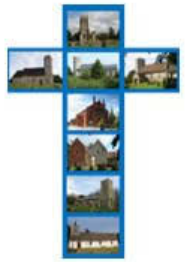


CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

May 2022





Chet Valley Churches

**All Saints Chedgrave
Spring Fair and
Plant Sale**

Saturday 21st May

10:00-12:00

**Plants, Cakes & Preserves,
Books, Refreshments...**

**The Environment Committee from Loddon Junior School
hopes to join us with some activities and displays.
(covid permitting)**

**We will be joining in with Churches Count on Nature and
surveying plants and animals in our churchyard.**

All Welcome

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	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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Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com.

Please include your name and telephone number.



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Disclaimer

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

From the Editor

This month's cover picture is Meadow Saxifrage, a nationally uncommon attractive plant which does grow well here in the East. Lucky us!

We have quite a lot in All Saints churchyard, or did until it was trimmed out by someone "tidying" graves without checking first!

My point is, always take some time to check before doing something for the first time. Not just around the plant world but in all that we do. Those extra few seconds, minutes, days or even weeks can often lead to better decisions when all is considered.

I'm sure most of us are still doing what we can to help the huge displaced population of Ukraine and page 54 lists again some ways you can help.

Meanwhile, nearly all of our groups, clubs, etc are back in business and all the up to date info they have given us is included this month.

I'm writing this in early April with hail beating down on the conservatory roof but I hope that by the time you are reading this you are swathed in sun cream and complaining about the heat!

Well, I can dream can't I?!

Roger



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Ministerial Musings

In the weeks after Easter, I have the joy and the privilege of preparing young people for Confirmation. The joy, the privilege, and the challenge! The word 'Confirmation' comes from the Latin word *confirmatio* which means 'to be strengthened'. The strengthening is done by the Holy Spirit, and it is done particularly for us able to be able to witness. Strengthened in order to witness to our faith: that is the heart of Confirmation – and that is the challenge! To witness to our faith in a world that does not always accept or understand faith, and does not always make a great deal of effort to do so! Sometimes it may seem as if the strengthening is needed more today than ever before; sometimes it may seem as if our young people will need that strengthening of the Holy Spirit more than any previous generation!

But if we look back to the example of the very first Christians, in those weeks following the first ever Easter, we can see perhaps that the problems and challenges they faced were not so different from our own. Peter and the first disciples were told in no uncertain terms, by the authorities, to stop preaching the Gospel. They were, to use the modern phrase, cancelled! How did they respond? They responded of course with prayer – that's the first good example to follow. And what did they pray for? They didn't pray for diplomacy, for the ability to preach without ruffling any feathers, or to be able to soft-soap the Gospel so that no-one would be offended. They prayed for boldness. 'Lord, grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness!' (Acts 4:29) – and that's the second good example. The Christian message is one that our world needs to hear loudly and clearly, today just as it was in the first days of the Church. Let's pray then, both for our young people and for ourselves, that the Good News of God's redeeming love is heard 'with all boldness' this Eastertide!

God bless you all Fr Andrew



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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 come and join us at St John's Lecture Hall on the **first Thursday of the month**. Make new friends, enjoy tea or lunch together.



We recently met for a Spring Meal together.

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

If you'd like to join the group, ring Rev Jill on 01508 520248.

Monday Mardles

If you like a relaxed and informal chat with others or are looking to meet some new friends, join us at a Monday Mardles for refreshments and to swap books at Chedgrave Church Rooms. Mardles are held every **Monday 10:00am-12 noon**. Come and go as you choose. On average, there are about 12 people who come to Mardles, and there's room for more! You will be made very welcome.



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

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

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

Heavenly Father, we praise you for all children.

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

Wedding

Harry Raymond Hobson & Hannah Rebecca Fryer

On 9th April 2022 at All Saints Church, Chedgrave

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

Funerals

Gillian Mary Leeks who died on 29th March 2022

Funeral: 25th April 2022 at Waveney Crematorium

John Victor Styles who died on 25th March 2022

Funeral: 27th April 2022 at Holy Trinity churchyard

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.

Wanted: Volunteer Community Car Drivers

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



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News From Your Local Councillors



Kay Mason-Billig & Jeremy Rowe

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

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

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

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

Councillor Kay Mason-Billig

As mentioned last month, I'm working in conjunction with Loddon and Chedgrave Parish Councils to put together an Emergency Plan for our neighbourhoods, to ensure that help is available to every household in an emergency. The plan is really taking shape now, and is being discussed and agreed by both Parish Councils. We'll let you know more details as they are agreed upon.

Over Easter we'll again be distributing flowers and Easter eggs to our over-60s friends and neighbours; the bags will include a hand-made card from children from Loddon Primary Foundation, which we're very grateful for.



Each District councillor has a members' grant of £1000 for local causes – please let me know if part of this could help your group and, as always, if you, or someone over-60 that you know, would like some help and maybe just some friendship, please phone ChetChat on **07876050110**.

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

Councillor Jeremy Rowe



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Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.
Tel: 01508 528310 Email: chedgrave.pc@gmail.com
Website: <https://chedgrave-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chedgrave-Parish-Council>



Langley Road Development: The parish council hosted a well-attended public meeting on 23rd March to formally consider the matter at its meeting on 7th April. The council resolved to object to the application focussing on access and transport.

Chet Neighbourhood Plan: We are producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Loddon and Chedgrave which will influence future planning decisions in our area. Thank you to everyone who filled in a survey asking about your views on future housing, business and green spaces, we had a great response rate! We are planning to hold a series of focus groups to explore particular topics, including housing, business and tourism, environment, transport and community facilities, and heritage. These will take place during June. If you would like to take part please email Carla Petersen on neighbourhoodplan@loddonpc.org.uk

Grants: The council has a small budget for grants to community groups and allocated grants to Eastern Rivers Community Gym, Hardley Road Allotment Association and Chedgrave MS Therapy Centre. Grant applications details on the parish council website: <https://chedgrave-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/category/policies/>.

Litter Pick Event: The council will be holding a litter pick later in the spring, details to be announced. Broken glass was recently cleared from the Pits play area – please take litter home and keep our spaces safe and attractive for all to enjoy!

Council Vacancies: In the last issue of Chet Contact there was a really interesting “end piece” regarding volunteering and the benefits and satisfaction it can bring. Please consider joining your parish council. There are three vacancies and the council welcomes applications from all! Please get involved, you might enjoy it!

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee: Chedgrave Parish Council is pleased to support the celebrations with a Platinum Jubilee Fete being held on the Loddon & Chedgrave Jubilee Playing Field on the 04 June 2022. If you’re interested in volunteering, performing or running a stall, please contact info@loddonpc.org.uk.

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.

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

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Georgina Buckle

Email: brianclarkeroom@gmail.com

Tel: 07981 856270

Loddon Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Emily Curtis.

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

Website: www.loddonpc.org.uk;

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC



Freedom of Loddon Award

Thank you for your nominations for the Freedom of Loddon Award. The Parish Council will consider them at its meeting on 11 May 2022, and the award will be presented at the Platinum Jubilee Fete on 4 June 2022

Platinum Jubilee Fete-The Parish Council is pleased to support the celebrations with a Platinum Jubilee Fete being held on the Loddon & Chedgrave Jubilee Playing Field on the 04 June 2022. If you're interested in volunteering, performing or running a stall, please contact info@loddonpc.org.uk. For more details regarding the event, please see the website: www.theplatinumjubileefete.com.

Kitten's Lane Play Area-A well overdue and extensive refurbishment will take in mid-April. A new picnic bench is also waiting to be installed.

Staithe Toilets-The softwood external doors are to be replaced with substantial steel automatic locking doors and work should be completed by the 06 June 2022.

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: 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. If you live in Chedgrave or Loddon and wish to be added to the Allotment waiting list email; info@loddonpc.org.uk.

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at the Library Annexe on Wednesday the 11 May 2022 at 7.00pm and parishioners are welcome to attend in person. The Minutes and agendas for the meetings are available on the LPC website.

Contact Loddon Parish Council: Office open 9:00am-12:00noon on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Or, please email info@loddonpc.org. For a genuine emergency, call; 01508 486128. At any other time, please call 01508 522020.

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

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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Eleanor Bannister.

Tel: 77803 124544 Email: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

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



Hales & Heckingham Annual Parish Meeting

on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 6.00 pm

in Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane

Agenda

6.00 pm Refreshments

6.20 pm Chairman's Welcome &

Memorial Plaque Presentation and Speech by Sir Nicholas Bacon

7.00 pm Annual Update from Parish Council

7.05 pm Refreshments, Discussions & Village Mardle

* * *

Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 May 2022 at 7.30 pm in Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane. Agendas are displayed on the bus shelter notice board opposite Masala Garden and on our website 3 days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

● * *

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Village Picnic & Fete

on Friday 3 June from 2 pm to 5 pm

at the Playground

Live music by Martin Sisley, The Mod One

Refreshments by Masala Garden

Games & Stalls

Tombola, Cake Stall, Plant Stall – Donations requested

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Langley with Hardley Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Vacant

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

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

Facebook: To be developed



There was no news from the parish council this month.

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

We're looking for:

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



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

Food In the School Holidays (FISH)



Our first foray into FISH, Food In the School Holidays, saw a delicious lunch served to some families, including delivery for one family that had gone down with Covid.

On the menu was Chicken Fricassee with rice, garlic bread, salad; followed by home-baked cakes and fruit. Take-aways of cakes, fruit and Easter eggs.

Thanks to Cannells and Chet Stores for their kind donations. Huge thanks to the team who prepared, served and cleared away.

Watch out for details of future FISH events which will come through the local primary federation schools and Noah's Ark.

Rev Alison

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Notes from Sisland

The weather has definitely been changeable, some beautiful early sun and warmth has been exchanged for something much fresher and breezier as I write this. Hopefully a later Easter will bring us all the change to rest and recharge the batteries. Thank you to all who supported the second-hand book sale at St Mary's on the Bank Holiday Monday. We were delighted with the number of donations as well as those who both provided help and visits on the day.



May, in Sisland, is the ideal opportunity to visit Sisland Carr. A small wood of mixed trees and managed by the Woodland Trust. There are a couple of paths which circulate around the trees and make for a very pleasant stroll. The wood contains a conifer plantation as well as some stunning mature beech and oak. The site has also recorded some locally rare moths and noctule bats and you can often see rabbits and deer. If you visit you will be able to see the fenced plots which are being used to assess the impact of the deer and rabbits on the vegetation and regeneration of the undergrowth. At this time of year, the area is known for its stunning display of bluebells and in previous years these have been highlighted by some of the national newspapers for the stunning display. A true carpet of vivid colour. There is road access up to Sisland Carr and a small car park, but, as many will be aware, the access road is quite variable, so care is required.

May is also an important month for St Mary's as we are hoping to hold our Annual Friends Service on Sunday 15th May at 5pm, which will be a service of Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. This provides us an opportunity to say thank you to the Friends of St Marys. As well as an opportunity to update members on the work that has been undertaken in the previous twelve months and to discuss planned work required on the tower. If you would like to know more about the Friends of St Marys, which is an organisation which supports the work of preserving and maintaining the building, then please contact me for further information. As well as an annual service we also have an annual newsletter, usually produced around Christmas, to keep everyone up to date with work planned as well as other events in the village.

Rowena Bryce (Churchwarden, Sisland)

BEYOND NO MOW MAY

Once again Plantlife are asking us to leave our lawns uncut throughout May to give a boost to our early pollinators. If you have done this before then you will probably have more wildflowers (and bees and butterflies) this year. **The next step is to simply count the flowers in a square metre patch of lawn in the last week in May and Plantlife tell you how much nectar they're producing and how many bees they'll feed with your own Personal Nectar Score - www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/**

The science coming out of repeating this national survey year after shows:

The highest production of flowers and nectar sugar is on lawns cut every 4 weeks. This gives 'short-grass' plants like daisies and white clover a chance to flower in profusion, boosting nectar production tenfold.

Areas of longer unmown grass were more diverse in their range of flowers, with other nectar-rich plants like oxeye daisy, field scabious and knapweed increasing the range of nectar sources for different pollinators and extending nectar availability into late summer.

Every Flower Counts found 80% of lawns would support around 400 bees a day from the nectar sugar produced by flowers such as dandelion, white clover and selfheal. But 20% of lawns (dubbed "superlawns") supported 10 times as many – up to 4000 bees a day. Which are you?

The Chet Valley B-Line (CVBL) (see <http://berghaptonconservationtrust.org/>) is a local organisation trying help reverse the decline in pollinators, essential to our food supplies, by creating a pollinator friendly corridor from Poringland to the Yare. **Almost 100 sites large and small are now registered. We completed the EFC survey on some patches of land left uncut over the summer by Loddon and Chedgrave PCs, South Norfolk Council and Saffron Housing Trust and found flowers to support over 30,000 bees.**

The good news is **YOU** can help:

Avoid harmful pesticides and herbicides

Plant pollinator friendly flowers (lists on our website or at the RHS)

Provide a home - a patch of long grass and a source of fresh water

For lots of ideas and a great animation go to

[South Yare Wildlife Group](#) click on the Wildpatch page.

BUT FOR MAY PLEASE LEAVE THAT MOWER IN THE SHED!

Loddon Bell Ringers



Holy Trinity bells were rung for a funeral held at the church on Monday 7th March.

We have been out and about ringing Quarter Peals at many other churches recently. These include Swaffham, North Elmham, Shipdham, Scarning, Swanton Morley, Kenninghall, Diss, Ashill, Oakley, Thornham Magna, Saham Tony, Gt Yarmouth Minster and St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich.

On Sunday 3rd April we rang a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Royal on the Ten bell simulator here at Holy Trinity. This was the first one to be rung using the simulator since March 2020.

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

Steve Rabong

Struggling with Money? Local Charitable Funds available:

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

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

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

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

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

Parkinson's

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

Deliverers Wanted—Thank you!

We were always looking for more volunteers to deliver around our community. Just an hour a month popping them through people's letterboxes. Roger, who organises our distribution, has already received several offers of help but reserves are welcome to cover sickness, holidays, etc.

His contact no. 01508 528710



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Holy Trinity Church, Loddon

Sat 30 April & Mon 2 May 10 am - 5 pm

Sun 1 May 1 - 5 pm

Enquiries about the book sale to Janet Hathaway on 01508 520947

Church Services

1st May Easter 3		
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 May Easter 4		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon
15th May Easter 5		
10:45am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship with Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
5pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland
22nd May Rogation Sunday		
9:30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10:45am	Morning Worship	Holy Trinity, Loddon
29th May Sunday After Ascension		
10:30am	Combined Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
7pm	Last Sunday Praise	Holy Trinity, Loddon

Jubilee Xpressions Café

Sunday 5th of June we will be holding a Jubilee Xpressions Café at All Saints Church, Chedgrave. As part of this we will be hosting a 'street party' in the church grounds. If you would like to be part of this, we ask you to bring a plate of food to share with you: - sausage rolls, savoury or sweet scones, cakes.... All welcome.



Rev Alison

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

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

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

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 28th May, 10am-12noon

Avocet, Norwich Road

(a few houses along from the Allotments)

Indoors and Outdoors

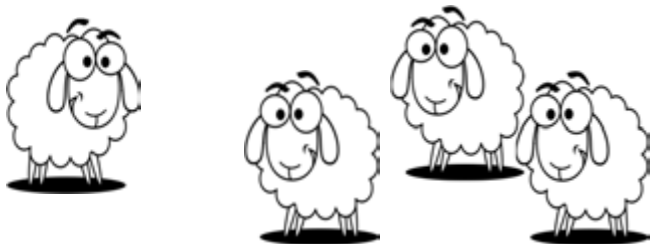


Holiday Club Advance Notice

This year's holiday club is already being planned. It is called Baa-Baa Shop. I think there may be one or two sheep in it—maybe even a flock! It's set in a barber's shop, proprietor Barbara Ramsbottom.

Filled with the usual mix of fun, food, faith and friendship, there will be craft, storytelling, songs, cooking and games.

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



Community Groups, News and Events

Loddon and District Women's Institute

By the time this goes to print we will have celebrated our 92nd birthday, and also, on April 29th, we will have shown our support for The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) by taking part in the *Women Walk the World* event. The ACWW offers support, friendship and practical help to improve the lives of women and their families, empowering communities around the world. *Women Walk the World* is a global event and some of us were pleased to be involved.



Diary dates for May (which looks like being a busy month):

May 7th - a 'workshop' to help make the bunting for the Queen's Jubilee event

May 12th – Knit Natter and Crochet

May 20th – Monthly meeting at St John's Chapel, George Lane. 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.
Speaker Charles Lewis – 'Georgian Norwich'

May 25th - Open House - a 'wrapping party' preparing for the Jubilee event

We are always pleased to welcome new members. For further information, we can be contacted through our Facebook page or on 01508 528656.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our meeting in March took place as an informal lunch at The White Horse which was enjoyed by us all. This was to celebrate our 50 years as a WI, which was last year but because of the pandemic we were unable to recognise it. Our speaker for our meeting in May is Martyn from The Samaritans. This will be held on Tuesday 24th May at 2.00pm at All Saint's Church Rooms, Chedgrave. For more information please contact Audrey, 528393 or Angela, 521120.

Davy Place

Bingo on Mondays 2pm, Bowls on wed 2pm, knit and natter on Thurs 10am
upcoming events 21st may we will be having a jumble sale lots for everyone, tombola, tea and cake plus a raffle

Our AGM is on the 9th may 10am, hope to be going some gentle keep fit soon, and of course hoy 30th april 7pm, hope to see everyone soon

Contact—Carol castle 826488

Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

Our next Meeting is May 16th, followed by June 20th and July 18th.



In the Library Annex back room, 6.45pm for 7pm start.

RB.L Stall, at the Platinum Jubilee Fete, June 4th. Loddon Playing Field.

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

Norfolk Home Library Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sport

Footballers Wanted!

A friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astro Turf every **Thursday** evening from 8:00-9:00pm for a non-competitive kick about to keep fit and socialise. We are looking for like-minded people to join us now restrictions have been lifted.

£3:00 per session. First session free.

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



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

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



Short Tennis Club

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



Loddon Ladies Hockey Club

Feel like you want to get involved in a new sport, or perhaps you used to play when you were at school and fancy giving it another go?

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

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



Ashby St Mary Cricket Club

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

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



Hobart Badminton Club

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



A PAGE OF THANK YOUs

RACE AGAINST HUNGER—2 APRIL 2022

IN AID OF THE TRUSSEL TRUST

Barry and Andrew Gibson walked between all our worshipping churches, from St Margaret's Hardley via All Saints, Chedgrave on to Holy Trinity, Loddon and finally to St Mary's Sisland. They raised £250 towards the Trust's objectives of working to stop UK hunger and poverty.

Thanks to all who donated. Well done Barry and Andrew!

Thank you Gerry Nelson

Gerry has been running art classes locally for around 30 years and has just finished his final class at All Saints Church Hall where they have been meeting for a long time. So many local artists must have been encouraged and improved by skills learnt there. His class in Seething continues for the present but the editor wanted to thank Gerry for all he has done for our community over such a long time.

Loddon Community Gym

Have you noticed that as soon as there is a hint of warmer weather, the bright blue skies that Norfolk is well known for and sunshine, missing for so long in the winter months, half the population sheds outer layers and sports bare arms and bare legs whilst the rest still cling to anoraks, hats, scarves and gloves in case the weather 'turns' again and we have snow? As I write this we've had sleet and overnight frosts but also days when it has reached 20 degrees C.

Community Gym continues whatever the weather and a warm welcome is always guaranteed. The last piece of new equipment, a third treadmill, has just been ordered with the last of the generous grant from Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund. Covid-safe arrangements still hold, we know the pandemic is far from over however much we wish it was. If you're anxious about returning to the Gym please come and see all we are doing to make the Gym a safe and pleasant place to be.

New members, over eighteen and no upper age limit, are welcome. See the website, talk to Louise, our personal trainer, and see if we can help you get fitter this spring. Whatever your age, size, shape or fitness level there is an exercise plan just for you. See you there?

You will find session times on the website when you book. www.loddoncommunitygym.com for more information.

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

Monday: 1:30-6:00pm; Tuesday 4:30-8:30pm; Friday 10:00am-1:00pm.

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

Hales and Loddon Cricket Club



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

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

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

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

Additionally, we will also be running All Stars again for 5-8 year-olds from Monday 6th June to Monday 25th July, 6:00-7:00pm. We've capped numbers for this at 16 this season and places are going fast. Booking and payment for this is handled separately via the ECB website: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Course/ebc1355f-5717-4c1a-867e-dda9c515f1b5>



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Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

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

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

Chet Staithe Probus Club

Recently retired or just moved to the area? Missing male company, on your own, or just want to get out and meet new people? Why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club? We are friendly and informal; jackets and ties not required. Members range in age from 60 to almost 100. Meetings are on the first and third **Tuesday** of the month at The White Horse, Chedgrave, 10:00am-12:00 noon with the option of staying for lunch. Spring and summer activities are now being planned, including a visit to the 'History of Advertising Trust' at Raveningham.

Contact cliveboyd@btconnect.com or 01508 520547.



Chet Valley Probus Club

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

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

Chet Valley Photography Club

Our next club meeting on Monday 9th May is "Moths" by Steve Myall EFIAP, BPE5*. This talk is on macro photography featuring moths found in the UK. Steve will give plenty of tips on finding your subjects and photographing them, both in the field and under controlled conditions. More of Steve's images can be found on his website



www.flickr.com/photos/86202460@N00/albums

If you would like to come along to our meetings please do. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. For more details please see our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

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Social Whist

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

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



Loddon WEA

Mary Fewster is giving us ten 1½ hour talks on "The Company of Preachers". These will show how the religious changes that have taken place in East Anglia over the centuries since the Reformation are revealed in buildings, artefacts and documents, and will also describe the vibrant characters of 'the preachers'. The course has begun and apparently is jolly good so far.

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



Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

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

We meet in the back room of The Hollies in Loddon High Street. At 8 o'clock.

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



Chet Valley Voices

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



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

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

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Loddon & District Society

No updates received for this issue.

Local contact is June: 528853.

Loddon and District Horticultural Society

On 11th May we have Simon White, from Beales Roses, speaking on 'Climbers and Ramblers for every situation'. Our meeting is held at the Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon at 7-30pm. There are refreshments and a raffle held. Visitors £2.



On Saturday 14th May we have our Annual Plant Sale at The Hollies, High Street, Loddon from 9-30am to 12-30pm. We have bedding plants for sale, house plants and garden plants, as well as some gardening sundries. We also have a cake stall and refreshments will be available throughout the morning.

We will be having a plant stall at the Platinum Jubilee Fete at the Jubilee Hall on 4th June. If you would like to take part in our Annual Open Show on 3rd September, schedules are available from our Show-Secretary Tricia Loades on 01508-520273 or patricialoades@btinternet.com.

Membership fee is £10 for the year and you will be made most welcome. Again at our March meeting we gained some more members. Further information is available from Chairman Jean Cope on 01502-710024, email jeancope52@gmail.com or Secretary Hazel Copland on 01508-520890 or email happyhaze50@gmail.com.

Waveney Valley Arts Society

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



The next lecture will be as follows:

.Wed 4th May: The Art and Culture of Fin-de-Siecle Vienna. Gavin Plumley.

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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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—the Brian Clarke rooms in Chedgrave.



Loddon Flower Club

3rd May we have Brenda Tubb coming along with her flower arranging demonstration entitled 'Challenges'. That evening we are holding a competition for members entitled 'A Vintage Affair'. Refreshments are available and a raffle held at the end for the arrangements.

7th June President's Evening entitled 'Ready, Steady, Arrange', a hands-on workshop. To join in see list of items you need.—Contacts below.

Meetings are at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon, doors open at 6-30pm for 7pm start. Visitors £6.

On Friday 6th May we will be taking part in National Flower Arranging Day, when flower club's leave small arrangements in places so people can take them home. Attached to the arrangements will be a free ticket to one of our flower arranging demonstrations. So look out around Chedgrave and Loddon!

Our Annual Outing this year will be on Wednesday 15th June to A Place for Plants in Suffolk and Beth Chatto's garden in Essex. The coach leaves Loddon at 9-30am and returns around 5pm and will cost about £16. This is open to anyone, not just our members. So if you would like to go please see contacts below.

Our Club has been asked to organise a flower festival by the Church in Loddon at St John's Church on the weekend of 16th-17th July to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Anniversary. The theme will be 'Queen and Commonwealth'. More details later, but if you would like to do an arrangement please see contacts below. Contact Tricia Godfrey on 01508-480522 or email tricia646@aol.com or Alex Pinder on 01508-493869 or email nnark@aol.com. Our website is www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk and we are available to arrange flowers for family occasions.

Loddon & Chedgrave Society

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



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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! Mondays from 10.15-10.45am. Just drop in.

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 – every Saturday 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 – on the last Friday of the month, Loddon Loves is back to discuss a chosen book of the month. advance booking is required, see details below to book your space. 5.45-6.45pm.

Beginners Backgammon Club – learn to play backgammon and play against our volunteer. Every Thursday 12-2pm.

Knit, Crochet, & Natter – run by the Loddon WI pop in to learn a new skill or to chat to friends whilst you knit. Refreshments provided. Second Thursday of the month, 2.30-3.30pm

Children's Jubilee Activities: Join us on Monday 30th May for some Royal Storytelling and Crown Making workshops. At 12pm and 2pm.

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

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Loddon and District Local History Group

>Dr Marsden gave the March lecture, titled 'Great Yarmouth 17th Century Tokens and their Issuers'. To give the context for this informative lecture he, firstly, outlined the economic background of post medieval England regarding the payment of goods. A coin system using small silver tokens, worth their weight in silver, had been introduced but not enough were being produced and the situation became critical during the period 1649-1672 (the Protectorate and then the early part of Charles the second's reign). As a result local Issuers made their own cheaper (nickel) versions. Norfolk had 300 such Issuers and 46 of these were in Yarmouth.

> These tokens were all small farthings, (2/3 inch), with a name, a symbol to represent the issuer's occupation and location. Some have initials and some a date. The earliest is 1652, the latest 1667 when Great Yarmouth corporation banned private tokens and issued their own until 1669. These were a little larger with the Town's Arms, date and inscription 'For the use of the poor'. In 1670 King Charles cancelled use of all tokens, invoking his royal prerogative as the sole issuer of coins.

> We were shown many enlarged pictures of the tokens and Dr Marsden explained what each token told us about the issuer, many of whom were bakers. To supplement the information on the tokens he used documentary sources such as baptism, marriage, burial and apprenticeship records. Town books of Yarmouth were also useful, they outlined decision making by the corporation. Wills and probate inventories were used as well as the tombstones in St Nicholas' graveyard (e.g. , John Arnold, a bailiff and token issuer between 1658-60 was buried here).

> The Corporation of Great Yarmouth was composed of 2 bailiffs, 20 Aldermen and 42 Common Council men. All needed to be free men and this freedom could be gained by either serving an apprenticeship, by birth, by purchase or by gift of the corporation. This freedom was also needed in order to trade and to issue tokens. Joseph Ames gained his freedom by being apprenticed to his father, John, while Edward Peterson bought his freedom in 1669 by paying £10 (probably equivalent to £10,000 today). Changes in political leadership meant Puritans were brought in to replace some corporation members in the 1650s only for the reverse to happen when the new King wanted Royalists in positions of power.

Dr Marsden concluded his interesting talk by stating that most of these tokens remained within twelve miles from their place of origin showing that poor people did not move around much in the seventeenth century.

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Read Any Good Books Lately?

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr

This part-autobiography, from the well-known author of the Mog books and the Tiger Who Came to Tea, is an account of her Jewish family's escape from Nazi Germany and how she resettled in England. It tells the story of how nine-year old Anna was living a perfectly normal life, until suddenly everything changed, and it wasn't safe for her family to live at home anymore. This feels pertinent right now with current world events. It's suitable for children over 9 years.

A Very Nice Girl by Imogen Crimp

Anna is an aspiring opera singer who meets Max, a banker, and embarks upon a relationship which at first is beneficial to them both, until it becomes something more toxic. The feeling of what's it's like to be young and know exactly what you want, until you lose sight of it by becoming distracted, are timeless ones. I really enjoyed this novel because it reminded me what it was like to live in London with little money but big plans. It was touted as the next 'Sorrow and Bliss' which I really loved last year. It's not quite as good as that but I enjoyed reading it a lot

The Comfort Book by Matt Haig

A slim book and a lovely one to dip into to find (as the title suggests!) comfort and sage advice. By Matt Haig, well-known for his battles with depression, it's a great little book which I've thoroughly enjoyed reading in the past month. With quotes, snippets of wisdom, recipes and musings it definitely has comfort to offer up. I intend to give it to several people I know who will appreciate it – it's one of those!

The Wych Elm by Tara French

Toby has always been lucky, sailed through life effortlessly, blessed with a delightful family, good looks and intelligence. But that all changes one fateful night when he's left with severe injuries and the ongoing trauma to live with. When he moves back to his family's home, in part to convalesce, a human skull is discovered and the past is cracked open. Toby starts to reassess and rethink everything, his memories of the past, his family and himself. It's a fascinating whodunnit, which keeps you guessing for a fair while. It makes you look at your own memories and re-examine how your perspective can skew memories and experiences. A cracking page-turner!

On the to be read pile!

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus – It's probably the result of a very good advertising campaign but I see this book recommended everywhere at the moment! Having read the blurb and reviews it does sound like it's going to be a great read. It's about a female scientist in 1960s America and the prejudices and problems she encounters.

Ruth Redford

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Nature Notes

The beginning of May, we will be well into Spring and the dawn chorus will be vibrant most of the summer visiting birds. Screaming Swifts should be with us soon, they only land on their nests. The rest of their life they spend flying.

I am writing this back in April on a cold overcast day, nevertheless, Chiff Chaffs have arrived and calling. There has also many more Garganey seen both locally and nationally this year, a small attractive duck that visits these shores to breed. I catch up with a pair at Carlton Marsh reserve on the outskirts of Lowestoft, run by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and well worth a visit. It has a new visitor centre, including a children's outside play area. They've also turned an area of grazing marsh into scrapes (pools of water) which can be very productive, in fact I heard today there were two Black Necked Grebes and a Siberian Chiff Chaff, if I had time, I would have gone to see them.

We had warmer weather in March, and it is encouraging to see so many signs of Spring and new life emerging everywhere. Hawthorn beginning to show green as its leaves break out of their buds, Blackthorn bushes clothed in white blossom, yellow primroses add colour everywhere. Hares are more evident in the fields, butterflies are out and about, at least Yellow Brimstone, Comma, Tortoiseshell and Peacock along with a variety of bees and other insects. Lots to see and enjoy.

Back in February a rare American Ring Necked Duck, turned up on a reservoir at Leiston. The instructions read "walk South a quarter of a mile, Southeast a quarter of a mile then climb the Sycamore tree!! Surprisingly the directions were accurate, and the tree must have been designed for climbing. I could see a flock of Tufted Duck at the far end, fortunately making their way towards me. I was joined by a fellow bird watcher and we were able to pick out the American vagrant from its European cousins. As well as the Ring Necked Duck, we also located two Greater Scaup - more often found on the sea. The sycamore proved to be a great viewing platform. Returning home via Minsmere a was able to see a pair of Smew, another duck, the male of which is stunning in its white and black lined plumage.

A duck that has been spotted around the arable fields near Hardley Flood are Shelducks. These large ducks nest down rabbit holes, both the male and female have a red bill and vivid plumage of mainly white and black with a chestnut bib.

Hopefully as you read this we may have seen our first cuckoo of 2022 and enjoying sunny weather during the bank holiday weekend!

Richard and Rachel Hull



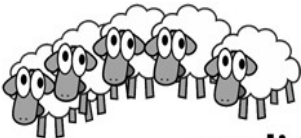
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Gardening Notes

From the Allotment—Andrew Milner

There is always plenty to do in May, first and second sowings, thinning out crops (don't leave carrot thinning's lying around as the smell attracts carrot fly), earthing up potatoes, but standing ready to provide protection if the weather suddenly turns frosty. With an eye to the weather, you can also set out young plants from the greenhouse—courgettes, pumpkins and squash, hold back a little longer on sweet potatoes. Put in any supports that plants need. Keep on weeding of course and enjoy the first fruits of your labour – peas, rhubarb and lettuce should all be ready.

I have written before about the many uses of Russian Comfrey – liquid feed, mulch and soil improver I recently found out there is a Norfolk Comfrey *Symphytum x norvicense*. The main difference are its pale blue-white flowers. Comfrey is good for flowering crops e.g. tomatoes, beans and soft fruits, but crops that are primarily green leaves like spinach, chard or lettuce would prefer a feed made from nettle tops. Avoid roots and never put them in your compost. This is easy to make in a bucket. Pack with nettles and fill with water when it seriously pongs dilute and use.

Still got over wintered crops? You need to finish these and prepare for new. Last chance now to sow parsnips and main crop peas.

From the Garden—Shirley Cross

May is a busy month and as frost danger passes it's time to plant out bedding and tender plants such as dahlias, geraniums and cannas. Check supports for tall plants, delphiniums, lupins and hollyhocks. Plant and tie in sweet



peas as they grow, pinch out tips as you plant them and they will bush out and give more blooms. If you want long straight stems then remove the tendrils, but you will need to tie in more regularly. Lift and divide large clumps of spring bulbs and divide primroses, remembering to give all spring bulbs a liquid feed to build up the bulbs for next year's flowers. Seeds that can be sown this month for flowering next year are foxgloves, delphiniums and primulas. The tender Chrysanthemums I tried last year didn't flower as well as I had hoped, I brought them into the greenhouse in October, so I may need to bring them in earlier this year. Hardy varieties did much better, I will look to plant a few more of these. A flower becoming very popular again is *Xerochrysum* once known as *Helichrysum* until 1990, common name is straw flower, they have a range of colours, are good for cutting and can also be dried for winter indoor displays, it is years since I have grown them so maybe squeeze an extra tray in the greenhouse!

End Piece

Supporting Ukraine

Prayer

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



Monetary Donations—Disasters Emergency Committee

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