

Little Hadham Parish News

March 2014



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

Letter from the Rectory

Dear friends in Little Hadham

Lent - a time for reflection

On Wednesday 5th March we mark Ash Wednesday with a special 8pm service at St Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham for all the Ash & Quin Valley Team Churches. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in the Church calendar. As it occurs 46 days before Easter, which is itself a moveable date, Ash Wednesday can fall as early as February 4th and as late as March 10th. So Lent begins quite late this year.

We read in the Gospels that Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by the devil. Lent is the time when we remember this and it is traditionally a period of prayer and fasting or abstinence. Which is why so many people talk about "giving something up for Lent," with chocolate and alcohol being the usual favourites for adults! However, of the 46 days until Easter, six days are Sundays, and Sundays are not included in the fasting period and are instead known as "feast" days. So those of us suffering withdrawal symptoms from not eating chocolate have an excuse to eat some chocolate on the Sundays in Lent!

The idea of giving something up for Lent is not to provide the discipline for a much needed diet from certain types of food or alcohol, but rather to help us prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually for Holy Week, and the amazing sacrifice Jesus Christ made for all of us by giving up his life on the cross at Calvary. It symbolises the letting go of all those things in our life which can get in the way of us knowing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ which he freely offers to each of us. Lent is a time for honestly assessing the way we live our lives and our guiding values.

May I therefore wish everyone a reflective Lent. And remember that if giving up the chocolate makes you a bit grumpy, you can always eat some on Sunday, and if anyone challenges you, just say "the Rector says I can!"

God Bless,
Reverend Giles

Little Hadham & Albury Oil Syndicate

Folks, the next order for heating oil will be submitted during the second week in March. Please spread the word to friends and neighbours, together we enjoy really good savings – in January we paid 53.75p per lt – so if you are paying more get in touch! It's FREE to join, I do the negotiating on everyone's behalf and the benefits are great! cam2403@hotmail.co.uk or 07825 177322.

Best Wishes, Carmela.

Council Matters

Chairman Jonathan Forgham announced the resignations of Cllr Carmela Piccolo and Cllr Robin Gregory. Cllr Forgham thanked Mrs Carmela Piccolo for her many years of service on the Council – particularly for her work as chairman of the Planning Committee. Cllr Forgham said that Mr Robin Gregory had resigned due to ill health. The Council would miss his eloquence and insight and his support for Hadham Hall.

The Chairman encouraged all residents to study the draft EHC District Plan that recommended 13 new homes for the Ash and 11 for the Ford. The Little Hadham Neighbourhood Plan could agree the type of housing and where it would be built.

The Council agreed to use some of the New Homes Bonus to set up a Community Rest Area as part of the Community Orchard at the Ford allotment site. The Council also

agreed to install two more flowers planters on the road verge.

The Council continues to pursue Herts Highways to repair numerous potholes and unblock drains. Residents can report road problems on the HCC website.

Oliver Heald MP is organising a meeting in the Village Hall on 21st March for all the agencies concerned with flooding in the village. Jonathan Forgham is building up a detailed account of recent flooding in the parish. He would like residents to tell him how the flooding has affected them. Please email facts to jforgham@hotmail.com.

Some other things discussed included cleaning the war memorial, whether to allow posters near the traffic lights, strengthening the byroad across Westland Green, tidying Bury Green pond and cutting the grass at Bury Green.

Finally, Cllr Wendy Woodgate asked that

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Adverts removed

Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

In January we had our first winter lunchtime meeting with a ploughman's lunch, and it proved to be very popular. Anne Godfrey from Daisy Roots gave a talk about winter colour, scent, fruits and bark for the garden. I am sure many of the ideas will appear in gardens round the village next year.

Our next meeting is the popular AGM. At this meeting we publish our events for the coming year and the Schedule for the Autumn show. Please come along on the 18th March to the Village Hall at 7.30pm for a good natter, wine, nibbles and a fun quiz.

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

The Social Club's 10th Annual Dinner was a great success. Jan, of Clouds Catering, again provided an excellent menu, that was beautifully prepared. Binnie had booked the most amazing entertainment, with Jill Oxborrow, (Fairy Peaceful in our recent fantastical Village Pantomime), singing for us a fabulous arrangement of songs. It was a real 'singalong' and at one point Jill had 4 brilliant backing singers and dancers – X Factor, be prepared! Finally, those present did their usual magic trick and helped to clear and put away tables and chairs. Thank you very much to everyone for such a delightful evening.

For our 11th March meeting, Denise of Busy Bodies is coming to get us moving, both in and out of our chairs! It should be a fun evening for all and everyone is welcome. Usual admission of £1.50 per person, including refreshments, plus our raffle and book sales.

Adverts removed

Down at the doctor's

Dr Paul Haines

Some of you may have noticed that the Health Centre was closed on Tuesday 4th February. Emergency calls were dealt with by the Hertfordshire 111 service whilst Dr Conway, Lyn our practice manager and I attended a meeting of all five practices in our locality, held at Bishop's Stortford Golf Club. Unfortunately, I forgot to take my clubs so had to attend the meeting!

The five practices include us, Central surgery (Sawbridgeworth), South St, Church St and Parsonage Surgeries, all from Bishop's Stortford and the purpose of the meeting was the "F-word".....Federations! It is envisaged, in the umpteenth NHS restructuring, that local practices will work closely together in networks, pooling resources for the greater good of patients. We were told about schemes around the country, which are working well, but they tend to be in large towns, like Bedford, or urban areas such as Tower Hamlets in London. How it would work in our area, which is more rural, is not clear but rest assured that the interests of our patients will be paramount over the next few months when we will, no doubt, be attending more and more meetings; oh joy!

I hope that many of you attended, and enjoyed, January's Little Hadham Panto production , Sleeping Beauty. It was, as usual, great fun to be in, particularly as my old comrade in arms, Colin Brookbanks, was also a star, albeit as an evil moggie! Roll on "panto 2015"

Finally, I have been asked to remind all mums of young children that the Health Visitors are now back at the Health Centre, and run clinics every Thursday afternoon.

Adverts removed

Jack May Trust Fund

The Jack May Trust Fund was initially founded in 2000 to facilitate the use of donations to the Much Hadham Health Centre to provide items of specific benefit to patients and for which funding might not otherwise be available and has subsequently become a registered charity (thus enabling the benefit of Gift Aid donations), funded by various sources of income such as donations and the proceeds of fund raising events.

Priority is given to projects of particular benefit to vulnerable and disabled patients, e.g. the provision of counselling and of automatic entrance doors to the Health Centre, respectively. Other projects which have been funded include: short lead time physiotherapy, additional nebulisers and defibrillators, improvements to the treatment room – with particular regard to patient comfort – provision of a more user friendly telephone answering system, a Health Centre website and touch-screen check-in for patients.

Donations to the Fund are always welcome (by cash or cheque made payable to Jack May Trust Fund) and further information on the Fund can be obtained from Reception, the Practice Manager or the Much Hadham Health Centre web site.

We have been given a great opportunity for raising funds by local photographer, Russell Savory. Russell is kindly donating a framed wildlife photo each month to the trust and we will be holding a 'silent auction' for the photos, with all proceeds going to the Jack May Trust Fund. Please pop into the surgery to see the 'photo of the month' for March hanging in the waiting room and place a sealed bid at reception. At the end of each month the bids will be opened and the highest will receive the photo. Please help us to carry on supporting our Health Centre. Thank you.

Adverts removed

The less said about the weather in the time between 18th Jan and 18th Feb. the better! Needless to say, many planned birding walks have been a wash out, with one walk all the way to town and back ending in an absolute drenching.

The birds about the parish at present are all the ones that have remained throughout the mild winter. A flock of over 50 fieldfares and redwings was noted on the 10th Feb; a high number so far this winter, whilst other good numbers were made up by common gull (24 on the polo fields on the 12th) and 6 common buzzards over Bury Green/Cradle End on 16th.

On the 31st I had my first trip to Norfolk for the year. Still plenty of damage from early December's storm surge and consequently, not huge numbers of birds present. However, a glossy ibis at Cley was a real find, my first for this county and indicative of how this species is rapidly spreading throughout the southern half of Britain.

Most of the ibises found in England will be first year birds that have moved north from their Spanish breeding grounds early last autumn. It will be interesting to see how many stay and perhaps become a regular breeding bird for the British list. This splendid redshank was photographed at Titchwell RSPB Reserve. Another trip was made to Amwell, between Ware and Stansted Abbots. Always worth a visit



and, in general, a good place for a walk along the River Lea. Here, a bearded reedling was

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Adverts removed

Council Matters, continued from page 3

people take care when adding books to the phone kiosk. The library had been a great success but books were being left on the floor and consequently were being damaged by rain water. Also, Cllr Woodgate asked that only books and not magazines, toys and pamphlets be left here. Residents are all welcome at our next meeting, 8pm in the Village Hall on Tuesday 4th March. Clearly, the recent floods will be covered in full at this meeting.

Flooding in the Parish: Friday 7th February

Little Hadham Parish Council is keen to document all events that took place on the morning of 7th Feb within our parish. In places, the damage was considerable and in an effort to report fully to all agencies (HCC, EHDC, Environmental Agency, Thames Water, Herts Highways, local landowners) we would be grateful if you could find the time to send the following details to jforgham@hotmail.com.

- Name and address
- Email address
- Time flood water entered house and/or garden
- Time water receded
- Brief report of damage done
- Please attach 2 photos maximum

LHPC and Oliver Heald QC MP have called for a review of our previous multi agency meeting, held in June. This is to be at 3pm in the Village Hall on Friday 21st March. Considering the

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Flooding in the Parish, continued from page 8

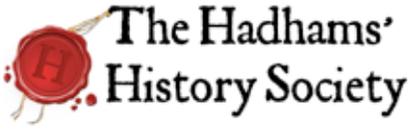
damage done to many properties and businesses within our parish it is clearly only correct that residents who were affected by the water should be able to attend, so please do come along, ready for a 3pm start. The format of the meeting is yet to be finalised but we are hoping for a question and answer session for residents.

For LHPC to have a complete and full understanding of events, please do send in details of your experience, as clearly, the more reports we have, hopefully, the faster will be improvements to the infrastructure. Many of you will be aware that our MP, Oliver Heald took time to visit the village on the Friday afternoon. Whilst only here for an hour, he spoke to quite a few residents and clearly witnessed at first hand the damage done, and the serious concerns that locals have about such events happening again. LHPC are aware that he has taken all concerns seriously and will be requesting immediate actions from all agencies. Once LHPC have completed the dossier on the floods, copies will be forwarded to all agencies so they have a clear understanding of what took place. This document will be forwarded before the meeting so please make sure you forward a report by Friday 14th March.

Finally, LHPC would like to thank the numerous residents that took it upon themselves to be neighbourly, to help houses worse off than themselves and for helping with the clear up and aftermath. We hope by the time of publication much has been repaired and made good.

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you at the Village Hall on Friday 21st March.

Adverts removed



The third Annual General Meeting, held on January 20th in the Green Room, was attended by 37 members. Introducing the meeting, Mike Clark thanked the committee for their work; particularly

Amanda Halliday and Caroline Baigent, who were not re-standing after several years of service. He addressed the relative availability of the two Village Halls. It was later agreed that events should continue to be held in each parish but the majority would continue to be in Much Hadham due to booking constraints. Our policy of covering the local area, as well as the Hadhams per se, was raised and endorsed in later discussion. Members were encouraged to build on the rich heritage of the Hadhams by carrying out their own research. A small working group was established to investigate the history of their own properties. Anyone interested in joining us, or researching other topics, should contact me.

Our web-site now features the 2014 events calendar. The site is at an early stage and members were encouraged to provide content to Bill Cullen, the web-master. Stephen Ruff reported that the finances were in a healthy state and Amanda Halliday reported that last year's events were varied and appreciated by attendees; the average attendance was 30-40 members and guests. The adoption of three members nominated for the new committee was approved; those members re-standing from previous years were also approved. It was agreed that the committee should review the provision for slide projection, as difficulties had often occurred. The meeting closed with a practical workshop in reading the script of Henry Capell's 1588 will; a transcript was read out and circulated later. Members found that reading Elizabethan script was not quite as easy as one might think!

Mike Clark 842131

Adverts removed

Bishop's Stortford Beekeeping Association

Come and experience the fascination and enjoyment of keeping bees by attending our 'Introduction to Beekeeping'. Five weekly classes at Hopleys Garden Centre, Much Hadham, 8 - 10pm each Monday, starting 31st March. Plus Practical sessions in handling bees. Price £60 per adult or £30 under 18s, including associate membership of Bishop's Stortford Beekeeping Association (BSBKA), a standard text book and use of protective clothing

E mail John at training@stortfordbees.org.uk to book your place now!

Bury Green Tidy-up

Last year a helpful group of residents started to tidy up the pond at Bury Green. All went well, with plenty of vegetation being removed to give more light to the water. High winds soon after removed the willow we needed to coppice and this tree was then cut down. All very helpful apart from the fact that the contractors didn't take away their mess.

I plan to have another morning tidy-up on Sunday 9th March. On this occasion we need to, again, remove vegetation from the pond, tidy up the surrounding area and basically make the area more pleasant to the eye. Volunteers, please at 10.30am. A team of 8 will have the job done before Sunday lunch, so please do come along, even if just for half an hour.

Many thanks, Jonathan Forgham

Adverts removed

What's on in March...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

4 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm. Everybody welcome, flooding will be discussed.

11 Tue, LH & A Social Club, 8pm. Denise of Busy Bodies is coming to get us moving, both in and out of our chairs! It should be a fun evening for all and everyone is welcome. Usual admission of £1.50 per person, including refreshments, plus our raffle and book sales.

11 Tue MH Horticultural Soc, Illustrated Talk by Peter Morris 'Flowers for every day of the year', 8pm, Long Barn, Hopleys, High Street, MH. Members Free Entry, Visitors £2. Refreshments & Raffle

11 Tue BS RSPB Talk by Jonathan Forgham, Bishop's Park Community Centre, See p21.

13, 27 Thur, Mobile Library, See p13.

15 Sat, Quiz Night, in the Village Hall, by the Friends of LH School.

17 Mon, Hadham's History Society, 8pm, Green Room, Much Hadham Village Hall. Hidden Histories: The Slave Trade and its Abolition in Hertfordshire, by Daphne Knott of Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies

18 Tue, LH & A Garden Club AGM, 7.30pm. At this meeting we publish our events for the coming year and the Schedule for the Autumn show. Please come along for a good natter, wine, nibbles and a fun quiz.

20 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning, 12.30pm, rear of Village Hall. See p13.

21 Fri, Flooding in the Village. Oliver Heald MP will hold a meeting in the Village Hall for all the agencies concerned with this issue. Everyone is welcome.

22 Sat, music@stansted, 8pm. Chamber Philharmonic Europe, currently touring the UK, will be giving a concert in St John's Stansted. For more information see page 23.

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

29 Sat, MH Horticultural Soc, Spring Show 2.30pm-4.30pm MH Village Hall. Come along and enjoy the display of spring flowers, floral arrangements, hanging baskets, domestic section, children's exhibits including a 'Draw a Scarecrow' competition 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. Doors open from 8.00am.

30 Sun, BST. Clocks go forward by one hour.

30 Sun, Annie's Adult Aquathon in aid of Isabel Hospice. 12-2pm. Haileybury College Swimming Pool. A 300m swim followed by a 3k undulating run in the grounds of Haileybury College. Suitable for entrants age 18 and over. £20 entry fee. Info 01707 382500. Entry forms at www.isabelhospice.org.uk.

... and coming soon

April 5, **Isabel Hospice Sponsored Swim**. Entry forms www.isabelhospice.org.uk or 01707 382500 for more information.

April 6, **Birding/Nature Walk**, See p21.

April 14, **Members' Ephemera**. Hadham's History Soc. Info. Mike Clark 842131

April 19, 21 **Teas in the Garden** Mill House Welwyn, 2-5pm for Isabel Hospice. £3.50.

April 27, **Rotary Club Walk**. Campus West Car Park, Welwyn Garden City, for Isabel Hospice Info: 01707 330902.

Advertise in Little Hadham Parish News and reach over 500 homes with your product or service.

NOTICEBOARD

13th and 27th 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
A fortnightly service.

RECYCLING BOXES

If any villagers would like to get rid of their old, now obsolete, recycling boxes please call 771987 and I will come and collect them.

Thank you

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

The 'Way Inn'

Come and meet friends
and neighbours over
a cup of tea or coffee,
or enjoy soup and a roll.
Rear of Village Hall,
third thursday of the
month, 12.30 - 1.45

We had a death in the family today...one of our chickens keeled over! That's why we don't give ours names. It sounds much worse if it was Martha who went to chicken heaven, rather than just 'one of the crowd' who departed the henhouse.

Of course, a certain gentleman from this village has a lot to answer for, when he asked us if we would like to take on ten almost-day-olds chicks back in the summer. We did. And they took up residence in a spare stable. Normally our new arrivals start off on their own and are gently weaned from their first home and placed, at night, into the bigger chicken house. After a few days scrapping with the senior birds, all is well. But not so our newcomers. They liked the stable and their own company. So that's where they stayed. When the five cockerels started their early morning crowing, they had to go and we found them a new home. (I did wonder if they would end up as someone's Christmas dinner, but, as they say, out of sight out of mind...)

Which left us with the five girls. Placid and friendly, they eventually began to lay, often hightailing it into the hay barn to lay in some secret cranny. But all of them love human company and like nothing better than a cuddle. So when I let them out in the morning, they rush round to the back door, faster than I can, waiting my arrival. I open my door – and in they troop! We have tried to break them of the habit – to no avail. Right now, with the chill still very much in the air, it isn't too bad a habit, but come the warmer weather, I don't know how we are going to manage.

So, if you hear of any other young birds looking for a foster home, please, don't phone me!

Adverts removed



Consultation

East Herts Draft District Plan Preferred Options

What do you think?

Where can I see the Draft District Plan?

Local libraries, leisure centres, Town Council offices and District Council offices in Hertford and Bishop's Stortford.

Consultation February 27 2014 to May 22 2014

The Draft District Plan and all supporting documents, including Frequently Asked Questions, can also be viewed online at: www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplan



How do I respond to the Consultation?

Comments should preferably be made online at www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplan, where you can register for updates on the progress of the Plan. Or you can email us at planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk or write to the Planning Policy Team at East Herts Council, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8EQ.

All comments should be received by 5pm on Thursday May 22 2014.

Any questions call the Planning Policy Team on 01279 655261 or email at planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk.



www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplan

I heard it before I saw it. I was working on the grass verge opposite my house wearing my good old hi-viz yellow coat to protect me from the elements and passing traffic. The silver Mercedes came flying round the bend on its way towards Much Hadham having just passed the War Memorial. I waved at the driver in an effort to get him to slow down. As he passed me he slammed on his brakes. It was wet and he skidded past my house, the next house, the third house and came to a stop outside the fourth house in our row. He rammed the car into reverse and his wheels spun as he roared back to where I was standing, lowering his window as he did so. "You got something to say mate? You got something to say?" he yelled. I walked over to him. "Yes," I said, quietly and calmly. I pointed up to the row of houses. "There are families living here. They are families with little children. In that house they have twin babies and a little girl. In that house they have two small children. They have to get them across this road. We also have to get elderly relatives across this road. So it's 30 miles an hour for a reason".

He held his hands up in a gesture of surrender, nodding his head. "Fair enough mate, fair enough" and with that he slowly drove off. A similar incident occurred the previous week when I was out running. Just as I was passing the 30mph sign a car came speeding past me heading into the village. When I waved at him to slow down he also slammed on his brakes and came wheel-spinning back to me. "You gotta problem?" Again I calmly explained why it was a 30mph zone for very good reasons. "I was only doing 40 " came his indignant reply. "If

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Adverts removed

March at the Gardens of Easton Lodge

Our last open day for snowdrops is on the 2nd March. We will be selling snowdrops in the green and the details and order form for these are on our website for anyone who would like to pre-order – they do sell out quite quickly so this is advisable. Delicious and warming homemade soup will be on sale at lunch time along with bacon rolls and burgers; hot drinks and homemade cakes will be available all day. There will be some children's activities available and there will be one of our very popular complimentary guided tours at 1pm.

The recent heavy rain means that there is no parking adjacent to the entrance and we are unfortunately inaccessible to wheelchairs at this time. Visitors are strongly advised to wear wellies as parts of the garden where the snowdrops are situated are flooded, though accessible. We have new opening hours for 2014 with entrance now from 11.30am. The gardens will close at 4pm for snowdrops with last entry at 3pm and in the main season the last entry will be at 4pm with the gardens closing at 5pm.

We have lots planned for the coming year including band concerts, World War II Day, craft fair and much more so keep an eye out for our news over the coming months or check the website www.eastonlodge.co.uk.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers so if your New Year's resolution was to get out in the fresh air more or give something back to the community why not get in touch on 01371 876979 or enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk and we will help you achieve your goal.

Adverts removed

Many people will remember the flooding in the Village in October 2001 when some 26 houses, the Village Hall, and the Nag's Head were flooded. The Hall was closed for several months whilst the insurers refurbished the building. At the time the flooding was described as a '100 year event' but it was no surprise to many of us when the Hall came under threat from flooding again on 7 February this year. The water came right up to the thresholds, but thankfully not into the building this time. We escaped by a whisker, unlike many residents and the Nag's Head. After the 2001 flood the Hall's insurance costs increased dramatically and the Management Committee came to the conclusion that if we had to claim again we would be unlikely to be able to afford the subsequent insurance costs, and the future of the Hall would be at risk.

Another worry for the Hall Management Committee is that with the publication of the EHC draft District Plan we discover that up to 25 or so houses are to be built at the Ford and The Ash in the next 20 years. It is a well known fact that new development in flood prone areas increases the risk by speeding up the surface water run-off into water courses. It beggars belief the District Council should choose for development the two areas of our parish where the flood risk is greatest with our main community assets, ie The Hall and the Nag's Head, together with many houses, all within the floodplain. Personally I would like to see a complete ban on development in the whole of the River Ash catchment area until the flooding problems have been resolved.

The District Plan is only in draft form at present so it is possible that we may be able get the Council to change its mind. If these issues are of concern to you, and you would like to support those of us that have been flooded twice in the last 13 years, please email or write to the District Council Planning department with your objections.

Jon Fardell, Chairman, Little Hadham Village Hall Management Committee.

Afternoon Tea Club Much Hadham Congregational Church Hall

last Wednesday every month Come and join us for tea, coffee and cakes. Meet old friends and make new ones. Free Entry. Everyone Welcome. If you would like to come and need a lift contact: Denise Ricks 01279 842745 the day before.

Adverts removed

Life on the Run, continued from page 16

you want to see what 60 looks like I'll show you." I couldn't help myself. "What in that thing?" I said pointing to his wannabe rally car. For some strange reason this seemed to upset him even more and he roared off, wheels spinning and smoking.

So why am I acting like some kind of interfering old vigilante? The reason is simple. Nothing is being done to deal with the problem. These are not cases of people driving at 35 miles an hour. We're talking way above 40 and 50. And they are not isolated incidents because it is happening day in and day out with frightening regularity and sooner or later someone is going to get killed or seriously injured. I have spoken to our hard-working community police officer, Karen Broad, and she has promised to try and arrange a temporary speed warning sign. Unfortunately it has to be manned so it would have a limited effect but at least it would be something.

I haven't written anything for the Parish News for a while now because I did not want to turn it into some kind of soapbox opportunity but I do not know a better way to raise the profile of what is such a vitally important issue. I'm at the end of my tether. Is there anyone out there who can help?

Email your address with 'Paper-free' in the subject line to htfp@clocktower.co.uk to receive a perfect copy of the Parish News. Give it a try and save us time and money!

Adverts removed

Stop Stansted Expansion

Government must act to end night flights

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has today [31 January 2014] made a detailed submission to the Department for Transport (DfT) calling for Government action to end the scourge of noisy night flights.

SSE's submission is in response to a Government consultation which proposes that Stansted should continue to be allowed 12,000 flights a year between the hours of 11.30pm and 6.00am. This is more than twice as many as are permitted at Heathrow and far more than are needed. The 12,000 cap was set in 2006 at a time when Stansted was still expanding rapidly. The Government anticipated that a second runway would soon be built and that more night flights would be needed. However, today Stansted is handling 30% less traffic than it was in 2006 and its plans for a second runway were cancelled in 2010. In all the circumstances, allowing Stansted 12,000 night flights a year can no longer be justified.

Stansted handled just over 8,500 night flights last year - well below the Government limit.

SSE is pressing for the limit to be reduced to 7,500 night flights from October 2014 and then further reduced by 500 flights each year until night flights are totally phased out. The recent announcement by British Airways that it pulling the plug on its cargo operations at Stansted means that reducing the number of permitted night flights at Stansted from 12,000 to 7,500 should now be easily achievable.

SSE's submission also argues that those living in the vicinity of Stansted and under its flight paths should have the right to an uninterrupted night's sleep, which should mean a full 8 hours and not just the 6½ hours covered by the current restrictions on night flights.

SSE has also highlighted the particular disturbance caused by night flights at Stansted because of its rural location where background noise levels are generally very low. The submission also calls for an immediate ban on aircraft using reverse thrust at night except in emergencies.

Martin Peachey, SSE's noise adviser, commented: "For years the Government has been promising that it will bear down on aircraft noise at night. However, night flights at Stansted are still increasing, not decreasing. It's time to reverse that trend and set a firm timetable for phasing out night flights altogether."

Much Hadham Scouts Need Help

Ist Much Hadham Scouts has over the last eight years grown from eight children to 24 Beavers, 38 Cubs and 33 Scouts. "Fantastic", I hear you all saying, and yes it is, but such growth has left us now dangerously short of leaders, having lost three leaders in the last few months through moving house, to the point that we may have to close one section, which would be a tragedy for the children. So we are asking the parish as a whole if there is anyone out there who can help. Many troops run with adult help that is not parental, so we are looking for anyone who is over 18 and could help for one evening a week (term time) for approx. 1.5 hrs. Perhaps you have been a scout in the village or elsewhere and could now be a young leader; or were you a scout or guide as a child and would like to relive your youth? Once a scout, always a scout. Please call Katie Dowse, MH Scout chair on 07854 413909. THANK YOU

Nature Notes, continued from page 7

observed, uncommon for Herts., along with a flyover peregrine falcon and this showy reed bunting.

Throughout the month, I have continued to spot all the local birds but have only succeeded in taking a solitary moth at the garden trap; a rather unimaginatively named Early moth. Hopefully, numbers will now begin to pick up as we move into March. A check on local spring plants gave views of dog mercury along Ford Hill and a few winter aconites now flowering in local woods. These are invariably followed by



the bluebells, wood anemone and primulas that can also be discovered alongside woodland footpaths.

A note for your diary; on Tuesday 11th March, I am giving an illustrated talk on the North Norfolk Coastal Footpath for Bishop's Stortford RSPB. Further details at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley/events/>. Be happy to see any local faces in the audience at Bishop's Park Community Centre, adjacent to Tesco's.

Another diary note; On Sunday 6th April, I have been booked to take the Broxbourne RSPB group on a birding/nature walk within the parish. Meet at the Village Hall at 9.30am. All welcome to join us for a 3 hour wander to catch up with (hopefully) some arriving summer migrants. With trips to Norfolk, Kent and Poland all booked, there shall be plenty to report over the next few months.

As usual, jforgham@theprimaryworks.com for any help with identification of any of our natural history. Just a few notes or a photo should suffice.

music@stansted

To bring our current season to a climatic end, Chamber Philharmonic Europe (Kammerphilharmonie Europa), currently touring the UK, will be giving a concert in St John's Stansted on Saturday 22nd March at 8pm.

This famous chamber orchestra, founded in Cologne, comprises young musicians from 18 European countries. They will be playing music in styles ranging from the romance of Borodin (the lovely Nocturne featured in last October's Albani Quartet recital) to the brilliance of Albinoni's 'St Marc' trumpet concerto, via Hugo Wolf's famous Italian Serenade and works by Holst, Fauré, Bach and Schubert. Tickets, Adults £15, children under 18 free, are available from Absolute Travel, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (01279 815282); or, if still available, at the door on the night. Check out our website for general information – www.musicatstansted.com or if you have a specific enquiry please email us on info@musicatstansted.com.

Recent Flooding: inundated – with thanks

From Angela and Jon Fardell:

We would like to thank all the kind friends and neighbours who came to help us during the floods, who cheered us up with flasks and cake and so many supporting words of friendship. All very much appreciated.

From Joanne Luxford:

My heartfelt thanks to Mick, from Shellands and Guy, from The Ridgeway both of whom toiled tirelessly to remove furniture, books and ornaments, from the ground floor to the next level of my home. I could not have managed alone. It gave me peace of mind and support during a traumatic weekend. Thanks to you both.

From Jan and Alan Finn:

We were overwhelmed by the offers of help we received throughout the day of the flooding. In particular we would like

to thank the two lovely men from Chalk Cottage who arrived on the scene with a barrow of sand and some bags, helped us bail out the front garden for hours and then quietly melted away to their home before we could properly thank them.

From Graham & Carol Rouse 4 Ford Cottages, and Sue Cotton 5 Ford Cottages:

We would like to thank everybody who offered us assistance on the day of the floods. Particularly Steve Stigwood who brought us hay bales and sandbags to keep out the water. Also the kind lady who brought us milk and the many offers of help from people in the village. We would also like to thank Brenda & Brian for their very kind hospitality on Sunday. Our grateful thanks to all of you.

A message from Oliver Heald QC MP

Flooding has been a problem in the past in Little Hadham, but certainly this year the floods were dramatic and it was sad to see the damage to people's homes when I visited with Jonathan Forgham. Last summer I held a meeting in the Village Hall with all the authorities who are involved with flood prevention from the Environment Agency, the Water Authority, through to the local Councils and including local residents and our Parish Council representatives. A number of actions were agreed and a follow up meeting is being held in March. However, there is no doubt the inundation this year was very heavy and very quick. I was amazed by the photographs which Jon sent me and immediately visited the village to see for myself what the damage was. I am now pressing forward to see if we can find solutions with the Environment Agency and others. I send my very best wishes to all those families affected in the village.

Oliver Heald QC MP

Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire and
Solicitor General for England and Wales

Donations from Connect Scaffolding

The employees from Connect Scaffolding at Hadham Park recently held a company Christmas raffle raising £834 which they very kindly donated to the three principal organisations in Little Hadham: the School, the Village Hall and the Church – £278 each!

This generous gift is greatly appreciated and is published in the Parish News for all to see.

Our friends at Connect will be pleased to know that the School intends to spend their money on a 'Lego Day' for the children, the Village Hall has bought new, comfortable seat pads and the Church will use its gift to fund the new footpath.

All of these groups send their grateful thanks to Connect for their kindness.

The Way Inn

The "Way Inn" has changed!

It is still on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the rear of the Village Hall. The next one is on the 20th March from 12.30 to 1.45. Along with tea and coffee we are offering soup and a roll. So, if you fancy a chat and meeting people, come along to the Village Hall on the 3rd Thursday of the month where you will receive a very warm welcome!

Adverts removed

March diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

2 Sunday

Sunday before Lent

9.15am

Family Holy Communion, Much Hadham

11.15am

Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury

6.00pm

Sung Evensong, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

5 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

10.30am

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

8pm

Ash Wednesday's Team Service, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

9 Sunday

1st Sunday of Lent

9.15am

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

11.15am

Holy Communion and Sunday School, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

16 Sunday

2nd Sunday of Lent

9.15am

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

11.15am

New Family Communion Service, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

6.00pm

Evensong at St Mary's, Albury.

23 Sunday

3rd Sunday of Lent

9.15am

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

11.15am

Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury.

30 Sunday

Mothering Sunday

9.15am

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

11.15am

New Family Communion Service, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

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

The Register: There have been no entries in the Register this month

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

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.