LocalLife

Loddon

→ The parish council is asking for nominations for the Freedom of Loddon award, which is given annually to someone in the community who deserves recognition. If you would like to nominate someone, call 01508 520200 before the end of March, or email loddonpc@yahoo.co.uk

→ Loddon Players are planning a slate of some of the usual productions, plus one in the very near future. Venues will be confirmed and more shows in the pipeline. A theatre visit to a group production will be welcome to come along to a discussion to be held. Watch out for further details.

→ The Loddon & District British Legion Poppy Appeal raised £704.37 at their stall set up in Church Plain during the run up to Remembrance Sunday. The next branch meeting is on Tuesday, March 16 at 8pm in the Angel pub. New members are always welcome.

→ Pupils of Hobart High School are to stage a play by Ken Campbell, the Royal Symphony Cannot Undertake Any Responsibility, at the Hall of St Mary's Church, Loddon, on the evening of Friday March 19. The pupils will be painting the performance venue for the occasion.

→ Naomi Sadler, aged 16, a former pupil of Hobart High School and member of Loddon Players, has passed an audition in London to take part in Guys and Dolls and will appear at the Savoy Theatre in Manchester in August. Meanwhile, Naomi, who is currently studying law at college, will go to a middle-ward castle in Yorkshire in June to take part in rehearsals.

→ Monday Mentors will continue at 2 Hillside, Chedgrave, during March and move to the Chedgrave Church Centre in April. New people who enjoy a game will be welcome. There are a few places left for the Murder Mystery Dinner Party at Chedgrave Church Centre on Saturday. Tickets are £20 and this includes a three-course meal. Phone Judy Cook, Chairman, Tel 01508 528486.

→ Loddon Community Cinema is showing Avatar, the story of Avatar Kalkart, the legendary atlantis, on Thursday, March 18 at 7.30pm at Leisure Hall. Tickets at £4, are buy one, get one free, and this is being sponsored by Alastair McIntyre. Ring 01508 520020 for tickets.

→ Once again this year there will be an Easter Memorial Book in Holy Trinity Church. If you would like to donate money to place flowers in the church and book in memory of someone who is loved and now their family, please in the book, please their wishes and the money to be entered in a special envelope to the Benefice Office, St John's Church, George Lane. The Memorial Service will take place on April 11 at 6.30pm at Holy Trinity.

Children gobsmacked by giant in school grounds

Glass problem Investigations are underway into the curious case of a giant going on the rampage at Langley Preparatory School as part of World Book Day. Pictures: Antony Kelly

Children at a Norfolk school were "gobsmacked" to find that a giant had trampled through their grounds as part of World Book Day.

The giant was encountered at Langley Preparatory School in Thorpe St Andrew last week as part of the annual event to promote reading in schools/children.

English coordinators Louise Nicholls and Angie Pimlott arranged for the school to be decorated as Hoards's giant had come on the rampage, and planned an intricate back story to encourage students to get excited about creative writing.

Mrs Pimlott said, "When the children arrived at school this morning it was just great.

"We had a crashed car which looked like he'd stood on it. It just made it look like he'd caused an absolute mayhem at the school.

"The children were just gobsmacked."

The headteacher was taken aback during assembly that a giant had caused the damage, and that an investigation would be under way soon.

After playing an investigation game that then searched the school and accidentally left a magical book in the main hall, which when opened caused characters from popular books to become mixed up.

The school children then did a number of creative writing tasks, with some rewriting popular books with the main characters in unusual situations, and others setting up news reporters and investigators to find out what had happened.

"World Book Day shouldn't just be a case of going to a book shop, we wanted it to be something really inspiring," said Mrs Pimlott.

"We've always found that this sort of thing is fantastic for our pupils and the end product is so much better than if you just asked them to write a story."

"I think it really inspired them."

The stories and other work created on the day will be displayed in the main hall of the school during a parent's evening on Friday, March 12.

→ This year World Book Day took place on Thursday March 4, for more information on next year's event visit www.worldbookday.com.

→ Is your school putting on a special event? Call reporter Sam Emanuel on 01603 772438 or email sam.emanuel@archant.co.uk

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Poetic teenager proves he's got the write stuff

A teenager's poem has proved a prize-winner and been published in a national anthology.

Joe Cooper, a Year 11 pupil at Hethersett High School, got into the paper in local thousands of other young writers in a prize in the Waterstones World Book Day competition.

He was one of just three secondary school students published out of more than 5,000 entries from around the country.

The 16-year-old said his parents were very proud and pleased with his achievement, which is the first time he has had any work published.

Joe said, "I really didn't think I would win – it came as a complete shock. It was the first time I had entered a writing competition, but now I think I will enter more."

Joe used an opening line written for the competition by Roger McGough: "When I am old and looking back, who will the person be? What choices will they have done?"

He said: "I chose to finish the first line with the words 'Would they be you or me?' The poem is about how anyone can be a hero regardless of who they are."

Joe said he plans to continue writing and is even more competitive and hopes to complete an MA in creative writing when he is older.

His work will appear in the anthology The Stories of Roger Schmidt and Other Stories and Poems, which contains the best entries from secondary school pupils. The best primary school entries are compiled in a second book, Tales of the Roger Dogsbrain and Other Stories and Poems.

Both books are on sale around the country for £3.99, and all profits will be donated to World Book Day.

Prize winner Joe Cooper's poem has just been published, their next author very

Spixworth

→ Pinky Pups art and craft club, for pre-school children from 18 months old and their carers, hold term time classes at Crostwick on Wednesday mornings and at Spixworth on Friday mornings. Saturday morning sessions at Spixworth Community High School are for children up to 13 years old. This week's theme is Spring. To enjoy an hour of painting, colouring, gluing and designing, where someone else cleans up, please contact Claire on 01603 710064 or email claire@pinky-pups.com for more information and to book your place.

→ Pinky Pups Baby and Toddler Groups meet every Thursday 1.30pm - 2.45pm in the church hall, play and craft activities, music and fun. They have a soft play area, a range of toys and equipment, plus a baby corner, nappy changing facilities, and lots of fun, social mornings for children and adults. For more information visit www.pinkypups.co.uk or 01603 710064 or find them on Facebook. All welcome free.

→ Every Thursday evening bingo is held at Spixworth Village Hall, Crostwick Lane. The doors open from 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

→ On Saturday, St Peter's Church are holding their annual bumper bulb sale at Spixworth Village Hall starting at 10am. They are looking for donations of jumble, tombola, toys, books, cakes, plants, so please if you can please bring one to the village hall, Crostwick Lane, on the morning of the sale or call 01603 810358 to arrange collection.

→ Later on Saturday, Spixworth Social Club is hosting a charity night in aid of Help for Heroes. It will be held in Spixworth Village Hall from 8pm to midnight with Red Leaf Rock Band. Tickets are £5 for members and £8 non-members. Tickets are on sale at the Social Club.

→ Spixworth Parish Church is open every day for quiet prayer and space to reflect. The Sunday Services are held every week at 9.15am. Everybody of all ages welcome. On Sunday, Mothering Sunday is celebrated in a special family service of thanksgiving.

→ If you shop online check out www.buyatspixworth a space where major retailers help local groups and you can discover major bargains!

Mulbarton

→ Mulbarton Parish Church's event for Mothering Sunday – on 21 March, a special Mothering Sunday service for all ages in Mulbarton Infant School at 10am. All most welcome. It is the custom for all to bring cakes for all to enjoy! At 2.30pm there is a local walk from Mulbarton Church. All welcome, bring a friend. At 7pm there is a Healing and Wholeness Service in Mulbarton Church with Meg Porter as speaker. Again, all welcome.

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