

Little Hadham Parish News May 2013



Revd. Giles Tulk, with his wife Sara, outside St. Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham.

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Letter from the Rectory

This month's letter is written by the Revd. Giles Tulk, the new Team Rector of the Ash & Quin Valleys.

Dear friends in Little Hadham,

As I sit writing this letter, with the afternoon sun streaming through the study window, it is only two days since my licensing as Team Rector of The Ash & Quin Valleys by the Bishop of St Albans. So it is wonderful to have the opportunity to say 'hello' to everyone in Little Hadham and tell you a bit about myself.

My licensing service (or to give it the correct Church of England terminology, 'institution, induction and installation') at St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham on the evening of Monday 15th April was a truly joyful occasion. St Andrew's Church was packed with people from all the Churches and communities that make up the Ash & Quin Valleys Team. The Church looked beautiful with wonderful flower arrangements with a yellow theme. The singing was superb and raised the Church roof, led by the talented Team Choir of over thirty people and our organist, Nicholas Jardine and to finish off the evening we had good food and drink. I would like to thank all those who put in so much hard work into making it such an uplifting and happy Team event.

I was born in Bishop's Stortford Hospital and grew up in Sheering, so I suppose you could call me a bit of a 'local lad'! After graduating from The University of Leeds with a degree in Economics I spent around 20 years working in Human Resources Consultancy, working for companies in the UK, Europe and Middle East, therefore I am someone who has become a Priest later in life. I trained part-time on the Eastern Region Ministry Course based in Cambridge whilst still working as a Director in the HR Consultancy practice of a Global Professional Services firm. I used to read my theology books on the train journey home from Liverpool Street Station, although I must confess that by the time the train had got to Tottenham Hale I had usually drifted off to sleep; theology books are not always that exciting!

I am married to Sara, who many of you will know from her role as an English Teacher at the Herts & Essex High School in Bishop's Stortford. In our spare time we like walking and we are particularly enjoying exploring the beautiful walks in the area with our Lurcher. We also both enjoy gardening and are looking forward to tending the Rectory Garden, although Sara has to make sure I pull up only the weeds and not any plants.

It is a tremendous privilege for me to serve you as your Team Rector and I hope that together we will be able to achieve the Bishop of St Alban's challenge to 'live God's love' in our community. At the Parish Council Annual Meeting this week I was able to see first hand what a vibrant community Little Hadham is. Sara and I are both really looking forward to getting to know the community in Little Hadham, so please do come and say 'hello' if you see us around, particularly at The Farmers' Market.

God bless, Giles

Parish Council News

Parish Assembly

LHPC sends thanks to everyone who helped deliver this year's Parish Assembly. We can be proud of ourselves; all the hard work and commitment given by both leaders and participants of all the village clubs and groups help us achieve great results! We also say a huge THANK YOU to all the parishioners who took the time to join us - we hope you enjoyed the evening and agree with us that we are truly fortunate to live in such a vibrant and friendly community!

Bishop's Stortford North

Parishioners may be interested to know that at 6.30pm on Tuesday 7th May at the Village Hall Officers from EHC & HCC will join six parishioners for a Q & A session regarding BSN. We invite parishioners to come along and listen to what will be a very important discussion – if you have any questions you would like us to raise on your behalf please email them to Cllr Carmela Piccolo: cam2403@hotmail.co.uk.

Planters

The planters will soon be installed along the C15, travelling in a northerly direction from the Village Hall. Once they are planted up do take the time to look out for them – we hope you enjoy the splash of colour the plants provide!

Village Sign

The new village sign, which is to be erected

just past the entrance to the golf course, is now on order, so installation should not be long now – we hope the sign will be in place by early summer.

Gas Control Box Bridgefoot Farm

We are sure the whole community will join LHPC in saying "CONGRATULATIONS" to Hannah Pearson for achieving her goal; the gas control box at Bridgefoot Farm now has a protection barrier in place. Well Done Hannah!

Working Parties

LHPC is always in need of help from parishioners – do please let us know if you have an hour or two to spare, now the better weather has arrived there's lots to do! In 2013 we would like to carry out a good clear up at the Millennium Wood and finish off the clear up at the pond in Bury Green. Do you have a project you would like to see tackled? Email Carmela: cam2403@hotmail.co.uk or call Jono 01279 776112. Thank you!

Next Parish Council Meeting

Do please make the time and come along and listen to the discussion between Officers and parishioners at the meeting regarding Bishop's Stortford North at 6.30pm. The PC meeting proper begins at the usual time of 8pm TUESDAY 7th May in the Village Hall.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a Roman Catholic chapel in Furneux Pelham.

Steeped in history, the pretty little Chapel of the Annunciation is housed in a barn at Tinkers Hall Farm and mass is said here every Saturday at 6pm.

Everyone is welcome. From the Brewery Tap pub on your left, go uphill for about 400 yards and take the first turning on the left into Farm Yard. The Chapel is on your right.

Letter from the Revd Stephen Fielding

Last month we welcomed a new team rector, the Revd Giles Tulk. I am delighted that he has come to head our team. In particular my hope is that his arrival may mark a turning point for us - as a team, as communities and as individuals - in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

All of us, at some point in our lives need a turning point - a place at which we say 'enough is enough', or 'I am going to make a new start', or 'I'm going to increase my confidence and trust in God so that I will be equipped for whatever life throws at me'.

Sometimes we simply want to close a door - to shut out the harmful memory, or the painful words that come back to haunt us, the unkind gestures, the anger, the pain, the resentment. We simply want to let it go - trusting and hoping that, having let these things go and be dealt with by God's gracious mercy, we can launch out towards God's abundant future.

For Christians, Jesus is the means and the end of turning things around. The good news is that 'Jesus is Lord'.

In the end the key to turning things around is to listen to the words of Jesus:

"Follow me."

With every blessing, Stephen.

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Historic attendance at Little Hadham & Albury Gardening Club AGM

On 26th March, Jez Donaldson and Abigail Muller, both of Albury, attended the Little Hadham and Albury Gardening Club's AGM. Despite the club's name, this was apparently the first time anyone from Albury had dared to venture across the A120 to attend one of their meetings for 6-7 years. Contrary to local folklore, the people of the lands south of the A120 were found to be friendly and welcoming, bearing gifts of pizza, wine and beer.

The purpose of the visit was to talk on the subject of the proposed 'Fruit and veg swap shop', an event, or hopefully a series of events to be held in the latter half of each year, where local gardeners with surplus produce could come together to swap that produce with others, thus achieving a more interesting and varied diet and reducing wastage from surplus from their own gardens. This would ideally be done on a 'cash free' basis, by bartering and haggling, although a token could be created that would allow for deferral of exchange (eg. I'll give you three lettuce now and I'll have a kilo of your parsnips in December) or even the exchange of produce for services (eg. babysitting). An interesting debate ensued.

The next step is to get together a small group of 5-6 local people to discuss the potential issues arising, figure out how it would all work and make the first event happen. Interested locals please get in touch with Jez in the first instance, on jezdonaldson@gmail.com or 07989 388040.

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As you will have all seen and heard in the media, 1st April heralded the new, all singing and dancing NHS. Our practice is in the "Stort Valley and Villages" (SVV) locality group, along with the three Bishop's Stortford practices and Central Surgery in Sawbridgeworth, and this group is one of 6 which form the East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). We attend regular meetings of the SVV locality group which, in turn, has representation on the much larger CCG. How this will affect overall patient care initially is unclear but there will be tough decisions to make, for example on availability of some treatments, and we will have a small voice in the whole process but still a voice at this stage.

I mentioned in the last parish magazine the forthcoming concert in St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham on Friday 31st May in aid of our Jack May Trust Fund, which is advertised elsewhere in this magazine. At the last Trust Fund meeting, the Trustees agreed to fund our plan for a new, automatic, front door system at the Health Centre. This is a project we have been looking into for some time and which was raised, independently, as a desirable improvement to our premises at recent Patient Participation Group meetings. This is a fine example of how we, our trustees and patients can come together to improve our services and I therefore encourage you to come to the fund-raising concert. Tickets (£12.50) are available at the Health Centre, Much Hadham and Hunsdon village shops or by phoning 844083 and include a souvenir programme, glass of wine and canapés.

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Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

Roll up, roll up for the famous Little Hadham & Albury Plant Sale and Coffee Morning - Saturday 4th May.

If you would like to buy our lovely home grown plants, fruit & veg plants and other paraphernalia then the doors open at 9.30. If you have anything to donate to our sale can you bring it along at 8.30. And don't forget the coffee and cake – what luxury.

On Tuesday 21 May Graham Pavey will give a talk called "The Mistakes Gardeners Make". This could take all day and night if your garden is like mine. We now start our evenings at 7.30pm, door open at 7.00pm.

Looking forward to our Autumn Show on September 7, a note to those of you entering either Chutney or Pickles. Last year the judge mentioned that pickles need to be made about 3 months in advance so that good flavours develop. You have been warned! If anybody needs the 450g jars then please call Brenda on 771028 - plenty to spare.

Two days before writing this the sun came out, does it mean we can start digging, sowing, propagating, hardening off and actually planting stuff? I hope so.

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Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

May for us is a very 'testing' time – literally! Our Year 6 children will sit their SATs tests and the rest of Key Stage 2 also sit Optional Tests during the same week. However, we also have some fun organised in a 'K'nex Challenge' for our older pupils where they work with a design engineer, in pairs, on a specific design task challenge. For us, it is an annual event which the children really look forward to.

We are also hosting an exciting teachers' INSET for our area, led by Jason Buckley – 'The Philosophy Man', who is very well known in developing children's thinking skills.

Towards the end of the month, we will be using the 'Mantle of the Expert' approach to give the children a specific challenge for them to solve by working together. Something different for everyone!

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Head teacher

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

Adverts removed

A Word from the Much Hadham Afternoon WI

As our name suggests we attract members who prefer the daytime meeting to an evening one. We have among us some very remarkable elderly women of whom we are incredibly proud. They bring with them a wisdom and life experience which contributes to a multicoloured atmosphere. Yes, we have a good mixture of people who range from Much Hadham to another eight villages. Aren't we lucky to have so many members who choose our WI for companionship and would be delighted to welcome new members of all ages.

We are active and friendly and enjoy all things that any WI can offer e.g. we have interesting speakers, go on outings, organise keep fit, music and art sessions, hold competitions and exhibitions and we shall sing "Jerusalem" for as long as we have Diana to accompany us on the piano! Above all, we offer our members the bond of true WI friendship.

To raise our funds we hold extra functions like a Brunch combined with a visit to a grand spring garden planned for this April and later in the year a ploughman's lunch or a soup luncheon. Does that not sound attractive?

Anyone is most welcome to join us the first Wednesday in the month, Much Hadham Village Hall, 2pm.

Ursula Mc Nair

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Government's New Aviation Policy is a Hollow Sham

Issued by Stop Stansted Expansion 25 March 2013

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has dismissed the Government's newly published 'Aviation Policy Framework' as little more than a hollow sham. The long-awaited document, made public on 22 March, sets out the Government's approach towards the future development of UK aviation and the measures it intends to take to control aviation's environmental impacts.

However, says SSE, the new framework is noticeably lacking in any meaningful measures to control noise, air pollution or climate change, adding to condemnation by airport community campaign groups and national environmental organisations across the UK.

Top of the list of failures is the framework's adherence to discredited methods for measuring aircraft noise disturbance - not least in rural areas with low background noise such as Stansted. This is compounded by the exclusion of emissions, other than carbon, in assessing aviation's climate change impacts and an absence of any new measures to tackle air quality problems. There is hardly any mention of the destructive impact that any expansion would have on landscape, heritage and local communities.

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Aviation Policy, continued

Ministers had claimed during the consultation phase that the new policy framework would pave the way for action, making special mention of the need to address community concerns about noise. This raised hopes that a tougher approach would finally be introduced to tackle the aviation industry's worst impacts.

SSE Chairman, Peter Sanders, commented: "We are naturally disappointed that the Aviation Policy Framework is so ineffective and unhelpful but we are not entirely surprised. The Department for Transport has always tended to support the unfettered expansion of aviation and has never taken its environmental responsibilities very seriously."

He continued: "The only consolation is that this new policy is silent on the issue of airport expansion. Responsibility for that issue rests with the Airports Commission and we are now very much focused on convincing the Commission that there is no case for major expansion at Stansted, particularly given the irreversible destruction of historic landscape and heritage which this would bring."

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What's on in May...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

4 Sat, Plant Sale, 9.30am. See p7.

5 Sun, Dawn Chorus Walk, 4.15am, See p16.

7 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm. (6.30pm for the BS North Q&A session, see p3.)

9, 23 Thur, Mobile Library, details p13.

12 Sun, Antiques Fair, 9.30 - 4pm.

12 Sun, Sunday Cycle Ride. The event raising money for Isabel Hospice will start and finish at Woolmer Green VH SG3 6XA. Choose from a 10, 25 or 50 mile route followed by a BBQ and refreshments (for sale). Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Adult entry fee is £12, children 12-16 is £3 entry. Call 01707 382500 for an application form.

13 Mon, Living Well, Dying Well, 9.30am-2pm, Hamilton Room, Van Hage, SG12 9RP. Talk to experts about making a Will, recording funeral wishes, planning future care and support and registering as an organ donor. It is also your opportunity to try a complementary therapy. For more info. 01707 382500. All welcome.

14 Tue, LH & A Social Club, 8pm. 'A Walk in the Park', a talk by Alistair Bayford, on the behind-the-scenes creation of the Olympic Park. No subscription, just £1.50 per person, which includes refreshments. For information telephone 771580 or 658585.

16 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning, 10am-12 noon, rear of Village Hall. All welcome.

18 Sat, The Four Manors Sponsored Ride. Details: Pep Brookbanks 843218, pepbrookbanks@hotmail.com or www.horsedates.co.uk for schedule/entry form.

18 Sat, The Alberni String Quartet, 7.30, St Mary's, Braughing 01763 289073.

19 Sun, Open Day at Hertford Bowls Club, Pegs Lane, Hertford, from 10am to 4pm. Ring Hertford 581697 for information.

19 Sun, Easton Lodge Open Day & Concert

This month we are joined by the members of the Saffron Walden Town Band who were a huge hit with visitors last year and we are sure that this year will be just the same. They will be performing at 2pm and again at 3.30pm with a programme to suit the whole family. Why not sit on the lawn with a cream tea and enjoy the show?

21 Tue, LH & A Garden Club, 7.30pm. A talk entitled 'The Mistakes Gardeners Make'. Everyone welcome. See p7.

23 Thur, Charity Golf Day in aid of Isabel Hospice, Hanbury Manor, Ware SG12 OSD. Tickets £600 per team, include lunch. There will also be an auction. For more information contact Emma Lippiatt on 01707 382547.

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

31 Fri, A Royal Trumpet Celebration, St. Andrew's Church, MH, 7.30pm. See p13.

... and after that?

June 2, **Teas in Gardens**, Gt Munden House, SG11 3HU, for Isabel Hospice. Info. 755320.

June 2, **Open Day at Hertford Bowls Club**. Ring Hertford 581697 for information.

June 9, **Concert, Herts & Soul Choir** plus selection of BS and village primary schools at The Rhodes Centre. For Isabel Hospice and two other charities. Details: 01279 755320.

June 16, **Teas in Gardens**, Bromley Hall SG11 1NY for Isabel Hospice. Info. 755320.

June 16, **Much Hadham Open Gardens**.

June 21, **Madrigals at Amwell Pool**, for Isabel Hospice. Info. 755320.

July 14, **Teas in Gardens**, Dassels Bury SG11 2RW for Isabel Hospice. Info. 755320.

June 29, **St Elizabeth's Summer Fayre**.

Sept 7, **Garden Club's Autumn Show** See p7.

NOTICEBOARD

C·Y·C·L·I·S·T·S

If anyone is interested in road cycling with other people from the village please contact Dougie on 07909 964439

FROM 8th MAY

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The Alberni String Quartet

Schubert, Shostakovich and Beethoven

Saturday 18th May - 7:30 pm
St Mary's Church, Braughing

TICKET PRICES

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

Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073

www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk

A ROYAL TRUMPET CELEBRATION



An evening with

CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS TRUMPET
BARBARA MANNING PIANO

7.30 p.m. Friday 31st May 2013
St. Andrew's Church, Much Hadham

Admission by ticket only— £12.50

To include a souvenir programme, a glass of wine and canapés.

Tickets from

Mrs. Gina May 01279 844263, Much Hadham Health Centre
Much Hadham Village Shop, Post Office Hunsdon



In aid of the Jack May Trust Fund
for the benefit of the Much Hadham Health Centre.

Approved Charity No. 108202

**9th and 23rd May
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.

A mixed month weather wise, little rain but northerly winds meaning that most summer migrants were/are arriving considerably later than usual. First migrant was recorded in March, a chiffchaff being heard on 31st March. This was followed by a swallow at the traffic lights on the 13th April.

My dawn chorus walk on the 14th was a great success, with 7 of us observing 39 bird species, including the first blackcap of the year as well as bullfinches, yellowhammers, shown here and



a party of greylag geese that completed a few circuits of the village before heading off south. The last migrant seen was a cuckoo, heard initially on the 15th and now singing on the footpath at Valley Fields, near the 11th hole on the golf course. I have received no other records, thanks to Malcolm for letting me know of this one. Several residents responded to my plea for kestrel records and it appears that there are five pairs in

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Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

We had a lovely giggle at Barbara's Charity Bingo evening, with a few mishaps, when we had more than one winner!!

For our 14th May meeting Alistair Bayford's talk is 'A Walk in the Park', informing us of the behind the scenes creation of the Olympic Park and how it is continuing to evolve after the Games. It is expected to be the largest significant investment in horticulture in Britain for 150 years. Alistair is part of The Landscape Group and Park Manager of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

We would love to welcome friends and neighbours at our meetings. No subscription, just £1.50 per person, which includes refreshments and we always have a raffle and charity book sales.

For information please telephone 771580 or 658585.

Got anything to say?

Why not write an article for the Parish News?

As you can see, we have Space To Fill

Contributions to: htfp@clocktower.co.uk

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 14



the parish at present. Thank you to all who took the time to let me know of their sightings. Please keep them coming.

A day in Norfolk on the 18th was remarkable in that we recorded precisely 100 bird species. Starting at Hunstanton at 6am we made our way along the coast, finishing at Sheringham at 7pm. Some good birds were seen, including whinchat, hen harrier, rock pipit, goosander and brambling. A summer plumages spotted redshank shown left.

Moth wise it continues to be very poor. A few warm days in the middle of April pushed numbers in the trap above 20, but many nights my catch is in single figures. The moth shown here, an oak beauty is the most colourful of spring moths. Butterfly wise, a brimstone was recorded at Ford Hill and a peacock in my garden on the 12th.



A new visitor to my garden arrived on the 15th. I completed building a small pond in the garden, complete with some moth attracting plants and on the 16th I noted this toad had already found the water. Good news as I fear a slug population explosion this year following last year's wet summer. Hopefully it will stay to devour plenty of the slugs that forage on my plants.



Following a trip to Baixo Alentejo region of Portugal at the end of April, I am planning a 2nd dawn chorus walk. All welcome, meeting at the Village Hall at 4.15am and probably heading over the A120 to Hadham Hall, Cradle End and Bury Green. This will be Sunday 5th May. Hopefully, many more of the summer visitors will

be on show by then. Please let me know if you wish to come along. For regular updates see <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.co.uk> and any interesting sightings please email jforgham@theprimaryworks.com or tweet to [@jonoForgham](https://twitter.com/jonoForgham).

Life on the Run

Les Williams

Years ago there used to be this elderly chap dressed in an old dinner suit who used to stand on a busy corner of the A10 waving to all the passing motorists. He was an ever present for many years and became something of a local celebrity. Or, to be more accurate, the local eccentric. He always wore a flower in his buttonhole and held a rolled up newspaper. I only recently learnt that inside that paper was a wooden cosh that he could use for self-defence when people tried to make fun of him.

I tell this story for two reasons. Firstly, I frequently get waved at by passers by, especially motorists. Sometimes it is shaking of fists and rude signs because I dare to run on the road. Sometimes it is a smirk or just a look of incredulity but mostly it is quite friendly and encouraging. People often stop for a chat. One chap stopped his car near Much Hadham, lowered his window and asked me if my name was "Mr. Windmill". Just where he got that name from I have no idea but he was friendly enough and thanked me profusely for helping to keep the roads free from litter. "You deserve a pay rise," he said, so I had to explain that I do not work for the local authority. I seem to be going through something of an identity crisis because the local police, when emailing a neighbour about the speeding problems, referred to me in their email as "Your neighbour, Len".

The second reason I mention the old eccentric on the A10 is that I was reminiscing about him recently and my wife warned me that I am in danger of becoming similarly known. The more

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Life on the Run, continued from page 17

I think about it then the more I can see that she may very well have a point. I can almost hear it now. "Have you seen that man dressed in hi-viz lycra who runs around the village with plastic carrier bags picking up all the rubbish? He obviously likes animals because I've seen him ushering chickens and rabbits off the road, making a fuss of horses and is on first name terms with all the dogs and cats in the area". I always made a point of giving a friendly wave to that old chap on the A10. Perhaps subconsciously we were kindred spirits!

And finally, if you have been burgled and had your wall safe ripped out then you will find it lying empty on the right just a few yards up the bridlepath off of Ford Hill. The lock mechanism has been drilled out.

Little Hadham Marathon runner!

We were so lucky to set off on Sunday April 21st and witness a wonderful London marathon. We were there to cheer on our friend Sandra Morris of Ashmeads. Many of you will know she trained so hard for last year and then had a serious injury and could not run. This year all her hard work paid off and she ran in a fabulous 4 hours 16. She has trained so hard and for so long and raised some much needed funds for St Elizabeth's. I am sure if anyone still wants to sponsor Sandra she would be only too happy to accept donations for such a worthy cause. Congratulations Sandra on a fantastic achievement.

Helen and Paul.

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Gruyere Biscuits

Brenda Kain

Makes about 20, preparation time 40 minutes, baking time 10 minutes.

These are so good with drinks - actually nearly better than the drink ...

Heat oven to 200°C, Gas 6, Aga top oven.

Ingredients

- 75g plain flour,
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper,
- 75g cold unsalted butter, cubed,
- 75g Gruyere, grated.

Lightly grease a baking tray or line with baking parchment.

Method

Sift the flour and a large pinch of salt into a bowl or processor. Add the butter and either rub in lightly or blitz, until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.

Mix in the cheese and bring the mixture to a soft dough. Wrap and chill for 30 minutes (very important). Roll out dough onto lightly floured surface to a depth of 5mm thickness. Using a 5cm cutter, cut out rounds and put them on the prepared baking sheet leaving plenty of room for spreading. Bake for 10 mins or so, until spread out and lightly browned at the edges. Do watch out, the biscuits colour very quickly.

Grind some salt and pepper over them and leave on the tray for a few minutes to firm up and then slide onto a wire rack.

Leave to cool.

They will store between layers of baking parchment in an airtight container if you can bear to leave any!

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Aviation crisis claims rebuffed

Issued by Stop Stansted Expansion 20 April 2013

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has rebuffed claims that the UK is facing an airport capacity crisis which is damaging the UK economy.

Contrary to aviation industry pleading for more runways, SSE says there simply isn't the demand for more business flights or more routes to emerging markets.

The campaign group's comments appear in its submission to the Airports Commission discussion paper on 'Aviation Connectivity and the Economy'.

The response makes clear that it is the corporate interests of the UK aviation lobby rather than concern for UK PLC that is driving calls for additional runways, highlighting specific examples to back this up. Heathrow, for example, flew more people to Miami last year than to the whole of mainland China, and more people to Nice than to either Beijing or Shanghai. Meanwhile, Gatwick flew almost 50 times as many people to Spain last year as to the four BRIC countries - Brazil, Russia, India and China - combined.

As far as Stansted is concerned, operators provide flights every day of the week to Alicante but none at all to any of Europe's main business centres such as Paris, Zurich and Frankfurt.

SSE also reminds those caught up in the whirl of aviation industry spin that London continues to be independently ranked as the best city in Europe for doing business and as the city with the best transport links with other cities and internationally. In recent years, London has stretched its lead over Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam, in direct contradiction to some of the claims made by the airlines and airport operators. London's airports also serve more passengers than any other world city and more destinations than any other European city.

Commenting on its response document, SSE's economics adviser, Brian Ross, said: "We are clearly demonstrating that the UK has neither an airport capacity crisis nor a connectivity crisis. If there was demand for another 100 flights a day to China, there would be ample capacity to accommodate that straightaway. In fact, the overall demand for business flights is declining: overseas business trips by UK residents have fallen by a fifth since 2000."

"The UK has more commercial runways than either Germany, France, Spain or Italy," he added. "We even have more runway capacity than Japan - also an island trading nation - which has double our population and twice our GDP."

The Airports Commission, chaired by Sir Howard Davies, has been tasked by the Government to examine options for maintaining the UK's status as a global aviation hub. It will produce an interim report towards the end of this year and its final recommendations by the mid-2015.

Over 60's Fun Night – a great success

Following the success of the first Over 60's Fun Night we decided to hold a bi-annual Over 60's Fun Night and this was held at The Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre on 14th April. The Hall was packed to capacity and all tickets had been sold some six weeks before the event which confirms the previous success.

Like the first event the weather turned out to be very pleasant – indeed it was probably one of the nicest days of the year so far. All the guests were greeted with complimentary drinks and after enjoying several games of bingo with free prizes, the evening continued with a fish and chip supper, fruit salad and ice cream followed by tea and coffee. More free drinks were supplied as the evening progressed and after the meal the Slap & Tickle Players performed a one-hour show entitled 'That's Entertainment' with many popular songs from the 50's, 60's and 70's – a number of which provoked substantial audience participation and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. There then followed a free raffle with 39 excellent prizes, a number of which were donated by local businesses, so a large percentage of the guests departed with a prize of some sort!

A nominal ticket charge of £3 was made and the additional funds needed to cover the evening were generously donated by Standon Village Hall, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre and Alex Trenchard of Standon Calling.

Feedback suggests that the evening was a resounding success with much fun had by all and one guest went as far as to say it was probably the bargain of the year!



Accordingly we hope if funds permit, and similar levels of interest continue, another event will be held in two years' time.

The evening was closed with a few kind words by Viscountess Fiona Trenchard, the new recently appointed High Sheriff of Hertfordshire at what must have been one of her first official engagements.

Denis Olliver, Chairman, Standon Village Hall

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Advert removed

May diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

5 Sunday

Easter 6 – Rogation Sunday

9.30am

Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11.15am

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

12 Sunday

Easter 7 – Sunday after Ascension

9.30am

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

11.15am

Family Service at St Mary's, Albury

18 Saturday

2.30pm

Wedding of Kenneth Judd & Sophie Mardell

19 Sunday

Pentecost – Whitsun Sunday

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Village Hall Service, Little Hadham

6.00pm

Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

26 Sunday

Trinity Sunday

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

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, Karin: 771532

There have been no entries in the Register this month

The Church would like to thank all those people, about two dozen, who turned up at the re-arranged Churchyard clear-up on a much warmer 6th April to get the Churchyard and building in shape, ready for the summer. All the molehills were quickly dispatched – and many re-appeared the next day - a bonfire burned all fallen branches and much other rubbish. Grass was cut, Remembrance Garden tidied, First World War Lists affixed to the back of the Nave, and many chocolate and lemon drizzle cakes consumed at half time, washed down with gallons of tea/coffee (well, 24 cups).

The original date for this event was snowed-off so the numbers helping at short notice on the new date were much appreciated.

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