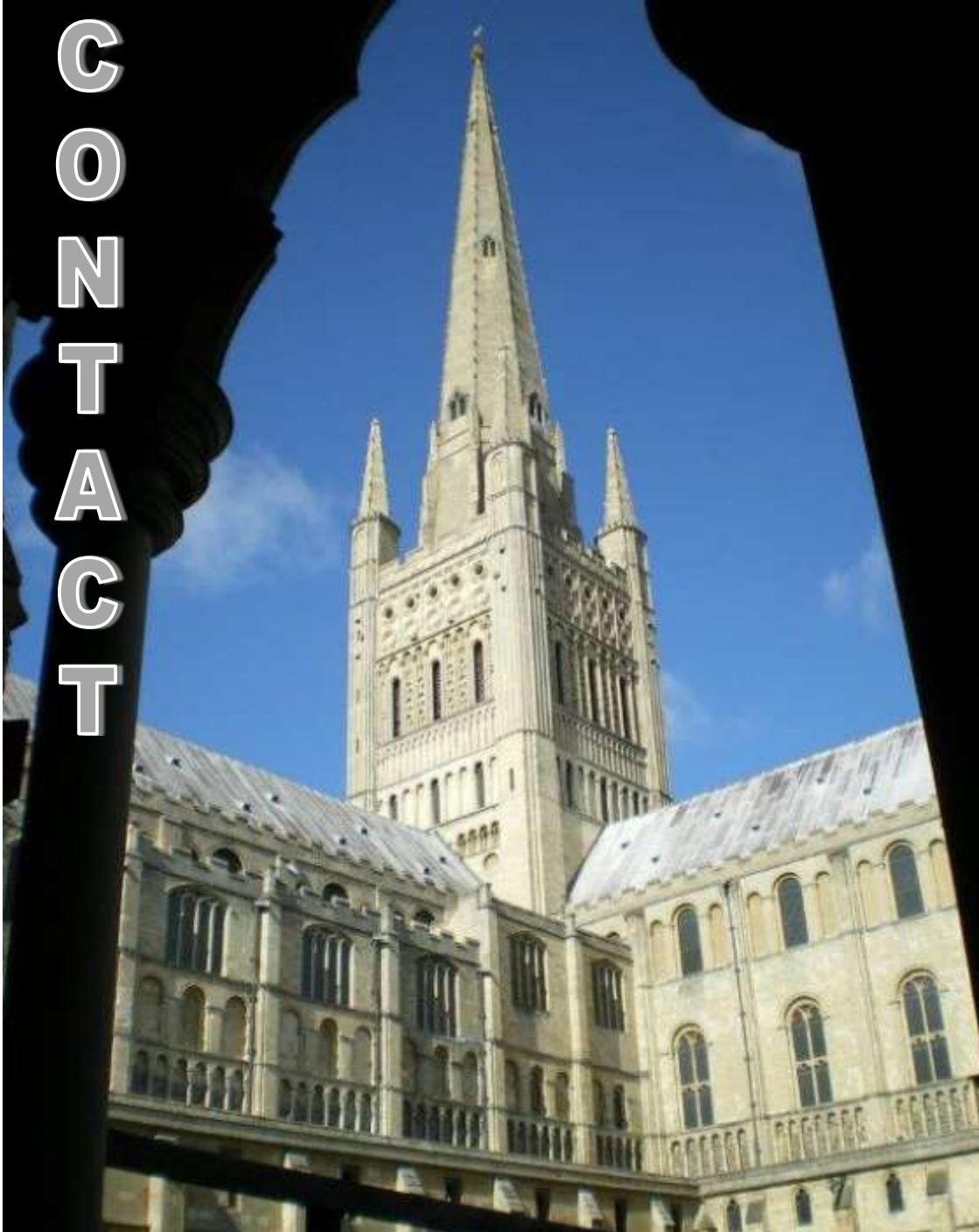


C O N T A C T



*Norwich Cathedral Spire viewed from the cloisters.
Photographer: Richard Ball*



Getting this issue of Contact ready has been somewhat difficult! Instead of the emails with people's submissions arriving in the Inbox, they were landing up in the Recently Deleted folder! In the course of a mailbox clean-up, they got

permanently deleted! I was getting quite concerned because regular items just weren't arriving! Fortunately, the problem was spotted just in time to email several people and ask them to resend their items. If by any chance you DID send something and it's not included, please accept our apologies.

Anyway - here we are again - back for another year! And as ever, we appear to be in for another eventful time, with all sorts of things in the pipeline. However, unusually there wasn't quite enough material to fill all the available pages with your submissions, (normally there's so much it's difficult to include everything!) so I've put in one or two extra bits and pieces! (for example 'How's your vocabulary?' on page 47).

Incidentally - the birds have started singing again! No - I know they never really stopped, but I've just been fitted with hearing aids, and it's quite wonderful! There seems to be some sort of stigma associated with having to wear hearing aids. I can't see why. Nobody seems to mind about needing help with their sight and having to wear spectacles. All I can say is, if you think you're not hearing so well (or your family tells you the TV is too loud!) go and have a hearing test! Like I say - the birds have started singing again.

Best wishes to you all - keep sending in your news!

CONTENTS

Chet Valley Churches information	3	Bernie Bat's Page	17
One Lightbulb at a time	4	Pause for a smile	18
Across the Chet valley Churches	5/6	Church Services	19/20
Special Events	7 - 10	Women's World Day of Prayer	20
The Sisland Chronicle	11	Community News & Events	21 - 28
Chedgrave's Facebook Page		How's your vocabulary?	29
From the Parish Registers	12	Read any good books lately	30
Loddon Parish Council	13	Nature Notes	31/32
Patient's Participation Group	14	Gardening Notes	32/33
LDBA		Thank you	34
Holy Trinity Bellringers	15		
What's happening at Loddon Library	16		

Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen: 522993 E-mail: david.chetvalley@gmail.com
Ernie Bossé : 01502 470 815 Email: ernestbosse250@gmail.com.
Richard Seel: 521938 E-mail: richard@emerging-church.org
Ros Hoffmann: 548200 E-mail: ros@hoffmann2011.plus.com
Alison Ball : 528126 E-mail : ball880am@btinternet.com
Jill Haylock: 520248 E-mail: jillhaylock@aol.com
Fr. Padraig Hawkins: 492202 E-mail: office@east-angliadiocese.org.uk



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

Email : c.magazine@aol.co.uk

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.magazine@aol.co.uk**

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.

DISCLAIMER

Advertisements are included in good faith, but the Church in Loddon does not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised.

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

Due to unavoidable circumstances, 'Ministerial Musings' is replaced by an article from the Green Christian Website. (www.greenchristian.org.uk)

ONE LIGHTBULB AT A TIME.....

If we are told that we can bring climate change to a halt by changing the lightbulbs in our house, it sounds out of all proportion to the massive and complex problem of global warming.



But our small action is part of the solution.

When we turn on the ignition in our car we don't intend to harm the Earth – let alone cause the Sixth Mass Extinction Event in the history of life on this planet. But harm to Earth is precisely what is happening.

Our individual carbon emissions may be statistically and morally insignificant, but when you multiply them millions and billions of times they are a collective act of ecological destruction. Coral bleaching isn't just happening over yonder, on the Central Barrier Reef; it's happening whenever you switch on the air conditioning. In short, everything is interconnected.

Our one small action to cut emissions has serious consequences when it is multiplied many times over.

Going back to light bulbs. The "old" 40 watt light bulbs used 40 watts of electricity when they were switched on. "New" LED bulbs use 4 watts to give the same light. That's 90% less electricity being used. Try counting the lightbulbs in your house. Multiply that by the roughly 30 million households in the UK, and maybe 2 billion households worldwide. If all switched to LED light bulbs that would make a really significant impact on the electricity used, and greenhouse gases emitted.

New Year is the time for resolutions. What small action can each one of us take to save the planet together?

For some ideas and suggestions to help heal our "common home" take a look at Green Christian's "Nine ways to live gently on the Earth" leaflet:-

<http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/leaflet/nine-ways.pdf>

In 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis asks us to "encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as...

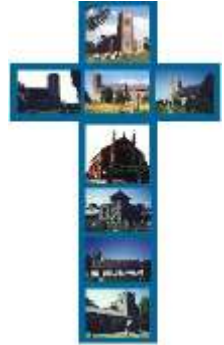
- reducing water consumption,
- separating refuse,
- cooking only what can reasonably be consumed,
- showing care for other living beings,
- using public transport or car-pooling,
- planting trees,
- turning off unnecessary lights ...

We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread.

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
Pages 18 and 19***

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**

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.



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.

February 1st. 2.00 p.m. for afternoon tea.

Rev Jill would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining our meetings.

Call her on 01508 520248

Monday Mardles

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



Mardles are held every **Monday 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

SNOWDROP SUNDAYS

ENJOY THE EARLY APPEARANCE OF SPRING BY VIEWING THE
MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF SNOWDROPS IN THE CHURCHYARD AND
SURROUNDING WOODLANDS OF LANGLEY
CHURCH



St. Michael's Church, Langley

Entrance from

The Avenues, Langley, NR14 6BL

(Ample free parking)

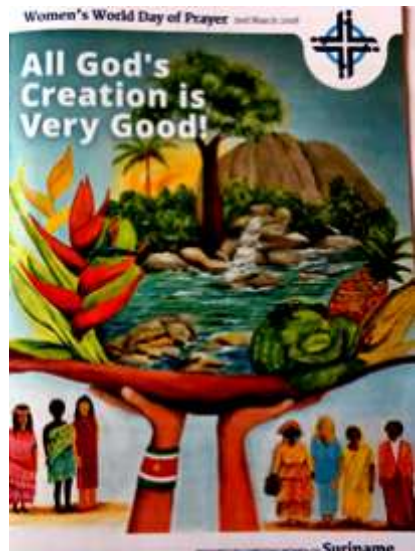
**Sunday 18 & 25 February 2018
2.00–4.30pm**

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

*Organised by The Friends of Langley Church
Proceeds for the heating and lighting fund*

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF
PRAYER SERVICE
FROM SURINAME
Friday 2nd March
at 7.00 pm at St John's church**

We will be having a music rehearsal
in St John's at 10.30 am
on Monday 12 February
All welcome to come and join in.





Chet Valley Churches All Saints, Chedgrave

**Come to the Quiz and Supper on
9th February 2018**

**Starting at 7:00 pm, a supper of baked
potatoes + fillings and delicious
Parravani puddings 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.***

A ballotin of Rev Richard's hand-made chocolates for the winners

Tickets from Church Office or Rev Alison 528 126



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

Happy New Year to all Gardeners....



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

In June we will be holding OPEN GARDENS around the community, and would like to include all gardens **GREAT & SMALL.**

The event will (provisionally) 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 loddonpengardens@gmail.com.



Fundraising for the Church in Loddon

ALL SAINTS CHEDGRAVE

Have you ever felt you wanted to know more about praying, or wondered if you are 'doing it right'?

We are delighted to announce that from 10am-4pm on Saturday 21st April, All Saints Chedgrave will be providing special resources for prayer and reflection or just an opportunity for a quiet wander round our lovely building. Please just drop in at a time to suit you, for as long as you like, and make use of the variety of resources to aid prayer and reflection that will be available. Members of the church will be pleased to talk and pray with you, if you wish. You will be very welcome to enjoy our excellent refreshments, including hot and cold drinks.

This event is for everyone, whether you haven't prayed before or aren't used to churches, not just church members and those who are confident in prayer. All Saints Chedgrave is normally open for such purposes during daylight hours. However, this is a special event with additional resources and people available to enhance your experience.

For more information, please contact Jen Hayden, Churchwarden, by email at jenhayden27@gmail.com or by phone on: 528454. We look forward to welcoming you!

THE SISLAND CHRONICLE

2018. The start of another year for the Hamlet of Sisland , home to the little thatched church dedicated to St Mary. Founded in the 1300's, hit by a lighting bolt in the 1700's but still standing in the 2000's.

Once a village with a market is now just 16 houses; no pub, village shop or village hall , we still manage to survive and organise events. We have B&B's at the Poplars and the Tithe Barn, which also has holiday cottages. An excellent timber feller and supplier of firewood, several farms and a market garden supplying 'veg boxes'.

The Sisland Beck flows through the meadows, and there is an abundance of wildlife including Barn Owl s who raise families every year.

We have a parochial church council led by the Rev. David Owen who decide on all matters regarding the church with some help from the Diocese.

Last year we restored the East Gable, cut down and trimmed trees in the Churchyard, and had a dangerous Beech tree in the car park removed in the nick of time. Further restoration work is planned

Watch this space !

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHEDGRAVE : FACEBOOK PAGE

Hello to all from Facebook! Mouses (or should that be 'Mice'?) at the ready, keyboards primed - we are on Facebook!

If you are on Facebook (if you aren't, here is your excuse to join) come and find us; our page is **@chedgravechurch**.

Whether you are a regular church goer, a once or twice a year goer or a never before goer, you can find all the information you could need on the Church at Chedgrave. The page is there to help you stay up to date with events, fairs, services, Xpressions, Xtra, Xplore, the list goes on. Find out the times of services, which service would be suitable for you, what happens in a service, photographs, the odd meme and more. We are also here to answer your messages: if you have any questions big or small please get in touch.

Once you've joined, please give us a 'hello'. We would love to hear from you!

*All the best,
The Facebook team*

ALL SAINTS CHEDGRAVE

Just £2 for a Christmas Present...

*Thank
You!*

Thank you to everybody who contributed towards the gifts for Embrace. The 24 purchased presents soon went and our tree looked lovely with all the gift tags hanging on it. We were given more money than we needed and this was forwarded to Embrace to buy more small gifts for people in need in the Middle East.

From the Parish Registers



BAPTISM

CHARLOTTE FROSDICK Both on January 21st at All Saints, Chedgrave
OLIVIA FROSDICK

*'Heavenly Father, we praise you for the birth of these children,
Surround them with your blessing that they may know your love,
be protected from evil, and know your goodness all his days.'*

Common Worship

FUNERALS

RICHARD (DICK) FLEVEL BLOY who died on November 1st aged 97 years and
whose funeral was held on November 30th at Holy Trinity, Loddon.

PETER BRIDGEWATER MEREDITH who died on November 5th aged 81 years
and whose funeral was held on December 1st at All Saints, Chedgrave.

RICHARD JAMES HILL who died on November 17th aged 62 years and whose
funeral was held on December 13th at Holy Trinity, Loddon.

MICHAEL HOWICK who died on December 1st aged 75 years and whose
funeral was held on December 20th at Waveney Crematorium.

MARGARET ANN RIDDLE who died on December 11th aged 82 years and
whose funeral was held on January 5th 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*

PETER MEREDITH: Hillary, Simon and Gavin would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their kind words, cards, donations and support during their sad time at the loss of Peter.

A special thank you to Rev: Richard Seel for his guidance and wonderful service at the Waveney Memorial Park and the service at All Saints Chedgrave.

A total amount of £462. was raised for the East Anglian Air Ambulance and Macmillan cancer support. Thank you.

Allotments: there are a few vacant plots available on the allotment gardens in Bridge Street. The available plots vary in price beginning at about £15 per year, depending on size. If you are interested in taking on an allotment or would like to know more then please get in touch (see contact details below).

Thefts from vehicles in the Loddon area

Police in South Norfolk are urging motorists to be vigilant following a number of thefts from vehicles recently. Among the items stolen were tools, sat navs and cash.

The Police recommend owners to make sure their vehicles are locked and windows are shut every time a vehicle is left unattended. Thieves are targeting works vans but as there has been no forced entry it is possible the thieves have a master key. Therefore, owners are advised to remove valuable tools from the vehicle at night. Officers have this advice on vehicle security:

- Don't leave anything on display in your car
- Take your belongings with you when you leave the car/van; if you can't, lock them away securely out of sight
- Fit an electronic immobiliser- this will prevent the vehicle from starting
- Mechanical immobilisers, such as steering wheel locks, are a good alternative to electronic immobilisers
- Fit locking wheel nuts
- Get an alarm installed
- Consider marking all your valuables that you frequently take in your vehicle
- If you have a garage, use it. If you don't always try and park in a well-lit open place

Anyone with information concerning the thefts should contact on 101 or alternatively call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Thursday 8th February 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.

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

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

The PPG wishes all our supporters a very happy and healthy new year.



We look forward to meeting you again at our first Open Meeting of 2018 which is on Tuesday 27th March 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.

Chet Valley Medical Practice was one of the first practices in Norfolk to set up a Patient Participation Group, this was in 1996. The PPG is the voice for patients linking together with the Practice in the best interests of patients. The PPG is an integral part of decision making when it comes to how their funds can be used to benefit patients by providing equipment which is not funded by the NHS.

Past purchases include a defibrillator, a bariatric couch and more recently they have provided all Doctors with dermatoscopes which help to diagnose skin lesions for malignancy, a dementia clock for the waiting room and voice activated software.

Loddon & District Business Association

Coming up on Sunday 27 May: 2nd Loddon Street Fayre from 11am-4pm

Live music, stalls, Entertainment and the opportunity to walk traffic free and relax and enjoy a summer's day with friends.

We are taking lots of bookings for stalls and welcome all local community not for profit groups to come and promote themselves for free!

Please let us know if you would like a pitch.

Thanks again to all the helpers who worked to put up and take down the Christmas lights which lit up our community through December.

A big thank you to Continental in Loddon for sponsoring ALL the Christmas trees too which were supplied at cost by Loddon Garden and DIY

With help and support from you we can do more to make living here and working here even better.

Please let us know if you can lend a hand even for only an hour a year as adding it all up can make a huge difference

If you would like to join the LDBA it is only £25 per year and you will get the opportunity to meet local business people and make new connections and friends.

Follow us on Facebook and check out our website Ldba.org.uk

*Caroline Bown
Chairperson*

Loddon and District Business Association



The bells were rung for the Victorian evening and open church on Friday 8th December and for the Carol service at Holy Trinity on Sunday 17th. Our ringers also helped out by ringing for Carol services held at nearby Raveningham on Sunday 10th and Norton Subcourse on Sunday 17th. Some also supported parishes further afield such as Diss, North Lopham and New Buckenham leading up to Christmas. We rang for the crib service at Loddon on Christmas Eve, the midnight service and on Christmas morning itself.

On Friday 15th December we rang a Quarter Peal of Cambridge and Plain Bob Minor at Norton Subcourse to mark the 53rd anniversary of the re-dedication of the bells after their rehang on December 12th 1964. We also dedicated this particular piece of ringing as a thanksgiving for the life of local resident Pauline Wood Greaves who died earlier in the month and who was a great supporter of Norton church.

The ringers were

Treble.- David Webb

2.- Katie Wright

3.- Ann M Webb

4.- Diana Leach

5.- Richard Salisbury Tenor

Stephen Rabong
(conductor).



The band who rang at Norton

The annual Christmas Peal at Loddon was successful again this year and was rung on Saturday 30th December. The 5088 changes of London Surprise Major took 2 hours and 53 minutes to ring and was a huge achievement for the local ringers taking part. This particular method is very complex and hard to ring, so was especially rewarding for the band.

The ringers were -

Treble - Adrian Malton (conductor) 5- Ann M Webb

2- Michelle Clutten

6- David Webb

3- Katie Wright

7- Richard Salisbury

4- Alison Daniels

Tenor- Stephen Rabong.

(First Peal in this method for all except 1 and 5).

This was also the first time this particular method has been rung for a Peal at Loddon.

Steve Rabong.

What's happening at Loddon Library?

Mini Movers – Feb 5th & 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 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 runs 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.

Library telephone number and opening times at bottom of page 17

Bernie Bat's Page



A message from Bernie:



Just to say I won't see much of you for a while - I'm what they call 'hibernating'. Holy Trinity Church is a good place for it, because it's not used very often on the winter, so it's nice and peaceful. I start to get a bit sleepy towards the end of October and stay out of the way until about April. I might come out for something to eat or a drink of water if there's a warmish night, but generally I stay asleep. You can read all about it on the Bat Conservation website: www.bats.org.uk

I expect you're wide awake! I've done an easy word search for you, all about the Spring, when I'll be back in action.

SPRING WORDSEARCH



BIRD
BUD
EGG
FLOWER
LAMB
NET
RAIN

Loddon Library (see page 16)

Telephone: 01508 520678

Opening Hours :-

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

PAUSE FOR A SMILE

FOR THE GRANDPARENTS AMONG US

Editor's note: I cant remember if this has been in before. If so, my apologies.

Grandparents' Answering Machine: Hello. We can't get to the phone now, but please leave a message after the tone.

- If you are one of our children, dial 1 and select 'birth arrival' option 1 to 5, so we know who you are.
- For child-minding services, press 2.
- To borrow the car, press 3.
- For having clothes washed and ironed, press 4.
- For grandchildren's overnight accommodation, press 5.
- For school taxi service, press 6.
- For emergency catering, press 7.
- To book a mealtime at our house, press 8.
- For emergency finance, press 9.
- If you are inviting us to dinner or taking us to the theatre, start talking - we're listening!

HINTS FOR FOREIGNERS ON PRONOUNCING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble, but not you,
On hiccough, thorough, slough and through.
Well done! And now you wish perhaps,
To learn of less familiar traps?
Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead, it's said like bed, not bead -
for goodness' sake don't call it 'deed'!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(they rhyme with suite and straight and debt).

A moth is not a moth in mother,
Nor both in bother, broth, or brother,
And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,
And then there's doze and rose and lose -
Just look them up - and goose and choose,
And cork and work and card and ward
And font and front and word and sword,
And do and go and thwart and cart -
Come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive!
I'd learned to speak it when I was five!

Anon

Church Services February

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	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
Wed 14th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7.00pm	Imposition of Ashes	St. John's Loddon
Sun 18th	9.30am	All Together Worship	All Saints Chedgrave
	10.45am	Holy Communion	St. John's Loddon
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary Sisland
Sat 24th	6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass	St. John's Loddon
Sun 25th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary Sisland
	10.30 am	Morning Worship	St. Margaret Hardley
	10.45am	Morning Worship	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 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

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

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.)



Come to Lunch Lent Lunches



every Wednesday starting on February 21st
with the last one on March 21st,
from 12 noon to 1.30pm

During Lent we will be running Lent Lunches
in St John's Lecture Hall,
raising funds for charity
and having a chance to meet and chat.

Do come along, either on your own or with others, and enjoy a
simple lunch of good home-made soup with bread,
followed by tea or coffee and biscuits.

The lunches are free of charge, although we hope you'll enjoy them
enough to put something in the charity box!

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Flower Club

On **6th February** we will welcome back Simon White from Beales Roses with his talk on "Gardens of East Anglia". This meeting will be held in the Classroom of the Future at Hobart High School starting at 7-15pm.

At our November meeting our Chairman Margaret Turner presented Jackie Greenfield from East Anglian Air Ambulance with a cheque for £645, which our members raised throughout the year.

Our Open meeting on 5th December was very well attended when Lee Berrill gave his interpretation of "Deck the Halls".



FLOWER FESTIVAL

ADVANCED NOTICE:- As Loddon Flower Club celebrates their 60th Anniversary this year we will be holding a Flower Festival at Holy Trinity Church, Loddon on the weekend of 21st to 23rd September. The theme will be "The 1950's". If you would like to take part in this then please contact Tricia on 01508-520273.

Loddon Women's Institute

November is the month for our AGM, but before business started we enjoyed a talk and demonstration by Nanna Lay. Nanna is Danish and she told us how Christmas is celebrated in Denmark with traditional food, customs and beautiful home-made decorations.

No speaker again in December as it was our Christmas party where we enjoyed a buffet supper and mulled wine and a lot of fun!

On **21 February** we are set to enjoy a talk entitled 'Travels to the Antarctic'. Interested? Come and join us, you will be made very welcome – 7.15pm for 7.30pm at the Jubilee Hall. Why not join for the year? Subscriptions are just £41 for 12 fun evenings.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

Our Christmas party in December, which seems so long ago now, but deserves a mention, was enjoyed by us all. Our ladies provided a delicious buffet tea, followed by a hilarious 'pass the parcel' which brought back happy childhood memories of the game.

Our February meeting is Tuesday 27th at 2.00 p.m. at All Saints Centre. Carol Adams is our guest speaker for the afternoon discussing 'Pets as Therapy'.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

February 20th Speaker: Angela Bishop—'Wash Day'
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.



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 6pm. **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*

Chet Staithe Probus Club

The Chet Staithe Probus Club meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday at the White Horse, Chedgrave. We are a friendly and informal club. The meetings commence at 10.00 a.m. The first 30 minutes are taken up with club business. The club organises speakers on a whole range of subjects. The speaker that day presents their talk at 10.45 and usually finishes at 12.00. Any member may bring a guest. The meeting may be followed by lunch if required. During the year a number of trips to interesting venues are arranged. New members are very welcome.

February 6th Mark Taylor: 'Don't Panic'

February 20th Mary Reynolds: 'My Life in cartoons (Part 1) '

More information is available from the secretary, Fred McEvet, Telephone 01508 520622, at 6, Cedar Drive, Loddon, NR14 6LE

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.

February 13th Mike Weatherstone: 'Defensive Driving'

February 27th Pat & Philip Alker: 'Ethiopia, the Historic Route'

January 23rd Simon Partridge: 'How Hill Trust'

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 February 1st.

Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30.

Our next presentation is "Victoria & Abdul" Rated PG13. It stars Judi Dench and Ali Fazal and tells the factual story of the close friendship that developed between Queen Victoria and Abdul Karim, an Indian clerk who travelled to London to present a commemorative coin to Victoria in honour of her Golden Jubilee. With shades of Mrs Brown, the other "strange friendship" movie that dealt with the Scottish companion of Victoria, John Brown, this story again shows the Queen under pressure from her inner circle to break off the relationship that they see undermining the image of the Crown Imperial in a country half a World away where British rule was supreme and standards had to be maintained.

As expected, Dame Judi delivers her usual impeccable performance and Bollywood star Ali Fazal holds up well against her and helps deliver an enjoyable historical look at Victoria at last trying to enjoy her remaining years.

The Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon. Adults £4 child £2.

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

LODDON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
presents
HENSTEAD EXOTIC GARDEN by ANDREW BROGAN

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14th 7.30PM

LODDON JUBILEE HALL, GEORGE LANE.

A talk on the two-acre exotic garden featuring 100 large palms, 20+ bananas and 200 bamboo plants, 2 streams, 20ft tiered walkway leading to Thai style wooden covered pavilion and Mediterranean and jungle plants around 3 large ponds with fish.

Suffolk's most exotic garden.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MIM ON 01508 493332

NON-MEMBERS £3.00 ENTRY

Chet Valley Photography Club

Our December meeting was a social evening in our club room with members bringing along food to put towards the buffet. Despite the awful weather the evening was well attended and the photo "guess the song title" quiz was enjoyed by all.

Our February meeting (12th) is 'Images of Norfolk' by David Boulton. David has been interested in Nature photography for many years, photographing butterflies, wild flowers, trees, birds, fungi, animals and landscapes. His galleries include photography from around the UK, showing the beauty and diversity of the British countryside.

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

Royal British Legion-Loddon & District Branch

Good news! Our last year's November branch Poppy Appeal has so far raised over £7100.00, and money is still coming in! Our grateful thanks are owed to all of you yet again for your unfailing and generous support. As usual, all monies raised will be amalgamated nationally to continue Legion help to Service and exService personnel and their families.



At the 2017 Branch AGM Colin Hartley was unanimously elected as our new Branch Secretary. He can be contacted on 01508 521136 if you have any Legion problems.

The next 2018 branch meetings, as usual at 8.00pm in the Kings Head, will be on **Monday 19th February and Monday 19th March.**

A reminder that new members are always welcomed, and you don't have to be ex-Service yourself to be eligible to join.

At our well-attended November meeting we heard about the life and work of Suffolk writer Adrian Bell and the Society set up in his name.

Adrian Bell was a very popular writer and his books are still being read widely. He had a weekly column in the Eastern Daily Press for over 50 years. He was born in Old Trafford, Manchester where his father was a journalist, but by 1910 the family had moved to Eastbourne. He went to Uppingham School in Rutland. As a young man he was interested in poetry. When he was living in London with his family his early love of nature led him to follow his father's idea that he spend a year living in Suffolk as an apprentice to a local farmer. He never left and spent the rest of his life farming in his adopted county. At the suggestion of local poet Edmund Blunden, who loved the way he spoke about the countryside, he started to write about his life and the farming community. His first book, "Corduoy", tells the tale of his apprenticeship and the way a city boy has to adapt to the physical work and the mind-set of the farmer. Often hilarious, this book is a lyrical and beautiful description of how he fell in love with the life of a farmer. Friends who knew him said he was a romantic in terms of his way of looking at things but his books also tell the story of the hardships of farmers and labourers and their families through the depressions of the 1930s. and also the increasing mechanisation of farming. A consequence of this was the loss of the great shire horses that were such a part of farming right up to the Second World War. His second book, "Silver Leys", is about his buying his first farm and his third, "The Cherry Tree", about his marriage and farming life.

Adrian Bell's father, a journalist, was asked by the Editor of The Times in the 1920s to write a crossword for the paper: these new fangled puzzles were all the rage in America and he thought it would boost sales. Mr Bell politely declined but said his son would do it. Adrian turned out over 4520 crosswords for The Times during the next 30 years.

The Adrian Bell Society was founded in 1996 "To encourage interest in the life and works of Adrian Bell "and also to encourage others to write. It has a bi-annual journal and a website for you to find out more. You can get the books from the library, or second hand from the internet. Several people said how much they had enjoyed reading Adrian Bell's work.

In December we welcomed Dr Robert Knee who "Unpacked Christmas". His fascinating talk described the origins of many Christmas traditions, starting with Christmas coinciding with pagan mid-winter festivals and taking on holly, ivy and mistletoe as part of the festivities. Many of our Christmas traditions are much newer: Christmas trees, cards and crackers are 19th century innovations as is Father Christmas with his red coat. Some old traditions are happily no longer practiced (hunting robins and wrens) though they still appear on cards. Other traditions have changed over time - the food we eat and the carols we sing. Christmas is a Christian festival, but across the world there are other mid-winter festivals associated with light including Diwali and Hanukah.

Cont. on page 41

..... History Group continued from page 39

Our meeting closed with seasonal refreshments and an opportunity to buy last minute Christmas presents and decorations from Mrs Knee.

Dr Knee returns in September to introduce the Bigods, the controversial Earls of Norfolk.

February 21st: our usual speedy AGM, followed by a Parish Study update, and Carol Carpenter sharing some more "Photos From The Archive".

March 21st: Dr Joy Hawkins returns to tell us about "Blood, Puss and Urine"

All meetings 1.30pm St John's Lecture Hall, £3 entrance includes refreshments ALL WELCOME

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

February 1st Thursday. Sainsbury Centre, 10.45.

Come and see the famous Faberge Collection as part of the Russian Season. £10.50 each entrance fee plus £3.00 for the guide. Buses 25 or 26 are frequent from Norwich and go to the Centre. Contact June on 528853, prior to 24th January. (*Editor's note: Hopefully Contact will be delivered in time for at least some of you to see this.*)

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.

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 the Membership Secretary at 23 Snows Hill, Chedgrave. 01508 528853.

SPACE FILLER : SOME ACTUAL SIGNS AND NOTICES

In a shop: Bargain basement upstairs

In a launderette: Automatic washing machines: please remove all your clothes when the lights go out

Outside a pub: Happy Hour- 5—7pm

In a hospital car park: Warning! Guard dogs operate here.

LODDON + CHEDGRAVE VICTORIAN EVENING

A cold and frosty evening did not deter the hundreds of residents and visitors who attended the annual Victorian Evening.

Father Christmas himself arrived to switch on the Church Plain lights before heading to his grotto which proved a big hit with the children.



With many traders taking the opportunity to welcome and entertain customers inside their premises, District Councillor Colin Gould walked the streets to judge the Best Dressed Business which was won by Youngs Funeral Directors.

With the continued success of the Victorian Evening, please make a date in your diary for Friday 7th December for this year's event!

LANGLEY WITH HARDLEY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE NEEDS A NEW TREASURER IN 2018

Lynn Starman is standing down as Treasurer at the end of the financial year, so we will be in need of a treasurer from 1 April 2018.



If anyone feels able to take on this role, even if you have not been in Langley or Hardley very long, please contact the Secretary, Kathy Ashford, on 01508 528537, or email: langleywithhardleyvillagehall.org.uk

The village hall belongs to the parishioners and is run by a committee appointed by the villagers.

The Parish Council helps us, but the day to day running is done by the Management Committee.

SPACE FILLER : MORE SIGNS AND NOTICES

On a staffroom noticeboard: After break could staff please wash their mugs and stand upside down on the draining board.

At a safari park: Lions please stay in the car.

In a café: Toilet for sitting down customers only.

At a petrol station: Friendly self-service.

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

CALLING ALL THOSE WHO WERE AT 'MISSION IMPOSSIBLE' IN SUMMER 2017



On February 13th
9.30-12 noon
we are holding our
holiday club
re-union.

It's Shrove Tuesday so we
will definitely be doing
something around
pancakes.

Watch out for further details!

HOW'S YOUR VOCABULARY? *Here are 10 obscure words with a choice of three meanings. Which one is right? Answers on page 57*

ZEUGMA

- A mischievous dwarf from Norse mythology
- A common artificial food colouring
- A figure of speech linking unlike concepts (e.g. to wage war and peace)

SIDEREAL

- Relating to distant stars
- Next to the main real
- Insubstantial

MUNDIVAGANT

- To be overdressed
- Criminal trespass on government land
- Wandering the world

ABSQUATULATE

- An exercise which engages the core primary muscles
- To depart suddenly
- To hide yourself behind foliage

TALION

- Injury inflicted by a bird of prey
- Native American shamatic remedy
- Revenge in kind

CANAILLE

- An immature male duck
- Riff-raff
- Fashionable

GALACTOPHAGIST

- One who makes spaceships
- One who eats galaxies
- Milk drinker

YESTREEN

- Last evening
- Sychophant
- River weeds

LOGOLEPSY

- Restless leg syndrome
- Compulsive shopping for expensive items
- An obsession with words

NANTLE

- Caress
- Throw forcefully
- Forbid

A few to start off with in 2018...

“A Necessary End,” by Peter Robinson

One of this author’s earlier stories featuring Inspector Banks. The book is set in Northern England in the 1980s, and is a very good thriller full of interesting characters. There are all kinds of people and a clever plot. You will do well if you manage to guess the ending before you actually come to it!

“Between You and Me,” by Kirsty Scott

An enjoyable story in which two schoolfriends meet up again in middle age - from very different walks of life and having followed very different career paths. There is plenty of humour, plus a bit of angst, too.

“Keeping the World Away,” by Margaret Forster

The childhood of the artists Augustus and Gwen John is the starting point of this book, which then goes on to follow various female characters who possess (or are affected by) a painting done by Gwen John when she was an adult living in Paris. The painting forms the link which takes the story from the late 19th Century to the early part of the 21st Century, with each woman being very different from any of the others.

The author has obviously researched a lot about Gwen John’s life and background (including the period when Gwen John was Rodin’s mistress in Paris). Although much of the background is true, the book is delicately and sensitively written as a novel.

“Waterproof,” by Chris Crowther

This is quite an elaborately plotted thriller set in the Norfolk Broads. Interesting and entertaining, it’s a little like an episode of *Midsomer Murders* on water! The characters are somewhat stereotypical rather than in-depth or totally credible, but even so it’s written well - and it might bring a brief touch of light-heartedness for you into our very troubled world.

How are you on anagrams?

Test yourself with the following anagrams formed from author’s names:

A. Temple
Stan Gressoli
Sam Trimain
Barbara Meldgret
Saul Linsh
Hattie Garshica

(N.B. One of these gentleman-sounding names is an anagram of a female writer’s name; others are of the same gender as the writers.

*That’s not counting “A. Temple” of course,
which could be male or female, couldn’t it?!).*

February was never my favourite month and if the weather at the time of writing is a portent of things to come it looks like being pretty grim out there. Cold, ice, snow and floods over the holiday period caused many problems for people all over the country and hazardous conditions for much of our wildlife too.

I'm sure that you don't need reminding to keep feeding your garden birds but please make sure that they have a fresh, clean, water supply at all times, especially during very icy spells. Bathing is very important for birds as they need to keep themselves in good condition to survive.

If we manage to get some reasonable days there are still, as always, lots of places to go for an interesting day out wildlife watching. Over the Christmas period I visited Titchwell RSPB reserve on our beautiful North Norfolk coast. The reserve is open all year round and there is also an excellent cafe with snacks and hot drinks to keep you sustained. I went in the afternoon and was treated to a spectacular view of the Marsh Harrier roost. There were at least 13 birds in the sky at any one time as they prepared for a night in the reed beds. If you are interested in learning more about the many birds frequenting this area, you can now book a personal guide at the reserve who will sit with you in one of the excellent hides. The charge is very reasonable and you will definitely find the experience worthwhile. There is also a programme of guided walks during the month so do contact the reserve for further details. You can find the information on the internet or by telephoning 01485 210779.

If you are really keen and like a good walk then Snettisham is the place to go at this time of year. The spectacular sight of hundreds of Pink-footed Geese taking to the skies in the early morning is a sight that only the hardened bird watchers among us will have witnessed. It is without doubt a sight worth seeing. If however you like to stay inside in the early hours it is still a wonderful place to view many species of wading birds. If you get the tide right you will be able to watch hundreds of them, each different species flying together in spectacular swirls and dives as the water pushes them along the shoreline. Do wrap up well though as it can be very cold.

Over the past few months the birth of many hundreds of baby Seals has taken place along our coast. Scolt Head Island, owned by the National Trust is one of the countries best sights for this every year. Scolt Head is a very inaccessible area that provides a wonderful breeding ground in summer for migratory Terns to breed and it is equally famous for its Seal colony during the Winter. Seals also congregate on Blakeney Point and boat trips, in order to view them, can be booked in advance from Blakeney and Morston Quay. Seals also breed along the coast at Horsey so if you don't fancy a boat trip you can view them here. Volunteer wardens are on hand at each of these

Continued next page

Nature Notes continued

sites protecting the animals and keeping a close eye on their numbers but there are viewing points along the dunes at Horsey where you can see them from a distance. Always remember that, although the pups may look very soft and cuddly, they are wild animals and should be treated with respect. Do not go too near to them and definitely do not take your dogs with you.

If flowers are more your thing then a day out to Walsingham Abbey this month is a must. The Abbey is a famous site for snowdrops amongst which you may freely wander. There is a large variety of species and on one of our rarer bright, sunny days they look really magnificent. There are lots of opportunities for photos too, so don't forget your camera.

Of course the trees are beautiful at this time of year when buds are just beginning to swell and there are also swathes of aconites shining a glossy yellow in the sunlight. I believe that many species of snowdrops can be purchased from the small shop on site. Snowdrops always do best if planted 'in the green' and not as dry bulbs so you may like to take a little part of Walsingham home with you.

Nearer to home there is always something to discover and if you can't make it to Walsingham the snowdrops in Langley churchyard may prove to be almost as good.

Whatever you do, enjoy and do let me know if you find anything of particular interest.

Carol.... 520456. chetcottchippy@hotmail.com

Gardening Notes

The weather for this part of the country has been changeable over the last couple of months, ranging from dry and cold to very wet and cold with a few mild days thrown in as well, so pretty much a typical winter. The wet weather, although a pain when you have to be out in it, was needed. The last couple of years have been drier than usual with most ditches being dry, but now they are running with water and this means the water table has risen, and because of the light free draining soil in this area your garden shrubs and trees will have good access to plenty of water and will grow away well this coming spring.

When we complain about our weather we need to be grateful that we don't live on the east coast of America, as at the time of writing they are experiencing heavy snow fall and record low temperatures down to -30C. Now that's cold !

Anyway, back here in Norfolk we have had some strong winds over the last few months, and fence posts and panels have taken a bit of a battering. with posts that have come loose, straighten them up and tamp around the post with a heavy hammer or large piece of wood. If the lean on the post is really bad then dig soil out from around the post to a depth of at least 1 foot and

Continued next page

Gardening Notes continued.....

cram some old brick ends around the post and top up with soil, and they will stop the post from moving. Broken panels will need to be replaced.

Tomato and various flower seeds can be sown from the end of this month, they will need a constant temperature of between 13C-16C so it's best to start them off in a cool room with plenty of sunlight. Seed potatoes will be coming in stock by the end of this month, so they can be trayed up in a cool dark room so that they begin to chit slowly .

Apple and pear trees should be sprayed with a winter wash to kill off any over wintering bugs which might damage buds in the spring.

Now that my workshop is quiet, it's a good time to get your lawn mower serviced and tools sharpened, because as soon as spring gets here I will be rushed off my feet, and it might take a little longer to get them serviced.

I hope you all had a good Christmas - now the preparation and hard work can start to get the garden ready for the spring and we can hopefully lose the extra inches around the waist.

We now all know that Barclays bank in Loddon closed in December, a totally selfish decision made by the bank, who have plenty of money to keep the banks open. They also have a moral obligation to help their elderly customers with their banking needs and should have shown the local businesses some continued commitment, after all we have supported them for many years. Of course there is a branch of Barclays in Beccles - that's great, but now everyone will bank in Beccles and probably buy their shopping there as well while they are there. This will have a devastating effect on local businesses in Loddon. So I make this appeal, if you like the shops, cafes, chemist, hair dressers, charity shops etc., in Loddon, you must support us and buy from us, because it won't take much in these tough financial times for some to say enough is enough and close, and this has a knock on effect on other businesses and on the holiday makers who will come to Loddon and spend their money, and before you know it Loddon will be like a ghost town. You have been warned!

*Andrew Carver
Loddon Garden and DIY*

Do you want to learn the piano or improve your piano playing skills?

Friendly, fun and motivating piano tuition available at Loddon Mill Arts, Bridge Street, Loddon by life-long classical musician, performer and mother Katherine Walter, BA (Hons.), LRAM.

I have some weekly spaces available still for all ages and levels from beginner to advanced player. Tuition available in the evenings or during the day. Training for ABRSM exams given from Grade 1 to Grade 8 or just learn the piano for fun.

It's only £15 for half an hour weekly lesson, so why not give it a go!

References and recommendations from other pupils are available.

You can contact me on: 01508 521800, 43 Bridge Street, Loddon, NR14 6NA or by email to: info@loddonmillarts.co.uk



BEAUCHAMP HOUSE would like to thank Carol Broom and all her Whist Drive Players for raising £990.00 for the Residents Amenities Fund. All sincerely appreciated by the residents.

CHEDGRAVE MS THERAPY CENTRE say a BIG THANK YOU for all the help and support that was given at our Christmas Bazaar. We raised an amazing £1,943.00. Also a thank you to The Swan, Loddon, for their donation of £306.00 raised by a raffle for our centre.

LODDON DAY CENTRE would like to thank everybody who supported us in 2017, especially our volunteers and Carol Broom and her group of whist players, who raised over £290 for our funds. Thank you all!

ENVY HAIR DESIGN VICTORIAN EVENING Thankyou to all the wonderful people of Loddon, Chedgrave, and surrounding villages who supported us on the Victorian Evening raising money for Motor Neurone Disease. On the evening itself we raised £764.46. We decided to keep crafting and baking up to the New Year and managed to increase the total to a staggering £1,011.57. We have once again been overwhelmed by everybody's generosity and say a heartfelt thanks from all our family.

Justine, Paul, Ben and Elishia.

ANSWERS for 'HOW'S YOUR VOCABULARY?'

ZEUGMA	A figure of speech linking unlike concepts (e.g. to wage war and peace)
SIDEREAL	Relating to distant stars
MUNDIVAGANT	Wandering the world
ABSQUATULATE	To depart suddenly
TALION	Revenge in kind
CANAILLE	Riff-raff
GALACTOPHAGIST	Milk Drinker
YESTREEN	Last Evening
LOGOLEPSY	An obsession with words
NANTLE	Caress

AND FINALLY:

Sign in a school cafeteria: Shoes are required to eat in the cafeteria.

Underneath a wit had written: Socks can eat anywhere.