



CONTACT

*Daffodils in Chedgrave Churchyard
Photograph: R.Y. Ball 2017*

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PLEASE NOTE: NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CONTACT
c.magazineloddon@gmail.com



PUDDING PLEASE!



Saturday 3 March, 7pm

St John's Lecture Hall,

Loddon



Ever want to eat lots of
PUDS without having
to eat a main course first?



NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

Tickets priced £5 (family ticket £15) are available from
Nina Owen (01508 522993, theroamingfenlander@gmail.com)
Val Counter (01508 520702, valancounter@gmail.com)

or from the church office, St John's Chapel

Ticket price includes soup and bread, followed by lots of pudding and tea or coffee. The evening will also feature a raffle or similar fundraiser.



Fundraising for the
Church in Loddon

Chet Valley Churches Information

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Church Office

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

Tel. 01508 521179 Email: office@chetvalleychurches.org

Open weekdays 10.00am—4.00pm **(10.00–1.00 on Wednesdays)**



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

To arrange any of the above please contact the Church Office.

Church Websites

www.chetvalleychurches.org

www.emerging-church.org

'Contact' Magazine

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Please include your name and telephone number.

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Similarly, the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Church in Loddon

Editorial

Lots of information this month, particularly from Loddon Parish Council, on pages 17 and 18.

I was surprised to learn that Loddon has something of a bad reputation as far as our recycling bins are concerned!

We have some news from our schools on pages 27 and 29. It's good to hear from them.

There's quite a lot happening in our churches—Lent Lunches for one! Do come and enjoy some homemade soup.

On page 23 is an article sent in by Ros Hoffman: a poignant reminder of the impact of war on families and loved ones.

And this month we have a poem sent in by one of parishioners.

I'm sorry that there isn't space to include anything for our younger readers—we'll try to do better next month.

Don't forget the clocks go forward an hour on March 25th—roll on the summer.

I have to get this to the printers rather early this month, so there's no time for any fine tuning! Apologies for any mistakes.

Meantime—keep safe and keep warm.

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Ministerial Musings

A long while ago, when I was doing my 'O'-levels, I had to take part in a three-way discussion about what problems we thought we would face in the 21st Century. I said that I thought we would have difficulties surrounding our use of oil because we were so reliant on it. But this was not foreseeing the pollution that we are now facing through widespread use of plastics, oil-based fuels and so on, rather it was wondering how we would cope when oil ran out.

What prompted this memory was an item on the radio about plastic and some school children from Glasgow called the Ocean Defenders who are on a particularly determined mission. They launched a #NaeStrawAtAw campaign on social media last year after estimating the number of school milk straws they throw away each year at 38,000 and learning how plastic can kill seabirds, fish, turtles, whales and dolphins. They have lobbied MSPs and taken on the ferry company, Caledonian MacBrayne, as well as hotels and restaurants in Glasgow, asking them with some considerable success to ban single-use plastic straws.

But it's not just plastic straws; more than 100 million plastic bottles are used worldwide every day! I know that I am guilty of some of that use though I do have a trusty, regularly re-filled, plastic water bottle which is now quite a number of years old.

Throughout this month we are in the season of Lent. Often people give something up – chocolate, wine.... Why not think about reducing your consumption of plastics instead? Buy loose fruit and veg at the shops; do without the plastic bottle of pop when you are out; make a determined effort to recycle all the plastic that you can. You could even lobby your MP, local shops and businesses about the use of plastics.

But to return to those school children... their school, Sunnyside, describes itself as a "conservation school" with the motto: "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children". That's worth a thought!

Rev Alison

Adverts

Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley

**You will be warmly welcomed to any of our services.
We hope to provide worship to suit everybody.**



- **Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday at one or other of the churches in the Benefice, either Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship, with an informal Holy Communion service once a month in Chedgrave.
- Once a month there is an **Evening Prayer** service at Sisland.
- Services of **Morning Worship** are held in Loddon and Hardley.
- **Last Sunday Praise** is held on the Last Sunday of the month at St John's in Loddon: a chance to sing old and new Christian songs plus time to worship together.

Families and children are welcome at all our services.

*Special provision is made at Chedgrave
where there is a toilet and baby changing facilities.*

- **Xpressions Café** Normally held at All Saints, Chedgrave, on the first Sunday every month between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. You can come and go as you please for coffee, cake, crafts, games, songs and much more.
- **Xtra!** An exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church.
- **All Together Worship** on the third Sunday.
This 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 children and adults - indeed people of all ages and all backgrounds.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is an opportunity to meet after the service and enjoy a chat over tea or coffee.

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.***

Adverts

Thanksgivings & Baptisms



You are welcome to request thanksgiving and baptism for your children. Thanksgiving Services may be held at any time in the churches by arrangement with the clergy. They are an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of a new child and to celebrate this with family and friends in the presence of God.

Baptisms are usually held within the Sunday worship in our churches. They 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.

Please contact Rev Alison Ball on 01508 528126

ball880am@btinternet.com or the Church Office on 01508 521179.

Noah's Ark

A drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their parent and carer.



Wednesdays

9.15a.m. to 12 noon. All welcome.

For further details please call Alison on 01508 528126 or e-mail : **ball880am@btinternet.com**

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.

March 1st. 2.00 p.m. Before afternoon tea, Rev. Jill will give a talk about her recent visit to the Holy Land

If you are interested in joining the group ring Jill on 520 248

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.

If you would like to join one, or just to know more, please contact Richard Seel or the Church Office.

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 between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.** Come and go as you choose.

On average there are about 17 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!)

Xtra! Join us in St John's Church for an exciting, informal service **every Thursday after school.**

Refreshments, activities from 3.15. Service starts 3.45.

More from Reverend David 522993 or Reverend Alison 528126

Adverts

Lent Lunches

Everyone is welcome to come to a simple meal of homemade soup with bread, tea or coffee and biscuits on Wednesdays in Lent.

February 21st and 28th,

March 7th, 14th and 21st.

The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.
12:00 - 1:30 pm.

Donations in an aid of the Bishop's Lent appeal:

The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2018 is focused on enabling local mission in Simbai, Papua New Guinea. In this remote community the church building is the hub of village life.

Chet Valley Churches

Chedgrave Churchyard Spring-clean

Saturday, 17 March 2018

An important village amenity, the churchyard requires looking after to maintain access and appearance. The annual spring-clean will take place on Saturday, 17 March at 10am–noon.

If you would like to join us for fresh air and exercise, please do – you will be most welcome.

Refreshments will be provided.

Richard Y. Ball and Jen Hayden, Churchwardens



A 'Thank You' from Sheila Orpet : for the visits, phone calls, cards (and the pie!), but most of all for your prayers.

Adverts

THE SISLAND CHRONICLE

Our canine friends require to be fed, watered and exercised, or like us, they become overweight! An example of a dog that considered walking to be hard work was my Grandfather's 'Toby' (1932 –1948) He would go by bus! All the drivers knew him, and where he wanted to go. The bus company sent in a quarterly account for his fares! My Jack Russell exercises himself, chasing off cars and tractors that use the lane beside our garden. Think 10kg of muscle at 30mph! In his calmer moments he writes a diary—watch this space.

Removing the diseased Beech tree which dominated St Mary's car park has nearly tripled car spaces and encouraged an increase in communicants to our Book of Common Prayer services.

In 1603 each parish had to send details of Communicants and Recusants to Bishop Legon. I was surprised to find that our village, which had almost vanished through plague in 1349, had recovered enough to have upwards of a hundred souls on the list. Recusants (who either remained Catholics or didn't take communion) didn't figure at all. The latter and other non-church goers could be fined (or worse). In neighbouring Loddon the Hobarts were fined £500 as Recusants. Equivalent to over a hundred thousand pounds in today's values. No wonder they lost their great house by 1647.

St John's Lane in Sisland doesn't appear on 18th Century maps, but how it got its name is a mystery. Any ideas?

SISLANDA

JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 24th MARCH 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

St John's Chapel George lane

Start Spring leaning and bring unwanted items to
The Church Office, St John's Chapel, George Lane
Contact Val Counter 01508 520702

All in aid of The Church in Loddon

Adverts



THANKSGIVING FOR THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

FREDDIE LANE February 18th at All Saints Chedgrave

*'Heavenly Father, we praise you for the birth of this child,
Surround him with your blessing that he may know your love,
be protected from evil, and know your goodness all his days.'*

Common Worship

CONFIRMATIONS

HUGH CASEY, JAYNE CASEY, JAMAL SINCLAIR,
JASON (JAY) KNIGHTS, MARGARET (MARGIE) FROST
at All Saints, Chedgrave on February 12th.

*Defend, O Lord, these thy Servants with thy heavenly grace,
that they may continue thine for ever;
and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit, more and more,
until they come unto thy everlasting kingdom. Amen.*

(from Common Worship Confirmation Service)

IN MEMORIAM

DR KINGSLEY JONES who died on January 1st aged 92 years
Funeral : January 30th at Holy Trinity, Loddon.

ELIZABETH MARY BENNETT who died on January 5th aged 97 years
Funeral : February 9th at Holy Trinity, Loddon.

VERA DOROTHY LANGLEY who died on January 11th aged 89 years
Funeral: January 30th at All Saints Cedgrave.

MAURICE ARNOLD JAMES CRISP who died on January 15th aged 91 years
Funeral : February 2nd at Holy Trinity, Loddon

MICHAEL GOOCH who died on January 16th aged 80 years
Funeral : February 14th at Earlham Crematorium

*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*

Adverts

Public Footpath from High Street to Sale Court and Old Market Green

Following requests from residents the Parish Council is seeking to formally designate as a Public Right of Way the footpath that runs from the High Street, behind The Swan and joins with Sale Court and Old Market Green.

The footpath has been in continuous use for many decades; when the area was a market and sale area and continued after the houses were built in Sale Court and Old Market Green from 1988 onwards. However, before the County Council will agree to make changes to the definitive footpath map they require a significant amount of evidence to confirm the use of the footpath. All that is required is the completion of a simple form by users of the footpath all of which will be submitted to the County

If you wish to support this initiative please contact the Parish Council (details below) and we will send or email you the Form. It is recommended that each person within your household who uses the footpath completes a separate form. Any queries, please do let us know and in the meantime, please send us your completed forms!

Confused about what goes in your green bin?

Did you know that green bin contamination rates in Loddon are amongst the highest in South Norfolk? 18.9% of the green recycling bins from your village contain items that shouldn't be in there, such as nappies, plastic bags and textiles. Contamination is not only bad for the environment, but it also costs council tax payers over £100,000 each year.

South Norfolk are keen to work with the residents of Loddon to reduce contamination rates. You can recycle the following but **please ensure it is clean before putting into your bin**: paper and cardboard, metal tins, cans and foil, rigid plastic containers, food and drink containers and glass. Please see the posters on notice boards within the village and visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/recycle for more information on the right items go into the green bins. This helps keep council tax low for everyone and is good for the environment. **And make sure it's clean, dry and don't bag it.**

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Thursday 8th March 2018 commencing at 7.00pm in the Library Annexe. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and will be given the opportunity to speak. The agenda will be displayed on the notice board on Church Plain and on the council's website (see below) at least three days before the meeting. A list of the meetings dates in 2018 are on the LPC website.

Continued on page 19

Adverts

Continued from page 17

Contact Us: Please telephone the Parish Council on 01508 522020, or email on clerk@loddonpc.org.uk. The office in the Library Annexe, Church Plain, Loddon is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 9.00am and midday if you would like to visit in person. More information is available on the parish council's website: www.loddonpc.org.uk or find us on Facebook under Loddon Parish Council.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM LODDON PARISH COUNCIL
CLOSURE OF CHURCH PLAIN TOILETS : MONDAY 2ND APRIL 2018

Loddon Parish Council is sorry to announce that the toilet block on Church Plain will be closing permanently on Monday 2nd April 2018.

We know that you will no doubt see this as yet another loss of a valued and much-loved Loddon asset, but you can be assured that the Parish Council have fought long and hard to keep it open. We are fully aware, and very much appreciate, that the toilets on Church Plain have been there for many years and are used not only by Loddon residents but also by churchgoers and visitors to the village alike. However, time, vandalism, misuse and general lack of care over the years has taken its toll, to the extent that the toilet block is drab, dowdy, old fashioned and generally not fit to meet the requirements of public buildings in this day and age. A recent structural survey has revealed the full and sad extent of its deterioration.

The survey shows that there are serious ventilation and damp issue along with the roof that requires replacement in the near future. These issues alone would cost at least £14,000 to address. Furthermore, both the electrical wiring and plumbing are very dated requiring replacement plus the whole building would then need a full overhaul of furnishings, fittings, and full redecoration throughout. The refurbishment alone has been estimated at over £25,000.00.

All these costs along with the annual running costs of some £15,000 will fall on the parishioners of Loddon through increases in your annual Council Tax, this charge would increase year on year (we estimate by 24% next year), now that South Norfolk Council has fully delegated public toilets responsibility down to Parish and Town Councils.

We are minded, and certainly have taken into account, your wish in the 2012/2013 Loddon Parish Plan to keep both the Staithe and Church Plain toilets open, but we have also had to consider the even stronger opinion that you would be totally against any financial obligations falling on our parishioners. Faced with this dilemma we have had to take a decision as a Council that the many and expensive problems with the Church Plain toilets unfortunately totally override any sentiment about keeping them open. We hope you will understand our reluctant decision to close them on Easter Monday and to hand the keys back to South Norfolk Council.

Full details of our decision can be found on the Parish Council website: <http://www.loddonpc.org.uk/> or by contacting the Parish Council Office.

Adverts

PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT

We are pleased to announce the refurbishment has now been completed. There will be an Opening Ceremony on Sunday 20th May 2018 between 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm. Further details will follow.

HISTORY EVENT

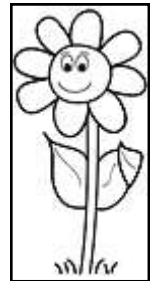
To coincide with the Play Area Opening Ceremony there will be an exhibition in the Village Hall entitled 'Times Gone By' – a chance to look back at the history of Langley and Hardley villages. If you have any personal stories, documents, photographs or artefacts that you are willing to loan please contact hallbookings@langleywithhardleyvillagehall.org.uk or phone Kathy Ashford on 01508 528537. A bar will be available and a raffle will be held to raise funds for the hall.

Telephone: 01502 730166 E-mail: langleywithhardley.pc@gmail.com
Website: www.langleywithhardley.pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Gardeners....

Springtime is well on its way

Do you love your garden?
Would you be happy to let
other people to enjoy it too?



Plans for OPEN GARDENS in June are
marching ahead. We would like to
include all gardens

GREAT & SMALL. ... Yours, maybe?

The event will be on the weekend of 23 & 24 June.
If you think you might take part please contact Nina Owen on
01508 522993, or send an email to Nina at
loddonopengardens@gmail.com.



Fundraising for the Church in Loddon

Adverts

From Ros Hoffman:

This article was published some time ago in Contact, but I wondered if it might be of interest again as March 21st this year is the hundredth anniversary of the German advance that nearly lost the Allies the war.

This is a composition written by Ethel, my grandmother's cousin, whilst at school. At the time of writing Ethel was hoping that Eddy had been taken prisoner, but sadly Eddy was killed on 23rd March, 1918. I've seen his name on the Pozieres Memorial along with all the others who have no known grave.

Editor's note: For reasons of space we have had to shorten the original. It begins with a description of Eddy's first experience of army life. We take up Ethel's story from when her brother went to France.

A composition written on June 5th, 1918

My Brother

In his letter to us, he said that he had had a safe journey across to France and was at the Base at Le Havre. This was the 26th of June 1917. He was stationed there for about three weeks, when the call came that his regiment was to go forward in the trenches.

After being in the trenches for about ten days, he was sent back, behind the lines for rest. After he had been in France for about six months, he went into hospital for Dysentery, where he stayed a fortnight. He went back into the lines again, and again he was sent to hospital, for the same thing, which was caused by dirty clothes and not being able to wash.

But when he joined his Battalion, we did not hear from him for six weeks, as he was engaged in the Battle of Ypres, 1917. He told us one loaf had to be divided between 27 men, and for a long time, he lived on "Bully Beef and Biscuits".

One morning, he had a very bad cold and a sore throat; on reaching the Dressing Station he found himself covered in spots. The doctor said he had German Measles, and was at once sent into a tent, secluded from everyone. In this tent were two beds, and a gas stove. Soon after my brother, came a Lancashire lad, who had got the same complaint, and being shut up, with nothing to do, they both felt that the time was long and tedious. No one was allowed to come near them, only an Orderly Corporal, who brought them food, which was, first of all, milk only, and then later, chicken and beef-tea etc.

After having recovered from the measles, my brother joined his Battalion which was then resting, behind the lines. Soon after this, he went forward with his Battalion and in the great battle which commenced the 21st of March, my brother is reported missing.

I have read in the paper, that the 36th Ulster Division, (the Division my brother was in) was completely surrounded by the enemy, and that a great many were taken prisoners. It is now 12 weeks, since my brother was reported missing, but it is to be hoped, that he, and many others, will return to their native land once more.

Teacher's comment: This is very interesting and well expressed. I hope you will soon have the happiness of learning of Edwin's safety.

Adverts

What's happening at Loddon Library?

Mini Movers – Mar 5th - 2:15 to 2:45 – A fun session with movement and song for children aged 2 plus

Facebook – Good news, you can now keep up to date with all our events and news by following us on Facebook just search for Loddon and Poringland libraries.

DVD Hire – A reminder you can hire dvds for just £2.00 per week. Top Titles £2.00 for 2 nights from the library. Special offer 2 for 1 every Thursday and Friday.

Just a cuppa – every Monday from 10am – Feeling at a loose end? Pop in for a friendly chat and a cuppa.

Book Ends – every other Friday, 3.30 – 4pm – 2nd & 16th Feb, 2nd & 23rd March –story and craft fun.

Saturday Junior Book club – fortnightly on 10th & 24th Feb, 10th & 24th Mar
Do you love to read and chat about books with others? Then come along to our new, fun book club 10:30am to 12:30pm. Run by youngsters for youngsters! The books will be based on a different theme each meeting. Please contact staff for January dates.

C.A.B. will be holding advice sessions in the library throughout 2018 – please contact library staff for the dates.

Computer Buddy Drop-In – Every Monday, 10am – 12noon – He's happy to help you with most IT difficulties.

Micro:bit! Did you know you can borrow these for free at your local library? A fun way to learn more about programming

Loddon Childrens Centre run the following sessions from the library

Loddon Little Ducklings – 1st and 3rd Thursday each month 10 to 11:00 am
Baby stay & play sessions for families with babies 0-18 months

Loddon Baby 'O.N.E.' stop – 4th Thursday of Each Month, 10 to 11:00 am
Optimum Nurturing Environment – A session to support you and your baby. Health visitor/ Assistant Health Practitioner and a CC staff run session. Babies 0 to 1 year.

Rhyme Time Fun; 2nd and 4th Monday monthly 2:15pm to 2:45pm – A fun and friendly session for babies and toddlers, sharing songs and rhymes to give babies the best possible start in learning to talk.

Baby weighing scales

We now have a set of baby weighing scales located in the library.

These can be used anytime during our normal opening hours.

For information on any of the above please contact the library staff.

Are you unable to get to the library? Would you like to have books chosen for you and collected? Contact the library for details of our housebound library service.

Opening times at bottom of page 28

Adverts

Loddon Primary Federation News



It's been a busy half term! Out of school events included:

- * a visit to the Loddon Pantomime,
 - * a two day trip to Kingswood for some of the Yr4s and 5s
 - * the school choir performing as part of the Central Area Schools' Music Association celebration in Norwich
- * a visit to the Sea Life Centre by the Reception class
 - * Yr3/4 and Yr5/6 taking part in the UEA Sports Hall Athletics (Big congratulations to the year 5s and 6s who managed a really impressive 3rd and 2nd place!)

In addition to all this outside activity, normal school work has been going ahead!

This spring term we have started our rainforest topic. We have made 3D rainforests explaining what we would be able to see, smell, hear, touch and taste in the rain-forest. We made a salt dough map of South America, showing the rainforests. We are now planning a class debate on conservation and exploitation of the tropical rainforests in the world.

In English this term we have been reading a range of short stories of different genres. Through role play we have been focusing on characters and their thoughts and feelings, language used, and its effect on the reader. In Science we have started exploring electricity, its origin, its uses, and safety aspects. We have been experimenting by creating our own circuits and successfully powering bulbs, motors and buzzers.



Working on our salt dough maps



At the UEA

Finally, thank you to the Friends for our lovely new play tables which the school council chose. The children are really enjoying using these at break and lunch time.



Adverts

Patient Participation Group (PPG)
Chet Valley Medical Practice, Loddon



We look forward to meeting you again at our first Open Meeting of 2018 which is on **Tuesday 27th March at 7.30 pm** when Cathy Mingay, who is the Physiotherapy Clinical Manager will be talking to us about how to access the service and the services offered.

Loddon Library

31 Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX

01508 520678

Opening Hours :-

Mon.: 10am - 1pm & 2 - 5pm; Wed. 10am - 1pm;
Thurs. 2 - 7.30pm; Fri. 2 - 7.30pm; Sat. 10am - 1pm



This is my first contribution to 'Contact', so I thought I would summarise a busy year so far at Hobart High School.

Over the summer we received confirmation that our excellent GCSE results placed us amongst the top performing schools in the region. Indeed, our Maths results were within the top 10% of schools nationally. It was lovely to see the hard work of our students and staff pay off.

The year began with the news that we had been successful in setting up Clarion Academy Trust. Thurlton Primary school joined us in this exciting new chapter for both schools. We hope to be able to work with other schools in the near future. The vision for the Trust is to work collaboratively and within the community to raise standards and to open up new opportunities for our young people.

In November Hobart received a much anticipated Ofsted inspection. This found us to still be 'Good' and improving in all areas. Some quotes:

There is a focused and purposeful atmosphere in all lessons. Students work hard and with enthusiasm.'... 'All students receive very strong levels of support, guidance and care and they feel highly valued. As a result, students behave very well. Students are very proud of their school and clearly enjoy attending.'... '[students] made progress which was well above average in English and mathematics and, overall, across the subjects of the English Baccalaureate.'

We were particularly pleased with the responses from parents and carers to the Ofsted questionnaire. Of those who responded, 87% said they would recommend the school, compared with 77% when the school was last inspected in 2013. This is a clear demonstration that the improvements we have made over the last few years have made a positive impact.

We are always delighted to receive visitors, particularly prospective students, parents or carers. We have regular open mornings (7th March, 25th April, 27th June) but please call any time to make an appointment if you would like to see us in action.

*Jim Adams
Headteacher: Hobart High School*

SPACE FILLER: Quotes about Mothers

When a mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice', it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway.

Erma Bombeck

Definition of the word 'Sweater': a garment worn by a child when its mother is feeling chilly.

Ambrose Pierce

If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?

Church Services March

Sat 3rd	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 4th	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary Sisland
	9.00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.00am-12 noon	Xpressions Café	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's Loddon
Sat 10th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 11th <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Margaret Hardley
	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St. John's Loddon
Sat 17th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 18th	10.45am	Holy Communion	St. John's Loddon
	11.00am	All Together Worship <i>Followed by shared lunch</i>	All Saints Chedgrave
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary Sisland
Sat 24th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 25th <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.30 am	Morning Worship	St. Margaret Hardley
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St. John's Loddon
	6.30 for 7.00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St. John's Loddon
Thurs 29th <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7.00pm	Seder Meal with Foot Washing and Last Supper	St. John's Loddon
Fri 30th <i>Good Friday</i>	10.00am	Children's Reflection	All Saints Chedgrave
	12 noon	Walk Of witness from	Holy Trinity to St John's
	2.00pm	At the Foot of the Cross	All Saints Chedgrave
Sunday April 1st Easter Day	6.00am	Sunrise Holy Communiion	St. Margaret Hardley
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary Sisland
	10.00am	Xpressions Café with Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Holy Communion Liturgy of the Word at St John's, Liturgy of the Sacrament at Holy Trinity	

LAST SUNDAY PRAISE

This is usually held on the last Sunday of the month at 7.00 p.m. at St. Johns, Loddon. Refreshments at 6.30 before the service, or just come at 7.00 for the singing

MORNING PRAYER <i>Everyone is welcome to these times of Prayer</i>	Monday	9.00 a.m.	St John's Loddon
	Tuesday	9.00 a.m.	St. Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	9.00 a.m.	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	9.00 a.m.	St John's Loddon
	Friday	9.00 a.m.	St Mary Sisland
	Saturday	9.00 a.m.	All Saints, Chedgrave

Xtra! Join us in St John's Church for an exciting, informal service **every Thursday after school**. Refreshments, activities from 3.15. Service starts 3.45. More from Reverend David 522993 or Reverend Alison 528126

COME AND PRAY
Would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people? All are welcome to come along to '**TIME FOR PRAYER AND SPACE FOR REFLECTION**' at St John's on Tuesday evenings. 7.30 - 8.30pm. Contact Rev. Jill Haylock on 520248, email jillhaylock@aol.com or just turn up. **Please note:** On the third Tuesday the Mid-week service of Communion with Blessing will be held .

MID-WEEK COMMUNION WITH BLESSING
7.30 p.m. at St John's on the 3rd Tuesday of the month
All are welcome
(This monthly service is no longer specifically focussing on healing and laying on of hands.)

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE FROM SURINAME

Friday 2nd March

at 7.00 pm
at St John's Church
George Lane

All welcome

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Flower Club

6th March Christine Hewson - 'Wicker World'
3rd April Jacquie Aldous - 'That's Entertainment Act 3'
Hobart High School starting at 7-15pm.

Loddon Women's Institute

At our January meeting we enjoyed a very interesting talk given by Peter Lawrence, a retired Police Officer. His account of his time serving in the London area during the 60's through to his retirement gave us a rare insight into the life and history of our police. We hope he'll come back and tell us more!

Next Meeting: March 21st: Stories from the Antiques Road Show (Open Meeting)

Competition: A small antique

7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at the Jubilee Hall Cub Room.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

In January several of our ladies enjoyed a trip to the Theatre Royal to see the musical 'Top Hat', which was an excellent show. This was preceded by lunch at the Belle Italia restaurant.

Tuesday March 13th is our birthday lunch at the White Horse.

March 27th: Meeting at All Saints centre 2.00 p.m.

Speaker: Fay Jones —'The wonderful World of Stinging Nettles!'

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

March 20th: Speaker: Ann Newmeir: My Suitcase, My Patience and Him.
7.30 p.m. Langley with Hardley Village hall.

Loddon & District Day Centre

Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. at the Jubilee Hall . Join us for outings and games and a wide variety of entertainment.

We also enjoy a hot, home-cooked 2 course meal.

New members always welcome.

Interested? Please call Bev on 07826299290.



At the Jub Club Friday nights. Eyes down at 7-30pm. All welcome. Two jackpots that regularly top £100 with 10 games per session plus a flyer game. Evening usually ends around 9pm.

Hobart Badminton Club



We meet on Fridays 7.30 - 9.30 pm at the Sports Hall, Hobart High School. We play socially and are not in a league.

New members, aged 18 and over, welcome – some previous playing experience required.

Membership:

Trial Members: £4 per session for 4 weeks

Full members:- £10 annual subscription and £4 for each week you play

Visitors:- £5 per session

Further information from Barbara Boardman –

email tomenelli@btinternet.com

Loddon Community Gym



Mondays: 1.30pm to 6. pm. **Tuesdays:** 4-30 to 8-30 p.m.

Fridays: 10am to 1pm. at the Jubilee Hall

Our well equipped, not for profit gym offers a relaxed sociable atmosphere to help you improve your fitness, health and wellbeing.

G.P. Referrals welcome.

For further details contact Louise on 07534 946143

or visit www.loddoncommunitygym.com

Footballers wanted!

We are a friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astroturf every Monday evening from 8:30-9:30 for a non-competitive kick-about to keep fit and socialise. We are looking for like minded people to join us.

Cost £2.50 per session, first session free.

For more details, please contact Terry on:

Email: tezzahayden99@gmail.com

Facebook: Loddon Men's Football Club

Tel: 01508 528454 Mobile: 0755 1320592



Adverts

Chet Staithe Probus Club

Have you recently retired or just moved to the area? Are you missing mae company, on your own, or just want to get out from under your wife's feet? Then why not visit the Chet Staithe Probus Club which is held on the first and Third Tuesday of the month at the White Horse, Chedgrave. The meetings start at 10.00a.m. and usually finish around midday with the option of staying for lunch if required. Several of our members do. We are a friendly informal club, jackets and ties not required, with members ranging in age from 60 to almost 100. At each meeting we have a guest speaker and the topics can range from clocks, Whitehall, cartoons, space and even stagecoach journeys to Norwich.

Our next meetings are:

March 6th Ruth Smith: The Naked truth (Part 1)

March 20th Robert Leeder: In Search of Secrets of Norfolk
We really look forward to seeing you then.

Please contact Fred McEvetts Telephone 520622 or mcevetts@hotmail.com for more information

Chet Valley Probus Club

The Chet Valley Probus Club (*for retired Professional & Businessmen or any who have held some measure of responsibility in any field of endeavours*) meets at the White Horse Chedgrave on the second and fourth Tuesday morning, monthly. Good company, speakers, and food.

March 13th Annie Chapman: Ladies Red Tractor Run

March 27th Dr Ian Bedford: Garden Bugs

For further details and an application form please contact the secretary John McCormack, 5a Norton Road, Loddon NR14 6JN. 01508 521899.

Loddon Community Cinema

Thursday March 1st.
Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30.

Our next presentation is **My Cousin Rachel**, rated PG13 and starring Rachel Weisz and Sam Claflin.

A dark Gothic romantic tale by Daphne du Maurier, it tells the story of a young Englishman who believes his cousin murdered his guardian but his feelings for her begin to change as he falls for her unavoidable charms.

Sumptuous Cornish landscapes exquisitely filmed and with good performances set us up for a grand evening of classic drama.



The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.

Tickets: Adults £4 child £2.

On the door or in advance from Loddon Garden and Seed.

Adverts

Chet Valley Photography Club

March 12th: 'Wild Britain' by Kyle Moore.

From the moment Kyle first picked up a camera to his most current projects, this talk gives a unique insight into his life as a young wildlife photographer, ranging from the rugged coastline to the urban streets of London. If you would like to come along and follow Kyle's journey and stories of photographing some of Britain's most iconic wildlife, then please do so. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience.

For more details please see our website

www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

March 14th – Wednesday , Meet at the Forum 10.15 *

Norwich Architects & Architecture Tour with a guide. Lasts approx 90 minutes. Approx £5.00 each depending on numbers.

Book before the 7th March. June 528853.

March 25th – Sunday, Meet at Reedham Ferry 10.30 am. *

A nice spring walk from Reedham circuit round Cantley and Limpenhoe Marshes, Great river views. approx. 6 miles. Lunch at The Ferry Inn. Contact June 528853. 1 week prior.

April 10th – Tuesday, Raveningham Hall, 10.30 am *

A private Garden visit, with tea, coffee and cakes. Wander round the 10 acre gardens as you wish, a map will be provided.

£10.00 each. Contact June on 528853. by 3rd April.

Very important: All bookings for lunches, walks, events etc. must be made in good time through the person named. Events marked with an * must be booked or paid in advance by the date noted to guarantee a place. All walks will cost £1. Please read information carefully.

The Loddon and Chedgrave District Society is an Amenity Society affiliated to the CPRE. The CPRE is a national charity which helps people to protect their local countryside where there is a threat, to enhance it wherever there is opportunity and to keep it beautiful, productive and enjoyable to everyone. We support these aims through participation in CPRE and CPRE-Norfolk events, as well as our own meetings, activities and organised walks.

For further information please contact Hillary Meredith Membership Sec: at 24 Snows Hill Chedgrave 01508 520457

Adverts



Firstly, representatives of the branch were kindly invited to attend a meeting and get together with Loddon Army Cadets on the 17th January at which our branch chairman, Laurie Olson, presented a shield to the Cadet of the Year in memory of our late Secretary, Dick Allen. Thank you to all your officers and cadets for your very warm welcome and generous hospitality (especially the doughnuts!).

We are proud to announce that two members of our branch, Jimmy Sturman (standard bearer Loddon and District) and John Sayer (standard bearer Haddiscoe) have been chosen by Norfolk County RBL to represent the county at World War 1 commemorations in France and Belgium in August this year. More details of that when we know more, but we do know that it will include a ceremony at the Menim Gate.

Next branch meetings are **Monday 19th March** and **Monday 16th April**.

COUNTRY AND 60s DANCE

at the Jubilee Hall, LODDON

on **SATURDAY MARCH 3rd. 8 pm -12 midnight.**

Live music with

PAT JAMES and SUSAN JAYNE

Bar Raffle and Tombola.

Tickets £6. from Jubilee Hall
or Tel: 01508 528588 (Mandy) or 01508 520654 (Eileen)

The event is begin held in memory of Dick Bloy

Proceeds to Hall Maintenance Funds
Reg Charity No 285015

Adverts

COFFEE, CHAT AND CRAFT CLUB

The new Coffee, Chat and Craft Club has been launched at Davy Place. We meet in the Common Room on Thursday mornings (except on Hot Lunch Club days) between 10am and 12 noon. So, please come and join us! Older members of the wider community are most welcome to come along for some good companionship, a nice cup of coffee, a slice of cake and a 'knit and a natter.' Gentlemen are most welcome too, we can find you something crafty to try! Come along to Davy Place and join in the fun and help us to brighten the gloom of the winter days!

We are looking to find a good second-hand sewing machine and a fully working knitting machine. If you can help please get in touch. If you have a skill or a craft you could show us, we would also be very glad to see you.

We would like to thank South Norfolk Council and the "Go For It" scheme for their help towards funding the new Coffee, Chat and Craft mornings. We thank you very much.

On Friday, 2nd March we are going to Cherry Lane Garden Centre and then the Caister Carvery for lunch.

We hope to see many of our friends and neighbours at our Jumble Sale on Saturday, 24th March (see below).

If you have anything to donate please contact **Janet** on 522115 to arrange collection or just bring it along to the Common Room. Thank you from all of us at Davy Place.

**Davy Place Social Club
In the Common Room Davy Place, Loddon**

**Jumble Sale
Saturday 24th March
10am till 12 noon**

**Lots of good jumble and bric-a-brac, books,
toys and jigsaw puzzles.
Tombola, raffle and refreshments.**

Adverts

LODDON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
PRESENT

LADY MOLE CATCHER

BY

LOUISE CHAPMAN

WEDNESDAY MARCH 14th 7.30PM

LODDON JUBILEE HALL, GEORGE LANE.



Louise will share her experience and knowledge of moles which are immensely fascinating creatures. Her talks are informative and interesting and are sprinkled with amusing vignettes from Norfolk's very own Lady Mole Catcher.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MIM ON 01508 493332
NON-MEMBERS £2.00

Adverts

Loddon and District Local History Society

Our January meeting was a wonderful talk by Georgette Vale who talked to us, in costume, as the famous Quaker activist & reformer Elizabeth Fry 1780- 1845

In conversation with her audience Mrs. Fry answered questions about her life and work.

Born in Norwich in 1780, the daughter of John Gurney, a banker & Quaker, she spent her early childhood in Earlham. Elizabeth was known as Betsy and was a rather reserved and nervous child. Her mother died when she was 12. Young Betsy was allowed to dance and sing as her family were not strict Quakers. She recalled going to hear a famous Quaker at the Meeting House in Goat Lane wearing her best purple boots with red laces.

Betsy explained that during her conversation with us she used the terms Thee and Thou to address us, as Quakers believe that everyone is equal before God and because the word "You" was used in olden times to denote people of rank. Quakers used Thee and Thou even when addressing Royalty. They also would not use the words for the days of the week or months as many are derived from pagan sources. Quakers also wear plain clothes with little adornment, Betsy was occasionally criticised for wearing clothes made of fine quality cloth. She was however very committed to her faith and aged 19 married Joseph Fry who came from a much stricter Quaker family. Some of her own family married outside the faith and she regretted being unable to attend their weddings. She was very upset when her Grandson Frank wanted to join the army, as of course Quakers are pacifists.

Many Quakers at that time were bankers, as they were excluded from entering any profession that involved swearing an Oath, such as teaching or the law. As bankers they were considered honest and reliable and fair in business. A Quaker, Sir John Pelly, was governor of the Bank of England. Betsy's brothers ran Gurneys bank which later became Barclays. Her husband's bank suffered from the great financial crisis after 1828, but the family survived with help from relatives.

William Wilberforce helped Elizabeth continue her work in Education. She had started a boy's school in Earlham to help them to read, and by the time she married it had 80 pupils. When she lived in London she started a school for girls.

In 1814 Betsy visited Newgate Prison for the first time. She described these conditions as "the miserable vortex of prison" that stopped women and children seeing the goodness of the Lord. In 1817 she returned to Newgate and started working with the women, who gradually came to realise that she

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Adverts

We're having a

SPRING

Clean Weekend at Langley with Hardley Village Hall
On 14/15 April 2018 10.00am onwards both days



PLEASE come and join us. If you use the hall, might use the hall or are new to the area and would like to help your local community we would love to see you.

POETS CORNER

CYCLING IN WINTER

The breeze on my face, the wind through my hair,
The sun 'neath the trees looking strangely bare,
The green of the grass, the hue of the sky,
The hedgerows asleep as I cycle by.
The rabbits, the ravens, the rooks and the crows,
Where they're all going nobody knows.
The rivers, the ditches, muddy puddles galore,
The swoop of the seagulls, hawks and much more.
If I glance at the bank with a little more care
I see snowdrops and aconites nestling there,
Whilst crocus and primrose are ready to rise
And give all the world a marvellous surprise.
I say to myself life's a wonderful book
If only we make the effort to look.
Thank you, dear God, for making all this:
Whilst riding my bike it's impossible to miss.

Kath Ricketts

Adverts

Continued from page 47

was not there to judge or admonish them. She started a school in the prison for children and adults: the first teacher was Mary Connor, a prisoner. She started a work scheme so that the women could learn skills: knitting, patchwork and sewing, with produce they could sell. In 1818 she was the first ever woman to address a Parliamentary Committee on the governance of female prisoners. Many of her recommendations were accepted. Now famous as a reformer she also met Queen Charlotte and the future Queen Victoria, then aged 12, who gave her some money for a home for reformed prisoners.

As Betsy's fame spread she travelled widely. A report on the corruption in Thetford prison where, the governor was using the land to breed pigs and putting his prisoners to work in a shoe factory for his own profit, led to a reform making prison staff salaried employees. Elizabeth was in favour of work for prisoners but not naked exploitation.

Before 1823, hundreds of crimes were punished by execution; after then, only five, so the number of prisoners transported to Australia increased. They were taken to the ships in open carts and subject to abuse from passers-by. Elizabeth managed to get the carts covered and education classes set up on the long voyages. On the journey women were taught to make quilts to sell on arrival in Australia. In addition to her work in prisons Elizabeth visited the sick and was active in the Campaign to abolish Slavery. By the age of 65 Betsy was in poor health but said that although weak in body her mind was still clear. She had 11 children and despite a life of constant work on behalf of the poor she never neglected them and had the constant support of her husband and her children throughout her life. Many questions followed her talk and it was indeed a pleasure to "have tea with Betsy"

Next meetings :March 21st Dr Joy Hawkins returns to tell us about Blood Puss & Urine in Medieval Medicine

April 18th Dr Adrian Marsden returns to tell us about Tales behind the Tokens & recent research by the Norfolk Tokens Project

Meetings at 1.30 p.m. at the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.

Further details: 01508 520120/521136

PORINGLAND AND LODDON PARISH ART EXHIBITION 2018

All are invited to view and/or participate in our annual Art Festival at

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION CHURCH

21 UPGATE PORINGLAND NR147SH

Thursday 15th & Friday 16th March from 11.00 am - 5.00pm

Saturday 17th March 11.00 am – 4.00 pm

Entry by catalogue £1 Refreshments available

TO EXHIBIT contact Anne Webster phone number - 01508 494401

New email address: c.magazine1oddon@gmail.com

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Adverts

Anagram answers first this time...

A. Temple = **Mal Peet** Barbara Meldgret = **Margaret Drabble**
Stan Gressoli = **Stieg Larsson** Saul Linsh = **Susan Hill**
Sam Trimain = **Martin Amis** Hattie Garshica = **Agatha Christie**

Back to normal now!

“Dominion,” by C.J. Sansom

A definite tour de force, this is a frightening “alternative history” of Great Britain in the 1950s set mainly in London. It’s what might have been if Hitler’s Nazi Germany had won World War 2, and is an absorbing espionage-cum-political thriller. We meet a variety of characters, all of whom are totally believable and from different walks of life. The whole book is a brilliant mixture of the 1950s as they really were and as they might have been if the Allies had not won the war. It is nightmarish, clever, thrilling and - at times - tender.

If you are accustomed to opening a book by C.J. Sansom in the hope of reading a historical novel about Matthew Shardlake (and the reign of Henry VIII particularly) you will be in for a big surprise!

“Daughter,” by Jane Shemilt

This is a well written, tense mystery novel about a possible abduction. The daughter of a GP married to a Neuro-Surgeon doesn’t come home one night after appearing in a school production of *West Side Story*. Very short chapters alternate between describing events during the month in which she went missing and events during the following year. We see how her twin brothers and her parents are affected and how they all deal in their very different ways with what has happened to their family. It’s a really gripping story with a most unexpected ending.

“Mrs Sinclair’s Suitcase,” by Louise Walters

A young woman (in the present day) works in a bookshop, and chapters of this novel are introduced by messages she’s found in letters and on cards in some of the books on the shelves. Other chapters centre on a woman back in the time of World War 2, who has suffered miscarriages and a stillbirth, but who still wants desperately to become a mother. Each of the women has the same surname - a Polish one. Both share a certain reticence of character, too, and there are some clear parallels in their lives. Any reader will soon come to realise the relationship which connects the two women, the link being a letter found by the younger one in a suitcase carrying a label with the name “Mrs Sinclair” on it.

The author writes beautifully and at times the story is very moving. The blurb on the back of the book describes it as, “A heartbreaking tale of missed chances and enduring love,” which sums the book up well. Fortunately, there is some happiness, too!

Adverts

Whether March comes in like a lion or a lamb at least we know that spring is on it's way. This month gives us March winds but also odd days of warm sunshine that we all are longing for.

Signs of spring are all around. The catkins on Hazel trees have been dangling in the breeze for a while now and the tiny red flowers have appeared to receive the pollen, blown by the wind, to fertilise them and provide much needed nuts for the coming autumn. Snowdrops and Aconites have probably finished flowering by now but other bulbs will follow. Celandine and Violets (that 'hide their light under a bushel') will be showing their tiny blooms, if you look under the leaves. In woodlands, the Wood Anemone can often be found and I think it is one of the prettiest sights of spring.

Along with the flowers, Bees will begin to appear. Solitary Bees, that hibernate during the cold months, will be seen taking advantage of the early pollen. There are many species of Bees and they are all fascinating in their habits and very necessary for our existence, especially as pollinators. I bought an excellent book on the Bees of Norfolk last year and am amazed at their differences. Did you know there are Mining Bees that live in holes in the ground and Masonry Bees that burrow into walls and paving? There are even Cuckoo Bees that lay their eggs in nests of other bees, in the same manner as the Cuckoo does. These do not collect pollen and have no nests of their own. What's more, each type of Cuckoo Bee preys on a specific type of Solitary Bee. Even Bumble Bees are not all the same. So when they appear, just take a close look and see if you can see the differences.

Butterflies too will be appearing, especially on bright sunny days. Some, such as the Peacock and Red Admiral will probably have spent the cold months hibernating in your sheds and outhouses and will look rather tatty and worn. They will lay their eggs early and soon die. These eggs will hatch into Caterpillars which will produce the perfect specimens that appear later on. Other species will have overwintered as chrysalises and, as I was surprised to discover, some as caterpillars. These will soon come out of their suspended development and will continue their metamorphosis in due course.

Frogs will also find their way to the ponds they first came from. They will congregate, often in large numbers, to spawn together. The frogspawn produced will soon hatch into tiny tadpoles feeding first on algae and later, as they grow and their initial, external gills are taken over by proper gills, they will become carnivorous, eating tiny creatures like water fleas.

Hedgehogs too will be out and about on warmer nights. If you are lucky enough to have seen signs of one in your garden do try putting out some meaty cat food now and then of an evening, to help them feed up.

Now is also the time to plant those wildflower seeds that you keep thinking about. A small patch in the garden, dug over lightly, raked and sprinkled with seed should produce a pretty patch of flowers later on. These will

Adverts

attract a wide variety of insects to view without even having to go out to find them.

A few Sunflowers against a wall or fence are always interesting, especially for children. They grow so quickly and when they seed will provide more food for the birds. All this for the initial price of a couple of packets of seeds. It must be worth a try. Also, if you are thinking of planting a Buddleia for butterflies do make sure that it is wildlife friendly and has not been treated with neonicotinoids in the nursery.

Lastly, as you think about getting the mower out, please leave some areas alone. Longer grass is good for creatures too and maybe some plants will appear that you never knew were there.

Oh, and don't stop feeding the birds just yet as they need to be in tip top condition this month when their first broods are hatching. You can forget the peanuts though as they can do more harm than good at this time of year.

Carol. 01508 520456. chetcottchippy@hotmail.com

Gardening Notes

'February fill dyke, be black, be it white': one of the old sayings that we don't hear so much nowadays. This February it's been mainly black with a little white thrown in, and very cold, not quite the arctic winter blast that the weather people keep banging on about, (they obviously haven't seen a really cold winter, i.e. 1960/61) but cold enough all the same.

I think gardening will get off to a slow start this year, as we have had a lot of rain this winter, so don't try and rush planting of seeds directly into the garden. The soil needs to be dry and warm, and if this means waiting a week or two, so be it.

When conditions are right, early sowings of salad crops and onion sets, shallots and garlic can be made, and to get seeds off to a good start cover them with fleece as this will warm the soil and keep the cold wind off the emerging crops. Early potatoes can be planted in bags in the greenhouse, or outside later in the month. Varieties of hardy annual flowers can be sown outside at the end of the month if warm enough.

If your patio slabs and paths are like mine they are covered in green algae which is incredibly slippery, so now is the time to make them safe and clean. Either use a pressure washer or patio cleaner and this should see you through the summer months.

Lawns should be greening up and growing slowly, so a first cut should be done this month. Make sure your mower has been serviced and the blade is sharp. Raise the deck height a little for the first couple of cuts and then lower it to the usual level later on. This will get the grass into good shape without damaging it.

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We are all looking forward to a lovely spring and summer, but I have a feeling that with the jet stream as it is we might be in for a warm wet year. Only time will tell.

Keep your wellies by the back door just in case!

*Andrew Carver
Loddon Garden and DIY*

ADVANCE NOTICES



**1st Loddon Scouts Group
'POP UP' GARAGE SALE
in LODDON and CHEDGRAVE
Sunday 12th May 10am to 2pm**

This is a fantastic opportunity to turn your once loved items into cash from the comfort of your garage, front garden or driveway. For those who love to browse you can shop 'til you drop.

COST TO ENTER - £8.00

GARAGE SALE TRAIL MAPS FOR SHOPPERS - £1.00

These will be available from local outlets prior to the 30th April and then from Church Plain on the day.

TO ENTER YOUR GARAGE PLEASE CONTACT: -

Claire Richards on 01508-520990

or email crichards_p1@yahoo.co.uk

Closing date Friday 4th May 2018

ANN'S CRAFT will be holding a Fashion show in aid of Meningitis Research on 4th May at 7.00p.m. t the Hollies. Please note the change. More details to follow.

LODDON TUESDAY MARKET

The Hollies, High Street, Loddon

9.15 a.m. onwards

All fresh local produce: baking, vegetables, eggs, crafts, etc.

Join our friendly café for teas, coffees and cakes.

We would welcome new cooks –talk to us on Tuesdays!

Adverts

Adverts

Adverts