

# Little Hadham PARISH NEWS April 2008



## ***Parish Councillor? It could be you!***

*A vacancy has arisen on Little Hadham Parish Council. The Council is seeking applications from residents within the parish who believe they could contribute to the principal aim of making our village a better place in which to live. This is a job with considerable rewards – satisfaction rather than remuneration – for someone who wants to get more involved with the community. There are no formal qualifications but it would be helpful to be a confident self-starter, with experience or a personal interest that could benefit the work of the Council. People skills are important and access to e-mail a distinct advantage.*

*The successful applicant would be co-opted after selection by existing councillors. If you think this might be you, please send a brief career summary and a note of any special interests to: Parish Clerk, Pryersfield, New Road, Little Hadham, SG11 2AW or: [clerklittlehadham@homecall.co.uk](mailto:clerklittlehadham@homecall.co.uk)*

**Rector of Parish: Revd. Chris Boulton 01279 842609**  
e-mail: [rectory@muchhadham.com](mailto:rectory@muchhadham.com)

**Team Vicar: Revd. Jeanette Gosney**  
01920 822619  
e-mail: [vicar@braughing.org.uk](mailto:vicar@braughing.org.uk)

**Ast. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter**  
01279 844955  
e-mail: [cp.slaughter@virgin.net](mailto:cp.slaughter@virgin.net)

**Churchwardens: Don Gibson 01279 771325, Mick Crace 01920 821963**

Log on to [www.thehadhams.com](http://www.thehadhams.com) for issues dating back to May 2006

# Letter from Chris Boulton

*It is an open secret in the villages that I am taking a Sabbatical: three months' break from the parish ministry after thirty years of employment is not something I sought, but was thrust upon me by a kind Bishop.*

*In the book of Genesis God rested on the Sabbath from his creative labours; and He so ordained a day of rest each week for his creatures. It is good advice that we largely ignore in a society obsessed by activity.*

*Here is what Wikipedia says about sabbaticals: "A sabbatical year is a prolonged hiatus, typically one year, in the career of an individual taken in order to fulfill some goal, e.g., writing a book or travelling extensively for research. Some universities and other institutional employers of scientists, physicians, and/or academics offer a paid sabbatical as an employee benefit, called sabbatical leave."*

*So apparently I am going to have a prolonged hiatus; which sounds really painful.*

*In fact I shall be travelling to southern Africa to imbibe the culture and life of that fascinating continent; and on my return I hope to reflect on what I have experienced and take time to read, pray and think; three things I do too little in my working life. I hope to learn something new and see life from a different perspective.*

*A Sabbatical is not simply a gap or hiatus; nor is it a holiday. When God took a day off from work I am sure that the author of Genesis intended us to understand that it was not just divine tiredness or laziness! I think it was that He, God, would thereby take time to reflect on what he had done, to appreciate from a fresh perspective, and perhaps enjoy. That is what I intend to do. I will reflect theologically on my own ministry. But I hope also to widen my horizons and look outwards as well as within.*

*I am very fortunate to have this opportunity, and am confident that I leave the parishes in good hands, with Jeanette and Michael, and Clive thankfully recovering his health, and with a host of dedicated and keen lay people across the Team, all able and willing to continue the work of our Christian Gospel in this place.*

Chris Boulton

*Gill Booty is pleased to say that £50 is to be donated to Motor Neuron Disease. Many thanks to everyone who came to the Lent Lunch held at her house and supported the cause.*

## Contents

Letter from the Rectory	2	Dr Peter Elder	11	LH Panto Group	16
Parish Council News	3	Ancient Tree Forum	12	Cricket Club news	17
Nature Notes: February	4	School News	13	Fly Tipping	17
Dozy-Doe your Pardners!	7	Su doku	13	House-cat	18
Independence	8	Extras wanted	14	Phone numbers	19
What's on in April?	10	SSE events	14	Regular activities	19
Coming soon	11	The Young Ones	15	Letters and thanks	19

# Parish Council News

## **Precept**

The Parish Council precept, the money it receives from East Herts Council to cover the cost of its local activities, has increased by 10 per cent for the year 2008/09. The increase was needed to ensure the Parish Council balanced its budget year on year.

The Parish Council has incurred increased costs such as additional insurance cover for new playground equipment and a more efficient grass cutting and hedge trimming service. It also faces the prospect of higher costs in the year ahead. This year the Parish Council precept will rise £1,080 to a total of £11,885, an increase of 10 per cent. This means that the council will still have to make economies in other cost areas. Because of changes in the tax base, the annual rise, averaged over the last two years, is just over three per cent for households in Little Hadham. For a house in council tax Band D, the parish precept goes up from £21.50 in 2007/08 to £22.68 a year in 2008/09.

## **May Cottage, Cradle End**

Despite pressure from the Parish Council, the dilapidated state of cottages next to May Cottage, Cradle End, continues. It was reported that legal action is being taken against the original developers for breach of enforcement orders. It is understood that new builders are now involved in salvaging the remains of this listed building.

## **Brown bins for green waste**

Brown wheelie bins for disposal of garden waste have arrived. Eventually they will also be used for food waste and cardboard but until a disposal plant for these additional materials is up and running, they should only be used for organic garden waste. Initially, brown bins will be emptied fortnightly, with black bins continuing to be emptied weekly.

When residents are informed that food waste can go in brown wheelie bins, brown and black bins will be emptied on alternate weeks.

## **Join the battle against 2nd runway**

The Parish Council is urging Little Hadham residents to come out fighting against BAA's plans to build a second runway at Stansted Airport. The long-awaited proposals show only token reductions in impact in response to the wave of opposition when first outlined. A second runway would make our 'local' airport bigger than Heathrow today.

"Quite apart from a three-fold increase in the number of flights – something like 1,500 flights a day – continuous noise and a big increase in pollution, the infrastructure that would grow up around the airport would change this area for ever. For Bishop's Stortford, think Hounslow," says Mike Fairchild, council chairman.

BAA's plans fly in the face of the Government's pledge to cut carbon emissions. "And the so-called economic benefits are ridiculous," says Cllr Fairchild. "In an area of almost nil-unemployment, 13,000 new jobs can only mean a massive migration of workers – and where would they live? Moreover, every budget flight worsens the UK's tourism balance of payments deficit, currently £19 billion."

The parish council is urging residents to respond to the consultation on the second runway and to support the council in its opposition to airport expansion. "Whatever the outcome of the public inquiry into expansion of the existing runway, a second runway would be devastating for this community," he said.

**Stop Stansted Expansion** will explain more about the threat of a second runway at a public meeting and rally at the Rhodes Centre, Bishop's Stortford, on Wednesday April 2 at 8pm. (Website, [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com)). New proposed **flight paths** could create

*Continued on page 5*

## Nature Notes: February

by Jonathan Forgham

On the whole, a month of contrasts weather wise, either extremely mild for February or sharp early morning frosts. The warmer days gave many birds an early opportunity to declare allegiance to territories and attract a mate.

The Chapel Lane jackdaws remained amorous throughout the month, sorting out their nesting sites, with the chimneys around the chapel being prime real estate. It seems two couples have taken over the southern chimney at the bottom of the garden, guarding their tenancy vivaciously.

Of particular note on the birding front were New Year records of 8 species, all good birds to record locally. The first was a fortuitous spot of two Canada geese heading south at dusk over the garden on the 9<sup>th</sup>. More excitingly, 11 golden plovers were recorded on the plough south east of the village on the ridge walk to Bush Wood and Winding Hill (14<sup>th</sup>) I heard the birds calling in flight before they briefly settled in the field. After a few minutes they arose, giving good flight displays in their customary manner, flying in circles before heading off south west. These plovers were probably on migration, although they could be part of the large flock that roosts at the aerodrome near Allen's Green. This is a favoured wintering spot for golden plovers, with up to 250 being recorded on some December days. Also on this walk a grey heron alighted in a field adjacent to the River Ash near Much Hadham. The following day (15<sup>th</sup>) 3 additions were made, all expected. Two treecreepers were recorded in the hedgerow along Chapel Lane and a

*Continued on page 6*

ADVERTS REMOVED

more aircraft noise over Little Hadham. New technology means that planes will fly closer to the centre line of the flight path that passes over the village, creating the risk of a greater concentration of noise. We could also be worse off by changes affecting Luton and London City airports with more planes on those routes passing closer to Little Hadham. Because of Luton traffic, Stansted planes would continue to be forced to fly lower. New holding areas or 'stacks' are also proposed for Stansted. Residents can respond to a National Air Traffic Services consultation via the Parish Council (the council's response will be discussed at the April meeting) or individually. Full details of the changes, including a post-code search, can be found at: [www.nats.co.uk/TCNconsultation](http://www.nats.co.uk/TCNconsultation) or on the SSE website. The NATS explanatory leaflet will be available at the Parish Assembly on April 17 (see below for Assembly details).

### **What do YOU think about a Gypsy site?**

This year's **Little Hadham Parish Assembly** will be the first opportunity for the whole community to come together to hear about the possibility of a gypsy and traveller site in the village and for you to say what you think about the idea.

**The Parish Assembly is on Thursday April 17 in the Village Hall. It starts at 7pm with**

**complimentary wine and snacks (and maybe some surprise entertainment), and the meeting formally gets under way at 7.30 pm.**

Representatives of the newly formed Little Hadham Conservation Society will outline how Little Hadham could be affected by plans for 15 additional pitches for gypsies and travellers in East Herts, including two possible locations identified just off the A120 near Millfield Lane. How big is the threat, how could it affect local services, the school and house prices? These are some of the questions to be discussed as well as how the community should respond to the consultation and what can individual households do? Don't leave it to others to speak for you!

Rural policing will be another topic. The Parish Council will also report on highlights of the last year and look ahead to some of the challenges facing the community including changes to the planning law, airport expansion and safety on our roads.

In a change from previous years, 'Question Time' will be an opportunity for you to hear from – and question – a panel comprising our school and church leaders, the Parish Plan team and our district and county councillors.

Your personal invitation to the Parish Assembly is inside this edition of the Parish News. **This one is too important to miss!**

ADVERTS REMOVED

## Nature Notes: *continued from page 4*

nuthatch was heard calling on the footpath that runs alongside the golf course. A fly-over stock dove was also observed near Queer Wood. An evening of listening from the garden produced a calling little owl on the 19<sup>th</sup> whilst the highlight for the month was registered on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A walk across Ash Valley golf course gave up a female stonechat that showed well before heading off into the undergrowth of the ditch that runs along 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> holes. A good bird to see that took the village 2008 total to a respectable 55.

Also worthy of mention in dispatches was a calling common buzzard over Hoecroft Lane (3<sup>rd</sup>) and 4 tawny owls, registered on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Three days of the month, during the half term break were spent in Poznan, Poland. After giving an evening lecture at the Physics faculty I was taken out for a day's birding. Of particular note were three species not often recorded in the UK, black woodpecker (size of a carrion crow!), middle spotted woodpecker and short toed treecreeper. The latter being identified, not by a foot inspection, but by its call, much different to the European treecreeper we have around the Hadhams.

The great spotted woodpecker continued to drum from the woods opposite the Nag's Head, whilst the green woodies were a regular sight and sound on all walks. The winter thrushes appeared to begin building up their numbers ready for a northerly migration, with several hundred fieldfares frequently seen in fields south of Bridgefoot Farm. A walk up Chapel Lane on the 2<sup>nd</sup> also produced a feeding flock of 26 pied wagtails north of Lodge Farm. Several gull species were also recorded (3<sup>rd</sup>) whilst on a wander to Millennium Grove Wood. This looks a

*Continued on page 12*

ADVERTS REMOVED

# Dozy-Doe your Partners!

Yi-Hah!

The Country & Western music is tunin' up, the beer is coolin', the hot dawgs are ready for the griddle.

So, dust off those stetsons, spangled jeans

and red chequered 'kerchiefs. Yes, the biggest Barn Dance this little old town has seen in years is comin' to Little Hadham Village Hall on Saturday 31 May at 8pm.

Book the date now! Absolutely NO experience necessary. This will be a fantastic evening for the whole family with Country and Western music and square dancing, led by Peter Skiffins, one of the best callers on the barn dance circuit. There'll be delicious food and great drinks in an evening that will out-Fun our very own Fun Day, the best-attended event in years.

Organised by our Parish Plan committee, tickets are £10 for adults, which includes a complimentary glass of wine, and £3 for cowboys and cowgirls under 16. All profits to community funds. There'll be competitions and prizes, and just about the best evening since the Sheriff left town!

There'll be a big demand for tickets, so order yours now by calling: Kirsty (771002), Ross (771694) or Carmela (466331). See y'all there!



ADVERTS REMOVED

## Demand grows for Independence

*Dissatisfaction over the state of our roads; risk of flooding; aircraft noise and a 'lack of things to do' in the village has led to a call to 'take matters into our own hands' and declare independence for Little Hadham.*

*Seen as a 'step too far' at one stage, the idea has gained support as the benefits have emerged. A little-known feudal law\* would give Little Hadham independence within the UK, not unlike the Channel Island of Sark, funded by diverting council tax into a central exchequer. Law and order would be the responsibility of Neighbourhood Watch. Education is already catered for by the village school. A road toll and customs post on the A120 would cut traffic, reduce speed and raise revenue.*

*A 'Commoners Chamber', overseen by the Parish Council acting as an Upper House, would 'rule' the community. Supporters of independence believe there are sufficient former service personnel to form an adequate Defence Force. Until the Ash floods continually due to global warming, a Navy would not be required, but residents with a pilot's licence are in discussions with Stansted Airport about setting up a small airbase. Employment would be catered for by 'a job-swap co-operative'. Diplomatic relations would be maintained with the UK Government but decisions have yet to be taken about EU or UN membership.*

*Because of the scale of the idea, a **public meeting** is being held in the Village Hall on **Tuesday April 1**, following the Parish Council meeting. Decisions to be taken include independence celebrations and the name of our new currency (favourite is the 'dupe'). Have your say about an independent Little Hadham.*

*\* Dating back to 1563, the **Everbin Hadimus** has never been rescinded.*

ADVERTS REMOVED

ADVERTS REMOVED

# What's on in April?

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

**1 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm**

**2 Wed, Stop Stansted Expansion 8pm** at the Rhodes Centre, Bishop's Stortford. SSE will explain more about the threat of a second runway at a public meeting and rally.

**3 & 17 Thur, Mobile Library.** See below.

**8 Tue, LH&A Social Club, 8pm.** Our speaker for March talked about the plight of the third world and the fight for justice in Fair Trading. She also brought Traid Craft items for sale. Ten of us had a lovely day on 18th March, when we were taken on a guided tour of the City of London. First of all, though a mite chilly, the weather was kind, with no rain. Martin Copping started the tour on meeting him outside Farringdon Tube Station and continued to inform us of so much of the City throughout the day. Our capital City has much to offer, though, sadly, there is so much rebuilding. Perhaps the decision makers should also walk their City before they make many more decisions! The speaker for April is Richard Thomas, who will take us on a trip along the River Stort. We look forward to seeing old and new friends. Info: 771580 or 658585

**12 Sat, Jumble Sale, Thundridge 2.30pm to 4.30pm** 01920 462992.

**12 Sat, Murder Mystery Evening, 7pm 'til late,** Much Hadham Village Hall. For more details see advert on page 16. Tickets are limited so please hurry and contact Chloe at St Elizabeth's Centre on 01279 844227.

**13 Sun, FLORA London Marathon.** If you would like to run this fantastic event in aid of Isabel Hospice, we would very much like to hear from you. Help us beat the £40,000 we raised in 2007. Our limited number of Golden Bond places are now filled, so you will need to have applied for a place in your own right. We would love to hear from you if you

do have a place. If you feel you can't raise sponsor money from your run, a donation to Isabel Hospice would be more than welcomed. We offer Golden Bond places each year so if you haven't got a place for the Marathon in your own right for 2008 and would like to be considered for a Golden Bond place for 2009, please contact us. For all enquiries please call Pam Shepherd, Fundraising Co-ordinator on 01707 376782.

**17 Thur, "Way Inn" coffee morning, 10-12 noon.** Come along and meet friends and neighbours over a cuppa. Details page 14.

**17 Thur, Parish Assembly, 7 for 7.30** Wine & snacks provided. Discuss the gypsy sites and much more. Have your say!

**22 Tue, LH&A Garden Club, 7.45pm.** Speaker will be Joan Frances who will be talking about the "Chateaux of the Loire".

**26 Sat, Farmers' Market, 9-12 noon.** Sample local produce with a freshly-cooked English breakfast.

**29 Tue, Sight and/or Hearing Problem?**

For you, a relative, friend, or someone you care for? Can we help? Come and meet us at Northfields Sheltered Housing Scheme, off South Road, Puckeridge between 10.30am and 2.30pm. Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service, Hertfordshire Society for the Blind, Sensory Services, Herts County Council

## 3rd & 17th April Mobile Library

Nag's Head from 13.45 - 14.05

The Smithy from 14.10 - 14.30

Bury Green from 14.45 - 15.05

This is a fortnightly service.

## ... and coming soon

3rd & 4th May – **Abseil for Isabel Hospice**  
Nearly 2,000 people have descended from the Three Valleys water tower in Church Langley, raising £390,000 for more than 200 charities. Contact <http://www.harlowtye.freeuk.com>

6th May **Glorious Gardens in Furneux Pelham**  
10.30–5.00. For full details of the day and for a ticket application contact: Barbara Doherty 842140 or: [barbara.doherty@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barbara.doherty@tiscali.co.uk)

### Teas in Gardens

4th May Pelham House  
11th May Jenningsbury, Hertford Heath.  
18th May Cockhamstead, Braughing  
25th May White House, Dane End  
26th May Fanhams Hall, Ware

22 June “**The Marriage of Figaro**” by the Diva Opera Company, hosted by the Hertfordshire Red Cross in a marquee to be held at the Lordship, Much Hadham, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs C Radley. Tickets are £75, available from Joyce Morris, 01279 842530

**Muscular  
Dystrophy  
Campaign**



## CHARITY GOLF DAY at BARKWAY PARK GOLF CLUB FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2008

supporting  
**THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CAMPAIGN**

Main sponsor



18-hole Stapleford in teams of four  
Cost £128 per team to include  
Coffee or Tea before play and Buffet  
after the Golf.

Team Prizes + Individual Winner's Trophy  
Nearest the Pin + Longer Drive Prizes  
Putting Competition

**CHARITY AUCTION**

**>>> SPONSORS REQUIRED <<<**

Entry forms available from  
**ALAN, 01279 505147**

### Dr Peter Elder

Donations are being collected in memory of the late Dr Peter Elder, a doctor in Little Hadham for many years. His wish was that any donations be made to the “Kilninian Kilmore Church”. Please send your donations to the Treasurer: John Morrison at Creagas, Main Street, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA75 6QJ.

### Little Hadham and Albury Social Club

The Table Top Sale, held in aid of Little Hadham Village Hall Funds, raised £235.00. Binnie would like to thank everyone who helped on the day and to those who hired a stall. **Let us know if you think it could be an annual event for Village Hall Funds.**

Our tour of Highgate Cemetery has been organised for **Tuesday 3 June**. The cost will be approximately £20, depending on filling the coach. We will leave Little Hadham at 8.30am and return about 4pm. Everyone is welcome, so please let us know if you would like to attend. 771580 or 658585

Did you know that Isabel Hospice is now registered to receive donations from eBay sales? If you sell on eBay and want to donate to us, you can choose anything from 1-100% of your final sale price to donate. Log on to [www.missionfish.org.uk](http://www.missionfish.org.uk) to sign up.

## Nature Notes: *continued from page 6*

most promising habitat for summer insects, particularly dragonflies and butterflies. I noted that almost all the nest boxes have been drilled out by the larger woodpecker species, rendering them useless for the intended inhabitants of tits etc. If anyone knows of a management committee for this wood I would be pleased to receive their names or email as it would be good to replace the boxes with new ones. These replacements would benefit from the addition of metal gauze around the hole to put a halt to further woodpecker vandalism.

The regular mammals were observed, with 2 hares being the best near Bush Wood (14<sup>th</sup>). Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) was seen carpeting ground in both Caley Wood and Bush Wood. This poisonous plant produces small green flowers in early spring. Blackthorn (*prunus spinosa*) also began to colourfully blossom towards the end of the month.

Of particular note is the fact that I have not witnessed any toad or frog migration to favoured breeding ponds. They appear to be late this year, perhaps hinting at a late cold snap that would kill any spawn. Has anyone observed frogs in garden ponds yet?

March promises to be an exciting birding month, with the first summer migrants returning. Early morning sessions on Brick Kiln Hill and the golf course should produce good sightings of visible migration, where literally any bird may be seen or heard flying high overhead. Also, the increase in dawn chorus singing leads to several species giving up their presence.

I intend to organise an early morning dawn chorus walk towards the second half of April. If anyone would care to join me then please email me at [jforgham@hotmail](mailto:jforgham@hotmail.com) or check my blog at [littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com](http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com).

Jonathan Forgham

Following on from the 'Nature Notes' I thought you might be interested to know that the Woodland Trust is currently running an 'Ancient Tree Hunt'. They are asking the public to find and map "all the fat, old trees across the U.K." so that they can create a comprehensive living database. I'm sure that all you walkers out there could contribute to their records - just visit the website: [www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum) *Gail Ellis*

ADVERTS REMOVED

# Little Hadham School

*Believing and Achieving*

Our Spring Term just flew by, especially as we were so very busy!

Our 'Make your pound grow' enterprise initiative 'grew' beyond all expectation, raising a fantastic £1,400 in total! There was an amazing range of 'businesses', ranging from daily shoe shining to profitable recycling to even selling the pound on eBay! All the children are to be commended for their efforts and now they have to decide how they are going to spend it on improving their playground!

It was certainly a trip down Memory Lane for me recently when we welcomed Douglas Coombes (of 'Singing Together' fame) to lead us in a Musical Workshop. The children really enjoyed the session and joined in enthusiastically. We also recently enjoyed Albury School's company in watching the 'Selfish Giant' puppet show by the Norwich Puppet Theatre. Our end of term 'Music Mayhem' went with a 'swing' and the children demonstrated a huge range of talent, singing and playing a myriad of instruments. Even the Staff surprised everyone with their rendition of Abba's 'Thank You for the Music'. Such a host of stars!

Liz Stockley, Head

## SU DOKU no.19

Complete this grid so that each row, column and block of 9 squares contains the letters of the word

### RAINCLOUD

Only one solution, no need to guess

O	L							N	
N				I			C	O	
		C		O	A	U			
	I			C			N	U	R
R				L					O
U	O	N		A				D	
		U	L	R		D			
	N	O		U					L
	D							C	U

ADVERTS REMOVED

## EXTRAS WANTED FOR 'DR WHO'

A low-budget version of the famous BBC TV series 'Dr Who' is being filmed in Little Hadham. The famous Tardis was photographed in a garden not far from the Nag's Head. The BBC is recruiting local people as under-studies for the Daleks, but applications

have to be with them by next Tuesday, April 1st. The first episode is entitled 'Who Dunnit?'



## The 'Way Inn'

**Come and meet friends and neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee. Rear of village hall, third thursday of the month, 10 - 12noon**

## SSE Events in April

**Wednesday 2 April, 8pm** SSE Public Meeting and Rally, Rhodes Centre, Bishop's Stortford. An opportunity to hear from SSE, Parliamentarians, councillors and special interest groups on the united opposition to BAA's second runway application, chaired by Hertford & Stortford MP Mark Prisk. Free admission. Seats can be reserved in advance by contacting SSE.

**Saturday 19 April, 8pm** Showtime at the Barn, Barn Theatre, Little Easton. A fun-packed variety show of music, magic and comedy presented in aid of SSE. All £15 seats have now been sold but tickets are still available at £12.50 and £10 (restricted view). Advance booking strongly recommended – contact SSE.

**Friday 25 April, 7pm for 7.30pm**

Duton Hill Quiz, Three Horseshoes, Duton Hill  
Tickets £7 per head, bring your own food. Bookings are being taken for teams of up to six and for individuals for a 'misfits' team! Advance booking required – contact Derek Connell on 01371 870681.

[stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://stopstanstedexpansion.com) 01279 870558.

**"Our Community – Our Responsibility"**

*Advertise in the Parish News and reach nearly 500 homes with your product or service.*

ADVERTS REMOVED

## **'The show must go on' – and what a Show!**

*"Oh, wouldn't it be luvverly!" And so it was. The latest production of The Young Ones was a triumph of youthful exuberance over adversity. Adversity, because there was a chance that this very talented young drama group might fold for lack of volunteers to lead it. But the show must go on! And so it did with laughter, stunning costumes, nifty footwork, a trumpet voluntary and other instrumental solos, great singing – and a chance for the audience to join in traditional numbers in the style of an 'Old Time Variety Music Hall', the whole production conducted masterfully by a (literally) sparkling master of ceremonies.*

*If Andrew Lloyd Webber had been in the audience, he would not have been disappointed, especially with some of the solo vocals from shows such as 'My Fair Lady' (stunning 'Ascot Gavotte' costumes) and 'Oliver', for which, by a coincidence, Lord Webber is currently seeking new West End stars. Difficult to believe that a cast of just 13 could put on such a dazzling performance with songs from 'Mary Poppins', 'Nannies', 'Blackbird', 'Matilda' and that tragi-comedy, 'Lion and Albert'.*

*A few understandable first-night nerves were swept aside as the cast plunged into scenes at Covent Garden, Kensington Palace, and on the rooftops of London, finishing in a tavern with a good old-fashioned 'Oom Pah Pah' that had the whole house singing. If you were unlucky enough not to get tickets, you missed an absolute triumph. Look out for the next show – and let's hope there is one. Our very own young drama group deserves to go on from strength to strength.*

*"I'm determined that there will be lots more shows," says Ross Baron, chairman and driving force behind The Young Ones, who is looking for someone with the right experience to take over her reins. "We've been incredibly lucky to find the multi-talented Jenny King and her team of professional helpers to direct the show," said Ross.*

*"I've rarely come across such an enthusiastic and hard working cast who put on a very professional show in just 10 weeks," commented Jenny. So, congratulations to the back-stage and front-of-house teams, pianist, technicians, voice coach and artistic director and, of course, the star-studded cast.*

## LITTLE HADHAM PANTOMIME GROUP

All the members would like to thank everyone who supported us again this year and made "Aladdin" a great success. Without the wonderful audiences we would be playing to an empty space! (not much fun).

Through the generosity of our patrons we raised £676 from the raffle and we have sent £338 to the Herts Air Ambulance and £338 to the Autism Unit, Pinewood School, Ware, both very worthy causes.

We are grateful to everyone who helped, we hope you had as much fun as the cast did. Yes, it is great fun and anyone who wants to join us will be made very welcome (no custard pies next year!).

## **St. Elizabeth's Centre** **Murder Mystery Evening** **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2008** **7pm till late** **Much Hadham Village Hall**

Join us for a night of murder, mystery and excitement! A local amateur dramatics group is providing a night of crime where YOU play detective!

Doors open at 7pm with the act beginning at 8pm. Bar opens at 7pm - Dinner served at approx 9pm.

Ticket includes Jacket Potato dinner (choice of fillings) and a glass of wine.

Evening will also include a grand draw raffle!

Tickets costs £10.00 per person.

Discounts are available for large groups.

Tickets are limited so please hurry and contact Chloe on 01279 844227!

ADVERTS REMOVED

## Cricket Club News

As we enter April the Cricket Club is busy preparing for the forthcoming season, which begins on the 12th April this year.

From May onwards the club will be playing in Division 5 of the Herts and Essex Cricket league on Saturdays with friendly matches on Sundays. In addition the club will play a number of evening 20/20 cup matches and friendly games throughout the season.

As always the club is looking to attract new members and whether you have played before or would just like to give cricket a try then you will be made very welcome.

Further details are available from either Andy Yarwood on 01799 540041 or Martin Hallmark on 01279 771033 (mobile 07917 425076).

### APRIL FIXTURES

12 Sat	Buntingford	Home	1.30	Friendly
13 Sun	County Hall	Away	1.30	Friendly
19 Sat	Cokenach	Away	1.30	Friendly
20 Sun	Craven	Home	1.30	Friendly
26 Sat	Thundridge	Away	1.30	Friendly
27 Sun	Chrishall	Home	1.30	Friendly

**FLY TIPPING:** Residents have been advised by the parish council to be alert to fly tipping. In one recent example, drums of old oil and bicycle parts had to be removed from a verge at Bury Green by the district council at a cost of £500. The Police advise anyone witnessing fly tipping to note registration number and any sign-writing on the vehicle and phone the non-emergency number (0845 3300222); or if chemicals or dangerous substances are involved, 999.

ADVERTS REMOVED

## House-cat

*Thirteen pairs of hostile green eyes first met me when I arrived at the farm nine years ago. The eyes belonged to a bunch of semi-feral cats; 13 females and not one prepared to give me a friendly greeting.*

*The following years were spent finding, rescuing and finally befriending litter after litter of kittens. We would see the occasional tomcat stalking the barns and I would know that, weeks later, there would be yet another clutch of blind creatures tucked away in some inhospitable corner of the farm. Their wild-eyed mother would do her darnedest to stop us from finding the litter, carrying the babies here and there, trying to hide them in some deep crevice among the bales. But find them we did and, at around seven weeks, we would bring the kittens into the farmhouse to "humanise" them. A week later, following an advert at the main gate, a troop of new "parents" would arrive to claim their offspring. Half of Little Hadham seemed to have nurtured our kittens. Others travelled far and wide, including one who lives the nautical life – on a narrowboat! And, over the years we heard they all made wonderful, loving pets.*

*But the 13 mums never tamed. In desperation we managed to catch all but two and had them spayed. The roundup inflicted terrible injuries on their captors ... we ran out of TCP and plasters!*

*Now we have just three left. Two are totally wild and won't come out at all by day; the third, called House-cat, occasionally graces us with her presence. She will eat only the best, most expensive cat food. She catches only voles and allows a resident magpie to swagger past her unchecked! When she does come in, she joins Daisy, the Labrador, on the dog bed where they collapse together in blissful sleep.*

Cherry Mardell

ADVERTS REMOVED

## Useful phone numbers:

**Citizens' Advice Bureau, East Herts District**  
08744 848 9700

**Editor, Parish News:** Jan Finn, 771113

**Environment Agency Incident Line:**  
0800 807060

**Mobile Library info:** 01438 737333

**Police non-emergency phone number** (local rate): 0845 3300222

**Power cut helpline 24hrs:** 0800 7 838 838

**Road or Pavement problems, call Highways on**  
01438 737320

**Stansted Airport Noise Complaints:**  
0800 243788

**Traveline:** 0871 200 22 33

**Village Hall bookings:** Mrs Fardell, 771697

**Water/Sewage problems, call Thames Water**  
on 0800 376 5325

from Joan Ward:

Following visits to the optician, doctor and Rivers hospital I ended up with panic stations and two cataract operations. Why the panic? I don't know – the care and kindness of the surgeon Mr Fawcett and his staff at Rivers I am unable to describe. Regular drops the only treatment needed now for three weeks. No more specs – lovely! Must get packing on dust not seen before!

Joan Ward

## Regular activities

*in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated*

**Badminton:** 8.00pm Mondays

**Brownies:** 4.30 - 6pm Tuesdays, term-time.  
Judi Wheeler 654624

**Carpet Bowls Club: Social and League,**  
8-10pm Fridays, Eileen Booth 771426

**Farmers' Market:** 9.00-12 noon, last  
Saturday of month. Brenda Kain 771028

**Karate:** 5-6pm Wednesdays,  
Catherine Petch, 771636

**Mobile Police Station:** 9 - 11am first and  
third Tuesday, in the car park.

**Music Makers:** For under-fives. 1.15 - 1.50  
& 2.10 - 2.45 on Thursdays in the Nursery  
at LH School. Fern Oliver 506369

**Parent & Toddler group,**  
9.30 - 11.30am, Wednesdays, term-time.

**Playgroup:** 1.00pm - 3.30pm Mondays,  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays in the Nursery at  
LH School. Lisa Hale 505194

**LH Post Office:** 9.00 - 11am Tuesdays and  
Thursdays, rear of the Village Hall in the  
Doctor's Reception Room.

**The "Way Inn":** third Thursday of month

**Whist Drive:** Last Thursday of month.  
Ross Barron, 771694

**Get Well Soon, Brown Owl**  
**The Parish News would**  
**like to wish you a speedy**  
**recovery**

Thank you to all the children and carers who have supported and joined us at the Little Hadham Parent & Toddlers group, we have had some great turn outs. The children have enjoyed biscuit decorating, Easter hunt, card making and messy play along with making new friends and having a sing song. Even the parents, grandparents and carers are having fun. If you have not managed to come along, then come soon - you will be most welcome. Wednesday (term times) 9.30 until 11.30am at Little Hadham Village Hall.

Thank you. Gail Ellis

# April diary for Little Hadham and Albury

(part of the Ash and Quin Valleys' team incorporating Much Hadham, Braughing, Furneux and Stocking Pelham.)

**6 Sunday**

**3rd of Easter**

9.30am

Matins. Officiant and Preacher, Jeanette Gosney, Team Vicar

**13 Sunday**

**4th of Easter**

9.30am

Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham, Celebrant and Preacher Canon Michael McAdam

5.00pm

Taizé Service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

**20 Sunday**

**5th of Easter**

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Family Service in Little Hadham Village Hall

6.00pm

Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

**26 Saturday**

2.00pm

Wedding of Stephen Fryer and Julia Snyder

**27 Sunday**

**Rogation Sunday**

11.15am

Shared Communion at St Mary's, Albury, Celebrant and Preacher, the Reverend Tony Raven

6.00pm

Evensong at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham, Officiant and Preacher, the Reverend Tony Raven

**29 Tuesday**

8.00pm

Little Hadham Annual Meeting, in the Church Room, St Cecilia's Church

There is a service of Holy Communion every Wednesday at 10.30am at St Andrew's

---

There were three funerals in January:

Mercy Camp of Apple Tree Cottage, Hertford on 15th January  
Rene Isabel Temple of Lydennes, Little Hadham, on 19th January  
Ann Frances Bartrip, Much Hadham on 21st January

---

Editor: Jan Finn, Ash Cottage, The Ashe, Little Hadham, SG11 2DX (771113) e-mails to [htfp@clocktower.co.uk](mailto:htfp@clocktower.co.uk)

All articles for inclusion; sponsorship; and payment for advertising in the next issue **must** be received by the **18th** of the month. (cheques payable to **Little Hadham PCC**)  
Little Hadham Parish News is distributed free by St Cecilia's church