

**Little Hadham
Parish News
December 2015**

**Little Hadham and Albury Social Club
Christmas Supper 2015**

**Carmela Cooks Pizza - with all the
trimmings**

**Be wined & dined at Little Hadham Village Hall
Tuesday 8th December 7.45 for 8pm
Everyone is welcome!**

£2.50 at the door - includes food, wine & raffle

**Wishing all parishioners
Happiness at Christmas and
Good Health in 2016**

Rector of Parish: Revd. Giles Tulk
01279 842609

e-mail: muchhadhamrectory@gmail.com

Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter
01279 844955

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Team Vicar: Revd. Julie Gawthrop
01920 823832

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Churchwarden: Don Gibson 771325

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

Letter from the Rectory



Dear friends in Little Hadham

Light in a Dark World

Watching the television news at present can be a grim experience. The news stories often appear to be dominated by reports of human misery and suffering, and the evil inflicted on people by fellow humankind. We see the pictures of the Syrian refugees, fleeing from civil war, making their way as best they can across Europe in worsening winter weather conditions. Whilst in the refugee camps in the countries surrounding Syria, babies are being born in to this conflict situation rather than in to a peaceful home, and young children are seeing this as normal life. And then on 13th November the horrifying terrorist attacks in Paris in which over 120 innocent people were killed. The world can indeed seem a very dark place, a place without hope.

But it was in to such a world of conflict that Jesus, the light of the world, was born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. Jesus was born in a country under Roman occupation with different insurgent groups. Then after his birth, when Herod ordered all children under two years old to be murdered, his parents Joseph and Mary were forced to flee with Jesus to Egypt to protect his life. However the birth of Jesus in to this far from peaceful situation gives our own world hope, for as we are told in the Gospel of John:

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

However much suffering there is in our world today we need to remember that it can never overcome the light and love of Jesus Christ, and that the deeper the darkness the more brightly the light shines out. As we prepare for Christmas may we all strive to let the light and love of Jesus Christ shine in our own lives, and be by our actions a beacon of hope and love to our community and the wider world.

May you all have a very happy and light filled Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

God Bless, Reverend Giles.

Correction!

The riders from Hadham Hall were not just me, Tony Skidmore. The major contribution was from Steve Hargraves and Robin Earswell, in getting round churches and raising funds.



Adverts removed

Parish Council News

The next Parish Council meeting will be at the Village Hall on Tues 1st Dec at 8pm. We use the main hall so there is plenty of space, and there is also a hearing loop installed for the hard of hearing. Please come and let the Councillors know what you would like to see happen in our village, and listen to the work that is being carried out. The Parish Clerk may be contacted on clerklittlehadham@gmail.com

Multi Agency Flood Meeting

The Multi Agency Flood Prevention Meeting was held on Friday 30th Oct 2015. It was attended by Little Hadham Parish Council, EHDC Geoff Williamson, HCC Graham McAndrew, Sir Oliver Heald QC MP, Thames Water, Hertfordshire Highways, EHDC Land Drainage, Environment Agency, Fire Service

There was a brief presentation from Herts Highways and the Environment Agency in relation to the proposed Bypass and Flood Alleviation Scheme focussing on how it will assist the various areas of Little Hadham currently affected by flooding. They updated that the formal detailed plan will be published during November for an 8 week consultation period.

Thames Water updated that they had installed the two new pumps that the Parish requested into the South Cottages Pumping Station in February this year, and that they had monitored the sewer flow during the summer storms, and had not seen any surcharging issues at this time. Residents to be advised to still keep reporting any surcharging should it occur. There is no surface water drainage in the Parish and the surcharging is caused by the volume of rainwater getting into the sewer system. EHDC Land Drainage has requested Thames Water to work with them in relation to identifying unauthorised connections to the sewer such as homes draining gutters etc into

the sewer instead of into soakaways. EHDC will then review enforcement action to help prevent future surcharging of the sewer.

EHDC gave a brief update re the Repair and Renew Grant, that 5 homes in Little Hadham had benefitted from the scheme through installing flood prevention products. Also updated that the work had been done at Green Street on the drainage system and seemed to have improved the flow during storm conditions.

It was noted that although household flood insurance is becoming harder to obtain with some households being refused cover, and some being charged over £2,000 along with an excess of £15,000 which renders the cover almost worthless, that the reevaluation of the flood risk if the flood alleviation project is completed will take over 70 homes out of the current flood insurance problem and making the homes saleable again.

The agencies were asked to consider improving the drainage system outside the Village Hall where the highway frequently floods, and are continuing to look into options.

The Fire Service are to send flood advice leaflets to homes. They were also asked to remind their Fire Tender drivers to drive slowly through flood water as well as during the last two floods, the bow wave from a fire tender had flooded property.

Driving on verges, green areas and footpaths.

Now that the weather is getting wintry can we remind residents not to drive over the parish's green areas, including Bury Green. As the ground becomes more water logged car tyres significantly mark the ground, and can cause ruts creating a trip hazard for pedestrians. Also in the frost the grass is killed

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Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

We had a great evening at our November get together when Vie Carter showed us that her greeting cards are made with a lot of love and patience, they really are absolutely beautiful and unique. Do get in touch if you would like to view/order 01279 898591.

At our December meeting **Tuesday 8th December 8pm** we shall have our Christmas Supper; Carmela's cooking Pizza with lots and lots of trimmings! Do come we'd love to see you there - £2.50 at the door includes entrance, supper, wine and raffle - everyone is very welcome!
Thank you to all those who support our Social Club.

Carmela, Binnie & Sue



Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving



Advent Calendars at the ready! Thank you to all those who supported our Christmas Bazaar on 29th November, we hope that it started your Christmas festivities off well!

As always, we would like to invite our 'more mature' members of the parish to join us in our Christmas celebrations (refreshments too) at the following: ...

Tuesday 8th December – 10am – KS1 Nativity Story dress rehearsal,

Monday 14th December – 2pm – KS2 Carols Around the Tree dress rehearsal.

Hoping to see some of you then and a Merry Christmas to you all!

Liz Stockley, Head teacher

Adverts removed

Parish Council News continued from page 3

making it look unsightly. Please also be aware that parking on verges and footpaths is also causing problems for pedestrians and children having to walk in the road to get past.

Suspicious people:

There have been reports of suspicious people, one with a grey car. One has shown a fake Police identity card after knocking at homes and drove off after being challenged. If in any doubt about a caller, do please call the Police.

This can be done either by ringing 999 if you feel it is an emergency, or by ringing 101 if the person has gone. Please try and have a description of the person and write down the registration number of any vehicle. You can also report events and make enquiries with the Police on their website www.contacthertspolice.uk. If your mobile phone is handy, take a photo of the person and vehicle which can then be emailed to the Police.

Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

By the time you read this we would have had a fascinating talk from David Marsh on Tools of the Trade and had a very enjoyable Club Supper. There is no club meeting in December so our next event is on Tuesday 19th January and we are having our popular lunchtime ploughman's, so keep an eye out for details in the January Parish News. The committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Adverts removed

Rural Ramblings

Cherry Mardell

We have to buy white bread these days. No, not because we like it but because we now have a blind chicken, and the only thing she can 'see' is the contrast between white and dark.

We have tried her with brown bread, but against dark ground, she can't find it. We have experimented putting the brown pieces on our interior mid-brown tiles – still no use. So white bread it is!

She has become almost house-trained. I catch her up in the henhouse first thing and let her loose. Then I call her and she follows my voice as I walk back to the house and give her the bread. We have now to go inside as our neighbour's dogs are on the lookout for the bread and rush over and demolish it before the chicken even finds it! So it is feed time inside our porch, which can be quite messy as she throws the stuff around with gay abandon. I leave the back door open for her to leave as she wishes, but as the days grow colder I find she is sometimes snoozing happily in a corner, surrounded by dog towels and boots!

Oh, yes, the easiest solution would be to end her life in one swift movement. But I can't bring myself to do it, nor ask hubby to do likewise. So we carry on and clean up afterwards with those floor wet wipes.

P.S. As a matter of interest, the cheapest white bread Tesco sells is 40p a full sized loaf... and the chicken won't touch it!

P.P.S. A happy and peaceful Christmas to you all.

Adverts removed

AI20 planning application submitted

The AI20 scheme to relieve traffic congestion and reduce flood risk in Little Hadham moves a step closer with the submission of the planning application in November. This is the result of joint working between Hertfordshire County Council and the Environment Agency. Views were gathered from the public at a pre-application public exhibition last year which have been addressed where feasible, appropriate and affordable prior to the application being submitted.

Full details of the scheme development and any changes following last year's consultation are available to view on the project website www.hertsdirect.org/ai20bypass.

There will be an opportunity to comment now that the application has been submitted by following the link to the planning application consultation which gives details of its duration and details of where the documents can be viewed publically. [Please note that although the application is submitted, it is not yet validated by the local planning authority, and as such may not yet be available online. If so, please try again after a few days.]

The AI20 Little Hadham Bypass scheme aims to deliver a better transport system in Hertfordshire and provide a more reliable journey for all users. The scheme also includes flood alleviation measures with an aim to reduce the risk of flooding in the local area.

The project is jointly funded by the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Hertfordshire County Council and the Environment Agency. If permission is granted, the scheme is planned to be operational in 2019.

Adverts removed

Down at the doctor's

Dr Paul Haimes

It's silly season again and our dispensary staff have asked that you try not to order your medication early or request double quantities just because Christmas is looming. Surgery is only closed on Christmas Day, Monday the 28th December and New Year's Day and we are open as usual on both Christmas and New Year's eves. If, however, you are genuinely going away there will be no problem processing early or double orders.

We had some excitement recently when the local constabulary came to visit having recovered a charity box that had been stolen from our reception counter. It must have occurred during the normal working day because we lock them away at nights and weekends!

Panto season is upon us and Little Hadham Pantomime Group is putting on Snow White and the seven little chaps over the middle 2 weekends of January. As well as yours truly, the editor of this very magazine is in it [oh no she isn't! - Ed] along with many other local dignitaries, including a certain retired GP and a retired headmaster from a local secondary school. Come along and see which one of us is the most typecast!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at the Health Centre

On Sunday 25th October 2015, my family and I went to the Millennium wood to join Jono and other volunteers. Before we arrived Jono had used white spray paint to mark all the trees that needed to be taken down. All we had to do was chop and lop. We made good progress but there is more to do. We hope that people will have nice walks in the woods once the clearing has finished.

Holly Ellis (aged 9 years)

Adverts removed

Brownies

We have had great fun at Brownies this term, celebrating bonfire night, commemorating 11th November, learning about Harvest and completing many badges- including a limited edition one to mark Queen Elizabeth's 63 years on the throne! We meet every **Tuesday from 4.30-6pm** at **Little Hadham Village Hall**. We really enjoy all of the **games, crafts, sports, outings** and **opportunities** we have, and love making **new friends!** We would really like more girls to come and join us! So, if you are aged between **7 and 10**, are free on a Tuesday night, and love **having fun**, then call our Brown Owl (she is really nice!) on 01279 654624 to arrange a visit. Hope to see you soon!

From 1st Little Hadham Brownies. p.s. here are some photos from this term...



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The Hundred Parishes

Tricia Moxey, trustee

On a calm, moonlit evening the restored 15th century Finchingfield Guildhall was the venue for members of the Hundred Parishes Society who had gathered for a social evening in this lovely timber-framed building. They appreciated an illustrated talk by Ken McDonald whose photographs of the agricultural landscapes, picturesque villages, fine churches and other listed buildings helped to explain the essential features that make this area so special.

The presentation was followed by the Society's Annual General Meeting, conducted by chairman Douglas Kent. He reported an expanding membership, completion of the comprehensive introductions to each parish on our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk and a regularly-updated What's On page of information about local events. The Trustees' report and accounts were approved and all six trustees were re-elected.

After the formal part of the meeting and refreshments, members enjoyed a guided tour of Finchingfield Guildhall whose recent restoration programme had been funded by significant grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage as well as generous support from a number of other organisations.

Our guide, Des Fahy, explained that the restoration had revealed fascinating details of the building's construction, as well as the range of skills of the original carpenters, tilers, plasterers and others who had toiled to create such a long-standing building from what is believed to have been a limited budget. Their modern counterparts have sympathetically rejuvenated it

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Adverts removed

The Hundred Parishes, continued from page 10

so that today it is fully accessible and all can use and appreciate this Grade I-listed building. Finchingfield's library is on the ground floor as is a small museum where modern technology enhances the presentation of Finchingfield's history. The lofty and spacious upper floor provides a venue for a popular programme of varied events.

For details of future events see www.finchingfieldguildhall.org.uk.

Message from your County Councillor, Graham McAndrew



Make the most of your kerbside recycling!

Did you know that more than half of all materials taken to the recycling centres could have been recycled kerbside? Wherever possible, try to make regular use of your kerbside recycling rather than going to the Hertfordshire's Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC). Not only can this help save your own time and money, but this also helps cut down on queuing times at the centres, making our service more efficient and cost effective.

WasteAware mascot Polly the Plastic Bottle took a look at the many recyclable materials taken to HWRCs which could have been recycled at the kerbside, including plastics, glass, cardboard, paper, green garden waste, and more. There are so many alternative ways you can

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What's on in December

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

No meeting of the Garden Club in December

1 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm. Please come and let the Councillors know what you would like to see happen in our village.

3,4,5, 'A Christmas Carol', 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham. MH Drama Group and invited players. Tickets from Londis, Much Hadham, and Sue Clarke 01279 842822 or nclarke167@aol.com. Priced at £10 includes mulled wine and a mince pie.

8 Tue, Nativity story dress rehearsal, 10am at LH school. Senior citizens welcome.

8 Tue, Much Hadham Horticultural Society Christmas Social, 7pm Green Room MHVH.

8 Tue, LH & A Social Club, 8pm. Our Christmas Supper. Do come we'd love to see you there - £2.50 at the door includes entrance, supper, wine & raffle - everyone is very welcome!

12 Sat, A Christmas Celebration, Redbridge Brass, 3pm, St Andrews Church, M Hadham. Tickets £10, Children 12 and under free, from Londis and MH Health Centre. Ticket line: 07882647241, or www.RedbridgeBrass.com.

12 Sat, 7.30pm 13 Sun, 5.30pm, Christmas Concert, Herts & Soul Choir, St John's Church

Stansted. Tickets: £7 (Concs £6, children under 13 free) from Tony Skidmore 01279 771688 We look forward to welcoming you. Mince Pies and wine await!!

14 Tue, Carols around the Tree dress rehearsal 2pm at LH School. Senior citizens welcome.

14 Tue, Hadhams' History Society Members' Social, 8pm, Green Room MHVH. A Social Evening when we bring drinks and eats to share. Please BYO glasses and **note the date is one week later than originally announced.**

17 Thur, Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 1pm, LH Village Hall. Reserve your place by 10th Dec. See page 13. This is in place of The Way Inn.

23 Wed, Farmers' Market, 5pm - 7pm Customers will be able to pick up their orders and we look forward to sharing a glass of mulled wine and mince pies with them.

Coming soon

Jan 15th-17th 22nd, 23rd Snow White

Jan 18th Hadhams' History Society AGM

**We wish everyone a lovely
Christmastime and a Happy
and Healthy New Year.
Take care, Eric and Ennis**

**Maggie and Mike Smith
wish all their friends and
neighbours in the Hadhams
a happy Christmas and
peaceful and healthy
New Year.**

**In place of the cards we will
be supporting Isabel Hospice
and the Salvation Army**

**Karin and Frank Green would
like to wish everyone in Little
Hadham a very Happy Christmas
and all the best for 2016**

**Brenda and Brian
Kain wish all
their friends and
neighbours in Little
Hadham a healthy
and peaceful
Christmas and
New Year**

NOTICEBOARD



*Christmas Greetings to all
from the committee of
Much Hadham Horticultural Society*

*Christmas Social
Tuesday December 8th 7pm
in the Green Room Much Hadham
village hall*

*Come along, bring a friend, and enjoy a quiz plus a glass of
Christmas cheer
Admission Free*

Thank you to Chris, Charlotte and family for hosting a fantastic fireworks display last month. It was wonderful to have this opportunity for neighbours to gather and for the children to play together.
Elizabeth Lloyd-Williams

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch



Little Hadham Parish Council
Invites you to a **Complimentary
Christmas Lunch**
On Thursday 17th December
12.30 for 1.00pm
At
Little Hadham Village Hall

Please reply as soon as possible by the 10th December to secure your place(S)
Either by telephone 01279 776296 / email chrisbhatt@btinternet.com
Or by returning the slip below to Maltings, The Ford , Little Hadham

I/We would like to reserve a place(s) for the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

NAME

Address

.....

Tel.....Email.....

Any Questions Contact Chris & Gilly Bhatt on 01279 776296

recycle goods, such as charities and free recycling services, and bottle and recycling banks at supermarkets and leisure centres.

East Herts Council is responsible for collecting waste and recycling from outside your house, and information on what can and can't be recycled kerbside can be found at www.eastherts.gov.uk (search for 'recycling'). For more information about how you can #RecycleRight, visit: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/envplan/waste/wasteaware/>

Care and Support at Home

Help is available so that you can stay in your own home

- Care in your own home - someone to help you with personal care such as washing, dressing and bathing, getting in and out of bed or a chair, or on and off the toilet, help with getting a meal or drink, help to manage your daily life.
- Equipment - to make it easier to get around your home, like grab rails, mobility aids, alarms.
- Home improvements or adaptations - changes to make it easier to stay where you are, like wet rooms, stair lifts or ramps.

You can apply to have your needs assessed by us. We will talk to you about your needs and how you are managing at the moment. If you are eligible for support from us, we can arrange it for you. Phone 0300 123 4040 for more information.

Know a cheat on your street? Help us crackdown on fraud. Fraud is costing

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Adverts removed

Message from your County Councillor, continued from page 14

Hertfordshire's local authorities an estimated £12m a year. All council services are funded by taxpayers, so when people commit tenancy fraud, for example sub-letting a council house; council tax fraud, by saying they live alone when they don't; or altering a Blue Badge, they are stealing from their whole community. As a result it means that money goes to people who are not entitled to it and reduces the money available for services that residents need, such as schools, highways, housing, leisure services, community safety, health care and social services. I'd call on residents to do the right thing if they do know a cheat on their street. It's not fair that you pay your taxes, while other people get away without paying them. Report suspected fraud at www.hertsdirect.org/reportfraud or phone 0300 123 4033.

Have your say on how we spend your money *It's time to have your say on how we spend #YourCouncilTax* Residents are invited to have their say in the next few months, as work begins to agree our budget priorities for the coming years. We need to make some important decisions about how we allocate money and we want your views. If you live in Hertfordshire these decisions affect you, so please have your say. Since 2010 we have saved £211m from our annual budget and looking ahead we estimate that a further £80m of savings will need to be found by 2017/18. This estimate will be reviewed following the Government's Autumn Statement in late November. Complete the survey at www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/work/whatwdoofforyou/ipbudget2/ **before Sunday 13 December 2015**. Finally, I would like to wish you all every happiness this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Adverts removed

Fun in the Millennium Wood



Matthew (5) and Peter (3) went along to Millennium wood with their Mum Liz to take part in the Nature Hunt. It was a fabulous day for it and the sun was unusually kind for this time of year. The children were shown how to recognise leaves with signs of moth larvae in them, and asked to go and collect as many as they could. Colin Plant



had fun explaining this to the children, suggesting to Peter that the 'Rose hips' he'd spotted weren't Rose's, so they must be 'Peter hips'. When Matthew was asked later what he remembered from the day he said it was "Amazing" when he found a leaf with a moth larva still in its "cave". Sebastian (1) came along with his Dad Michael and seemed to be having a great time wandering around and when asked 'where's the moth', pointed at a leaf and said, "There."

Adverts removed

Little Hadham Toddler Group

Just to begin – big thank yous. Firstly, to those who have helped run the group in the past, particularly to Elaine and Anna, and to Emma for your continuing, invaluable help. I think everyone who comes along at some point has helped with our twins, who love to “explore”, thanks!!

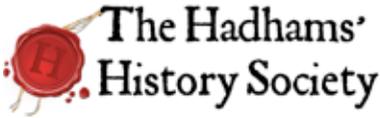
We meet every Wednesday in term time at the Village Hall, 9.30-11.30 and would love to see any new faces - mums/ dads/ grandparents/ carers with children under 5. It is great to have this group in the village, to meet local families and also for the children to get to know each other before they start school. Please do just turn up as and when you have time, £2 per family per week, or call me on 771721 if you have any questions.

Rachel Hider (and Caden and Leo pictured at toddlers)



*Advertise in Little Hadham Parish
News and reach over 500 homes with
your product or service.
Details on back page.*

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Stephen Ruff gave the first of his series of talks on the Buntingford Branch Line (The Bunt). He started the series covering the section between St Margaret's Station and about half way to Widford. He will cover successive sections of the line and the surrounding

areas on the route to Buntingford in later talks in the series. Originally the line had been intended to be a branch off the main line to Hertford East (opened in 1843), starting at Ware via the Rib valley. However, the owners of Youngbury objected and instead for the first several miles it followed the river Ash, opening in 1863 as a branch from St Margaret's. Starting in a bay at the latter station it ran on its own track, parallel to the "main" line and then branched off to the north near Amwell Lane where a short section of original track is still visible. It then crossed the Lee Navigation and the Mill Stream over what are now footbridges. Hollycross Road was bridged over the former level crossing in 1898 and the line followed the River Ash on through Water's Place Farm towards Much Hadham. Diesel replaced steam in 1959 before the line closed to passenger traffic in 1964 and freight in 1966. Trains were timed so that "The Gentry", from places like Much Hadham, could change at St Margaret's to catch Liverpool St trains with minimum delay. In later days some trains ran through to Liverpool St.

The talk was very well illustrated from Stephen's vast photographic archive, from the line's early days right up to its current state as a footpath and part of Hertfordshire Way. It was much enhanced by his detailed knowledge of the terrain, the buildings, the engines, other rolling stock, signaling and other aspects of the line. Many of the staff illustrated were personally known to Stephen and or members of the audience. Stephen has walked along the track of the line photographing what remains. His talk, full of personal anecdotes, was very well received and we look forward to hearing about the next section of the line.

Mike Clark 842131

Adverts removed

Weather continues to be unseasonably mild and, at the time of writing (18.11.15) no sign of any frosts. Both the birds and insects continue to thrive and some good sightings and findings have been made over the last 4 weeks.

A long wander around the parish on 18.11 gave views of over 200 fieldfares in fields east of Hadham Hall. These winter thrushes are arriving in large numbers on a daily basis and can be heard overhead in the morning with their familiar chack chack call. The smaller birds in these flocks will be redwings, also arriving in good numbers. A walk from town to home on 16.11 gave great views of 2 winter visitors, siskins in Green Street and lesser redpolls over the back garden. Also on this day, my first woodcock of the winter, circling over Muggins Wood at 7am before heading off south and appearing to go down in woods near Acremore Street. A bird that is declining as a breeding bird within the UK but with numbers bolstered by migrants



arriving in winter. All these arrivals do point towards a cold winter and, with the reported failure of berries in Scandinavia, I am anticipating the arrival of good numbers of waxwing this year. A bird I have yet to record in the parish. Another bird I hope to catch up with over the next few months, again, missing from my parish list, is the brambling, the Scandinavian chaffinch, easy to identify from its near relative by black beak and orange colour on the males.

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Adverts removed

Final Visit

It was bitter sweet on Bury Green as the mobile library arrived for its last visit. Regular visitor Alice Jupp had just finished pinning up her "Thank's Steve" banner as he pulled onto the Green. It was a quiet start to this little party as Steve climbed off the bus to look at the table laid with biscuits, cakes, and cards to celebrate what a fantastic part of village life the bus had been. During the bus's hour long visit on the Green numbers grew, and it was lovely to see residents from the Nag's Head and Smithy Mobile stops who had either driven or walked up after seeing Steve at their regular stops shortly before.

As Little Hadham Primary School shut its doors for half term the green filled up with children who had enjoyed the bus's visits. Some children, who had been participating in the libraries Sure Start scheme were awarded their own Sure Start bear for completing their passports. Other children were given a library wrist band to remember the occasion by.

The closure of mobile libraries is a real concern across the country as councils tighten their belts, and Hertfordshire it appears is one of numerous councils to follow this sad trend. Steve's last visit to Little Hadham was noticed by Independent journalist Adam Lusher who wrote this article published at the end of October. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hertfordshire-becomes-the-latest-council-to-cut-mobile-libraries-a6716541.html>

Some residents will be eligible for the library services home delivery scheme in the absence of the mobile library and can contact the library to learn more about this. The village phone boxes are still thriving community books swaps led by Wendy Woodgate and will shortly benefit from a one of donation of books from the library service. Please do feel free to take books from the phone boxes to borrow or treasure.

Adverts removed

SSE's 2016 Community Calendar Launched

The 2016 edition of Stop Stansted Expansion's (SSE's) popular Community Calendar is now on sale across the region, featuring beautiful views of homes and heritage in the shadow of Stansted Airport. All proceeds from the sales of the calendar, the fourteenth to be produced, will be used in the continuing campaign by SSE to fight off the threat of an extra runway at Stansted Airport.

In July this year the Airports Commission appointed by the Government under the chairmanship of Sir Howard Davies published its final report. It recommended that there should be one extra runway in London and the south-east by 2030, and that that runway should be at Heathrow. It also said that another runway might be needed in the UK after that, and if so Stansted might be one of the options to be considered. The Government has indicated that it will respond to the Report before the end of 2015.

We cannot relax. The Commission is only advisory. It is open to the Government to reject its recommendations - and we have seen plenty of U-turns over the years. In the meantime the Manchester Airports Group (MAG), the owners of Stansted airport, are arguing that the case for increasing the authorised throughput on the existing runway should be considered sooner rather than later.

So our campaign continues. As in previous years, the A3 format calendars are priced at just £6 and will be on sale at some 20 shops across the area, as well as from a sales team drawn from SSE's members. The SSE campaign office can also arrange gift mailing at a small extra charge. Further details together with a list of stockists can be found on the SSE website at <http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/calendar.html>

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 19

A trip to North Norfolk on 27th gave up over 80 species of bird, including ring ouzel and a stunning short eared owl. Both good to observe. Photo of the owl, here. Marvellous creature!

Down at the moth trap, specimens continue to arrive with several new species for the year. Also, a few nights trapping in local woods have produced a few surprises, including an *Acleris logiana*, a rare Herts moth, with this one being the 7th record for the county. In the garden trap, Feathered thorn moths have been common, with their amazing leaf colouration for camouflage, as shown here.



However, the mothing highlight took place on the 1st November, when over 20 residents, children and adults met in Millennium Wood to check for signs of tiny leaf mining moths. These are moths that spend their caterpillar stage of life eating and living between the layers of a leaf, and always leave a trail of where they have been. These, with skill, can be identified to species. Thanks to all who turned up and especially to the youngsters who found 20 bags of leaves for myself, Colin and Graeme to wade through and identify the moth that had lived within the leaf. In all we found 29 moth species plus weevil, beetle and fly species, adding 27 moths to the parish list. Great stuff. The moths themselves are micro moths, some just a few millimetres long and many do not come to light traps, so this is the most efficient way of finding if they are present.



Photo here, of Colin Plant, showing the children the secrets of identification. His knowledge on this subject is legendary and a real expert to introduce the children to the fascinating world of small insects. Note the bags of leaves that were enthusiastically collected.

Apart from these findings, a comma butterfly on 13.11.15 was a late county record but no other notable insects have been recorded recently apart from Caperer caddisflies in the garden, attracted to the moth trap light.

For all those who get out and about, now is the time to be picking sloes for your homemade sloe gin. Good numbers on every blackthorn bush at present and, whilst it is advisable to leave them until they have been frosted, it is getting late and so I pick them, tap with a wire brush and pop them in the freezer for half an hour. This process works in releasing the sugars etc. I also pop a few almond slices into the gin to add a nutty flavour. Easy to do and a lovely winter drink.

Finally, I recently completed a concise 36 page booklet on the best sites for bird watching along the North Norfolk Coast. It includes directions to over 150 species of birds, 18 sites, a few colour photos and costs £5.00. Do email me at jforgham@hotmail.com if you would like a copy, or as a gift for a birdwatching friend. It has sold really well so far and on to my 3rd delivery from the printers. As always, happy to help with any id issues in nature and my updated blog at <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.co.uk> has frequent entries on what is about locally.

Finally, may I wish all readers a Very Happy Christmas and a most Peaceful New Year.

Where did 2015 go?

Millennium Wood Update

We have now had 2 work parties in the wood and the area designated in the 5 year plan is looking very different. Thanks to all who have come along and helped, we have achieved so much, so quickly. On 15th November over 15 of us continued to remove some failing trees and construct a log pile that will attract large amounts of invertebrates. Also, Mick and Judi Wheeler arrived early to remove tree stumps with a chain saw as well as sawing the trunks into manageable sizes for the piles. Many thanks for this.

We plan to meet again on 13th December, 10am and by then I hope to have a selection of bird, bee and bat boxes to put up around the cleared area. If anyone would like to construct a box or two, I can forward both the wood and the instructions for making these, so please do contact me at jforgham@hotmail.com or at home 776112. The more we put up the better the habitat will become. Thanks also to the children who have written articles for this publication



as well as the First Times newspaper and the local Herts and Essex Observer. Well done especially to the Pressland family and Holly Ellis. I really enjoyed reading and/or hearing about your contributions.

Photo here of some of the children, with Liz Lloyd Williams (chair of LHPC) and father Keith at the end of a good clearing and lopping session. Looks like a good bonfire is just around the corner!

Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service are attempting to raise funds for a community access defibrillator to be located in Much Hadham. Please go to this link if you want to donate:

<https://communityheartbeat.charitycheckout.co.uk/MuchHadham>

View from a Visitor

And so, for Foxes, Brocks, Hogs and Yellow Hammers, "Fronti nulla fides" . Do appearances really deceive? I think not. And, for confirmation on the dangers of statistics, we have only to turn to a past President of The Royal Statistical Society (circa 1897) who warned of the temptation to supplant observation with the spurious accuracy of compiled figures.

SOCKS-SOCKS-SOCKS Thank you so very much to everyone who has donated socks - it's been a bumper collection keep them coming we collect all year through remember if you're having a clear out men's socks of any description would be gratefully accepted at Ann Clayton's house (next door to the Nag's Head pub) and at my house The Old Cottage, Bury Green. Sending every good wish to all parishioners - how very fortunate we are to live in Little Hadham, ours is such a generous and kind community - Carmela x

December diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

6 Sun

Advent 2

9.15

Family Communion at Much Hadham

11.15

Benefice Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Albury

No service at Little Hadham.

13 Sun

Advent 3

9.15

Holy Communion at Much Hadham.

7.00

Carols by Candlelight at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

20 Sun

Advent 4

9.15

Holy Communion at Much Hadham.

11.15

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

24 Thur

Christmas Eve

6.00

Christingle Service at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

25 Fri

Christmas Day

11.15

Holy Communion, St. Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

27 Sun

Christmas I – The Holy Innocents

11.15

Team Holy Communion, Much Hadham

No service at 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

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL



On behalf of the British Legion, may I thank everybody who contributed to this year's appeal - we raised an amazing £1,062.21. I should especially like to thank those who went door-to-door selling the poppies. Well done, everyone.

Editor: Jan Finn, Jute House, 85a Bradford Street, Bocking Essex, CM7 9AU e-mails: 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