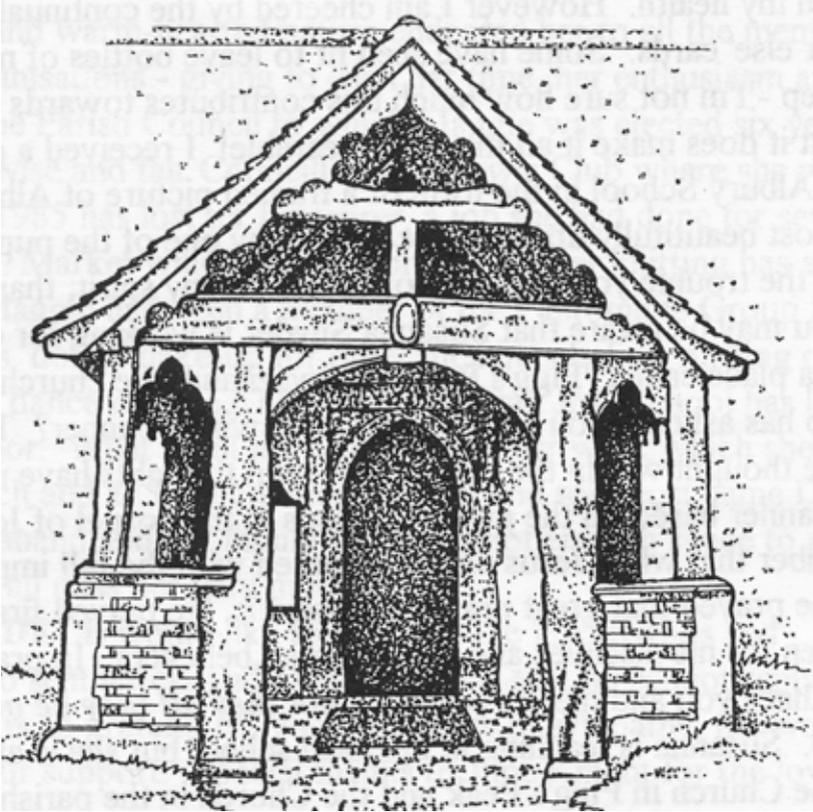


*Little Hadham
Parish News
February 2015*



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01279 842609
e-mail: muchhadhamrectory@gmail.com

Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter
01279 844955
e-mail: cp.slaughter@virgin.net

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

What should we really give up for Lent?

Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday 18th February this year, during school half term week, and marks the beginning of the season of Lent in the Church calendar. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of Christians through prayer, penance, repentance of sin, almsgiving, atonement and self-denial to prepare themselves for Holy Week and Easter. But many non-Churchgoers also observe Lent as a period to give something up, usually after the excesses of the Christmas season. This is usually related to food (especially chocolate!) and alcohol.

The historic Church has traditionally recognised seven deadly sins (or behaviours that fall short of what God wants for us): lust, gluttony, greed, laziness, wrath, envy and pride. So when many of us give up food and alcohol for Lent it is in recognition that we may have fallen into the behaviour of gluttony.

Whereas gluttony damages mainly our own health, the other deadly sins such as envy, wrath and pride more often damage the lives of other people. However, it is often much harder for us to admit to being proud and haughty, or perhaps envious, or even wrathful and angry, than it is to admit to having over-indulged in chocolate and wine, because it is about us, the person we have become.

Our Lenten challenge should be to examine honestly our own behaviours and think about what we should really try to give up for the benefit of those around us; to enable us to become more fully the person God wants us to be.

God Bless, Reverend Giles

Adverts removed

Parish Council News

Flooding:

The New Year has seen the road by the Village Hall continue to become blocked by floodwater along with the continuing sewer surcharging problems. We are still awaiting news from Thames Water on whether the funding has been found to replace the sewer pumps and this has been chased by Sir Oliver Heald QC MP. The highway at Green Street has continued to turn into a river at each rainfall and residents are awaiting the works by Hertfordshire Highways. Residents are experiencing the effects of this on their home insurance with premiums for some rising to several thousand pounds. The fields are waterlogged, so please be aware that field run off during rainfall can now be quite quick. If you see the highway is flooded, please avoid driving through it if possible as the bow waves created by moving traffic cause problems to residents' homes at Green Street, A120 Traffic Lights and The Ford.

Salt Bags:

Councillor Liz Lloyd-Williams has taken delivery of 34 bags of road salt for use in the icy weather. This is in addition to the salt bins that are located around the Parish. Each bag weighs 25kg and would ideally be used on footpaths, and roads where there are known difficulties that are not already helped by Highways Gritting lorries or nearby salt bins. If you would like to collect a salt bag to have ready for use in your area please contact Liz on lizlloydwilliams@gmail.com.

Next Parish Council is Tuesday 3rd February at 8pm in the Village Hall. There was not a meeting in January. We now 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.

Parish Council

Cllr Jonathan Forgham [Chairman]

Cllr Chris Bhatt

Cllr Mrs Lloyd-Williams

Cllr Graham Pearson

Cllr Mrs Mary Wilkinson

Cllr Geoff Williamson

Cllr Ms Wendy Woodgate

Parish Clerk

Bev Evans

jforgham@hotmail.com

chrisbhatt@btinternet.com

lizlloydwilliams@gmail.com

grahampearsonlhpc@gmail.com

marywilkinsonlhpc@gmail.com

gwilliamson.lhpc@wilfnet.co.uk

wendywoodgate@hotmail.com

clerklittlehadham@gmail.com

The *What's On* page is an important element of our website. Although it looks relatively sparse for the next few months, there is still a good selection of walks, talks, cultural events and conservation exercises that may be of interest. Some excellent educational attractions remain open through the winter. The following will offer a warm welcome:

- **Saffron Walden Museum (Tuesday – Sunday)** • **Imperial War Museum at Duxford (daily)**
- **Great Dunmow Maltings and Museum (weekends)** • **Linton Zoo (weekends).**

Further information can be found by using the links to their websites that appear on our Attractions pages. Other local visitor attractions close for the winter, so *What's On* shows when these are due to come out of hibernation.

We hope that anyone who may be tempted by one of these specific places or events will consider making a full day of their visit – perhaps printing our introduction to the parish and seeking to track down some more of its heritage. Of course, our lovely countryside, villages and market towns are free to explore at any time, especially with the help of our parish introductions or one of our downloadable walk routes.

75% of our parish introductions are now complete and we aim to finish the rest by the Spring. Every parish has a story to tell and they are quite varied. One introduction that we have recently updated and added to the website is for Helions Bumpstead in the far northwest of the Hundred Parishes. Their story includes a brief summary of their role in the Agricultural Strike which engulfed part of Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire in 1914. Do please take a look – go to www.hundredparishes.org.uk, select Parishes from the Menu and then click either on a map or the list of parishes.

Adverts removed

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

February's meeting will be our AGM ... wine and nibbles a-plenty! Tuesday 10th of February @ 8pm @ Little Hadham Village Hall – please come and be part of our friendly group; up for discussion will be the planned talks, visits and varying activities we hope to enjoy during 2015. Please mark the date on your calendar – everyone is very welcome – offer a lift and bring a friend – still only £2.50 including raffle tickets – more info: cam2403@hotmail.co.uk or 01279 898591.

See you there!

Carmela, Binnie and Sue

Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

The next meeting of the Garden Club is on Tuesday 17th February and Melanie Catly, from the British Hen Welfare Trust, is coming to talk to us about, you guessed it, Hens. The talk starts at 1.00 pm but before that at 12.00 we have a ploughman's lunch. To book the lunch please phone Karin Green on 771532, and let her know if you want a cheese or paté ploughman's.

Adverts removed

Happy holidays folks!

Cherry Mardell

As snow follows gale force winds which follow days, seemingly weeks, of rain, we dream of a holiday abroad –and some good weather. So, to get you in the mood, here's a snapshot of some of our holidays!

1. Flying over the Atlantic, nearing Greenland, a voice comes over the tannoy on our BA flight, 'Emergency, this IS an emergency. We are going to land on water so put your life jackets on immediately.' Chaos ensued, with everyone panicking and looking for their jackets. Mine was nowhere to be found. Fortunately, some minutes later, it was announced, (without an apology) that someone had put on the wrong announcement.

2. First day out on a Caribbean cruise, at mealtime, the engines abruptly stopped. All the lights went out. Long minutes later the captain announced we had broken down, but not to worry as we had plenty of depth beneath us! A nasty hush came over the whole ship, broken only by some jokers who likened us to the Titanic... An hour or so later, relief when we heard the lovely sound of engines once again!

3. Our first experience of a motorhome: in California. We arrived to pick up our Cruise America vehicle, only to find we were to drive about in one plastered in their logo. The inside of the motorhome was running with ants; there was a microwave – but only plastic cutlery and plates, and although we had beds, we had to buy sheets and blankets! Memo to like-minded tourists: choose a state with wide open roads, not California, whose prettiest towns resemble England...small streets with little or no parking for big vehicles!

4. Coming in to land following a transatlantic flight, we circled for an hour, having been told we had a brake failure on the undercarriage. Emergency vehicles lined up on the runway and we had to 'adopt the crash' position. We landed – safely – only to find out that all that was wrong was a faulty light!

5. The romantic notion of going to see George Strait (my hero) in the flesh, came true when we visit Wyoming. We bought hugely expensive tickets (months before), but it was standing room only. It rained all day. We waded through acres of mud and we stood in the torrential downpour for over an hour while my hero (just a dot on the horizon) sang his heart out to his loyal followers. To my everlasting shame, we left at half time. There's only so much rain even a Brit can stand!

6. The day we visited the Grand Canyon was amazing. We had planned to stay overnight. At midnight the fire alarms went off and we could hear everyone turning out. I pleaded with my sleepy husband to get up and get going, but he refused to move. Fearing we would be burnt to a frazzle, I became even more agitated. He opened the window, made me peer out – and I remembered we were on the ground floor. Naturally, it was a false alarm!

Adverts removed

Overgrown Vegetation



Controlling the growth of vegetation within and onto the public highway remains an on-going challenge for Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). You can assist us by highlighting the need for vegetation trimming / removal works within the area.

HCC, in conjunction with East Herts Council, are responsible for the maintenance of the vegetation that grows within the public highway. This work is on-going and there is still plenty of work to do.

To assist this work, all households and farmers are kindly asked to check the vegetation that is growing within or along their property boundaries, and trim back / remove any that is overhanging or growing onto adjoining footways, footpaths, verges and roads etc.

The period between October and March is an ideal time to work on vegetation as nesting birds are not disturbed.

If you are not the owner of the property then please make the owners aware of any vegetation work required. If you are unable to carry out any necessary work, then please make us aware by e-mail at CSCHighways@hertfordshire.gov.uk or by calling 0300 1234047.

Please log all highway faults at www.hertsdirect.org/faultreporting/. Thank you for your co-operation.

Adverts removed

The last 4 weeks have been a busy time, both at home and abroad so not too many local walks. At the end of the year I had a phone call saying that a barn owl had been found dead near the traffic lights. I have yet to establish if it is one from the three resident sites that I am aware of. Sad, but fortunately 2014 was a good breeding year for barn owls, so any now vacated roost site will soon be taken up by a new bird moving into the area.

I spent a couple of warm evenings mothing in and around Millennium Wood, finding several species to end the year list on a creditable 334 species for the parish, whilst my bird species count for the year was 76, including 3 new species for the parish. All good to report. Having been away since New Year I have not had time to run the garden moth trap yet.

In the lead up to Christmas and immediately afterwards, I had been booked to take people bird watching in Norfolk, so several trips were made.

On these trips I managed to find, in total, over 120 species of birds, as well as this mother and pup on the beach at Winterton.



However, the time since New Year has been spent in Sri Lanka on a holiday that, not surprisingly, involved some time birding. I found by far the best time for this was before breakfast, so I was out most mornings at dawn (6.15am) seeing superb birds.

continued on page 10

Adverts removed

from County Cllr Graham McAndrew

As your county councillor, I have been elected to represent your needs, priorities and aspirations either as individual residents or as a wider community. Alongside this part of my role, I work to support the county council's current vision, goals and challenges, which covers the full range of services delivered by the council. The greatest challenge is to try to prioritise the often limited resources available to work to meet the ever increasing demands.

The issue of flooding is becoming more frequent and is often exacerbated in rural environments. Our highways teams are working hard to ensure that road drains are clean and in good repair, but the water still has to go somewhere and heavy downpours like those we've seen recently can overwhelm the sewers and soakaways the drains connect to.

Hertfordshire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority for Hertfordshire and has the role of managing flood risk from surface water and groundwater. Hertfordshire County Council has a duty to ensure that roads and pavements are in a safe and usable condition – if the road, pavement or subway becomes flooded it can become very dangerous and must be addressed as quickly as possible. Visit www.hertsdirect.org and search for 'prepare now for winter flooding' for further information.

East Herts Council has a role working in conjunction with other organisations, such as Herts County Council and the Environment Agency, to reduce flood risk. As part of this role, East Herts Council will continue to arrange preventative maintenance on certain key points of the drainage network. In times of adverse conditions these are very closely monitored and preventative actions taken where appropriate. Visit www.eastherts.gov.uk and search for 'flooding' for further information.

The Environment Agency has powers and responsibilities to manage flood risk from main rivers, and works with others to maintain and improve main rivers throughout England. They provide useful information if flooding is likely in your local area. Visit www.gov.uk and search for 'prepare for a flood'.

If you own property next to a watercourse, e.g. river, culvert, brook or mill stream, as the likely Riparian Owner you must manage your own flood risk, maintain river beds and banks etc, and not obstruct the water flow. The Environment Agency website contains more advice for Riparian Owners.

Finally, each year I have an annual budget (£90,000 Highway Locality Budget and £10,000 Locality Budget) that can be considered for appropriate community-led requests. I would welcome new ideas for improvements around the Parish. For details please visit www.hertsdirect.org and search for my name.

County Cllr Graham McAndrew E: graham.mcandrew@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Nature Notes, continued from page 8

Some I had encountered on previous trips, but many were new to me. The red wattled lapwing shown here is a common sight throughout the island. This photo was taken from the breakfast table of our hotel in Galle on the south west coast. Eagles, parrots, herons and tropical rainforest birds were all noted, with



this pied kingfisher being a particular favourite, seen in marshes at Negombo. One morning I took a trip out to a rainforest. Here



birds are easy to hear and impossible to see, never mind photograph. I tracked down a few species by sight, but most were just identified on song and call. A magical, unspoilt habitat with monkeys, snakes, bats, endless

insects and very hungry and fast moving leeches. They managed to get up my leg as far as my knee before feeding!

At our first location, way out in the jungle, we also encountered our largest snake: a rat snake. Whilst not venomous, a bite from this creature will require a trip to the hospital for a

continued on page 14

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magazine and reach nearly
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'Little Hadham PCC'

BACS payments accepted.

Herts and Beds hospitals under great pressure

from Patient Participation Group for Much Hadham surgery.

Emergency health services across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire are experiencing major pressures this week (5th Jan). Accident and Emergency departments are being stretched by the number of patients arriving at their doors, as is the ambulance service. The situation is so serious that health bosses and the most senior doctors from Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire have united to deliver a hard-hitting message to the public:

Dr Hari Pathmanathan, chair of East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) said: "The Accident and Emergency departments at our hospitals only have the capacity to treat people who have serious, life-threatening or dangerous conditions. Ambulances should only be called in genuine emergencies. If you use emergency services incorrectly you are risking the lives of others and won't get the best treatment for your illness.

"If you come to A&E in Hertfordshire or Bedfordshire with a minor health complaint, your care will not be a priority and you may be sent away to visit a GP or pharmacist. If you call 999 for an ambulance and your life is not at risk, you may be endangering the life of another person in desperate need of emergency care. More than 300 patients arrived at the Lister hospital's A&E department yesterday, including a man who was looking for advice about a rash he had had for several months and a child brought in for a check-up who had been feeling sick but had since recovered. Accident and Emergency was not the right place for them.

"Do not attend our hospitals with common winter illnesses, such as chest infections, coughs and colds, diarrhoea or vomiting. We have never seen our hospitals under such pressure before which is why it's vital that everyone understands the urgency of the situation and what you can do to protect our essential hospital services this winter."

There are other excellent services to help – including some that provide instant access if you, a family member or a friend feel ill:

- **Click on to NHS Choices website** – for advice and information on how to look after yourself and your family. It covers thousands of illnesses and conditions: www.nhs.uk <<http://www.nhs.uk>>

- **Visit a pharmacist** – for expert advice and low-cost medicines to ease your symptoms and help treat your condition. Every area has a late opening pharmacy and most have consulting rooms where you can ask for advice in private. Go to www.nhs.uk/service-search <<http://www.nhs.uk/service-search>> to find your nearest open pharmacist

- **Make a GP appointment** – If your GP thinks that you need to be seen at the hospital, then they will arrange a direct referral to the right specialist.

- **Phone NHS 111** – for free, round the clock help when your GP is closed – when it's urgent but not a life-threatening 999 situation.

What's on in February

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

Feb Postal Quiz – Playing Your Cards Right

Annual postal quiz in aid of Isabel Hospice.

Copies available from all our shops or download it from www.isabelhospice.org.uk.

Post your answers along with the £1 entry fee to the address on the quiz. "Playing your cards right" is this year's offering from Neville Mizen and Marian Stringer to whom we are very grateful for their continuing support. Entries must be received by 28th February.

3 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm. See how our village is run. Everybody welcome.

4 Wed, Connect @ St Andrew's, 9.30, St Andrew's MH. The talk is 'Love Without Limits' after coffee, cake and chat. See page 16 for more details.

8 Sun, Little Hadham Antiques Fair, 9.30-4pm, Refreshments available.

10 Tue, LH & A Social Club AGM, 8pm. Plenty of wine and nibbles. See p5 for details.

11 Wed, Little Fishes @ The Forge, 9.30 - 11.30. A coffee morning for you and your little ones. See p16 for more details.

12, 26 Thur, Mobile Library, See p13.

14 Sat, Elvis Presley Evening, for Isabel Hospice with Elvis tribute Paul Lillie, Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth. Contact Cllr Roger Beeching on 01279 722496 or email roger@rogerbeeching.com

14 Sat, Valentine's Evening of Song in support of St Clare Hospice at The Harlow Playhouse Playhouse Square, Harlow, Essex CM20 1LS with the Herts and Soul Community Choir performing love songs Pop, Rock, Gospel, Folk, Disney and Musical Theatre. Come and join us!! Tickets £14.00 Playhouse Box Office 01279 431945, www.playhouseharlow.com.

16 Mon, Hadhams' History Society, 8pm, Green Room, Much Hadham V H. 'Hadham

Hall and the Capel Family' by Jenny Milledge who is an expert on the subject.

17 Tue, LH & A Garden Club, 1pm, A talk by Melanie Catly, from the British Hen Welfare Trust, but before that at 12.00 we have a ploughman's lunch. To book the lunch please phone Karin Green on 771532.

19 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning, 12.30 - 1.45pm, rear of Village Hall.

22 Sun, Snowdrop Sunday Easton Lodge, 11.30am - 4pm, last entry at 3pm. See p18.

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

28 Sat, Civic Dinner and Theatrical Evening held by the Mayor of Bishop's Stortford, Cllr Diane Hollebon at the Rhodes Centre in Bishop's Stortford for Isabel Hospice. For info and tickets email: Hilary.mitchell@bishopss-tortford.gov.uk.

Coming soon

1st March, **Snowdrop Sunday**, Easton Lodge.

7th March **Stow Maries Aerodrome**, a talk by Russell Savory, in aid of the Jack May Trust Fund.

7th March **Civic Dinner** in aid of Isabel Hospice and Hertford and Ware Street Pastors. Tickets now on sale 01992 552885.

14th March **Fire Walk** for Isabel Hospice. Sign up at www.isabelhospice.org.uk or call Beth Hardy 01707 382500.

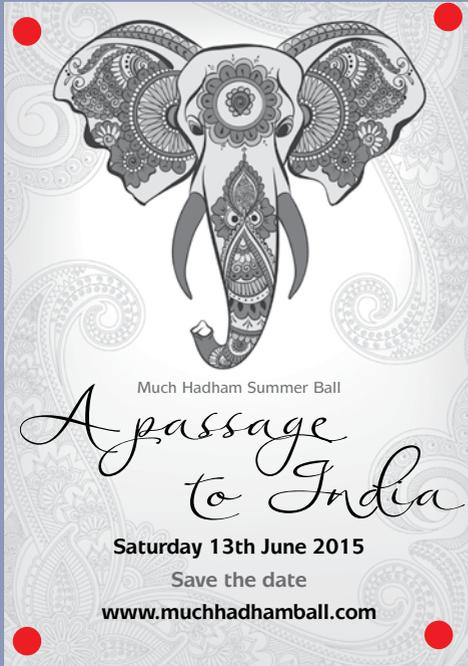
27th March **Golf Day** for Isabel Hospice To register your interest, call Cheryl Cusack on 01707 382500.

28th March **Jumble Sale**, Thundridge V Hall.

11th April **Albury Antiques & Interiors Fair**.

26th April **London Virgin Marathon**. Raise money for St Elizabeth's, 01279 844347 or fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk.

NOTICEBOARD



12th & 26th February

Mobile Library

Nag's Head from 13.30 - 13.50

The Smithy from 13.55 - 14.15

Bury Green from 14.30 - 15.30

A fortnightly service.

Would YOU go 'paper-free'?
Choose the green version of
the Parish News by choosing to
receive your copy online.
Email your address with
'Paper-free' in the subject line
to htfp@clocktower.co.uk and
save us time and money.

Bypass? Yes please!

How fed up can you get with the traffic at the notorious Little Hadham traffic lights? Yet here we are on the cusp of the local authority doing something about it and all you seem to hear is negativity and complaint. However, many of us have had enough of it and would absolutely love this scheme to happen and that is why we have set up a space where anyone who is in favour of the scheme can also have a voice. It's all very well to argue that it ought to be longer or shorter, or dualled, but the reality is, surely, that if we don't show any support at all, then we face the risk that the funding will be lost and the bypass and flood alleviation scheme won't happen at all.

This debate has been raging for many years and the local authority has finally come up with a scheme that might be affordable, deliverable and avoid many major concerns. You can't please everyone all the time, but there must be a significant community that does want this to happen in this form rather than end up with nothing, and if so, please say so!

Please 'like' and share your stories and comments on the Support A120 Bypass Facebook page: www.facebook.com/supportA120bypass.

And/or Twitter: @HadhamA120 Or email the local authority at: a120bypass@hertfordshire.gov.uk and please encourage your local friends and family to do the same. A Concerned Resident.

Nature Notes, continued from page 10



tetanus update as the bacteria on its teeth are not pleasant as it feeds almost solely on rats!

In all, I saw approaching 80 species of birds and we had the most wonderful time. Already planning our next visit.

Last month, as a page filler, I set up a small quiz. Many thanks to all who entered and apologies for the confusion where I put 'name these creatures' and then included 2 photographs of plants! I received several entries with 1 resident scoring full

marks, so the bottle of Chateauneuf du Pape goes to Andrea Taylor. Congratulations to Andrea and by the time you read this I hope you enjoyed the wine.

For those who may be interested, the answers were:

1. Blackcap 2. Coal tit 3. Comma 4. Orange tip 5. Brimstone 6. Cuckoo flower 7. Red campion 8. Tufted duck 9. Jersey tiger.

Plenty of Sri Lankan bird photos can be viewed on my blog at <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.co.uk>. Just enter either Rosyth, Galle or Negombo into the search box.

Adverts removed

Bypass update

A120 Bypass (Little Hadham) and Flood Alleviation Scheme Update

Hertfordshire County Council in partnership with the Environment Agency recently undertook a pre-planning consultation on the proposed scheme, which closed on Wednesday 3 December. This consultation allowed all stakeholders and interested parties to express their views on the proposals at that time. Thank you to everyone who took the time to make their views known.

All comments made during the consultation period are currently being considered and used to further refine the scheme proposals as appropriate prior to the planning application being submitted in spring 2015. A further consultation process will then be undertaken by the planning authority once the planning application is submitted, which will afford all interested parties the opportunity for further comment on the application.

Further information about the scheme can be viewed at:

www.hertsdirect.org/a120bypass.

Adverts removed

Calling all parents and carers of little ones

Two new initiatives have been launched by St Cecilia's Little Hadham and St Andrew's Much Hadham for parents and carers of young children.

Connect @ St Andrew's

Connect is a monthly pram service held at St Andrew's on the first Wednesday of the month. After coffee, cake and chat from 9.30 we meet for an informal talk and discussion. Connect is designed for all parents and carers of little ones and intended to give space to think and discuss life's big questions. Children are welcome at all the talks or can be cared for in the crèche.

This term we've got a varied programme of talks to keep everyone's brains ticking over. In January Reverend Giles gave a talk about "blessings" and we all had a bit of a rethink about what our blessings really are and what's just plain good luck! In February we're taking our inspiration from Valentine's Day and Di Kitson will be visiting from Sawbridgeworth to talk about "love without limits".

Connect dates for Spring term:

Wed 4th February Love Without Limits.

Wed 4th March Does God care if you give up chocolate for Lent?

Wed 1st April The Two Sides of Easter: Why the party really starts on Good Friday.

To be added to the Connect mailing list, please contact charlipscomb@cantab.net

Little Fishes @ The Forge

Every third Wednesday in the month Little Fishes is held at The Forge in Much Hadham. This is a lovely coffee morning to bring your little ones along to and enjoy the chance to have a hot cup of tea while volunteers from church help entertain the children and allow you to relax a bit. Come and enjoy friendship and support from others.

Little Fishes dates for Spring term:

Wednesday 11th February 9.30-11.30 and Wednesday 18th March 9.30-11.30

Drop in with your little ones for coffee, chat and play. £1 per family.

Adverts removed

Down at the doctor's

Dr Paul Haines

Unfortunately one of our practice nurses, Angela Swift, who was particularly responsible for running our diabetic clinic, left us on 29th January. We all wish her well but now need a new practice nurse; so if there's anybody out there...?

From the beginning of January we have been offering medical checks to all patients over the age of 75 and some of you will already have received a letter of invitation. The process includes a 30 minute appointment with our new Health Care Assistant, Liz Kenny, who is with us all day Tuesdays and Wednesday afternoons, followed by a separate appointment with a GP at a later date in order to discuss any issues that may be raised. Even if you see a Doctor regularly, it's worth coming along as Liz will be looking at/screening for a number of things.

The Health Centre staff have asked me to thank all those who gave gifts over the Christmas period; it was all very much appreciated, from the boxes of chocolates to the bottles of fizz. They are all now on diets, going to the gym and walking their dogs twice as far as usual !!!

Finally, a big thanks once again to the Hunsdon Three Score group who kindly invited me to their Christmas lunch on 17th December in the Village Hall. Unfortunately for them, I keep winning the raffle !!!

Adverts removed

News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge Preservation Trust

We are looking forward to welcoming visitors to our first two open days of 2015 which will be on the 22nd February and 1st March. The annual 'Snowdrops' event has become a must-see feature of the garden lovers' calendar as the many thousands of blooms form a stunning white carpet beneath the trees. Entrance fees remain a hugely reasonable £3.50 for adults with children still FREE. For Snowdrop Sundays we are open from 11.30am until 4pm with last entry at 3pm.

Delicious and warming homemade soup will be on sale until 2.15pm along with bacon rolls and sausage baps; hot drinks and homemade cakes will be available all day. There will be some children's activities on offer and one guided tour at 1pm; as always dogs are welcome on leads.

We will be selling snowdrops in the green and the details and order form for these will be on our website from the 1st February for those who would like to pre-order. We will also have snowdrop mugs and vases on sale.

We have lots planned for the April – October open days including visits from the Dunmow Rock Choir, Dunmow Wind Band and Saffron Walden Town Band. There is also our hugely popular World War II Day and much more, so keep an eye out for our news over the coming months or check the website www.eastonlodge.co.uk.

We now have three sessions working in the gardens each week and opportunities to volunteer on open days and with other projects, so please make 2015 the year that you give us some of your time. You can get more information from the website or get in touch on 01371 876979 or enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk and help with the conservation and restoration of this wonderful place.

Adverts removed

Ali Baba

a review by Gemma Taylor

This year, Little Hadham Pantomime Group took us down to the glittering caves of Ali Baba and the 40, or in this case two, thieves. With shouts of 'he's behind you', sweet throwing and singing happy birthday to Barbara, some younger members of the audience were nearly hysterical with delight near the end.

By far the stars of the show were Jenny Myhill's young ballet dancers, and her choreography had them back-flipping and twizzling across the stage in an impressive succession of sparkly outfits. The "jewels ballet" even brought a lump to the throat! The genie, (Penny Taylor) dazzled in her pink wig and cutting comments to Scheherezade the narrator (Eileen Booth), who was giving as good as she got. The dame (Robin Gregory) who owned the local Arabian chippy, careered around the 'plaice' hitting people with plastic pieces of fish and taking every opportunity to make a good fish pun. Ali Baba's son Haroun (Lauren O'Neill) shared a beautiful moment with Morgiana (Sophie Judd) as they sang two heart-tugging duets. However, the voice of the night definitely belonged to Zulinda (Jill Oxborrow) as she stunned the room with her rendition of "All that Jazz". Abadan the baddy, (David Locke) elicited some satisfying booing and ended up throwing in his 'badden' ways to work in the local fish'n'chip shop, which seemed a message for a matinee.

The scenery was magnificent as always, and as usual LHPG provided the perfect antidote to what can be one of the gloomiest months of the year. Well done!

Adverts removed

Charity Fundraiser



Jonathan and Wendy have set up a fund account to aid Sri Lankan families that are still suffering from the devastating effects of the 2004 Tsunami. Whilst holidaying there in January they met families that, with a little help, will be able to see a way forward and be able to support themselves on a far more secure footing.

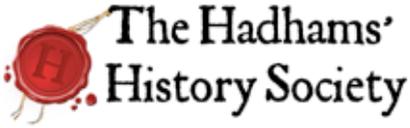
To kick off the fundraising, we have booked the Village Hall for Saturday 21st February, for a wine tasting/mini quiz night as from 7.30pm. All are welcome to this event which will also include a brief overview of our future plans as well as a glimpse into the lives of just one family. The evening

is being sponsored by The Primary Works, consequently there is no ticket price for the event. However, we would be most grateful if you could let us know if you intend to support this social event by emailing jforgham@hotmail.com, phone 07805571551 or drop a note into 6, Chapel Lane with name and numbers so we can cater accordingly. We feel sure we can make a big difference to families in the village of Mahamadora, near Galle on the South West coast of the island. Please do try to come along to hear about our plans and support the cause. If you can't make the social but

are interested in receiving more information then please contact us and we will be happy to forward our small explanatory brochure we have prepared.

Also, whilst spending time with these families, we played cricket with the children. We plan to send out any sports clothing: cricket tops and trousers, football tops and shorts, so if you have any at home that your children have grown out of, we would be most pleased to receive them. Just let us know and we shall come round to collect. Many thanks for any future support you offer and we look forward to having a fun and enjoyable evening.

*Jonathan Forgham and
Wendy Woodgate*



For our November meeting, Forge Curator Cristina Harrison stepped in at short notice, to present the history of the Palace and its estate. This was based on a substantial book by Sallianne Wilcox, commissioned by the owner and now on view at the Forge Museum. Her talk covered more than a

thousand years from Saxon Queen Ethelfleda's bequest of lands at Hadham to the Bishops of London, right up to modern times. No details of the original site of the Palace are known, but it was the birthplace of Edmund Tudor. The current 16thC timber framed house was later encased in brick.

The property was leased out after the restoration of the monarchy with the Bishops retaining rights to its use. In the early 19thC, it became a private lunatic asylum with a licence for 15 patients and remained so until about 1883. It was sold a few years later by the church commissioners to a Mrs. Berry as a private residence. Cristina's comprehensive presentation was much appreciated by the audience which included Mr. Anthony Eastwood, the current owner.

Members brought a good selection of excellent "snacks" to share along with drinks to our annual social in December. The refreshments were followed by an excellent Quiz set by Stephen Ruff which was based on The Hadhams, Hertfordshire, England and the UK, a fitting end to a very enjoyable evening.

Mike Clark 842131

Adverts removed



Ali Baba: the cast. Review on page 19

Adverts removed

Church News

Due to the latest closing date for Parish News events being the 18th of the month, details of all the Christmas Services and donations received could not be reported until the publication of the February magazine! However, better late than never.

On 15th December 120 school children and parents attended an evening Carol Service and donated £111 towards the Children's Society.

On 17th a traditional '9 Lessons and Carols' Service attracted 70 people who donated £162 for the Ebola Crisis.

The 23rd of December was marked by free mince pies and mulled wine being served at The Farmer's Market, courtesy of Jan and Geoff Williamson, (our thanks to them both). Contributions totalling £60 were given to the Church to assist with recent repairs.

The Christingle Service (always on Christmas Eve) brought the largest numbers to St Cecilia's – probably 70 children and a similar number of Mums and Dads – and the retiring collection came to £254 which will also be sent to The Children's Society. The 65 oranges for the Christingles were, as usual, kindly donated by Tesco's. If anyone took a good, clear photo of the children singing the last carol, 'Away in a manger', would they please contact a member of the PCC.

FOUND

A lady's gold watch has been found in the layby opposite South Cottages. If you are the owner please contact Rachel on 771721

Dog Fouling

I am writing as I have a major problem with dog fouling. I live at 2 Lloyd Taylor Close Little Hadham, and I have a small patch of garden at the front of my house. I have constantly found dogs' mess on the front of my garden and have not been able to find the culprit that is allowing their dog to foul constantly on the front of my house. I live in a cul de sac and it seems to happen either in the evening or during the night so I can only assume that someone nearby is just letting their dog out freely or is walking their dog late at night. I am getting more than annoyed and frustrated by the lack of respect this dog owner is displaying, as I have two dogs myself and consider myself to be a responsible dog owner. I have noticed other places where this dog is messing, such as pathways leading to our estate. I would like you to kindly print this in your earliest edition so that this behaviour may stop. I am very serious about reporting this dog owner should I discover who is allowing this as I am tired of picking up after their dog and spending a fortune on dog repellants that rarely work.

I would welcome any advice about how to stop this matter and how I can find out who is allowing their dogs to use my front garden as a toilet!

Ruth Veziri

February diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

1 Sunday

9.15am

11.15am

Candlemas

Family Holy Communion, Much Hadham

Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury

No Service this day at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

8 Sunday

9.15am

11.15am

2nd Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion Service, Much Hadham

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

15 Sunday

9.15am

11.15am

Sunday next before Lent

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

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

18 Wednesday

8.00pm

Ash Wednesday

Team Ash Wednesday Service.

22 Sunday

9.15am

11.15am

1st Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

Family Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury

No Service this day at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

25 Wednesday

10.00am

Midweek Communion

Holy Communion, 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, 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