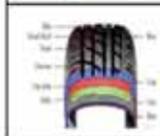
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