

CONTACT

Published by the Church in Loddon

March 2020



Hello all Gardeners....



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

**In February's Contact we posted an
initial request. Now it has been confirmed that
on the weekend of 6-7 June we will be holding
OPEN GARDENS around Loddon, including
all gardens GREAT & SMALL.**

If you think you might take part by opening your garden or helping on the team, please contact Nina Owen on 01508 522993, or send an email to Nina at loddonopengardens@gmail.com.

**SADLY THE EMAIL ADDRESS GIVEN IN THE LAST ISSUE WAS INCORRECT, SO IF YOU
EMAILED ME PLEASE CAN YOU RE-SEND.**



Chet Valley Churches Information

Clergy

David Owen:	01508 522993	david.chetvalley@gmail.com
Louise Morrissey:	01728 830733	delilah.morrissey@gmail.com
Ros Hoffmann:	01508 548200	ros@hoffmann2011.plus.com
Alison Ball:	01508 528126	ball880am@btinternet.com
Jill Haylock:	01508 520248	jillhaylock@aol.com
Fr. Pdraig Hawkins:	01508 492202	office@east-angliadiocese.org.uk



Church Office

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

Phone: 01508 521179, Email: office@chetvalleychurches.org

Open: Mon & Fri: 10am-4pm; Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10am-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

Editors:	Alison Ball, Megan Clifford, Roger Outlaw
Advertising:	Paul Maddison
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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Similarly, the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Church in Loddon.

Editorial

Hello and welcome to the Spring! In calendar terms, if not weather. I write to you from the middle of Storm Ciara back in early February... I hope things are looking brighter and calmer outside your window as you read.

Editing Contact always makes me think about seasons. Maybe it's the choosing of a suitable cover photo or the thinking a month ahead from now. Excuse me if I'm a little pensive today, I am soon to have a baby and also move house—there is a lot of change on my horizon at the moment. I have been thinking about there being 'a time for everything and a season for every activity'; and 'a time to plant and a time to uproot'. You may be familiar with this from either the Byrds' song 'Turn! Turn! Turn!' or the Bible (Ecclesiastes 3) where the poem originates.

Moving house, and indeed moving community, means uprooting myself from friendships, groups and activities here in Loddon and Chedgrave, and looking ahead to putting down new roots elsewhere. I am sad to be leaving the things I have become involved with. I have felt a great sense of community in my four years living here and will miss it greatly.

The reason I share this with you is to encourage you either to get involved with something if you're not already, or not take for granted what you're already part of. Belinda has pre-empted my sentiments on the next page where she encourages you to take a minute to pause and appreciate what you see around you.

As usual, Contact is bursting at the seams with groups and events—take your pick!



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Ministerial Musings

One of the frequently asked questions at this time of year is 'What are you giving up for Lent?' Many people see Lent, a penitential season of the Church's year, as the time when they will try to give up something for 6 weeks- coffee, cakes, alcohol, etc- or take on a lifestyle change, take more exercise, or embark on a vegan diet.

The idea of giving up on rich foods for Lent used to be very much part of life- that's why we have our pancake day on Shrove Tuesday, using up all those eggs- and all sorts of other foods were forbidden too. These days the idea of doing without something for a limited period may be quite appealing, helping us to lose weight or break a pattern of behaviour (the 'just a little chocolate after dinner' pattern, speaking from personal experience), but is it doing any good to anyone apart from ourselves?

When so many people in the world are having to do without the basic necessities of life, unsure of when they will next be able to feed their children or whether they have a home and shelter at all, our giving up of a luxury or two is not likely to make us feel particularly virtuous- not when we stop and think about it, anyway.

What about taking something on for Lent? Pledging to give time to a good cause is always welcome, but for many people, life is so busy that squeezing in another activity could be the straw that breaks the camel's back. Getting stressed by overdoing the good works doesn't seem to be the answer either.

I would like to suggest that doing nothing is a pretty good thing to do in Lent. Not in the sense of 'don't make any changes', but doing nothing meaning 'stop what you're doing and give yourself a break'. Stop rushing from pillar to post, stop consulting your phone every few minutes, stop turning on the telly or the radio or a podcast to fill any odd moment. Just stop.

We live in such a beautiful place- at this time of year we have bird song, flowers, open skies, fantastic sunrises and sunsets, tranquillity, peace- when did you last stop and just appreciate the place where you live? When did you last close your eyes and enjoy a moment of calm, or just take a look at your surroundings and see things you haven't noticed before? When did you last leave yourself a space?

Lent commemorates Jesus' forty days in the wilderness before he began his brief three years of ministry- forty days of doing nothing. Throughout his ministry he took time out, even when things were at their busiest. If Jesus could do it, I reckon we could be doing it too.

Sometimes it's not easy to switch off and give ourselves time to remember who we are and what matters to us, but when we do the effect is wonderfully restorative. Give it a go.

Belinda Barwick

ADVERTS

Across the Chet Valley Churches

Worship in the Chet Valley



You are welcome to join us at any of our services.

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

Services of **Morning Worship** are held in Loddon and Hardley.

Xpressions Café is on the first Sunday every month at All Saints, Chedgrave. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. Open between 10am and 12 noon, you can come and go as you please for coffee, cake, discussion, crafts, games, stories, reflection and much more.

All Together Worship is on the third Sunday every month, starting at 11:00am at All Saints, Chedgrave (January, March, June and September are followed by shared lunch).

All Together Worship is designed to be as inclusive as possible: a mixture of formality and informality; traditional and modern; activity and stillness. In short, we will attempt to provide a service which will have points of connection for children and adults—indeed people of all ages and all backgrounds.

Last Sunday Praise is held on the last Sunday of the month at St John's: a chance to sing old and new Christian songs and worship together.

Xtra! is an exciting, informal service every Thursday after school in St John's Church. Refreshments from 3.15pm, service starts ~3.45pm. Open to all; particularly suited to children and young people.

In Loddon and Chedgrave there is an opportunity to enjoy a chat over refreshments after the service.

There are toilets and baby-changing facilities at All Saints, Chedgrave and St John's, Loddon.

Families are welcome at all of our services but are particularly catered for on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month in Chedgrave.

Home Communion: If you would like home communion, because you are unable for any reason to get to a Sunday service, please contact the clergy or the Church Office and we will arrange for someone to bring communion to you.

Times and details of the services can be found in the centre pages of the magazine.

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 parents and carers.



Wednesdays 9.15am - 12 noon.

All are 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 Meetings: 5th March at 1pm

Knitters and Stitchers make items for charity. Items of work will be on display and there will be a talk followed by Afternoon Tea.

If you are interested in joining the group ring Jill on 01508 520248.

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 10am-12pm**. 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 3.15pm. Service starts 3.45pm.

More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126

ADVERTS

From the Parish Registers

Funerals

Heather Adele Lane who died on 10th December 2019 aged 79 years
Funeral: 2nd January 2020 at Waveney Crematorium, Beccles

John Russel Webster who died on 9th October 2019
Funeral: 24th January 2020 at Holy Trinity, Loddon

Stephen Gary Pearce who died on 29th December 2019 aged 66 years
Funeral: 24th January 2020 at All Saints, Chedgrave

Daphne Craik who died on 9th January 2020 aged 92 years
Funeral: 31st January 2020 at St Michael, Stockton

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

Thank you

Peter Taylor, 17th May 1956 - 30th October 2019


Helen and her family would like to sincerely thank everybody who attended Peter's funeral in November and for the continued messages of love and support, all are very much appreciated.

The fantastic amount raised for the RNLI from donations at the service, online and sent direct to Young's funeral directors came to a grand total of £1,500.

The amount raised for The Royal British Legion via donations given at The King's Head public house at the wake was an amazing £700.75.

Peter was a huge supporter of both charities and would be overwhelmed by everyone's generosity.

EASTER FLOWERS BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



If you would like the name(s) of your loved one(s) entered in the Book of Remembrance in Holy Trinity church, please leave details at the church office, giving your name, a contact number and the name(s) you would like to be entered; along with a donation towards the cost of the Easter flowers.

Closing date Monday 30th March

Thank you

ADVERTS

The Sisland Chronicle

Some time ago we visited the delightfully prolific garden at Washingford Farm, and I was surprised to discover that there had once been a watermill there. Probably the mill-pond was filled in to make the garden. However when it closed down, around the time that Mr Goddard, the miller retired, in the mid 1800's, the Chet, which powered it, was re-routed to its present course. I suspect that this may account for the fertility of the garden, which is probably still watered by the underground memory of the river's former course which it had taken since Domesday or before! Why did the mill shut down? possibly because the tiny Chet was unable to turn the mill wheel in times of drought. And why was the river diverted? We shall probably never know, perhaps it sometimes flooded the farmhouse?

Where have all the winters gone? (I may regret saying that!) I remember ice inside bedroom windows which was not appreciated by us children! With open bedroom windows at night, our parents had a passion for fresh air in those days. Now we are told that houses should be air-tight! Whatever next! - **SISLANDA**

Hi, Freddie here. I hope you won't be surprised to know that I have been behaving myself, and not hurtling down the garden when Farmer John's tractor goes by in the lane. Actually I don't have any choice, now that I'm on a lead when T. or J. take me to see what's going on. I do sniff mole hills but I don't seem to frighten them away! (T. doesn't like them), the trouble is they won't come up onto the lawn, but T. says they wouldn't see me even then, as they haven't got very good eyes. Perhaps someone should tell them about specsavers! Did you see that story of the pig farmer and the rats? He called in the Terrier Ratpack – who killed 700! - but sadly I wasn't invited to help, although I do keep the garden clear of them here when I am allowed off the lead! But the good news is that my offside knee is much better – I sometimes go back to three legs; I like the extra sympathy that I get! - **Cheers Freddie**



****ADVANCE NOTICE****

'Pamper with Tasty Treats Day' at Lodge Farm Sisland on Saturday 18th April.
Proceeds for Sisland church funds.

Chedgrave Church Centre Hire

All Saints Church Chedgrave has a lovely church centre attached to it which has been open for over 25 years. There are two rooms (one upstairs), a kitchen and a loo. There are wheeled tables which are easy to move and put up. It is warm even in the winter! It is available to book with a suggested donation of £8 per hour. If you are looking for a venue for a meeting, a party, or an activity do contact Jack Barwick who is responsible for hall bookings on jackbarwick@yahoo.co.uk or at 2 Hardley Road, Chedgrave.

ADVERTS



***By supporting Emmaus Norfolk & Waveney,
you are helping people to change their lives.***

We are Emmaus Norfolk & Waveney; a charity that offers more than just a bed for the night to someone who has experienced homelessness, but a place to call home for as long as needed with the opportunity to gain new skills by volunteering full-time in our social enterprise.

Living in a stable environment with the opportunity to gain new skills helps our companions, as residents are known, to regain any lost self-esteem and confidence so they can get back on their feet and back into employment.

To support our work, we sell second-hand furniture, household items, electrical goods and much more at our shops in Ditchingham, Bungay and our newly opened shop in Castle Quarter Norwich. We depend on your continued support and kind donations to keep us going and we always do our utmost to sell, recycle or re-use to grow an income from everything you give us.

If you have good quality items at home that you no longer need then please donate them to Emmaus Norfolk & Waveney. We offer a **free collection service** for large or multiple items and always gratefully receive smaller donations in store. We are happy to take most household items in good condition and accept working electrical appliances such as washing machines or fridge freezers, and smaller electrical items such as flat-screen TVs and lamps. If you're not sure, feel free to give us a call.

To donate, book your free collection online at www.emmaus.org/norfolk-waveney, call 01986 895444, or visit us at our beautiful site in Ditchingham at Belsey Bridge Road, NR35 2DT.



ADVERTS



Community Choir for Easter

We are bringing together a **choir for the Easter Service** this year, for the third year running. We will lead the hymns and sing our own items during communion.

The Easter service is on April 12th at 9.30am in Chedgrave Church.

There will be three rehearsals:

Sunday	29th March	2pm-3pm
Saturday	4th April	2pm-3pm
Saturday	11th April	2pm-3pm

If you would like to take part please contact Alison Ball (bal880am@btinternet.com or 01508 528126) making sure you give her your contact details.

Many thanks, Rev Alison

Plans for Holy Trinity

- The plans for installing toilets and kitchen, together with a ringing platform and storage facilities are still on display in Holy Trinity Church. The Church Council has agreed on these plans, which it is hoped will be presented to the Diocesan Advisory Committee in the near future, prior to gaining approval to go ahead and begin the process of obtaining funding.
- As a temporary measure the church is able to purchase a portaloos for use at events and services.

ADVERTS

What's Happening in Loddon Library

Loddon Library, 31 Church Plain, NR14 6EX – 01508 520678

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	8am-4pm	(Staffed 1-4pm)
	Sunday	10am-4pm	Open Library access only

Special Events:

NNAB Sight Information Point - A sight information point can provide advice and information on how the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind can help visually impaired people. Please pop in any time to speak to a member of staff from the NNAB. **Thursday 5th March 10am-12pm**

Children & Parent Groups:

- Bounce & Rhyme – every **Monday 10.15-10:45am**. Come along for songs & rhymes for ages 0-5.
- Stay & Play – every **Monday 11am-12pm**. Drop in for a chat with other families while your children play.
- Bookends – Listen to a story & join our volunteer in a craft activity related to the book, **Friday 13th & 27th March 3.30-4pm**

Adult Groups:

- Coffee Morning – every **Monday 10.30am-12.30pm**. Pop in for a friendly chat and a cuppa. Please note the new time for this event.
- Computer Buddy – friendly computer help on **Mondays from 10am-12pm**.
- Citizens Advice - A CAB advisor will be available on **Monday 30th March 10am-12pm** to offer advice and guidance. Booking essential. Call 01508 520678 or pop in & see staff to book.
- Mahjong – our new Mahjong group **Thursday 12th & 26th March 10.45am**
- Loddon Loves Books book group – join our evening book group on **Friday 27th March 5.45-6.45pm**. Local Author Helen Callaghan will be joining the reading group to lead a discussion on her book Dear Amy.

Open Libraries: Open library gives you access to your local library even while the building is unstaffed, making it available at times that are more convenient for you. To find out more information and to sign up, please visit the library and speak to a member of staff or call 01603 774777 to sign up over the phone.

Reading Pathways: Free 1-2-1 Support in Norfolk Libraries, helping you to be a better reader. Take that first step and get involved today! Pop into any public library in Norfolk for more information.

DVD Hire: You can hire DVDs from just £1 - Top Titles £2 for 2 nights and other DVDs £1 for a week. All DVDs are free to reserve – just tell us what titles you want and we can get them in for you.

Baby Weighing Scales: A set of scales is available within the library.

Facebook: just search for Loddon Library or visit facebook.com/loddonlibrary

ADVERTS

Loddon Parish Council

Co-opted Parish Councillors: Loddon Parish Council has one vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested in local issues and how they affect and impact the local community and would like to work as part of a team to improve amenities and facilities, we would very much like to hear from you. You would be co-opted onto the Parish Council – which means you do not stand in a contested election but are appointed directly to the Parish Council. Qualifications for appointment are not onerous: you must be over 18, be an elector within the Parish, and you live or work in, or within three miles of, Loddon.

Allotments: This is a good time of year to take on one of our few remaining vacant allotments near Loddon Staithe. Despite the recent cold weather preparations can be in place to prepare the ground for summer planting and to start enjoying the benefits of allotment gardening. If you are interested in securing a plot at a very reasonable rate, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01508 522020 or email clerk@loddonpc.org.uk

Future Meetings of Loddon Parish Council: All meetings commence at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month. The next two dates are **12th March** and **9th April** which will include the Annual Parish Meeting. 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.

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 9am 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.

DO YOU LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE?



Loddon Tourist Information Centre is looking for volunteers to join the team for the 2020 tourist season.

If you love meeting new people and have a couple of hours to spare each week between April and October, we would love to hear from you.

For further information, please call Lesley on 07825442174
or email loddontouristinformation@gmail.com

ADVERTS

Chedgrave Parish Council

All enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk: Hayley Goldson.

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

Website: www.chedgraveparishcouncil.co.uk

The Parish Council met on 6th February 2020. Minutes are available at Loddon Library, on the Parish Council noticeboard and website.



George Lane Roundabout: NCC Cllr Barry Stone has reported that a timetable for construction should be forthcoming shortly.

Grebe Drive Play Area Regeneration Project: We are waiting to hear back from a couple of grant applications. No matter what the outcome is, work to clear the site should be able to start this spring.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan Consultation Roadshow: 17th February 2-8pm at the Brian Clarke Room in Chedgrave. Do come along and have your say.

Hardley Road Allotments: Currently, there is a vacancy. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested.

Wherryman's Way: NCC Cllr Stone reported that he is still waiting to hear from Russell Wilson at NCC regarding a meeting with CPC to hear the latest plan

"Winter Ready" Preparations: Please refer to the booklet & emergency telephone numbers delivered to your homes last winter. Up to date information & actions may also be found on the CPC website.

Brian Clarke Room: To book the Brian Clarke Room, please contact Georgina Buckle via brianclarkeroom@gmail.com or 07981856270. The cost is £7.50 per hour.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm** at the Brian Clarke Room, Chedgrave. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Thursday 2nd April at 7pm**, followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7:30pm.

Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

Composting Scheme: To keep the Scheme running we urgently need new volunteers. All we ask is for a couple of hours a month: the amount of time you would spend going to the Bergh Apton waste site and back and you can have your garden waste collected into the bargain! The Scheme will start the 2020 year with the proviso that if we cannot attract sufficient volunteers we may have to close the Scheme. This would be a great shame. Over 45 tonnes of garden waste has been collected and processed so far and this in turn has contributed in excess of £2000 to the Parish Council bank account over the last five years. Please help us to continue with this worthwhile community scheme!

Next Meeting: Wednesday 25th March, 7:30pm at Hales Village Hall, Briar Lane, Hales. Residents are welcome and given the opportunity to speak. Agendas are posted on the noticeboard in the bus shelter opposite Masala Garden and on the website at least three days before the meeting. Minutes are also displayed.

Email: clerk@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk Phone 07703124544

Website: halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Hales-Heckingham-Parish-Council-37625612615122

ADVERTS

It's great to see the daffodils out around our towns and villages, and to know that better weather is on its way. As Coleridge wrote, "Winter, slumbering in the open air, wears on his smiling face a dream of Spring".

One of the most enjoyable parts of this role is attending the local Parish Council meetings, meeting everyone involved and being able to see first-hand the important work they do on behalf of all of us. I particularly enjoyed being invited by the Stockton group to attend their annual meal out, and the litter picking they organise.

My most recent promised regular surgeries took place in Loddon Library on Saturday 15th February 2-4pm. These surgeries will continue throughout my time as Councillor, with details in this article and on Facebook. I can also be contacted by ringing 07733323581 or emailing me at jrowe@s-norfolk.gov.uk. If you contact me I guarantee that I'll get back in touch within 48 hours.

Some of the help I have been able to give this month has included difficult traffic issues and lamp posts which seemed to appear overnight!

Big or small, let me know if I can help, that's what we're here for.

Jeremy Rowe—Councillor for Loddon and Chedgrave

Chedgrave Churchyard Spring Clear-up

Saturday March 14th 09:30-12:00

The Churchyard in Chedgrave is due for a clean and tidy to remove winter debris all ready for buds opening in Spring. We will be holding this on Saturday March 14th from 9.30 am onwards. There will be a number of different jobs to do.

If you haven't seen our bird boxes or insect houses in the churchyard it is a chance to come and see what we have already done to enhance this space.



Please
Refresh-



bring your
ments will



own tools.
be provided.

ADVERTS

Holy Trinity Bell Ringers



On Saturday 1st February over thirty Eastern branch members attended the Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre at the church of St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich for a practice meeting. We now have lots of new people learning to ring bells in the branch and this event gave them a chance to ring the simulated bells with more experienced ringers. Here at Loddon we now have three new people learning the art.

Quarter peals have been rung at Loddon including Cambridge, Bristol and Belfast Surprise Major, Cambridge, Yorkshire and Albanian Surprise Royal. We have been out to ring Quarter Peals at Saham Toney, Necton, North Lopham, Diss, Hopton by Thetford, Ixworth, Walsham Le Willows and Gislegham. We have also supported other practice nights held at Woodton, Beccles and Bungay.

A Quarter Peal was rung by members at Norton Subcourse as a 75th birthday compliment for Norman Cossey who was tower captain at that church for forty years. The ringers were 1. Jeannine Roe 2. Ann Webb 3. Chrissie Pickup 4. Rona Sporle 5. David Webb 6. Stephen Rabong (c). The 1320 changes of Norwich Surprise Minor took 45 minutes to complete.

Steve Rabong

Xpressions Café needs you

Xpressions Café is on the first Sunday every month at All Saints Church, Chedgrave. This is a relaxed and contemporary way of 'doing church'. Open between 10am and 12 noon, you can come and go as you please for coffee, cake, discussion, crafts, games, stories, reflection and much more.

We have just celebrated the 150th Café service. Originally 25 people were involved from across the Chet Valley. Over the years, the faces have changed as people have come and gone.

We are now looking for **someone to head up the team that staffs the café**. This involves making drinks, checking supplies, setting up tables and overseeing the rota of volunteers. **We are also looking to recruit people to the other teams, leading craft, activities, games, songs and stories** aimed at families and children; and **leading deeper exploration and discussion** of the month's theme.

You can be of any age (8-80+) and don't have to be available every month. You don't need to be involved in a church at the moment. It's a chance to exercise creativity, to try something different, to share your skills, to meet with people in your community.

No experience necessary - all welcome. For more information, please speak to Rev Alison (01508 528126 or ball880am@btinternet.com).

ADVERTS



Charity Fashion Show

When: Friday 17th April 2020
What time: Doors open from 6pm. Fashion Show at 7pm
Where: The Hollies, High Street, Loddon
Why: To raise funds for Meningitis Research
Showcasing new & nearly new men's, women's and children's clothes & accessories that can be purchased on the evening.
Entry fee £3. Refreshments available.



Thank you!

Beauchamp House would like to thank Carol Broom and all her **Whist Drive Players** for raising £1056.00 for the Residents Amenities Fund. All sincerely appreciated by the residents.

Whist Drives are run by Carol at Beauchamp House every Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Any Whist Players liking to join them, please ring Carol for further details on 01508 520726.



Thank you!

Thank you to all who have given items to the **Foodbank** for the last twelve months in Loddon and Chedgrave and the benefice areas.

We have collected 80 trays of food, each having 30lbs of food in them. This will help to feed people with enough food for 160 local people, who are in crisis for three days. We have helped 41 local people during the year, single people, couples and families.

Many thanks, Barry Gibson

Church Services in March

Sunday 1st March

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland
9.00am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10am—12 noon	Xpressions Café	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon

Sunday 8th March

8.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret, Hardley
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon

Sunday 15th March

10.45am	Holy Communion	St John, Loddon
11.00am	All Together Worship *	All Saints, Chedgrave
4.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	St Mary, Sisland

Sunday 22nd March - Mothering Sunday

9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Margaret, Hardley
10.45am	Morning Worship	St John, Loddon

Sunday 29th March

10.30am	Combined Churches Communion	All Saints, Chedgrave
6.30pm	Last Sunday Praise	St John, Loddon

***All Together Worship on 15th is followed by a Bring & Share Lunch. All welcome!**

Every day Morning Prayer 9.00am <i>All Welcome</i>	Monday	St John, Loddon
	Tuesday	St. Margaret, Hardley
	Wednesday	All Saints, Chedgrave
	Thursday	St John, Loddon
	Friday	St Mary, Sisland
	Saturday	All Saints, Chedgrave

Other Services in St John's, Loddon	
Every Saturday 6.00pm	Roman Catholic Mass
Tuesdays 7.30pm- 8.30pm	<p>COME AND PRAY</p> <p>If you would you like to spend some time in prayer with a small group of people you are welcome to come along to</p> <p>'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection'</p> <p>3rd Tuesday Midweek Communion with Blessing</p> <p><i>All are welcome</i></p>
Thursdays during school term	<p>Xtra!</p> <p>Join us for an exciting, informal service.</p> <p>Refreshments from 3.15pm, Service starts 3.45pm</p> <p>More from Rev David 01508 522993 or Rev Alison 01508 528126</p>



Last Sunday Praise

It is no surprise that Last Sunday Praise takes place on the last Sunday of each month... but what exactly is it?

If you enjoy modern worship songs and hymns it could be just what you are looking for. It's a relaxed, informal gathering that starts with refreshments (because there can never be too many opportunities for tea and cake). We sing a range of lively and thoughtful songs, generally following a theme, listen to a talk and spend some time in prayer. Some of the songs may be new to you, but they're generally easy to pick up as you go along.

Last Sunday Praise takes place in St John's Chapel on George Lane, starting with refreshments at 6.30pm for a 7pm start to the service. It's open to anyone, whether or not you usually go to a church service. Just turn up, or if you'd like to find out more about it, contact:

Revd David Owen on 01508 522993, email david.chetvalley@gmail.com, or
Revd Jill Haylock on 01508 520248, email jillhaylock@aol.com

COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

Loddon Flower Club

3rd March - Helen Bird - As the Days Lengthen.

7th April - Terri Potter - Attic Attack.

Flower arranging demonstration held at St John's Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, 6.15pm for a 7pm start. Refreshments and raffle held. Visitors £6. For more details contact Tricia Godfrey (Chairman) on 01508 480522 or email tricia646@aol.com

We are also available to arrange flowers for family occasions.

Loddon Women's Institute

We hope that some of you found and kept the green hearts which were left around Loddon on 14th February??

Open Houses are being held to knit traffic light hats for baby unit at the N & N and some of our members are knitting Trauma Teddies for the emergency services. Want to join in? See website for contact and programme details.

18th March: Macrame and Cacti by Donna Hodds

Our March meeting is 'Macrame & Cacti', 18 March, 7.30pm at St Johns Chapel, George Lane, Loddon.

New members always welcome.

Chedgrave & District Women's Institute

In January several of our members enjoyed the production of The Dagenham Girls at the Theatre Royal in Norwich.

On **10th March** we shall be celebrating our 49th birthday with lunch at Green Pastures.

On **24th March** our speaker at the meeting will be Kay Jefford and the title of her talk is 'From Flapper to Foot Binding'. Sounds intriguing!

Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held at All Saints Centre, Chedgrave on the 4th Tuesday of the month, at 2pm.

Langley with Hardley Women's Institute

In February Sue Sursham spoke to us about South East Asia.

17th March – Barbara Miller – Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

Our meetings start at 7-30pm at Langley with Hardley Village Hall.

Further details from Secretary Gillian Ball 528182

Footballers Wanted!

We are a friendly, relaxed group of guys of all ages and abilities who meet at Hobart Astroturf every **Monday** evening from 8.30pm-9.30pm 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** 7.30-9.30pm 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



Hales & Loddon Cricket Club

We have had a busy closed season, running youth nets throughout the winter months with Norfolk Player and Coach Sam Arthurton from the Ben France Cricket Academy. Head of Youth Cricket, Pete Dye, has been delighted with the programme, which is a continuation with their partnership with SNYAB. We have an amazing group of young players, so wanted to give them the opportunity to be coached by one of the County's brightest young Players and Coach. The players have really bought into what we are doing, and their hard work will certainly pay dividends when we start outdoors at the end of April. Senior nets start on **Monday 23rd March** at Langley 6-7:30pm: for more details you can contact Pete on 07931711323 or Pete.dye@canaries.co.uk. The Club run teams in the Norfolk Alliance as well as the Norfolk League, as well as teams at U9/11/13 age groups. If you would like to play, whatever your age or ability, you'll be very welcome at Hales and Loddon. All our Youth Coaches are DBS checked and are qualified to work in youth Cricket. We are just off the A146 after the roundabout near Hales Garage.



Jubilee Short Mat Bowls Club

Calling all bowlers and non bowlers. Do you fancy bowling throughout the year? Why not give short mat bowls a try. Free taster session on your first visit. Then just £2.50 a week. Join us on Tuesday afternoons 1.30-3.30pm at the Jubilee Hall. Bowls can be provided, just bring indoor flat shoes. Further information from Sara 01508 521958

Short Tennis Club

Come and join our friendly non-competitive club on **Tuesdays 11.30am - 1pm** at the Jubilee Hall. All welcome. For more information call 01508 520589.

Social Whist

We meet every second and fourth Friday of the month though there is no pressure to attend every month. We welcome new players. We meet in the back room of The Hollies and start playing at 7.45pm. The evening consists of 12 hands of Whist, each with a different partner, a drink and a biscuit at half time together with lots of chat. You don't need a partner and if you need a lift to get there this can be organised. All proceeds are for local charities.

If you need a lift please call me, Jane Hale, on 01508 528875.

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 and meet new people? 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 10am 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.

The speakers for March are:

3rd March	Mark Reynolds	Cartoons & Comedy, Part 3
17th March	Mike Weathersbone	History of Village Signs

We really look forward to seeing you.

Please contact Clive Boyd on 01508 520547, or e-mail cliveboyd@btconnect.com

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.

10th March: Peter Lawrence - Reading the Timbers (A Study of Timber Framed Houses)

24th March: Pat Alker - A Short History of Tea and Coffee

For further details contact the secretary:

John McCormack, 5a Norton Road, Loddon NR14 6JN. 01508 521899.

PARKINSONS

Would you like to meet other Parkinsons sufferers? We meet on the first Monday of the month at the Chedgrave White Horse at 12.15pm. Partners are also welcome. For further details please ring Michael Osborne on 01508 522034.

Davy Place Social Club

Hello from everyone at Davy Place Social Club.

We are pleased to confirm that our weekly Afternoon Bingo sessions have restarted after the winter break. Bingo takes place in the Common Room every Monday afternoon. The doors open at 1.30pm ready for eyes down at 2pm. New players are always welcome so do come and join us.

Our "Gentle!" Exercise classes on Tuesday mornings with Rose and on Friday mornings with Mike are proving popular, beneficial and great fun. Both sessions start at 10am. Afterwards we enjoy tea or coffee, cake and fruit and a jolly good chat!

Craft and Coffee Club continues on Thursday mornings at 10 till 12 noon. Our next Hoy Night will be held on Saturday 14th March starting at 7pm. All welcome.

We will be holding our Spring Jumble Sale in the Common Room on Saturday 28th March from 10am until about 12 noon. If you have items to donate, especially good jumble or bric-a-brac, we would be very pleased to receive them. Please bring them to the Common Room or telephone Janet on 01508 522115 to arrange collection. Thank you.

Ps. We are secretly hoping that a medium sized tea trolley may turn up amongst the items donated to our Jumble Sale ... our tea trolley is very wonky and in danger of losing a wheel!

If you can help please ring us!

Enjoy the coming Spring season and please do come along to our Jumble Sale on the 28th, there will be a good raffle and plenty of cake!

Thank you from all the residents at Davy Place.

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.

Just drop in or ring Bev on 07826 299290.

9.30am-2.15pm, each Tuesday and Friday, at the Brian Clarke Room, Chedgrave.



ADVERTS

Loddon Community Gym



As with everyone who writes an article for this or any other magazine I wonder how many people will read it. I am sure that some of you read Contact from cover to cover, others will skim through, stopping to read something that catches your eye. Yet others will home in straight to the their favourite page whether that's the Nature Notes, Book Reviews, Ministerial Musings or to find the contact details for the plumber who came out last time the washing machine flooded the kitchen.

If you are reading this article from the Community Gym you may just be thinking about giving it a go for yourself. If you do you will be joining the others who have swelled our numbers in 2020 so far. This is good news for the future of the Gym and also for the well-being of the residents of Loddon, Chedgrave and beyond. If you are a Gym member but haven't been for a while, call in and tell us if there is anything we can do to encourage you to come more regularly.

Call in at any time the Gym is open to see for yourself what we are about. Everyone whatever age or fitness level will have a programme designed especially for them by Louise our fitness instructor. The Gym is not exactly fun but it is rewarding!

We are open in the Jubilee Hall, George Street, Loddon as follows:

Mondays: 1.30pm-6pm; Tuesdays: 4.30pm-8.30pm; Fridays: 10am-1pm.

Loddon & Chedgrave Ladies 8 o'clock Club

****Stop press!**** We have **changed our meeting venue** to the Brian Clarke Room at Mallard Close, Chedgrave, NR14 6JB. Still the last Wednesday in the month (with some exceptions).

At our meeting on **25th March** we will welcome Maureen Larkin & Anthony Bunting telling us the History of the Loddon Pantomime.

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

Loddon Community Cinema

Our next presentation is "**The Good Liar**", rated PG, starring **Helen Mirren** and **Ian McKellen**.

Career con man Roy (Ian McKellen) sets his sights on his latest mark: recently widowed Betty (Helen Mirren), worth millions. And he means to take it all. But as the two draw closer, what should have been another simple swindle takes on the ultimate stakes. Legendary actors Mirren and McKellen star together on screen for the first time in this suspenseful drama about the secrets people keep and the lies they live.



Showing on Thursday 5th March at The Lecture Hall, St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open 7pm, film starts, 7.30pm.

Tickets: £4 adults, under 16s £2. On the door or in advance from Loddon Garden & DIY.

ADVERTS

Royal British Legion-Loddon & District Branch



In February's issue, the anniversary of the formation of Loddon branch should have read that we celebrate our 75th anniversary this year, not the 73rd. We are older than we think, and it is a credit to all present and past members that we continue to thrive, and are set to do so for many more years to come.

At January's branch meeting, Ron Howes was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation as a big thank you to him for all his help and support to the branch over many years, but especially during his time as President, and for his continuing help now he is Vice President.

The next branch meetings will be on **Tuesday 17th March** and then **Tuesday 21st April**, both at 7.30pm in the King's Head, Loddon. Contact our Branch Secretary Christine Hartley (01508 521136) if you need Legion help or advice.

Loddon and Chedgrave District Society

Contact June on 01508 528853 for further details unless otherwise stated.

March 4th 10.30am MULBARTON WALK*

Join Dave and June for a 3.5 mile easy walk. Lunch at the World's End, Mulbarton. Meet at the Village Hall Car Park. Contact June by the end of February.

March 18th 10.30am Art Deco by the Sea*

Exhibition at the Sainsbury Centre, £14 including a guide to explain this interesting event. Lunch can be had at the Centre restaurant. Contact June by 9th March.

April 1st 10.30 am *

Join Barry on an interesting walk along part of the Boudicca Way. Meet at SHOTESHAM Church, lunch at The Dove. Contact Barry on 01508 491633

April 22nd 2pm * St Peters Hall, Bungay*

Invitation to view a unique half-moated manor with a lot of history, tea and coffee on arrival and full afternoon tea after the tour. Adjacent Brewery included in the tour. £18. Contact June before 3rd April.

*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.*

Chet Valley Photography Club

Monday 9th March 'Winter in Senja, Norway & Donegal, Ireland' by Ruth Grinrod. Ruth returns for a second time to speak about landscape photography. She lives in Loddon and has had a variety of work published and gained national awards. Ruth's website is www.ruthgrindrodlandscapephotography.co.uk

For more details about our club please see our website:
www.chetvalleyphotography.org.uk

ADVERTS

Dr Mary Fewster made a welcome return in January. Her talk "A Moving Story" was a fascinating and informative journey through the history of how people and goods were moved about East Anglia.

Rivers were vitally important and some present day small streams in the past were often deeper and wider and along with larger rivers were used for carrying goods. Goods could be carried more easily and cheaply, but often the final delivery would have to be done by road. The use of wherries and Keels continued until well into the 20th Century. In other parts of the country there was massive canal building but in East Anglia the river system was generally improved. However, the North Walsham and Dilham Canal with 6 locks was built before 1826. It served 6 mills including 2 bone mills

In early days the roads were un-metalled and packhorses, carts and carriages of differing sizes would struggle in bad weather. Later there were turnpikes (toll roads, where the toll was supposed to pay for the upkeep of the road) but there was no overall plan for these any more than there was for the later building of railway lines. The turnpikes had their heyday during the 18th and early 19th centuries before the railways were built. Mail Coaches were exempt from tolls.

The advent of the railways in much of England sounded the death knell for the canals and long distance road transport. A major victim in Norfolk was the New Cut which enabled ships to reach the never completed Port of Norwich. The land beside the Cut was purchased by a Railway Company to link Norwich & Lowestoft.

Finally came the return to road transport with trams in the large towns and cars and commercial vehicles everywhere. Mary's knowledge and vast library of illustrations gave us a most enjoyable afternoon.

Our **Next Meetings** are as always at 1.30pm at St John's Church in George Lane entrance £3 which includes tea and biscuits.

March 18th David Wollweber, talking about The de Argentine Family: Cup Bearers to Medieval Kings

This forgotten family of crusaders, jousting, warriors, matriarchs, and rebels were influential in some key historical events. If you like Medieval history and tales of knights, crusades, powerful women, murderers and feuds come along to this talk!

April 15th Gareth Davies, on William Morris and the Yarmouth Anarchists

In 1889, William Morris, the well-known artist and 'founder' of the 'arts and craft' movement, and of the Socialist League came to Yarmouth on three occasions. This talk looks at why the League managed to gain support in the town as well as explain the nature of local politics in the late 19th century.

Remember there are lots of pictures and local history to be found in the Local Studies Room in the Library when the Library is staffed.

ADVERTS



THE Plantation Garden



Loddon & District
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Come and find out about
'Norwich's Hidden Garden'
on Earlham Road.
An illustrated talk by Ruth Liss**

The Plantation Garden *from the 1840's - present day*

Wed. 11th March 2020
7:30 - 9:30 PM
in the Jubilee Hall Clubroom
George Lane, Loddon

Members: free
Visitors welcome: £2
(includes refreshments)

For more details contact Hazel on 07765 098345, happyhaze50@gmail.com or Jean on 01502 710024, jeancope52@gmail.com

Take a look at our webpage on www.loddon.org or follow us on our Facebook page.

ADVERTS

Patient Participation Group

Patient Participation Group are holding our Open Meeting on **Tuesday 31st March** at the surgery at 7.30pm. The talk is called 'Body Donation - How, Where and When' and is given by Sue O'Connell. This promises to be an interesting if slightly different subject and well worth coming.

News from Chet Valley Medical Practice

Car Parking At The Practice

Parking is an issue with so many NHS Services and we at the practice are no different. At certain times the car park becomes full and car users park on the pavement or other inappropriate places. But by doing this it means emergency vehicle access is compromised. Please do not park anywhere other than designated parking spaces. If there are no parking spaces available please park outside of the practice grounds. It is worth remembering that the NHS has no obligation to provide parking for all patients but we do try to accommodate as many cars as possible. So please leave with plenty of time for your appointment in case you need to find off practice premises parking.

Young Carers and Families

Are you a young person caring for somebody?

- Young Carers are children and young people aged under 18
- Who look after or support a family member/relative or friend

Who is:-

- Disabled or ill, or has drug, alcohol or mental health problems
- They may just help with practical tasks or give emotional support
- If caring affects your health, education or friendships you are entitled to
- A Young Carer Needs Assessment
- Please ask at reception for a 'Young Carers' pack'

New Carers Clinic

From mid-March the Practice will be hosting clinics for patients who are registered 'Carers' at the Practice or a carer looking after someone. Clinics will be run by Stacy Robertson from 'Carers Matter'.

This is an opportunity to ask for help, support, financial advice and assist with completion of forms e.g. attendance allowance. No referral is needed.

To make an appointment please enquire at Reception.

ADVERTS

Quiet Day 2020, at Quiet Waters, Bungay.

In the middle of Lent, **Saturday March 14th**, we are having a day of peace and quiet, away from the noise and bustle of everyday life. So, no phones, no radio, nothing but a quiet space with time to reflect.

If you have not been to anything like this before, you may be wondering:

What is a quiet day?

They vary, of course, but this one will start with coffee at about 10am, and thereafter there will be three short reflections with periods of time in between to think, to reflect, to pray and, most importantly, to relax. The day will end at about 4pm.

What is Quiet Waters?

It's a large house on the Flixton Road, just outside Bungay (NR35 1PD), which is run as a Retreat house for any group of Christians who would like to have time away. It's very comfortable, with pleasant grounds running down to the river and with an excellent lunch provided.

What would be expected of me?

Nothing! You won't be asked to talk or discuss anything and there aren't any tasks to be done- this is a day for you and God. You don't have to be completely silent, just quiet, and we will in any case talk at lunchtime.

What will I get out of the day?

The possibilities are endless, but I hope everyone will come away feeling relaxed and revived after a time given over to listening to God and knowing his love.

Would you like to join us?

The day costs £20 to cover the use of Quiet Waters' facilities and lunch. If you would like some help paying for the day, this is possible.

Contact Belinda Barwick on 01508 520351 **by 7th March.**

ADVERTS

EARTH HOUR 2020



Saturday 28th March

8:30pm - 9:30pm

'Join millions for the global lights out event and be part of the generation who are choosing to fight for our world.'

What is Earth Hour?

Earth Hour is the world's biggest switch off event – a moment millions come together for nature, people and the planet. Iconic landmarks, millions of homes, businesses and political leaders across the world switch off their lights for an hour at 8:30PM to celebrate our natural world and as a rallying call to protect it.

Why should I take part?

More people than ever before are waking up to the crisis. We've destroyed forests, polluted the oceans and caused devastating changes to the climate. In 2020, world leaders will make important decisions that will decide the health of our planet for years to come – on the climate, our food systems and our relationship with nature. There's never been a more important time to come together.

How do I take part?

Switch off your lights between 8:30 – 9:30PM on Saturday 28th March. Spread the word - share your reasons for taking part with your friends, neighbours and online.

For more information visit www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour

Glueing yourself to the pavement too uncomfortable, but want to do something positive to help the environment? Here it is!



The Bergh Apton Conservation Trust, supported by the South Yare Wildlife Group, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, and others, is leading a project to create a pollinator friendly corridor centred on the Chet from its source in Poringland all the way to the Yare: **The Chet Valley B-Line**.

We are looking to recruit people to help with a range of tasks including promoting the aims of the project by speaking to Parish Councils, local clubs and societies; giving advice on pollinator friendly gardening; lobbying for change; organising or helping with planting projects; and monitoring and recording pollinator numbers. Training will be provided where necessary.

B-Involved If you have experience or are just enthusiastic and want to make a practical difference please contact any of the following:

Dr Anthony Davy 01508 558453

a.davy@uea.ac.uk

Andrew Milner 07939134326

milnerandrew9@gmail.com

Rodney Aldis 07909 540672

rodnevaldis@ymail.com

ADVERTS

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, LANGLEY

THE AVENUES, LANGLEY, NR14 6BL

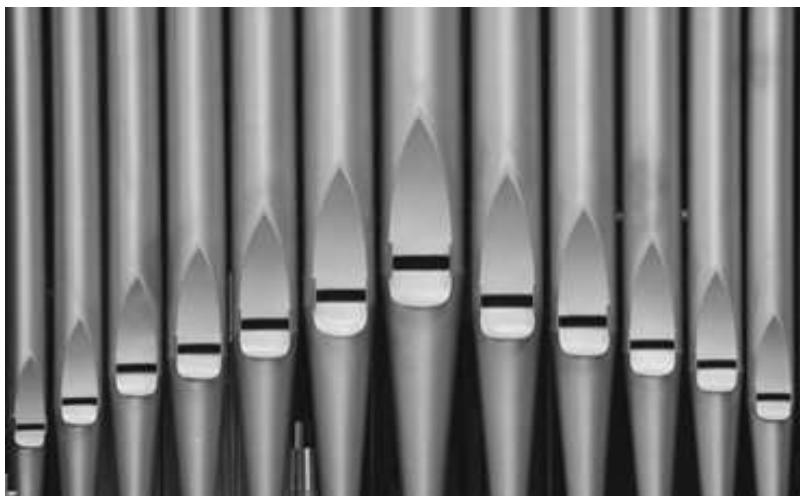
BAROQUE ROCK

**A CONCERT OF POPULAR
BAROQUE ORGAN MUSIC**

with

MIKE WEBB

JACOB OCAL and JOSHUA YATES



A programme showcasing the talent of top quality performers

7.30pm Saturday 18 April 2020

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

Read Any Good Books Lately?

"Sometimes you read a book and it fills you with this weird evangelical zeal, and you become convinced that the shattered world will never be put back together unless and until all living humans read the book." John Green, "The Fault in Our Stars."

"Big Little Lies," by Liane Moriarty

Set in Pirriwee, a coastal town in Australia, this book became a winner of three Golden Globe Awards and has since been a widespread bestseller. The plot is a most unusual one, dealing with the parents and children of a particular primary school in Pirriwee - their differences, friendships, dislikes and multiple interactions. In addition to what goes on in and out of school between pupils and parents we learn a lot about the state of the marriages of several of the parents. The central character is a young single mother called Jane, recently moved to Pirriwee with her five year old son, Ziggy. She has moved house every six months or so since Ziggy was born. She makes friends with two of the other mothers, Madeline and Celeste, but things that happen in school and in the playground cause rifts between them and some of the other mothers. There are also buried secrets among the adults; rumours and whispers abound until things come to a head at a Trivia Night organised at the school, when everything explodes!

The front cover of this hard-to-put-down novel justifiably says, "Brilliant, stand-out, superbly clever. Moriarty writes vividly, wittily and wickedly."

"The Burning Chambers," by Kate Mosse

As with all of Kate Mosse's books this is a historical novel. It is set in France, mainly in Carcassonne and Toulouse, in the 16th Century. This is a long book - approximately 570 pages divided into 3 parts and 74 chapters. It can take time for the reader to become familiar with the numerous characters and to understand just how violent were the feelings of the Huguenots and Catholics of that time, but the author's depth of historical knowledge and her superb writing talent make every page worth reading. This novel comprises family loyalty and love, an understanding of the clash of two very strong faiths within the Christian Church, and throughout it all there runs a gentle love story.

"The Unlikely Heroics of Sam Holloway," by Rhys Thomas

One of the reviewers of this book said that this is not an ordinary love story and Sam is definitely not a typical hero. If you read it, you will find that truer words have never been said! A tragedy which occurred for Sam when he was in his second year at university altered the course of his life forever. He drops out and returns to live in the family's home he's always known, and he begins turning his love of comics such as "Batman" etc. into action. Three nights a week he dresses up in Superhero clothing and goes out to do good, trying to help people and to deal with crime single-handed. For the other four days and nights he is himself - a 26 year old person who enjoys evenings having a drink with two friends, or off out to different places with them. That is, until one such evening he meets a girl called Sarah and his life changes in the most unexpected ways.

ADVERTS

Nature Notes

Here we are at the beginning of February and outside it is very spring like with a beautiful blue sky and virtually no wind. Looking through our kitchen window the only visible bird activity is two wood pigeons sitting in a Scots pine tree. My eye is suddenly transfixed by movement in an elder, two sparrow sized birds continually tale flicking. A pair of reed buntings followed by a goldfinch and blackbird flypast. We are still seeing a red kite fly past quite regularly and a few days ago a tree creeper put in a quick appearance on the branches of the sycamore tree.

Since the beginning of this month I have already heard both Skylark, Song Thrush and Chaffinch singing heralding in an early spring.

In last month's magazine, I mentioned that I keep a year list of birds seen. I usually get up to above 200 in a year, mostly within the boundaries of Norfolk and Suffolk. So far this year I have seen 137. This is nowhere near the "professionals" who will travel the whole length and breadth of the country chasing rarities.

On the last day of 2019 I was out walking our dogs along the Yare from Hardley Staithe, I had been watching a Marsh Harrier when in the distance I could see another bird of prey which initially I took to be a buzzard. I quickly realised my mistake once I had picked it up with my binoculars and could see it was a Short-Eared Owl, suddenly a second bird came into view. By the time I walked back to the Staithe both birds were quartering the fields. I heard that by late afternoon there were six of them. At least one of these beautiful birds was still around into early February.

At the beginning of this year a friend and I, having caught up with a Desert Wheatear at Eccles on Sea, drove back to Winterton and were amazed by with number of seals and pups on the beach stretching as far as the eye can see. We were told they were breeding all the way up the coast to Waxham. A month later, we were at Horsey Gap and were again treated to the same sight. As we walked along the beach we were serenaded by their eerie atmospheric calls. We had gone there to see a Raven and Hooded Crow which had been in the area for a few weeks. We settled in the dunes between Horsey and Winterton to eat our lunch and scanning the fields were able to locate them both. This was the first Raven I have seen in Norfolk, but they are expanding their range from mountains and moorlands in the west so should become more common.

The previous week saw us at Holkham again eating our lunch in the dunes, this time looking out to sea at a flock of some 2000 plus Common Scoter, scanning through them hoping to find other species, we did locate a few Long Tailed Ducks, Red Breasted Mergansers and a Great Crested Grebe. We were also entertained by a flock of snow buntings which landed just in front of us.

I have just looked up from the keyboard and in time to see long tailed tits fly past, I wonder what I have missed while typing this?



Richard and Rachel Hull chethnaturenotes@btinternet.com

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Gardening Notes

From the allotment..... I promised you potatoes this month. There is still time to plant, and homegrown new potatoes are delicious. Over recent years I have settled for Picasso for a main crop and Charlotte for second early. They seem to suit my sandy soil. I haven't found any first early that really stands out. Potatoes are heavy feeders and I usually manure in autumn or winter. I have tried different methods of planting. When I only had a small garden, I manured in winter, covered it with black plastic and cut holes to plant through in spring. I grew them about 10", and planted staggered rather than in rows. This worked well, but they did tend to get some damage to the skins.

I have also tried growing under straw and as an experiment planted half the crop under straw and half traditionally. This produced about a third less potatoes than those planted traditionally, (less for first and second, more for main crop), but they had beautiful clean skins and it was very easy. When I can't manage earthing up I'll go back to this!

If you want to try: manure in autumn/winter, clear the weeds in late Feb/early March and place the potatoes on the soil the recommended planting distance apart, mound over with straw and repeat as the leaves appear until ready to harvest.

I have also tried harvesting the main crop as required over winter, but suffered too much damage. Drying potatoes in the house can also lead to marital disharmony.

In the garden..... March is a good time to have a tidy up in the garden and decide on summer planting. Gladioli, Cannas, Agapanthus or maybe it will be Dahlias, the wide choice of colours and new varieties available makes choosing very difficult. A few years ago I grew dahlias from seed which was very successful producing a couple dozen plants in a wide range of colours from one packet. I started them on the kitchen windowsill and then potted them into individual pots before planting out in June when they were big enough to withstand the slugs. Traditionally you would dig up the tubers at the end of October and store them in the dry to be replanted next year, but I left a couple in the ground over winter and they flowered later last year.

Tomato seeds can be started this month - I shall be planting Marmade (a beefsteak variety), Roma (a plum tomato) and Gardeners' Delight, the popular cherry tomato, along with a sweet pepper California Wonder. The Tragopogon and lochroma seeds I ordered have arrived and I will sow these towards the end of the month.

This month most of the spring bulbs will be putting on a good display, but they will benefit from a general feed, do this as soon as the foliage appears and stop when the foliage starts to die down. I will be hoping that I still have daffodils and grape hyacinths in flower for our spring show in April!

Andrew and Shirley



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