

Little Hadham Parish News

March 2011



Rector of Parish: Revd. Chris Boulton
01279 842609

e-mail: rectory@muchhadham.com

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.littlehadham.com for issues dating back to May 2006

Letter from the Rectory written on St Valentine's Day

*"For this was on seynt Volantynys day
Whan every bryd comyth there to chese his make."*

("For this was on Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.") from Chaucer's "Parlement of Fowles", l 382.

Recently I have been delighted by the birdsong all around us. Particularly when sitting quietly in Church praying, it seems that I am surrounded by music. In my imagination the birds are emerging from a particularly cold and bleak winter and want to celebrate, singing their canticles divine. They are certainly marking territory, and taking the first tentative steps towards heralding Spring. Their floral companions are the brave little snowdrops beneath. We know that it is only the first step, since we are no doubt due for more frosts and cold, wet weather and even snow; but these first steps are a vital stage in the coming of Spring; and somehow their song seems hopeful and invigorating.

Easter is late this year, (April 24th), and so in the Churches we begin our Lenten journey late, on March 9th, Ash Wednesday. Across the Team there will be opportunity to meet together and give to charity through Lent lunches, to study and pray. The course selected this year is "prepared for purpose", and examines how our idea of the Holy Spirit invigorates us and empowers us to live life abundantly. We hope soon to establish a website where you will be able to find details of this and other church activities.

On this St Valentine's Day I am conscious of other emerging voices; in particular the song of freedom being sung in Tunisia and Egypt after many winters of harsh dictatorship. The invigorating of democracy brings danger as well as hope. We do not know what will happen in the Middle East as power shifts: we do not know if the voice of freedom will find fulfillment in real politics. The romance of freedom, like the romance of love is wonderful, but in order to endure, it requires dedication and long term commitment.

Finally, during March we hope that there will be a response to our advertisement for a new Team Vicar. The Churchwardens of all the parishes and clergy would welcome your prayers as we seek to appoint someone who will share in the ministry and mission in our villages. Like the birds, we are, as it were, seeking a mate; not to build a nest, but to build the Kingdom of God in this place.

Chris Boulton

Parish Council News

Parish Assembly 2011

The Parish Assembly this year will be held at the village hall on **Thursday 21 April**. Last year your support was overwhelming! This year we hope for even greater success! It's an opportunity to find out what goes on in the village and a chance for you to have your say – we do hope you will attend. The Parish Council is busy making arrangements with the guest speakers; let us know who you would like to see there. As a special attraction this year we will be inviting all local groups and clubs to come and exhibit their particular activities. As always there will be wine and nibbles – hope we've tempted you already! Watch this space for more news next month.

Damage caused by “off roaders”

Over the Christmas and New Year period and throughout January the Byway across the Green in Westland Green has been heavily used by a number of recreational 4x4 vehicles. This has resulted in deep ruts, some three vehicles widths wide across the Green and the vehicles now drive further into the Green and away from the actual Byway to avoid these deep ruts. Often vehicles get stuck and then others arrive in large numbers to pull them free; this serves to further increase the damage across the Green. It is now dangerous underfoot with residents complaining that they can't walk, cycle, push buggies, etc. across the Green. Riders are unable to get their horses out of the adjoining fields. It is only these 4x4 recreational users who make use of this Byway and when they do they also deposit large amounts of mud on the road at a point where the 30 mph speed restriction starts and just before a blind bend, which in itself is a danger. In January, the Parish Council met with The Countryside

Access officer at Hertfordshire County Council to discuss possible management steps to reduce the impact of the 4x4 vehicles using the Byway and the subsequent misuse of the Green and the following course of action was discussed:

- Resurface the Byway across the green to a width of 2 or 3 metres as an unsealed surface. This would effectively be a firm surface made up using reconstituted materials with a top soil covering and then seeded.
- Temporary closure of the Byway for a 6 month or 1 year period to allow the resurfacing to become established.
- Provide signage to show the route of the Byway and state that driving across the Green, off the Byway, is trespass.

We will keep you informed of progress.

Village Hall Notice Board

The Parish Council would like to thank Tim Mearing for renewing the door to the village hall notice board. The new perspex door makes reading the notices much easier.

Little Hadham Fun Run

Little Hadham Parish Plan Group has announced that this year's Fun Run will be held on **Sunday 12th June**. Do show your support by taking part in whichever way you can; running, walking, helping out or cheering the participants on!

Telephone Kiosk Art Exhibition

The Parish Council has been approached by a local artist who wishes to put together an exhibition of her art work in one of the telephone kiosks. We are in the process of negotiating this possibility and will keep the community informed if/when it is to happen.

Planning Application Issues

The Parish Council visits many of its

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Cats' Protection *We work tirelessly to try to help all the cats in our care*

The Great Amwell and District Branch of Cats' Protection last year rescued and re-homed 200 cats and kittens, and helped with the cost of neutering many more. Cats such as five year old Tigger, whose owner sadly died and has left her unsure and in need of a new and understanding owner and Charlie (also known as Cheeky Charlie) who was found out to be both blind and deaf, and who is now enjoying life in a new home with plenty of roast chicken and sleeping! Plus Boris and Cleo, two kittens, who have been given a good start in life by the branch before being re-homed. These are just some of the many cats and kittens that have been cared for by volunteers at the branch.

Cats' Protection's Great Amwell and District Branch includes the village of Little Hadham, as well as Hertford, Ware, Stansted Abbots, Broxbourne, Hoddesdon, Buntingford and the surrounding villages and is part of the charity's nationwide network of 29 Centres and 260 voluntary-run Branches that together re-home around 60,000 cats a year.

Richard Rowe, the Branch Co-ordinator, says: "Thank you to everyone who is involved in the

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Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

Our 'Make your Pound Grow' Enterprise has now come to a close and the children have responded really well to the challenge. Whilst we have not yet got a final total, we have enjoyed encouraging them in a myriad of business opportunities!

We have had raffles, guess the ?, decorated pebbles, greetings cards, sponsored knitting, cake stalls, competitions and many, many more! You may even have been approached to support some of these, so thank you!

It will be very interesting to see how the children choose to spend their profit.

As a school, we are really proud that our 4 year journey towards the National BECTA ICT Award finally gained recognition on 8th February, as we successfully gained accreditation. It demonstrates best practice in using ICT in teaching and learning which is essential for our pupils.

Well done to everyone for their hard work!

Onwards and upwards!

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Head teacher

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Cats' Protection, continued from page 4

branch. We would not be able to continue rescuing and re-homing cats and kittens in the local area without the help of all our volunteers and supporters, for whom we are very grateful.

If you would like to get involved and help please get in touch, we are always looking for volunteers and gratefully appreciate donations, including any spare cat food you may have. And all monies raised by the local branch go directly back into helping the branch."

Collection points for cat food or something for the kitty! If you can spare a tin of cat food or have some pouches of a flavour that your feline boss does not like, or you can spare some change, we have a number of collection points across our branch area which are listed on our website - www.greatamwell.cats.org.uk – or you can donate online. Thank you.

Volunteering opportunities: For more information on volunteering – and we currently have a range of opportunities, including fostering, administration, newsletter editing and helping at events – or for information about other ways you can get involved, please visit our new website: www.greatamwell.cats.org.uk or phone our branch on 0845 371 2736.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you or to seeing you at an event in the future!

BLACK AND WHITE MALE CAT FOUND IN THE BURY GREEN AREA

CONTACT VIV - 07891956005

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Down at the Doctor's

At times in the last few weeks we at the Health Centre have begun to appreciate what it must have been like in a WW2 bunker with enemies on all sides!

Firstly we have the PCT (soon to be demolished? I think not) sending us so much paperwork that Lyn, our practice manager, and her assistant, Kathryn, sometimes seem to be drowning. Then we have the ongoing problems with the lease and the delays that this will inevitably have on our extension plans, the grant for which is very much time limited. This issue is now in the hands of our solicitors.

Thirdly, the PCT recently published its "Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment" for Hertfordshire and guess what? There's no pharmacy in Much Hadham! Whilst this lack of pharmaceutical services is not deemed a significant issue, there are rumours that a certain degree of interest has been rekindled in the minds of pharmacists looking to move into such areas.

As you know, we successfully fought off one such application in 2009 and now have to take professional advice on ways in which we can protect our dispensary in the future.

Despite all this we are, of course, dedicated to providing as good a medical service to our patients as possible and this is, hopefully, reflected in our latest patient satisfaction rate (greater than 90%) in a recent survey (conducted independently by "Big Brother" at the PCT) Keep smiling!

Dr Paul Haimes

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Village Hall News

Lost property: The Village Hall has amassed a large amount of items of lost property! One cream, knitted jacket with a fur hood; one child's umbrella with hearts on it, grey child's scarf with hearts on it; socks: lots of pairs of children's socks usually left after Karate Club – doesn't anyone miss these? Also in the cupboard are four, yes four, pairs of reading glasses! How do you manage without them? Also a pair of gloves with paw prints on and a raffle prize from the Pantomime. Anyone wanting to reclaim their property either retrieve it from the cleaning cupboard in the kitchen or ring Angela, 771697.

The Annual Booking Meeting for Affiliated Societies will be held on Monday, 14th March at 8.00 p.m. in the Committee Room. Please come prepared to book for your society for the year April 2012 to March 2013.

March is a very busy month for bookings,

don't forget to support the Social Club's Table Top Sale on the 19th, and the Farmers' Market as usual on the 26th.

Dog Training Classes will be starting again on Wednesday, 2nd March, from 6.30 to 7.30pm in the main Hall. Having taken our puppy and ourselves for training, I can recommend Laura's methods; we all learned a great deal but had a lot of fun too. To book for classes either ring Laura on 07944 490493 or email her at laura@pawfectfriends.co.uk. Also on offer are two workshops. The workshops are open to a maximum of 4 dogs and will cost £40. If you are interested in coming along let Laura know your preferred time, and she will then try and work out groups and time slots.

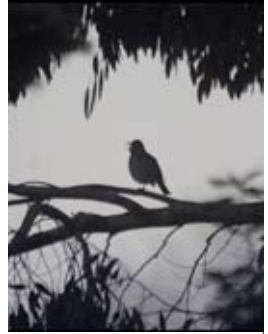
Recall workshop 5/6th March, 2-hour slot solely focusing on recall skills. **Pulling on lead workshop** 5/6th March 2-hour slot focusing purely on how to get your dog to walk nicely on the lead.

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Nature Notes, January and February

Jonathan Forgham

With the rise in temperature and increase in daylight I am now able to get out for early morning wanders where I am beginning to witness the first signs of spring. Birds are beginning to sing as from first light, particularly a most tuneful song thrush that has taken up residence in our garden. Photo here.



One highlight for this period (January 17th – February 18th) was witnessing a most unusual sight whilst at work at Ash Valley Golf Club. I glimpsed a sparrow hawk shoot by the club house carrying a female blackbird and watched as it landed near the stream that runs adjacent to the building. I gingerly approached the bird only to watch as it visibly drowned the bird. No attempt was made to kill the blackbird and every time the victim struggled the hawk pushed the bird further under the water. Within 5 minutes the prey was dead, plucked and consumed. Needless to say, such a rare event was not recorded as I had no camera. A search on google gave several other accounts of such, including one of a grey heron drowning and consuming whole a young rabbit! The second highlight was encountering a barn owl in New Road early on the morning of 11th Jan. Many thanks to Neale, Gill and Mike who emailed me with news of not one but two barnies. The second record comes from east of Bury Green. Most pleasing to hear of such

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Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

I'm a real sucker for Spring. I adore seeing the daffodils put up their brave fight against the elements to give us such a glorious show so early in the year. The early flowering shrubs get my badge of honour for daring to dazzle when other plants still slumber deep inside their earthy beds. So this Spring I should be getting all dewy eyed about the season. But I'm not. I'm imprisoned inside, with one foot tightly bandaged and instructions to keep the foot up ('at nose level') for the next five weeks. To walk I have to wear a huge black boot and, currently use one crutch. I'm at post-op day 5 and anticipate getting crutchless (if you'll excuse the expression) by the time you read this. The hospital was fabulous. I couldn't have been treated better. Thank heavens for the NHS. But the instructions for departing there are, well, non-existent. Once you can walk unaided up two hospital steps and down three you are free to go...they obviously have never seen our 500 year old steps which are uneven, tilt the wrong way and are super-steep. I am still wearing the hospital white stocking (on the good leg). Whether that's right I have no idea. The only written instructions I received were to rest and take pain killers. The househusband is not enjoying my enforced prostrate position. Neither am I. Tempers are already fraying and I have taken to spending half the day in a separate room from Himself and The Dog. Planning my day is not a matter of whether to clean out the chickens, feed the alpacas, go into town, eat out or join friends for a natter. No, it's more remembering all the things I need to do upstairs before going downstairs, and vice-versa. So dear daffodils, you'll have to grow and bloom unloved this year. The animals will forget all about me. And the husband may well want to trade me in for a more mobile model. Me? I'm still working out how to have a shower while keeping one leg totally dry. Answers on a postcard, please!

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Council funded Insulation, ending soon

East Herts District Council backed energy efficiency scheme is going to close at the end of this March. So this is your last chance to take advantage of Council funded loft and cavity wall insulation at just **£49** or **FREE** (if in receipt of a qualifying means tested benefit).

Normally loft and cavity wall insulation could cost up to £250 per measure to be installed, but through HEEP Little Hadham homeowners and private tenants can get their lofts and cavity walls insulated for just £49 per measure or for FREE.

Around half of the heat loss in a typical home is lost through un-insulated lofts and cavity walls.

By installing discounted insulation separately, loft insulation can **save you around £145** and cavity wall insulation around **£110 every year**.



HERTS ESSEX
Energy Partnership

Don't miss out, call HEEP free on 0800 980 6026 to speak to an energy advisor, who will be able to arrange a free no obligation survey for you.

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What's on in March ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

1 Tue, Parish Council meeting, 8pm. Held on the first Tuesday of the month (except Jan and Aug). Everyone welcome.

2 Wed, Dog Training Classes 6.30 to 7.30pm
To book for classes either ring Laura on 07944 490493 or email laura@pawfectfriends.co.uk.

3, 17, 31 Thur, Mobile Library, See p13.

8 Tue, LH & A Social Club, 8pm. A social evening to decide on trips for the year. Come along and bring a friend, when we haven't a speaker there is more time to get to know new members. £1.50 admission, including refreshments, plus spending money for the raffle. 771580 or 658585 for information.

12 Sat, music@stansted. See p19.

14 Mon, Hadhams History Soc. 7.30 for 8pm
Congregational Church Hall, Much Hadham. Stephen Ruff will be giving a talk on the Hadham Railway Station and the Buntingford Branch Line. Membership is £7 per annum with a fee of £2 for non-members at any talk. For membership contact Mike Smith 771568 or Barbara Green 842352.

14 Mon, Annual Booking Meeting for Affiliated Societies, 8pm in the Committee Room. Please come prepared to book for your society for the year April 2012 to March 2013.

15 Tue, MH Hort Soc and Allotment Club
8.00pm in the Long Barn Hopleys Plants, High Street, Much Hadham. A return visit by Bruce Bennett with an illustrated talk 'The Monet Garden and Gardens of the Loire.'

Admission free to members; visitors £2
Refreshments and Raffle. Please come along and bring a friend to this enjoyable evening talk.

17 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning. See p13.

17 Thur, Networking Lunch 12:30 - 2:pm
at Lussmanns, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AL.
A monthly networking lunch run by Isabel

Hospice Corporate Relationship Manager, Julie North, working in association with Marketing Kinetics. We welcome companies from all over Herts & Essex offering an opportunity to network both inside and outside your own areas. Cost £15 includes buffet, glass of wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee. This month's lunch is kindly sponsored by The Dove Partnership. For more details, Julie North 01707 382547.

19 Sat, Table Top Sale, 10-1 (sellers 9am). To book a table (£10 & £5) ring 658585.

19 Sat, Prime Brass, 7.30pm St Mary's Church Standon. Classical and lighter music by a 10-piece brass ensemble. See p13.

20 Sun, Jonathan's Book Launch, 8.30pm, The Nag's Head. All welcome.

24 Thur, LH & A Garden Club AGM and "Seed Swap" Night – come and have a glass of wine, bring along any surplus seeds you may have and swap them for some others.
7.45 pm for an 8.00pm start.

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

26 Sat, MH Horticultural Soc and Allotment Club Spring Show 2.30-4.30pm, Much Hadham VH. Come along and enjoy the display of spring flowers, floral arrangements, hanging baskets, domestic section, children's exhibits including 'Draw a Clown' by the children of St. Andrews school. Free Entry, Refreshments & Raffle. Please note: All exhibits must be on display by 10.30am on the morning of the show.

26 Sat, Social Dance Evening 7.30-11.15pm
In aid of Isabel Hospice, at Newgate Street Village Hall, Hertford SG13 8RA. Tickets cost £10 and include a light ploughman's supper. Bring your own drinks & glasses. Ballroom, Latin & Sequence dances to George & His Music. For more details, ring John Hankins on 01707 873894.

March, cont'd

... and then?

26 Sat, Midnight Swim (Isabel Hospice).

Help us to complete our 100mile sponsored swim challenge! Either Haileybury College Swimming Pool, Hertford Heath or Hatfield Swim Centre. Swim between 10pm and 2am; different hours have different themes, including simply swimming, a boat race challenge and a midnight fun swim. On your own or in a team, all abilities are welcome. The fancy dress theme for the evening is Nautical Nonsense, and there will be prizes for the best dressed. Spectators are encouraged to come in their pyjamas, and hot chocolate and cakes will be sold on the evening. Call, Katie Robertson in Fundraising for more info: 01707 382500.

27 Sun, Dawn Chorus walk, 5.00am, meet in Village Hall car park. Please email me at jforgham@theprimaryworks.com if you wish to come.

27 Sun, British Summer Time. Don't forget to move your clocks forward by one hour.

April 16 **Jumble Sale** - Thundridge 2-4.30pm
Contact Details 01920 462992.

April 20 **Over 60s Fun Night,** Standon & Puckeridge Community Hall.

May 13 **Isabel Hospice Spring Golf Day**
Contact Julie North, Corporate Fundraiser on 01707 382547.

May 15 **Teas in Gardens** 2-5pm, The Manor House, Bayford, Nr Hertford, SG13 8PU Call Renee Friend 01279 755320 for details.

May 22 **On Your Bike - Sponsored Cycle Ride**
Entry costs £12.50 for adults and £5 for children up to 14 years old. Call Katie Robertson Isabel Fundraising to register on 01707 382500.

May 29 **Teas in gardens** 2-5.30pm, at Jenningsbury, Hertford Heath, SG13 7NS
Details 01279 755320.

June 12 **Little Hadham Fun Run.**

July 2 **St Cecilia's Mid-Summer Concert.**

Braughing Music Society

Prime Brass

An evening of classical and lighter music by a 10 piece brass ensemble

Saturday 19th March - 7:30 pm
St Mary's Church, Standon

(Please note change of venue)

TICKET PRICES

£12 Premium; £10 Standard

Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073

www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk

3, 17, 31 March **Mobile Library**

Nag's Head from 13.45 - 14.05

The Smithy from 14.10 - 14.30

Bury Green from 14.45 - 15.05

This is a fortnightly service.

The "Way Inn" coffee morning
Come along and meet friends and neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee.

Third Thursday of the month
10.00am until 12 noon in the Village Hall
(Rear entrance of village hall, by Post Office)

Nature Notes, January and February, continued from page 9

records and I am now in contact with the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) who run a barn owl nesting box programme. I now have details on how to construct these boxes, but being to woodwork what Tiger Woods is to marital bliss, I would be most grateful for any offers to build these substantial boxes. All expenses will be covered. Please email me at jforgham@theprimaryworks.com if you feel you could help with this initiative.

On the 23rd January I was driving home from town when I came across a field full of birds at the turning to Cradle End. I popped home for my optics, returning to count in excess of 250 fieldfare, 200 redwing, 8 goldfinch, 1 pied wagtail, 6 greenfinch, 4 chaffinch, 150 starlings, 25 carrion crows, 8 rooks and over 150 wood pigeon. Something very good must have been in the field. A photo of one of the fieldfares here.

Other birds of note were a large flock of gulls near Clintons Farm, made up of mostly lesser black backed gulls but also showing black headed and herring gulls.

The siskins around the golf course remained until the end of January whilst the bullfinches in Acremore Street now appear to be courting. Other birds of note were grey wagtails at The Ford



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Nature Notes, January and February, continued from page 14

(7th), 2 Canada geese heading north (11th) and singing skylarks (15th).

Over the forthcoming month, I anticipate the first arrival of migrants, with chiffchaff, blackcap and maybe the first swallows arriving within the parish. Consequently, I am planning my first dawn chorus walk for Sunday 27th March. All welcome. Please email me for further details before we meet at the Village Hall car park at 5.00am.

Finally, I plan a "book launch" for my forthcoming publication; "The Natural History of Little Hadham 2008 – 2010". This will be at the Nag's Head on Sunday 20th March as from 8.30pm. Thanks to all who emailed me to reserve a copy or two. Either come along to the launch or otherwise I shall deliver them to your house. Cost will be £5.00 per copy. As well as containing chapters on all aspects of natural history, I have also included chapters on recipes for wild food found locally, details of walks within the parish and a gazetteer of the best sites within the parish for butterflies. All proceeds go to Little Hadham Parish Plan Group to finance future events within the parish. I look forward to meeting you at the pub on the 20th.

Jonathan Forgham

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Garden Club News

Thursday 24th March 2010 is our AGM and "Seed Swap" Night – come and have a glass of wine, bring along any surplus seeds you may have and swap them for some others.

It all starts at Little Hadham Village Hall (7.45 pm for an 8.00pm start).

March is an important gardening month, the days are getting longer, the ground warms up and the weeds start to grow! It is said that if you can gain control in the Spring then the rest of the gardening year should run smoothly. Fortunately the Spring bulbs lift the spirits and look good in every surrounding.

Jobs to do this month.

Cover vulnerable plants with horticultural fleece on cold nights.

Remove the weeds that are growing in the cracks between paving stones.

On a dry day make the first mowing cut for your lawn.

Go through your beds and borders forking out weeds, cutting down dead perennials.

Fork between the plants removing any debris, slugs and snails.

Dig and divide perennial plants that are too big or dead in the middle.

Happy digging.

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Express Deliveries!

One very cold, very wet evening last month your intrepid editor set out on your behalf in the dark to report on the launch of a new venture in Little Hadham - nothing is too much trouble for her, and no sacrifice too great in the pursuit of a scoop.

It is with great pleasure, therefore, that the Parish News is able to announce the opening of an **Indian Take-Away** at Church End! Tried and tested (at no personal expense) by your editor - who can report, after several platefuls of free food, that **Masala Express** is well worth a visit or a phone call. Excellent food, friendly faces and a delivery service to within five miles of Church End. Life is complete.

So, give them a ring: 771800 or 771322

or a click: www.masalaexpressdelivery.com

if you want to get truly . . . carried away.

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Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

Our February meeting was our annual supper and it was held in the Village Hall. Clouds Catering served an excellent menu, booze flowed freely and we had a tantalizing quiz about sweets and chocolates. After our meal we were entertained by two extremely talented Irish dancers; Liam, aged 20 has been training since the age of 7 and his sister, Ellie, 12, is following in his footsteps, literally. Both of them delighted us with their expertise, Liam showing the skills that ensured a place in Riverdance, with Michael Flatley. As usual, everyone set to and helped with the clearing up and I think we all returned home happy.

Our 8th March meeting, at 8 p.m., is a social evening when we would like to decide on trips for the year. Perhaps on a score of 1 to 10 it doesn't appear as entertaining as our February meeting, but as we are a Social Club, it makes a pleasant evening to take time to chat with neighbours. Everyone is welcome, come along and bring a friend, when we haven't a speaker there is more time to get to know new members. £1.50 admission, including refreshments, plus spending money for the raffle.

Tel.: 771580 or 658585 for information.

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music@stansted

Our fourth and final concert this season will be on Saturday 12th March at 7.30pm in St John's Church, Stansted, when the former Royal Harpist, Catrin Finch, will be making a return visit to Stansted. When Prince Charles revived the post of Royal Harpist in the year 2000, Catrin was his first choice despite still being a student at the Royal Academy of Music. Today she is a Visiting Professor at the Academy, as well as at the Royal Welsh College of Music, and is an international performing and recording star. Catrin has done more than anybody to popularise the harp around the world, and carries out extensive educational work, especially in Wales. Glyndwr University in Wrexham has named its new conference and performance centre in her honour, and she has established her own specialist recording and concert venue outside Cardiff. She has revolutionised people's view of what the harp can do, working with everyone from John Rutter to brass band.

Her programme will include music by Bach (Italian Concerto), Debussy (2 Arabesques), Faure (Impromptu), Godefroid (Carnaval de Venise), as well as other pieces by Paul Hindemith, Franz Liszt, Grandjany, Pierne and Guridi.

Catrin played to a full house on her last visit several years ago, attracting fans from a very wide area. We believe her popularity has increased since then and we are expecting a large audience again.

Tickets cost Adults £12, Children £1, and are now available from:

Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282) or, if any still available, at the door.

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Thank You

I would like to offer a grateful thankyou to all who supported my fundraising for the YMCA Sleepeasy campaign. The quiz at the Nag's Head on the 23rd January raised in excess of £330 whilst my overnight sleep in a cardboard box, underneath Hatfield Galleria, realised over £400 in sponsorship. Many thanks to Paul and Natalie for hosting the quiz.

I slept in a cardboard box, along with my daughter, Harriet, on the 29th January from 7.00pm until 7.00am. This turned out to be one of the coldest nights of 2011 and I managed nearly 2 hours sleep. We were able to take plenty of warm clothes with us and a tea urn was available throughout the night. However, no alcohol was permitted and the noise of the A1(M), local revellers and general passers-by gave us an insight into what it must be like for youngsters forced to sleep rough. We were safe in the knowledge that we had a warm house and I, a loving and generous partner to return to once our 12 hours was complete.

The strap line for the campaign was "I slept rough so that others don't have to" was most appropriate. Upon arrival we were issued with our cardboard box and little else. Harriet soon discovered the "warmer" end of our abode and was quickly asleep. However, a lack of suitable footwear woke her throughout the night, whilst I had several pairs of thermal socks, so at least that part of my body remained warm.

The Sunday lunch following our night out was most welcome whilst this would not be available to those considerably less fortunate than ourselves.

Wendy Woodgate

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Regular events

Badminton: 8.00pm Mondays

Brownies: 4.30–6pm Tuesdays, term-time.

Judi Wheeler 654624

Carpet Bowls Club, Social and League:

8–10pm Fridays, Eileen Booth 771426

Farmers' Market: 8.30–11.30am, last

Saturday of month. Geoff and Jan Williamson

771272 www.lhfm.org.uk

Garden Club: third Tuesday of the month.

Karate: 5–6pm Wednesdays,

Catherine Petch, 771636

Mobile Police Station: 9–11 am first and third

Tuesday, in the car park.

Parish Council first Tuesday of the month

(except January and August) at 8.00pm.

Parent & Toddler group,

9.30–11.30am, Wednesdays, term-time.

LH Post Office: 9.00–11 am Tuesdays and

Thursdays, rear of the Village Hall in the Doctor's Reception Room.

Social Club: second Tuesday of the month:

771580 or 658585 for information

Sunday School: second Sunday of the month

9.30am at St Cecilia's church.

"Way Inn" coffee morning: third Thursday of

month, rear of Village Hall, 10–12 noon.

Whist Drive: Last Thursday of the month,

7.30pm start. Ross Barron, 07732 370923

ADS REMOVED

PC News, continued from page 3

parishioners' homes during the course of a year in order to consider submitted planning applications. These visits in the main prove straightforward, however, sometimes we do have to deliberate long and hard about an application. There have been two such applications submitted of late; the first being a planning application submitted by the owners of the Congregational Church, Chapel Lane - the owners are proposing change of use of the Church Hall to residential. In this case the Parish Council did not object outright to the proposals but did have concerns over certain points one of which was to see the hall brought back into use for the community. The second planning application involves the proposed demolition of the garage (Storford Road, near the traffic lights) and the erection of two large houses. After much consideration the Parish Council voted to object to these proposals; the loss of the amenity being one of the reasons for the objection. The other main reason being that should permission eventually be granted

for the site to be developed for housing the Parish Council considers it far more beneficial for the community if three small houses were to be built rather than the two large houses being proposed. Two houses could be sold for full market value and the third house could be kept as "affordable" for rent only to local waiting tenant. You can check out any local planning application on line at the East Herts Council website.

Mary Bayes

It is with sadness that the Parish Council announces the news that retired County Councillor Mary Bayes has passed away. Mary attended our meetings on a regular basis and when called to do so always represented us to the best of her ability. Mary will be sorely missed.

Thank You

To all the parishioners who attended February's Parish Council meeting. Please do make time to come to the meetings everyone is very welcome - first Tuesday of each month (excluding Jan & Aug) Village Hall 8pm.

Fun Run – 12th June

Little Hadham Parish Plan Group is working busily in the background arranging the BIG DAY! We hope that this year's event will be bigger and better; with hopefully more runners, more stalls and more attractions. The charity we are supporting is CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) in memory of Little Hadham teenager Caroline Johnson. The community's response last year and the year before was fantastic – this year together we will raise even more funds for the charity. In the April issue of the Parish News we will be announcing how you can sign up for the event and/or how you can get involved on the day. So watch this space for more news; in the meantime – get those trainers out of the cupboard and keep running!

Photographers: we need you!

If you consider yourself a bit handy with a camera you could be in line to win a prize when your "hot shot" is chosen as the "top pic"! Please contact Mike Smith 01279 771568 for more details.

Cinderella: the review

This year the LHPG decided to go back to their roots and rekindle the success of its first ever pantomime, Cinderella. Obligatory raffle tickets bought, the action was opened by the competent Jill Oxborrow as the Farey B-Warey Godmother, who effortlessly led John Leech's script in witty rhymes concerning the A120 and other notorious local landmarks.

Cinderella (Sophie Mardell) was suitably sweet, but it was Buttons' (John Webster) arrestingly professional performance and heart-warming heckling, that kept the audience energised, and ready for some truly show-stealing double acts.

The cut-glass voice of the Evil Stepmother (Anne Senior) made for a brilliant villain, while Colin Howard's cowering Baron Hardup was suitably pathetic. Prince Charming (Kirsty Harrison) and Dandini (Penny Taylor) looked dazzlingly handsome, and the ugly sisters, Salmonella (Paul Haines) and Pizzabella (Robin Gregory) raised some of the biggest laughs, with their mincing hand gestures and shameless advances on the poor highwaymen, Smasher & Grabber (Gill Stigwood and Richard Mardell). The "uglies" even drew a well timed cry of, "Should have gone to Specsavers!". This heckle had been similarly used to great effect last year – does the LHPG have their own professional heckler? The girls' dance troupe, from The Jenny Myhill School of Dancing, attacked some refreshingly ambitious choreography this year, which paid off in the impressive UV transformation scene dance. Similarly the adult chorus (choreographed by Jessy Paytt & Abbie Bailey) performed many numbers with gusto and originality. In fact, the production throughout was full of imagination, with ticker tape galore and a cloud of 40th Anniversary balloons exploding onto a crowd of excited children at the end. A sight which would have assured director, Sue Wetherall, she had done a great job.

Gemma Taylor

A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt, and is named 'Ahmal'. The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him 'Juan'.

Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal".

March diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

6 Sunday

Sunday before Lent

9.30am Sung Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's, Braughing

13 Sunday

Lent 1

9.30am Shared Communion and Sunday School at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

5.00pm Taizé Service in St Andrew's, Much Hadham

19 Saturday

3.00pm Thanksgiving Service for Lara Zoé Adams Rothwell, St Cecilia's.

20 Sunday

Lent 2

8.00am Holy Communion St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am Family Service at the Village Hall

6.00pm Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

27 Sunday

Lent 3

11.15am Shared Communion at St Mary's, Albury

6.00pm Evensong at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham (Please note the resumption after winter break)

31 Thursday

7.30pm Little Hadham Church APCM in Church

On **Sunday April 3rd** (Mothering Sunday) there will be a special Family Service at St Cecilia's at 9.30am. Families and children welcome.

Lent

During Lent, study groups are being arranged as follows:

Mondays 7.30pm from 21st March in Much or Little Hadham: venues to be announced.

Tuesdays 12.30pm at St Andrew's Cottage Much Hadham from 15th March.

Wednesdays 6th, 13th and 20th **April** 7.30pm in the Old Boys Hall Braughing.

There are regular Saturday lunchtime Lent lunches in Much Hadham. Times and places can be found hopefully on the new website or by contacting Chris Boulton on 842609 or rectory@muchhadham.com

Saturday 12th March 12.30pm at Blakes, High Street, MH

Saturday 19th March 12.30pm at the Rectory High Street MH

There is a "one off" Lent Lunch on Tuesday March 22nd 12.30pm, at the home of Gill Booty at Regions Bury Green, Little Hadham contact 652744.

Charity donations to Motor Neurone Disease Association.

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