

**LITTLE HADHAM
PARISH NEWS
JULY 2008**



*The Butcher's shop – taken at The Ashe at the turn of the last century
Have you any old pictures of the village to share with us?*

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Log on to www.thehadhams.com for issues dating back to May 2006

Letter from the Team Vicar: What's your PB?

If you're into football, June would have been a great month with the European championships. If you're into tennis, two weeks of Wimbledon will be bliss. If you're into cricket – the whole summer lies ahead. If you're into athletics, swimming, sailing and a host of other sports, the Olympics beckons. What more could you want? But if you're not into sport? Hope for something decent on the other TV channel? Or for good weather to be in the garden?

I do enjoy sport. These days there is increasing pressure in schools and from the medical profession to ensure that we all lead active lives. There is anxiety about obesity, about people who spend too much time in front of a screen – be it TV or computer. Many do play sport or go to the gym, but many, we are told, lead largely sedentary lives. We may know sport and physical activity is good for us, but we just don't have time – or energy – or motivation – or...?

Sport can, of course, be highly competitive – sometimes too competitive to the extent that the winning is everything: great for the winner, but devastating for the losers. (As an aside, I sometimes wonder if our society has lost a sense of proportion in how much it focuses on winning at all costs – whether in sport or indeed in, for example, the business world or the courts. Drugs, bribery, deception and simply the 'system' can appear to rule rather than integrity, justice and genuine skill.) But to return to sport, I want to suggest that the focus should perhaps be more on celebrating people's PBs – Personal Bests. In Beijing, we'll hear a lot about 'PBs' – and most of those people will be those who lose, perhaps even in round one. They'll soon be forgotten by the media, but for them it's something to celebrate, a real achievement after months or years of training. And though I guess we might agree that winning feels more rewarding, I want to suggest that a PB is actually more important.

Why? Because I believe we're called to be the best that we can be. That will be different for each of us – and may not involve winning anything. Hebrews 12:1 talks about 'running with perseverance the race that is set before us'. If we call ourselves Christians, we're called to be in a race – and that's about being the best that we can be in Christ. There will be PBs on the way – little steps towards our goal – not an Olympic gold, but the goal of loving God and sharing his love with others. We will, like any athlete, need to train to achieve our PB. It won't necessarily be easy. But a PB is satisfying – ask an athlete. So I invite you to ponder as we are surrounded by sport this summer: what's your goal as a Christian? And can you improve on your PB?

With my prayers, Jeanette

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Parish Council News

Assurance received over future changes to by-pass route:

An assurance has been given that Little Hadham Parish Council will be consulted over any further changes to the route of the proposed by-pass. The parish council had complained to Herts County Council that it had not been involved in the decision to shorten the route. Cty Cllr Mary Bayes told the June meeting that residents living near the ends of the route had been consulted over land take, the effect on the landscape and safety. Final plans were still under discussion including the possibility of a slip road off the by-pass onto Albury Road.

Rat run study: Herts Highways has confirmed that Millfield Lane would be included in any study into solutions to rat running through Bury Green by traffic from the A120.

Local organisation grants: The council agreed to recommend that local organisations, including the parish plan group, should be invited to consider applying for a grant from the Stansted Airport Community Trust. Two members said they thought it immoral to accept money since the council had objected

to airport expansion. The Trust obtains its money from fines levied on aircraft that breach noise and tracking-keeping rules.

NHS trusts: The council noted that the main change under planned reorganisation of NHS local health services was an investment of £100 million in the Lister hospital where acute services would be concentrated. The hospital trust was applying for Foundation Trust status under which it would remain part of the NHS but have the financial freedom to operate outside of it. The local community would continue to be served by Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, Addenbrookes, and Herts and Essex Hospital in Bishop's Stortford.

Planting at Bury Green: Developers Romehold have agreed to liaise with local residents via the parish council over any further scrub clearance and replanting around new housing at Bury Green. This followed complaints from residents over excessive clearance of scrub and trees.

New member: Mrs Mary Wilkinson from Westland Green took up her seat on the parish council at the June meeting after being co-opted by councillors.

Buntingford Dramatic Society
Presents a Supper Theatre evening

A double helping of comedy...

BLACK COMEDY
By Peter Shaffer



7.30pm at Benson Hall
Buntingford

Fri 27 June
Sat 28 June

Fri 4 July
Sat 5 July

LAST TANGO
in Buntingford

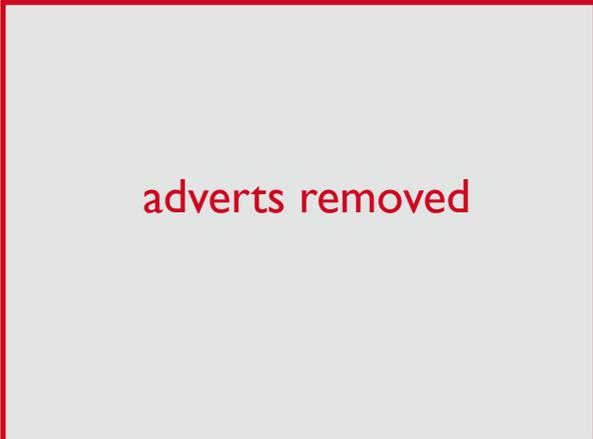
By David Trestam

more info
www.buntingforddrama.org

Tickets £10
including Supper
call Gill on 01763 274250
or email
Gillianlouise2@aol.com

Also available from
Bell House Gallery
High St., Buntingford

Licensed Bar and
Waitress Service



Traveller sites: local group to give evidence

LITTLE HADHAM CONSERVATION SOCIETY has received acknowledgement from the East of England Regional Assembly of its response to the consultation on gypsy and traveller sites. The Society argued that the policy for the allocation of sites was fundamentally flawed and that the publication of the Scott Wilson report that identified potential sites in Little Hadham had undermined the consultation process. The Society plans to give evidence to the public inquiry, which starts on October 20. The Society has received more than £3,000 in donations and pledges from more than 50 people in Little Hadham but considerably more may be needed to pay for technical and legal advice in the Society's submissions to the inquiry and if the possibility of a site in the village increases. Any funds not used in the campaign will be returned to donors. The possibility of a traveller site in the

village has also been strenuously opposed by the Parish Council whose response to the consultation has also been acknowledged.

'Small Chat'

a contemporary art textile exhibition

to be held at

The Guildhall, Thaxted 21 June to
6 July, 10am-5.30pm (admission £1)
and

Wimpole Hall, Royston
12 July to 7 September, Sat. to Wed
1-5pm (admission charges apply)

This is a stunning exhibition of
amazing skill and ingenuity, and
well worth a visit.

adverts removed

Teenagers – is you fit?

A couple of people have asked me whether I would be interested in running fitness classes specifically for teenagers in the Village Hall. I would certainly be very happy to do this - provided I had sufficient interest from the local kids. The karate club has lots of excellent equipment - we even have a very nice freestanding punchbag now - and it would be good to be able to utilise these facilities on a wider scale. I would envisage that classes would be run after school, (5.00-6.00pm), as the hall is booked up in the evenings. I am very flexible in my teaching and like to tailor my classes to the individual - so hopefully sessions should be both enjoyable and beneficial.

If you (or your child) would be interested, please give me a ring: 771636 or 07946484498. I look forward to hearing from you.

Catherine Petch

Qualified Fitness Instructor & Circuit Trainer / Registered Karate Instructor

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION

Wow! What a response! A big 'thank you' to all those generous, selfless and kind people who put their hands in their pockets to help the very poor. I am proud to say that Little Hadham raised £1,330.24 - a truly wonderful response. Particular thanks go to the generous person (you know who you are!) who, instead of lashing out on a new handbag, gave a substantial cheque which was greatly appreciated.

I must also thank the collectors for their stalwart work in doing the thankless task of distributing and collecting the envelopes - many thanks to you too.

Please be assured that every penny collected has gone to a worthwhile cause, this year to people in Bangladesh to pay for rainwater tanks for storage, and other projects. The organisers insist that people of all religions benefit and that the money is given to worthy and legal projects. Thank you.

Angela Fardell

The Rise and Fall of Stansted Airport issued by Stop Stansted Expansion

The continued downward slide in the number of passengers using Stansted Airport has led campaign group Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) to call on BAA to scrap its misguided expansion plans for making the airport bigger than today's Heathrow with a second runway.

The publication today (11th June) of passenger numbers for the airport show a 4.4 per cent reduction in Stansted passenger traffic for the period January to May 2008 compared with the same period last year. This is the seventh month in a row that Stansted has posted a decline – now running at an average of 23,000 fewer passengers a week.

By contrast, Gatwick, which already handles 50% more passengers than Stansted – and has no plans for a second runway – continues to show steady growth year on year, despite the economic downturn.

In the past six months Stansted has lost all three of its transatlantic routes and now has

continued on next page

The Rise and Fall of Stansted Airport, continued

no long haul services left. Attempts by Stansted's management over the past three years to establish new routes to Asia and the Far East have also failed to come to fruition and as a result the airport is back to being an airport focused on cheap leisure flights to UK and European destinations.

Further falls are expected with airport bosses predicting just 22.7m passengers in total for 2008 – a figure which may be over-optimistic given Ryanair's intention to ground ten percent of its fleet during next winter and to transfer further flights from Stansted to Luton.

A key factor in Stansted's decline has been the increase in airport charges imposed by BAA at Stansted since April 2007 to help pay for its expansion plans. Pending the outcome of a legal challenge, Ryanair has said that it will not pay the latest increase in airport charges levied by BAA in April of this year.

SSE Campaign Director Carol Barbone commented: "It seems that Stansted's management are so focused on pie in the sky expansion plans that they've taken their eye off the ball and are losing passengers in droves. They would do well to end their obsession with building a white elephant runway that nobody wants."



Are you up to the challenge?

East Herts Citizens Advice Service needs more volunteers to become advisers.

Training is free and travel expenses are paid.

Located in Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Buntingford & Ware
<http://www.ehcas.org.uk/>

To find out more about being a CAB adviser, visit
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/joinus
or call our Volunteer Hotline: 08451 264 264



SUMMER FETE
AND FAMILY FUN DAY
LITTLE HADHAM SCHOOL
SUNDAY JULY 6TH 12 - 3PM
☆ BBQ ☆ COCONUT SHY ☆
☆ HOME-MADE CAKES ☆
☆ KARATE ☆ STEAM TRAIN ☆
☆ HOME-MADE CAKES ☆
AND MUCH MUCH MORE

adverts removed

Cricket Club News

Over the last four weeks the Cricket Club has played three friendlies and one evening cup match, winning two and losing two. The first match was against Takeley, who batted first and scored 179 for 8 wickets, with David Barnes being the pick of the Hadham bowlers, taking 4 wickets for 35 runs off his 10 overs. In reply Hadham achieved the total fairly comfortably, whilst losing just 3 wickets with Alan South top scoring with 66 not out. The following Tuesday saw Hadham compete in the 20-over Davis Cup knockout competition, with the first round match being against Thorley. Thorley batted first and scored a huge 172 for 4 in their 20 overs; in reply Little Hadham could only manage 58 for 9 thus ensuring a heavy defeat and elimination from the competition at the first hurdle.

It was back to friendly matches the following Sunday with an away match at Nazeing Common. Following a week of heavy rain the pitch was very slow and batting first Hadham scored 103 for 9, with Neil Oxborrow top scoring with 32. Hadham batted for 58 overs to reach 103 and in reply it took Nazeing over 40 overs to achieve the target for the loss of 4 wickets, thereby winning by 6 wickets. The next match was against local rivals Stocking Pelham who batted first and scored 156 for 9. Little Hadham's reply saw a solid all round batting performance as the Stocking total was passed for the loss of just two wickets, with Harry Brooks (59 not out) scoring his first half century for the club.

JULY FIXTURES	Sunday 6	High Beach	Home	2.00pm
	Sunday 13	Barley	Away	2.00pm
	Sunday 20	Potter Street	Away	2.00pm

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 Neil Oxborrow on 506062 (mobile 07769 850827) or Martin Hallmark on 771033 (mobile 07917 425076). So if you are interested then please give us a call.

adverts removed

Home START

Support and friendship
for families

Change your life and someone else's!

Do you have parenting experience? If so join us as a home-visiting volunteer to visit a family in their own home for 2-3 hours a week to provide friendship, support and practical help. You may be the extra pair of hands needed to take 3 under-4s shopping! You might play with the baby to give mum time with the toddler. Or you may provide emotional support to a parent with complex problems. Our families are all different but they all need a bit of extra support to give their children the best possible start in life.

Our next Preparation Course starts in September, one day a week for 10 weeks. You'll learn about children's development, confidentiality, listening skills, safeguarding children, values and attitudes, ethics of home-visiting, boundaries and more. You'll make new friends and gain confidence, team-working and communication skills. We are also looking for Volunteer Trustees to help run the scheme, particularly people with finance or computer skills. For more information on becoming a volunteer or if you are a parent needing support, please contact: Home-Start East Herts on 01920 464883 or e-mail: homestart.eh@virgin.net

We are an equal opportunities organisation. Reg Charity 1107069



The new teenagers' 'chat room' in the Village Hall playing field has been sprayed with graffiti. Three inside panels have been damaged. One word – 'King' – is legible. If anyone recognises the 'signature', or knows who is responsible, please contact the parish clerk on 01279 842803.

If you see anyone damaging equipment **please call the police immediately**. The parish council will enquire about removing the graffiti and any cost will be paid from parish council funds, provided out of council tax.

adverts removed

SU DOKU no.22

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

BIRDWATCH

Only one solution, no need to guess

	D		T		R	A	W	
		C	I		W		B	R
						D		C
A	R	D		T			C	H
B	C			R		T	I	W
C		R						
D	W		B		H	C		
	H	T	R		C		D	

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



Wood Green Animal Day

Sunday 6th July 2008

10am – 4pm

At Royston Heath



A fun day for all animal lovers

A fantastic day of animal advice, games and competitions including flyball, agility, a novelty dog show, a chance to meet the animals, talk to the staff and get all your pet questions answered!

Royston Heath, Baldock Road, Royston, Herts, SG8 5BG (just off the A505)
For further information contact Wood Green Animal Shelters
on 08701 90 40 90 or visit our website www.woodgreen.org.uk

Entry Free

Novelty Dog Show only £1 per class



adverts removed

What's on in July

in the village hall unless otherwise stated

There is no Garden Club meeting this month

1 Tue Parish Council meeting, 8pm. Your chance to see how your village is run.

3, 17 Thur Mobile Library details page 11.

4, 5 "Last Tango in Buntingford" see poster on page 3 for details.

6 Sun Wood Green Animal Day see page 9.

8 Tue LH & Albury Social Club, 8pm. This will be a social evening, when we will discuss our programme for next year, plus possible outings and have a chat. Do join us, everyone is welcome. We ask for £1.50 per person, to cover the hire of the hall, speaker's fees and refreshments. For information please phone. 771580 or 658585.

12 Sat Jumble Sale, Thundridge 2.30-4.30pm

12,13 Sat & Sun Teas in Gardens, Pump House, Coles Park, Westmill from 12noon. Lovely afternoon. All welcome.

13 Sun Lea Valley 4km & 10km Fun Run, 9-2.00pm. Wholly within the River Lee Country Park, meaning that you do not need to run on public roads. The routes follow designated pathways along rivers, through woodland and around lakes and bring you back to your starting position to cross the finishing line. The routes will be signposted and marshalled to ensure that you follow the correct pathways and for your safety. If you would like to take part in this event in aid of Isabel Hospice please, go to website <http://www.leevalley10k.com> to register.

13 Sun Tandem Skydive, 6.00am – 5.00pm. We only have 20 places for this popular extreme event. You must raise a minimum sponsorship of £375 of which Isabel Hospice receives £235. If you can raise more we get more! You must be over 18 years old, and under 15 stone in weight.

You will jump from the aircraft, strapped to the front of your Instructor who will control the free fall element of your skydive, open the parachute for you at around 5000 feet, and then steer your parachute safely back to the landing area for a soft controlled landing. Sounds like a piece of cake! If you're looking for fun and excitement then this is it! You may also elect to have a free fall cameraman jump with you to video or photograph your jump. Call Lisa Seccombe on 01707 376782 or email lisa.seccombe@isabelhospice.org.uk to secure your place now.

17 Thur The Way Inn, 10-12noon rear of village hall. Meet friends and neighbours over a cuppa.

20 Sun Teas in Gardens Kennel Farm 2pm. This garden event will be held at Kennel Farm, Albury End. The tranquil 2-acre garden with shrubs and herbaceous borders surrounding the Tudor Farmhouse. All welcome. Details 01920 462992.

20 Sun Family Picnic Concert, Cockhamsted, Braughing near Ware, given by the accomplished Hitchin Concert Band conducted by Alison Eales. All profits to Leukaemia Research who are indebted to Mr and Mrs D Marques for making their beautiful garden available for this event. Bring your own picnic and sit by an ancient moated island as you enjoy music from Broadway and West End shows, popular marches, and much else. Gardens open 4pm, concert starts 5pm. Tickets: £10, £38 group ticket (4 persons), children under 11 free entry, advance booking discount £1 per person. Call 01920 830 614.

26 Sat Farmers' Market 9-12noon. Why not support your local farmers and enjoy a cooked breakfast, to boot.

In the future

17 Aug **Teddy Bears' Picnic and BBQ** in the SSE Wood, Broxted Hill. Details - contact SSE

13 Sept **2008 Runway Ramble**, Molehill Grn. Further information - contact SSE

13,14 Sept **Art, Craft and Photography Exhbn** Albury, 11 - 4pm Refreshments, free car parking. In aid of village hall fund, school, etc.

17 Sept **Charity Golf Day** in aid of Muscular Dystrophy. (See poster, page 16)

21 Sept **Isabel Hospice Chain Walk**. Seventeen fantastic sponsored walks Each walk is circular, with a break for lunch at a picturesque country pub in the heart of the countryside. This is a fantastic day out, so why not bring the family and raise funds for Isabel Hospice. Contact Pam Shepherd in Fundraising for details on 01707 376782.

Useful phone numbers

Citizens' Advice Bureau, East Herts District
08744 848 9700

Editor, Parish News: Jan Finn, 771113

Environment Agency Incident Line:
0800 807060

Fireworks hotline: Jan Finn, 771113

Mobile Library info: 01438 737333

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

Power cut helpline: 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

Regular events

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

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**

3rd & 17th July 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.

Nature Notes: May

by Jonathan Forgham

As with April, a variable month as far as weather was concerned. Some gloriously warm days offered opportunities to record new insects, especially dragon and damselflies as well as butterflies. However, several cold snaps, especially during the middle of the month halted progress on this front.

Eight new species of bird were recorded, beginning with a garden warbler, heard and seen at Bush Wood on the 4th during my second dawn chorus walk. In all I recorded 37 species of bird that morning between 4.30 – 9.00a.m., including an unexpected flyover lapwing on the Ridge footpath leading towards Bush Wood. Also seen during May were lesser whitethroat (6th), swift (7th) and hobby, heading north over my allotment on the 13th. Late arrivals of martins meant I had to wait until the 22nd for my first house martins, feeding over the chapel and not until the 27th did I catch up with sand martins. This was a group of four that spent the whole evening feeding over the garden and Chapel Lane. Finally, a walk on the 29th along Chapel Lane, across to Westland Green and through Caley Wood came up with two hoped-for species in the space of half an hour. Firstly a male corn bunting was “jangling” from vegetation near the 3rd tee and then later, behind Lordship Farm two red kites were observed circling high toward Acremore Street. A great sight, indeed. This took the total for birds to a most acceptable 74 species in five months.

Other birds of note during the month were several common buzzards over Caley and Ten Acre Wood. Chiffchaffs, blackcaps and common whitethroats appeared to be ubiquitous

continued on page 14

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Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of yet another school year!

Thanks to a local Arts Grant, all school pupils worked to create a very special stained glass window to enhance our Entrance Hall. At the same time, our Year 6 Leavers together worked on a super stained glass window for the Nursery, as a special farewell to the school.

It was pleasing to see a good response to our 'Basic First Aid for Parents' training held in school recently. Following on from this, our Years 5 and 6 pupils received 'First Aid Aware' training, where they learnt about wounds and bandaging, as well as freeing airways and putting people into the Recovery position. These are really important life skills which just might make a difference to someone one day!

Through a school/parent partnership with B.P., we were able to offer our older pupils a workshop opportunity to learn basic computer programming. Volunteers from B.P. worked with the children to program a Robolab 'bulldozer' in a competition to 'plough' mini bars of chocolate out of a designated area. Great fun was had by all!

In September, we will be looking to fill a non-parent vacancy on our Governing Body. If anyone in the Parish feels that they might be interested in becoming a Governor at their local school, we are holding a Governors' Wine and Cheese Information Evening on Wednesday 9 July at 7.30pm. Do come along and hear how you can help make a difference.

Please contact the Office on 01279 771285 if you would like to attend.

Liz Stockley, Head

adverts removed

Nature Notes: *continued from page 12*

warblers, as did yellowhammers, singing their pleasant if repetitive song atop hedgerows. A visit to Millennium Wood on the evening of the 2nd produced a pleasing list including reed bunting and willow warbler, both heard and seen around the pond. In all 18 species were counted in little more than half an hour.



Three new butterflies were recorded this month. Firstly, a speckled wood (6th) was seen along Hoecroft Lane. A brown butterfly with yellow spots, often witnessed in the dappled shade of woodland and verges, hence its colouration. An unexpected small heath was observed on the golf course on the 29th and soon after a common blue was witnessed flying past the club house. Eventually tracked down and photographed as shown on my blog <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com>

Plants continued to be recorded without anything unusual being discovered. The dog rose (*rosa canina*) and wood avens (*geum urbanium*) showed well in a variety of habitats whilst parsleys and hemlocks vied for verge space along the local lanes.

The warmer days did indeed help a few damselflies to emerge, but in disappointingly small numbers. Firstly, a large red damsel was observed from the footbridge near the pumping station opposite South Cottages (22nd) whilst a common blue damsel was seen near the Ford (24th) The 27th gave up first sightings of an azure damselfly, but still no dragonflies.

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THE WILD BUNCH

Our reporter, heavily disguised as a gunslinger from a 'WANTED' poster, sent us this cable on the rootin' tootin' Little Hadham Barn Dance.

I MOSEYED ON DOWN TO THE BARN, STUBBED OUT MY STOGIE IN THE TRASH CAN ON THE WALL, CHECKED IN MY GUN WITH THE DEPUTY MARSHAL AND PUSHED THROUGH THE SWING DOORS.

I WAS MIGHTY IMPRESSED BY WHAT I SAW. THE EVENING WAS IN FULL SWING. SIXTY DANCERS, INCLUDING A FEW STRANGERS IN TOWN, SWIRLED AROUND THE FLOOR IN STETSONS AND JEANS AND THE ODD CHEQUERED 'KERCHIEF. THE GALS LOOKED GORGEOUS AND THE GUYS LOOKED NERVOUS AS THEY LEARN'T THEIR 'OPPOSITES' FROM THEIR 'CORNERS' AND THEIR PARTNERS FROM THEIR DOZY-DOES .

EVERYONE JOINED IN WITH SHRIEKS OF LAUGHTER AS THEY CIRCLED IN EIGHTS, ROUND AND ROUND. THE KIDS WERE HAVING A BALL, IN A SQUARE-DANCE KIND OF WAY. THAT CALLER GUY, PETE SKIFFINS, WITH HIS BOOTLACE TIE AN' ALL, PUT EVERYONE AT EASE. THE DANCERS WERE AMAZED THEY COULD FOLLOW THE CALLS, MORE OR LESS.

IN THE SALOON, THE BARMAN SLID ME A BEER DOWN THE COUNTER. SMOKE FROM THE KITCHEN SIGNALLED A POW-WOW, OR WAS IT TIME FOR THE HOT DOGS AND ONIONS? I PASSED UP THE OFFER OF CHILLI BEANS – NO BLAZING SADDLES MOMENT FOR ME! THEN THE TEMPO WAS RISING AND THE FOOTWORK GETTING REAL FANCY – THESE CRITTERS COULD GO ON ALL NIGHT!

"NO ONE PUT A FOOT WRONG," SAID PETE, A REAL KIND DUDE, AS HE CALLED TIME. THE DYING STRAINS OF COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC AND THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER ROLLED DOWN THE STREET LIKE TUMBLEWEED AS WE RODE OFF INTO THE SUNSET.

© WESTERN UNION



Lunch party marks 'tour of duty' and a knighthood

The Revd Tony and Dorothy Raven were guests at a Medley of Meals at the home of John and Olivia Elton Barratt at Bury Green. The lunch was a welcome back as Tony started a three week 'tour of duty' while the Rector, Revd Chris Boulton, is on sabbatical. Tony and Dorothy (top) are pictured with Olivia and John.

Michael Snyder, who is standing down after five years as chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London, was made a Knight Bachelor in the Queen's Birthday Honours, announced on the day of the lunch. Michael and his wife Mary, who live at The Ford, were among the guests. Michael has been knighted for services to business and the City of London Corporation. He is senior partner in a firm of chartered accountants. Mary and Michael (bottom) are pictured with Tony Raven and John Elton Barratt.

Fifty guests attended the Medley of Meals, held in sunshine in the garden of Olivia and John. The lunch is one of a series of events to raise funds for the Parish Church.



Muscular Dystrophy Campaign

BARKWAY PARK GOLF CLUB

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

supporting
THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CAMPAIGN

Main sponsor
CONNECT SCAFFOLDING

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

adverts removed

Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

It's that time of year again, when the first thing we consult each morning is the five day forecast. Yes, its time to make hay. And, true to form, we may know it but the weather doesn't! Since the terrible storm all those years ago, forecasts have been vague to say the least. Look at the TV weather map and patches of grey "rain" are flicked across the British isles in gay abandon. The forecasters talk vaguely of "sunshine and showers" adding that "some areas might miss them while they could be heavy in others." They are not going to be accused of getting it wrong again! Yet, how does a hard working farmer know what to do? My farmer spent last year waiting for the rain they forecast – and missed the best haymaking weather of the whole summer. He missed a dry spell this year in early June because they forecast rain almost every day – and it didn't happen. So, today, he took a chance and cut his first field. If the heavens open in the next few days, the hay will suffer. But, if the forecasters are right, we just might make hay while the sun shines!

In praise of grandparents

OK, so I know it's nothing new. But I became a grandma recently, and I am still enjoying the fruits of this new experience.

I've already acquired half a dozen of the most delightful step-grandchildren you could wish for. And, never having been over-maternal, thought that was about as good as it got. But holding my son's new baby was just about the sweetest moment I can remember. This mini man, all 6lb of him, brought a lump to my throat. Doing the early morning stint (what a bore when it's your own!), was a pleasure. Changing nappies was a laugh! Bringing up unwilling wind wasn't a chore.

Now I can understand why grandparents enjoy it so much. Like the saying goes, if I'd realised what fun grandchildren could be, I'd have had them first!

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spell in June should help correct these omissions.

Many new insects were recorded and some photographed for the blog. Of note were scorpion fly (*panorpa germanica*) and a small beetle seen in huge numbers (*cantharis rustica*) A variety of moths, including silver ground carpet moth were also recorded, but my identification skills with these creatures is somewhat limited and with over 2000 UK species it's going to be a time before I feel confident in id'ing all but the regulars.



No new mammals were recorded, with hares and leverets being recorded frequently, along with fox and squirrel sightings. Young rabbits appeared to be everywhere.

June promises more insect and plant activity, as the birds tend to become less evident over the next couple of months. Recuperating from breeding and moulting means less movement, so, hopefully, a prolonged hot spell should see an increase in butterfly activity. However, I feel there are maybe five - eight species of birds still feasible for the ensuing two months, just a case of being out there.

As always, please contact me if you have any interesting natural history sightings or questions about a certain species. 01279 776211 or jforgham@hotmail.com.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to compliment Steve Stigwood and his staff for the maintenance and upkeep of the excellent local footpaths. All clearly signed, well defined and kept perfectly clear of crops and weeds. An example to a lot of local farmers.

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July diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

6 Sunday

Trinity 7 (Proper 9)

9.30am

Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11.15am

Parish Communion and Sunday School at St Mary's, Albury

13 Sunday

Trinity 8 (Proper 10)

9.30am

Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

6.00pm

Songs of Praise at St Thomas', Perry Green

20 Sunday

Trinity 9 (Proper 11)

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

27 Sunday

Trinity 10 (Proper 12)

11.15am

Shared Communion at St Mary's, Albury

6.00pm

Evensong at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

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

Little Hadham and Albury Social Club

At our June meeting we were entertained by Elizabeth 'Bunty' Anderson, from Much Hadham, who enthralled us with her stories of working for the YMCA at Hunsdon Airfield during the Second World War. Her recall of events was amazing; some of them were funny and, unfortunately, some of them were tragic. She declined to take a fee and was happy for us to send a donation to the Herts. Air Ambulance.

THANK YOU, Dr. BROOKBANKS!

Have you seen the make-over at the Surgery in the Village Hall? Gone are the green check curtains (made by the late Mrs. Catherine Brown), the chipped paint, the broken door. Instead Dr. Brookbanks has installed a new, safe door, new curtains and smart paintwork.

The Village Hall Management Committee and everyone who uses the Little Hadham Surgery would like to thank Dr. Colin Brookbanks for his good work.

Thank you very much!

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