



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

December–January 2022–2023



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Chet Valley Churches

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen:	01508 522993	david.chetvalley@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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Please include your name and telephone number.



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Disclaimer

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From the Editor

Who would have predicted the year we have just had? With war in Ukraine, record-breaking summer temperatures and Norfolk wildfires amongst national and global harbingers of climate catastrophe, three Prime Ministers in as many months, the Queen's death with the accession of King Charles III.... And to think that this time last year the main thing we were worrying about was whether or not we would be able to gather as families or if Covid would prevent that once again.

I wonder what 2023 holds. I don't think anyone would like to make predictions about that. But before then we have some wonderful Christmas events coming up. There's the Victorian Evening and Open House at the beginning of December, carol services in all of our churches and one in the pub, carol singing at Chedgrave Shops on Christmas Eve, and Midnight Communion services in Chedgrave and Loddon (see p27 for times and places). All of these are a wonderful time for the community to gather together and celebrate. See you there!

All that remains for me to do is to give our thanks to all our contributors, advertisers and distributors without whom Chet Contact would not be produced and get out to all our villages.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Alison



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Ministerial Musings

Christmas—A Sunday Special

Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year. It's the day that traditionally clergy like best as the week following it isn't punctuated by the need to provide normal services. We have a bit of down-time before we start again. But what are the implications of Christmas Day being on a Sunday? Is it special?

I always try to explain that Christmas is not really an event by itself, but it is the beginning of a story—the greatest story ever told. It's often difficult to see it as a beginning when the shops and media have been pushing tinsel and toys for weeks, and have generally been encouraging us to feel that by Boxing Day the game is over. However, just think about this:

- We know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem all those years ago. Both the Bible and other historical records show that this happened.
- We know that he lived in what we now call the Holy Land and spent his adult life teaching people about the love of God, and how they might be forgiven and reconciled to God in spite of the awful behaviour of many human beings.
- We know that he was killed by the authorities, and that he was not guilty of any crime.
- And finally, we know that the Christmas story doesn't end in death.

In fact, the Christmas story doesn't actually end. The birth of Jesus, just like everyone else, was the start of his life on earth, and of course we want to celebrate that. However, we miss the point if we don't also look ahead to Easter, when we celebrate both his death and his resurrection, which are the means by which we can know God's love and forgiveness. That is what we celebrate in church every Sunday.

So is it special that Christmas Day is on a Sunday? Yes it is, because we have two great celebrations—the birth of Jesus as a human baby, and the resurrection of Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Do come and celebrate with us in church on this very special day.

David Owen





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Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley



You are welcome to join us at any of our services

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at one or other of the Chet Valley Churches, either Book of Common Prayer 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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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 join us at St John's Lecture Hall on the **first Thursday of the month.** Make new friends, enjoy tea or lunch together.



Next Meeting:

Our December meeting will be an outing to The Old Feathers restaurant, Framingham Pigot on 1st December for a Christmas lunch. Please could members meet there at 12:00noon, for lunch at 12:30pm.

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-12:00 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 let's pray for all children across our 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.

Funerals

Robert Henry Beard who died on 26th September 2022

Funeral: 1st November 2022 at Waveney Crematorium.

Christopher Peter Cole who died on 4th September 2022

Funeral: 28th October 2022 at Waveney Crematorium.

Heather Priscilla Pipe who died on 13th October 2022

Funeral: 7th November 2022 at Holy Trinity, Loddon.

Mary Rose Benton who died on 16th October 2022

Funeral: 11th November 2022 at All Saints, Chedgrave.

Ronald William Henery who died on 25th October 2022

Funeral: 11th November 2022 at St John's, 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.

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 2022. 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.

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News From Your Local Councillors

Landscaping on George Lane/Roundabout/St Georges Park: I have spoken with Norfolk Highways about the untidy state of the roundabout. My engineer is going to make sure it is sorted out. Ongoing discussions are taking place about the new play areas to be provided and tree planting, road surfacing etc. These are all in hand, but as usual, the wheels turn slower than we would like!

Financial Help is Available: Many people are facing hardship in these difficult financial times. If you know of someone who needs help, reach out to the Help Hub at South Norfolk. Some grants are discretionary, not just for those who already qualify for benefits. Please spread the word, this government funding is available, it's no good sitting in the bank at SNC and then being returned if it's not used.

E-mail: helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or telephone: 01603 430431

Season of Joy and Good Will: The Christmas lights should be up by the time you read this brightening up our lives and bringing some good cheer. I know that the Parish Councils in Loddon, Chedgrave and the surrounding villages, have worked hard this year to improve what's on offer for local people. Thank you to our Parish Councillors, who are volunteers, for the hard work they do for us, and to the staff working behind the scenes. We do appreciate you.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you all in 2023.

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

Councillor Kay Mason-Billig

Please let me know if you might be interested in becoming one of the team of community wardens, who will have a very important role to play if an emergency does occur; with events like extreme weather conditions happening more often, I think this team will do very important work.

If you, or someone over-60 that you know, would like some help and maybe just some friendship, please phone ChetChat on **07944 858929**.

I'd also be grateful if you could let me know anyone over-60 who you feel would appreciate a hand-delivered Christmas hamper this year; we're hoping that some people might like to sponsor these hampers, which cost £10 each, once again. Please get in touch.



My next surgeries will be in Loddon library on **Saturday 10th December** and, next year, **11th February** from 2:00-3:00pm. Please drop in if I can help with anything, or just to say hello!

Please ring me anytime on **07733 323581** if I can help you. Many people do.

Finally, I'd like to say that I know that a lot of people are understandably worried about things at the moment, but please reach out if I, or anyone else across our wonderful community, can help 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 its Meeting on 3rd November 2022.

“Warm & Well”: Loddon Library is operating as a “Warm & Well” location and All Saints Chedgrave is also offering a warm space this winter (see details elsewhere in Chet Contact). Additionally, SNC and NCC are offering various hardship grants to residents. Please visit their websites for details.

Chedgrave Common: The council would really like to encourage the community to get involved with the project to obtain Land Registry title of Chedgrave Common particularly as so many of us enjoy this tranquil, natural place for walking and relaxation. ***Please get involved, the council needs your help!*** Please contact the clerk for further details. Thank you.

Jubilee Bench: The council will be installing a new bench on Langley Road opposite White Horse Plain. This is kindly supported by the Jubilee Fete and District Councillor Kay Mason-Billig. There may also be scope to install a memorial bench at the mooring on Chedgrave Common. Please contact the clerk if you are interested.

Footway Lighting: The council has entered into a six-month contract for electricity provision which helps with budgeting. The council will also be investigating switching footway lighting off in the dead of night to save money.

Councillor Vacancies: The council still has two vacancies, although several interested parties. Being a councillor is a varied role and involves you in many unseen aspects of local life. Why not come along to a meeting and observe? You will get a flavour of the wide range of topics the council deals with and meet other councillors. The next meeting will be on 1st December, details below.

Christmas Lights: Thank you to everyone who has given permission to hang lights from their home, provided electricity or helped with this task in some way or other. Hopefully by the time you read this, our display will be on and looking lovely!

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 1st December 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 and illegal activities, public disorder and nuisance, anti-social behaviour, speeding, uncontrolled dogs, should all be reported to the Police on 999 or 101 (non-emergency) and can be reported online at www.norfolk.police.uk.

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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



Christmas Lights: Loddon has always been known for its beautiful display of Christmas lights and we thank you for your part in that. The Council's contractor will be installing the LED lightweight string lights on the properties and businesses on Church Plain, Bridge Street and the High Street at the end of November. There will also be additional light displays on Church Plain and the Staithe Car Park.

Thank you to those who have offered to power the lights.

To report faulty lights, please call the Parish Council emergency phone line: 01508 486128 or email: info@loddonpc.org.uk.

Victorian Evening: The formal Christmas light switch on and Victorian Evening will be on Friday 9th December. Thanks to the Victorian Evening Committee for organising this annual event.

Small Grants: We have recently awarded several small grants to local organisations; 1st Loddon Brownies, Loddon Community Cinema, Loddon & District WI and Loddon Royal British Legion. If you would like to apply for a local group/organisation (generally up to £100), please see the Parish Council website for more information or an application form.

Chet Valley Community Larder: The larder is in the library corridor and is open to everyone. You can bring and take food, share food, receive food, or make a donation. If you would like to be involved with the running of the larder, please let us know. Open Monday to Friday 8:00am-7:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm, Sunday-10:00am-4:00pm.

Emergency Plan: An Emergency Plan is being formed for Loddon and Chedgrave and emergency volunteers are being sought to represent zones in Loddon. Please email: emergencyplan@loddonpc.org.uk for more information.

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Hollies Rear Hall (access via the back door) on Wednesday 14th December at 7:00pm and parishioners are welcome to attend. The minutes and agendas for meetings are available on the Loddon Parish Council website.



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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Eleanor Bannister.

Tel: 07703 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)



Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 7:30pm in Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas and minutes are on the notice board in the bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on our website.

Hales & Heckingham Composting Scheme: It is with thanks and regret that we have to report that, after nearly eight seasons of garden recycling, amounting to over 55 tons of waste material, the Community Composting Scheme will close in December. We would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

Hales Green: New and much improved carparking spaces have been created at the end of Green Road and Transport Lane. They will help limit the damage to the green. Our thanks to Jamie Henry at South Norfolk Council for his on-going support and cooperation.

Dog Poo: Please pick it up and not just because it's Christmas! If you or your dog has walked somewhere, chances are others will too.

Dark Nights: As nights draw in, please make sure that you wear reflective clothing and carry torches and backup batteries when walking and cycling. **Drivers please be aware there are other road users who are more vulnerable than you.** Stay Safe!

A Guiding Hand in Hard Times: Please refer to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/HHPC2020/ and website www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk/ where you will find lots of useful tips, tricks and advice on help during these hard times. Let our clerk know if you're going to struggle in the event of a power cut.

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/> and let our clerk know.

Would You Like to Help? If you are passionate about where you live, we have vacancies to fill. Our aim is to provide a voice for concerns, ideas and initiatives that would benefit our villages and **we need your help**. Please do get in touch with our Clerk for more information if you're interested in getting involved as a:

- Parish Councillor or on a working group
- Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Separately, we welcome Max Jackman as our new Village Tree Warden.

Do You Need Assistance? Please do get in touch with South Norfolk & Broadland's Help Hub: E-mail helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or ring 01508 533933. They can help with a wide range of problems.

Wishing you a Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year

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Langley with Hardley Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emma Webster
Tel: 07516 361239 Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com
Website: <https://langleywithhardleypc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>
Facebook: To be developed



Visit by Matthew Hutton: Matthew Hutton, representing Lady Dannatt (Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk), presented the Parish Council with a plaque marking the way the community had pulled together over Covid 19.

Maintenance of the Play Area: Following the annual health and safety inspection of the play area a wooden seat, thought to be unsafe, was removed.

Grant Awarded to Hardley Church: A £500 grant towards grass cutting in the churchyard has been awarded to Hardley PCC.

Renovation of the Telephone Box Community Library: Our red telephone box, successfully converted to a library, is due to undergo a re-fit and renovation. If you would like to help with this please contact the parish clerk.

CHET Neighbourhood Plan: Responses for the plan being put together by Loddon and Chedgrave Parish Councils are required. (see p26). Please share your ideas with Tibby at the community lunches (see below) or with the parish clerk.

Volunteer for SAM2: Roger Stone is kindly currently looking after the SAM2 vehicle speed regulator. If you would like to help with this please contact our clerk.

Visits to Langley Abbey: Visitors can be accommodated by appointment if prior notice is given.

Trees for the Play Area: Three *Malus* trees have been purchased and will be planted in the play area to mark the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Accession and Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd January at 7:30pm in the village hall. All are welcome.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall



Friday 2nd December: Café open from 11:00am-1:00pm. Homemade scones, cakes and sausage rolls; locally-grown jacket potatoes with a choice of filling with salad and coleslaw. Also sandwiches with a choice of fillings with salad and plain crisps. Great company and chatting and laughter for all ages. Children's activities provided.

Saturday 10th December: Quiz and Nibbles. Doors open 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. £4 entry per person. Teams of up to six people or join a team if you would like to on the night. It should be a fun evening.

Friday 16th December at 6:30pm: Meet Santa. Festive food and drink are available to buy. There are tombola, raffle and lucky dip as well. Then carol-singing around the Christmas tree. An amazing evening for all ages.

In January the cafe will not be running but see you all on Friday 3rd February.

Thank you for everyone who has supported us. We would like to wish you Happy Christmas and Happy New Year from all the village hall committee.

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Notes from Sisland

We are fast approaching the end of the year and so we turn our attention to the celebrations which accompany the Christmas season and the start of a new year. Sisland Church will be holding a carol service at 4:00pm on Sunday 18th December. It will be a traditional service with readings from the Christmas story interspersed with traditional carols. Please come and join us if you can. We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after the service. There is also Holy Communion on Christmas morning at 9:00am.



Fund raising continues in order to carry out work on the church tower. We will be running a tombola stall at the Open House in Holy Trinity, Loddon on Friday 9th December. Next year there will be Sunday teas again in August but we also hope to offer teas one weekend in the spring to coincide with the best of the bluebells in the churchyard and at Sisland Carr.

You can also raise funds for St Mary's Church whenever you buy anything online. All you need to do is go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sislandchurch> and join for free. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want, and start shopping. After you've checked out, the retailer will donate to Sisland Church at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

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

Rowena Bryce (Churchwarden, Sisland)

A Snapshot of Life on the Farm in Sisland

The change of season brings a different routine. Work since harvest time has been varied, including spreading natural farm manure on the stubbles, trimming hedges, cultivating land and sowing seeds of winter wheat, winter barley and oil seed rape. Some artificial fertilizer and herbicides have been applied and with rain showers and warm sunshine throughout October the plants are growing well. This is also a time for maintenance work on machinery and farm buildings. After grazing on the meadows and marshes through the summer months, the cows with their one-year-old calves and the bull have been brought into the cattle sheds for the winter. They will be fed hay and silage and have a clean straw bedding every day. A few have already had their new-born calves and as the rest come near to calving, we will keep a close eye on their condition. It is always good to see a calf born safely. Wildlife such as Chinese water deer, muntjacs, hares, partridges and pheasants roam across the fields, swans spend time near the river, squirrels are busy storing nuts for winter and owls are heard calling. When the winter snow falls, it is fun to identify footprints and tracks left by animals and birds as they pass by.

Jill Haylock

LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING

Once again, the annual Victorian Evening will take place on Friday 9th December 6:30-8:30pm. Father Christmas will arrive outside Bay Tree House (opposite Church Plain) at 6:30pm for the “grand switch on” of the Church Plain Christmas lights.

- * Father Christmas will be in his grotto at Bay Tree House from 6:30pm.
- * Punch & Judy Show at 6:45pm and 7:15pm in the rear of The Hollies with gifts generously donated by Halsbury Homes.
- * Fire engine display and BBQ at the Loddon Fire Station.
- * Farmer’s Market and Country Market at The Hollies with festive goodies and crafts.
- * Vintage steam engines on the Co-Op forecourt.

And many traders throughout the town will be open and welcoming you!

Sales, Games, Gifts and more

There will be lots going on in Holy Trinity church and St John’s Chapel at the Victorian Evening...



**Come for mulled wine, coffee
or hot choc and browse the stalls**

Friday 9th December, 6-9pm approx

The stalls in the churches are all either raising money for charities (local and beyond) or advertising local community groups.

There’s no charge to come in and take a look!

Parkinson’s

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 Bell Ringers



Our members have been out and about ringing quarter peals at Cromer, Holt, Ashill, Great Ellingham, Barnham Broom, Upper Sheringham, Saham Toney, Watton, St. George Colgate in Norwich, and Wymondham Abbey.

On 9th October we rang a peal of 42 doubles methods at All Saints, Woodton which took 2 hours 44 minutes to complete. We also took part in an Association trip to London on 22nd October and rang the bells at four churches in the capital.

We are lucky in Norfolk to have a dedicated training centre at St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich. It was designed and installed in 2015 and houses eight simulated training bells, all linked to computers, so can be used at any time without disturbance outside. Daily courses are available tailored to an individual or group need ranging from introductory handling for beginners to complex method ringing for more advanced bands. During October it was open for people to see what the centre can provide, so we took a party from Holy Trinity to show our new recruits what additional training is available for them. It hosts regular junior ringers' sessions and is ideal for complete beginners of any age from across East Anglia and beyond.

As the year draws to a close, our bells will be rung for Sunday services as normal, for COP27, for Remembrance, the annual Victorian evening and all the services and events planned for the festive season leading up to Christmas. A Peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major is planned for New Year's Day at Loddon which will start around 3:00pm and, if successful, should finish around 6:00pm.

This year we have found that, in general, the number of bellringers in our local area seems to have declined as we have been supporting more and more churches when ringers are needed. This may be covid-related as some of the older ringers didn't return afterwards, or due to having health problems or just moving away. Here at Loddon, over the last year, we were lucky to have some new recruits join us. They are of various ages and all are progressing well some starting to ring for Sunday morning services. As we are a teaching tower, we have good facilities to train new ringers. If you are interested and want to find out more, please contact our tower captain, David Webb, on 01508 528468 for more details.

Wanted...

If anyone has some green plastic chairs, then Hardley Mill would like to have them. Please could you deliver them to Frances Kirkpatrick at Langley Forge, Forge Road.

Many thanks.



Chet Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Residents from both Chedgrave and Loddon are developing the Chet Neighbourhood Plan, an official document that aims to maintain, promote, and improve the quality of both villages as places where we can live, work, obtain services, and undertake leisure activities. We are paying particular attention to the environment and sustainability. Working towards net zero carbon emissions and protecting biodiversity are both key requirements of the plan.



The 'Initial Draft' Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is coming together and there are sections where your help would be fantastic. Please could you let us know your thoughts/suggestions on the green spaces in and close to each village (eg Pyes Mill, Chedgrave Common, the bowls greens, Farthing Green...; there are many more). We want to protect our local green spaces in the NP; your opinion on them is essential.

We are also looking to protect special 'views' or vistas—this could be a street scene or across the river—any view that you don't want to see lost by the creation of *anything* in its way. We have some thoughts, but your opinions would be really helpful.

If you would like to give us your thoughts, please use the Contact Us page on the website or send an email to neighbourhoodplan@loddonpc.org.uk or drop a note into the Loddon Parish Council letter box on Church Plain.

Please visit our website ([Chet Neighbourhood Plan | Welcome \(chetnp.info\)](http://chetnp.info)) to keep informed of progress. Do have a look at the initial draft of the NP when it is put on the website, hopefully during December, to see what you can do to help.

Tuesday Market, Loddon

You will find your favourite festive fare at the Hollies, 10:00-11:30am on Tuesdays: sausage rolls, mince pies, shortbread, chutneys etc, all freshly made, as well as many other delicious treats. Stuck for present ideas? Our crafters have been very busy making lots of unique gifts.



We will be open on Victorian Evening on Friday 9th December in The Hollies, with food, craft and Christmas greenery stalls. Our Market will close after trading on Tuesday 20th December and re-open on Tuesday 14th February 2023. If you have any queries contact Sheila Ford 01508 520752. Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year to all our customers!

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch



Our last meeting of the year will be our AGM, on 21st November. We meet at The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon on the third Monday of each month, 18:45 for 19:00 start. There will be no meeting in December. We begin our New Year 2023 meetings on 16th January, followed by 20th February and 20th March.

Our Branch wishes to thank Loddon Parish Council for our successful grant application. It allowed us to replace our thirteen-year-old green gazebo with a bright blue one.

Remembrance: Thanks to Loddon Parish Council for arranging road closure and car park allowing the parade to run smoothly. The RBL Poppy Cascade was in full bloom again containing the poppies made by so many local people in 2018 with the two silhouettes at Farthing Green. Thanks to all who contributed to the Poppy Appeal and those who volunteered on the Stall.

We hope to be at the Victorian Evening event; do pop along and say hello.

For information on joining RBL (no longer restricted to just Forces personnel) or for support, please contact Colin on 01508 521136.

Social Whist



In December we are changing our dates to avoid a clash with the much awaited Victorian Evening on the 9th December and making the most of the five Friday month so in December we will be getting together on the: 2nd December, 16th December and 30th December.

Usual start time of 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start in the back room of The Hollies—a chance to chat, play a bit of whist, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee with a biscuit, all in great company. No need to have a partner or to have played before, it's just an enjoyable evening out. If you need a lift, please call me (Jane) on 528875.

In January we will revert to the 2nd and 4th Fridays each month:

13th and 27th January; 10th and 24th February.

Looking forward to seeing our regular players and meeting any new ones.

Thank you

A sincere thank you to all friends and neighbours and Chet Valley Medical Practice for all your kindness and care throughout Ted's long illness bravely borne. Ted passed away peacefully in his sleep (24th October 2022).

A celebration of Teds life will take place at Langley with Hardley Village Hall on Saturday 3rd December 2:00-5:00pm. His funeral has already taken place.

Donations, in his memory, to Lynn who is raising money for patient care in the Oncology unit and Brundall ward at NNUH.

Church Services

4th December—2nd of Advent

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

11th December—3rd of Advent

9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave*
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
7:30pm	Pub Carol Service	White Horse, Chedgrave

18th December—4th of Advent

10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
4:00pm	Carol Service	St Mary, Sisland
5:00pm	Carol Service	All Saints, Chedgrave
6:30pm	Carol Service	Holy Trinity, Loddon

24th December—Christmas Eve

11:00am	Carol Singing	Outside Chedgrave shops
11:30pm	Midnight Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
11:30pm	Midnight Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon

25th December—Christmas Day

9:00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
10:00am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon

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. Our wheeled tables are easy to move and put up. It is warm even in the winter! It is available to book with a suggested donation of £8 per hour. If you are looking for a venue for a meeting, a party, or an activity do contact Anne Jackson who is responsible for hall bookings on 01508 502278.

Church Services

1st January		
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
8th January		
9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
15th January		
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship*	All Saints, Chedgrave
4:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
22nd January		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
29th January		
10:45am	Benefice Covenant Service	St John, Loddon
7:00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John, Loddon

***Altogether Worship** will be followed by a bring and share lunch to which all are welcome.

Advent and Christmas Collections at All Saints, Chedgrave

At the first three services of Advent, we will be collecting Christmas items (eg Christmas puddings, crisps, chocolates, decorations—no mince pies) for the Chet Valley Community Larder. On 13th December users will be able to choose up to six items that will improve their Christmas Day.

At the carol services and carol singing in Chedgrave, there will be a cash collection for the Save the Children Christmas appeal, 'Protect the Magic'; they are feeding children in Yemen and other such forgotten places.

Please come and donate something. Thank you.

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches		
*Every Saturday 6:00pm	Roman Catholic Mass NB Christmas Day Mass 9:00am	
**Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm	<p align="center">Come and Pray</p> <p align="center">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 align="center">'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection'</p> <p align="center">3rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing</p>	
Thursdays during school term	<p align="center">XTRA!</p> <p align="center">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.



Community Groups, News and Events

News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon and District Women's Institute

November was the usual busy month for Loddon WI, with members enjoying hearing Juyna Lewis telling us how to 'Spice up our Christmas' as well as the Book Club, Knit and Natter at the Library, and a very productive morning getting things ready for our stall at the Victorian Evening. We also hosted a craft day, when people had the opportunity to relax in each other's company while getting on with a craft activity of their choice, knowing that there would be no unwelcome distractions.

Looking forward:

Thursday 1st December 10:30am Open House, 13 Drury Lane.

Thursday 8th December 2:30-4:00pm Knit & Natter in the Library on Church Plain, Loddon.

Friday 9th December Victorian Evening We are having a stall in Holy Trinity Church.

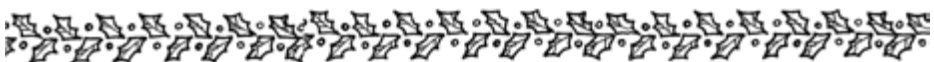
Thursday 15th December Book club. Time and venue to be decided at our November meeting.

Wednesday 21st December 7:15 for 7:30pm Christmas Party at our monthly meeting.

Wednesday 18th January 2:15 for 2:30pm (NB Change of time) St Johns Chapel, George Lane, when our very own Sue Sursham will tell us about her travels in Vanuatu, an island country located in the South Pacific Ocean. There will be the usual additional meetings/events (dates to be confirmed). New members always welcome. For further information we can be contacted via our Facebook page or on 01508 528656.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Due to Christmas our meeting in December will be two weeks early on Tuesday 13th December. At the following meeting, on 24th January, we hope to have a Beetle Drive. We meet at 2:00pm at All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave. May we take this opportunity to wish all our members, past and present, a very Happy Christmas. For more information, please contact Audrey 528393 or Angela 521120.





FitzRoy are recruiting!

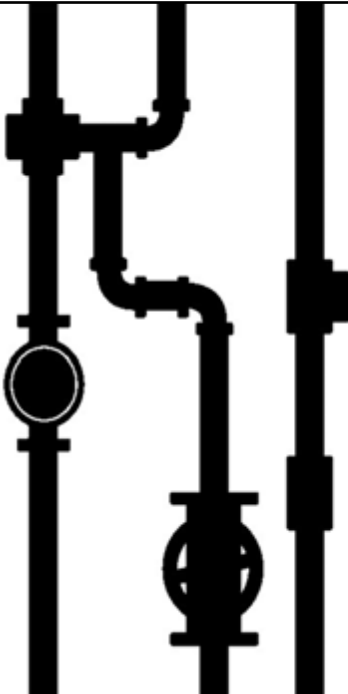
FitzRoy Registered Care and Nursing service in Hales provides care and support for twelve residents with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and complex health needs.

We are seeking exceptional new Support Workers who share our values to join our friendly team.

A support worker's day is varied, and flexibility is required. You will be providing care and support individually tailored to the needs and wishes of people with learning disabilities. You will work together to identify and achieve their goals, enabling them to have choice and control over their lives.

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Sport

Footballers Wanted!

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



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

If you have never tried short mat bowls, now that the summer lawns bowls has finished, why not give this a go? We are a very friendly small group that needs some new members. We meet Tuesday afternoons 1:30-3:30pm in the Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Beginners are very welcome; just bring flat indoor shoes (no heels), and we can supply the bowls. The right money of £3 and a sense of humour are also appreciated. More information from Sara 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?

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

For more info: www.loddonhockey.com or email hello@loddonhockey.com



Loddon Tennis Club

The launch of the Tennis Club in June has been very successful and there are now seventy people regularly playing together in Loddon.

Pay and Play is available for £5 per hour via www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/LoddonTennisClub.



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!



Loddon Junior Badminton Club

Open to all children aged 10-16 years regardless of ability. on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-7:45pm; Jubilee Hall. £4 per session; Rackets and shuttles provided.



For more information contact Paul on paulr2677@gmail.com or 07903 794613



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Loddon Community Gym

The Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX
Tel: 07534 946143 www.loddoncommunitygym.com

From now on the Gym will open at some part of every day
Monday to Friday: Monday 1:45–5:25pm; Tuesday 4:45–7:05pm;
Wednesday 9:00–11:20am; Thursday 6:00pm–8:20pm; Friday 10:15am–12:35pm.

As we are a relatively compact gym you will still need to book via
www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym

Following an upbeat AGM in November, the Gym Committee now turns its attention to publicising more widely what the gym offers to everyone in Loddon, Chedgrave and the surrounding villages who wants to improve their fitness in a safe and friendly atmosphere and under expert instruction. Many of the large commercial gyms and even some leisure facilities run by local authorities are sadly running into financial difficulties so it has become even more practical to join a local facility run entirely for the benefit of its members. We continue to open on the days and times above but please contact us if you feel strongly that other times may be more popular. If you run a football, tennis, hockey or other sports club we could run special sessions for you. If you enjoy walking but the cold, wintry weather keeps you indoors, would you consider keeping up your fitness by coming to the gym? If you need encouragement to exercise, even though you know it is good for you, why not come along and give the gym a try? We have had many enquiries from people who would like to exercise with their teenage children, for mutual support, so we are lowering our membership age to sixteen to enable them to join. If we are successful with grant applications we will enhance the gym even further and may be able to offer free taster sessions. Watch this space.



Choir for Carols

Drawn from people of varying ages (~7-90+) we lead the traditional carols as usual and sing one or two items of our own at the carol service in Chedgrave Church.

“It is a lot of fun. We all enjoy the singing and getting to know others in the community.”



The carol service is on Sunday 18th December at 5:00pm

There are four rehearsals; it is best if you can make at least three:

Saturday	26 th November	3:00-4:00pm
Saturday	10 th December	2:00-4:00pm
Saturday	17 th December	10:00am-12:00noon
Sunday	18 th December	3:00-4:00pm

(refreshment break before the service)

If you would like to take part please contact Alison Ball

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

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Chet Staithe Probus Club

We are a club for retired gentlemen, and friendship. The atmosphere is relaxed, jovial, with little formality. Dress code, is casual. We have a good mardle, and a different speaker every meeting on varied subjects. Afterwards, members either go home, adjourn to the bar, or stay for a pleasant lunch. Your choice.

We meet at The White Horse every first and third **Tuesday** of every month, start time 10:00am. Come along to a couple of meetings and try us out; no pressure to join. Clive Boyd, Secretary, 01508 520547 cliveboyd@btconnect.com

Chet Valley Probus Club



Chet Valley Probus Club welcomes people who are retired, semi-retired or approaching retirement and who have had some measure of responsibility in their working life. We are friendly and excellent company, enjoy fascinating talks on a variety of subjects, good food and meeting others of like mind. Why not come along and give us a try with no obligation? We meet at Chedgrave White Horse at 10:30am and lunch is optional.

Next meetings:

13th December: Christmas Lunch

27th December: No meeting

10th January 2023: William Morris and the Yarmouth Activists by Gareth Davies.

24th January 2023: The Yellow Caravan—A camping trip around Norfolk in 1912 by Juliet Webster.

Contact: Hon. Secretary John McCormack 01508 521899.



Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)



Our monthly club meeting in December is on Monday 12th where we plan to meet in Loddon Holy Trinity Church, 7:00pm, to take some indoor and outdoor images around the church. Our meeting in January is on Monday 9th and will be back in St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon, doors open 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. Our website will be updated with more details for both of these evenings nearer the time.

You do not need expensive equipment at all—images can be taken using a mobile device (phone, tablet) or point and shoot camera. Many images are now taken on a smartphone as that is usually the device we have with us at the time.

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. New members will be made very welcome. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

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Loddon WEA



Our speaker for the Spring Term is Nigel Herwin, who will give a seven-week course starting on 16th January 2023 on **Eerie East Anglia—local Tales of Weirdness!** The eastern counties have a rich and colourful history of very strange tales. This course will

explore the most intriguing of these stories: the strangest, the spookiest and the just plain daft. It will attempt to separate the folklore from fact while trying to get to the truth of what really happened. As the phrase goes: the truth is out there!

The lectures will last for two hours, starting at 2:00pm in The Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB. The cost for the course will be £56.00 and bookings can be made using the WEA Student Services, phone number 0300 3033464 or online at enrolonline.wea.org.uk. The course number is C2229200. Remissions are available for those receiving certain benefits. For further details, contact Alison on 01508 521976 or Sharon on 01508 520386.

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

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. New members welcome.

Thursday 1st December: By popular demand we will have another pre-Christmas meal at The Old Feathers, 6:30pm for 7:00 pm. Places should already have been booked and payment made to attend this event.

Wednesday 11th January 2023: Blow the cobwebs away and start the New Year with a walk; Southwold and Walberswick. 10:30am—park on the common near the Water Tower. Pub lunch.

For more information about these events, contact: June at junecs@btinternet.com
Tel: 01508 528853

For membership, contact the membership secretary Hillary meredithp3@sky.com
Tel: 01508 520457.

Chet Valley Voices



Chet Valley Voices is a community choir aged from 15-80+.

We enjoy singing music in a variety of styles from classical to modern. 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 lifted.

Rehearsals: Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm (doors open 6:45pm) in St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Subs: £5, £3 for under-18s. Free first session. New members are always welcome.

Contact, Sue 01508 528069; suemartin303@btinternet.com or chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram @ChetValleyVoices, on Twitter @ChetValleyVoice or on Facebook. www.chetvalleyvoices.co.uk

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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 Indoor Bowls Club

We meet 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). 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.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

On 7th December we will be having our Christmas meal at The Feathers, Framingham Pigot. This meeting is a week earlier than our usual meetings.



On 11th January to start off our meetings in 2023, we have invited Andrew Sankey along with his talk entitled 'Rethinking your garden'.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon and start at 7:30pm. Refreshments are available and a raffle held. Visitors are £2.

Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To join our Society it is £10pa. For more information please contact: Chairman Jean Cope on 01502 710024, email jeancope52@gmail.com Secretary Hazel Copland on 01508 520890, email happyhaze50@gmail.com. Follow us on our Facebook page.

Loddon Community Cinema

Our next presentation is 'The Railway Children Return', directed by Morgan Matthews, and starring Jenny Agutter, Tom Courtenay and Sheridan Smith. A group of evacuees in 1944 arrive in a small Yorkshire town and befriend a young black American soldier who has in fact deserted from the nearby US Army base because of the harsh treatment he is receiving.



Thursday 1st December, St. John's Lecture Hall, George, Lane Loddon. Doors open 7:00pm and the film starts at 7:30pm. Tickets £4, £2 under 16 available on the door or in advance from Loddon DIY.

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Loddon Flower Club

Our next flower arranging demonstration will be our Christmas Open Meeting on Tuesday 6th December. We have invited David Wright along with his title of 'Magical Musical Christmas'. Admission: £12 visitors, £6 members including seasonal refreshments. There will be a tombola, raffles for the arrangements and a Christmas hamper, sales tables and other stalls. Get into the spirit of Christmas by coming along to St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open at 6:15pm for a 7:00pm start.



Make a Christmas swag on Saturday 10th December from 1:00-4:00pm at the Lecture Hall, George Lane Loddon. Cost: £10 including refreshments. For a list of items you will need, please contact our Chairman Tricia Godfrey.

In January we have our New Year lunch on Friday 20th January at the White Horse, Chedgrave.

We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions. Please take a look at our website at www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk for upcoming events and photos from our past meetings. For more information contact Tricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Alex Pinder on 01508 493869 or nnark@aol.com.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the last **Wednesday** of each month. in the back room of The Hollies, Loddon High Street. An annual fee of £10.00 is charged plus £3.00 for each meeting attended. New members always welcome.



Next meeting: Wednesday 25th January. This will be our AGM when we will discuss next year's programme. Please think about any suggestions for speakers and outings. The £10 annual subscription is due this month and if members could also bring along a plate of lite bites that will help the evening along thank you
Contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

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.

Wednesday 7th December: Dr Sarah Pearson—The Art of Celebrating Christmas.

Wednesday 4th January: John Singer Sargent—Master of the Society Portrait by M. Alexander.

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



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Events

- **1:1 PC Support** Monday, 10:00am-12:00noon. Book in advance on 01508 520678 or just turn up on the day. For help with computers, tablets, and mobile phones.
- **Bounce and Rhyme** Monday, 10:15-10:45am. Hot drinks and toys available afterwards; do stay and chat.
- **Colouring Club** Monday, 3:30-4:30pm. Come and colour yourself calm with our ever-changing array of colouring sheets. 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.
- **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 2:30-3:30pm. Suitable for children aged 5+.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

'Will Kemp and his Nine Daies Wonder' was the title of our October lecture given by Jonathan Hooton. He had researched the subject in detail and gave us some interesting visual material. Jonathan started by giving us some background material on Will Kemp's early life. He was probably born in 1549 which made him a contemporary of Shakespeare who was born in 1564. Kemp joined several performing groups and even travelled to the Low Countries in 1585, but the most significant company was Richard Tarlton's as he was the favourite actor of Queen Elizabeth I. Tarlton became famous for his quickfire wit and jests as well as the 'jig' which was a song and dance act at the end of a play. Tarlton died suddenly in 1589 and Kemp took on his mantle. In 1594 Kemp joined the Lord Chamberlain's Men who performed many of Shakespeare's plays. Their theatre was in Shoreditch but in 1598 it was dismantled and moved south of the Thames to be renamed 'The Globe'. Shortly after this move Kemp sold his shares in 'The Globe' and left the company. Jonathan speculated that Shakespeare may have criticised Kemp for not sticking to his script and, instead, ad-libbing to try and get laughs. Some support for this theory is based on the epilogue for Henry IV which Shakespeare changed so that Kemp acting as Falstaff did not speak at the end as he had expected to and then this character was omitted in Henry V's list of characters. Now unemployed, Kemp decided to 'Morrice' dance from London to Norwich in 1600. A good self-publicist he wrote a booklet about it, one of which is in the Bodleian Library. Kemp may have seen this as a way of making money through bets and selling merchandise like gloves. He had relatives living near Diss or he may have chosen Norwich as it was the second most important city in England at that time. Kemp started at the Guildhall in central London on February 11th followed by huge crowds. It took him nine days to actually dance the route but the trip was spread over 27 days so he could rest on some days as the dancing was very energetic and a test of stamina. The famous episode he is particularly remembered for is when he jumped over a wall at St John's Maddermarket to avoid the crowds which had gathered to see him. Norwich corporation gave him £5, made him a freeman of the city and promised him 40 shillings per year for life. After this Kemp joined other acting groups and may have died in 1605 from the plague.

Future Meetings:

21st December: Mary Fewster—Norwich Goldsmiths;

18th January: Will Fitch—The History of Wheatfen.

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

Carole Rylands

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

How Winston Delivered Christmas Wish by Alex T Smith

This book is an advent tale with a chapter for each day of advent. It also has activities and suggestions of fun things to do together with children. It tells the story of Winston, a little mouse, trying to find Father Christmas to deliver a misplaced letter to him, and all his adventures on the way. One for all the family, we've very much enjoyed it in the past (even if we quite often miss a day and have to play catch-up!).

Apples Don't Fall by Liane Moriarty

A very good read with a twist in the tale which made it surprisingly heart-warming. It reads initially like a doom-laden story of despair with a toxic family that just can't be truthful to each other. But the different relationships of the siblings, the parents and the introduction of the potential cuckoo in the nest was very well done. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

The Philosophy of Modern Song by Bob Dylan

Nobel Prize in Literature winner Bob Dylan picks 66 songs to take us on a whistlestop tour of 20th century pop music. With the focus heavily on American recording artists—notably Elvis, Little Richard, Willie Nelson and Sinatra—Dylan gets under the skin of each song. He also uses them as a jumping-off point to muse on eternal themes such as love, faith, growing old and passing beyond the veil.

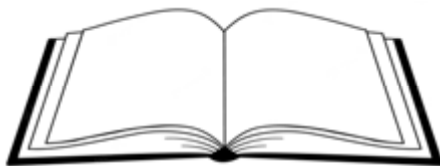
Winter Stolstice by Rosamunde Pilcher

This is a book that I regularly re-read during the Christmas season. It tells the story of grief, loss and of people coming together and finding a way through. It darts about from London, to Cornwall, with the majority of the book set in Scotland. It's quite old-fashioned but there's something very comforting about Rosamunde Pilcher's writing and I think of this book as an old friend!

Someone buy me this for Christmas!

Bournville by Jonathan Coe—My favourite author for a wry, slightly despairing look on the world. His books are really enjoyable and this is 'a hugely impressive state-of-the-nation' tale. If you haven't read him before then try 'What a Carve Up' and 'The Rotter's Club' too.

Ruth Redford



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Nature Notes

As I type this looking out of our kitchen window at the falling rain on the 3rd November, I wonder what the winter will hold for us.

I saw my first redwing on the 19th of September at Surlingham Church Broad. I thought I had seen some fly over but, as they had been silent and I only saw them in silhouette, I wasn't sure. I then came across a small group feeding in a hawthorn bush. But this paled into insignificance when I got home to discover that at Strumpshaw Fen they had a flock of about ten thousand go over! I saw my first fieldfare four days later, calling as they flew.

Walking the dogs at Hardley Staithe in September, I noticed something white along the edge of a field on the footpath going to Hardley Street. Thinking it was more than likely to be a discarded plastic bag, I did venture to scan it with my binoculars. I found that it was in fact a stoat standing on its hind legs showing its white belly. The dogs and I continued our walk crossing the footbridge and through the gate where we disturbed a male pheasant. The stoat reappeared and then ran off; I can only assume it had been stalking the bird and that we had scared off its dinner.

I have enjoyed the sight of the skeins of pink footed geese fly over, fascinated by the continually changing shapes and patterns of the flocks. There is the usual mobile flock of curlew around as well. I often see them in the field opposite the barns at Hardley Staithe. There also seem to be a good number of birds of prey around: buzzards, marsh harriers, kestrels and the occasional sparrowhawk. I think best of all are the red kite. A friend while walking at Hardley Staithe saw seven flying at the same time. The most I have seen is a family group of five.

Speaking of red kite, I was watching a couple of them at Hardley Staithe which were putting to flight a number of birds on the other side of the river Yare. I picked out what I thought might just be a pigeon. However, my binoculars let me see it had a long straight bill. It was too large and bulky for a common snipe, therefore, I can only assume it was a woodcock, which was a pleasant surprise as until then I hadn't seen one this year.

Taking the dogs to Whitlingham Broad where I had heard there was a slavonian grebe around, I wasn't disappointed as it was happily swimming with a group of coots. Also there, while watching a flock of long tailed tits fly in and out of a small hawthorn bush, I was able to see a very obliging goldcrest; a native British bird that is smaller than a Wren. That brings this year's bird species count to 192 so far!

On those crisp, blue sky winter days, why don't you wrap up warm and step outside to see what wildlife is out there for you to discover?

Richard and Rachel Hull



Warm Space on Wednesdays

Now open at All Saints Church, Chedgrave, **9:30am-12:30pm**

We are offering a free, warm church hall open for anyone, to spend some time with friends and neighbours. It is an opportunity to have somewhere to spend time in the warm as the colder weather moves in. There will be facilities in the kitchen to make tea/coffee/etc and there is also a WC.

We're also open on Mondays as a warm space from the same times. You'll meet the Monday Mardlers if you come then!

Davy Place

Bingo every Monday up to the 12th December which is our Xmas bingo.

Hoy will be on the 17th December.

We're hoping to go to Warners at Corton in December but are waiting to decide times and date. We're also arranging a trip to Cherry Lane for the residents that don't go out much. Again, the date is to be arranged.

We would like to say Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to everyone, and to all the people that support us.

Enquiries to Carol Castle: 01508 826488.



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Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

As a change from hearing about my allotment in Chedgrave I asked a friend with an allotment by Loddon Mill to give me a summary of his year's experience given the very hot summer. "The growing conditions on our two sites are very different. The river and alluvial soil at Loddon Community Allotments tends to mean that there is moisture deep down at any time of year if the plant roots can access it. That said, my garlic crop failed*. I thought that they like the same growing conditions as onions but should have provided extra water. My soft fruit also failed, in part due to an attack of sawfly caterpillars, but the dry summer did not help. However, I had my best ever sweetcorn crop and had tomatoes coming out of my ears. Something always seems to do well and something always seems to do badly. Of course, as soon as the rains came, so did the weeds!"

*Garlic needs to be planted in November ideally and likes a wet winter and spring followed by heat to ripen. The last few years have been drier (and hotter) than normal leading to a poor crop. I have planted more garlic this year to compensate. Sadly, a recent Met Office long range farming forecast is for another dry winter along the eastern side of England and that there would be less moisture in the soil than usual come Spring. I'm thinking about what changes I can make to compensate.

Andrew Milner

From the Garden

As I write this it is very wet and windy, so it is a good time to plan the greenhouse plantings for next year. I have already decided to grow San Marzano tomatoes, I may try growing them outside and under glass. The cucumber plant given to me by a neighbour was interesting; it produced small round fruits. I checked on line and there is a cucumber that produces round fruit, *Crystal Apple*, a heritage variety with golf ball size prickly fruit with a sweet taste and no bitter after taste. I was looking forward to trying these but I will have to wait as the plant produced three very sweet melons! The garden club challenge class for members next year is to grow a loofah, after watching Gardeners World and seeing the plants grown in Monty's greenhouse. We should get a few loofahs to give as Christmas presents next year. The chrysanthemum Fleur-de-lis I tried growing last year did not survive the winter, but a hardy variety, Innocence, did and it started flowering in November and has made a bush approximately a metre across with lots of pale pink flowers, Mrs Jessie Cooper is another hardy variety with bright pink flowers so I may add this to the border. I have taken salvia cuttings as they are not fully hardy and this will increase my stock and provide a few replacements if needed.

Shirley Cross

End Piece

East Anglian Air Ambulance

My name is Cheryl Lewis and I am a volunteer speaker for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. If you are a member of a club or society or work at a school and would like to hear about the amazing work this charity does to save lives (one day it could be yours!) please contact me. I will be happy to come along and give you a talk on our work. Mornings, afternoons or evenings are no problem and there is no charge.



I look forward to hearing from you. Phone or text 07876 526524
Email: greaves554@btinternet.com or cheryllewis@eaaa.org.uk

‘Shave the Tash’ to Raise Funds for Life- Saving Medical Equipment



NHS

East of England Ambulance Service

NHS Trust

Loddon Community First Responders

The Loddon Community First Responders (CFR) are holding a fundraising event to purchase a new fully stocked kit bag to serve the medical needs of the local community. The event, ‘Shave the Tash’, at the Loddon Swan on Friday 9th December, is taking place during Loddon’s Victorian Evening and will feature local residents, who will shave off handlebar moustaches to raise £2,000 through donations.

The kit bag is a vital piece of equipment used by the responders who provide a life-saving service to the communities of Loddon, Hales, Chedgrave and Langley. Loddon residents Faye Nelthorpe, Lead Cardiac Physiologist at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, and Neil Gudge, Emergency Care Assistant, both work full-time and volunteer their free time to respond to 999 calls on behalf of the East of England Ambulance Service, alleviating the pressure on ambulances and reducing waiting times. Being first on scene means the responders are able to offer and start life-saving medical treatment earlier. Neil says, “The kit costs around £2000 to buy and unfortunately there is only one kit that we share with a number of villages around south Norfolk. Having our own kit for Loddon, Hales, Langley and Chedgrave, would mean more adults and children facing a variety of life-threatening emergencies, including cardiac arrest and falls, can receive urgent medical attention.’

To donate and enjoy a fun-filled evening at the Victorian Evening, come along to ‘Shave the Tash’ on Friday 9th December, 7:00pm, at the Loddon Swan to raise money for this worthy cause.

Please contact: Faye Nelthorpe (Community First Responder)

Tel: 07896 438368 Email: Fayenelthorpe@gmail.com



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