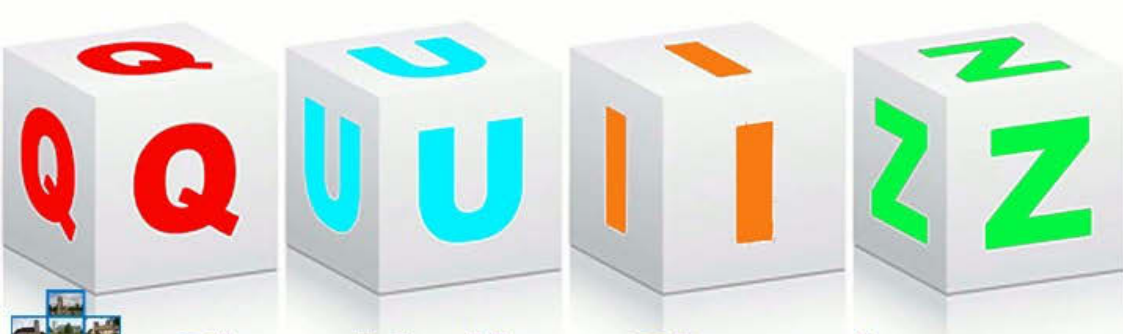




CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches—February 2022





Chet Valley Churches

All Saints, Chedgrave

**Come to the Quiz and Supper on
25th February 2022**

Starting at 7:00 pm, a supper of baked potatoes + fillings and delicious puddings from Spooncake will be interspersed with quiz rounds.

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Tickets from Church Office or Rev Alison 528 126

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
Alison Ball:	01508 528126	ball880am@btinternet.com
Jill Haylock:	01508 520248	jillhaylock@aol.com
Andrew Eburne:	01508 494770	andrew.eburne@rcdea.org.uk



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.



Chet Contact is published monthly (double issues in July/Aug & Dec/Jan)

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

A somewhat more relaxed Christmas and New Year are now behind us and I hope we are all moving towards better times by the time you are reading this at the end of January/early February.

Many of our local clubs and societies are back in action so be sure to check. The 8th of January deadline for this issue may have been too close to New Year celebrations for some and although contact details are included, events for February may be missing in a few cases.

We also have an appeal for volunteer workers from our community, see pages 26/27.

Page 54 has a new idea, an “End Page” open to anyone for comment on a local issue they have a view about. This first one is a teenager’s opinion about some local matters, but future items could be from any age about almost anything—within reason!

Keep an eye open for any of our vulnerable neighbours in the colder weather, maybe helping with outdoor chores so they can stay warm inside.

Roger



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Ministerial Musings

The 6th of February marks the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II, her Platinum Anniversary. It is always a date tinged with sadness for the Queen because that was the date her father, George VI died. She was in Africa at the time and Prince Philip broke the news to her. She is the longest reigning monarch this country has ever had, even longer than Queen Victoria who reigned for 64 years. She has been a constant in my lifetime because although I was born in George's reign I was too young to remember it.

The Queen's reign has been one of service and a strong sense of duty. Before she became queen, on the occasion of her 21st. birthday she said in a radio broadcast, "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

She is a woman of deep, personal faith, and often made reference to Jesus in her Christmas messages. In her first message in 1952 she said, "Pray for me ... that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life." The Queen has always taken those promises very seriously.

Like most families, the Royal Family has had its highs and lows, but through them all, the Queen has drawn strength from her faith. She said in her Christmas message of 2014, "For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none."

In 2011 she returned to the theme of forgiveness. "Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love."

May we too draw strength from the power of God's forgiveness and restoration throughout the rest of this year.

Ros Hoffmann



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Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley



You are welcome to join us at any of our services

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at one or other of the Chet Valley Churches, either Book of Common Prayer 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

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.



Next Meeting:

We have suspended meetings for the time being to keep everyone safe.

If you are interested in joining 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, about 12 people come to Mardles, and there's room for more! All are welcome.

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

Heavenly Father, we praise you for all children.

*Surround them with your blessing that they may know your love,
be protected from evil, and know your goodness all their days.*

Weddings

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

Funerals

Mona Mercia Maxted who died on 5th November 2021

Funeral: 30th November 2021, Waveney Crematorium

Vera Joyce Owen who died on 26th October 2021

Funeral: 9th December 2021, Waveney Crematorium

Rosemary Elizabeth Davis who died on 25th November 2021

Funeral: 22nd December 2021, Waveney Crematorium

Margot Helene Frieda Whitehead who died on 6th
December 2021

Funeral: 29th December 2021, Waveney Crematorium

Jeffrey Rope who died on 28th December 2021

Funeral: 17th January 2022, St Mary's, Sisland

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

I Thessalonians 4:14, 17b

To arrange a thanksgiving or baptism (christening), 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.

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News From Your Local Councillors



Loddon Roundabout and George Lane

It has been great to have access to the new roundabout over the festive period! A taste of things to come and the benefits this new junction will bring. Unfortunately, George Lane will close again to two-way traffic, with the same one-way system as before, from 6 January 2022, so the other half of the roundabout can be built. There will be two-way traffic lights on the A146 and the Mundham Road will be closed. Work is still due to be completed by 18 March 2022.

Chedgrave Norwich Road/A146 junction

This dangerous junction has long been a concern for local people. Norfolk County Council have been looking at how to make safety improvements. What they have come up with so far just isn't going to be workable, as it will exacerbate tailbacks on both roads at peak times. I've asked them to go back to the drawing board and think again. What we really need, is another roundabout! I can hear you all groaning about the disruption already! It won't happen anytime soon though, roundabouts are very, expensive, however I am sticking out for this as the only real solution.

Village improvements

I took a walk around with some officers from South Norfolk before Christmas and we looked at what possible improvements to help with traffic flow and the overall appearance of public spaces. Further news will follow in due course.

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

kay.masonbillig@norfolk.gov.uk

Councillor Kay Mason-Billig

Hi everyone, and a happy new year to all of you.

We gave out just over 100 hampers for Christmas. I'd like to thank the brilliant ChetChat volunteers for their wonderful help, and the many people who donated to our group to enable us to carry on with our work; we actually received just over £400 in donations!

As mentioned last month, the trust of our entire community in our ChetChat group, and its volunteers, is very humbling. I think at a time when it is harder and harder to trust national politicians, people are turning to local people and groups to put their faith in.



If you, or someone over-60 that you know, would like some help and maybe just some friendship, please phone ChetChat **on 07876050110**.

My regular surgeries will start up again next year, when it will be safe to hold them again. In the meantime, please ring me anytime on **07733323581** if I can help you, as many people do.

The difficult events of the last two years have brought us all closer together, and we can all be thankful for that.

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>

Coronavirus: For urgent help contact South Norfolk Help Hub on **01508 533933** or earlyhelphubsouth@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

Traffic Matters: There is increased traffic during the George Lane roadworks resulting in some congestion and frustration.

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY AND COURTEOUSLY IN OUR VILLAGE!

Brian Clarke Room: The room has re-opened. Booking enquiries should be made to Georgina Buckle via brianclarkeroom@gmail.com or 07981 856270.

Council Vacancies: There are two parish council vacancies and your help is needed! If you are interested in your local community and would like to be part of the friendly team which makes decisions about your village, please contact the clerk.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The parish council is considering whether to organise a celebration of some kind. Volunteers are warmly invited to join in with the planning of this and give their ideas. Please contact the clerk, thank you!

Keeping In Touch: The council would like to improve how it engages and communicates with residents. Do you have any suggestions? Please contact the clerk with your ideas.

Christmas Lights: Switch on will be 10th December and should provide a magical display once again. Thank you to those households and businesses for "hosting" lights or providing power.

Next Meeting: The next meetings will be held at the Brian Clarke Room on Thursday 3rd February and Thursday 3rd March, both at 7:00pm. All welcome to attend.

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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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



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 groups or organisation (generally up to £100, but can be more), please see the PC website for more information and an application form.

Tennis Courts: Tennis courts are available to 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.

Church Plain Noticeboard: This is a Community Noticeboard maintained by Loddon Parish Council. Please do not remove posters unless you have placed them there yourself. The Parish Council will only remove offensive or out of date posters. Many thanks for your co-operation

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: The Agenda will be displayed on the notice board on Church Plain, and on the Council's website at least three working days before the meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at the Library Annexe on Wednesday 9th February at 7:00pm and parishioners are welcome to attend in person. The minutes of the meetings are available on the website: www.loddonpc.org.uk.

Contact Loddon Parish Council: The office is open between 9:00am-12:00noon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. A face mask will need to be worn as it is a public building. Should you wish to contact the Council, please email; info@loddonpc.org.

If there is a genuine Parish emergency, please call 01508 486128; at any other time, please use 01508 522020. The website: www.loddonpc.org.uk and [Facebook page is regularly updated: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC](#), so please follow the page for regular updates.

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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

All enquiries please contact Parish Clerk: Eleanor Banister
clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk or by phone 07703 124544

Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

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



Next Parish Council Meetings: Please note these now take place on a Tuesday - 7.30 pm on Tuesday 8th February 2022 at Hales Assembly Hall (formerly Village Hall), Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on the website 3 days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

Hales Green Cattle Grid – Norfolk Highways have temporarily filled in the cattle grid until the replacement grid is delivered for installation.

Neighbourhood Watch – The villages need a new Co-ordinator so that we can stay in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. This role involves about 4 hours a month to prepare and circulate the information. If you are interested in volunteering either in a group or alone for this please get in touch with Alan (alanhale8@icloud.com) or the Clerk for more information.

20 MPH Speed Limit on School Lane Proposal – We have received quite a lot of support for this but would still like to hear what you think, by email or letter. Regretfully it is not possible to make representation on the basis of Facebook postings or anonymous emails. The Parish Clerk however, is able to remove your contact details if you wish.

Neighbourhood Planning – Please tell us your ideas, concerns and questions, so that we can work to improve the village for everyone.

Hales Roundabout – Norfolk Highways have awarded a new contract for the replacement of the dead trees by the roundabout. The contract also includes ongoing maintenance and watering of the trees. We know that this has taken a long time but are grateful to those concerned for their support.

Road Safety – The Highway Code has changed, road users now have a greater responsibility to those more vulnerable than themselves. This involves looking out for road users who are more at risk to harm than you. Priority at junctions has also changed in favour of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and carriages - make sure you know the new rules.

Litter Picking - We are grateful to two people doing The Duke of Edinburgh's Award who have offered to complete their volunteering component by picking up litter around the village. If you are interested in volunteering around the village let the Parish Clerk know.

Would you like to be a Councillor? – We have a vacancy which we would like to fill with people who are passionate about where they live. The aim is to provide a voice for concerns, ideas and initiatives that could benefit the villages. We are especially seeking residents in Heckingham Park to represent this area. Full training about expectations of being a councillor is offered and time commitments vary based on your level of involvement.

Roads and Footpath Issues: If you see anything that is not right on any of the roads or footpaths in the parishes please advise South Norfolk Council through their webpage <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>. There is also a link on our webpage. It would be helpful if you could advise the Parish Clerk too.

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Tel: 01502 730166 Email:
langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com

Website: <https://langleywithhardleypc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>



This article is repeated from last month for general interest regarding speeding in our communities in case you missed it last month and with our thanks to Langley & Hardley PC. It is an issue discussed by our teenager on page 54 of this edition. Ed.

Speed Awareness Monitoring (SAM): We mentioned in our article last month that Langley with Hardley Parish Council have the use of a SAM device which we share on a three-monthly rolling basis with Claxton PC. This device is mounted on a pole and monitors and records the speed of every vehicle passing the site and indicates the speed on a digital display. You may have seen these with a smiley or frowning face—ours just gives the speed. The theory is that most drivers do not speed intentionally and if they are reminded that they are breaking the limit they will slow down. We have no authority to prosecute speeders—it is purely a gentle reminder but we get lots of data which we can analyse if we have a speeding problem.

We have five approved locations for the camera: Two on Langley Street, two at Langley Green and one in Hardley Road. The following information has been analysed from the camera data covering July and August 2021 when the SAM camera was located in Hardley Road opposite 'Whitehaven' on the entrance to the village. Over these two months, 600 cars per day entered the village. Mondays were the busiest with 700 vehicles and the weekends were only slightly lower with 550. The busiest times were from 8:00am to 4:00pm where the average is 45 vehicles per hour. The busiest weekday hour is 5:00-6:00pm, 62 cars entered the village.

The SAM dataset provides two measurements of speed. The average of all vehicles for each hour of every day—there is a lot of data!—and the speed of 85% of all the traffic. This is a more useful measurement than the average as this can be made up of some vehicles doing 15mph and others doing 45mph! The good news is that the 85 percentile speed over these two months was 25mph—the limit is 30mph. A very high proportion of all vehicles were travelling below 20mph. We can conclude from this analysis that we do not have a problem with speeding at the village entrance.

The camera will be located in Langley Street outside house number 16 on the 40mph repeater sign post from 21st December to 22nd February; six weeks in one direction and then turned round to face the other way for six weeks.

Any questions/suggestions, please contact me: Roger Stone: rojstone@gmail.com

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Notes from Sisland

The weather this morning reminded me of the carol Good King Wenceslas and, in particular,

Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel,

The coldest night of the winter so far and, according to the weatherman, since the snow from February 2021. As we progress through the winter months we are looking forward

to the longer days and the warmth of spring, but also the plans for community events and other opportunities to gather together. In Sisland planning will begin in the next month for these, but for many years the community has been celebrating the key events of life across the calendar year.



Historically religious festivals punctuated the seasonal agricultural cycle including Saints days and other holy days of the Christian calendar as well as secular events such as May Day. In the early sixteenth century there were 50 or more holy days, though it is unclear how many of these were holidays before an act of 1552 reduced these to 27. Almanacs and calendars of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries gave tables of the forbidden times of year for marriage ceremonies as

*“From the 27 of November til January 13; From Februarie until April 18; and
From May 16 until June 5.”*

In effect, if the periods of Advent, Lent/Easter and Rogationtide were to be observed. The planning for the events during our year, community or otherwise, will, we hope, have far fewer challenges to face!

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.

Rowena Bryce (Churchwarden, St Mary’s, Sisland)

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Loddon Bell Ringers

Looking back, our members helped out by ringing for a wedding held at Bungay. The next day was Remembrance Sunday and the bells were rung half muffled prior to the two minute silence at 11 am. We returned in the afternoon and rang a half muffled quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples to remember the fallen in wars and conflicts around the world. The ringers were: 1. Val Counter 2. Rona Sporle 3. Michelle Clutten 4. Katie Wright 5. Ann M Webb 6. Steve Rabong 7. David Webb (conductor) 8. Jeannine Roe.

On Saturday 20th November, the Bellringers had their annual social event. This year fifteen of us enjoyed a meal at the Terrace.

On Thursday 25th November, a visiting band came and successfully rang a peal of four Surprise Major methods in 2 hours 46 minutes. As the festive season got under way, we rang bells before a carol service at Loddon, before the crib service on Christmas Eve, for midnight service and on Christmas morning.

Steve Rabong

Local Charitable Funds

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 cookers, carpets; has 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

We remember 2021 ending sadly with the loss of our member, Tony Coe. Who passed to a Higher Service in November.

Guidelines from RBL and Government restricted our projected January meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Monday Feb 21st, government rulings allowing.

These days a Military background is not needed to become a member. We meet in the rear room of the Library Annex, every 3rd Monday. 6.45 for 7pm start.

We wish a Happy New Year to all our members and supporters.

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

Voluntary Norfolk—see page opposite

- is looking for volunteers to support the NHS and vulnerable people needing extra help in the community. We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities and are happy to work with you to find the volunteering role that is right for you, fits your interests, skills, location and availability.

Current volunteer vacancies, include supporting carers and the people they care for; volunteer drivers to assist patients in accessing key healthcare appointments; meet and greet, admin support and stock room roles in community hospitals and GP surgeries; marshals and administration roles at Covid vaccination centres; volunteers to help people with a newly diagnosed long term condition achieve health goals and improve their quality of life; volunteers to help clients use smart phones and computers to connect with family and friends and, of course, telephone befrienders to reduce isolation and loneliness.

All our volunteers are friendly, approachable, have a sympathetic manner, good communication skills, and are determined to support others living in Norfolk.

If you would like to have a conversation about the volunteering opportunities available at Voluntary Norfolk, please get in touch. Email us at volunteering@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk providing your preferred contact information, phone 07385 378740 and speak to a volunteer coordinator or leave us a message, or fill in the volunteer registration form for the relevant service you are interested in via this link: <https://www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk/home-2/register-to-volunteer-2/>

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your help.

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Church Services

6th February		
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary, Sisland
9:00am	Informal Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:00-12 noon	XPRESSIONS CAFÉ	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
13th February		
9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
20th February		
10:45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
4:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
27th February		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the service **"I know the plans I have for you"** comes from the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland

We hope this year to be able to meet in person on **Friday 4th March at 7.0 pm**

If you would like to assist with the service in any way do please contact Genevieve Godber on 01508 528843 or ggnorfolk18@gmail.com

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	Holy Trinity, Loddon
	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	Holy Trinity, 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

Pet Food Pouches

For some time now we have been able to recycle pouches by leaving them at a collection point at Holy Trinity. This scheme has now ceased so there is no longer a recycling facility locally. We will let you know if a new opportunity opens up.

Thanks to Rev. Ros Hoffmann who get the initial scheme off the ground.

A thought for next Christmas

In the lead up to Christmas there is a lot of activity in the church grounds.

At the time of writing this there must be over 100 new wreaths and other floral memorials distributed around the graves, each representing someone's love and affectionate memory of a relative or friend at this holiday time. It is a joy to see them all and to consider the regard with which the present generations are remembering and reflecting on those gone before.

But, and this is my real point here, beyond the continuing pleasure in them being there, why is it necessary for many of them to have plastic elements as part of the decoration? We live in times when we know that plastic in the form used for this purpose is simply junk waiting to happen. None of it will be re-cycled, sadly. There are a lot of memorials that are now simply made of plant material, conifer, holly, ivy etc., perhaps with some flowers and these rather set an example of what we can easily achieve without further polluting our planet.

In themselves the memorials are a touching tribute, but they could also be a statement of loving intent for our world's survival.

Maybe an idea for next December.

All Saints Churchyard Clear-Up Sat. March 12th. 9.30—12 noon.

We will be removing the wreaths, etc and 'Spring Cleaning' the church grounds

Please come along and help us tidy up and remove the winter debris.

All welcome, 'tea and buns' provided!

Churchwarden

Community Groups, News and Events

News from Local Branches of the Women's Institute



Loddon and District Women's Institute

Current Government guidelines suggest caution when meeting in large groups indoors and we will do our best to follow the advice, encouraging members to wear masks and to give each other space. We are fortunate to be able to meet in St Johns, with its large airy room! We look forward to 2022, and hope it will be a better year for everyone. M

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 22nd February starting at 2:00pm. New members and visitors welcome. For more information contact Angela: 521120 or Audrey: 528393.

New members and visitors welcome.

More details from Angela Dance: 01508 521120 or Audrey Cox: 01508 528393.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

The group meets on the third **Tuesday** of every month, starting at 7:30pm at Langley with Hardley Village Hall. Further details from:

Secretary Gillian Ball 01508 528182 or President Judy Wilson 01508 522051.

Advance Warning

Norwich City Concert Band will be playing in Holy Trinity at 7.30pm on the Saturday 26th March. Our first concert of the year and with our usual refreshments an evening not to be missed.

Tickets will be available from Val Counter 01508 520702



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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.



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



January was a hectic but exciting month in the life of the Community Gym! As reported last time we were in receipt of a generous grant from Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund 2021 specifically to buy new equipment replacing the machines that have been in use since we opened over seven years ago. As I write this we are anticipating the big day when the current machines are collected by those who were successful in the auction (we are delighted with the response to that auction by the way) and the new equipment is installed. Louise will be spending time familiarising herself with how each piece is operated and we hope Gym users will be pleased with the results. Come and have a look for yourselves.

Gyms across the country are experiencing a very slow return of members. We continue to welcome back members as and when they feel ready to return and are pleased that several new members have joined in the last few weeks. However our overheads are the same whether one or ten people turn up and this is a constant financial headache. We continue to take strong Covid measures to ensure the safety of us all and the pre-booking of Gym sessions will continue. <https://www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym>

This ensures that, for the time being, there are never more than ten people at any one time and social distancing can be kept. The upside is that there is always equipment available for you without having to queue which was sometimes an issue especially on a Friday morning. If you need help booking contact Louise to book in. The annual fee remains at £20 and a cashless payment of £5 per session on arrival is required. For more information keep an eye on the website.

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

Mondays: 1:30-6:00pm, Tuesdays: 4:30-8:30pm, Fridays: 10:00am-1:00pm.

Any minor changes to these times will be clear when you book.

Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

Did you know there was one? Where? It's in the Old Town Hall in The Swan pub car park. It's a members' club: inter-club league matches every evening; roll ups on Mon, Wed and Fri afternoons and on Tues and Thurs mornings (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, just £12 annual subs. Rink fee £2 per session. Just turn up; give it a try. For further information, please contact Paul Clemence (chair): 01508 218978

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Hales and Loddon Cricket Club

Hales and Loddon started their indoor coaching programme in November. There are a few places available: Softball 6:00-7:00pm and Hardball 7:00-8:00pm. Sessions led by Norfolk player Sam Arthurton.



Volunteers wanted: After a success season on the field, where the club won the T20 cup Division 4 East title as well as the Fair Play Award, we are looking to push ahead and provide a new facility to improve the club for years to come. We would like to build a new clubhouse on our Hales ground and we are looking for people to help us with grant applications etc. If you have a few hours spare, please contact chairman Pete Dye: Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk.

Chet Staithe Probus Club

Have you recently retired or just moved to the area? Are you missing male company, on your own, or just want to get out and meet new people? Why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club which is held on the first and third **Tuesday** of the month at the White Horse, Chedgrave. Meetings start at 10:00am and finish around midday with the option of staying for lunch. We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required. Members range in age from 60 to almost 100.

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.

Next Meeting: - to be announced

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 monthly club meetings have resumed as in-person meetings at our new venue - St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 6.45pm for 7pm start. We are working on a programme for 2022 and details for our February meeting will be posted on our website when they are available.



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. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

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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. We are very mindful of COVID 19 regulations and are listening to our players to ensure they feel safe. Do join us. If you need a lift to/from The Hollies this can be arranged—please call me (Jane) on 528875 and we’ll see what can be organised.

Loddon WEA

We are planning for a series of ten face-to-face talks next Spring (2022). We had hoped to have talk on “What is Criminology?”, by Mr. Jack Fawbert. Unhappily, his wife has become seriously ill so he has withdrawn.



Luckily for us, Mary Fewster has agreed to step in with 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 next talk will be in the Jubilee Hall Clubroom on 28th March starting at 2:00pm. There will be no talk on 16th February.

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.

We cannot see the future. We hope that nothing will prevent the talks going ahead, but please be assured that we will take all the precautions still considered necessary at the time. Any further queries, please phone: 01508 521036 or

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. Meetings are held at the Brian Clark Rooms Chedgrave at 8:00pm. A yearly fee is charged and £3.00 for each meeting attended to cover refreshments and outlays.



For more information, please contact Hillary or June Tel: 01 508 520457 or 528853.

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Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

Happy New Year to everybody. I am writing to give an update on the future events.

Due to the uncertainties of the current situation I haven't any events planned for February but going forward hope to have some very soon, I am currently working on a programme but I am finding that in some instances responses are slow. I will keep you advised through this magazine and as soon as I can I will get a programme out to you all. Thank you for your understanding.

Contact June: 01508 528853.

Loddon Community Cinema

The cinema is suspended until further notice for the safety of our community.



Patient Participation Group

Our meetings are not currently taking place and we will advise all through Chet Contact when normal service is likely to resume.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

If you would like to join us you will be most welcome. Our membership is £10 per person per year, which is really good value for money!



For more details contact Chairman Jean Cope on 01502 710024 or 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 2nd February: The Rockefellers: A Dynasty of Art Collectors.

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.



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.

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Loddon Flower Club

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st February when we have invited Lois Gill along and she will be bringing her knitted Queen for us to see. The Queen was used in a flower festival and open gardens entitled 'Petal and Purl' in Caston in June 2019. Some of our members went for a look on a very hot day.

On the 1st March we have Vicki Hease coming to demonstrate with her title of 'A Vintage Affair'. A raffle for the arrangements will be held at the end of the evening.

Meetings at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon at 7pm; doors open 6.30pm. Visitors £6.



Contact Tricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Alex Pinder on 01508 493869 or nnark@aol.com. We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions. Take a look at our website at www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.

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Tuesday & Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 10am – 7pm

Friday: 10am – 7pm

Saturday: 1pm – 4pm

Sunday: Closed

Events

I to I PC Support is available each Monday with our volunteer from 10am-12pm. Feel free to book in advance by calling 01508 520678 or just turn up on the day. For help with computers, tablets, and mobile phones.

Bounce and Rhyme is back! On Mondays from 10.15-10.45am. Please just drop in.

Bookends – Listen to a story & join our volunteer in a craft activity related to the book, alternative Fridays, 3.30-4pm

Just a Cuppa – pop into the library for a free tea or coffee. Chat to others in the library or our staff. Fridays 10.30am-12.30pm

LEGO Club – alternate Saturdays from 2.20-3.30pm. Use your imagination to build some amazing creations. Suitable for children aged 5+

Colouring Club – suitable for all ages, come and colour yourself calm with our ever-changing array of colouring sheets. Leave them in the library to brighten up our walls. Every Mondays 3.30-4.30pm

Board Games – every Thursday from 3.30-4.30pm we'll have a range of board games out for you to play. Suitable for all ages.

Loddon Loves Book Group – meeting on the 2nd and last Fridays of the month, Loddon Loves is back to discuss a chosen book of the month. Advance booking required, contact us—see below to book your space. 5.45-6.45pm.

A message to housebound customers. We have volunteers who are able to deliver books to you 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 and staff will gladly sign you up for this service.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

Our November lecture saw a last minute change from the advertised lecture by Dr Hoggett who had had to cancel when a close family member tested positive for covid. At short notice Carol Webb and Elvie Herd put together an interesting alternative programme featuring a local business from the past. The lecture was based on a recorded, illustrated interview with Jim Leathers whom many remembered from his time running Loddon Garden Seed Centre after working in his family's company, Cannell and Sons. Both Carol and Elvie were able to add extra information to the many photographs they showed.

Cannell and Sons was founded in 1870 by Mr Cannell who aimed to produce seeds for farmers. He moved to a site in Chedgrave in 1903 with new buildings, even a fire station, being added later. That site was for drying and preparing the seeds for sale while land was farmed at Broome, Hardley and Langley to produce the crops for the seeds.

The company was very successful on a national level as it had regular stands at the Smithfield Show in London, the dairy show at Olympia, as well as the Norfolk Show. A new seed catalogue was produced every year too. Many local people were employed to collect and hand thresh the seeds before drying and testing them. Today the remaining buildings are used by other, smaller businesses.

Our December lecture was given by Rowena Burgess on the 'Swing Riots in Norfolk in 1830. Throughout her talk she demonstrated that rural labourers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were not just passive victims of change but, instead, they adapted their methods for protesting and these riots were part of that.

Before moving on to the 'Swing Riots', (so called after an anonymous letter signed 'Captain Swing'), we learnt some of the background for this unrest which was mainly centred in the agricultural counties in Eastern and Southern England. The Agricultural Revolution had made life harder and greater divisions began to appear between large landowners and workers as a result. There were some early protests but it was the introduction of threshing machines in the early nineteenth century that acted as the catalyst for more widespread protests as fewer workers were required and they showed their anger by burning large barns storing straw or grain. Farmers were the main target but sometimes clergy were singled out too.

1822 saw some machine breaking but there was greater unrest in 1830, the 'Swing Riots', when around 3000 episodes took place including arson and machine breaking. The disturbances started in Kent, moved to North East Norfolk and then to villages south of Norwich. There were repercussions as many involved were taken before local magistrates but there is evidence that some magistrates were sympathetic to the underlying problems the men faced and some even suggested that the farmers stopped using the controversial machines. Many of those indicted were found not guilty but, even so, there were 19 executions, 505 were transported (including a direct descendent of Rowena's) and many were imprisoned. In some counties the arrival of machines was delayed so protestors had gained a small victory.

Future Meetings: **February 16th: Our A.G.M.**

March 16th: Dr Adrian Marsden on Seventeenth Century Yarmouth Tokens.

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Hidden Histories — A Spotter's Guide to the British Landscape by Mary-Ann Ochota

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Beautifully illustrated throughout it addresses the whole gamut of sights and sites across our landscape with explanations and historical detail where appropriate to expand our understanding of the islands we live on and what has made them look as they do. An excellent reference to look up something seen and equally a useful tool to suggest your own future explorations.

The Olive Harvest—Carol Drinkwater

I have been re-reading this, probably a reaction to viewing the tv series Carol fronted during lockdown on her life in the south of France, this and several of her other books providing, in part, the scripts for those programmes. It offers a simple view of a life lived in beautiful surroundings but sometimes strained by the vagaries of balancing the many aspects of a busy life. In particular on this occasion coping with the ill health of her husband and the fears that come with that situation. She draws in her friends, both domestic and professional who offer support and provide new strands to the story throughout. When she is walking in her grounds you can almost smell the lavender and thyme under her feet and see the bright bee eaters passing overhead.

The Way of the Hare—Marianne Taylor

Iconic to this part of England this book examines the sex, violence, magic, mayhem and murder associated with the many different aspects of the way we and our ancestors have viewed this creature. Mythically they were believed to possess supernatural powers. They build no home as their cousin rabbits do and live there lives above ground without even the winter coat of white the native mountain hare drapes itself with in that season to camouflage it from its hunters.

They live their lives facing threats from wild predators, man the hunter and man the 'sportsman' using dogs to run them down. We are lucky to have so many of them in the fields around us when we venture out.



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Nature Notes

It seems strange on the 1st of December to start this by wishing you all a very Happy New Year. Today started before dawn in our garden listening and observing the noisy pink-footed geese flying over our home and ended with them returning to their night-time roost. At the end of November, I decided to take our dog for a treat so went to Winterton. How the forces of nature have changed the coastline there. I can quite understand why the café had to be demolished as the area where it stood has vanished into the sea. What I did forget was that this time of year was when the seals gave birth, so the beach was covered with hundreds of seals with a sizable number of pups already born. Their mournful calls were resonating across the beach. We even had to circumnavigate a mother and young pup who were in the dunes on the path. Using my telescope I scanned the sea, although not rough, birds swimming on it would appear and disappear with regular occurrence, added to this that a good number of the species would be diving for food which made getting good views and identification interesting. Anyhow I quickly found a small flock of Common Scoter (a sea duck), Red Throated Divers in their winter plumage and, too my delight a flock of 20 Eider duck flew past, the males looking resplendent in their black and white plumage. By now I had a board dog so walked back to the carpark in land through the dunes. I had hope to see Sanderling, (a small wader) that inhabits sandy beaches, looking like little clockwork toys and they run along. Back at the carpark I see some flying past, so that had to do. (Since my visit the beach car park has been closed. If visiting to see the seals please keep you distance and dogs under control.)

At the beginning of November, a walk from Hardley Staithe downstream towards Limpenhoe Mill produced a stunning male Stonechat before I had even left the carpark. There was a subdued Cettis Warbler singing from amongst the reeds on the opposite bank of the Yare. I have heard Bearded Reedlings “pinging” in the reeds on several occasions but that day a beautiful male emerged on the top of a reed about six feet from me, giving me amazing views even if only for a few seconds. Also, during November, although never seen, Water Rails were very vocal during the day, their squealing piglet call giving them away, as they sulked through the reeds both at Hardley Staithe and Langley Dyke.

While volunteering at Earsham Wetland Centre clearing brambles from a tree, I suddenly became aware of a Kingfisher, which appeared a few feet in front of me, seemingly eyeballing me, before it flew off. I had been annoyed with myself earlier as I had left my binoculars in the car, and I had been trying to watch a distant Kingfisher fishing.

Well, who knows what 2022 will hold for us all, it now seems to be common knowledge that spending time out in creation is good for our wellbeing. So, whether it is watching sparrows and starlings through a window or out walking, keep your senses alert and you may be surprised and delighted by what is out there.



Richard and Rachel Hull



Recycle Christmas Trees

I know many of you already new this but I didn't — my mum and dad never told me that sheep eat Christmas Trees!! It's just a little late now to find that out but perhaps worth remembering for next year— or rather, much later this year!! I took mine along after Twelfth Night, a local farmer wanted them. We will try and remember to remind you in the Dec/Jan issue for 2022.

Ed.

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Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

Hopefully one of your New Year's resolutions is to grow more of your own fruit and veg. If you factor in your labour this probably won't save you money, but you can control how things are grown and avoid dousing them in chemicals. It will also give you a great deal of satisfaction. If you don't have enough garden then an allotment is the obvious choice. Now is a good time to get going as you will have time to dig over and otherwise plan and prepare before the main planting season. Allotments often become available at this time of year so for the Loddon allotments by the Mill* then contact Emily clerk@loddonpc.org.uk 01508 522 020 and for the Chedgrave, Hardley Road allotments contact Hayley 01508 528310 chedgrave.pc@gmail.com. If none are available then they can add you to the waiting list. (*Yes I know these are also now in Chedgrave, but that is a relatively recent development!)

Back to my main purpose. Now is the second opportunity to plant broad beans but your focus should be on getting ready for the coming year: planning, digging, mulching, and manuring. Now that cold weather is here this is also the time to prune your apples, pears and soft fruit. The RHS have some excellent guidance <https://www.rhs.org.uk/fruit/apples/pruning-made-easy> so don't be daunted. Wait until the middle of summer and a hot dry spell to prune plums as they are likely to catch the silver leaf fungus in cold wet weather.



From the Garden—February starts the seed sowing season as light levels increase, I will start with black pot chillis, seed was collected from last years plants, it has moderate heat and produced lots of fruit, some of which I've frozen. Sweet peas sown in November look to have been eaten, small green shoots that appeared at Christmas have vanished, it happened last year that I had to sow a second batch, further investigation may be needed. The chrysanthemums I grew last year had a few flowers but they were a bit disappointing. I may need to start them earlier and remember to disbud them for bigger flowers. I have ordered 2 dahlias to try this year, David Howard and Thomas A Edison. Peat free compost was a big topic last year as peat based compost for gardeners will not be available from 2024. I've tried a few brands and it is totally different so I will experiment with using my own garden made compost with additions of leaf mould and vermiculite. I've seen an article on using mole hill soil for potting compost, so the arrival of a mole in our garden isn't all bad news. We installed a three bay compost bin last year, two bays for compost and one for chippings when we thinned the wood of the scrub last year, may need to add a 4th!

END PIECE

A Teenage comment on local life

For a flat, wet little village I'm still surprised by how beautiful, diverse, and adaptable Loddon (and all its glorious sister villages) can be. This goes for the population as well; I believe it's impossible to walk down the high street without some sort of friendly greeting or kind gesture from a total stranger, these interactions are hard to come by, away from the area we call home.

I would be lying if I said Loddon wasn't perfectly idyllic and pleasant, most of the time. As I'm sure you agree, it certainly isn't a rarity to see cars far exceeding the speed limits, motoring around the calm roads. Given that we have three relatively large schools, several well-used play areas, always full of young people, as well as countless youth activities, it is startling the speed at which some drivers choose to race around the quiet streets. It is too common an occurrence, that adults and children are put at serious risk due to a blatant neglect for the sanctity of life. However, it is not only the recklessness of some drivers that is the issue; there is also the overuse of vehicles. The roads of Loddon are particularly narrow, and once you consider the cars that park half on the even narrower pavements it can become a single lane road. This means that, at times, cars, buses and occasionally lorries are queued down the busy road, stationary and excreting exhaust into the clean air, as well as causing congestion and slowing traffic to a standstill. Of course, in places this cannot be helped, people need to park to get to their house and services; buses need to pass through Loddon; lorries need to perform their job. However, there are things that can be done to reduce the problem; I am fully aware that sometimes, when it's been raining for days and it's freezing cold, it feels there is no other option than to take the car three hundred metres down the road, but this is the issue: the overuse of vehicles particularly in rural areas.

So, I humbly ask you to take a second assessment and to weigh up the necessity of taking the car; if not for Loddon and its meagre population but for the planet itself. Because this -whilst obviously only a microcosm of the planet - is a prime example of the worsening of the desperate climate crisis and there is, in my opinion, no better feeling than to know you are doing your bit.

Thank you.



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