

# *Little Hadham Parish News April 2012*



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

## Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends,

This is the most difficult Rector's letter I have had to write in eight years. I announced on March 4th that I was moving in September to a new appointment. Let me first say that I am not moving because I am dissatisfied or unhappy; quite the contrary. I am moving because I feel strongly, after much prayer and agonising, that God is calling me to a new chapter in my life and a ministry that is right for me. It was not something planned or sought, but offered unexpectedly.

I will be Chaplain to Bromley College in Kent. It is a College of retired priests and church workers, and some widows. My task will be to minister to them, organise the Chapel worship and administer the Trust. In any time I have spare I intend to study and take part in the life of local parishes of the town. My contract is for a possible seven years, which will take me to the glorious prime of life; at which point I hope to retire!

I shall be moving back into an urban life and a very different community.

It is very hard to say goodbye to so many lovely folk, not only in Much Hadham, but right across the Team; people have been gracious and kind in their expressions of appreciation and good wishes, and in their sadness that I should leave. My hope is that it will not just be five months of painful goodbyes, but five months of joyful achievement together. There is so much to be done and a full programme of worship and activities.

Most of all we have the profound experience of Holy Week to share and the glorious celebration of Easter. In a sermon on March 11th at Little Hadham and Furneux Pelham I said that we must remember that the Christian life is not all about me, or any one of us, it is about all of us together and about the life of the Spirit that goes on, and lives in us and those who follow. It is Christ we proclaim and not ourselves. If I had any control of my legacy it would be to make sure that I leave behind, not a cult of personality, but a culture of care and joyful open minded seeking for God.

*Chris Boulton*

### Calling all singers

We're not Military Wives or Gareth Malone, but we enjoy our singing and need a few more volunteers to join our ranks, or, in this case, our pews! St Cecilia's Choir is trying to live up to the name of its Patron Saint and provide music at St Cecilia's. Quite often we combine with the choirs at Albury and Much Hadham, under the supervision of Nicholas Jardine, to sing at important church festivals and services in those churches. There must be a budding X Factor Will Young or Susan Boyle out there somewhere in Little Hadham who want to hit the high notes, or, if you're a bass, the low ones! Give it a go, there's no audition and satisfaction is guaranteed. If you play the piano, or organ or other instrument there will be a place for you. Give Rosemary 771711, or Karin 771532 a ring.

## Parish Council News

**Neighbourhood Planning:** Parishioners will remember that last month Cllr Mrs Piccolo asked for members of the community to come forward and get involved in the new government initiative involving the future shaping of our village, in terms of housing and business development, over the next couple of decades. Unfortunately the community has not been very responsive on this subject and unless people get involved a Neighbourhood Plan cannot be established for our village. The danger then is that we will not have a say when “development” comes along as it could be “thrust” upon us by the local Authority. So please do get in touch with Cllr Mrs Piccolo [cam2403@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cam2403@hotmail.co.uk). The task will not be very time-consuming but it is very important we set about putting together a plan for our neighbourhood as it will stand us in good stead in the future. Remember this is to be a community led project outside of Parish Council business.

**Village Website:** We have exciting news as LHPC, with the help of a parishioner, has agreed to the setting up a village website. We hope the website will be both informative and interesting both to those of us lucky to live here and also to those wishing to move to our wonderful village. Watch this space for more news on this project in the next few weeks!

**Westland Green:** The area of burnt debris, seen as one enters Westland Green, has now undergone some clearance with more to follow. Remember folks it will take time for the charred remains to be re-covered by new green foliage, hopefully in the coming months nature will help the area look better and brighter with new plant growth.

**Donations:** It was agreed at March's PCM that the donations to the History Society, LH Pantomime Group and Parish News would

be paid – hopefully these donations will be helpful in the works the various groups need to carry out. Small grants are still available via the Parish Clerk; all that we ask is that applicants provide a letter explaining why the money is needed and a brief set of the group's accounts.

**Parish Assembly:** This year's Parish Assembly is to be held on **Thursday 24th May at 7pm**, for wine & nibbles, for 7.30pm start at the Village Hall. Please mark this date on your calendar we welcome everyone including children at this event – it's the one evening in the year when we can all get together and find out what goes on in our village, catch up with friends and neighbours, and more importantly to find out how the Parish Council has served the community. Do please come along and hear guest speakers; this year we have a great line up of various representatives, all to be revealed in May's Parish News, who will give short informative talks. We promise it won't be boring! Do please come along it would be great to see you!

**Digital Switchover:** If anyone needs help with the digital switchover do please contact any Parish Councillor who will be able to help with information. If you know someone who might struggle with the switchover please get in touch with us on their behalf we are here to help.

**Youth Representative:** The Parish Council invites enthusiastic youngsters 16-18 to get in touch if you are interested in representation at Parish Council meetings with things that are specifically pertinent to youngsters in Little Hadham. No holds barred, (within reason!), get in touch with the Parish Clerk 842803 who will be more than happy to give guidance on how you can make representation at Council meetings.

*continued on page 11*

## Easton Lodge News

### **from the Gardens of Easton Lodge Preservation Trust**

We had a fantastic start to the 2012 season with a huge number of visitors for both of our Snowdrop Sundays. We sold out of snowdrops "in the green" and snowdrop vases and had a great response to the beautiful bone china snowdrop mugs that we now have on sale. If anyone is interested but can't make it along to the gardens we can sell them mail order at £6 each or £10 for two + P&P or local pick up; see [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk) for details or call 01371 876979 and leave a message.

We start the main season of Open Days on Sunday April 15th and continue through the season on the following dates: 20th May \* 17th June \* 15th July \* 19th August \* 16th September \* 21st October. Entry will be from noon – 6pm (last entry at 5pm) with tickets priced at £2.50 for adults and children still free of charge. Refreshments will be on sale ranging through bacon rolls (using local Sweetlands bacon), delicious vegetarian soups and a wide range of homemade cakes. We are increasing the number of children's activities for this year with a specific theme for each month as well as old favourites such as the scavenger hunt and word searches. We also have the Saffron Walden Town Band playing at the gardens in May and other events planned – details again on the website.

The volunteers are now busy with planting in the Italian Garden ready for the first open day and visitors will be able to see a real difference. We always need more volunteers though and would welcome anyone with a little time to spare either on Thursdays to garden, on open days to help where needed or sometimes simply to stuff envelopes. So if you are interested please get in touch on 01371 876979 and leave a message or email [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk).

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## **BAA launches yet another appeal over Stansted**

BAA has this afternoon [29 February 2012] announced that it has initiated appeal proceedings against the Competition Appeal Tribunal's judgment of 1 February 2012, upholding the Competition Commission's ruling that BAA must sell Stansted Airport.

This means that the uncertainty over the future ownership of Stansted Airport is set to continue for at least another six months. The legal battle has already lasted for three years and this was preceded by three years of investigation into BAA by the Office of Fair Trading and the Competition Commission.

Once again, BAA has waited until the very last day before lodging its appeal – just a few hours before the deadline. BAA's last appeal was dismissed by the Competition Appeal Tribunal on all five grounds.

Stop Stansted Expansion's Economics Adviser Brian Ross commented: "True to form, BAA has again waited until the final day before lodging this appeal, lending weight to the argument that it does not expect its legal challenge to succeed and is merely seeking to delay the conclusion of the legal proceedings for as long as possible."

He concluded: "It's clear that BAA wants to cling onto Stansted for as long as possible but with every day that passes Stansted is losing customers and jobs and for any future owner becoming a weaker competitor for BAA's Heathrow Airport."

ADVERTS REMOVED

## Thought for the month

*I have walked my children to school every day this week and every day I have witnessed cars 'chancing their arm' after the lights have changed back to red outside Mrs Feather's house. This morning both on the way there and on the way home, I have seen a car overtake the stationary car waiting at the lights at the front of the queue to go on their way. Unbelievable! The first was **YX55 . . .**, a grey VW Golf with a 5 year old child in the car going to school, and the second a red car **SI75 APP**. The other day I stood in the road, pointing at the red light, and four cars just drove round me!*

*I also frequently see a red mini coming from the Albury Road who habitually skirts around the bollards on the wrong side of the road, often accelerating away as the lights have turned back to red.*

*I'm not for a moment saying that I have never broken the law – I drive too fast on the motorway, I once rear-ended a vehicle at a roundabout through not paying attention – but these people are not just 'one-offs'; they are in the habit of breaking the law (because it is against the law to drive through a red traffic signal), deliberately going against the traffic signal and they seem to think that it's not important, that it doesn't matter. Would it matter if their child was lying dead in the road? Would it matter if the car they smash into contained their friends or family? What about the person coming from the other direction who also thinks it's OK to jump the red light?*

*So, perhaps we could have a 'thought for the month' in the Parish News for April: To those who think the law does not apply to them – would you rather sit for an extra five minutes waiting for the lights to turn green or sit for hours, days, weeks or longer in a police or prison cell contemplating the consequences of your impatience? One day someone will be injured or killed by these thoughtless, impatient people.*

Helen Walker

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Little Hadham Parish News  
and reach over 500 homes with your  
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## Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

*This month we have the delight of flowering cherries, crab apple blossom and the beautiful show magnolias give us. Ribes or flowering currants start showing colour and continue through to May. Tulips are at their peak, pulmonaria (lungwort) with their distinctive silvery white spotted foliage are bursting with clusters of pink, white or blue flowers and fritillaria (snakeshead) appear nodding their mauve or white heads. The gorgeous scent of the shrub viburnum wafts from their heads of small white, pink budded flowers. One of the first border perennials to open up their large yellow daisy-like flowers is the Doronicum (leopard's bane). The many spring bulbs are coming to their end to make room for all the other plants bursting from the ground.*

*Our AGM was a good social evening and we hope that through the seed swap, there are lots of people out there with some interesting seeds to plant. Our next meeting is on 24th April at the Village Hall 7.45pm for 8pm, the speaker is Ian Torrance speaking on Wild Flowers and Gardens around Cape Town.*

*In the spirit of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations wouldn't it be lovely if we plant red, white and blue plants in our front gardens. Go on, join in the fun.*

ADVERTS REMOVED

# Little Hadham School

*Believing and Achieving*

Our 'Where's Wally' Day got March off to a great start! Everyone really entered in to the spirit and there were red and white stripy jumpers and bobble hats everywhere!

We were very proud of our Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics Team who won the B.S. Schools Festival and went on to represent the district at the County Finals at Wodson Park on 20th March. It was like their own Mini Olympics! A fantastic achievement once again, well done!

Our KS1 children enjoyed their B.P. Science Link Day exploring 'Materials' and proved to us that we have some budding scientists of the future!

Our Y6 pupils joined with some other schools recently in 'Crucial Crew' where they take part in role play scenarios etc. across a variety of topics that will support them on their transition to secondary school. This is always a rewarding and reassuring morning for the children.

This month, we have also taken part in the County Whizz Kids Challenge where four of our talented mathematicians pit their wits against other schools in the County. Amazing calculations!

As part of our work on the 'Golden Boot' towards our Eco Schools Award, we encourage the children to find alternative routes to school other than using cars. We are delighted that quite a few children 'scoot' to school. Because of this, we were able to offer County Scooter training this month, which was well supported and hopefully useful. In recognition of our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint, our County Travel Plan Adviser has kindly installed for us two 'scooter pods' (which are like cycle racks but for scooters).

Finally, we hosted our annual French Enrichment Day with Hockerill School to challenge local Y4/5 talented linguists in a variety of French based activities. Fantastique!

Once again, a very busy month at Little Hadham Primary School!

Liz Stockley, Headteacher

## The Four Manors Sponsored Ride

Sunday 13th May

The Herts and Essex Borders group of the Riding for the Disabled Association is organising a sponsored ride and barbecue from Benington Lordship Farm to raise money towards the annual running costs of about £8,000. This enables over 70 children to take part in riding lessons and a summer picnic ride during the year.

Join the sponsored ride to help this very worthwhile cause and ride across the beautiful and historic countryside of the Four Manors of Benington Lordship, Benington Park, Walkernbury and Walkern Hall.

3 mile, 5 mile or 10 mile route with rosettes for all participants.

For details ring Pep Brookbanks 01279 843218, [pepbrookbanks@hotmail.com](mailto:pepbrookbanks@hotmail.com) or visit [www.horsedates.co.uk](http://www.horsedates.co.uk) for a schedule and entry form.

## Parish Plan Group: Jubilee Celebrations

Mike Smith

In a run up to the actual weekend, we hope that everyone will join in with making the village more festive, by planting up their front gardens, tubs and hanging baskets with red, white, and blue flowers. More information on varieties to choose, and cultivation recommendations can be found in the Garden Club article. It would also contribute to the atmosphere, if anyone can dig out suitable flags and bunting to go up before the Jubilee weekend. All these can of course remain in place for the Olympic celebration period (just add some pink and purple!). We are planning a day of entertainment and fun on **Monday 4th June** which will fit in with those other activities planned on other days, and by other people, (such as the Sunday Service at St Cecilia's Church, and the Rock Band at Nag's Head on the Monday). You will already have received a flyer showing our proposed programme of events which are:

**11am:** A display of Children's decorated transport (adults can enter too!). • **12 noon:** A parade along the road, with the precise route giving attention to safety. • **12.30pm:** Assembly at the Village Hall for an afternoon of **FUN**, with free food and BBQ, and soft drinks for the Children. • **1pm:** Opening of themed pay bars, a cake stall with coffee and tea. A display of memorabilia and a 60 year Royal time line, accompanied by souvenir quiz booklet. There will be novelty games and races outside, if the weather permits. This will all finish at about 4pm. • **8pm:** For those who would like a sit down meal, there will be a **Gala Dinner** in the Village Hall.

Without your help these plans could be subject to change. We are dependent upon your support. So come along to the Parish Assembly (see the Parish Council report) and give us that support, and join us. Any suggestions which you might have will be welcome. **Without your involvement none of this will happen.**

ADVERTS REMOVED

## Down at the doctor's

Paul Haimes

*Just when we almost finalised the Health Centre lease and licence to extend the building, we were hit with yet another, possibly fatal, delay. This time it's not our landlords but National Grid who are the baddies and the route of the gas main is the issue.*

*In October 2010 we were informed that the gas main was "at least 8m" from the present building so we went ahead with our planning application etc. Imagine our surprise, in addition to other emotions, to find out 2 weeks before the builders were due to start, that this was not the case! The gas main will be only 1m from the new extension at its closest point and we cannot build within 3m of it!!*

*We are now in the position where we are desperately trying to get a smaller extension approved by EHDC, the PCT and our landlords before the 31st March deadline after which the grant/funding will essentially be lost. At the time of writing (mid-March) we are hopeful that the project can be saved but by the time you read this...*

*Is there a wealthy, land-owning philanthropist in Much Hadham who is willing to build the village a new, state of the art, Doctors' surgery (??!!)*

*On a much lighter note, I'm sure you will be amused by the photograph of yours truly behind bars; not before time, I hear you say!*



ADVERTS REMOVED

## Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

Apparently, on March 9th, 1912 there was a Social Evening in Little Hadham, when 'upwards of 100 people were present and musical entertainment and competitions were available', as advertised in the local Observer Newspaper, both then and very recently. At the Social Club meeting on 13th March, 2012 approximately 20 people attended and good discussion was made regarding the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations; the Club's financial report was displayed; the decision made to make Bletchley Park our outing for the summer; Kisses for Kids will be our local charity for our book sales money donations; good ideas were given for future meetings and trips and we were all delighted to celebrate a very special birthday. A lot can happen in 100 years!

For our meeting on Tuesday, 10th April, at 8 pm in the Village Hall, Barbara Haslem is to tell us of her Moorcroft Vase – there is a very personal slant to this. Do come along, meet old friends and make new ones. Tel. 771580 or 658585 for information. Barbara, Binnie and Ennis.

### PC News, continued from page 3

**Telephone Kiosks:** Quick reminder folks to keep using the telephone kiosks – now book swap kiosks – they have had a spring clean recently so pop along and bring any books or magazines you have finished reading and swap for something else of interest.

**Thank You:** A Big Thank You to parishioners who attended March's meeting, we had a good number turn up again, but we are always ready to welcome even more so do please come along to the next meeting on Tuesday 3rd April at 8pm in the Village Hall.

ADVERTS REMOVED

## What's on in April ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

**2-6 Temporary traffic lights** in place for up to 5 days whilst bus stop improvements are made on the A120. 9.30-4.30pm. Expect delays.

**2 Mon, Hadhams History Society, 7.45pm** MH Village Hall, 'Artifacts of World War One'. A show and tell evening of world war one memorabilia. Please bring along your letters, medals and other items you may have. Details from Amanda Halliday 01 279 842462.

**3 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm.** Everybody welcome to sit in on the running of our village.

**10 Tue, LH & A Social Club, 8pm.** Barbara Haslem is to tell us of her Moorcroft Vase – there is a very personal slant to this. Do come along, meet old friends and make new ones. Tel. 771580 or 658585 for information.

**12, 26 Thur, Mobile Library,** details on p14.

**15 Sun, Easton Lodge Open Day** Noon - 6pm (last entry at 5pm) Tickets £2.50 for adults and children still free of charge. Refreshments available. Details: [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk)

**19 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning, 10.30 - 12 noon,** rear of Village Hall. Details on p14.

**21 Sat, Braughing Music Society, 7.30pm** St Mary's Church Braughing: John Benson and his Stars of British Jazz. Tickets 01763 289073.

**24 Tue, LH & A Garden Club, 7.45pm for 8pm,** the speaker is Ian Torrance speaking on Wild Flowers and Gardens around Cape Town.

**28 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30 - 11.30am.**

**28 Sat, Jumble Sale** for Isabel Hospice, Thundridge VH, 2:30 - 4:30. 20p entry. Come and grab some bargains. Contact Details 01920 462992.

**29 Sun, Dawn Chorus Walk.** beginning at the Village Hall at 4.45am. All welcome, please contact Jonathan on 07805 571551 or [jforgham@theprimaryworks.com](mailto:jforgham@theprimaryworks.com).

### April: Coast to Coast Walk

Walk to raise funds for Isabel Hospice. Depending on skills this takes 10 - 14 days. We have flexible dates in April. Originally laid down in 1972 by the legendary Lake District walker Alfred Wainwright, the "Coast to Coast" walk is one of the greatest and most challenging prospects available in Britain to the walking community. At almost 200 miles in length from St Bees on the West coast of Cumbria to the finishing post at Robin Hood's Bay on the East Coast of North Yorkshire. The challenge and opportunity is all yours. For more information please contact Julie North on 01707 382547.

## ... and then?

May 13 **Open Garden,** Great Munden House, for Isabel Hospice.

May 13 **Sponsored Ride,** p8.

May 14 **Badminton Club**

May 20 **Macmillan Walk,** p16.

May 20 **music@stansted,** p17.

May 20 **Easton Lodge Open Day,** p4.

May 20 **Open Garden** at Bromley Hall.

May 24 **Parish Assembly** 7pm.

May 26 **Medley of Meals** 771568.

May 27 **Antiques Fair** 9.30 - 4pm.

June 16 **Much Hadham Summer Ball.**

June 17 **Much Hadham Open Gardens.**

June 24 **St Elizabeth's Summer Fayre,** (stallholder bookings now being taken).

July 8 **Summer Fete,** LH School.

# NOTICEBOARD



**YOUR  
VILLAGE HALL  
NEEDS  
YOU**

## WANTED

**Treasurer for the  
Village Hall.**

Is there someone out there who can keep the books and an eye on our investments?

If we don't find someone soon the Hall will have to close as we can't function without a bookkeeper.

Ring Jon, 01279 771697  
if you can help.

## LH Badminton Club

Unfortunately we have had to suspend our Badminton Club until 14th May, owing to a lack of regular players. We are sure there must be some more players in the Village who could join us. If you are over 13 and have played before (even if it was 20 years ago) please come and join our very friendly mixed Badminton Club on Monday evenings from 8.00 - 10.00pm and keep fit as well. Details from Rosemary on 771711.  
Remember: USE IT OR LOSE IT.

## HELP!

**We desperately need to cut down on our printing costs.**

If you are willing to receive your Parish News by e-mail please e-mail "paper-free" with your name and address to the editor at [htfp@clocktower.co.uk](mailto:htfp@clocktower.co.uk).

In return you will receive a beautiful copy each month with none of those interesting smudges or red lines that you've had to put up with for so long. **Please give it a try.** If you don't like it you can always go back onto the paper round.

## The Big Dig

This summer the Hadhams History Society is organising a 'Big Dig' similar to that seen on Channel 5's 'Time Team'.

The plan is to carry out a number of small 1 metre square archaeological digs in various locations in Much and Little Hadham.

So if you would like to know what treasures may lay beneath your garden, fields or paddocks then please give us a call as we would love to include them in our project.

We are also very grateful to Little Hadham Parish Council who have given us a generous grant to help with this event. This will help with buying equipment and running training sessions for local volunteers.

For more details please Contact: Amanda Halliday 01279 842462, Richard Maddams 842096, or Caroline Baigent 07981 145823.

### 12th & 26th April Mobile Library

Nag's Head from 13.45 - 14.05

The Smithy from 14.10 - 14.30

Bury Green from 14.45 - 15.05

A fortnightly service.

### The 'Way Inn'

Come and meet friends and neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee. Rear of village hall, 3rd thursday of the month, 10 - 12 noon

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## From the Archives, 1965

Angela Fardell

*The Melanesian Mission was part of the Anglican Church's efforts to bring Christianity to all parts of the world. Back in 1965 Little Hadham was involved with the Fauamu Hospital project on the island of Malaita, in what was then the British Solomon Islands, independent in 1978. "Fauamu" means "Sacred Rock" and when the hospital opened in 1930 its water came from a near-by river, the Qaibaita. The daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Geoff Harvey was working there at the time and donations were sent from the village including the proceeds of a coffee morning held by the Harveys, raising "the quite remarkable sum of £122.10s.6d."*

*The hospital had 70 beds, 14 orphans and care of a 70 strong leper colony. A new tuberculosis ward was being built for 24 patients paid for by a bequest and built by the local people. TB and other diseases were brought by passing traders.*

*Free drugs were supplied, some useful such as antibiotics and some not so – slimming pills! Water seems to have been the biggest problem with the hospital's reserve tank becoming empty early in the day; a plumber was being sent from Australia to improve the supply, but the leper colony on the hill nearby had no such help. A donation from the Red Cross of 24 3lb. tins of full-cream dried milk for the orphans would have lasted only 24 days but the hospital was grateful for this gift. Any discarded strong reading glasses were also requested to be sent! All this reminds us of how fortunate we are to have a free National Health Service, access to life-saving drugs, good hospitals and clean water. We have much to be thankful for.*

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## Comedian goes the distance for Miles for Macmillan

It's that time of year again when the 3rd largest cancer charity – Macmillan Cancer Support is asking people to tie up their walking boots and join one of our walks. The Bishop's Stortford walk takes place on Sunday 20th May and you can choose from three routes, 5, 10 or 15 miles. Hertfordshire-based comedian John Mann is supporting the walk this year and has signed up for the 5 mile route along with his family and dog Ted. John says of Miles for Macmillan "I am proud to be associated with Macmillan Cancer Support and urge as many people as possible to take part in this great event. Merely by taking an enjoyable walk through the lovely Bishop's Stortford countryside and river Stort you can raise much needed funds for a cause that WILL affect someone close to you." Macmillan's ambition is to reach and improve the lives of everyone affected by cancer and to inspire millions of others to do the same. 1 in 3 people will be told they have cancer at some point in their lives. There are currently 2 million people living with cancer in the UK and this is predicted to reach 4 million by 2030. Sadly we all know somebody who has been affected.

To register to take part and receive a fundraising pack call 0300 1000 200 or log on to [www.macmillan.org.uk/walking](http://www.macmillan.org.uk/walking). If you would like to be volunteer to help at the walk then please do get in touch. Miles for Macmillan is a national walking event in partnership with Boots. We're hoping to raise over £1.8m through Miles for Macmillan this year so whatever distance you can manage, every penny you raise will help improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

Alternatively if you can't take part in the Bishop's Stortford walk then why not sign up for one of our other Miles for Macmillan walks or organise your own with friends and family.

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**music@stansted**

*Tickets are now on sale for our extra concert in St John's Stansted on Sunday 20th May at 3pm when 10-year-old George Harliono will be giving a piano recital. He has played alongside other youngsters at the Royal Festival Hall and, last autumn, gave solo recitals in Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Come along and hear a truly amazing young musician. Check him out on the internet too – "George Harliono-Evans"*

*This is outside our series of subscription concerts and tickets are required, Adults £6, Under 18s £2, from: Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282) or at the door. If you would like more information about us, please visit our website: [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com).*

## **Need a New Lawnmower?**

**I have a Qualcast, Suffolk Punch 14SK,  
Self Propelled (Easy Start)**

**petrol lawnmower for sale**

**It is brand new (still boxed, unopened)  
£450.00 or nearest sensible offer.**

**Please contact Graham Newell**

**on 07752 310634 or [Graham.newell@btinternet.com](mailto:Graham.newell@btinternet.com)**

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## Nature Notes: February/March

Jonathan Forgham

A month of contrasting weather, but still remaining worryingly dry. The few warm nights we had encouraged a good selection of moths to the garden trap and also offered me opportunities to get out and about in the parish.

Birds of note were bullfinches in Millennium Wood (4th March) common buzzards daily over Brick Kiln Hill and what I expect to be the last few fieldfares and redwings seen over Ash Valley Golf Course. They appear to have left a few weeks earlier than normal this year. Ones that now turn up will probably be migratory birds from the south west. Plenty of woodpecker activity, with a count of 8 great spotted woodies drumming in and around Westland Green, plus another 4 in woods along the Ash Valley.



I also managed a few days out, taking a couple of novice birders out along the Thames estuary where we recorded a

decent 60 species, including this splendid little egret. Several trips to Amwell Nature Reserve near Ware were made and on one visit 2 oystercatchers were seen, not a common bird for inland waters.



The garden moth trap is now receiving a good number of visitors, with 14 species being recorded over the period Feb 18th – March 18th. Of these, an oak beauty (above) was a real highlight. A common moth but stunning colours. However, the rarest moth to arrive so

*continued on next page*

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## Nature Notes, *continued*

far was taken on 12th March. A small green micro moth (1.8cm) called *Acleris literana*. Records show only 7 sightings of this moth in Hertfordshire between 1860 and 2006. The last three records come from Welwyn (1995), Digswell (2003) and Bishop's Stortford (2004).



Over the next month I intend to be out recording all the migratory birds with the expected chiffchaffs, willow warbler, whitethroat and blackcap probably being the first to turn up, along with sand martins, swallows and house martins. I also expect to find wheatears and ring ouzels passing through en route to the north west moors. Both of these birds prefer higher ground, so areas around the Golf Course are probably best for locating them. In trying to record as many as possible I am planning my 2nd Dawn Chorus Walk. This will take place on Sunday 29th April, beginning at the Village Hall at 4.45am. All welcome, please contact me on 07805571551 or [jforgham@theprimaryworks.com](mailto:jforgham@theprimaryworks.com). I also anticipate taking the moth trap to a few local woods. If anyone would like to come along, again, please contact me for further details.

Finally, thanks to Neale from South Cottages who contacted me to report a sighting of a peregrine falcon in the parish. A 1st record and one that goes on the list not seen by myself. An excellent record and probably the bird that has spent a few weeks hunting over the aerodrome at Allens Green and Green Tye.

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## Kyokujitsu Kyokushin Karate Club triumphs again

Little Hadham's very own Kyokujitsu Kyokushin Karate Club reaffirmed their supremacy as the national force to be reckoned with at the recent East Anglia Cup as they continued their remarkable success by winning the coveted club trophy at the tournament for the third year running, finishing a convincing six points ahead of the joint 2nd place Bishop's Stortford and Tokei (London) teams. The club amassed 9 trophies in all comprising five golds and four silvers in the open competition which attracted about 125 competitors from seventeen clubs from all over England and Wales competing in both the 'clicker' and 'knockdown' categories.

The five golds were all notched up by the Petch family – two each for my boys Jamie and Benny in both their semi-contact and full-contact categories and, not to be completely outdone by them, one for me in the Ladies' semi-contact category. [See cover picture.] Seventeen year old Jamie was moved up into a fierce competitive Men's semi-contact section due to a lack of entries for his own age group – so to have a mother and son as the winners in both adult categories is, I believe, a unique achievement (and probably another indication that it really is about time for me to retire from this fighting lark!). Zac Jeffery bought us home a couple of silver medals after he met Benny in both his finals and we had silvers too from Tiggy Reeves and Molly Hobson in their knockdown categories. It was another great day for the club, all the

*continued on next page*

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## **Karate Club, continued**

more enhanced by the wonderful team spirit and family atmosphere we have going on, including fantastic support from parents.

If you want to be part of our flourishing village club which takes on and beats the best of the rest of Great Britain's big shot towns and cities.....then we have a variety of sessions going on to suit all – adults & teens, kids & family sessions, karate & non-karate practitioner fitness sessions, boxing boot camps, fight club etc, etc.

For more information, please feel free to give me a ring on 07946 484498 or 01279 771 636 or email me: [catherinepetch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:catherinepetch@yahoo.co.uk)

*Braughing Music Society* -

**Welcome back**

**John Benson**

**and his**

**Stars of British Jazz**

**Saturday 21st April - 7:30 pm  
St Mary's Church, Braughing**

**TICKET PRICES**

£15; £12 or £10. Children free

Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073

Email: [bookings@braughingmusicsociety.co.uk](mailto:bookings@braughingmusicsociety.co.uk)  
[www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk](http://www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk)

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## A Prayer-Chain? What's A Prayer-Chain?

There is an established prayer-chain in our villages which we hope people will find helpful. The prayer-chain consists of a small group of people, linked by telephone, who will undertake to pray for any person needing God's help and strength at a time of crisis, or for any situation where prayer is needed for a limited period of time; for instance, a child going off to a new school; a relationship under stress; a major decision needing to be made; a sudden medical emergency, and so on.

All you have to do is ring one of the contact persons, whose numbers are below, who will relay your prayer request to other members of the prayer-chain who will pray daily for your particular need for a period of two weeks. All the members of the chain are committed to maintaining strict confidentiality. Obviously, where appropriate, the group would welcome 'feedback' as to how things have gone. The prayer-chain is not intended to replace the weekly intercessions lists in our Churches, which tend to deal more with on-going situations, but we hope it will augment that ministry of prayer in the Church.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God, and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil.4: 6&7)

### **Prayer Chain**

*Within our congregations we have a network of people who will receive prayer requests. Whatever the problem, worry, anxiety or personal need, when received, will be forwarded to the people on the chain who will pray immediately for each request for a period of time. All requests will be confidential.*

**Please ring anytime: Janet: 842671 Pam: 771999 Karin : 771532**

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## Churchyard clear-up

Saturday morning 17th March 10am. Overcast, rain threatening and damp underfoot – a most unpromising time to travel to St Cecilia's simply to tidy the churchyard and clean parts of the inner sanctum. Yet two dozen willing volunteers, some of whom had not been pressed to attend, came along and spent an hour or so clearing up the winter's toll of fallen branches, lighting the fire and keeping it well supplied, edging the pathway, cleaning windows (inside & out) tidying the vestry and jettisoning some old relics that had been gathering dust and cobwebs for a century or more. Our thanks go out to all of them, especially the ladies who baked delicious cakes and made tea and coffee at half time.

It's surprising what little jewels of antiquity are found at these annual clear-ups! At the back of an old box in the vestry a plan of the church (drawn 100 years ago) shows the dates when parts of the building were constructed. For example, did you know that one of the bells has been in regular use since 1495? Over 500 years! The nave was built in the 12th century, tower 14th and other additions were made in the 16th and 19th centuries. If Christianity survives another 100 years our grandchildren will be able to celebrate a thousand years of continuous worship in this grand old building. Sadly, in some parts of the UK old unused churches are converted into houses, even a carpet factory! Those of us who wish to preserve our ancient religion and the buildings where it is practiced should examine our inner thoughts and wonder what the future holds in store if we allow other beliefs to gain momentum whilst we just 'sit and stare'. But, thank you to all those who braved the elements on 17th March, helped out and ensured that St Cecilia's is secure for at least another year.

## Medley of Meals

We are holding a Medley of Meals at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Tandle, The Ford on Saturday, 26th May. We are very grateful to them as this brings together folk in the village. Tickets cost £7.50 each and are available from Mrs. Maggie Smith, 01279 771568.

## Thankyou

**Clive Slaughter and Marcia** would like to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes during Clive's recent illness. They have been strengthened and moved by so many expressions of love and support. He is making good progress, but will need time for recuperation before he can recover fully.

**Thankyou**, also for all who have offered prayers and support for **Tony Skidmore**, who has been very poorly. He is now at home recovering. Tony is so involved in Church and community that he will be greatly missed from his usual activities.

# April diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

## 1 Sunday

## Palm Sunday

9.30am

Sung Matins

St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11.15am

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

## Holy Week

## 2 Monday

7.30pm

Concert: Kings College Cambridge Choir, St Andrew's, Much Hadham  
(Rare opportunity to hear a group of senior choristers. Details: Nicholas Jardine, 841196)

## 5 Maundy Thursday

8.00pm

Holy Communion (followed by supper in the Rectory), St Andrew's, Much Hadham

## 6 Good Friday

12noon

Procession Followed by Veneration of the Cross and meditation on the Passion until 3pm

St Andrew's, Much Hadham

7.30pm

Service of readings and music

St Mary's, Furneux Pelham

## 7 Holy Saturday

8.00pm

The Easter Vigil

St Mary's, Braughing

## 8 Sunday

## Easter Day

9.30am

Parish Communion and Sunday School, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

6.00pm

Choral Evensong

St Andrew's, Much Hadham

## 15 Sunday

## 2nd of Easter

8.00am

Holy Communion

St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Service in Little Hadham Village Hall

6.00pm

Evensong

St Mary's, Albury

## 22 Sunday

## 3rd of Easter

11.15am

Parish Communion

St Mary's, Albury

6.00pm

Evensong

St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

## 29 Sunday

## 4th of Easter

9.30am

United Team Communion

St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

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

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

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Editor: Jan Finn, Ash Cottage, The Ashe, Little Hadham, SG11 2DX (771113) e-mails to [htfp@clocktower.co.uk](mailto:htfp@clocktower.co.uk)

All articles for inclusion; sponsorship; and payment for advertising in the next issue **must** be received by the **18th** of the month. (cheques payable to **Little Hadham PCC**)

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