

Little Hadham Parish News May 2010

The Village Players: 18th and 19th June, 7.45pm

'The Village Players' are proud to announce details of their forthcoming production, **'We Found Love and an Exquisite Set of Porcelain Figurines Aboard the SS. Farndale Avenue'**, written by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jnr., and directed by Doreen Musgrove.

Come and see Dr. Haimes fresh from his overwhelming success as the Dame in Little Hadham Panto, now, as Gordon, playing the part of the wonderful Noel Nightingale alongside the usual long suffering Farndale ladies. Will Gordon manage to reach the ladies' high expectations this time, or not? Can Thelma and Mrs Reece stay civil to each other for at least part of the evening? How will poor Felicity manage to get through the night? What will Ariadne and Margot do to upset everyone?

Find out the answers to these and many other questions by joining us on Friday 18th June or Saturday 19th June at 7.45pm in Little Hadham Village Hall. **(Please note change of previously advertised dates)**

Reservations are £10 per person to include fish/chicken and chip supper. Whole tables reserved for parties of 8 or more. For bookings and order of supper choices please telephone 01279 755650.

Don't forget all proceeds go to Little Hadham Village Hall, so by sharing in an evening with 'The Village Players' you are also supporting a vital part of our local community.

Rector of Parish: Revd. Chris Boulton 01279 842609

e-mail: rectory@muchhadham.com

Team Vicar: Revd. Jeanette Gosney

01920 822619

e-mail: vicar@braughing.org.uk

Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter

01279 844955

e-mail: cp.slaughter@virgin.net

Churchwardens: Don Gibson 01279 771325, Tony Skidmore 01279 771688

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

Letter from the Rectory

"Abide with me" is still one of the most popular of the old hymns. One of the lines is "change and decay in all around I see, O thou who changest not, abide with me". It expresses our desire and need, which we have had from childhood, for security.

Human beings have many contradictions however; and just as we crave security, so also we are restless for change. Although we sometimes complain that nothing ever changes, nevertheless it does; and we do. The art of living is adapting creatively to change, while retaining stability.

In May we expect an Election. The Conservatives have launched a slogan, "time for change"; and whatever the result, things will be different, in spite of the many disillusioned citizens who lament "they are all the same". Things will be different, if only because circumstances are always changing. We are being urged in the Churches as Christians to vote; and I hope we will, considering what an effort our ancestors made to win universal suffrage. Democracy, properly ordered, can bring about change for the good. But at the same time we will be longing for stability. If we fail to vote, we can hardly complain if we get bad government.

The paradox I have outlined is beautifully expressed in the Christian view of God's Holy Spirit, whose Feast Day, Pentecost, we celebrate on May 23rd. In St John's Gospel He is called the Comforter; an image of strengthening and reassurance, even stability. In the same Gospel however the Spirit is described as an Advocate and Guide; and in St Luke's Acts of the Apostles the Spirit comes as a force to disturb and set on fire the hearts of the disciples. This is a more challenging idea of a Spirit who will help us speak out and lead us into new ways of living and thinking. The Spirit abides in us, and helps us equip ourselves for change, while offering the stability of comfort and reliable love; a gift everyone needs.

Whatever changes May brings, I hope they will be for the common good.

Chris Boulton

Parish Council News

Telephone Kiosks – ours at last!

It's official folks: the community now owns the two telephone kiosks in the village! Now you can have your say on how you would like to use them; maybe as a book/seed/veg exchange or simply somewhere to exhibit your work of art/ photos, etc. HOWEVER before any enjoyment can be had; as usual, some work has had to be carried out in order to render the kiosks clean and safe for use – a working party has been busy bringing the Bury Green telephone box back to life! We'll keep you posted as to progress and as to when they are up and running. In the meantime call Carmela with

any offers of help or indeed any novel ideas for their use: 466331

Grass Verges & Green, Millfield Lane

Following the recent development at Chasedene and the dreadful winter we have had the grass verges and the Green in Millfield Lane have suffered quite a lot of damage. A meeting with Project Manager Mr Rumney was set up and the PC can report that the verges and green will be repaired nearer the time of completion of the project, some three to four weeks' time. Mr Rumney gave his personal assurance that the reinstatement would be carried out to the best of standards.

Parish Council News, continued

The Parish Council will monitor the situation and keep villagers updated.

Westland Green Noticeboard

By the time you read this it is hoped that the noticeboard in Westland Green will be up and running and ready for displaying notices once more. We should like to pass on our grateful thanks to Geoff Williamson and his helpers for all their hard work and indeed for saving the community quite a lot of money by using 'in house' skills – Thankyou Geoff.

Bus Shelter Repairs

The Parish Council wishes to pass on their thanks to Chris Sitton who has carried out various repairs to the bus shelters in the village. As many of you will know the bus shelters are an ongoing maintenance task due to their age – but we endeavour to keep them in relatively good condition with the help of willing parishioners – Thankyou Chris.

Ashcroft Farm Development –

The Parish Council can report that the Ashcroft Farm development is now well under way. The development consists of three larger houses for sale at market value and two smaller houses classed as 'affordable rentable homes' which will be for rent only. Interested parties who wish to live in Little Hadham and are registered with East Herts Council awaiting the allocation of housing will have priority over people from outside this area. It is very important if you are interested in being housed in this locality that you start to make your interest known NOW to the local housing authority. The Parish Council would like to make parishioners aware of the arrangements covering the access road to the houses; the access nearest the garage will be the road which will carry all vehicles entering and leaving the development, the hedges will be realigned to make visibility clearer, there will

be NO new road markings and NO new traffic signs. Pedestrians (especially) and vehicles will exercise caution when approaching the junction; the Parish Council will remind parishioners of this particular fact again in the coming months and right up to completion of the development. The access nearest the lights will eventually be permanently closed, the existing drop kerb will be raised and the tarmac built up so as to merge it with the existing footpath.

Fun Run Sunday June 13th

Little Hadham Parish Plan Group are looking forward to the second Fun Run on June 13th. The run will extend into a Fun Day – please support us in our work; without you we cannot succeed. We are planning lots of fun events for the children and there will be food and drink a-plenty! So make sure to make it a date. Bring your friends, the more the merrier, everyone is welcome!

Parish Assembly – huge success!

Firstly a big Thank You to you the community. To say this event was a success would be an understatement! Your response makes the work we do worthwhile. Thank you to the speakers and to the "Little Hadham Business People". Grateful thanks to Bev, our tireless Parish Clerk, for all the hard work put in behind the scenes during preparation of the event and setting up of equipment. Parish Council colleagues deserve a Thank You, as do Paul & Helen Snelling for their support before and during the evening. Cheers Everyone - Here's to next year!

Finally: Thankyou to all parishioners who take the time to plant daffodils, tulips, and other spring plants – one's spirit is truly lifted at the sight of such vivid colours. The flowers have come up a treat this year, must be nature's way of a 'fight back' after the harsh winter weather. Well done and keep up the good work!

The Much Hadham Drama Group

Our 2010 Spring Production will be **Flare Path** by Terence Rattigan. It is scheduled for Thursday 13th, Friday 14th and Saturday 15th May starting at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Tickets will cost £7.00. As usual tickets may be obtained from our box office, telephone 01279 843427.

The play was first staged in 1942, one year after the Battle of Britain, which is its background theme. It is a compelling romantic tear-jerker, set in a country hotel near a bomber airfield. Movie legend Peter Kyle is over from the States, planning to run away with hot flame Patricia Grahame, now married to a dashing RAF bomber pilot. But it's wartime. Will Patricia choose passion or duty? The answer's not in much doubt from the beginning, because the kind of spunk this play is about is of the old-fashioned variety. Despite this the story is bang up to date. In the light of the illegal invasion of Iraq, and its consequent war dead, it's as fresh as a field of poppies.



ADVERTS REMOVED

Running for Fun and a Worthy Cause

Serious runners, as well as fun-runners will be taking part in the **Little Hadham Fun Run** on Sunday 13th June this year. The organisers are planning for more participants than last year's event (which was nearly 250!). Once again it is in support of CRY, Cardiac Arrest in the Young, in memory of a local girl, Caroline Johnstone. Last year we raised £1000 for the charity.

Participants have a choice of a 5km or 10 km route, both of which take in most of the hamlets which make up the village. The event will start at the village hall at 11.00am, and finish there later, at approximately midday. But activities will continue afterwards with teas, a bar, a karate demonstration, and various activities for the children.

Finishers will receive a certificate of participation and a complimentary soft/isotonic drink. The price of entry is £5, but children under 12 are free if accompanied by a participating adult. The proceeds will be split between CRY, the local school and cricket club, and a starter fund for the next Parish Plan event in Little Hadham. The organisers are inviting entries (serious or fun runners/walkers) from Little Hadham and the surrounding area.

There is still time to enter, so contact Mike Smith (01279 771568), John Purvis (01279 843049) or download an entry form from The Hadhams web site.

John, a parish councillor who regularly finishes the London Marathon, said: "This is essentially a fun event. Everyone enjoyed themselves last year and I am sure it will continue annually"

For more information contact Dr Mike Smith 01279 771568 or John Purvis 01279 843049

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Sawbridgeworth Players present:

The Elephant Man, written by Bernard Pomerance, directed by Peter Dodkin and produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., at the Victoria Hall Theatre, Bury Road, Old Harlow, CM17 0ED from Thursday, 13th May to Saturday, 15th May inclusive (doors open 7.15pm, curtain up 8pm). Tickets £8.00 (£7.00 concessions).

This play is based on the true story of a remarkable man whose hideous deformities exploited by Victorian society mask an incredibly sensitive, witty and intelligent being. John Merrick, known as The Elephant Man, is exhibited as a sideshow freak until an ambitious young surgeon, Frederick Treves, discovers him and brings him into the care of the London Hospital. Merrick is then introduced to high society but becomes perplexed at the often-hypocritical values of the time. The efforts of actress Mrs Kendal to ease his loneliness, as well as Treves' and Merrick's belief that he can become a man like any other, are dreams never to be fulfilled. This incredibly moving play entwined with humour and pathos explores courage, morality and the inner human spirit.

Tickets are now on sale via our Box Office phone number 07752 161802 and are also available from the Tuck Shop and the Café of the Angels in Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth.

Lost Keys Dogwalkers and other pedestrians please can you keep your eyes open for a key or keys lost whilst the owner was out with his dog? If you have found it/them please contact the editor on 771113.

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Garden Tips for May

Flower Beds

Harden off summer bedding plants thoroughly, and plant out only when all risk of frost has passed.

Tie in Sweet Peas trained up canes or trellis.

Remove mildewed foliage of spring flowering plants such as Pulmonaria. Cut to the base, water well and fresh leaves will regrow.

Pull up forget-me-nots after flowering.

Tie woody climbers to their supports regularly.

Remove any damaged wood from trees and shrubs after the harsh winter.

Newly-planted shrubs and trees need to be watered regularly until established.

Veg Plot

Lettuce, peas, broad beans and radishes can all be sown in short rows for successional cropping. Start to remove sideshoots from the leaf axils of cordon tomatoes.

Transplant Brussels sprouts, cabbages, kale and sprouting broccoli to their cropping positions.

Sweet corn, runner beans and French beans can be sown directly into the soil.

Foster Care Fortnight, 17th - 30th May – Do you have the skills to foster?

As a foster carer you would help to provide a stable and caring home for a child or young person at a time when they need it most. This may be for an overnight stay, a few weeks, or until they are a young adult, depending on what type of fostering you're approved for. By doing ordinary everyday things for them, you will be making an extraordinary difference to their lives. As a foster carer, you will have a dedicated social worker, receive full training and support and an allowance of up to £400 per child per week. If you think you have the skills to foster please call our dedicated recruitment team on 0800 917 0925 or visit www.hertsdirect.org/fostering You can also find out more about adoption, shared care or supported lodgings by visiting our website at www.hertsdirect.org or call our recruitment team on 0800 9170925.

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Braughing Music Society -

The Alberni String Quartet

Three Beethoven Quartets

Op.18 no. 3 in D major, Op. 95 in F minor 'SeriOSO'

Op.130 in B flat major

Saturday 8th May - 7:30 pm

St Mary's Church, Braughing

TICKET PRICES

£15 Premium; £12 Standard; £10 restricted view

£15 at the door

Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073

www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk

Christian Aid Week: 9th –15th May

Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days of fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty. Christian Aid works in some of the world's poorest communities in more than 50 countries. They act where the need is greatest, regardless of religion, helping people to tackle the problems they face and build the life they deserve. At home and overseas, they campaign to change the structures that keep people poor, challenging inequality and injustice.

This is your chance to make a difference to the lives of those people we see on our television screens: the starving, the sick, the homeless and the neglected. We in the West have everything we need; they have nothing. When your collector knocks on your door, don't turn them away. Please share your wealth with the needy, and you will save someone's life. Thank you very much.

ADVERTS REMOVED

Rural Ramblings

Cherry Mardell

Down on the farm, it's been a busy month. Following a wet and cold winter, and with the fields looking brown, rather than green, farmers the country over decided to "top dress" (fertilise you and me). The results are akin to giving a starving man food – within days everything starts coming alive at double speed! A total lack of grass means that hay prices have shot up and horse owners in this area have to pay top price for it. We ran out weeks ago. Hopefully, by the time you read this, pastures will be growing again and we won't have to rely so heavily on bought-in feed.

Our chickens, although egg-producing in great quantities, have obviously been in training for the Olympic high jump. We now have to fence in all our flower tubs if we want to have any floral displays!

Mulan (the spitting alpaca) fooled me into thinking she had lost her unborn cria during the winter. A £40, five minute visit from a mobile ultra-sound service proved otherwise. Mulan just didn't like the winter weather any more than we did and no amount of food seemed to improve her slim-line appearance. I went on an alpaca birthing course the other day and am now doubly agitated in case our two pregnant females decide to produce while I'm home alone! The complications seem endless and I dream now of my arm stuck up where no arm should dare to go! The fact the same two alpacas gave birth without help last year doesn't ease my fears at all!

One of last year's youngsters had to be castrated last month. Ollie (short for Oligarch, the

continued on page 13

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Cricket Club News

So after the coldest winter for thirty years the sun is now shining and the cricket season is finally under way. The first match of the season (11th April) against County Hall had to be cancelled due to the fact that the pitch was not ready because of the very wet weather at the end of March. However the following week in very warm spring sunshine the season finally got under way, with the visit to Millfield lane of Craven, a wandering team from North London. Batting first Little Hadham progressed steadily on a slow early season pitch and eventually reached 153 for 9. Frank Jaynes top scored with 52 not out, whilst James Law added 33 and David Wheatley 25. Requiring around 4 runs an over to win Craven always looked like reaching their target and eventually won the match with 4 overs and six wickets to spare. Paul Mason-Smith and David Wheatley were the pick of the Little Hadham bowlers with 2 wickets apiece.

The club is always looking to attract new members, so if you are interested in playing cricket and therefore help support your village side, then please contact us on the numbers below even if you have never played before or wish to take up the sport again after a break from playing. We are a very friendly club and would welcome new members of all ages and abilities. We currently have a membership with an age range of 10 to 70, so you are never too young or old to play. Contact Martin Hallmark 771033 or Neil Oxborrow 506062 for more details. The cricket club now has its own website, at <http://littlehadham.play-cricket.com>. The website contains details of the club's fixtures and will include club news as we go through the season.

MAY FIXTURES

Sunday 2nd	Stocking Pelham	Home	2.00pm
Monday 3rd	Ardleigh Green	Home	2.00pm
Sunday 9th	Manuden	Away	2.00pm
Tuesday 11th	Thorley	Away	6.00pm
(Hertfordshire village cup (20-over competition))			
Sunday 16th	Takeley	Home	2.30pm
Sunday 23rd	Albury	Home	2.30pm
Tuesday 25th	High Roding	Away	6.00pm
(Davis cup (20-over competition))			
Sunday 30th	Nazeing Common	Away	2.00pm
Monday 31st	Thorley	Home	2.00pm

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Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

It was good to see many of you at last month's Parish Assembly!

May for us is a very 'testing time', literally! Our Year 6 pupils will be taking their KS2 SATs in the week beginning the 10th May and we wish them all 'Good Luck'. We will be holding our annual Post-SATs Disco on Friday 14th May so they can celebrate the end in style!

As a welcome break after SATs, we will be holding an 'Around the World' Week where we will be looking at other countries and cultures, which will link in well with the start of the Football World Cup next month. If anyone feels that they have got any interesting 'world experiences' or artefacts that they think the children would find fascinating, please let us know.

Thank you to those who supported our FRIENDS Quiz Night last month. An amazing £1350 was raised towards our Outdoor Music Maze! We hope to organise another in the Autumn, so watch this space!

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Head

March Quiz at the Nag's Head

What a great night we all had at our local pub quiz night. For those who don't know, there is a quiz at the Nag's Head at the end of every month. Last month, March, the evening was arranged by Wendy and Jonathan (known affectionately as Jono). The object, this time, was to raise money for The Breast Cancer Appeal and at the same time, to have as much fun as possible. A little over £620 was raised, with a fun packed evening for everyone in the process. In addition to the usual quiz there was a raffle and an auction. Paul and Nat (our favourite publicans) provided some very tasty refreshments to sustain us. I hope you will agree with me when I say, "How lucky we are to live in such a caring and friendly village".

ADVERTS REMOVED

What's on in May . . .

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

4 Tue, Parish Council meeting, 8pm Everybody welcome. Do come along.

8 Sat, The Great Plant Sale and Coffee Morning, 9.30am. Lots of great plants, a book stall and garden bric-a-brac. Also lovely cakes and a great atmosphere. Do come along we would love to see you.

8 Sat, The Alberni String Quartet, 7.30pm St Mary's, Braughing (see poster, p8)

9 Sun Antiques Fair, 9.30 – 4pm

11 Tue, LH & A Social Club, 8pm. Denis Rowley, from the Driving Standards Agency, will give an Arrive Alive Road Safety Presentation. We look forward to meeting old friends and new. £1.50 admission, including refreshments, a raffle and charity book sales. Please phone 771580 or 658585 for information.

13–15, Flare Path, MH Drama Group (p4)

13–15, The Elephant Man, Sawbridgew'th Players (see page 6)

13,27 Thur, Mobile Library (see back page)

15 Sat, Verdi Requiem, Thaxted church, 7.30. Bishop's Stortford and Royston Choral Societies plus Hertford Symphony Orchestra and soloists are performing this major work by Verdi. Do come along and support this performance by us! Tickets from Bishop's Stortford Tourist Office, or ring Tony Skidmore, a member of BSCS 01279 771688

16 Sun Nature Walk. 5am VH car park. Please contact me first. 07805 571551 or fforgham@theprimaryworks.com

16 Sun Sponsored Ride & BBQ (for the Herts & Essex Border Group of Riding for the Disabled Association) at Woodhall Pk, Watton at Stone. SG14 3NF. Rides of 3, 6 and 9 miles. A rare opportunity to ride around some beautiful Hertfordshire countryside. The organisers gratefully acknowledge the support

of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Abel Smith over whose land the ride takes place. For information: www.horsedates.co.uk or Alex Cater: 01763 289808, e-mail alex.cater@btopenworld.com

16 Sun Sponsored Bike Ride, from Woolmer Grn, for Isabel Hospice. Info: 01707 382500:

20 Thur, "Way Inn" coffee morning 10-12pm.

23 Sun, Much Hadham Open Gardens 12-5pm. for St Elizabeth's Centre. This is your chance to enjoy many unique and varied gardens in the village. Tickets, guides and refreshments available from the Forge.

23 Sun Sponsored Bike Ride, starts from BS Rugby Club, for Isabel Hospice. Info: maria.alexander@isabelhospice.org.uk

27 Thur, MH Horticultural Soc & Allotment Club SWAP SHOP in the grounds of The Forge Museum, 7-9pm. Come along with your plants, pots or any other horticultural items that you would like to swap and enjoy a summer's evening talking to members and swapping.

29 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30-11.30am.

. . . and after that

5 June Sunset and Stars Walk/Run for Isabel Hospice 5pm registration, Runners start 7pm, walkers start 7.15pm sharp. 01707 382500

13 June LH FUN RUN Application forms can be downloaded from www.thehadhams.com

13 June Bromley Hall Open Gardens 2-5.30.

18,19 June Village Players. (see front cover)

19 June Much Hadham Playgroup Ball "Fire & Ice" £80. Booking form from: muchhadhamball@googlemail.com

21-26 June BS Camera Club Exhibition 10-5pm, Rhodes Centre. Entry Free, finish at 3pm Saturday

26 June St Elizabeth's Summer Fayre 1-4.00

26, 27 June Arts & Crafts exhibition, Standon.

13 Aug Charity Golf Day (p20) Info: 813710 (For details see poster on page 20)

Rural Ramblings continued from page 9

Russian word for a multi-millionaire – we were in Russia when he arrived on the scene) is a big, strong chap who has sex very firmly on his mind 24/7! Normally when we regretfully have our domestic dogs and cats done, we take them to the vet and receive them back, slightly subdued, later that day. Not alpacas . . . we had to be the vet's assistants in this operation. Once anaesthetised, Ollie had to be hauled on top of two hay bales. While I held his neck (remember alpacas have extra long necks!) and head in the correct position, Himself held Ollie's little tail up while the vet did the necessary. When he came round and staggered to his feet, this jovial, friendly animal gave me a look which can only be described as one of loathing. And, in all honesty, came you blame him?

LEARN TO BOWL MUCH HADHAM BOWLING CLUB OPEN DAY 2010

Much Hadham Bowling Club Annual Open Day Saturday, 15th May, 10-3pm

The Club enjoys an excellent reputation for its facilities and hospitality. If you want to take up a gentle exercise in a very sociable environment then bowls is for you. It is the sport for all – all ages, all sexes and all abilities. It is a game that takes just seconds to learn – and the rest of your bowling career to master. Experienced bowlers will be there to help you, and everything you need will be supplied on the day, although it would be helpful if you could wear a pair of flat, soft soled shoes. The Open Day will be followed up by coaching sessions throughout the season. These will be organized by our experienced coaches and take place on Wednesdays from 4 pm and will enable you to develop your game so you can take full part in all the Club's bowling activities, which include friendly matches, leagues and competitions.

The Club can be found in the Sports Association Ground at Tower Hill, Much Hadham
Further details may be obtained from Ken or Shirley Howlett (01279) 842637

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Nature Notes: March / April

Jonathan Forgham

A month of increasingly good weather, finishing with high temperatures during the day but with early morning frosts not uncommon. During this period (March 18th – April 18th) the much expected arrival of summer migrants took place, along with the first emergence of hibernating butterflies.

The first highlight of a busy month was a sighting of 2 greylag geese near Albury on 20th March. A first for the parish and these birds constitute my 99th bird species for the parish. The hunt is on for the century and I have no idea what it will be.



New birds for 2010 were: chiffchaff (village hall car park 28th) garden warbler (a pair at Westland Green on 1st April), blackcap singing on Brick Kiln Hill (3rd), whitethroat at Bury Green (10th), swallow, (Bury Green 6.00a.m. 18th) and willow warbler singing in Millennium Wood (18th). Other notable birds were: tufted duck (10 at Albury End, 20th), goldcrest (27th), common buzzard, bullfinch, grey partridge and treecreeper (all on the 3rd) and sparrow hawk, a large female, over my garden on the evening of the 18th.

Butterflies appeared, with my first parish record for 2010 on the exceptionally warm afternoon of the 10th April. In all, I recorded 1 common blue, 2 brimstone (the bright yellow butterfly), 5 peacocks, 2 commas and 1 small tortoiseshell.

2 dawn chorus walks were organised, with 15 brave souls meeting at the village hall car park on the 28th at 5.45am. This was the morning the clocks went forward. A wonderful wander

continued on page 17

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Carmen – a review

Damian O'Malley

Ware Operatic has staged Bizet's tragicomic opera *Carmen* twice before in its 50 year history: the first time in concert in 1988, and the second time in 1998. I hope that this year's spirited and affecting production of *Carmen*, which ran at Hertford's Castle Hall from March 2nd to 6th, means that we won't have to wait through another decade of Gilbert & Sullivan and Rodgers & Hammerstein, before they again mount a "serious" opera.

The usual problem with amateur theatre and opera productions is that constant small mistakes – a cracked note here, a wobbly set there – prevent the audience from suspending its collective disbelief and really getting into the story. I must admit, then, that I approached this production with some misgivings.

The opening did little to reassure me. In the overture the violins were scratchy and tentative. The walls of Seville were rendered in the kind of marbling generally reserved for the end papers of expensive books, so the action looked like it was taking place in a giant encyclopaedia. And the handsome young dragoons looked more like the Home Guard, so their flirtations with the tobacco girls were faintly disturbing. But then we met Don José and Micaela, Welsh tenor Robert Amon and WOS veteran Sarah Sykes respectively, and the foundations of his dilemma and an absorbing evening were laid.

For those few of you not familiar with the story of *Carmen*, Don José is an army corporal caught between his obsessive love for a feisty and independent gypsy girl, the eponymous *Carmen*, played with great gusto by Sara Grimshaw, and the homelier comforts offered by Micaela.

continued on page 21

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The Staffordshire Hoard

We recently took the opportunity of visiting our eldest daughter in Staffordshire and included a visit to the Stoke on Trent Museum to view the Staffordshire Hoard Treasure Trove, which was discovered near Lichfield in July, 2009. Elizabeth suggested we arrive early, arriving about 30 minutes before the building was opened. Even then the queue was long and it was a cold damp morning. Eventually we were inside the building and by the time we reached the Hoard Exhibition we had queued for about 2 hours. It was well worth every minute. We were not hurried, were able to spend enough time to view each display case and the Museum staff were most friendly and helpful. About 100 of the 1,600 items were on view, all gold, some with garnets worked into the design. There is a complete gold seahorse only about 2 inches high and it is covered in intricate designs, plus you could see its face perfectly. The skill in the designs is fantastic, particularly when you consider the tools they would have used, compared with to day. A lot of the pieces were parts of swords. Whether the swords were dismantled or the blades had disintegrated it is not known.

The Hoard has been valued as Treasure Trove at over £3 million pounds and the finder and farmer have shared this amount. Staffordshire have recently learned that they have raised the funds to be able to keep the Hoard within the County, possibly to be divided between Birmingham and Stoke – an amazing achievement. The Hoard now has to be cleaned and analysed before being put on permanent display; it will reveal so much of Mercia in the 7th century. Meanwhile, I am on my way to buy a metal detector!!

Ennis Rogers

ADVERTS REMOVED

Nature Notes, continued from page 14



along the Ridge and over the golf course, recording 25 species, including first chiffchaffs. A 2nd began at 5am on the 18th April with 9 participants.

On this occasion we headed to Millennium Wood, Bury Green and round to Bush Wood and Winding Hill. A satisfactory 38 species were seen and/or heard including the aforementioned swallow, little owl, tawny owl and 2 mandarin duck, flushed from a hedgerow near The Lordship, Much Hadham. A super walk, in great company, beginning in frosty conditions and concluding in super sunshine.

Plants are now emerging, with jack in the hedge (garlic mustard), dog violet, coltsfoot and germander speedwell early flowering examples of spring plants. I have noticed large numbers of 7 spot ladybirds this spring and wonder if there is to be a late summer infestation as there was on the north Norfolk coast in August 2009. I was in Sheringham where an estimated 10 million ladybirds were to be seen. The whole town was covered in them. However, the emergence of the invasive harlequin ladybird, found locally, may cut down numbers markedly, so it will be a question of wait and see.

I propose a 3rd early morning walk on Sunday 16th May, meeting at the village hall at 5am and wandering over to Hadham Hall and areas north of the A120. All welcome but please let me know if you wish to attend so we don't leave without you. Contact jforgham@theprimaryworks.com or 07805571551. I look forward to meeting you.

Finally, photos attached show a pair of red legged partridge and a splendid peacock butterfly. More photos and information can be found at <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com>

ADVERTS REMOVED

Letter from Australia

Val Sargent

Early February and we are staying in our daughter's apartment in Manly, a few miles outside Sydney. We are quite high up and have wonderful views from the various balconies across the sea to view the Sydney skyline. It's raining too hard for us to go out so I have tidied all the plants and the pots inside and out. We had planned to drive as near to Manly Wharf as possible to avoid the monstrous hills and then embark on bikes to get to the Wharf to take the ferry to Sydney and then cycle to the Botanical gardens. It should be a nice day out, but rain too heavy for me to even swim. The pool man had come and said the pool needed to have another 4" of water to top up. I started the hose last night and then turned it off whilst we slept. This morning it was brimming. The second pool man (who had come to sort out glue jobs and salt) said that was due to the rain!! I mean, the pool is not that small!!

We shall try and get the hood up on the jeep, so as not to have wet seats on our return this evening and perhaps start out later for our botanical gardens outing. It rains regularly but is still warm. I am having a battle with a sort of magpie who steals the tomatoes every morning and seems to have a fetish with the pot of parsley. It is always turned out completely and dug about into the soil.

More palm tree leaves down this morning. I have to take them down the 7 levels (outside steps luckily) and get them into the street for collection of garbage later this week. We have 4 assorted collections on different days. Very streamlined. The palm branches are too heavy for me to lift, will have to beg Mike to come out of his book to help.

continued on next page

ADVERTS REMOVED

Letter from Australia, continued

So after all, its not wall to wall sunshine. However, the filter 30 suncream is enough for our skin protection when the sun does shine.

We cycled yesterday for the first time. Mike got the bikes on the back of the jeep (they are much heavier than ours, so quite a struggle) and we went into Manly proper and cycled alongside the two beaches etc., took us nearly 2 hours – so that was good. I went into the Tourist office for information on cycle paths in Sydney and they said how happy and positive I looked. It's because I have "wheels" again.

There is a walk from Manly to Spit Bridge and it is quite famous. You feel as if you are traversing along a rocky path in a rain forest. Occasionally you catch glimpses of the sea and rocky inlets and beaches. You can climb down to these and have a very private swim which I do every evening. I think this is definitely the way to break the UK winter up. Better by miles than Spain and Portugal. The Australians are very friendly and as an extra bonus they even drive on the same side of the road as us.

Farmers' Market 29th May

*Fresh seasonal vegetables
Soft fruits (in season)
Perennial and annual plants
Apples, apple juice and cider
Pickles and condiments
Home made ready meals
Hand made chocolates
Chicken and game
Saffron brewery
The Forge, Much Hadham
Hand made soaps, lotions and
potions
Cakes, pies and deli
Lamb and associated products
Honey, Breads, pies and buns
Pork and associated products
eggs, cheese
Coffee beans, whole & ground
and loads more*

ADVERTS REMOVED

**Muscular
Dystrophy**
Campaign

BARKWAY PARK
GOLF CLUB



CHARITY GOLF DAY

at **BARKWAY PARK GOLF CLUB**

FRIDAY 13 AUGUST 2010

supporting

THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CAMPAIGN

sponsored by



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 + Longest Drive Prizes
Putting Competition

ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM

ALAN, 01279 505147

or call 01279 813710 for more
information

13th & 27th 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, third thursday of the
month, 10 - 12noon

ADVERTS REMOVED

Carmen, continued from page 15

Carmen warns Don José explicitly in her first aria that, "If I love you beware", but Don José can't help himself and abandons Micaela and his commission in the army to join Carmen and her smuggling gang in the Andalusian mountains before they both come to a sticky end.

Don José is thus the emotional motor that drives the opera, and if his struggle between love and honour is not utterly convincing then the opera grinds to a halt. Luckily Amon was up to the challenge; his singing was beautiful in every register and his anguish was genuine; his duets with Micaela and Carmen were the highlights of the evening. As one familiar song after another was rolled out with aplomb by the company the audience relaxed and the opera began to soar.

The secondary characters were all strong and special mention must be made of John Tripp as the matador Escamillo, Don José's rival for Carmen's affections, who had the best entry, the best Clark Gable moustache and the best round of applause for his stirring rendition of "Toreador". (Full disclosure, John is a good friend and the one who invited me to the show.)

In fact on closer inspection it turned out that almost without exception the soloists had tertiary musical and vocal qualifications, and a great deal of experience with other opera companies and choral groups, perhaps not so amateur after all.

Look out for the company's next show, a gala performance entitled *Heroes and Villains*, at the Ware Drill Hall on the 9th and 10th July.

ADVERTS REMOVED

Monumental reference booklet



The church has recently acquired twenty booklets published by The Hertfordshire Family History Society which give meticulously detailed information about every gravestone, monument, tablet, brass and wall fixing in St Cecilia's Church and its churchyard. This very useful book is a 'must' for those exploring family histories who need to know dates, names, inscriptions used on tombstones and family connections. Every church monument is covered: from the earliest dates recorded on gravestones (seventeenth century in some cases) memorials inside the church going back even further, up to 2008. An index, explanation of abbreviations, photographs and history of the church are included. The War Memorial in Ford Hill and the names inscribed thereon is also recorded and photographed. Did you know that the grave of Captain William Harvey RN is situated just outside the south porch of the church? Harvey

accompanied Captain Cook on HMS Resolution when he carried out his three circumnavigations of the world. This booklet is an invaluable piece of recorded local history that should not be missed. Copies may be obtained from Don Gibson - 771325 - at a cost of £6 each.

ADVERTS REMOVED

Complaints Corner

Grumpy Old Men and Moaning Minnies only

That Black Cat

I read your article in the local parish news regarding the cats being injured up at Cradle End Little Hadham. Living in the village myself (The Smithy) we too are having the same trouble with a black tom, and we know which cat it is that is continuing to injure my two cats and is making their lives a misery. The cat that is causing injury to my two cats (both being neutered etc) disappears for days on end and even weeks before coming back and injuring cats again. The cat in particular has been seen up at Cradle End and as you may be aware Male Toms can stray for miles and days - especially over fields. This specific cat does have a home in the Smithy, however saying that he is left to his own devices and is not cared for in the same way as a loving family cat - he is more a feral cat and nasty.

I'm not too sure what can be done with him as I certainly do not want to suggest to his owners that he should be neutered. Is there anything we can do about the black cat as he can't go on fighting and injuring other people's cats, including mine?

Barking Mad

Now you have a grumpy old man page and you can target certain individuals.

As the subject seems to be dog owners, I thought it must be time to put pen to paper.

Along the Albury Road there are three dogs that bark morning noon and night. The thought of having a "nice day in the garden" is pretty remote. Should one meet the said dogs when out, they are very hostile. If the owner cannot control them they should be kept on a lead and muzzled at all times. As for black poo bags in the hedges, ditches, river etc., why bother to pick it up if you do not intend to dispose of properly? (name and address withheld)

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.)

2 Sunday

9.30am

Easter 5

Sung Matins, Officiant and Preacher the Rector

9 Sunday

9.30am

Easter 6 and Rogation

Shared Family Service at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

6.00pm

Sung Evensong at St Thomas's, Perry Green

10 Monday

Christian Aid Week

13 Thursday

7.00pm

TEAM ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

St Mary's, Albury

16 Sunday

8.00am

Ascension 1

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Family Service in the Village Hall, Little Hadham,

Officiant David Payne, Vicar of Standon

6.00pm

Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

19 Wednesday

8.00pm

Deanery Synod at Sawbridgeworth

23 Sunday

9.30am

Pentecost

Parish Communion **Note change of service from usual**

Celebrant and Preacher Canon Michael McAdam

29 Saturday

2.00pm

Wedding of John Hagger and Aimee Gibson at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

30 Sunday

11.00am

6.00pm

Trinity Sunday

Team Eucharist at St Mary's, Albury **Note change of time**

Deanery Evensong at Eastwick Church

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

Funerals: Ronald Bone on Wed. 31 March. Previously of Stonehouse Farm (until 1955)

Foster Care Fortnight – Do you have the skills to foster? (17th - 30th May)

As a foster carer you would help to provide a stable and caring home for a child or young person at a time when they need it most. This may be for an overnight stay, a few weeks, or until they are a young adult, depending on what type of fostering you're approved for. By doing ordinary everyday things for them, you will be making an extraordinary difference to their lives. As a foster carer, you will have a dedicated social worker, receive full training and support and an allowance of up to £400 per child per week.

If you think you have the skills to foster and have a spare room in your home, please call our dedicated recruitment team on 0800 917 0925 or visit www.hertsdirect.org/fostering

You can also find out more about adoption, shared care or supported lodgings by visiting our website at www.hertsdirect.org or call our recruitment team on 0800 9170925.

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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