



CHET CONTACT

Produced by the Chet Valley Churches

November 2023





Chet Valley Churches

All Saints, Chedgrave

Autumn

Fair



18th November 2023

10:00am-12:00noon

Books; Cakes; Craft Bags; Pre-loved Goods; Refreshments; Tombola; and a Swap Stall (for unwanted gifts and clothes – find something you would like!).

Soup Lunch will be served from 12:00noon

Donations of cakes and books will be gratefully received.

Please leave them in the church which is open during daylight hours.

All Welcome – We Look Forward to Seeing You!

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

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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, Funerals and the Interment of Ashes

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

Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches
The Diocese of Norwich

www.chetvalleychurches.org
www.dioceseofnorwich.org



Chet Contact

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From the Editor

First thing for me is to thank Alison for covering for me while I was having surgery and recuperating. It's good to be back doing my bit.

We always find time to mention the weather and recently has been no exception. I see the forecast says that the hail I had rattling on my conservatory roof at the beginning of this week is to be followed by a heat wave at the weekend, So it's not time to hide my knees behind trouser legs again yet!

Lots going on as usual and the "early warning" notices for the lead up to Christmas events are included here in several places. Also, a heads-up for the New Year pantomime on p50. 'Treasure Island', my favourite book as a boy, I must have read it a dozen times. The Victorian Evening, p24, will be fun as always, a big thank you, in advance, to the many people who will be involved in setting it up and helping on the day. You could even get a stall to support your own charity group.

Remembrance Sunday, 12th, will see many of us coming together to draw close to mind those we know and the many others who were lost in conflicts of the past. Also in November, on the 5th, there is a service at Holy Trinity to remember all who we have known who have died, from whatever cause, recent or long past, p19.

So there is plenty going on. Start making your Christmas lists because it will soon be on us and if you find you have any spare breath why not join the Christmas Community Choir at All Saints! p22.

Roger



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Ministerial Musings

Once again, it is the season of remembrance. November 1st is All Saints' Day, and November 2nd is All Souls' Day. Then November 11th is the day when the fighting stopped in 1918, when we remember the war dead. There are war cemeteries all over the world, cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Amongst the graves there are many headstones marked to an unknown soldier with the inscription, "Known Unto God". Many cemeteries have huge walls where thousands of names are inscribed. These are the missing who have no known grave. The names of twenty two men from our local villages can be found amongst them.

One of the graves marked as a pilot of WW2 was in Staplehurst Churchyard in Kent. The crash site of this pilot was known and was excavated twice. On the second attempt, a watch was found and was identified by the pilot's sister as belonging to Flight Lieutenant Frederick Rushmer. His grave is now marked by a headstone bearing his name and other details. He is no longer missing. Eighty three years ago the Battle of Britain raged in the skies over England. At the moment of writing there is only one of "The Few" left alive and he's 103. Flight Lieutenant Rushmer, was killed on September 5th. He's a local man and he's remembered on the Thurlton Memorial because his family lived there. But he was born in Sisland, almost certainly in Lodge Farm.

Missing, alive or dead, all of us are known unto God because he made us and loves us. The Psalmist wrote, "The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore." (Ps. 121:8)

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that all are precious to God when he said, So once again we gather to remember and to remind ourselves that God doesn't forget.

Ros Hoffmann



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Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley

You are welcome to join us at any of our services



Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at one or other of the Chet Valley Churches: either Book of Common Prayer (BCP) or Common Worship, with an informal Holy Communion service once a month in Chedgrave.

Morning Worship is held regularly in Loddon and Hardley.

Evening Prayer (BCP) is on the third Sunday of the month in Sisland.

XPRESSIONS CAFÉ is on the first Sunday of the month at All Saints Chedgrave. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. Open between 10:00am and 12:00 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 a shared lunch. The service is designed to be as inclusive as possible: a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness. We hope it will have points of contact with people of all ages and all backgrounds.

Last Sunday Praise is held on the last Sunday of the month in Loddon: a chance to worship together including hymns and songs, old and new.

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 the chance to enjoy a chat over refreshments after services. There are toilets and baby-changing facilities at St John's, Loddon and All Saints, Chedgrave.

Families are welcome at all of our services, but are particularly catered for on the 1st and 3rd Sundays 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 Rector or one of the clergy.

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 from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm.

More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

Friends and Neighbours

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

Next Meeting:

Thurs 2nd Nov.—Soup Lunch followed by 'Flowers and arrangements for Christmas decorations' with Mrs T Porter. All welcome.

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

Monday Mardles

If you like a relaxed and informal chat with others or are looking to meet some new friends, join us at a Monday Mardles for refreshments and to swap books at Chedgrave Church Rooms.



Mardles are held every **Monday 10:00am-12:00 noon**. Come and go as you choose. On average, there are about 8-12 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 & Thanksgivings

Baptism

Benjamin Brown

1st October 2023 at All Saints, Chegrave

*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

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

1 Thessalonians 4:14, 17b

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

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

To arrange a funeral, at any of the churches in our area or at the crematorium, please contact Rev David on 01508 522993, or david.chetvalley@gmail.com.

Rev David can also be contacted about interment of ashes.



Chet Valley Community Larder

*Helping each other out,
reducing surplus food waste,
sharing with the whole community.*

Please call Julie on 07976 902487 if you have anything to be collected.

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.



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News From Your Local Councillors

More Housebuilding-After my report last month about South Norfolk having a 5-year land supply again, protecting the Town from speculative developments, the House of Lords overturned the lifting of the Nutrient Neutrality rules, so we are back to square one. No one wants the waterways polluted BUT we must tackle ALL polluters, the main culprits being the sewage outfalls and farming. House builders are being singled out unfairly, which stops all development in those areas affected. The knock-on effect is not just a shortage of new houses and contractors going out of business, but our places being subject to planning applications outside of where they would normally be allowed. We will continue to resist attempts to dump all this new housing in our area but until the law is changed, we are at risk.

Bad Parking -The problem never goes away, does it? This is a plea for those who want to park to use designated car parks. They're free for at least the first hour, and we have two of them, so there is no excuse. There is also on street parking where it's appropriate. But, there are still those who would rather abandon their cars on double yellow lines and block the road because they're "only going to be a minute". I unfortunately witnessed one such driver parking across the entrance to the Marina the other day to get a takeaway. This caused a total blockage as one car was trying to turn into the Marina, one was trying to come out and someone else was just trying to drive past. On pointing out the free car park to the offender, I was given a mouthful of abuse. Is it too much to ask for some thought when parking? Oh, and don't get me started on speeding through the villages!

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

kay.masonbillig.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Councillor Kay Mason Billig

November is a month for the senses; trees are in full colour, fruits are ripe in the hedgerows and our wildlife rushes to feed up before winter. Autumn in the words of William Cullen Bryant, is "the year's last, loveliest smile".

As mentioned last month, I'm now Chair of the Scrutiny Committee at South Norfolk; I'll keep you posted about what we do, and remember that you can watch meetings on You Tube as well as attend in person.

I was pleased to be able to work with Rev Alison Ball to help persuade the South Norfolk Planning Committee to give permission for solar panels at All Saints Church; soon I'll be allocating the £1000 each Councillor receives to promote local groups and causes; I've been delighted to be able to help dozens of groups over the last four years. Please get in touch if your group would like any help.

My next surgeries in Loddon Library 2-3pm, will take place **Sat. November 18 & Sat. January 20 2024**. I'll continue to reply to communications, as well as regularly attend meetings of our Parish Councils when I can.

We will launch fundraising and nominations for over-60s Christmas hampers later in November. Look for details on Facebook and in this column.

Finally, our superb ChetChat group volunteers are always on hand, giving help and support to our over-60s friends and neighbours. If you ever need any help give us a ring on **07944 858929**.

Councillor Jeremy Rowe

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Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

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

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

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



Chedgrave Parish Council held its meeting on 5th October

Cllr Phil Varney: The council congratulated Cllr Varney on his election and welcomed him to the council. A message from Phil: *“Thank you to all the Chedgrave residents that trusted me with their vote, it is much appreciated. My first task as a Councillor has been to gain approval from the Parish Council to form the Action group to organise a campaign to raise the key concerns over the Langley Road development - I need input and participation from as many of you as possible and will be reaching out very soon for volunteers to input to, and help with the action plan to ensure concerned residents voices are loud enough to be heard and not ignored!”*

White Horse Plain/Jubilee Oak Works: This long running project has finally been given the full go-ahead with the key aim of improving conditions for the historic Jubilee Oak. The council approved the funding plan and the contractor will be engaged shortly. Further details on timescales etc. will be provided as they emerge.

Tree Planting: The council is awaiting delivery of trees and shrubs from the Woodland Trust and a planting day will be advertised soon. If you would like to get involved with tasks like this, please contact the Clerk

Dog Poo: The damaged dog poo bin near Big Back Lane has been reinstated a short distance from its old position. Please use it! Thank you.

Litter Picking: There will be a litter picking event on Sunday 5th November at the Brian Clarke Meeting Room at 10am. Please join us! Equipment provided but wear sensible clothes/gloves.

Community Speedwatch: The group is now underway; all volunteers have passed the vetting process and Cllr Bob Demain will be submitting dates for the inspectors to check the locations we want to use as speeding checks. Training will take place when this stage is complete. Let's hope this reduces speeding in our village!

Christmas Lights: It's that time of year again! Householders will soon be contacted for permission to hang lights from their homes. Thank you to everyone who supports this and help light up Chedgrave for Christmas!

Chedgrave Common: The Shetland ponies are happily grazing. Please be careful when crossing the Common and **keep your dogs on a lead at all times.** Thanks!

Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd Nov at 7pm in the Brian Clarke Room. All welcome!

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



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

Website: www.loddonpc.org.uk;

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonPC



Councillor Vacancy: We have a vacancy! This could be your opportunity to get involved in your local community. If you are interested in becoming a Cllr, please see our website for more information.

Volunteer Event – 14 November: Would you like to volunteer in your local community? The Council is holding an event on the 14 November in the Hollies to showcase varied voluntary roles within our organisation, such as:

- Become a Councillor
- Become an Emergency Warden
- Assist with Litter Picking
- Join the Events Committee

Join the Love Loddon Community Group • Assist with the Community Larder
If you would like to find out more about these voluntary roles, do come along to our event. Further details will be on our website.

Love Loddon Community Group: Thank you to the volunteers that helped to clear the area adjacent to Farthing Green, we are so grateful for your help! Plans are underway for next year, so if you would like to be involved, please let us know.

Remembrance Parade - 12 November 2023: This year's Parade will take place on Sunday 12 November and will meet on Cannell's Car Park, and set off from White Horse Corner at 10.30 am. The parade will arrive at Church Plain at 10.45am and there will be a short service by the War Memorial. This will be followed by a Service in Holy Trinity Church. All timings are approximate.

Improvements to Loddon's Gritting Route: We are grateful to Norfolk County Council for revising the gritting route to include all of George Lane. It had previously stopped short before the junction with Bridge Street.

Small Grants: LTC have recently awarded several small grants to local organisations. If you would like to apply for a local group/organisation (generally up to £100), please see website for more info/application form.

Chet Valley Community Larder: Thank you so much for the donations that are being received for the Community Larder. The larder is in Loddon Library/LPC's lobby and is open to everyone. Open Monday to Friday - 8.00am – 7.00pm, Saturday - 8.00am – 4.00pm, Sunday - 10.00am – 4.00pm. If you would like to volunteer to help with the larder, please get in touch.

Meeting dates, contact information and updates can all be found on the Council website: www.loddonpc.org.uk or call 01508 522020.



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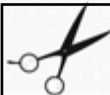
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Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Martine Storey
Tel: 07538 738095 Email: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Hales & Heckingham Parish Council



Next Parish Council Meetings: 28th November 2023 start at 7:30pm
Held at the Hales Assembly Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Agendas are posted on the notice board in the brick bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on our website 3 days before the meeting. Minutes are displayed in the same places.

A heartfelt thank you to Martin Cameron We extend our heartfelt thanks to the immensely talented Martin Cameron, who, once again, has poured his time and care into the meticulous restoration of our village sign. His unwavering dedication and remarkable craftsmanship will ensure this cherished landmark will remain in immaculate condition for years to come.

Christmas Carol Service, St Gregory's Church In the event that we do not receive any responses from residents regarding their availability to assist for a brief 15-minute period before and after the Christmas service by 20th November, regrettably, we will be left with no option but to cancel the Christmas church service. Your input and support are greatly appreciated. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you can offer support on Sunday 10th December in preparation for the 3pm Church Service.

Hales Hall Lane and Litchmere Lane In October, work was undertaken to improve the parking bays at Hales Hall Lane and Litchmere Lane and involved levelling off the bund of material that had accumulated on the northside of Hales Hall Lane. This work is to facilitate better drainage of the lane's surface and make it easier for South Norfolk County Council to manage the thistles there. We thank them for their care and support.

Composting site We continue to welcome all ideas regarding the repurposing of the old composting site on Briar Lane. Please contact our Clerk if you have any thoughts regarding how we could use this space to the benefit of our community.

Community Volunteering Scheme We continue to seek your help in supporting community projects to improve village life. Please let us know if you would like to get involved by emailing our Clerk.

Hales Green Common We kindly remind residents and visitors to abide by the bylaws which are displayed on the public notice boards around the common. Dog walkers, please remember to pick up your dog's poo. Thank you.



Claire Bullard

INDEPENDANT SCENTSY
CONSULTANT

Phone - 07717535080

Email - cl.bullard@hotmail.co.uk

Website - clairebullard.scentsy.co.uk

Facebook = Claire Bullard - Scentsy Consultant



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E mail: website.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk:
Emma Webster Tel: 07516 361239

Email: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com

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

Find us on Facebook



Our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th November at 7:30pm in The Village Hall. All welcome.

BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR-What's Involved?

Not a huge commitment, though it will require a certain input.

Attendance at meetings which are usually held every two months on the first Tuesday of the month and start at 7.30 pm in Langley with Hardley Village Hall.

Training will be provided for the new Parish Councillor.

Who can apply?

You must be over 18 years of age, meet the required criteria including either living or working within the Parish of Langley with Hardley and most importantly be interested in the local community.

There is currently one vacancy.

Anyone interested in applying or requiring further information should contact the Parish Clerk– see above.

Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Cafe, Friday 3rd. November 11am-1pm.-Delicious food in good company. All ages welcome. Bric-a-brac and raffle.

Christmas Bingo!!! Sat. 25th Nov.. 6.30 doors open, 7 o'clock start.

Great prizes to be won. Raffle. Refreshments available.

Cafe, 1st December 11am-1pm.

Festive foods and drinks served by elves!!! Raffle and bric-a-brac stall.

Come and be festive!!!

Santa's workshop-Saturday 2nd December. 6-9.

Come and make a Christmas tree decoration. Have a festive biscuit and hot chocolate with a candy cane. Then see Santa switch on the light display and disco the evening away. Mince pies, Christmas cupcakes, sausage rolls all served by Santas helpers. All ages welcome.

Christmas Disco-7-10. Saturday 23rd -all ages welcome.

New Years Eve Disco!!! see the New Year in with new and old friends!!!



Choir for Carols

Hooray! The community choir is coming together once again this year to sing at the...

Carol Service in Chedgrave Church

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

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

The carol service is on Sunday 17th December at 5:00pm

There will be four rehearsals and it is best if you can make at least three of them:

Sunday 26th November 3 – 4pm

Saturday 9th December 2 – 4pm

Saturday 16th December 10 – 12 noon

Sunday 17th December 3 – 4pm

(refreshment break before the service)



If you would like to take part please contact Alison Ball

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

Many thanks and hope to see you there.



Service in Memory of those we have Loved

Sunday 5 Nov. 4.00pm in Holy Trinity Church, Loddon

Every year, at around this time, we hold a service with a chance to remember those whom we've loved, but who have died. It may be they died recently, or it may be many years ago, but they are still in our minds and hearts.

If you would like to come to the service, you will be very welcome, whether or not you usually come to church. We will be serving tea and cakes after the service.

There's no need to say if you're coming, but if you'd like to know more about the service contact Rev'd David Owen on

Notes from Sisland

When you read this, Sisland church will just have held an autumn coffee morning/book sale, on Saturday 21st October. We would like to thank everyone who was able to support us as we continue to raise funds to maintain the church fabric. The changing season also brings the change of service times for Sisland. With the change of clocks on 29th October the service of evening Prayer moves to 4pm, during the summer it has been at 5pm. A traditional service using the Book of Common Prayer it is an excellent way to reflect on the week past and prepare for the week ahead.



As we enter the autumn season, the weather definitely changeable, our attention turns to a period of reflection and remembrance. Remembrance Day has been observed every year since 1919. As well as standing together in Remembrance on 11 November, we also observe a two-minute silence at 11am on Remembrance Sunday. The former, originally called “Armistice Day”, was instigated to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended the First World War on Monday, November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m.—on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For those who know Sisland church you will be aware that there is no war memorial in either the building or the churchyard, but the act of remembrance is still important.

With no specific memorial, villages are often touched indirectly. Flight Lieutenant Frederick William Rushmer was lost after combat over Biggin Hill on 5th September 1940. Born in Sisland on 12th April 1910, son of Henry and Annie Rushmer, he was 30 years old when he died. Originally in an unmarked grave, following investigation his final resting place is in All Saints churchyard, Staplehurst, Kent.

Sisland Church will continue to be open during the autumn, even if the door is closed it will be unlocked, so please take the opportunity to visit us if passing, for a moment of reflection. **Rowena Bryce** (Churchwarden, St Mary’s, Sisland).



LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING

On Friday 8th December from 6.30pm – 8.30pm the annual Victorian Evening will take place in the town centre. Starting at 6.30pm outside the library, Father Christmas will arrive for the “grand switch on” of the Church Plain Christmas lights.

Thanks to the generosity and support of many of the town’s businesses, we are all set for another fun filled evening of events:

- Listen out for announcements from the Town Crier on the night
- Look out for Father Christmas in his grotto at Bay Tree House
- Punch and Judy Show in the rear of the Hollies at 6:45pm and 7:15pm
- Open house at Holy Trinity Church and St John’s Church in George Lane
- Fire engine display and BBQ at the Loddon Fire Station
- Farmer’s Market and Country Market at The Hollies with festive goodies and crafts
- Vintage steam engines on the display

With further activities to be added!

Many of the town’s traders throughout the town will be open and welcoming you to thank

Charity Stalls at the Victorian Evening

Every year there are stalls in the churches—Holy Trinity in the middle of Loddon and St John’s Chapel just a little way along George Lane. They are available for people who want to fundraise for a favourite charity and for local community groups to advertise what they do. We have room for sales, games, information boards and more, but space has to be limited to one long table for each stall. Even so, we do try to be flexible where possible.

Please get in touch if you would like a stall this year. Obviously availability is limited by the size of the building, but we usually manage to fit everyone in. It helps if you book early!

We do ask for a small donation from stallholders, in the region of £5, because the church is a charity too, and needs to cover costs.

For more information or to book a space, contact Nina Owen: on 01508 522993, email theroamingfenlander@gmail.com.

Loddon Flower Club

Loddon Flower Club committee and club members would like to thank everyone who supported our Flower Festival, celebrating our 65th anniversary which we held in Holy Trinity Church, in September. Thanks to the many sponsors, those who donated raffle prizes, cash, flowers to use in our displays and of course the many visitors who together made the festival a wonderful success.



Our next meeting in the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, will be on Tuesday 7th November when ladies from the Bungay Flower Club will be demonstrating for us with the topic of 'How things have changed', which is quite apt as having just celebrated our 65th year we realise how different things are now as to when the club started in 1958, especially the cost of flowers!!

Our following meeting will be our Christmas Open Evening, open to all, on Tuesday 5th December, Julie Woods will be demonstrating for us, the title will be 'Let the Festivities begin'. More details nearer the time.

Do come along and join us for a fun evening. Refreshments are available during a short interval and the arrangements made during the demonstration are raffled at the end of the evening. Visitors £7.50

For info contact Chair, Patricia Godfrey on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com, or Secretary, Jenny Frosdick on 01508 520254 or jf53rf50@gmail.com.

We can arrange flowers for family occasions and we have a website www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Loddon Bell Ringers

We continue to have good attendances at our weekly Tuesday night practice and our newest recruits are progressing well. We ring the bells for every Sunday morning service.



We have rung Quarter Peals at Loddon, Ashill and St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich. Members recently rang at several churches in Oxfordshire while on an Outing to the area.

On Saturday 30th September we welcomed some visiting ringers from Reymeston, Barnham Broom and Shipdham to Holy Trinity who were on a day out ringing bells in the area.

Steve Rabong

Church Services

5th November

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	Holy Trinity, Loddon

12th November Remembrance Sunday

9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.55am	Service of Remembrance	All Saints, Chedgrave
10:55am	Service of Remembrance	Holy Trinity, Loddon
3.00pm	Service of Remembrance	Hales War Memorial

19th November

10:45am	Holy Communion	St John's, Loddon
11:00am	All Together Worship	All Saints, Chedgrave
4:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Mary, Sisland

26th November

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

What is Last Sunday Praise?

Every month there is a joyful and relaxed service for the Chet Valley group of churches and anyone else who would like to come along. It runs in St John's Chapel in George Lane, on the last Sunday of the month, starting at 6.30 for refreshments and chat, and 7pm for the service itself. It's a chance to sing some new songs of worship, as well as some old favourites, in a setting that's less formal than many of our other services. For more details contact Rev'd David Owen on 01508 522993

Other Services in Chet Valley Churches

Prayer at Home	<p>‘Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection’</p> <p>If you would like to receive the weekly prayer and reflection sent out by email, please contact</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rev Jill (jillhaylock@aol.com)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All are welcome</i></p>
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Thursday during school term	<p>XTRA!</p> <p>Join us at St John’s for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments from 3:15pm. Service starts 3:45pm.</p> <p>More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126</p>
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<p>Every day</p> <p>Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:00am</p> <p><i>All Welcome</i></p>	Monday	Holy Trinity, Loddon ##
	Tuesday	St Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	Holy Trinity, Loddon ##
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	N.B. ##	From 13 Nov at St John’s

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation

21 Ugate, Poringland, NR14 7SH



Mass Times:

Sunday 9:00am; Tuesday 6:00pm; Wednesday—Saturday 10:00am;
Saturday 6:00pm (Vigil Mass)

Please check newsletter online for latest information.

Priest in charge: Father Andrew Eburne (Tel: 01508 494770)

e-mail: frandreweburne@gmail.com

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

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

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). Events provide a welcoming place to hear expert lecturers share their specialist knowledge. The theatre is open from 10:00am and our lectures start at 11:00am.



Next meeting: Wednesday 1st November - When the MGM Lion Roared: The Hollywood Studios by Colin Shindler.

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://theartsociety.org/Waveney-valley>.

The Loddon Band

We are a friendly and dynamic brass band in the historic town of Loddon. We are currently seeking the following players to come and join us: Cornet, Tenor Horn, Euphonium, Eb Bass. We welcome all brass players and percussionists.



Rehearsals are at The Hollies, High Street, Loddon on Thursday evenings, 7:45-9:45pm under the direction of Frankie Ayers. Our rehearsals are fun and enjoyable so why not pop along to see what we are about.

Chet Valley Voices

Our second Christmas Concert on **Saturday 16th December in St Johns Chapel, George Lane, Loddon 7 for 7.30pm** with traditional carols and something a little different, hopefully with some guest performers.



Refreshments and raffle at interval

Tickets £5.00 Children under 16 free. Tickets available from Lynn 07443009530 or Anns Crafts, Church Plain, Loddon or chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com

For further information contact:

Sue on 01508 528069 suemartin303@btinternet.com or chetvalleyvoices@gmail.com

Sport

Footballers Wanted!

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



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

Now that the outdoor summer lawn bowls has finished why not come and try indoor short mat? We meet on Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-3:00pm in the Jubilee Hall and are a very friendly little group. Beginners are very welcome; just bring flat indoor shoes and we can supply the bowls. The right money, £3, and a sense of humour are also appreciated.



For more information call Sara on 01508 521958

Loddon Ladies Hockey Club

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

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

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



Loddon Tennis Club

The launch of the Tennis Club was very successful and there are now over one hundred people regularly playing together in Loddon.

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

Coach Paul Solomon is also delivering junior coaching, group coaching, and cardio tennis sessions; email: loddontennis@loddonpc.org.uk or phone 07368 684806.



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



Loddon Junior Badminton Club

Wednesday evenings 6:45-7:45pm, 8-14yrs

Thursday evenings 7:30-8:30pm, 15-18yrs

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

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



Royal British Legion—Loddon & District Branch

We will hold our AGM on November 20th, in the Lecture Hall and then no more meetings until January 15th 2024, which will be held in St John's Chapel.



Throughout October our Standard will be at numerous Memorial Events, leading through to November and Remembrance. The Poppy Gazebo will be out opposite the Church Plain Car Park.

There will be a short Service on Sat Nov 11th at 11am at the War Memorial and on Sun Nov 12th, is the Loddon Parade, thanks to Loddon Town Council.-a Wreath laying short Service at The War Memorial, followed by a Service in Holy Trinity.

If anyone is interested in joining Loddon Branch, you will be warmly welcomed. We are a Charity and we are focused on raising funds to provide lifelong support to serving and ex serving personnel and their families.

We meet at The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. 7.00pm start. Contact us if support is required for Veterans or Beneficiaries. Chairman Colin Hartley - 01508 521136.

Social Whist

We meet every 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Usual time of 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start in the back room of The Hollies. A chance to chat, play some whist, enjoy tea/coffee with a biscuit, all in great company. No partner needed or to have played before, just an enjoyable evening out.



XPRESSIONS CAFÉ

Come and join us
on the first Sunday of the month ,
every month,
at All Saints, Chedgrave,
for craft, chat, delicious refreshments
and a different way of doing church.
10:00-12:00noon. All welcome.





Loddon Community Gym

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

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

Gym members took part in a fundraising Cyclathon on September 10th. 21 people completed the 12 hour event, consisting of 72 ten minute stints on a static exercise bike. Between them the members notched up an impressive 239.35 miles and raised almost £900 for much needed funds. A competition on the day to guess how many miles were cycled saw the winner guessing 240 miles!

The event was kindly sponsored by the local Co-op who donated a food hamper and space in front of their store, and by both Loddon Town Council and Chedgrave Parish Council who loaned essential equipment for the event.

Gym Chair Dennis Passingham said “ We would like to thank those members who participated in the event and also the many members of the public who donated.

We are a not-for-profit gym and the money raised will help us to continue to provide our important service to the local community “

The Gym, which celebrates its 10th anniversary next year ,operates on each weekday from the Library Annexe on Church Plain in Loddon and welcomes everyone from 16 years old who wish to improve their fitness and wellbeing.

For more information visit www.loddoncommunitygym.com or ring Louise on the number above, or, when the Gym Open sign is on the railings outside the Library on Church Plain, pop in and see what is on offer. We are a relatively compact gym, limited to 11 per session, so you will need to book sessions via www.picktime.com/easternriverscommunitygym. To book a first session, ring Louise—number above.

Loddon Indoor Bowls Club

We meet in the extension to the Old Town Hall, entrance via The Swan car park and clearly marked. We are a members club with internal league matches every weekday evening, roll ups on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons commencing at 2pm and on Tuesday morning at 10am. Numbers are restricted to the first 12 arriving. Subscriptions are £20 per year, £2 per sessions for roll-ups and competitions and £3 for league matches. We’d love to see you so just turn up and give it a try.

For info contact our Chairman, Paul Clemence on 01508 218078.

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New Branch at 3 Upper Olland Street, Bungay tel:01986 948188

Chet Staithe Probus Club

We are a club for retired gentlemen, and friendship. The atmosphere is relaxed, jovial, with little formality. Dress code is casual. We have a good mardle, and a different speaker every meeting on varied subjects. Afterwards, members either go home, adjourn to the bar, or stay for a pleasant lunch. Your choice. We meet at The White Horse every first and third **Tuesday** of every month, start time 10:00am.

Upcoming meetings:

November 7th—Cheryl Lewis on the Air Ambulance

November 21st—John Dawes (our very own) on Magic Lanterns

Come along to a couple of meetings and try us out; no pressure to join. Clive Boyd, Secretary, 01508 520547

Chet Valley Probus Club

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

Upcoming Meetings

14th November: "St. Andrews Hospital" Speaker, Dale Wiseman

28th November: "Sentiments of Christmas" Speaker, Jim Stebbings

12th December: Christmas Lunch

John McCormack (Hon Sec) 01508 521899 probusonline.org?chet-valley

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St. John's Lecture Hall, George, Lane Loddon. Doors open 7:00pm, the film starts at 7:30pm. Tickets £4, £2 under 16, available on the door or in advance from Loddon DIY. email: loddoncommunitycinema@yahoo.co.uk



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Loddon and District Women's Institute

October was a somewhat quieter and more restful month after all the activity and excitement of September! However, at the time of writing for this issue of Chet/Contact we will have enjoyed our October meeting and hearing about 'Witches and Witch Hunting in East Anglia'.

In November itself we will have our usual monthly meetings plus a trip for some of our members to see 'The King and I' on November 15th. We will also be quietly doing some preparations for our Victorian Evening Christmas stall. This will happen before publication of the December issue of the magazine so we ask you now to look out for us there and to come and say hello.

Next Meetings:

Thursday November 9th. 2.30. - 4.00 p.m. Knit, natter and Crochet in the Library.

Wednesday November 15th 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. St John's Chapel, George Lane. Speaker: Greg Powels. 'Jimmy Stewart- his Wonderful Life.

If you are interested in joining us or finding out more about us we can be contacted by email loddonwi@gmail.com

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

At our next meeting on Tuesday 28th November we will welcome Cheryl Lewis telling us of her work with the East Anglian Air Ambulance. At this meeting we will also be holding a Book & Jigsaw Puzzle stall all contributions very welcome

New members are always welcome. Contact Margaret on 01508 528531.

Chet Valley Art Society

Are there any local artists out there who would like to join the recently-formed Chet Valley Art Society? For further details, please phone Vee on 07557 402211.

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Loddon and District Horticultural Society

On 8th November we will be holding our Autumn Mini Show which is open to members only, although you are most welcome to come along and see what we do with a view to joining the Society. We will also be having our annual cheese and wine for members. Our meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Jubilee Hall Clubroom, George Lane, Loddon, starting at 7-30pm. As well as holding our own shows, we enter classes in the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society shows in the Affiliated Societies classes. At their Early Autumn Show we entered three classes and came first in each one. In the bowl of dahlias class we also won the Noller Trophy for the best arrangement of Dahlias in the Affiliated Societies classes, of which our members are justifiably proud. We hope to enter something in the classes again at their Late Autumn Show in November. To join our Society it is £10 per year. Contact Jean Cope (Chairman) on 01502 710024 or jeancope52@gmail.com or Hazel Copland (Secretary) on 01508 520890 happyhaze50@gmail.com. Follow us on our Facebook page.



Chet Valley Photography Club (CVPC)

Our monthly club meeting in November is on Monday 13th in St John's Methodist Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 6.45pm for 7pm start. We will be using various items eg single led lights, wheels with fairy lights attached, and members can practice using the long exposure function on their cameras to produce some weird and wonderful results. You do not need expensive equipment at all - images can be taken using a mobile device (phone, tablet) or point and shoot camera. We now have a new open facebook page (search Chet Valley Photography Club) which details some of the things we have done over the past few months. Annual membership is just £18. You do not need expensive equipment at all – most images today are done using a mobile phone. Have a look at our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk for more information if you are interested in joining the club. New members will be made very welcome. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.



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Chet Valley Patient Participation Group (PPG)

We had a well-attended Open Meeting in September with a very informative report on the practice, post CQC inspection. Our practice is working very hard, with long term plans in place to achieve objectives. This all comes amid very hard recruitment conditions to fill vacant jobs.

Flu and Covid vaccinations are now under way. You will be invited by the practice to attend.

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 O'clock Club

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the last **Wednesday** of each month in the back room of The Hollies, Loddon High Street. An annual fee of £10. is charged plus £3 for each meeting attended. New members always welcome.



Next Meeting:

Wednesday 29th November—Making Christmas Decorations with Joyce and Diane.

Contact June 01508 528853 or Hillary 01508 520457.

Loddon & Chedgrave District Society

November 16th 7pm—QUIZ AND CHIPS our ever popular evening with a light hearted quiz and supper. Please bring own drinks and condiments.

Chedgrave Church Room. Cost £12.00 including supper. Please have the right money. Contact Hillary on 520457.

We are a friendly group of people who like walking, visiting interesting gardens, historic buildings, and the occasional social evening. Membership fee is £6pa. Members will receive a programme. New members welcome.

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

Tuesday Market

As the harvest season continues we hope to have fresh vegetables, fruits and nuts on sale as well as our home baking, plants and crafts.



Why not join us for a cuppa, you will be made welcome at our friendly market. Every Tuesday 10:00-11:30am at The Hollies next to the post office in Loddon.

Sheila Ford (Chairman)

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To visit during staffed hours please see below for our opening times.

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I wonder if you have heard about the new booklet published by Loddon and District Local History Group:

What's in a Name

It has information on the origin of some of the street names in Loddon and Chedgrave.

Copies are available in the library for £5.

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Loddon and District Local History Group

Dr Joy Hawkins - 'Stones, Bones and Herbs.' Treating Everyday Ailments in Medieval England.' (September lecture)

> Firstly, Dr Hawkins explained how the medieval period explained illness in religious terms. No illnesses were believed to have been present in the Garden of Eden until Eve was tempted and then disease, infection and old age kicked in but it was not thought that God was revengeful if people repented. Medieval people thought they should accept pain in order to get into heaven and the church exploited this to make money suggesting 1 day of pain meant 40 days had been avoided in purgatory. Tied in with these religious beliefs were the Ancient Greeks' ideas on the 4 Humours or Fluids - blood, phlegm, yellow and black bile - and various foods, herbs, stones and metals were thought to be effective in balancing these components out. It was also believed that colours were significant and the best ones to use were blue, expensive and associated with the Virgin Mary, and green.

Dr Hawkins referred to the 'Midland Jewel' several times to illustrate beliefs of the time. This object contains some details of 15th century treatment and may have been owned by the wife of Richard Neville, known as the kingmaker. It was made of gold decorated with a blue sapphire and contains words and religious engravings like the nativity and crucifixion. She also mentioned other artefacts like 'The Coventry Ring' which depicts the 5 wounds of Christ and pilgrim badges which were worn on hats by people going on a pilgrimage. Sometimes these were hung around doors too to protect the inhabitants.

The talk moved on to treatments people could access. Urban areas had apothecaries and Norwich had 35 just in the market area but most people lived in the countryside where knowledge was passed down. Many plants were used for specific problems: mint for travel sickness; blackberries for sore throats and mouth ulcers; camomile for sleep but the plant that was used for everything was rosemary which was thought good for the spirits, headaches, energy and useful as an anaesthetic.

Dr Hawkins finished this fascinating talk by explaining how the medieval period saw heaven as a perfect garden containing herbs, clean water and good food.

Next meeting: Wednesday 15th November - Georgette Vale on Harriet Martineau.

All meetings held in St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon starting at 1:30pm. Admission £3 (includes light refreshments). All welcome.
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Read Any Good Books Lately?

On Beauty by Zadie Smith

The recent publication of Zadie Smith's latest book, *The Fraud*, was a good prompt to go back and read what many consider to be her finest novel, 2005's *On Beauty*, a loose adaptation of E.M. Forster's *Howard's End*, but set in north London and an East Coast Ivy League university near Boston. What really struck me while reading *On Beauty* is how it explored a lot of the issues surrounding the "culture war" long before they became fashionable in the media. Smith's writing is typically sharp, funny and insightful, and in the character of Kiki we have a person of warmth, humanity and moderation amid all the foolishness.

The Blackbird by Tim Weaver

This is crime fiction at its most pacy! A great read which gallops through a plot, from London to Northumberland, and introduces many twists and turns on the way. The premise is a couple have vanished from their car after it tumbles down a ravine, they must be dead, but where are their bodies? Enter David Raker, private investigator and thorn in the side of various police departments.

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Ove is almost certainly the grumpiest man you will ever meet. He thinks himself surrounded by idiots – neighbours who can't reverse a trailer properly, joggers, shop assistants who talk in code. Ove's wife has died, and life now seems pointless, but as he unexpectedly starts on a journey of discovery around his own neighbourhood, he gets to know the people living within it. He uncovers not only some wonderful things about the people he's always silently judged, but also about himself.

The Time Traveller's Guide To Elizabethan England by Ian Mortimer

This is a fantastic introduction and very accessible guide to Elizabethan England. Written as if you were going to be visiting as a tourist, Mortimer whisks you back in time to Elizabethan England and takes you on a journey throughout that period. At first Mortimer gives us an overview of general society, and then the basic elements that are needed to survive in that society, from the language and shopping to the travel arrangements and clothes.

I am about to read;...

Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Spanning the 1950s to the 1990s and from the Deep South to California, Bennett's stunning novel follows the journeys of two estranged twin sisters leading very different lives – to the extent of adopting different racial identities.

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Nature Notes

I began November's Nature Notes in mid-September, trying to be more organised, I expect September's good weather will be a distant memory as you read this. Walking the dogs over the past days, it is noticeable that there are still plenty of Swallows skimming over fields feeding on insects as they get ready to migrate. Also, the *hueet* contact call of Chiff Chaffs seems to resonate from every tree, occasionally breaking into their more recognizable "chiff chaff" song.

It's now October 3rd and Swallows seem to have left for warmer climes, but I am still hearing the contact calls of Chiff Chaffs. Back in September at Seething, I could see two birds perched on overhead wires some 70 metres ahead of me. One was obviously a Woodpigeon, but the second bird was smaller. I got closer without disturbing them and could see that the second bird was a dove. It then started its purring call before flying off revealing its obvious tail pattern. It was a Turtle Dove; this is the first time I had seen one at this location in four years. Later that evening, I went out to fill our bird feeders only to discover a young Hedgehog feeding under them, but when I returned to re-hang the full feeders it had been joined by one of its parents which was noticeably much bigger.

Walking the dogs up our road, I saw lots of movement on a small bank and on closer inspection was amazed to see loads of one of the species of miner bees enjoying the morning sunshine. I noticed loads of small circular holes each with a pile of fine earth at their entrance. The penny dropped and I realised that I was witnessing these bees emerging into the world for the first time. Continuing up the road I was suddenly saw movement in the middle of a stubble field. I strained my eyes to see if I could make out what it was. It's a mammal, but too large and the wrong colouration for a Stoat. The mystery mammal was heading straight for me. It stopped right in front of me, gave a loud squeal, which alerted both my dogs to its presence, and shot across the road into the field behind me. What was it? Well, its face markings and colour meant it was a Polecat Ferret.

Mentioning a Stoat I did see one a few days later, running in and out of the grass verge for some 30 meters, giving me good views. Fortunately, both my dogs were not very observant that day so missed it. Earlier on the same walk along a track between the fields as I approached a large puddle, two Common Snipe took flight and zig zagged into the distance.

Raking some grass recently, I became aware of the movement of a black beetle which kept raising its tail in the manner of a scorpion, I immediately knew it was a Devil's Coach Horse beetle.

As Autumn turns into winter there will be still a lot to see. I am still waiting for the arrival of Pink Footed Geese and the two winter thrushes, Fieldfares and Redwing.

So, wrap up warm and enjoy the wonderful creation that is all around us.

Richard & Rachel Hull



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Allotment & Gardening Notes

From the Allotment

The weather continues warm and this has extended the ripening season. I am still picking autumn raspberries, apples, squashes, courgettes and more surprisingly radish outside and tomatoes, peppers, chillies, and aubergine in the polytunnel. Raspberries have a long growing season with summer varieties – early, mid and late – and then autumn varieties. These are pruned differently the old canes on summer raspberries are removed and new canes tied in, so you need to prune before the leaves fall so you can tell the difference between old and new. Autumn varieties are cut down to ground and have more bushy habit so don't need supporting. The leeks, cabbages and parsnips are ready to start eating, but there are a lot of squashes to get through first.

The grape harvest from 4 vines yielded 15 litres of juice now fermenting nicely in my garage. I grow my grapes on the Double Guyot system which maximises the grape production though it requires more pruning.

My avid reader may recall the 'melon challenge' this year. I won, my opponent Joe's melon plant died. I let two melons to grow on the single plant and removed other flowers; one was delicious, the other went over while I rashly had a week's holiday. November is the time to look ahead. clear away the things that are over, plan your crops, prepare the ground for next year and begin planting those crops that go in now like garlic, broad beans and winter onions.

Andrew Milner

From the Garden

I'm writing at the beginning of October, the weather is warm and I am preparing a new flower bed as the gravel parking area has been completed. The bed will be shaded in the morning but sunny in the afternoon. It borders the woodland so will be planted up with two small trees (liquidambar for its autumn colour and an Acer) shrubs (Viburnum, Dogwood, Euonymus and Lavatera) Foxgloves, primroses, sweet violet and hellebores. I will add daffodils, bluebells, snowdrops and pink Lily of the Valley, if I can find it. We have lost several oak trees in the last 2 years due to disease, probably not helped by our light stoney soil and the current hot summers, we will replant a more suitable tree. The climate is definitely changing, it is not spring, yet we have the following flowering, Primrose, cowslip and lupin, has anyone else noticed this in their garden? Jobs for this month include planting bulbs and bedding plants to provide a spring display, dividing perennials to provide you with more plants or to swap with a friend, moving tender plants into the greenhouse or shed for the winter. Hedges or bare root trees are best planted between November and March depending on the weather. I am starting my sweet peas off early this year, sowing the seed in October and planting out before Christmas. The seed catalogues will start arriving soon, what will you grow for next year?

Shirley Cross

End Piece

Loddon Players proudly present

TREASURE ISLAND

After the huge success of last year's Panto, we are back, and returning to our traditional January performance dates, and ticket prices remain frozen at last year's prices.

We have chosen 4 local community groups to support from our profits this year, The Community Gym, Chet Valley Community Larder and the Parish churches of Holy Trinity (Loddon) and All Saints (Chedgrave) window fund raising, after recent vandalism.

“Avast there ye load of lily-livered landlubbers!

Our next production **Treasure Island** takes place at the Lecture Hall, George Lane from Friday 19th January 2024 to Saturday 27th January 2024.

There will be 8 performances.

Friday 19th January – 7.30pm, Saturday 20th January – 2.30pm, and 7.30pm, Sunday 21st January – 2.30pm, Thursday 25th January – 7.30pm, Friday 26th January – 7.30pm, Saturday 27th January – 2.30pm, and 7.30pm

Tickets on sale on Friday 17th November 2023 from 2pm

Ticket prices - Adults £10: Children £5: (15 years and under)

Families £25 (2 adults and 2 children) – see website for latest ticket offers.

Available online at www.loddonplayers.co.uk or by phone 07538 749803

Thursdays and Fridays 2pm to 5pm.

There are limited tickets for performances, book early to avoid disappointment!

Yo ho ho! Shiver me timbers. Order your tickets ye scurvy knaves!



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