

CONTACT

Published by the Church in Loddon

March 2019

*Photograph: E. A. Chapman
Early morning sun and daffodils*

Lent Lunches 2019

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



Chet Valley Churches

**March 13th, 20th and 27th,
April 3rd and 10th.**

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

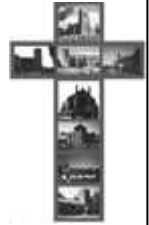
Donations in an aid of the Bishop's Lent appeal, supporting the Church of North India in tackling modern day slavery. Norwich Diocese has partnered with USPG, who in turn are working with the Diocese of Durgapur to support people where the need is great.

**If you can help by making soup,
taking orders or helping in the kitchen,
please contact Belinda Barwick,
01508520351**

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

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Church Office

St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB
Tel. 01508 521179 Email: office@chetvalleychurches.org
Open: Mon & Fri. 10.00am - 4.00pm. Tues. Wed. Thur. 10.00am - 1pm



Baptisms, Weddings, Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of a Child
To arrange any of the above please contact the Church Office.

Church Websites

Chet Valley Churches www.chetvalleychurches.org
The Norwich Diocese www.dioceseofnorwich.org
The Methodist Church www.methodist.org.uk
The RC Diocese of East Anglia www.rcdea.org.uk

'Contact' Magazine

Email : c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

Editor : Rev Joan Evans Advertising : Robin Godber

Treasurer : Val Counter

Distribution : Roger Outlaw & Helpers

Printing : Roberts & Son 01508 520221

COPY DEADLINE IS ALWAYS NOON 8TH OF THE MONTH

Email submissions to c.magazineloddon@gmail.com

Hand written submissions can be handed in at the Church Office.

Please include your name and telephone number.

'Contact' is published monthly, with double issues for July/Aug & Dec/Jan.

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Editorial

March

This month 'Contact' welcomes the Revd. Louise Morrissey as she writes the first of her Ministerial Musings for us.

Also in Contact this month are a few things which highlight environmental concerns. We are all being encouraged to have more concern for this beautiful world, but perhaps we ask ourselves just what we can do about it. On page 15 Chedgrave Church has shared with us their own commitment to caring for the environment, with suggestions about using green energy. You might also like to look at the check list they've sent us and see what your own score is! (Mine was 'Could have done better!')

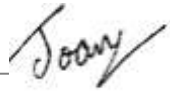
Caring for and appreciating our wildlife is another aspect of looking after the world. In the monthly Nature Notes, Carol always encourages to do this, and on page 41 the South Yare Wildlife Group invites us to find out how we can help to care for the bees who are essential to our food production. Also on page 41 is the Horticultural Society's invitation to attend one of their meetings to find out about recycling in the garden.

With recycling in mind, instead of throwing good clothes away you could recycle them by sending them to the Davy Place Jumble Sale! (see 'What's On' page 51)

During March and April, in the weeks preceding Easter, the Lent Lunches will again be on offer at St John's (see *inside the front cover for details*). Come and enjoy the delicious homemade soup in the knowledge that by doing so you will be helping someone less fortunate than yourself.

With Lent in mind, on page 25 there is an appeal for help from the charity 'Host'.

Meanwhile, as ever, there is plenty going on to keep us busy and entertained.



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Ministerial Musings

Three hundred and fifty years ago, on the 20th January 1669, the 25th child of a dissenting clergyman and his wife was born and named Susanna. She seems to have grown into a young woman of spirit and definite opinions which stood her in good stead as she married a young minister at the age of nineteen. Susanna and Reverend Samuel Wesley had 19 children, nine of whom died as infants.

Susanna experienced many hardships throughout her life. Samuel Wesley spent time in jail twice due to his poor financial abilities, and the lack of money was a continual struggle for Susanna. Their house was burned down twice; during one of the fires, her son, John, nearly died and had to be rescued from the second storey window. To her absent husband, Susanna Wesley wrote:

“I am a woman, but I am also the mistress of a large family. And though the superior charge of the souls contained in it lies upon you, yet in your long absence I cannot but look upon every soul you leave under my charge as a talent committed to me under a trust. I am not a man nor a minister, yet as a mother and a mistress I felt I ought to do more than I had yet done. I resolved to begin with my own children.....”

Susanna taught the children and ran the parish while her husband was in debtors jail. Over 200 people regularly attended her unofficial Sunday afternoon services.

Two of her sons were of course John and Charles Wesley so Susanna must have been a great teacher and influence on them. Perhaps it is because of Susanna’s influence that women have always played an important role in the Methodist church. She herself came to faith at the communion rail and described Holy Communion as a “converting ordinance”: still an important part of our theology today.

Even after conference outlawed women preaching in the 19th century, we still somehow managed it! The Methodist lay preacher Dinah Morris in George Eliot's novel *Adam Bede* of 1859 was modelled on Eliot's aunt Elizabeth Evans. The description of her standing on the back of a wagon preaching to the villagers is one of my favourite passages of literature.

Susanna died in London at the ripe old age (for those days) of 73. She is buried in the non-conformist cemetery at Bunhill Fields, near to the graves of John Bunyan, Isaac Watts, Daniel Defoe and William Blake.

On the actual 350th anniversary of Susanna’s birth, I found myself celebrating communion with my Anglican colleague Jane in Wenhaston. We agreed that the Mother of Methodism might rather have approved.

Louise

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.



Next Meeting: March 7th

12.30pm for sausage and mash lunch after which we will hear a speaker from 'Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers' (SERV).

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 David Owen 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.



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

World Day of Prayer Services Friday 1st March

Written by the women of Slovenia

7.00 pm at St John's Loddon

followed by refreshments

For further details including singing rehearsal at St John's do contact Genny Godber on 01508 528843



*If you would prefer to attend a morning service
then a warm welcome awaits
at 10.30 am Ashby & Thurton Village Hall
+ refreshments and children's corner*

Looking into Lent's Mirror

LOOKING INTO LENT'S MIRROR

Lent Course led by Susanna Gunner

LENT COURSE LED BY SUSANNA GUNNER

We are delighted that Susanna has agreed to come and lead our Lent Course this year.

Using a range of resources, we will be looking at some of the characters who feature in the last week of Jesus' life. What might they tell us about ourselves? The evenings will conclude with a brief time of worship.

Refreshments will be provided during the evening.

Susanna is Bishop's Chaplain and has just become the Diocesan Advisor in Spirituality and Discipleship. She is the author of the popular Mapping... series which she developed when she was the Lay Development Officer in the diocese.

**On Monday evenings for five weeks:
11th, 18th, 25th March; 1st, 8th April
From 7.30-9.30pm in Chedgrave Church Centre**

Please contact Jen Hayden on 01508 528454
or by e-mail on jenhayden27@gmail.com if you would like to come.
Please commit to all five weeks if possible.

Adverts



Chet Valley Churches
All Saints, Chedgrave
Come to the Quiz and Supper on
8th March 2019

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

£8.00 full price; concessions £6.50; families £25.00

Come on your own or as a group—each table of eight will play as a team.

Tickets from Church Office or Rev Alison 528 126



Mr. & Mrs R Gisborne
invite you to a
COFFEE MORNING
March 30th 10am - 12noon
at 1 Vine Court, High Street, Loddon

CAKES - RAFFLE—ETC.

Proceeds to the Church in Loddon

From the Parish Registers



BAPTISM

MAIA APRIL JACKSON January 20th at All Saints Chedgrave

'Heavenly Father, we praise you for this child.

*Surround her with your blessing that she may know your love,
be protected from evil, and know your goodness all her days.'* Common Worship

FUNERALS

MARIAN JENNISON who died on January 28th aged 87 years.

Funeral: February 8th at Earlham Crematorium

PATRICIA FAIRHEAD who died on January 27th aged 89 years.

Funeral: February 18th at All Saints Chedgrave.

(Committal in Langley Churchyard)

ROBERT JOHN PIGNEY who died on January 31st aged 67 years.

Funeral: February 27th at Holy Trinity, Loddon.

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

1 Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b

ALL SAINTS CHEDGRAVE

Green Energy:

As a church, we are committing ourselves to initiatives that are good for the environment. It is part of how we look after God's good creation.

One of the things we have been talking about is

using energy providers that provide clean energy, both gas and electricity.

Many of these are now very competitive price wise. But people have been saying: "Who are they and how do I change?"

The big clean switch is an independent campaign helping UK homes to switch to cheap, clean energy: <https://bigcleanswitch.org/>

They guarantee a quick and easy switch to whichever green supplier is best for you. Why not log-on and switch today?

Where does green energy come from?

The renewable sources used to make green energy include:

- **Wind power** – Usually harnessed by wind turbines
- **Solar power** – Produced when sunlight is absorbed by solar panels and converted into power



- **Hydroelectric power** – Where large volumes of flowing water turn a turbine, producing energy
 - **Wave power** – Captured from ocean waves as well as rivers, lakes, and canals. These waves are caused mostly by the wind.
 - **Tidal power** – Made by the energy produced as the tide changes, which happens as a result of the moon’s gravitational pull.
 - **Biofuels** – When biological material such as plant matter are used as a fuel source
-



All Saints, Chedgrave Eco Checklist

I use a renewable energy supplier like Ecotricity.

I always take cloth or paper bags when I go shopping.

I have solar panels on my home.

I switch off lights and appliances when I am not using them.

I collect rain water for use on my garden.

I compost my waste food and other compostable items.

I walk or use public transport whenever I can.

I shop locally as much as possible.

I eat very little meat or fish.

I am vegan or vegetarian.

My total score (out of ten):

Adverts

**ALL SAINTS CHEDGRAVE
CHURCHYARD CLEAN UP**

**SATURDAY MARCH 16th
10-12 NOON.**



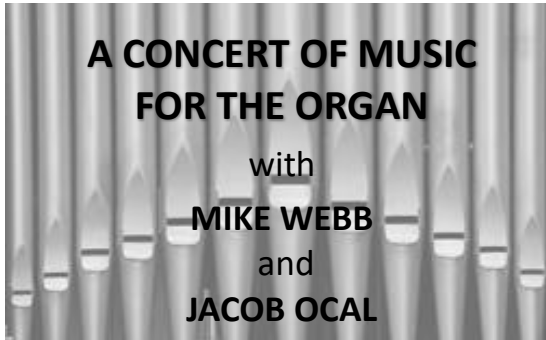
As well as the usual work, we may also be planting our new hedge saplings which are due to arrive in the previous fortnight.

The new hedge will mark the boundary with the Pits.

Please come and give us a hand. (Bring some tools!)

Than you!

**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, LANGLEY
THE AVENUES, LANGLEY, NR14 6BL**



**A programme showcasing the talent
of two quality performers**

7.30pm Saturday 27 April

**TICKETS: £10.00 Adults £8.50 Friends
£2.00 Students/Children
(Includes wine/soft drinks and nibbles)**

Concert proceeds will go towards refurbishment of the Church

Adverts

What's happening in Loddon Library

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Monday	8am-7pm (Staffed 10am-7pm)
Tuesday	8am-7pm Open Library access only
Wednesday	8am-7pm Open Library access only
Thursday	8am-7pm (Staffed 10am-7pm)
Friday	8am-7pm (Staffed 2-7pm)
Saturday	9am-4pm (Staffed 1-4pm)
Sunday	10am-4pm Open Library access only

NEW TO LODDON? If you're new to Loddon, have never used the library before or not used it in a long time, come along to Loddon Library and we can join you up or renew your card. Just bring some proof of identity with your name and address on it and see staff. We look forward to seeing you!

OPEN LIBRARY: Thank you for your patience as we waited for work to be completed. Open Library gives you access to Loddon Library even when the building is unstaffed. To sign up, come along during staffed hours and talk to a member of staff.

FACEBOOK: Follow us on Facebook – just search for Loddon and Poringland Libraries.

DVD HIRE: You can hire DVDs for just £2 - Top Titles for 2 nights and other DVDs for a week. Take advantage of our 2 for 1 offer on Thursday and Friday afternoons!

BABY WEIGHING SCALES: A set of scales is available within the library during opening hours.

MONDAYS

Coffee morning – every Monday 10am-12. Pop in for a friendly chat and a cuppa.

Stay and play – a new group every Monday 11am-12. Drop in for a chat with other families while your children play.

Computer buddy – friendly computer help on Monday 18th & 25th March from 10am-12.

CAB – advice available one Monday each month 10am-12pm. Contact the library for dates of sessions.

Lego Club – a weekly after school lego club on Monday 3.45-4.15pm. Join in the fun with a different theme each week. **Booking essential.**

THURSDAYS

Community Book Group – join our friendly book group on Thursday 7th March 10.30am.

Crochet Group – come and crochet together on Thursday 7th & 21st March, 1-2pm.

Continued on page 21

Adverts

Loddon Library continued from page 19

Bounce and Rhyme – enjoy pre-school music sessions on Thursday 7th & 21st March, 1.30-2pm

FRIDAYS

Bookends story and craft – a fortnightly fun after school story session with craft activities on Friday 8th & 22nd March, 3.45-4.30pm.

Loddon Loves Books book group – join our evening book group on Friday 29th March, 5.45-6.45pm.

SATURDAYS

Craft Club – a fortnightly children’s craft club on March 9th & 23rd, 2-3pm.

31 Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX 01508 520678

THE SISLAND CHRONICLE

So far this winter has been more off, than on. We always used to have periods of snow and ice, when the Bungay marshes were purposely flooded so that skating could take place for a few weeks. This was a tradition that went back well into the 1800’s. People in the fens used to stage races over quite long courses, The Nurseryman Alan Bloom won the Championship on more than one occasion. The little church of St. Mary’s in Sisland has required first aid to its thatch. Wear and tear, the latter caused by animals or birds unknown, necessitated this action, only fourteen years after re-thatching.

Over the years we have frequented Farmer’s Markets, and have bought all sorts of produce from the Loddon one since I started. As well as providing food straight from the farm, such as vegetables and meat, there are stalls selling home-made preserves and pies, and amazing sorts of bread; not to mention real crafts of all types. Freddie, and our garden birds are catered for, and apple juice in a dozen different varieties, together with cider, from Norfolk orchards. Milk and free range eggs come from a local farm. Shopping there has also become a social experience, with none of the impersonal feeling of the supermarket. And it’s a great place to meet friends.



Hi, Freddie here. – We have a very strange window in our house; when I look out of most windows I can see my garden, or even Farmer John going up the lane in his tractor, but this one has all sorts of things on it which aren’t in our garden at all, and it makes a lot of noise! (I have very sensitive ears). It’s all very mysterious don’t you think? (I’m still learning long words you see). Mr Bacon is making me a new bed, and brought one to try out. I’m to have a larger and much stronger terrier tunnel that I can get inside. I bit some holes in the old one, and J. mentioned the word ‘Kennel’ so I’ve got to be rather more careful in the future! We have a big white bird who comes in my garden (J. calls him an owl); he looks a bit fierce and can give a small chap like me quite a fright – as I can’t hear him coming. I think they eat mice--- fortunately! The sun has woken up at last – and I can sit by the French doors after breakfast and get warm again. J. says that I’ve got a fur coat, and shouldn’t be such a wimp, and the Aga isn’t coming back. T. brings some logs in each morning, I try to help, but they are quite big and heavy, and I can’t open my mouth wide enough to pick them up!

Cheers F.

Adverts

Can we help you?

Loddon Town Estate has been helping the residents of Loddon with welfare or educational grants since late 1877 and continues to do so.

Did you know that this charity may be able to help you through a difficult time? It can be there for you when help is needed most. Perhaps you have a child at school that misses out because the cost is prohibitive or you are going through a difficult time and a little help would make all the difference.

Unfortunately we can only help people who live in Loddon. Sorry, but that is the way the charity is set up.

We all need a little help at certain times in our lives and there is help available, please just ask. Call Ann on 01508 528141 for a chat and guidance through the application process.

We are waiting to help **YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW.**



The Loddon Town Sign



Have you ever wondered about the figure standing on the Loddon Town Sign?

His name was Aelfric Modercope and he was 'Our Noble Hero'

A recent reprint of a small booklet will tell you all about him. Copies are available from Wards Butcher and also Musker McIntyre, Estate Agents. They can also be found in the local studies room in Loddon Library along with

the Loddon Guide, an interesting guided tour of the area.

Proceeds from sales to fund any future research carried out by members of the Local History Group.

For further information please contact 01508 521253 or 500602

CONTACT MAGAZINE

We are still looking for an Editor!

If we don't find one, we might lose our Parish Magazine!

Adverts

Our Lent Appeal



Lent is traditionally a time of foregoing something, though there is also now a trend to mark the season by **doing** something, something extra thoughtful and special.

As we approach a time of joyful celebration in the Church calendar we ask if you might consider doing something for international relations...making a small but significant contribution towards greater understanding worldwide.

Here at HOST our mission is to give a welcome to international students in British homes for friendship and cultural exchange. Our volunteer hosts open their homes and offer the opportunity to their student guests to have a break from studies and the chance to discover a new part of the UK. They share meals and conversation and in so doing learn about each other's cultures. We know from the feedback we receive that being a host can give every bit as much pleasure as being a guest.

Hospitality can be offered for one day (daytime only) or three days and two nights at the weekend. We operate all year round and would very much welcome more volunteer hosts to join us.

More information can be found on our website: www.hostuk.org
Or email us on: info@hostuk.org



Adverts

Holy Trinity Bellringers



Members have attended practices at St. Michael's, Beccles, St. Mary's, Bungay and St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich.

The annual Christmas Peal, postponed from December, was successfully rung at Holy Trinity on Saturday 19th January.

The 5184 changes of Superlative Surprise Major was completed in 2 hours and 58 minutes and was also dedicated as a leaving compliment for Richard and Carolyn Salisbury, who are moving to pastures new.

The ringers were :

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Marion Robinson | 5. Adrian Malton (Conductor) |
| 2. Lesley Steed | 6. Stephen Rabong |
| 3. Janet Garnett | 7. David Steed |
| 4. David Webb | 8. Richard Salisbury |

Members attended an Eastern Branch practice meeting held at St. Margaret's, Lowestoft. These events are arranged to give ringers the chance to ring other bells other than at their home tower. Over twenty people came from across the region.

Quarter Peals of Hunslet Bob Triples, Wells Surprise Minor, Cunecastre Surprise Minor and Superlative Surprise Major have been rung at Loddon recently.

SOMETHING TO PASS THE TIME

Here are some well-known hymn titles, but they have had their words jumbled up. Can you decipher them?

The answers are upside down at the bottom of the next page.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. lla oyrlg audl and orouhn | 11. i oknw taht ym rdemree eilsv |
| 2. lla nveaeh arlisdcee | 12. amke wya, amek awy |
| 3. nda acn ti eb | 13. onrmnig ahs eonkrb |
| 4. eb lstli nda nkwo hatt i ma ogd | 14. deri no, ider no ni mateysj |
| 5. eb tllsi fro teh erscnepe
fo eht rdol | 15. Kroc fo gsae |
| 6. earebht no em tabahr fo gdo | 16. eth dol rgdeug srcos |
| 7. hrsict het rlod si eisnr ydaot | 17. heter si a negre illh raf awya |
| 8. ofmr anehev ouy ocme | 18. tnihe eb teh lgoyr |
| 9. eh si rdol | 19. eerw ouy heter |
| 10. i ecandd ni eht grnnimo | 20. enwh i rsevuy the dunroswo ocsrcs |

Our Open Meeting will be on the subject of diabetes. There are two types of diabetes, Type 1 and Type 2.

In Type 1 the pancreas cannot make insulin and so normally patients with this form have insulin injections to control their blood sugar levels.

Type 2 diabetes very often occurs in middle age and is dealt with using diet or medication to control the symptoms.

It is thought that 1 in 15 people in the UK have diabetes including one million as yet undiagnosed. The disease has reached epidemic proportions throughout the country and costs the NHS millions of pounds.

Come and hear more about this fascinating and important subject.

Everyone is most welcome and there will be a Doctor in attendance.

HYMN ANSWERS

1. All Glory Laud and Honour
2. All Heaven Declares
3. And can it be
4. Be still and know that I am God
5. Be still for the presence of the lord
6. Breathe on me breath of God
7. Christ the lord is risen today
8. From Heaven you came
9. He is lord
10. I danced in the morning
11. I know that my redeemer lives
12. Make way, make way
13. Morning has broken
14. Ride on, ride on in majesty
15. Rock of ages
16. The old rugged cross
17. There is a green hill far away
18. Thine be the glory
19. Were you there
20. When I survey the wondrous cross

LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE IN JUST 24 HOURS!

Would you like to learn a new skill, start a new hobby and make new friends? Do you have a bit of a competitive streak? Beccles bridge club is launching a fast-paced course which is suitable for complete beginners and rusty players needing a refresher. The aim is to be ready to join a bridge club by this autumn after just twelve 2 hour lessons which will be a mixture of theory and card play.



The course starts on Wednesday 20th March 7pm-9pm in Beccles library (free parking is available in the adjacent car park)

Each lesson costs £8 but if you pay for the full course in advance you receive the course book worth £26 absolutely free!

Class size is limited to 16 so please enrol early to avoid disappointment.

Contact Lindsay on 07785928377 or Karen at karenread61@yahoo.co.uk

If you would like to know more about Beccles Bridge Club please visit our website www.bridgewebs.com/beccles

Community Choir

Are you interested in joining a local Community Choir?

Then watch this space Next Month

HELP, PLEASE

I am looking for an area of land to set up a community garden, in order to create a space for carers in our community to come for a much deserved moment of respite. My dream is to provide a place where carers can come for some fresh air, light gardening, a cup of tea and a chat.

In the meantime I am hoping to trial the scheme on a small plot of land over the spring and summer to find out if there is a need for the project and who could benefit from it.

I have been inspired to do this by my mum who cares full time for my dad, an Alzheimer's sufferer, and finds it hard to get time for herself.

If you know of a suitable piece of land, or would like to know more about my project please email outlawanna75@yahoo.co.uk

Anna Outlaw

Church Services March

Sat 2nd	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St John's Loddon
Sun 3rd	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
Wed 6th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7.00pm	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes	St John's Loddon
Sat 9th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 10th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Margaret Hardley
	9.30am	Holy Communion BCP	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St John's Loddon
Sat 16th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 17th	10.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	St Mary Sisland
	11.00am	All Together Worship <i>Followed by shared lunch</i>	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Holy Communion	St John's Loddon
Sat 23rd	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St John's Loddon
Sun 24th	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret Hardley
	10.45am	Morning Worship	St John's Loddon
Sun 31st <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	10.30am	Combined Holy Communion	All Saints Chedgrave
	6.30 for 7.00pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John's Loddon

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

Tuesdays <i>(except 3rd Tuesday)</i> 7.30 - 8.30 pm	COME AND PRAY If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to 'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection'	St John's Loddon
3rd Tuesdays 7.30 - 8.30 pm	MID-WEEK COMMUNION WITH BLESSING <i>All are welcome</i>	St John's Loddon
Thursdays after School	Xtra Join us for an exciting, informal service. Refreshments, activities from 3.15. Service starts 3.45. More from Reverend David 522993 or Reverend Alison 528126	St John's Loddon
Sundays <i>(usually the last Sunday of the month)</i>	LAST SUNDAY PRAISE Refreshments at 6.30 before the service, or just come at 7.00 for the singing	St John's Loddon

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGES TO THE ABOVE DURING LENT

Starting on Tuesday 12th March,
instead of 'Come & Pray' & 'Mid-week Communion'
there will be

'Quiet & Compline'

on the Tuesdays throughout Lent

(March 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd, 9th & 16th)

THIS WILL BE HELD IN CHEDGRAVE CHURCH.

There will be a period of quiet starting at 7pm
with Compline at 7.45pm.

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Community Gym



If your New Year Resolutions included improving your fitness, health and wellbeing then we invite you to call in at the Gym and see what we have to offer you under expert guidance, in a friendly atmosphere.

Anyone over 16 can join and our personal trainer, Louise, is qualified to guide those who wish to improve their fitness and, through our Exercise Referral Scheme, those who are referred to us by Medical and other Health Professionals. Several older members will tell you how their mobility and wellbeing have improved over time.

The Gym has just been awarded important funding towards running costs and equipment for 2019. This will ensure its continued vital role in serving the community.

Jenny Bevan, Head of Programmes, said: 'Norfolk Community Foundation is delighted to support this much needed project that will make a real difference in the community. We wish them every success with their work.'

You should have received a leaflet through your door in December with information about the Gym but if you'd like to find out more please contact: Louise on 07534946143 or visit www.loddoncommunitygym.com

or just drop in to see what it is all about -Mondays 1.30pm – 6pm Tuesdays: 4.30pm – 8.30pm Fridays: 10.00am – 1.00pm Jubilee Hall, Loddon.

We are a not-for-profit gym so fundraising is important for us to keep going. This is one way you can help at no cost to yourselves:

**** HELP US TO RAISE FUNDS WHEN YOU SHOP VIA ****
www.goraise.co.uk/LODDONCOMMUNITYGYM.com

SEE YOU THERE

LODDON ON THE MAP!! In March and April Tesco 'Bags for Help' scheme is supporting the **COMMUNITY GYM**. Anyone shopping regularly at Tesco will recall being given a small blue plastic token and invited to pop it into one of the 3 Perspex boxes on the way out. Only Beccles and Southwold will have boxes with the Gym named. Tokens from other Tesco stores can be dropped in at the Gym. The 3 beneficiaries will each receive an award based on who gets the most tokens. They range from up to £4,000 for the first, through £2,000 for the second down to £1,000 for the third. This would make a massive difference to our survival. So please do whatever you can to help us in this way. And tell your friends! Every token counts.

Loddon Community Gym: two testimonials

Everyone is welcome at the Community Gym whatever your health, age or fitness level. A programme will be made especially for you by Louise, our fitness expert. Here are two current members' testimonials:

I joined the gym almost two years ago having had chronic fatigue for over 25 years. I started gently with Louise's guidance and am now fitter, stronger and more confident.
Caroline (61)

I was referred to the Gym by my GP as a different way to manage lower back pain. After nearly two years I can walk 4 or 5 miles at a fair pace without taking pain killers.
Angela (68)

Loddon Flower Club

March 5th: Bernard Collingworth - demonstration entitled 'Village Life'. He is known to be very good..

We had a very interesting evening at our February meeting, when Simon White from Peter Beales Roses gave us a show entitled 'Beautiful Bulbs'. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Hobart High School. 7.15 start. We raffle all the arrangements (5 or 6) at the end of the evening. Why not come and join us? Membership is £28. per year (80 or over £15) and nothing else to pay each month except in December, when you will be asked to pay £6 as we have a more expensive demonstrator. If you come as a visitor it's £6 a month.

Loddon Women's Institute

At our January meeting time flew by as we listened to Elvie Herd telling us about the lives of the people who had lived in various well-known Loddon houses. It was fascinating to hear about them and the part they had played in the history of Loddon. Elvie had much more that she could have shared with us, and we hope that she will join us again to carry on with the story.

Next Meeting: March 21st Maria Pennington - 'Lalique'
7.15 for 7.30 Jubilee Hall Loddon.
New members will be very welcome.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our New Year lunch in January was held at The Feathers Restaurant. Service was excellent, and from the varied menu we all enjoyed our chosen meal. Also in January several of our members went to the Theatre Royal to see 'Guys and Dolls'. Thankyou to Veronica for arranging this.

Tuesday March 12th. Chedgrave W.I. Birthday Lunch at the White Horse
Tuesday March 26th. We welcome Ella Standley whose subject is Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers. 2.00 p.m. at All Saints Church Centre, Chedgrave.

Adverts

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

March 19th: 7.30 p.m Langley with Hardley Village Hall

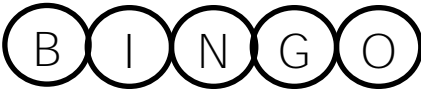
Speaker: Barbara Miller - Eminent Norwich Women

Loddon & District Cooperative Day Centre

Why not come and meet some new people?
We play games, do crafts and exercises,
chat and have a two course lunch.



9.30am to 2.15pm, each Tuesday and Friday. at the Brian Clarke Room, Chedgrave. Just drop in or ring Bev on 07826299290.



IN THE LIBRARY ANNEX

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.

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



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, are 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



Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

Youth Cricket Indoor Training

all ages from 5 upwards - boys and girls

Softball and hard ball

Tuesdays 6-8 pm at Langley .

Please contact Pete on 07931711323

All welcome

Adverts

Chet Staithe Probus Club

Have you recently retired or just moved to the area? Are you missing male company, on your own, or just want to get out 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.

March 5th Robert Leeder Around the world.
March 19th Michael Hill Fireballs & flooded drains!

We really look forward to seeing you then.

Please contact David Price Telephone 01508 522033.

or email david.price0841@gmail.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 12th Richard Mann Odd and Interesting
March 26th Ralph Jackman How to Become a Roman Emperor

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 7th

Our next presentation is **"The Wife"** which stars Glenn Close and Jonathan Price. Rated 15.

With 4 and 5 star ratings from the critics and a strongly tipped Oscar for Close, **"The Wife"** announces itself in a big way. Husband Joe (Price) has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and the film shows, in dips back to their first meetings and the present day, a relationship and marriage that has been built on an unsteady foundation. Joan (Close) had a promising literary career that was stifled by her husband's success, and his dalliances with other women she has endured with quiet dignity. The film is a "poignant, funny and emotional journey" and Close's controlled silent rage is a masterful performance that could give her that golden statue.



Showing at The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon.
Doors open, 7pm film starts 7.30. Tickets £4 adults, £2 under 16.
On the door or in advance from Loddon Garden & Seed.

Adverts

Loddon Swan Bowls Club

The Club was founded well over 100 years ago and is looking to expand its membership.

The Green, which is probably the best in South Norfolk, is a pleasure to play on and is much admired by opposing teams and visitors alike. It is situated behind The Swan with signed access from the car park.



This year the Green will reopen on Saturday 13th April and afternoon sessions will be on Monday, Wednesday & Friday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm for practice and pleasure. In addition the Green will also open on Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

If you are interested please come along to any of our sessions where you will be made most welcome. The only requirement is that you wear flat soled shoes. We have a limited number of bowls to lend at no charge and instruction will be available to help you master the game if you have not played before.

We are a friendly and amiable group and we look forward to seeing you. If you would like further information please ring Mike on **01508 521049**.

Chet Valley Photography Club

March 11th: 'Landscape Photography' by Justin Minns.

An Inspirational talk about landscape photography. Justin is a professional landscape photographer, author and workshop leader specialising in atmospheric images that capture the natural beauty of the landscape, particularly near his home in East Anglia. He also runs workshops for the National Trust, Forestry Commission and Royal Photographic Society.



Justin's website is www.justinminns.co.uk

If you would like to come along to our meetings please do. We meet at 7.00 p.m. in the Community Wing of the Hobart High School. The club is open to everyone regardless of their photography knowledge or experience. For more details please see our website www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

THE MENINGITIS SHOPS IN LODDON & CHEDGRAVE

will be holding a **FASHION SHOW** to raise funds for Meningitis research. It will be held on **Friday 5th April 2019** at The Hollies - High Street Loddon. Doors open at 6.00 p.m. to view clothes. Show starts at 7.00 p.m. Entry £3 on the door.

Local adults & children will be modelling new & nearly new clothes & accessories. Refreshments and a tombola on the night.

We have the only shops in the UK fundraising for Meningitis research, so please support this fun event.

Adverts



Thursday March 14th at 7.30 pm.

The Group is pleased to welcome Paul Hetherington of "Bug Life" to Poringland Community Centre to talk about B-Lines.

B-Lines are a solution to the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators. They are a series of insect pathways running through our countryside, villages and towns, along which the aim is to restore and create a series of wildflower rich habitats. These "stepping stones" will link existing wildlife areas together. In this way reserves, commons, gardens and wild patches, can be better linked together creating areas of new habitat, benefiting bees, butterflies and a host of other wildlife.

Plans for the Chet B-Line are already taking shape. Bergh Apton Conservation Trust is taking the role of lead organisation for the Chet B-Line and Loddon, Chedgrave and Poringland Parish Councils have passed motions to support it, with Poringland Parish Council agreeing that the Chet B-Line could start in the Community Land Project, when that project is up and running.

If you live in the Chet Valley between Hardley and Poringland you too could be part of the B-Line, helping Bees and other pollinating insects in our area.

Admission to the event will be free for South Yare Wildlife Group members and £2 for non- members. There will be time for discussion if you have ideas you would like to share.

For further information about South Yare Wildlife Groups activities please see: www.southyarewildlifegroup.org

LODDON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

present

**RECYCLING IN
THE GARDEN**
by Hilary Reid

**Wednesday March 13th
7.30 p.m.**

**Loddon Jubilee Hall
George Lane**



Contact Ali on 07707-029940
Non-members £2.00 entry

Adverts

Loddon & District Local History Group

January Meeting: Gareth Davies spoke to an enthusiastic meeting on Pablo Fanque's Fair and The Victorian Circus. Pablo Fanque, who was born William Darby in Norwich, was of mixed African British descent. He became a performer in and then proprietor of a circus during the 19th century. There had been a history of travelling performers and showmen entertaining crowds at country towns and fairs with ropewalking, tumbling and acrobatics. The addition of horses and horsemanship made the circus much more of a spectacle, which drew large crowds, but it was still a very risky business.

William Darby is believed to have performed in Norwich in William Batty's circus in 1832, and in London in 1847 at Astley's Amphitheatre. As Pablo Fanque, his biggest success seems to have been in the north of England. Theatres were converted to allow performers to use the stage and then the horses used the levelled stalls area for their races and demonstrations of equestrian skill. The theatres were filled over long seasons by workers from the mills. In 1848 a fatal accident occurred at his circus: with 6,000 in the audience a beam collapsed during the performance and his wife was killed. During the ensuing panic the night's takings were stolen, adding to his distress.

We heard of the concerns of Victorian Society about the circus: exploitation of performers (especially children), female immodesty and the dangers inherent in the performances. We heard of a female tight rope walker slipping and hanging from the rope. After the lowering of the rope she dropped to safety in the arms of the audience members below. A benefit performance for Grace Darling (the Northumbrian lighthouse keeper's daughter who in September 1838 helped rescue survivors of the shipwrecked Forfarshire) led to an accusation that they were exploiting her heroism.

By the 1860's American travelling Circuses using big tops arrived in England. They had exotic animals as well as the horses and acrobatic performances. By 1865 Pablo Fanques Circus was in serious difficulties and his establishment was taken over by Mr Light. Several of his children continued in the circus business. At his funeral in Leeds in 1871 an estimated 40,000 people were reported to have attended.

Just as an afterthought: the new UEA Student accommodation opposite John Lewis on the old Mecca site is named Pablo Fanque House after him.

Next meetings: March 20th Megan Dennis: Letters from the Workhouse - an opportunity to learn about the samplers of Lorina Bulwer.

April 17th Norfolk Wildlife Trust's "Wildlife in Common", an illustrated talk about the 'Wildlife in Common Project' and the wildlife that can be found there, with a particular focus on Broome Heath.

Meetings at St John's Lecture Hall George Lane, at 1.30 pm, all welcome, admission £3 includes light refreshments.

Adverts

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

MARCH 8th – Friday 9.45 *

Visit to the History of Advertising Museum at Raveningham, Home of advertising heritage past and present, this was recently featured on Look East and promises to be very interesting. £10.00 each for a guided tour. Numbers are limited. Contact June on 528853.

MARCH 20th Wednesday 10.00 am

Look for wildlife on the Bure. Circular walk of 4.25 miles from Acle. Meet at the free car park off Bridewell Lane. Lunch at the Bridge, Acle. Contact June 528853.

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. If the walk is called off due to inclement weather and we have booked lunch, we are happy to continue with the booking, giving everybody a chance to meet up. **Please read information carefully.**

Davy Place Social Club

After a quiet start to the year all the regular activities at Davy Place are once again up and running.

We are enjoying Toast and Tea on Monday mornings and Monday Afternoon Bingo at 2pm; Craft and Coffee Club on Thursday mornings; Short Mat Bowling Club on Thursday afternoons and our monthly Hot Lunch Club is always very popular.

We would like to say thank you to the Loddon Players who invited Davy Place residents to their Preview Night performance of Cinderella. We had a very entertaining and enjoyable evening. Special thanks to the front of house team for being so attentive to us all.

Thanks also to those who supported our recent Quiz and Supper Night. Congratulations to the winning team, 'The Try-Angles'. We hope to hold another Quiz Night, with a BBQ, later in the year.

We are busy planning our outings programme for the summer months. Trips to the coast, garden centres and places of interest are being considered.

We will be holding our **SPRINGTIME JUMBLE SALE** in the Common Room on **Saturday, 16th March at 10am till 12 o'clock** - if you have anything to donate, especially good jumble or bric a brac, we will be very grateful to receive it. Please telephone Janet on 01508 522115 to arrange collection.

Thank you from all the residents of Davy Place.

Adverts

Royal British Legion-Loddon & District Branch

A reminder that we always welcome new members to the branch.



You do not have to be ex-Forces yourself to join, or indeed have any special skills. All we ask is that you share and appreciate the Legion's remit to be there to provide practical welfare, comfort and support for Service people and their families when they need it, and that you would be someone prepared to give up some of your time to help locally make it happen. You will all have seen too many newspaper reports about Forces people (men and women) struggling through appalling hardships, or suffering the results of terrible injuries, and the devastating effects these have on their families. The Royal British Legion exists, and has done so since 1921, to be there for them.

As members of Loddon and District branch, we do our bit, but we are at the stage now where we need extra help - and more people. If you think that one of them could be you, then give our branch secretary Colin Hartley a ring on 01508 521136 and he can tell you more.

The next branch meetings will be at 7.30pm at the King's Head on **Mondays the 18th March and 15th April.**

Open Audition Announcement

Auditions will be held for Loddon Players production of
"Annie" (The musical)

Saturday	16th March - Children (Principles only)	9am - 11am
Saturday	16th March - Children (Chorus)	11am - 1pm
Wednesday	20th March - Adults (Principles only)	7pm - 10pm
Wednesday	27th March - Adult (Chorus)	7pm - 10pm

Auditions will be held at the Funky Feet School of Dance,
Langley Road, Chedgrave NR14 6HD

'Annie' will be performed at Langley School, Loddon,
Norwich, Norfolk NR14 6BJ
on Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd (2 performances)
and Sunday 3rd November 2019

Auditions are for all parts, and no previous acting experience is necessary. Auditions will also include selected cold readings from the script. The first read through and rehearsals will be scheduled after auditions

For more information - E-mail us at anniemusical@mail.com

Adverts

HALES AND LODDON CRICKET CLUB

Nets start for youth and seniors in March. We run teams in Alliance and Norfolk League, as well as hardball and softball cricket for 5 years upwards. For more details phone or text Chairman Pete Dye on 07931711323

ASHBY ST MARY CRICKET CLUB

Do you like Cricket? Perhaps you haven't played for while? Come and enjoy playing 'friendly' Sunday or evening games. (We like to win!) This friendly club plays its home games at Ashby Hall. Indoor nets commencing MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 18th for 5 weeks. Langley School Sports Hall 7.00 pm. - 8.30 p.m.

THANK YOU

HALES AND LODDON CRICKET CLUB would like to thank everyone who supported their race night and Christmas draw. The Race night made £458 and the £100 Christmas draw was won by Mrs Moores of Chedgrave.

BEAUCHAMP HOUSE would like to thank Carol Broom and all her Whist Drive Players for raising £1076.00 for the Residents Amenities Fund. All sincerely appreciated by the Residents.

WHAT'S ON

Friday March 1st 7.00 pm	World Day of Prayer Services <i>Details on page 11</i>	
Friday March 8th 7.00pm	QUIZ & SUPPER ALL SAINTS CHEDGRAVE <i>Details on page 13</i>	
March 13th 20th 27th	LENT LUNCHES <i>(See inside front cover for details)</i>	
Wednesday March 13th 7.30pm	Loddon & District Horticultural Society 'Recycling in the Garden' <i>Details on page 41</i>	
Thursday March 14th 7.30 pm.	South Yare Wildlife Group 'B-LINES' Poringland Community Centre <i>Details on page 39</i>	 SOUTH YARE WILDLIFE GROUP

Adverts

What's On *continued*

<p>Saturday 16th March 10am till 12 noon</p>	<p>Davy Place Social Club Jumble Sale in the Common Room Davy Place, Loddon, NR14 6JP Lots of good jumble and bric a brac, toys, books and puzzles, raffle, and refreshments. Donations of good clean jumble welcomed Telephone : 01508 52211</p>
<p>Tuesday March 26th 7.30pm</p>	<p>Patients Participation Group Open Meeting in the surgery <i>Details on page 27</i></p>
<p>March 30th 10am - 12noon</p>	<p>COFFEE MORNING 1, Vine Court, High Street, Loddon <i>Details on page 13</i></p>



Looking ahead to April

<p>Friday April 5th Doors open 6.00pm</p>	<p>FASHION SHOW to raise funds for Meningitis research. <i>Details on page 39</i></p>
<p>Sunday April 21st 3.00 -7.00 pm.</p>	<p>Easter Sunday Afternoon Dance 60s and Country Music Dancing or listening to PAT JAMES and SUSAN JAYNE. At the Jubilee Hall LODDON. Tickets £6 Available from: Bevs Discount Shop, Church Plain Eileen 01508 520654 Mandy 01508 528588 Bar-Refreshments-Raffle Proceeds to Loddon and Chedgrave Jubilee Hall Maintenance Funds. <i>Registered Charity 285015</i></p>
<p>Saturday April 27th 7.30pm</p>	<p>ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, LANGLEY A CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR THE ORGAN <i>Details on page 17</i></p>

Adverts

“Exposure,” by Helen Dunmore

Superb! This author wrote fourteen varied novels - varied in both subject and style. Exposure is set during the cold war period, which was also a time when homosexuality was a crime, and when some notorious spies became known before quickly heading off to Russia! That’s the background atmosphere. The characters in the story are completely fictitious and are vividly drawn. The Callington family (Simon, Lily and their three children) live in Muswell Hill. Simon works as a Civil Servant, Lily as a teacher of French. Paul, Sally and Bridget are all pupils at the local Primary School. Their family life suffers huge disruption when a very sensitive file goes missing, and Simon becomes involved because of the actions of a man with whom he had a love affair when he was a student.

The novel is very cleverly written and covers family life, the need to belong, love and betrayal. Helen Dunmore died in June 2018. She was a novelist, poet, short story writer and a writer of books for children. Exposure is one of the best books she wrote and is well worth reading.

“The Stars are Fire,” by Anita Shreve

Anita Shreve has written a number of books, but this one, published in 2017, was the first one for some time.

Grace Holland and her husband, Gene, have two small children, but the marriage is not a very happy one. One day a terrifying fire spreads through Hunts Beach on the coast of Maine, USA. Gene goes off to help other men make a firebreak while Grace has to save herself and the children. From then on life changes dramatically for all of them. The book is written so vividly and convincingly that it’s possible to feel for oneself just how much Grace has to deal with - and to be filled with admiration for her. It is one of those books that is hard to put down once it’s started, and it may even reduce any tender-hearted reader to tears – some happy, some sad - by the end of it.

“Sweet Caress,” by William Boyd

A truly remarkable novel, so brilliantly written and with such feeling that if you read it, you will have to keep reminding yourself that it isn’t a genuine autobiography of a woman called Amory Clay, but a fictional one - and what’s more, written by a man! It may take a while to get into the book and to begin caring about Amory, but it’s not long before her unusual and adventurous life becomes absorbing. William Boyd is very good at creating the different atmospheres of the places he makes his heroine visit or live in at different times, from the seediness of Berlin in the late 1920s and early 1930s to the fear and tension in Saigon during the Vietnam War - both places so different from each other, and from California, London, Paris and, ultimately Scotland, where she eventually finds a measure of peace and tranquillity.

The photographs in Sweet Caress are done remarkably cleverly in monochrome. They’re often a bit blurry and looking just as they would have done if they were genuine photos in their respective times. All the praise in the blurb on the front and back of the book’s cover is well deserved.

Adverts

Nature Notes

Did you make it to Snettisham? After a stay in North Norfolk over Christmas, when the weather was not good, I eventually managed an early morning visit on 13th January. What a morning! After getting up way before dawn I arrived just before the sun came up and walked the long path from the car park, in the dark. The geese could be heard out on the mud flats and the evocative sounds of Wigeon were all around. As the light gradually brightened and I reached the edge of the waterline thousands of birds were visible still resting on the mud. The tide was coming in but the sea was still a long way off and along with the geese there were also many waders. Lapwing and Golden Plover by the hundreds were bunched together, all facing into the wind and could just be identified in the early morning light, with binoculars. These two kinds of birds often seem to keep together and perform wonderful aerial displays similar to a Starling murmuration. The two species will not intersperse but will move around each other in large flocks, which they obligingly did as I watched. There were also scores of Curlew prodding the shore with their long curved beaks searching for their breakfast. Dunlin were running to and fro in characteristic fashion and there were a good number of Black Tailed Godwit as well. The Pink Footed Geese, that I especially went to see, finally decided to move off to their daytime feeding grounds on adjacent farmland and what a spectacle! I am told that around 40,000 birds overwinter here and Snettisham is one of the best sites in Norfolk. When they take to the air they fly right across the sky in long drawn out arcs, wave after wave of them right over your head. The noise of their wing beats along with their cries is truly wonderful. Then, as the last disappeared into the distance a Spoonbill appeared coming in the other direction, what a bonus. After sitting in the hide for a while I walked back to the car park and saw several Golden Eye and a female Smew. Both of these very pretty ducks are quite rare here and other bird watchers were arriving to try to catch a glimpse. I do hope that they found them too. What a morning!

Now that March has arrived we know that Spring is just around the corner. Snowdrops and Aconites should have flowered already, along with Violets, and buds are plumping up on trees and bushes everywhere. Have you noticed the Catkins? Hazels have been looking particularly good this season with their long dangly show of what can only be described as yellow caterpillars. The soft fluffy 'Pussy' Willow can also be seen now and Alder, Poplar, Oak, Birch and Walnut will follow soon. These catkins produce the pollen that fertilises the flowers in order to grow seed for the Autumn. Hopefully we will have a good crop this year to help our wildlife through next winter.

This month birds everywhere will be pairing up once again to start the breeding season and will need to keep themselves in tip top condition. Please don't forget to keep your feeders full as our garden birds, in particular, have come to rely on them. Winter migrants will start leaving us now and soon our Summer ones will return again from as far away as Africa.

Hopefully, Frogs will appear again too. These will also be looking for mates and frogspawn will once again be laid in ponds. If you should get some in your garden do take care of it as it is very precious nowadays and needs to be preserved. Just think how many potential frogs there are in just one clump that could grow to eat all those slugs!

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Gardening Notes

At the time of writing the weather is quite mild but windy, and the winter generally hasn't been too bad, but I remember last year when we had the beast from the east at the end of February / beginning of March, so I am not going to get too excited yet about an early spring. We will have to just wait and see what turns up.

March is usually the month when we can start to drill crops outside, assuming the conditions are warm and dry enough: early sowings of bolthardy beetroot, early nantes carrots, summer cabbage, leeks, salad onions, radish, etc. Try and resist the urge to drill parsnips too early, because they need warm soil and will not germinate if it's too cold and dry, so just be patient. Early potatoes can be planted out. Make sure to plant them about 12" apart in the row and have the rows about 3' apart. This spacing will make sure you have enough soil to ridge the rows up, making sure the potatoes are well covered with soil and less likely to grow out of the side of the ridge and turn green and get wasted. Onion sets and shallots should be planted out when conditions are right, but as with all seeds make sure that the seed bed is dry as they don't like sitting in water.

When you plant out your peas and broad beans watch out for mice as they love to go along the rows and eat the seeds, so if you think you might have a problem with vermin, place a mouse trap under a wooden tray and check daily. (When we used to grow a lot of plants on the farm, in a period of 1 month we caught over 50 mice. Just imagine the damage that they would have done)

Make sure to apply Growmore fertiliser or 20:10:10 to your veg garden. It will make sure your veg reaches its full potential.

Lawns will be growing well now, so get cutting the grass before it gets too long, and cut it a little higher than usual for the first cut or two. From the end of the month lawn sand can be used to kill off moss and weed and feed can be used if weeds are a problem.

If you haven't had your lawn mower serviced, get it done soon. An engine that starts easily and a blade that is sharp will make cutting grass not so much of a chore.

Early in the month roses and shrubs need to be pruned. Make sure to cut out any dead or diseased wood, and take the shrubs down to 6" in height. Roses will benefit from pruning every year - this will give you stronger and longer lasting blooms.

Lets hope we have an early spring and a good growing season

*Andrew Carver
Loddon Garden and DIY*

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