

# Little Hadham PARISH NEWS May 2009



*There was obviously something to smile about over crime prevention!*

## PARISH ASSEMBLY PICS

*story page 11*



*The proposed bypass is scrutinised by residents who asked some lively questions about the route.*

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

## Letter from the Rectory

*I returned today from taking communion to a man in hospital. The Chaplain had already been to visit; but for very particular reasons I was asked to do the service. The nurses were all very welcoming and helpful to someone not familiar with all the hospital routines and requirements. Normally I am more than happy to let the Chaplains do their work; if, that is, there is one. Not all hospitals now have full time Chaplains.*

*I sometimes visit parishioners in hospital, but don't always know people are admitted, or have the time to go as often as I would like.*

*In the course of my parish ministry I have valued the work of Chaplains, not only in hospitals, but in prisons, colleges and schools. They are men and women who have particular expertise and understanding of people in specific and occasionally traumatic circumstances. For example, I have many times been more than grateful for the pastoral support of Chaplains when babies or young people have died in hospital, or in cases of road accident victims. They are on hand to help at the crucial times and build up a close and personal relation to the families concerned.*

*It was with a sense of challenge therefore that I read of the National Secular Society saying that all funding should be removed from the NHS for Hospital Chaplains. It is estimated that 42 million pounds is spent in England Scotland and Wales for chaplaincy work and pensions generally, out of a total budget of 95 Billion pounds in England and Wales. They say that Church communities should pay. It is a waste of money (much as the disciples argued, according to Matthew, when the woman wasted the costly ointment on the feet of Jesus). The secularists are to a degree pushing at an open door, especially in the present climate, since the NHS is systematically reducing its commitment to chaplaincy work across all the main religious organisations. It sounds a very reasonable proposition. It challenges religious groups to ask how committed they are to provide spiritual resources for everyone, and not just their own.*

*We should expect the Secular Society to advocate the removal of funding, since they are opposed to all religious influence in any sphere. It is part of the continuing secularisation of our society. But more than that, it is another step towards the compartmentalising of community. We are losing connections with each other, and being encouraged to follow our own interests. Ironically the Secular Society doesn't see the inherent contradiction in their argument; viz that they are the one body that can speak for all. They would love religion to become totally a sectarian interest devoid of any public benefit or relevance. Religious communities began hospitals. To enshrine in our Health Service the principle that spiritual care (not just Christian), is part of total health care is, I would argue, a civilising process, and an acknowledgement that spiritual need is part of the body social, not an appendage. It is a small cost to a nation that values the soul as well as the body. The religious Chaplains do a lot of practical care work, as well as prayer work, for non-churchgoers as well as their own: but more than that, they symbolise the fact that life is a whole complex process, involving body and soul, and that the body politic is not only a collection of sectional interests but a community.*

*Chris Boulton*

## They've arrived! *Village Guide and Parish Plan make their debut*

Everything you've ever wanted to know about Little Hadham (well, most things at least) and a programme of activities to make this village an even friendlier place in which to live have been delivered to every household in the form of the new *Village Guide* and latest *Parish Plan*. They come in a smart folder with enough space to keep copies of the *Parish News* and other useful references.

The *Village Guide* contains a profile of the village today and recalls its unique history. It is packed with useful contacts and information including places to visit in the surrounding area. It comes with *Village Directory Plus*, containing details of local organisations and services and even a local bus timetable. It is printed in loose leaf form to make updating easier and cheaper and has a wrap-around cover with a full map of the parish inside.

The *Parish Plan* is a continuation of the plan first published in 2006, which started the process of getting people to work together to build community spirit. Another six activities have been added to the programme of events ranging from a biodiversity study and a plan to create a village-wide email network to events such as a Fun Run and a scheme to encourage families to explore our footpaths.

The pack received an enthusiastic reception at its launch at the parish assembly. "I hope the guide and the latest plan will give residents a fresh insight into their village and encourage

them to take an active part in a whole range of new activities," said Mike Fairchild, who edited the publications. "It was very evident from comments at the assembly that the number of activities now going on in Little Hadham have created a real buzz in the village."

A great deal of hard work has gone into production of the guide and the plan. At the launch, Mike thanked especially Hilary Davies who produced the initial draft, and Jan Finn, editor of the *Parish News*, who created the design and printed most of the material.

The pack, supplied free to every household, has been produced by the *Parish Plan* Group and paid for by fund-raising activities and a Grassroots grant from Hertfordshire Community Foundation. The *Parish Plan* Group is grateful to the stalwart band of *Parish Plan* distributors who have successfully delivered a very large consignment this month.

Feedback on the pack and offers of help with events in the plan would really be appreciated – what about writing a note in the next *Parish News* or contacting a committee member (see *Parish Plan* for details)? Enjoy the read and look out for additions and updates!



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## Nature Notes March/April

from Jonathan Forgham

A very busy period, with many migrants entering the parish in the last four weeks, (March 18th – April 18th). Included in my wanderings were two dawn chorus walks, leaving the village hall car park at 5.00am and returning about 9.30am. Both walks were well attended with 20 people in total making the effort to be up early. We were rewarded with good bird song and clear weather on both occasions. The first walk (March 21st) realized a total of 38 species with highlight birds being a calling little owl, a drumming great spotted woodpecker, goldcrest, sparrow hawk, woodcock and 38 was also the second walk's chiffchaff, willow warbler, blackcap seen, all of these being newly arrived redwings and fieldfares were noted from Acremore Street. However, the of four northerly moving great During the month I spent time north



common buzzard. Coincidentally, total, on April 18th. Here, swallow, and whitethroat were all heard and summer migrants. The last of the along the footpath leading south most unexpected birds was a party black backed gulls over Bush Wood. of the A120, recording a new bird

for the parish in the shape of a coot, seen on 6th April at a pond behind Hadham Hall. 86th species for the area. Also noted were tree creeper (5th shown above), bullfinch (29th), siskins (a party of 35 on the 29th), pair of little owls nesting (30th), grey heron (2nd and 13th), nuthatch nesting (2nd) and chiffchaff (all walks with 11 counted singing on the 8th). A migratory party of 38 golden plover were seen over the ploughed fields east of Bury Green, where also a pair  
*continued on page 8*

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## Access to Hertfordshire Libraries from Home

If you live a long way from your local library, did you know some library services are accessible from any Internet connected computer, wherever you are? Log on to [www.hertsdirect.org/libraries](http://www.hertsdirect.org/libraries). From here you can join the library, search the library catalogue, request and renew your books, and find information for homework or private study. It also offers access to county and district council services, details of local clubs and organisations, and a wide variety of recommended websites.

The Online Reference Library offers a range of online titles, including the full Oxford English Dictionary, Encyclopaedia Britannica, national newspaper and journal articles and the Grove dictionaries of art and music. These titles, only available on subscription are offered free to library members. Just follow the instructions on the screen.

Whether you want to join the library, find your nearest squash club, the answer to a quiz question or do your homework, give the library pages a try.

**The Out2Play Team** will be back at our Village Hall Playground on Wednesday 27th May from 1pm until 3.00pm. Kids between ages of 8-11 (7 & 12 year old siblings accepted) will get the chance to try out lots of fun outdoor activities and best of all it is absolutely FREE. Fantastic fun guaranteed! Hope to see you there - make sure you bring a friend! (Out2Play team members are insured & CRB checked).

For more info. call Carmela 466331.

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## Traveller sites: *Your response is urgently needed*

The Parish Council (PC) and Little Hadham Conservation Society (LHCS) are urging all residents to respond to the latest public consultation on the allocation of additional pitches to gypsies and travellers in East Herts. At an earlier stage in proceedings, consultants employed by East Herts Council listed two sites in Little Hadham as possible locations.

This consultation, for which the deadline is May 22, is concerned with site numbers, not locations, but it is vitally important for people to register their views. This eight-week consultation arises over the Government's decision to support the recommendation of a public inquiry panel that not only endorsed plans for 15 additional pitches in East Herts, as suggested by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), but advocated a further five pitches, making 20 in total.

Some of the key points made by the Parish Council in its evidence to the public inquiry were:

- Gypsy and traveller sites should only be located where there is evidence of need and employment opportunities
- Research by East Herts Council indicates a lower level of allocation than the original number proposed by EERA. It would be wrong to meet overall need by an attempt to create artificially an 'even' spread across the region
- Green Belt 'rural exception sites' for travellers sets a dangerous precedent and endangers wildlife
- Because of the geographical nature of the village, a traveller site in Little Hadham would endanger community cohesion and privacy
- Little Hadham would fail the test of making provision within a major settlement. Any additional settlement would increase the risk of flooding
- Any attempt to create a transit site would create a particular problem in Little Hadham as the congested A1 20 is the only artery through the village

The consultation can be found on the GO-East website via: [www.go-east.gov.uk/goeast/news/806265](http://www.go-east.gov.uk/goeast/news/806265) The Parish Council will agree a response at its next meeting (Tuesday May 5, 8pm, Village Hall) and copies can be provided afterwards by the clerk by emailing: [clerklittlehadham@homecall.co.uk](mailto:clerklittlehadham@homecall.co.uk) Copies of LHCS's response will also be made available.

## Your questions on the bypass

Because of the amount of interest in the bypass at the assembly, Herts Highways has agreed to speak at a follow up meeting. To make the meeting as productive as possible, Richard Boutal, who spoke at the assembly, has asked residents to submit questions in advance.

If you have a question, please email it to our parish clerk at:

[clerklittlehadham@homecall.co.uk](mailto:clerklittlehadham@homecall.co.uk) Date of the meeting will be notified shortly.

## Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 15th May



*“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”  
Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15th May 2009 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA’s information and support services.*

*The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.*

*Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.*

*For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email [fishandchips@spinal.co.uk](mailto:fishandchips@spinal.co.uk) or visit [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)*

### 14th and 28th May Mobile Library

Nag’s Head from 1345 - 1405  
The Smithy from 1410 - 1430  
Bury Green from 1445 - 1505

A fortnightly service.

### The ‘Way Inn’

Come and meet friends and neighbours  
over a cup of tea or coffee.

Rear of village hall,  
3rd thursday of the month,  
10 - 12 noon

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## Nature Notes, *continued from page 4*

of bullfinches and a pair of blackcaps were observed on the 8th.

Butterflies have increased in both numbers and species observed with peacocks being seen on most sunny days, along with the yellow brimstone. The first comma was seen on the 21st, small tortoiseshell and orange tip were recorded for the first time on the 8th and a small white (13th.) A stoat was observed for the first time on the 21st at the pond in Millennium Wood. Plants continue to appear with garlic mustard, ground ivy, dead nettle, coltsfoot, and wood anemone joining the already established cowslip, bluebell and dog mercury. The hedgerows and woodlands are now coming into leaf and, if the old saying: "Ash before the oak, in for a soak; oak before the ash, in for a splash" holds true then we should have a good summer. This saying refers to which of the two trees comes into leaf first. This year it is clearly the oak, whereas the last two it has been the reverse and what disappointing summers they were! Hopefully, a good summer for butterflies, damsel and dragonflies.



As I type there is news of a migratory white stork in the Albury/Braughing region. This uncommon bird will have overshot on migration, being caught up in the strong southerlies we had on the 15th and 16th April. It will be seen in open fields and is unmistakable. Sooner or later it will make its way south again, but not before refuelling so may turn up anywhere in the parish, or be seen overhead. Finally, of particular interest, was an observation of a willow warbler that had a wrong song.

Seen south of the Ford on the 17th, it starts its song as a chiffchaff before completing the verse as the usual willow warbler song. This usually occurs when a bird fledged last summer overwinters with the wrong species (in this case chiffchaff) and so learns the wrong song before adding its own instinctive run of notes. They are referred to as "mixed singers". First I have recorded since one along the River Stort in 2005. This bird is shown above.

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# Gardening Notes for May

from Karin Green

## **Veg Plot**

*Hopefully the weather has been kind to us and the soil has now warmed up although we could still have a frost*

*Tomatoes can be planted in an unheated greenhouse.*

*Late vegetables can now be planted outside; things like leeks, Brussels Sprouts and cauliflowers.*

*After the last frost the frost tender vegetables can go outside e.g. French Beans, courgettes, sweet corn and pumpkins.*

## **Flower Borders**

*You can prune spring-flowering shrubs once they have finished flowering. Hedges can now be clipped as well.*

*After the last frost, you can then plant out half-hardy bedding plants, dahlias and tender more exotic plants.*

*Most of all enjoy your garden!*

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## Cricket Club News

With the sun now shining and the clocks changing to British Summer Time, then it is time once again for another cricket season.

This year the village team will once again be playing only Sunday friendlies plus the occasional 20-over cup match. However if we can generate enough interest and attract more new players then we would hope to start playing some Saturday friendlies as well, with a view to re-joining the Herts & Essex Cricket League next season if possible. This year's matches started on Sunday 19th April with the visit of Craven (a team from London) and the following week Chrishall were the visitors (match reports in next month's issue).

The club is always 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 01279 506062 (mobile 07769 850827) or Martin Hallmark on 01279 771033 (mobile 07917 425076) so if you are interested then please give us a call and help maintain the Village Cricket Club. Alternatively please pay us a visit on home match days in Millfield Lane Bury Green, where you will be made very welcome.

### MAY FIXTURES

Sunday 3rd	Stocking Pelham	Home	2.00pm
Monday 4th	Ardleigh Green	Home	2.00pm
Sunday 10th	Manuden	Home	2.00pm
Sunday 17th	Takeley	Away	2.30pm
Sunday 24th	Albury	Away	2.30pm
Sunday 31st	Nazeing Common	Away	2.00pm

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## Full house for our annual get-together

The largest audience for many years attended the annual Parish Assembly, which saw the launch of the latest Parish Plan, the new Village Guide and heard from organisations that serve our community.

An audience of nearly 100 enjoyed refreshments and chatted to neighbours and speakers. Maps of the latest bypass route attracted a great deal of interest as well as questions for Richard Boutal from Herts Highways. Our neighbourhood Police team were there in strength, led by Insp. Damien Kennedy who pledged improved communication between his officers and local residents. PC Tracey Fegan, PCSO Lee Watson and Jill Dockley, watch liaison officer for East Herts, were busy giving out advice, free crime prevention aids and information about the latest online and rural crime prevention schemes.

Liz Stockley, head of Little Hadham School, gave a fascinating insight into new techniques to encourage creative thinking among pupils, and Richard Beckett reminded us of the history of our local charity and how it

benefits residents. Cllr Mike Tindale explained recent initiatives by East Herts Council and stimulated a lively debate about new plans for bin collection.

The Parish Plan team, led by Mike Smith, introduced the new Parish Plan and Village Guide with its profile of Little Hadham past and present and comprehensive local directory. A pack containing both was delivered free to every home in the village with this edition of the Parish News. Committee members Jonathan Forgham and John Purvis highlighted two of the first events in the Parish Plan programme – 'Nature Watch' that will include a biodiversity survey, and the all-comers Fun Run on June 14.

In his review of the year, Mike Fairchild, Parish Council chairman, thanked members of the council and its clerk, Bev Evans, for tackling its busiest year yet involving complex planning issues and no less than 10 public consultations. He invited more people to come to Parish Council meetings, the next one being on **May 5 at 8pm** in the Village Hall.

## Moan of the Month: Please pick up after your dogs



*"I went to take my grandson into the field opposite the Nags Head but we couldn't even step off the stile into the field because of the amount of dog mess. I realise that there are people who DO clear up after their dogs, but to those who do not care I would say please have a thought for other people who would like to take a walk and enjoy the scenery without having to look at their feet instead. I do not like picking up after dogs – this is why I do not own a dog!"*

[Reconstruction using actor]

## What's on in May ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

**5 Tue, Parish Council meeting**, 8pm. Your opportunity to hound the councillors.

**9 Sat, Plant Sale and coffee morning** 9.30-11.30. This is an event not to be missed. There will be a wide variety of plants for sale, a mixture of garden tools, pots and miscellany, Ennis Rogers will be there with her Book Stall and of course the not to be missed teas and home baked cakes.

**9 Sat, Chairman's Charity Dinner** Paradise Park, Broxbourne. Hosted by Cllr Diane Hollebbon, Chairman of EHDC who has chosen to support Isabel Hospice throughout her term in office. The evening starts with a twilight tour of the animals, followed by dinner and dancing. and finishes at midnight. Tickets are £55 each, available from Renee Friend on 755320 or email [renee\\_friend@msn.com](mailto:renee_friend@msn.com)

**10 Sun, Teas in Gardens**, Bayford Manor 2pm-5.50. Mr & Mrs Latham are kindly opening their garden in aid of Isabel Hospice. Come and enjoy a lovely afternoon. All welcome. Admission £4, children free. Large old established garden. Natural ornamental lake, many specimen trees and unusual shrubs. Walled garden, spring bulbs. Ancient 900 year old John of Gaunt oak. Gravel paths.

**12 Tue, LH & A Social Club**, 8pm. Martin Copping will talk about The Great Fire of London. Everyone welcome and we look forward to meeting you. Our April meeting was a very pleasant social event. We hadn't booked a speaker as the date was so close to the Easter holiday we thought there may not be too many people able to attend. But we had a goodly number and had a lovely chatty evening, which included a quiz, our usual raffle and a fab fruit cake, all provided by the lovely Barbara. We are planning the following trips and if you would like to attend, or wish further

information, please contact me on 658585  
23rd June: A visit to the Spears Games Archive at Old Hall Green; 6th July – Mansion House and walk in the City of London; Aug. or early Sept. – Frogmore Paper Mill, Hemel Hempstead.

**14-16 "The Entertainer"** See page 13

**14, 28 Thurs, Mobile Library** See page 7

**17 Sun, Family Fun Day** In aid of Isabel Hospice at Three Lakes Restaurant, Westmill Farm, Ware. Contact Maxine 01920 468668. Link: [http://threelakesrestaurant@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:threelakesrestaurant@yahoo.co.uk)

**17 Sun, Teas in Gardens**, Jenningsbury, Hertford Heath 14:00 - 17:30. Thanks to Mr & Mrs Fox for opening their garden as part of the National Garden Scheme. Listed, partly moated farm house (not open) with wide flower meadows designed by Julie Toll. Ponds and borders created to attract wildlife. More formal garden surrounds the house. Inspirational planting by local designer whose nursery is on site. Proceeds from the Homemade teas will go to Isabel Hospice. DIRECTIONS: 1 mile SE of Hertford in Hertford Heath. From A414 between A10 & Hertford, take the B1197 to Hertford Heath & Haileybury College. After 1/2 mile, the garden is on the right at the post and rail fencing.

**17 Sun, Furneux Singers Concert** 3pm at St Mary's Church, Furneux Pelham See page 19

**21 Thur, LH & A Garden Club 7.45** Talk and slides on the Trinity College Gardens. Please come and join us. We had a good evening on the 19th March at our Annual General Meeting. A short talk from our chairman Frank Green and then we all got stuck into the wine and nibbles provided by the committee. We launched our 2009-2010 list of talks and events (which you all had a copy of in the April Parish News) and our Autumn Show Schedule.

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## ... and later

**21** Thur, "Way Inn" coffee morning  
10-12noon, rear of Village Hall. Come and  
meet friends and neighbours over a cuppa.

**27** Wed, **Out2Play** 1-3pm see page 5

**30** Sat, **Farmers' Market** 8.30-11.30 Come  
and have a cooked breakfast.

**30** Sat, **Jumble Sale**, Thundridge Village Hall.  
2.30pm. In aid of Isabel Hospice.. Details  
01920 462992. Admission 20p

**31** Sun, 'New York New York', Rhodes Centre,  
7.30pm celebrating Sinatra, Gershwin and more  
In aid of Grove Cottage, Bishop's Stortford  
Mencap. Tickets £15 from the Rhodes Arts  
Complex Box Office, or Tel. 651746

**June 13, Jumble Sale**, Rickling & Quendon  
Village Hall. If you can help, please call Amy on  
01799 543469. All proceeds to the Animal  
Rescue Charity Reg No. 1007182

**June 13, Sunset & Stars Walk**, 18:30 - 23:55  
Our FIRST EVER evening walk in aid of Isabel  
Hospice, contact Fundraising on 01707  
382500. The 9 mile walk starts from St  
Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club near  
Ware. Tickets cost £15, children over 12 £10.  
We are looking for walkers, marshalls and  
sponsors. Info: [Gina@Bridgman.me.uk](mailto:Gina@Bridgman.me.uk)

**June 29, Midsummer Fair** 2:30-6:pm Tea  
Party in marquee at Woodlands, Hunsdonbury,  
Hunsdon, Nr Ware in aid of Isabel Hospice.  
Cream teas, cakes, summer stalls, raffle and  
live music. Entrance £5 adults £2.50 children.  
Tickets from Renee Friend 01279 755320

## Sawbridgeworth Players present ...

**"The Entertainer"** written by John Osborne and directed by Mick Cranch.

14-16 May at The Victoria Hall Theatre, Old Harlow. Doors open at 7.15; curtain up 8.00.

**Tickets available by:** calling 07752 161802, visiting [www.sawbridgeworth-players.org.uk](http://www.sawbridgeworth-players.org.uk) or  
from The Cafe of Angels & The Tuck Shop in Bell Street (nearer production)

Archie Rice, a failure even as a fifth-rate comedian (and even more as a husband and father) lives with his second wife in seedy rooms and constant fear of the income tax collector. With them lives his son, Frank a conscientious objector recently released from prison, and his father Billie Rice, a befuddled old has-been. Another son is doing military service in Cyprus and news of his violent death arrives as the family is anticipating his return with an impromptu party. Archie, guilt-ridden and gin-sodden, wisecracks his despairing way through his pathetic act and carries on a furtive affair with a young girl from whom he hopes to get funds for a new show. In a last desperate effort to raise money he tries to stage a comeback for his father, who, mercifully dies in the attempt. A prosperous brother offers to send the family to Canada, but Archie cannot leave the decaying, heart-breaking half-world of the music hall, where he is at home as he could never be in a new country, and he takes the line of least resistance, into the arms of the income tax collector.

**Sawbridgeworth Players** have just been notified their last production "Season's Greetings" has been awarded Best Drama in Eastern Region 7, only a year after winning the same award for "Breakfast With Jonny Wilkinson"

## Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

*A button shot off my trousers yesterday and, despite much searching, refused to give up its whereabouts. Which made me remember what happened when I was a child and a button was needed in our household. Out would come the old cigar box which was full of buttons of every size and description. Because whenever our old clothes were ready for the rubbish dump, my mother – along with most mothers in post war Britain – would cut off every button and save them for use later. The button box would keep me amused for hours. I would try and find six of a kind from the hundreds there which might come in handy for clothing in the making.*

*My father's old ARP buttons were there from when, in the war, he used to don his uniform and march around the town checking people hadn't allowed light to seep through poorly drawn curtains allowing chinks of light into an otherwise darkened street.*

*When my parents died, I took little from their house. But the button box accompanied me for many years. I must have lost it on my last move, more's the pity.*

*What else do I remember? Keeping chickens and the excess eggs being preserved in a pail in liquid which I recall was called isinglass.*

*And Mondays, which were the days my Ma used to do the washing, come rain or shine. But instead of the modern machines we now take for granted, she had an old, open topped machine, which often went wrong, with a wringer on top. The whole house would fill with the*

*continued on next page*

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## *Rural Ramblings, continued*

steam from the constant washing. I still remember taking turns turning the handle – it was hard work – as each item went through the wringer. The whole of every Monday was wash day – hard to believe in this day and age of streamlined press button machinery.

I asked my husband what he remembered from his youth. He said before fridges became the norm, his family would keep their perishables in a tin box which would be immersed in the stream at the bottom of the garden, a stream which ran all year. So if you wanted butter or marge, it meant a trip down the garden to the stream to fetch it!

Do we take for granted modern times? You bet we do!

A plea for help: does any reader still own a certain cookery book called *The Food Aid Cookery Book*, edited by Delia Smith and plugged at the time by Terry Wogan? It was first published in 1986. I had a copy, gave it to someone, found another, tatty, copy in a secondhand bookshop and loved it! Now I've lost the back half of the book which contains a chutney recipe I adore. Any chance I could borrow YOUR copy, please?

PS The Australian holiday was a disaster. My daughter and I didn't hit it off, the weather turned from boiling hot to wet, wet, wet – and I came home, alone, two weeks early. Enough said!

*A reminder to all those planning to let off fireworks to let the editor know in advance. This is so that those with nervous dogs can be warned in time to administer tranquillisers to save them from unnecessary distress. Hotline number: 771113*

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## Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

It was good to see many of you at the Parish Assembly and I hope that you have not had need to wear your 'Black Hat' lately!

The Summer Term has come around very quickly and the month of May is very much a 'testing' time for our older pupils. However, with a post-SATs Disco and a special 'Surprise Week' planned before half term, there's lots to look forward to.

Our Y5/6 pupils are also getting really excited as their residential Kingswood Trip to Norfolk next month gets nearer - always an action packed week!

The Official Opening of our newly updated 'FRIENDS' ICT Suite went well and we hope that our Community ICT Club on Tuesday evenings continues to enjoy our hi-tech facilities. Still spaces available, all welcome!

Finally, thank you to those who offered to help in school hearing readers etc. and hope to see you in school very soon.

Liz Stockley, Headteacher

## WELCOME

*On behalf of all the neighbours of Cradle End I would like to extend a warm welcome to John and his sons to Boundsfield, Cradle End. Also a very warm welcome to Margaret and Ralph Bintley who have also recently moved into our lovely village. Hope you enjoy living here like we all do and if we can be of help do not hesitate to ask.*

Carmela Piccolo 466331

ADVERTS REMOVED

## Fancy a Historic Boat Trip Down the Ash?

Well maybe not so easy in the summer, but the River Stort is close at hand and that is certainly possible. Did you know there is a local charity, the Canal Boat Project, in Harlow, that can offer your group a trip along one of the most picturesque rivers in England? What is a group? A group can be as small as a handful of like-minded villagers. Some of the obvious examples are: the Stroke Support Group, the Gardening



Credit: NB Brian



Credit: British Waterways

Club or even the "Lets Make a Group Just for the Day Group"! The day boats hold upto 12 passengers and have full wheel chair access. Typical day trips start at 10 or 11 and cruise until 2 or 3 PM. If you had in mind something more adventurous; then a mini break of say, 3 days is possible. With the onboard central heating, even the cooler Autumnal nights prove an easily tamed distraction. More ambitious cruises are possible: down the Stort, left at those small hills, left by the last Ice Age, into the Lea and onto an exciting passage past the Tower of London, go by the Houses of Parliament (see London from the riverside and view Traitors Gate as many past enemies of the Crown have done to their rue!). The cruise then returns via the Brent (remember Brentford Nylons?). Northwards up the Grand Union Canal and back through Little Venice, so beloved by Browning; past Lord Snowden's aviary in Regent's Park Zoo, skirt the renowned Camden Town Market, into the historic Duckett's Cut. Tom Feather could have told you that George Duckett and our local Jackson's Square are named after one and the same man.



Credit: Canal Boat Project

What wild life could you hope to see? Kingfishers aplenty, water buffalo, herons, pike, if not *actually* Moley & Ratty at least their Thames-side descendants. Not quite wild, but rare Essex Saddleback pigs, reared by an ex-Hadham resident. You will even pass over breeding sea horses and American Turtles, true, these are a non-indigenous species.

Want to steer the boat? Yes, indeed you can, but naturally there are some restrictions and you may prefer to use the Charity's highly trained skippers, who live locally but none-the-less are trained to Her Majesty's stringent Maritime Coastguard Agency national standards. Where can you find out more? <http://www.canalboat.org.uk>, ring 424444 or Banny on Albury 552 (although since BT retired our Strowger Exchange you will need the 771 prefix).

## Little Hadham Fun Run

**Serious or Fun Runners, Families or Fancy Dress – Everyone is invited to register for this fab fund-raising event on Sunday June 14.**



The first event in the Parish Plan calendar this year, our Fun Run will take in every hamlet in the parish (with just a glimpse of Hadham Hall to avoid the A120). You'll have a choice of a 5k or 10k course along footpaths and roads, providing an opportunity to explore our glorious countryside.

The course will be well marked and marshalled and there'll be a first-aider on hand. More importantly, both routes will end up at the Nags Head where certificates and a free drink will be handed to finishers, and a barbecue will be provided.

We expect a lot of serious runners to participate including at least one – John Purvis from Westland Green – who will have just taken part in the London marathon. But this is a fun run so slower runners, competitors in fancy dress, families, teams from organisations and hamlet – even walkers and those with pushchairs will be very welcome. We'd rather you didn't bring dogs (runners tend to run a mile, if you see what we mean) but if you do, strictly on a short lead please. Kiddies' bikes are ok but they'll have to be with adults and start at the back to avoid the runners.

Both runs start at the Village Hall car park. A map of the route can be found on [www.thehadhams.com](http://www.thehadhams.com)

It's just £5 per head to enter and children under 12 go free if accompanied by a paying adult. This is half price as it's £10 on the day. Proceeds will be used to cover costs, with profits split between CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and a starter fund for the next Parish Plan event. We are supporting CRY in memory of 17-year-old Caroline Johnstone who died tragically a year ago. Caroline lived with her parents, Lesley and Johnny Johnstone in Chapel Lane, close to the finishing line of our run.

So get in training – or not! – but most important, register NOW using the entry form in this edition of the Parish News.

## Christian Aid Week - 10th to 16th May, 2009

*Feeling the pinch? You're not the only one but spare a thought (and £1) for those who lives have been wrecked by the economic down-turn. The already-poor, the already-hungry, the jobless and the needy in those countries which have always been poor. They need your help even more now. Corruption and greed, fraud, rejection of HIV victims - it is the poor and neglected that need the help of the Aid Agencies like Christian Aid. These are often the only people allowed into war-torn countries and without them thousands more would die. Christian Aid gives its aid to anyone who needs it; race and culture, religion and colour are no barriers to suffering. When your collector comes round, please give as much as you can - love your neighbour as yourself.*

Thank you.

# Furneux Singers and Friends

Come and help us to  
HIT THE RIGHT NOTE  
(for our/your convenience)

A concert to suite all tastes – and those with no taste at all!!

In  
St. Mary's Church, Furneux Pelham  
On  
SUNDAY MAY 17th at 3pm

Tickets £5 on sale at the door – including light refreshments  
Children £1

ADVERTS REMOVED

## **SHC Collections Ltd.**

*Once again the village was targeted by collectors with leaflets asking for clothes, towels, shoes etc. Please be aware that whatever you left on your doorstep for this company was sold for profit in Eastern European countries. This is not a charity (it does not claim to be) but a business, although they are doing nothing illegal. It is your choice as to what you do with your unwanted clothes etc., but charity shops in Bishop's Stortford could make better use of any saleable items. They, too, are run as businesses but they are also registered charities; the shops are run by volunteers and the proceeds strictly governed by charity law. Please think about it.*

## **Red Cross Week – 3rd-9th May 2009**

*I will be organising a doorstep collection throughout the village again this year and would love to hear from anybody willing to knock on a few doors in a good cause. If you have a little time to spare, please phone me on 771639. Thanks!*

Sandra Evans

**Your advert in this space**  
[htfp@clocktower.co.uk](mailto:htfp@clocktower.co.uk) for details

ADVERTS REMOVED

## Saying it with flowers

Mary Bayes, who has represented Little Hadham on Herts County Council for 12 years, receives a bouquet of flowers from Cllr Carmela Piccolo on behalf of Little Hadham Parish Council at its April meeting. The presentation marks Mary's retirement from Herts CC. Parish Council chairman Mike Fairchild thanked Mary for her hard work on behalf of our community and her tenacious pursuit of important issues including backing for the Little Hadham bypass.



## Wine joke goes flat!

Unlike the famous traffic light 'clickers' that got 60 people clammering for these frustration-busting gizmos, there were few (if any) takers for the offer of free wine in our latest April Fool spoof. Parish News readers were offered the chance to join the village computer club and receive a password enabling them to dispense wine through the USB connection of their computer via an internet link to a French vineyard. Rumours have been hotly denied that some residents were reluctant to take up this amazing offer because they were unsure how to surf the net.

## “The unnamed C15” re-christened?

It's official – the road that runs from Much Hadham to the A120 traffic lights, often referred to in official documents by the unglamorous name, the 'Unnamed road C15', has been re-christened. Herts Highways has confirmed that from where it enters the village near New Road and all the way to The Smithy, the road is known as The Ford. The short stretch of road from The Smithy to the traffic lights is known as The Ash.

Because they liked it so much, they named it New York New York. Maybe the same goes for residents near the lights who now live in The Ash, The Ash (or Hadham Ashe or even Hadham on Ashe, as it is sometimes known, according to our new Parish Guide)!

## Shy and retiring?

Dr Colin Brookbanks is due to retire at the end of June after 32 years in General Practice here. We would like to buy him a present to thank him for his outstanding contribution to our community.

If there is anyone who wishes to contribute to the collection for the retiring Doctor Brookbanks, but has not yet done so, the addresses are shown again below for Little Hadham residents. If this is in the form of a cheque then kindly make it payable to:- The Colin Brookbanks Fund and send or deliver to Don Gibson, Priors Cottage, Albury Road, Little Hadham. SG11 2DN or Angela Fardell, Brook House, The Ford, Little Hadham, SG11 2AY

## Slow Roast Belly of Pork – a real “credit crunch” corker

Grind 3 cloves of garlic with salt in a pestle and mortar and add a handful of fresh sage leaves and rosemary both chopped up. Grated zest of one lemon and its juice is added. Mix the whole lot together. Rub this mix into the meat, making insertions in the meat. Don't rub this into the skin, which should be scored. Put onto a rack in a roasting tin and make sure the skin is dry. Rub some salt all over the skin. Put in a very hot oven, 220C, Gas Mark 7 or top oven in the Aga. Leave for 30 mins and then turn down to 170C, Gas Mark 3 or bottom oven. I left the 2lb piece of pork there for 6 hours. If you think the skin needs a bit more crisping up, slice it off the pork joint and put back on a very high heat for 30 mins, leaving the cooked belly covered with foil.

Four of us scoffed this with mustard mash and cabbage from Alan Wells and apple sauce made with cookers from Charles Pagett-Wilkes. This is what I call a farmers' market meal. The meat came from Farrowby Farm at the market. I told Beverley how good the pork was and she said you could do the same with either shoulder or hand of pork (both cheaper cuts).

For 4 people the meat weighed approx 2lb, but I now buy a much bigger piece in the hope that there will be some left over for cold!

### **PUPPY/DOG SITTER NEEDED**

**Please contact 01279 771000 if you would be able to provide a reliable puppy/dog sitting service on an ad hoc basis.**

**Location - The Ford, Little Hadham.**

**ADVERTS REMOVED**

## **Police on the move**

If you would like to meet your local Police officers and discuss local issues, Herts Constabulary has just made it easier with a new schedule for visits to the village by the Mobile Police Station and telephone numbers and email addresses to reach PC Tracey Fegan and PCSO Lee Watson. See notice on noticeboards.

On the move, but in a different direction, is Chris Hunt, our very popular local sergeant who has now been promoted and takes up his new post as a response team inspector at Hitchin. Keeping it in the family, Chris tells us that his wife, PC Nicky Hunt, is joining the rural team and will be keeping an eye on Little Hadham.

**The Hertfordshire and Essex High School**  
*invites*  
**former pupils and staff**  
*to the*  
**Centenary Celebrations in October.**

**Details from Kathi Broad, 46, Prescott Road, Cheshunt, EN8 OPG**

ADVERTS REMOVED

# May diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

## **3 Sunday**

9.30am

## **4th Sunday of Easter**

Morning Prayer at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham  
Officiant and Preacher Jeanette Gosney

## **10 Sunday**

9.30am

## **5th Sunday of Easter**

Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham,  
Celebrant and Preacher Chris Boulton

5.00pm

Taizé service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

## **17 Sunday**

8.00am

## **Rogation Sunday**

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Family Service in Little Hadham Village Hall

6.00pm

Rogation Evensong at St Mary's, Albury.

## **21 Thursday**

6.30pm

## **Ascension Day**

Team Eucharist at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

## **24 Sunday**

11.15am

## **1st after Ascension**

Shared Communion at St Mary's, Albury  
Celebrant and Preacher Jeanette Gosney

6.00pm

Evensong at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

Officiant and Preacher Chris Boulton

## **31 Sunday**

11.00am\* (NB)

## **Pentecost (Whit) Sunday**

Team Benefice Communion at St Mary's Albury  
Celebrants Clive Slaughter and Chris Boulton

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

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**There have been no entries in the Register this month**

## Noticeboard

At the annual meeting of the Church in April Don Gibson and Tony Skidmore were re-elected as Churchwardens, Frank Green as the Treasurer, and Rosemary Smith as Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer. Mr Richard Beckett was again appointed as our independent examiner of accounts. In addition Mrs Jill Beckett was appointed as Minutes Secretary to the PCC. Mr John Baker, who stepped down from the committee, was thanked for his long and devoted service as Churchwarden and to the PCC.

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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