

Little Hadham Parish News

July 2010

A fantastic success

Increased support for the 2nd Little Hadham Fun Run

Over 300 adult participants, together with another 50 youngsters enjoyed a cool morning, ideal for running the 5Km or 10Km routes around our picturesque village. They were cheered on by local residents; and marshals lining strategic parts of the course, some of whom provided water to any thirsty runner. The shorter course suited those who preferred a more relaxed appreciation of



the June countryside, accompanied by their families and pets. Road safety was provided by a police presence at the busy main road traffic lights. The longer course, with its two gruelling hill climbs, appealed to the more serious runners: maybe competing against the clock. First over the 10Km, was Nick Kenyon from Much Hadham, with a time of 39 minutes 50, followed by Tom Banks and Steve Hare. The first lady home was Sonia Buss in 54 minutes. The 5 km was completed in 21 minutes 07 by Teddy Oliver, followed by George Coor; with Frankie Brumkie

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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

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

Letter from the Rectory

Flags of St George are sticking out of several cars in the car park; and to my astonishment Marks and Spencer's is selling garments and hats with glittering red crosses. The nation waits with bated breath to reach the holy grail of winning again the football world cup, which we won when I was only a teenager. By the time you read this it will all be over; the vuvuzelas, or noise makers, will have fallen silent. We will know England's fate. For a short while we may pretend to be one nation, and even the Scots, Welsh and Irish are trying to sound supportive. Then presumably we go back to being our normal divided selves.

Our new government wants us to be a big society with a little government. I think the idea is rooted in Disraeli's one nation Toryism:

"Two nations between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy," he lamented as he looked at unequal Victorian Britain, "who are as ignorant of each other's habits, thoughts, and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets: the rich and the poor." He realized that only by bringing the two together could the country flourish.

We are very different from the Victorians, and yet there are still huge divisions between rich and poor. I often feel cocooned in my lovely house and walled garden from the harsher realities of life and know that I am privileged to live in such a lovely place, with so many advantages. I think that I appreciate it even more, having been born in a working class mining community.

For many years the Church of England has embraced the core values of social responsibility and community cohesion. In town and country we have championed local efforts towards self help and better education for all. Christians have been among the higher percentage of local volunteers in a variety of social schemes. Therefore the idea of a big society is not such a strange one. The Church is fundamentally a voluntary body. However we also see the need for the vulnerable to be protected; and know very well that the rich and the better educated can more readily access means of self help than others. We are very different from the Victorians. We are not just two nations, but arguably many nations. By that I do not mean we have a lot of foreigners, but that we have a great diversity of interests and that we are truly global in a post colonial way. I am not just a part of the Church of England, but an Anglican Communion that is spread across the world.

I have got a sinking feeling, having seen England play America in the first round, that no amount of flag waving will ensure my team's victory. They will have to perform in order to gain the prize. Likewise Big Society is a good idea; but in order to get there many more will have to leave self behind and seek the good of others: we will have to act big as well as think big. The poet Goethe put it this way: "Thinking is relatively easy; action is more difficult; and to act in accordance with one's thoughts is the most difficult thing in the world."

Have a good and action packed summer!

Chris Boulton.

Parish Council News

Ashcroft Farm The development continues and is more or less on schedule to be complete by Sept 2010. The larger houses are now being marketed by local estate agents. The two affordable units will be up for rent; we reiterate those interested in renting one of the two houses must register with East Herts Council (01279 655261 Housing Options Team). You can also keep up to date with any news about the houses online at the East Herts website.

Ridgeway Playground The Parish Council recently received news that the see-saw at the Ridgeway playground has seen better days. We are happy to report that Arthur Northcote, under the guidance of the Parish Council, will undertake the renewal of the balance beam to the see-saw. Please folks if you live at the Ridgeway show your support and offer Arthur a helping hand – give Carmela a call 466331 and she'll put you in touch with him. Thank you Arthur for your kind offer of help.

Byroad at Westland Green The Parish Council is to request that Herts County Council impose a traffic control order to prevent vehicles crossing Westland Green. There have been reports that vehicles can turn up at any time of the day or night and drive across the green in "off roading" type exercises. Obviously for the residents of Westland Green this can be both irritating and disturbing. We shall keep you updated on this matter; we reckon it will be a long and tiresome matter to resolve.

Works to Bridge over River Ash Folks don't forget that during the latter part of July there will be upgrading works carried out to the bridge at the traffic lights. More info if you need it can be gained from Herts Highways.

Fairtrade The Chairman of the PC, Andy Morris, would like to see the parish of Little Hadham become a Fairtrade parish. We will be supporting Andy in this matter and would like to encourage parishioners to include some Fairtrade items in their weekly shop; many items can now be found right across all leading supermarkets. Watch this space for more news on this subject over the coming months.

Quickies The saga goes on and on with the verges at Millfield Lane – still on the builders' list to be completed in the next few weeks!

The telephone kiosks are due to be fitted with shelving in the next few weeks so that the community can start to make use of them as "book swap stop". Start saving your books please folks! **Church End Farm** – no news to add re. track which has been excavated along the boundary with Hadham Hall. Rest assured we shall keep the community aware of any new information. **Wedding Reception Bury Green** – if you bump into the Happy Couple on their special day in July do wish them well!

Finally – The Parish Council does not meet in August, so the July meeting will be the last one this summer it would be great to see you there July 6th 8pm village hall!

THANK YOU – To the faithful members of our wonderful community who offered up their time to help with the Fun Run on Sunday 13 June. Not one marshal or helper backed out thus helping to make the event one of the safest and most successful for our village. So on behalf of the community and Little Hadham Parish Plan Group I say "THANK YOU TO YOU ALL"

Carmela.

Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

With a busy June behind us full of Rugby finals, Y3/4 Residential Trips, Fashion Shows and very special Polo Tournaments, we are now heading towards the final straight!

Firstly, I would like to congratulate our Early Years Unit on being the very first school in the area to be awarded the new Herts Quality Standard for Excellence in Early Years provision. It highlights Little Hadham Early Years as an example of the 'best practice' and will make us a showcase for teachers from other schools. Well done, team!

*A major focus for the **Friends** will be our **School Summer Fête on Sunday 11th July** from 12-3pm. We do hope that many of you will be able to come along and enjoy the fun!*

Our KS2 pupils are in full rehearsal for this year's Summer Production of Cinderella-Rockerfella. Senior Citizens are welcome to join us for the Dress Rehearsal on Monday 19th July at 10am and then stay on for refreshments afterwards.

Along with Cycling Proficiency Week, Outdoor Learning Week and Y5/6 First Aid Training we may be ready for a good break in the summer!

Thank you for your continued support and also a thank you to the Parish Council for their very generous donations towards our Early Years Story Phones, which the children adore!

Liz Stockley, Head

Adverts removed

Nature Notes

from Jonathan Forgham

A period of increasingly dry weather, but with a regular northerly wind keeping the temperatures down. Plenty of birds are now at the height of their breeding period, so plenty of activity around bird tables, with blue tits, long tailed tits and great tits all featuring in my garden with their young. Recently they have been joined by a noisy family party of goldfinches.

As this period unfolded (May 18th – June 18th) birds were becoming harder to find but still several highlights. Firstly, my plea for all cuckoo records last month paid dividends with reports coming from Chapel Lane, Hadham Hall, Cradle End and Westland Green. So, at least 4 singing birds with a late individual still singing at The Ford in the 2nd week of June.

A red kite over The Ford on the 2nd June was only my third record for the parish. A grey wagtail was observed along the River Ash south of the village whilst returning gulls were observed on several occasions, with lesser black backed and herring gulls taking up an unusual roost on the golf course fairways. These will be birds returning to their winter grounds having either failed to breed or lost their eggs to predators or flooding. Other noteworthy sightings involved a pair of bullfinches on Brick Kiln Hill (19th), over 75 swallows north of Hadham Hall (23rd) and 2 grey partridge in fields near The Smithy.



Although the sun has been shining, butterflies still remain thin on the ground. Several small skippers were a new recording for the year, but apart from an occasional peacock, common blue (shown) and comma, very little has been

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Adverts removed

Do you write thank you letters? As a child my birthdays and Christmases were haunted by the fact that a strict family rule said that I wasn't allowed to go out and enjoy myself until all the letters were written. I remember even now that, one year, I didn't get those darned letters written until January 5, the day I went back to school. What a boring Christmas holiday that was! I tried to instil the same rules on my children. It didn't work long-term. Neither writes letters though a phone call, and nowadays an e-mail, sometimes results. Yesterday, though, I received a thank you email from a (former) friend to beat them all. It said "Thank you for the necklace which is lovely. Please do not send me large e-mails as the one you sent this week has jammed up in my box and I can't get rid of it. E-mails are stacking up behind it. I don't know what to do about it but I suppose I'll find a way." This from someone who sent me, for my birthday, a wooden spoon! So that's one less present to buy in future!

Women spend two and a half hours a week nagging their partners, a recent survey claimed last week. More than 3,000 people completed the survey, with women saying their main grumbles were lack of help in the house, his drinking and his not visiting the doctor to get health checks. What is more, 87 per cent of women admitted giving their partners a hard time resulted in getting them to do something. And 83 per cent of men, bless their cotton socks, said their partners were right to nag – though they weren't prepared to admit it. Apparently half the men quizzed take around an hour before they agree to do whatever the nag is about, while 21 per cent hold out for two hours! I suppose the results could be correct but what I want to know is how the survey was carried out – did the respondents have a "nag" and then rush to the survey sheet and note down how long that had taken? It beggars belief that these findings are accurate. And, if they are, we women should hang our heads in shame!

Adverts removed

About God, the universe and . . . bitching !

(Or, for really old villagers, 'De Deo, Universo et . . . slaggare!')

I recently checked the Parish Plan's aims, and realised it was Whitsun, ie. central to each is 'spirit' or, in J. Ross-speak, 'spi-Whit'! At the first Whitsun, we're told, the breath of the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples like tongues of fire. They had a rush of inspiration to speak in foreign languages. Whatever your beliefs, where does a flash of inspiration come from ? Is it from the deep subconscious, or are you momentarily tapping into some intelligence in another dimension that is crackling all around like static electricity ? The Parish Plan and Pentecost might conjure up words such as 'aspiration' and 'inspiration', both linked to breathing... and spirit. Wasn't the aim to build community spirit through harmony and goodwill ? The Parish News was rightly praised in Parish Plan 2 as having "improved communication... although the village grapevine still thrives!". I have become troubled by aspects of 'complaints corner', whereby everyone can make personal attacks anonymously. Bad vibrations will ensue, such as wrong conclusions amongst neighbours. Also, it's dangerous to make written accusations, because of libel laws... hence the power of the often-malicious grapevine. Sadly, successive governments have inculcated general feelings of selfishness, intolerance and suspicion, which we should want to reverse. We could start by having a happy news column, for minor good deeds or modest achievements; and if we must have a grumblers' page, please let's read who's doing the bitching ! I'll bet the personal attacks end as quick as a flash of inspiration !

Nick Bickel (not aspiring to topple the inspiring/expiring Rectory birthday boy !)

[What do other readers think? – ed.]

Adverts removed

Nature Notes continued from page 5

recorded. The story is the same with dragon and damselflies, although I have not visited the ponds around Hadham Hall recently and this is usually a good spot to record them. A few more hot days with a southerly breeze should bring these colourful insects from their water habitat.



Hopefully there will be good numbers of insects visible for my next planned walk. This will be Sunday 11th July. I suggest we meet at the village hall car park at 11.00am and then make our way via footpaths to Much Hadham for a drink at the Bull or Crown and then head back via Bromley and Westland Green. If you would care to join us then please email me so we do not go without you. (jforgham@theprimaryworks.com or phone 07805571551)

Presently there are plenty of young birds in our gardens and they frequently appear to be helpless and lost. Invariably they are not, as they have just fledged from the nest and have made their maiden flight. They tend to hide but are often seen on the ground (especially starlings, blackbirds, robins and thrushes.) I have received several phone calls asking what should be done. My advice is to leave them alone as the parent bird will return to feed them at regular intervals. If you move them, or worse, take them inside, the parent bird will often disown them or be unable to find them and so concentrate on feeding the others that will be near by. Best just to walk away and let them get on with life on their own. Pictures on this page are of a chaffinch and red campion.



Adverts removed

Village Hall News July has some new bookings which will liven up the month!

Are you hot to trot? On offer are **Tea Dances** to be run by William Glanville so if you enjoy a waltz, a foxtrot or The Lancers, why not put on your dancing shoes and come along along. The first one will be on Tuesday, 29th June from 1.30 to 4.30pm and the session will include tea and biscuits. There will be a dance every two weeks: Tuesday, 13th July and Tuesday 27th July at the same times so why not give it a whirl!

Do you keep chickens? For poultry-lovers: you have the chance to buy live birds of different breeds at the forthcoming **Poultry Auction** which will be held on Saturday, 17th July from 8.00am to 4.00pm. It is fully licensed, with an accredited auctioneer and poultry vet on call. There will be breeders there to help you bid. Why not come along and see what it's all about.

Sitting pretty? Jo Alexander is back in the Hall on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th July with teak chairs, loungers, tables and elegant benches to seat you comfortably in the sun. Sun too strong? He also has large table parasols, and all-weather wicker chairs. Open each day until 5.00pm.

Little Hadham Youth Club?

If anyone is interested in setting up/running a youth club in Little Hadham please contact me, I have received information from an East Herts Council sponsored group which can help with all aspects of setting up a youth club; legalities, funding, etc. Interested? Contact Carmela: 466331 or email: cam2403@hotmail.co.uk

Adverts removed



The Friends of Albury School are holding the following event at

Albury School



VICTORIAN FAYRE

4pm - 6pm Friday 16th July

Lots of Fun Stalls, Games, Tombola, Raffle & Food

..... Everyone welcome

Victorian costume optional for adults, children & visitors.

Followed by an evening with live singing by
Angie Lewis Brown - renowned soul singer.

& DJ music from the 60's to modern day.



Licenced bar & refreshments

7pm - 11pm

Admission by pre-purchased Ticket only

Tickets Available from Albury School 01279 771253



Adverts removed

A fantastic success, continued from front cover

the first lady home in 27 minutes 12, and Catherine Petch close behind,

The biggest congratulations have to go to the youngest runner, Theo McIlvenna aged just 4, who streaked around the 5Km in just 40 minutes. Keep an eye on this young man, even if you can't keep up with him.

Activities continued after the run with a fun day on the village playing field. Highlights included several children's amusements, cricket based games organised by the village cricket club, a beer tent, Karate demonstration given by some of Little Hadham's Junior National Champions, live music, and refreshments provide by the local Junior school.

The Parish Plan Committee sends a big 'thank you' to all those in the community who helped to make this such a successful day; those planning and organising the event, and all those who helped with marshalling and safety. But most of all, to everyone who came along and supported the run and the fun.

The RUN entries raised a total of £1450, which after deduction of any expenses incurred, will be donated to CRY(CAZ) with a portion being retained for further community functions and events. The Fun Day contributed over £400 for local school funds from the sale of refreshments, while the Cricket Club raised £400 towards their plans for new facilities. The CAZ Raffle brought in a total of £140.

Mike Smith

Adverts removed

What's on in July . . .

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

No meeting of the Garden Club this month

2 Fri Madrigals at Amwell Pool, Nr Ware.

9pm - 9.45pm 70th year of madrigals. Entry free; collection in aid of Isabel Hospice.

4 Sun, Goatfest, 12noon - 10pm. Goatfest is all about celebrating excellent live music with friends, having a great time and also being able to raise money for a wonderful cause; Isabel Hospice.

Tuesdays 10.45 - 11.45 Zumba classes See advert on page 5 for full details.

6 Tue, Parish Council meeting, 8pm. Everyone welcome.

8, 22 Thur, Mobile Library see page 22

10, 11 Sat, Sun, Garden Furniture Sale until 5pm See page 9

11 Sun, Nature Walk, 11am at the Village Hall car park. If you would care to join us then please email me so we do not go without you. jforgham@thepriamaryworks.com or phone 07805 571551

11 Sun, Fanhams Hall Open Garden, 2-5pm. This is a lovely opportunity to look around these beautiful gardens which are not often open to the public. (Opened by kind permission of Exclusive Hotels) Built in the Jacobean style and accompanied by original Japanese gardens, Fanhams Hall is set in 27 acres of beautiful Hertfordshire gardens. Although not all Japanese style, there is a great Eastern influence throughout. The Japanese Garden areas were laid out by Professor Suzuki in 1900. A Wisteria Walk, fountains, waterfalls, bridges, lakes, trees, and stones, each has a great significance within the garden. Come and enjoy teas and home-made cakes. There will also be plants, books and collectables as well as a tombola. Admisson costs just £3.00 with all proceeds to Isabel Hospice.

11 Sun, Summer Fête from 12-3pm, Little Hadham School.

13 Tue, Coffee Morning for Isabel Hospice 10:30 - 12:00 . You are invited to attend our fundraising coffee mornings, held the second Tuesday of the month at Markwell Pavilion in Bishop's Stortford. Enquiries ring 755320.

13, 27 Tue, Tea Dances, 1.30 - 4.30pm, see page 9 for details.

13 Tue, LH & A Social Club 8pm Violet Slade with a P.A.T. dog. Info 771580, 658585.

15 Thur, "Way Inn" coffee morning. Drop in for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

16 Fri, Albury School Fair, see page 10.

17 Sat Poultry Auction Viewing from 10am. Auction from 11am until 1pm. £1 entry, includes raffle ticket. Children under 12 free. Bring family and friends. Everyone welcome. Refreshments. See advert on page 4.

19 Mon Cinderella-Rockerfella, 10am, dress rehearsal at the school, OAPs invited, refreshments afterwards, see page 4.

22 Thur Much Hadham Horticultural Soc & Allotment Club Get-together 7-9pm, Hopleys See next page.

24 Sat, Free Photowalk with prizes: <http://www.stortfordphotowalk.org.uk/> pre-registration required.

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

. . . and later

13 Aug **Charity Golf Day,** see next page.

20-22 Aug **Flamstead Scarecrow Festival.**

23 Aug **Social Club Outing** to Elton House Phone 658585 for more details.

4 Sept **Garden Club Show.**

18 Sept **Garden Club Outing** (see page 18).

InTouch

Age UK Hertfordshire's exciting new telephone support service

InTouch is a free countywide telephone service, provided by Age UK Hertfordshire, which supports people aged 50 plus who are not currently receiving any other form of statutory help because their needs may not require that level of support. However, they may be experiencing life changing and emotionally challenging situations like:

- a bereavement
- facing retirement
- being a victim of a crime
- following a fall or a stay in hospital
- or even considering moving to private, sheltered or residential accommodation.

The aim of InTouch is to enable older people to live independently in their own homes for longer with improved health and wellbeing from a social, physical and mental health perspective.

Do you know someone who can benefit from this service but might not know about it? Perhaps a neighbour, friend or a member of your family?

For more information or to be referred to the scheme please contact Age Concern UK Hertfordshire's InTouch Team: 01992 629358/634964 E=mail: intouch@acherts.org.uk

Much Hadham Horticultural Society and Allotment Club

Get-Together Evening

Cheese & Wine

including a fun Horticultural Quiz

22nd July 7pm - 9pm

to be held at
Hopleys Plants
High Street
Much Hadham

Free Entry Members - £2 Visitors
Raffle

EX-SPRINTER Retired greyhound trust
needs good home
01279 501899

www.greyhoundhomer.org.uk charity no 209668

**Muscular
Dystrophy
Campaign**



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

Cricket Club News

Little Hadham entertained Bow Rovers on the fourth Sunday of May and batting first the visitors amassed an impressive 236 for 4 wickets. This total was always going to be an extremely difficult target to reach and despite a gallant 88 from David Wheatley, plus 59 not out from Frank Jaynes, the match ended in a draw with Little Hadham on 173 for 4.

The Bank holiday Sunday saw Hadham visit Nazeing Common and on a difficult pitch were eventually all out for 129, thanks mainly to Ben Law who scored 60 (this being his first ever half century for the club). In reply Nazeing batted stubbornly and eventually finished on 110 for 8 to earn a draw. The following day the short trip to Thorley was made and batting first the home side were all out for 209. Alex Pay was the main wicket taker for Hadham, claiming 5 wickets for 31 runs off his 8 overs. Two quick wickets for just 2 runs soon put Hadham in trouble in their reply, however 49 from James Law and 50 not out from Martin Hallmark saw them to 144 all out, thereby losing by 65 runs.

The next game saw the equally short trip to Stocking Pelham and an impressive batting display from Little Hadham saw a total of 203 for 4 posted. The main contributions coming from Paul Mason-Smith 60, James Law 57 not out and Frank Jaynes 46. An equally impressive bowling display saw Stocking Pelham collapse to 55 for 8 before rain interrupted play. Upon the resumption only one over was possible before Hadham fielder Steve Deeks seriously injured his leg and the game was abandoned as a draw.

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Adverts removed

Cricket Club News, continued

The following Sunday saw no match played as it was the day of the Little Hadham Fun Run and Fun Day. The cricket club helped out by running a bar, tea bar, tombola and cricket nets in what proved to be a very enjoyable day. A big thank you to all those who helped, supported or took part in the events and who helped make the event a really fun day.

July Fixtures

Sunday 4th	High Beech	Home	2.00pm
Sunday 11th	Barley	Away	2.00pm
Sunday 18th	Potter Street	Away	2.00pm
Sunday 25th	Albury	Away	2.30pm (Ron Oxborrow cup)

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. Please contact either Martin Hallmark 01 279 771033 or Neil Oxborrow 01 279 506062 for more details.

In addition the cricket club now has its own website and this can be found at <http://littlehadham.play-cricket.com>. The website contains details of all of the club's fixtures and will include club news as we go through the season.

Adverts removed

music@stansted

music@stansted is all geared up for another season of four high-class concerts, from October through to March next year, all taking place in St John's Church in the centre of Stansted.

On Saturday 16th October at 7.30pm we welcome leading chamber ensemble London Concertante to play a selection of music for woodwind and strings. Sunday, 5th December at 3pm brings a piano recital by the versatile Charles Owen. In the new year, the exciting young violinist Victoria Sayles and her accompanist Martin Cousin play for us on Sunday January 11th at 3pm, and our season is brought to a close on Saturday March 12th at 7.30pm by the renowned harpist Catrin Finch. Catrin's second appearance in Stansted had to be cancelled due to ill-health last year, so we are particularly pleased to have got her into the diary for 2011. If you were a subscribing member last year, or are already on our mailing list, you will be receiving our newsletter very soon including an invitation to subscribe again for the coming year at the reduced rate of £32 for all four concerts. This represents a saving of a third on the standard price of £12 per concert and is unchanged since 2008/09.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list (with no commitment to become a subscriber), please send your name, address and email address if you have one to info@musicatstansted.com or to *music@stansted*, The Limes Mews, Silver Street, Stansted CM24 8HE.

Or just come along (with the family if possible – we charge just £1 for accompanied children!) on any of the dates above to enjoy music from world-class artists in a beautiful setting and friendly atmosphere!

Adverts removed

Another Letter from Australia

Val Sargent

We are still staying in our daughter's apartment in Manly and finding Sydney wonderful. We took the ferry over from Manly yesterday with our bikes, and spent the day wandering around the Botanical gardens.

Stormy start – so I forgot sunglasses and sunscreen. Annoyed about that mistake when the sun burnt down on bare arms later in the morning.

In the gardens, around the Palm Grove area, were up to 8000 grey headed flying fox bats, flapping their wings to keep cool. I have never seen bats in daylight. They are very intelligent, have large eyes and oval ears capable of acute hearing. Evenings they take off to feed on fruits of rainforest trees, (figs) and nectar and pollen of eucalypts etc., this pollinates the flowers and spreads the seeds. They seek out food sources over 40 km from the roost site. They have single births, the baby suckles for 6 months from a nipple in the wingtips of the mother bat. The baby hangs onto its mother when she flies out of the colony to feed at night. At about 5 weeks baby bat is left with other youngsters in the camp trees until she returns. The young learn to fly at 4 months and join the adults on the nocturnal feeding flights.

The second thing I enjoyed most about the Botanical Gardens visit was seeing Lotus flowers, how beautiful they are. Bulbs, leaves, flowers and seedheads apparently are all edible.

Locally there are many birds and call signs I do not recognise. My favourite (like everyone else) is the Laughing Cookaburra. I think I saw a small colony in the trees from our balcony.

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Adverts removed

Garden Club News

The coach trip to Wisley in June was inspiring, although a little warm. Quite a few plants made their way back to Little Hadham in the coach, maybe some of the flowers will be making their way into the Garden Club Show on the 4th September. Don't forget to pick up your Schedules at The Nag's Head, Post Office or from Karin Green, Tel: 771532. You don't have to be a member to enter.

There are no meetings in July and August but our next outing is to Bressingham Gardens on Saturday 18th September. You don't have to be a member to come on the trip, more information from Barbara Taylor 771987. To wet your whistle they have a Steam weekend that weekend with two small steam railways and steam carousel.

Flower Borders

Plant autumn-flowering bulbs for late colour.

Deadhead perennials such as lupins and delphiniums for a late flush of flowers.

Collect seeds of early flowering plants such as aquilegia, poppies and alliums.

Keep picking sweet peas, water well and mulch heavily to prolong flowering.

Keep watering camellias for lots of flowers next year.

Stake plants in need of support.

Veg Plot Cut out fruited stems of raspberries to their base and tie in new canes.

Plant out container sown leeks and brassicas for winter cropping.

Thin apples after the 'June drop'. Leave 2 or 3 fruit in each group for better quality fruit.

Make sure plants in grow bags get even and consistent watering.

Tie in and train new blackberry canes.

Summer prune red and white currants and gooseberries.

Adverts removed

Another Letter from Australia, continued from page 17

Thank goodness I recognised it because our daughter (before she emigrated) let me have a stuffed one, which is in our lounge. The myna is noisy, bold and such fun, very tame. Also very common, near water and in parks is the Sacred Ibis, a large white bird with naked black head and black beak. Due to a population explosion at Taronga Zoo it is now seen regularly around parks and near water. Quite a lot grazing around Darling Harbour near a large water feature. King parrots flit about here. They have a lovely call. Also Rosellas, or perhaps they are rainbow Lorikeets showing scarlet head, green wings. They are gregarious and noisy. They pick up pollen and nectar and so you can get quite close to observe them. I have not seen any cockatoos yet locally. A magpie I saw in the garden I might have confused with the pied currawong, that is aggressive! I picked up a fact sheet from the shop at Botanical gardens. I was getting desperate about lack of knowledge regarding the local common birds. Stupidly I had left my Australian birdbook in UK.

Another day we went walking along the shoreline near Long Reef. Michael photographed a puffa fish. Very impressive (although very dead!) we also picked up a sea dragon. Very similar to a seahorse.

Son-in-law is preserving it with salt and this too is very dead!

Most large beaches have concrete enclosures filled with fresh seawater where you may swim. I was swimming on my back at Long Reef and on looking up at an overhead light was amused to find two pelicans watching me.

Adverts removed

Byway at Westland Green

There is a proposal by the Parish Council to downgrade the byway across the green to a bridleway so that vehicular use can be stopped. It is my opinion, which may of course not be the opinion of everyone else in the village, that this is an ancient right of way for vehicles which has been in use for centuries, which is still a road over which everyone has a right to drive, the fact that it is not made up makes no difference, we don't try to downgrade the road through the village because we don't like the rat runners coming through so why should this right of way be downgraded because a few 4x4 drivers find it exciting.

It is, I think right that this road should be improved so that it can be used by everyone, wheel chair users, families with buggies etc. at present hardly anyone can use it, it should be a useable road way for fire engine access and would possibly be of lesser interest to 4x4 drivers. There is an argument that people will use it as a short cut, why shouldn't they, it is a right of way, a road for all to use. Mr Stigwood could then get onto the green to cut the hay and stop the green turning into woodland as it is at present

There is another byway which has been downgraded between Wellpond Green and Bromley, this was a mistake in my opinion it is now becoming very narrow because no vehicles are allowed through, it is not possible to bike 2 abreast in fact it is becoming difficult to bike full stop.

If you have a view on this either way please contact me on pat@touchwoodhomes.co.uk. I think important decisions which are very far reaching like this should be discussed more fully within the local community and further afield it is not only our village rights which are being eroded but those of the wider community including 4x4 drivers of which I am not one I hasten to add..

Adverts removed

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

We were entertained by Lynne Garner, authoress of children's stories and craft books, at our June meeting. She told of her first attempts at getting her name in print and the learning process of the requirements to get your book accepted. Her enthusiasm and commitment made a pleasant evening and there were books to purchase.

We have collected £57.00 for a farewell gift to Bob and Pam Sewell and have sent a cheque from Little Hadham, hoping that they will spend it on themselves.

I knew I had forgotten something at the meeting and only remembered it on arriving home. John and Jenny Duke were with us and I am so sorry that I didn't mention the fact that they too will soon be leaving Little Hadham for Saffron Walden. John and Jenny have been much involved with both Much and Little Hadham and Jenny is still running the Stroke Club in Bishop's Stortford. We wish them well in their move and do hope that they will keep in touch, once they have settled into their new home.

We have organised a coach trip to Elton House, nr. Peterborough on Monday, 23rd August, leaving the village at 9am and returning about 4.30pm. We will tour the house and have time to visit the grounds and garden centre. Contact Ennis on 658585 for further information.

For our 13th July meeting, at 8pm, Violet Slade is bringing along one of her 'P.A.T.' dogs and also telling us of Chenobyl's Children. Everyone is welcome to our meetings and to attend outings. We look forward to meeting new and old friends.

Barbara, Binnie (771580) and Ennis (658585)

Adverts removed

Obituary – Helen Crowe

Helen Crowe sadly died on June 2nd after a long and valiant battle with cancer.

She was the daughter of Lesley and Max Ashley and spent all her early life in Little Hadham. Lesley and I met when we were pushing our respective prams round the village and became good friends; so did our children and they spent many happy hours together in summer gardens or sledging on the hill opposite the Nag's Head.

Helen went to Little Hadham Primary School and then to Margaret Dane (now Birchwood). In her 'teens she became involved with the Pantomime Group, as did her parents, and under the guidance of Sue Wetherall and Sue Leach she was the star of the show on several occasions playing Dandini in Cinderella, The Sleeping Beauty and the hero in Sinbad. She was a striking 'Principal Boy' – so much so that she won the heart of musical director, Mike Crowe, who then lived in Chapel Lane.

After school Helen worked for John Leach as a P.A., and her business career was launched. A few years ago she set-up her own successful business. She married Mike in 1981 and they lived in the village for a while before moving to Sawston near Cambridge where their two children, Andrew and Amy were brought up. Since living at Sawston Helen became a staunch member of the local church which proved a great solace to her.

We all grieve at her untimely passing and send our sympathy to Mike, Andrew and Amy and to Lesley and Max.

Ann Clayton

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

8th & 22nd July

Mobile Library

Nag's Head from 1345 - 1405

The Smithy from 1410 - 1430

Bury Green from 1445 - 1505

A fortnightly service.

Adverts removed

An acknowledgement

Please accept this letter as an acknowledgement for all the kind cards of sympathy and messages of condolence that we have received from so many friends in Little Hadham on the very sad loss of our daughter Helen.

We have been greatly comforted by them all.

With grateful thanks, Max & Lesley Ashley

Goodbye to Bob and Pam Sewell

As you will know Bob and Pam's house sale was quick and completion was almost quicker! On 23rd May we learnt that they hoped to move on 3rd June – huge panic as there was no way we were going to let them just disappear! With the support of the Parish Clerk, Bev Evans, we were allowed to use the main hall on 1st June, Parish Council Meeting evening. Then we needed to let everyone know, which was done by contacting a member of each organisation Bob and Pam had contributed to, they then got in touch with club members. We hope that no one was missed and also realise that because it was a Bank Holiday week end, a lot of people may have been away.

We are delighted to be able to say that over 50 people attended on the evening and, with thanks to a lot of ladies who supplied delicious cakes, we were able to enjoy a cuppa and cake with Bob and Pam. Jon and Angela Fardell had researched just how much Bob and Pam had become involved with the Village, supplying a number of humorous items, one involved a W.C., but you may need to ask Jon about that!

To give you an idea of why they are going to be missed, below is a list of most of the organisations they have helped during the nearly 40 years as residents. Perhaps you know of some more? :-

Parish Council - Bob was Clerk and Councillor; Little Hadham Village Hall Management Committee - Bob was Secretary and Treasurer; Bob was a School Governor; St. Cecilia's Church; Bob started the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and delivered the Parish News; Pantomime Group – Pam designed and made many of the costumes, Bob was on stage; Gardening Club: W.I. – Pam was an instigator of the W.I. Market and the Craft Group, which continues, sending over 670 knitted items to charities abroad; Pam delivered Meals on Wheels; The Social Club – they even attended a Club evening on the day of their 65th Wedding Anniversary and celebrated their event the next day! They will be celebrating their 68th Wedding Anniversary on 11th July. Their garden has always been a joy to see, during each season of the year.

During the evening Bob said, and Pam agreed, that living in Little Hadham had been the happiest time of their lives.

We thank them for their support and involvement and hope that the move went well and that they settle quickly into their new home.

Barbara, Binnie and Ennis – Social Club

July diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

4 Sunday

Trinity 5 (Proper 9)

9.30am

Matins, Officiant Caroline Franks; Preacher David Payne

12.15pm

Baptism of William Bowden, Officiant Chris Boulton

11 Sunday

Trinity 6 (Proper 10)

9.30am

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

5.00pm

Taizé Service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

18 Sunday

Trinity 7 (Proper 11)

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Family Service in Village Hall, Chris Boulton

11.00am

Confirmation and Eucharist at St Mary's, Albury
Celebrant and Preacher Bishop John Gladwin (Retired Bishop of
Chelmsford) assisted by Chris Boulton and Clive Slaughter.

25 Sunday

Trinity 8 (Proper 12 Also Feast of St James)

11.15am

Parish 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

Christian Aid: £689.36 raised!!

Once again the kind people of Little Hadham have put their hands in their pockets and generously donated to a very worthy cause. Very many thanks to all who broke open their money boxes, dug deep and gave, some in very small change but no less gratefully received. Some were especially generous and I only had three foreign coins this year so no euros for swapping! Seriously, everything given will make a difference as donations are carefully allocated. My thanks too, to those who distributed the envelopes and persevered with their collection over the weeks. A splendid effort.

Christian Aid always works in the field, always with partners, always with the marginalised, always trying to change the systems that keep people poor. CA also tackles the causes of poverty: monitoring budget spending, campaigning against environmental degradation and discrimination, promoting human rights. And always will do, for every race, creed or colour.

Angela Fardell

The Register Mrs Beryl Swift, aged 98 years, late of Windmill Croft, Albury Road. The funeral was on 10 June, at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

17th July Wedding of Philip Bingham and Sophie Mardell.

Editor: Jan Finn, Ash Cottage, The Ashe, Little Hadham, SG11 2DX (771113) e-mails to 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