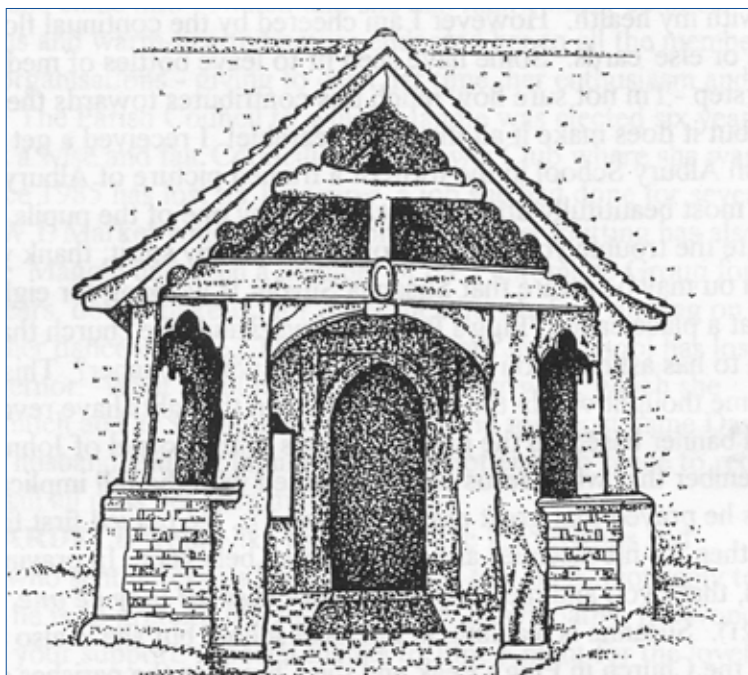


Little Hadham Parish News

April 2015



Rector of Parish: Revd. Giles Tulk
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

Easter Eggs

When I was a young boy, one of my older cousins worked as an apprentice at Cadbury's in Bournville, Birmingham on the creme egg production line. This meant that each year, about two weeks before Easter Day, my family would receive a big bag of chocolate creme eggs which were considered 'seconds' in some way; usually the wrappers were slightly damaged or the mix inside was all white creme instead of having the yellow creme in the middle. I must confess I did not like chocolate creme eggs as I found them a bit over sweet and sickly. However, as a young boy the bag of creme eggs provided me with a good business opportunity in the school playground!

But why do we have Easter eggs, particularly chocolate ones, at Easter? The supermarket shelves are full of them. Well the answer is that the egg has by tradition come to symbolise the wonderful event we celebrate on Easter Sunday: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. A real egg is like the stone tomb in which Jesus was laid, as it has a hard shell and there is no indication of life inside. However just as we know that a young chick will emerge from a fertile egg, so we know that Jesus Christ rose from the grave on Easter Day. Just as a young chick breaks through the hard shell to experience life, Jesus broke through the bonds of death so that all those who believe in him can also experience eternal life. The broken egg shell reminds us of the opened tomb.

The Easter egg represents the new life and hope given to all of us by Jesus Christ's rising from the tomb. And on Easter day billions of people around the world, including in our community in Little Hadham will meet together in Church to celebrate this truly amazing event. And if you are unable to join us, perhaps reflect when eating your chocolate Easter egg on the world changing event it reminds us of.

May I wish you all a joyful Easter in the love of the risen Jesus Christ.

God Bless, Reverend Giles

Adverts removed

Parish Council News

Blocked Footpaths

At Albury Road, Startford Road, and The Ford, there have been reports of inconsiderate parking on footpaths and verges, and also of footpaths and roads being obstructed by overgrown hedges and bushes. Pedestrians have had to walk in or close to the road to get past. This still continues despite last month's appeal. Please park considerately, and please check your hedges. If they are encroaching onto the footpath or road, please cut them back.

Traffic Lights

Cars have been reported to be continuing to jump the traffic lights at the A120, and the local Police have been asked to continue with their checks.

A120 Blocked Gullies

The Parish Council have been pursuing the issue of the blocked gullies along the A120, where water is often seen running alongside the highway, and frequently freezes in winter causing a hazard. Hertfordshire Highways have agreed to clear and repair the gullies and say they are starting work in Standon and will work their way through to Tesco's roundabout.

Allotments

There are two half allotments available. They could be let to either one or two people. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk - clerklittlehadham@gmail.com.

Bonfires

Residents have raised concerns about the timing and frequency of bonfires impacting on their enjoyment of their gardens, not being able to use them due to the smoke. Where possible, please consider not having bonfires at popular times such as sunny weekends, or

when your neighbours are using their garden or drying washing. Please consider having your bonfire later in the evening as most people will have had the most enjoyment of their garden by that time.

Parish Council Elections in May

The Parish needs your support!

The Parish will soon have vacancies for three Councillors when, in May, three of our fellow Councillors step down from their positions.

So why become a Parish Councillor?

If you think it is for the money, power and kudos, then stop reading now! You get no financial reward for being a Parish Councillor and will be held accountable by local people for things that happen locally.

If however, you care about the Parish, want to do what you can to support the quality of life that you have by living in it and help others who live around you, then read on. Most people who become local Parish Councillors state they want to do something positive and hope to make a difference by influencing decisions that affect their community.

Whether you moved here deliberately or by accident, Little Hadham is a lovely place to live. This is, in part, due to the efforts of interested residents and the Parish Council, who work to maintain the quality of life that we all benefit from by living here. Their work, and ours, is voluntary; we do it because we care.

So what types of things could you become involved in?

Well, apart from the formal Parish Council meetings each month, the Parish is involved in all kinds of things: Planning, highways, pot holes, traffic, community safety, flood

continued on page 4

prevention, pot holes, allotments, pot holes, rubbish, playing fields, the war memorial, seats and shelters, rights of way – oh and did I mention the pot holes?

On top of this, the Government is encouraging Parish Councils to deliver more services and play a greater part in their communities.

The job of the Parish Council is to represent the interests of the whole community. The diversity of the Parish Council is our strength. This diversity arises because the councillors have different enthusiasms and interests; some work with ideas while others are very practical. The Parish Council needs this range of skills to be able to work effectively as a team.

So if we have not put you off and you have

read this far, perhaps it may be for you.

If you want to know more about becoming a Parish Councillor or details about the application process, please speak to Bev Evans or one of the Councillors. Please note that any one wishing to be a candidate for the Parish Council needs to have their application in by 9th April.

Next Parish Council

is Tuesday 7th April 2015 at 8pm in the Village Hall. 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.

Adverts removed

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

We very much enjoyed Andy's Beekeeping talk at our March social club meeting - ONE QUEEN – so much power – keeps approximately 50,000 of her worker bees in check at any one time, quite unbelievable! What a fascinating talk!

Next month we are organizing a **Bring & Buy Sale** with a twist there'll be cakes for sale too! The sale will kick off @ 7pm so mums and dads do please come along with the kids and have a mooch and a cuppa & cake with us, we'd love to see lots of you there - mark the date on your calendars: **Tuesday 14th April @ 7pm Little Hadham Village Hall**. For more info/donations of suitable items to sell: email Carmela: cam2403@hotmail.co.uk.

Your support means a lot – Carmela, Binnie & Sue

Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

At our meeting in February we were supposed to have a talk about Hens. Unfortunately our speaker couldn't make it, but we still enjoyed a ploughman's lunch and natter.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 21st April at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Herbal Haven, who are based near Saffron Walden are coming to talk to us about growing and using Medicinal Herbs.

This is advanced notice for our famous Plant Sale and Coffee morning, which is on Saturday May 9th. There will be lots of plants to buy and cakes to eat. We would love to see you there.

Adverts removed

The Hundred Parishes

When the steering group was working towards what became the Hundred Parishes Society, we took inspiration from the Chiltern Society. This charitable organisation has aims very similar to our own in respect of the Chilterns, on the far side of Hertfordshire. 2015 marks that society's 50th anniversary. Their excellent quarterly magazine illustrates how far they have come in the last half century. With 7,000 members and 400 volunteers, the Chiltern Society is the focal point for many activities in the Chilterns – leading regular walks and cycle rides, maintaining nature reserves, installing footpath gates and information boards, contributing to planning policy and much more. Whilst the Chiltern Society continues to show us the way, we will not run out of ideas for pursuing our own charitable aims here in the Hundred Parishes.

We encourage everyone to check our website's What's On page from time to time. It is regularly updated and currently includes more than a hundred specific activities up to the end of 2015. We show only events that are consistent with our aims to increase knowledge, enjoyment and conservation of our area's heritage and countryside. You can select What's On from the menu at www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

If you would like an interesting day out, there is no need to wait until an organised event comes along. Our website includes route descriptions for twenty walks that start and finish at railway stations, whilst our parish introductions give ample food for thought that we hope may tempt you to explore somewhere nearby that perhaps you don't yet know very well. The Hundred Parishes area is full of interest.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Adverts removed

Down at the doctor's

Dr Paul Haines

I am pleased to announce that the fundraising event in aid of the Jack May Trust on 7th March was very well attended and raised over £500. Many thanks to all who attended, the Trustees, the Much Hadham Evening WI for providing refreshments and, of course, to Russell Savory for his enthusiastic and informative presentation. Russell has donated some of his photographs for sale, proceeds from which will also go to the Trust, and these will be available for viewing/purchase in the Health Centre waiting room.

At their latest meeting, the Jack May Trust Fund trustees approved two projects for the next few months; further improvements to our main entrance, particularly the inner double doors, and replacement of the waiting room chairs which I'm sure a lot of you will welcome.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to find a suitable practice nurse replacement as yet. We are continuing to advertise and interview but in the meanwhile there may be times when a nurse isn't available. We are employing locums to cover as many sessions as we can but please bear with us, and if you know of anyone who may be interested ...? Happy Easter!!

Adverts removed

Message from your County Councillor, Graham McAndrew



Our highways department is responsible for around 115,000 street lights in the county – the majority of the street lights in Hertfordshire. Whilst many of our rural areas and some villages have no or minimal street lighting, your daily journey will no doubt use routes that are lit. I would therefore like to give you an overview of the council's street lighting service. We aim to have 98% of our lights on A, B and C roads working at any given time across Hertfordshire. Our Highways contractor, Ringway, monitors and maintains street lights on the county council's behalf, and this may also include maintenance of street lighting that is owned by a Parish Council.

All the street lights, lit bollards and lit signs on A, B and C roads are inspected at night, at least monthly. We will close down any routine 'street light out' fault reports on these routes as they will be picked up by our night time 'Scouts'. We prioritise any lighting issues that are a hazard to the public such as a leaning or knocked down street light or exposed wiring. These will be looked at within two hours. For all other unclassified roads, being the vast majority (60%) of all roads, typically low speed residential roads, such as cul-de-sacs, we rely on the public to report street lights on these roads. Street light faults can be reported online at www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults or alternatively by phone (0300 1234047) or by e-mail (CSCHighways@hertfordshire.gov.uk). We aim to investigate and repair lights on these roads within 20 working days of registering the fault, although faults with electricity supply issues may get reallocated to UK Power Networks and may take longer to resolve.

Currently more than 12,600 street lights on Hertfordshire's A-roads are being upgraded to LED lighting. Work started in November 2014 and this major improvement project is scheduled to take up to a year to complete. LED – or light emitting diode – lights considerably reduce maintenance costs, use much less energy than conventional lighting, improve visibility and reduce light pollution.

Finally, due to the clocks' going forward on Sunday 30 March, residents might spot that some part-night street lights (those that are supposed to switch off at mid-night), may not turn on as expected around that time. In the week before and after the clock change, it is possible that some of these lights will not turn on for one night. After this, the light should resume normal part-night operation. Although we are aware of the potential issue, as always if you spot that a street light does not operate as expected, please report it to us.

During a visit to the Herts Urgent Care Centre in Welwyn Garden City it was brought to my attention that A&E services were overstretched in the lead up to and after the Christmas period. The Herts Urgent Care and the 111 service could have helped to prevent some of this. Please see page 15 for more information.

The shoes were the only thing I got right. And it was all the responsibility of five different websites which all told me the same lie. You see we've just returned from our 'summer' break (you have to go early as farmers tell you they can't leave their land when everything is growing, as if by magic they will it on to greater things!). So a week ago we packed our bags and scooted off to Gran Canaria, having first checked to see what the weather was in store for us.

And five, yes five, websites told me the same, that the ten day daytime forecast was a miserable 12 degrees. So, somewhat crestfallen I packed warm clothes. We arrived to blazing sunshine, and that was the way it stayed for all seven days. And as we had travelled Ryanair, I took just my small, Ryanair-sized case, filled to capacity with warm trousers and jumpers!

I coped for two days, mainly in my one swimsuit. By night I wore man-made fibre trousers and felt uncomfortable. So after that I went out and bought myself a floaty white skirt. This helped. Then a market came to town and I indulged in a lightweight pair of white trews. Things were improving. Flushed with success I bought a pair of cotton trousers from the same market. But by the time I tried them, and realised they were too big, the market had gone and I had yet another article for my bulging suitcase.

The four pairs of socks (who needs them at 24 degrees?), the coat, the sweaters, the long sleeved tops, were all pushed to the back of the wardrobe as I rotated my very few useable tops with my new white articles.

But I was spot on with the shoes – one pair of flip flops, and two pairs- (one on, one in reserve), of comfortable lightweight shoes. And yes, in case you're interested, we had a wonderful time!

Adverts removed

Please sign petition to save the Mobile Library Service.

Following their recent “inspiring libraries” consultation, on 26th February Hertfordshire County Council tweeted “We’re keeping all our #libraries open”. However, they are still proposing to decommission the Mobile Library Service, replacing it with what they call an expanded Home Library Service.

The consultation in no way recognised the massive importance of the current service to many people, largely in rural areas, who cannot access a local library on foot. The Home Library Service is a great service for those those who cannot drive for reasons of disability or other, but will be of little or no use to the majority of mobile service users, including children.

Rural users have as much right to access libraries, browse books, order books, and talk to staff and fellow borrowers as their peers in the town. The new proposal expects rural users to pay petrol and parking charges in order to access the same services those in towns can walk to.

This proposal unfortunately also comes at a time when the county is looking to cut rural bus services. It seems likely many rural inhabitants will simply stop using the libraries. A second consultation in May gives the Mobile Library Service a second chance to fight for survival.

Please sign this petition asking Herts County Council to continue to provide a Mobile Library Service to people in its rural communities as this is a greatly appreciated service.

Either visit:

<https://www.change.org/p/hertfordshire-county-council-keep-invaluable-mobile-library-service>
or call Liz Lloyd-Williams on 07773 437551.

Adverts removed

Help Protect Hertfordshire's Heritage Sites

In April 2014, Hertfordshire Constabulary launched Heritage Watch - a scheme which aims to protect the county's thousands of historical sites, monuments and artefacts from heritage crime.

Ten months on from the launch, the Constabulary is asking for more members of the public to also consider joining Heritage Watch to help us in the fight against heritage crime.

Heritage crime is any offence which harms heritage assets. It can include architectural theft, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, unauthorised excavation and metal detecting, damage caused by vehicles, metal theft or theft of historical and cultural property.

Offences have been more prevalent due to the economic downturn as criminals have turned their attention to metal theft and the illegal trade of assets. Putting right damage caused to heritage assets can lead to repair bills of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Through the scheme, the Constabulary hopes to protect our heritage by improving communication between people who live near these sites, those who have an interest in the county's history and the police.

Chief Constable, Andy Bliss said: "It's so important to protect Hertfordshire's historical and cultural assets for future generations. People who live close to historical sites and those who have an interest in our local history tend to frequent the county's heritage sites more often and are more likely to notice anything suspicious. Through joining up, we hope the public will become the 'eyes and ears' of these precious sites and report anything suspicious to us."

Mark Harrison, National Policing and Crime Advisor at English Heritage, said: "Many people realise that heritage crime not only damages protected buildings and archaeological sites, but also the quality of life in their local area. We hope that local communities across Hertfordshire will come together to form Heritage Watch networks, that will make a real difference and will help us to protect and preserve our wonderful heritage for this and for future generations."

The public can sign up to become members via the Constabulary's web page where further information can also be found: www.herts.police.uk/HeritageWatch.

Adverts removed

What's on in April in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

7 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm. Everybody is welcome to come and listen.

8 Wed, Hadhams' History Society, 8pm, LH Village Hall. 'Researching House History', a talk by Marion Hill from Herts Archives and Local Studies (HALS). The talk will focus on practical aspects, with particular reference to the holdings at HALS.

9, 23 Thur, Mobile Library, Info p13. Also see p10 for article on saving the library.

10 Fri, Square Dance, 7.30-11.30pm, Presdales School, Hoe Lane, Ware, Herts. Join us for a fun evening of Square Dancing hosted by Royston Lions Club and sponsored by Isabel Hospice at Presdales School. The ticket price of £12.50 per person includes a fish and chip supper. Contact Keith Collard for tickets at lionkgc@gmail.com.

11 Sat, Albury Antiques and Interiors Fair, 10-4pm, Albury Village Hall, SG11 2JL.

12 Sun, Dawn Chorus Walk with Jono, 4.30am. Meet at Village Hall car park, contact details: jforgham@theprimaryworks.com or 07805571551.

12 Sun, Quiz, 7.30 for 8pm, Nag's Head. Jono and Wendy raising money for their Sri Lankan fund. Raffle and buffet. All welcome.

14 Tue, Coffee Morning 10.30am-12 noon, Pavillion, Castle Gardens, Link Road, Bishop's Stortford, held in aid of Isabel Hospice every second Tuesday of the month. All welcome.

14 Tue, LH & A Social Club Bring and Buy Sale, 7pm. For more info/donations of suitable items to sell: email Carmela: cam2403@hotmail.co.uk. Also see page 5.

16 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning, 12.30 - 1.45pm, rear of Village Hall. More on p19.

19 Sun, Open Day Easton Lodge. See p18.

21 Tue, LH & A Garden Club, 8pm. A talk

by Herbal Haven about growing and using Medicinal Herbs. Everybody welcome.

22, 25, 26 Teas in Gardens, 2-5pm Mill House, Fulling Mill Lane, Welwyn Village. 01279 755320. This garden is open as part of the NGS scheme, and proceeds from the teas will be going to Isabel Hospice. Entry is £4 with children free. There will be homemade cream teas, and cakes.

23 Thur, British Red Cross Spring Sale, 10.30am-3pm at Cottered Village Hall. Entry £3.50 including coffee & biscuits.

25 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30-11.30am. Come for breakfast, then do your shopping. Everything you could possibly need.

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

26 Sun, Table Top Sale, 11-3pm, in aid of two Local Dog Rescues - Mutts in Distress and The Little Rescue. Tables can be booked for £10 by email to viv_perry@fsmail.net - first come first served basis. Come along and grab a bargain. Entry £1 for adults, children free.

Coming soon

May 9, **Garden Club Plant Sale and Coffee Morning**.

May 21, 22, 23, **Sawbridgeworth Players** present 'Bazaar & Rummage', an adult comedy by Sue Townsend, Victoria Hall Theatre, Bury Road, Old Harlow CM17 0ED. Tickets £11 (£9 concessions) from The Tuck Shop (Nisa) Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth or phone 01279 724608, email lotsofbears@gmail.com or on the door.

June 7, **Happy's Circus** comes to the Pelhams.

June 13 **MH Summer Ball**, A Passage to India www.muchhadhamball.com. See p13.

NOTICEBOARD



Much Hadham Summer Ball

A passage to India

Saturday 13th June 2015

Booking opens 3rd April

Be quick to catch the Easter weekend early bird offer.
Ends midnight Monday 6th April

www.muchhadhamball.com

Proudly supporting Much Hadham Pre-School

9th and 23rd April Mobile Library

Nag's Head from 13.45 - 14.05

The Smithy from 14.10 - 14.30

Bury Green from 14.45 - 15.30

A fortnightly service.

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

Much Hadham Tennis Club Summer 2015

Come and join our friendly club situated at Much Hadham sports ground. All three courts have floodlighting. We would be delighted to welcome new members - try us out on Club nights for mixed play on Wednesdays from 7pm, men's nights on Tuesdays from 8pm or ladies' mornings on Fridays from 9.15am, with planned visits to Hopley's Café for coffee and cakes on Friday 17th April and again on Friday 15th May. We are also having open Club nights for members and non-members on 29th April and 15th July, followed by light bites at The Bull. You're bound to enjoy it and as a member you can play at any time to suit.



Members can be included in tournaments and league matches with other local tennis clubs. Annual membership fees are very reasonable at £150 for a family, £70 for an adult and £30 for a junior/student.

Contact either Sally Barra on 07981 833179/ barratribe@yahoo.co.uk or Justin Akester on 07870 688719 / justinakester@hotmail.com.

Would YOU go 'paper-free'?

Get 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 much time and money.

Adverts removed

Hertfordshire NHS 111 service

Hertfordshire NHS 111 performance goes from strength to strength

Herts Urgent Care (HUC) has now been delivering Hertfordshire's exceptional quality GP Out of Hours service for over six years; but for the last two years, a very successful NHS 111 service has also been running alongside.

Hertfordshire NHS 111 receives over 22,000 calls per month. Over the Christmas period when GP practices were closed, the number of daily calls to 111 trebled. During this time the Herts 111 service did its best to reduce the pressure on A&E; despatching ambulances to only 7% of callers during the Christmas period, compared with a national figure of 11%.

Nationally, last year NHS 111 received over 12 million calls. Of these callers, 2 million were offered treatment, but without 111 would otherwise have gone to A&E. Had they gone to A&E, this would have created almost 6,000 extra visits to A&E per day across the country.

Wherever you are in the country, on calling 111 your symptoms are assessed by highly trained advisors; many of the staff are fully qualified nurses or paramedics. Most importantly, 111 is a signposting service; the aim of 111 is to direct patients to the right service, at the right time for their needs. If you are assessed and a GP appointment is required outside of normal GP practice opening times, then staff will pass you to the Out of Hours Service who will arrange this. Alternatively, if after being assessed by staff in 111, the best course of action would be for you to see a pharmacist to obtain over the counter medication; then seeing a pharmacist could save you a long and unnecessary wait in an A&E department.

Louise McCarthy, Communications Manager, Herts Urgent Care (provider of NHS 111 Herts)

Adverts removed

On the whole, an exceptionally dry month, especially the latter fortnight of this recording period: 4th – 18th March. A very busy time nature wise, with a prolonged trip to Poland, several Norfolk and Kent visits and some local birding and mothing to report, too.

Locally, spring began with my first chiffchaff calling opposite the local pub on 17th March, whilst others were heard along the River Stort navigation on the 15th. Apart from this migrant arriving from Africa, not much else to say it is officially spring, although reports of local sand martins heading north was good to hear.

Other local birds seen were the regular winter visitors, with fieldfare and redwing now migrating north east through the parish, heading to Scandinavian breeding grounds. Buzzards and red kites continue to be seen on a frequent basis whilst plenty of great spotted woodpeckers can be heard drumming their territorial sounds.

*Moth wise, local garden moths have been as expected with standard spring species arriving at the trap in small numbers, namely: Hebrew character, clouded drab, common and small quaker and the March moth. A good record of *Agonoterix sheperdana* was made on 8th March. This is a small micro moth that is rarely found in Hertfordshire. This, however, may be due to the fact not many moth-ers spend time trapping in the colder months.*

A trip to Hel in Poland began on 23rd Feb, with a return date of 26th Feb from Gdansk. Fog cancelled my flight and I eventually got a flight from Wroclaw (310 miles from Gdansk!) on 1st

continued on page 17

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 16



March. Whilst on my 50 mile walk to Hel and back, I recorded 54 species of bird and several butterfly species. Wonderful time, even if temperatures did fall to -6C on the Tuesday. A couple of drake long tailed ducks shown here from Jastarnia harbour. I also scored with a real rarity, a black scoter, only 5th record for Poland of this usually western Atlantic species of sea duck.

A trip to Kent on Thursday 5th March turned into the highlight, however. Whilst at Elmley Reserve on the Isle of Sheppey, I managed to photo a battle between a heron and weasel. Eventually the latter was consumed whole. I sent photos to news agencies having retained full copyright and by the weekend the pictures were online in several national dailies, whilst on Tuesday hit the ITN website and were depicted in the Daily Telegraph and Metro. An interview with Radio Kent followed on the Wednesday and by Friday 13th over 2 million views had been made of them on twitter alone, along with in excess of 10,000 hits on my website. Absolutely staggering numbers. Just in case anyone has not seen these, I show one of the less graphic ones here.



continued on page 19

Adverts removed

News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

Spring has Sprung and Our New Season Begins

We are looking forward to welcoming visitors to our first main season open day of 2015 which will be on Sunday 19th April.

The entertainment for this open day will be provided by the Dunmow Rock Choir who will be performing two sessions over the course of the afternoon – timings will be available on our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk nearer the time. We are all looking forward to hearing their wonderful music in such a glorious setting.

Delicious homemade soup, bacon baps and cheese rolls will be on sale until 2.15pm; hot and cold drinks, crisps and homemade cakes will be available all day. There will be children's craft and nature activities on offer and guided tours at 12.30pm and 2.30pm; as always dogs are welcome on leads.

Entrance fees remain £3.50 for adults with children still FREE. We also offer annual season tickets at only £10 for 12 months' entry to the gardens on open days; again details are on the website or you can buy them at the gate.

Gates are open from 11.30am until 5pm with last entry at 4pm.

You can get more information about open days and volunteer opportunities from the website or you can call 01371 876979 (recorded information but you can leave a message) or mail us on enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk.

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 17

A trip to Norfolk, also on Friday 13th gave great views of 3 Arctic species, all in the same field near Sheringham. An Iceland gull to begin with, followed by 2 lapland bunting and then 14 snow bunting. All great birds to see.

I continue to be busy with talks, both local and further afield. Recently, Letchworth, Leicester, Sevenoaks and Maidenhead. I am giving a Tea Time Talk in Standon Village Hall on Saturday 11th April on local bird life. Talk to last about 45 minutes followed by tea and home made cakes. Hope some of you can come along. Begins at 3.30, but do be early to guarantee you get a seat!

Super fast broadband for some

For some of the parish served by the Cradle End BT exchange it seems that super fast broadband has arrived. For many properties in Bury Green, Cradle End, Green Street and Acremore Street the fastest speed Internet can now be ordered. To check if you are one of the lucky ones go to: www.connectedcounties.org/check-availability. For more information please see www.connectedcounties.org.

The Way Inn

We have just had the 1st anniversary of the lunchtime Way Inn. It has grown from 12 people, at our first lunch, to sometimes 30 people or more. If you haven't been along yet, we would love to see you. Please come and join us on the third Thursday of each month, at 12.30 in the Village Hall, for Soup and a Roll, cheese, tea, coffee and biscuits. Also catch up with old friends and find new ones.

Hope to see you on Thursday 16th of April.

Many thanks to all those who assisted in the Churchyard Clear-up today, the first day of Spring.

Adverts removed



At February's meeting, Jenny Milledge outlined the history of Hadham Hall, a site first settled in the Iron Age. In 1440 Thomas Baud built a splendid brick house and barns to replace an earlier wooden manor house which had served the family for six generations. However, his grandson was forced to sell the estate to repay tax debts. William Capel of Rayne bought it for hunting in 1504 and built a magnificent brick barn. His widow Margaret left the estate to her son Giles in 1522. Giles' grandson Henry was the first of the Capel family to live at the Hall, which he demolished, building a magnificent mansion on some of the old foundations. He extended the gatehouse with its impressive archway (a converted Baud era barn) to provide extra accommodation for the 1578 visit of Queen Elizabeth I and her large entourage. Henry's grandson, Arthur, extended the estate with an Italianate garden and banqueting hall. An ardent supporter of Charles I, Arthur was imprisoned for treason and his estates were sequestered by Parliament. He lost his head at the Tower in 1649.

Arthur's son inherited the estate after the restoration, but lived at his mother's prestigious estate at Cassiobury, and even moved lime trees there from Hadham. The Capel family retained possession of the Hall, and sold it with its large estate and manorial records to William Minet in 1901. The records helped Minet restore the buildings as close as possible to the original. He also extended the west wing and added a stained glass window incorporating the coats of arms of the Baud, Capel & Minet families. His extensive excavations exposed foundations of the old Elizabethan house. During WWII, the American military used the Hall. In 1950 it was sold to HCC and converted for use as a school, which closed in 1990. This excellent well illustrated talk was much appreciated by the audience. Tom Hamilton

Adverts removed

New report welcomed by CDA Herts

The charity, a member of the ACRE Network of rural community councils, said the report of the Rural Housing Policy Review Group gave crucial insight into the affordable housing crisis. It said the Review Group, chaired by Lord Richard Best OBE, mirrored the asks of the next Government set out in the ACRE Network's 2015 manifesto. The report, sponsored by Hastoe Housing Association, warns that families on low incomes face being forced out of the countryside faster than ever before as a result of recent policy changes. The ACRE Network (Action with Communities in Rural England) is calling for the next Government to provide a proportion of affordable housing on all rural developments.

CDA Herts, CEO, Kate Belinis said: "We warmly welcome this report which highlights the difficulties of providing more affordable homes in the countryside. Rural house prices have risen 82% in 10 years due to strong demand compounded by years of a shortfall in house building. Add to this the lower wages for rural workers, and we see local people wishing to buy or rent priced out the community. The ACRE Network, in its manifesto, is calling on the next Government to adopt a strategic, nationwide approach to delivering affordable rural homes before country villages become enclaves for the well-off, elderly and second home owners."

The ACRE Network's key concerns on the affordable rural housing crisis are:

A chronic shortage of houses, especially in communities of fewer than 3,000 people, where a total of just 2,279 new affordable homes were built in 2013/14. According to the Rural Housing Policy Review, the fair share for rural areas should be 7,500 per year – that's an average of one for each parish.

The rising price of homes - there is a higher ratio between lower quartile house price and average incomes in rural areas. Houses in rural areas cost 8.4 times the average salary, against 6.4 in urban areas.

The removal of a national rural housing development target, which means that developers will focus on urban areas where it is cheaper and easier to build.

The reduction in Government grant rates for rural housing providers. The Review says that in 2011, grant rates were cut from an average of £45,000 per unit to £20,000.

The recent change in Section 106 policy, which removes the need to build affordable housing on sites of fewer than 10 homes.

A shortage of smaller, affordable homes in rural areas, posing problems for tenants affected by the 'bedroom tax' who need to downsize.

So-called 'affordable rents', where social landlords charge up to 80% of the local market rent, are not affordable in high value areas for people on lower incomes.

A reduction in funding for Rural Housing Enablers (RHEs), many of whom are based within the ACRE Network. RHEs work with communities and developers to identify local needs; where they are in post, more affordable homes are built.

ACRE chief executive Janice Banks said: "The future for rural affordable housing looks pretty bleak unless the next Government rises to the challenge, rethinks its funding strategy and reverses recent policy changes – particularly the ten-unit threshold on new sites.

"The Rural Housing Policy Review notes that a number of different Government policies do not appear to have taken the rural impact into account. The ACRE Network, with its reach into 52,000 grassroots organisations, would welcome the opportunity to work more closely with policymakers to ensure that the unique difficulties facing rural communities are taken into account before decisions are set in stone."

Constabulary launches new magazine for the rural community

This week the Constabulary is launching a new twice yearly magazine entitled 'Rural Beat'. The publication has been created for people living and working in rural areas and features the on-going police work keeping Hertfordshire's countryside safe.

Hertfordshire boasts vast expanses of countryside and for the majority of the time it is tranquil and quiet. Although crime occurs less in rural locations it does still happen. The Constabulary treats rural crime seriously and has dedicated police officer, PCSOs and Rural Special Constables based within Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) across the county to tackle offences at a local level.

'Rural Beat' features just some of the highlights of this on-going police work and also includes articles about rural issues and crime prevention tips to protect against typical crimes. An electronic version of the publication can be found on the Constabulary's webpages www.herts.police.uk/rural

The first edition introduces a new team of officers fighting rural crime around Royston, how the public can get involved in protecting the county's heritage and what the Constabulary is doing to tackle rural burglary and other acquisitive crime, fly-grazing, poaching and hare coursing. It also contains information about how the public can get involved in protecting the countryside by becoming a Rural Special Constable.*

The idea to produce a magazine for Hertfordshire's rural community was conceived by the Constabulary's Rural Operational Support Team (ROST). The ROST is a five strong team of police officers specialised in preventing crimes concerning wildlife, agriculture, equine issues, the county's heritage and the local environment countywide.

continued on next page

RSPCA update

Ennis Rogers

The RSPCA Charity Shop in Hitchin is doing well. If you have any items you would like to donate I would be pleased to collect and deliver them when I attend the monthly meetings there. Also, Dogs Trust are advertising a 'Be Dog Smart' guide, that can be downloaded by visiting www.bedogsmart.org.uk They list the following:

Beware of disturbing dogs that are eating or sleeping

Even if for fun, don't ever tease a dog, please

Don't approach a dog with no owner around

Only stroke a dog when the owner says 'Yes, you can'

Get the dog to sniff your hand first, then stroke gently

Strange dog approaching? Stand still, look away, cross your arms

Move calmly and quietly around any dog

All that hugging and kissing – you might like it, dogs don't!

Remember all dogs have teeth

Treat dogs with respect and they will respect you

Also, and very important, do have your pets neutered or spayed. It not only means you don't have to try to rehome puppies, kittens etc., but in later life your pet will not have very serious ailments. Vets now have financial schemes or discounts for this procedure, so check it out. Enjoy your pets,

A Reply from Little Hadham PCC

It was really quite sad to read Robert Collins' letter in the March Parish News. Yes, sometimes it would be wonderful to be able to turn the clock back to a time when each village had its own priest. But we must be realistic and it is disappointing that Mr Collins does not seem to understand our current situation, and what we are trying to positively create, namely a welcoming and inclusive Church.

Rev. Giles has a team of six parishes to look after and at the moment he has only one retired priest to help him. In fact he often has to try and arrange for someone from outside the area to take services – not easy when there seems to be a shortage of clergy everywhere.

In such circumstances, it is good to see our church growing, albeit slowly, including an increase in baptisms and weddings. The Church cannot live in the past and has to try and modernize if it is to survive. We are afraid that reverting completely to "Prayer Book" services (which is what we think Mr Collins is suggesting) with its 17th century language is not the answer. However, we appreciate that a number of people do like this type of service and Rev. Giles has therefore ensured that there are normally at least four of these across the team every month, including one at St. Cecilia's.

In Little Hadham, the Communion services are designed to attract as many people as possible and we also try to be as "user-friendly" as possible, so that people who may have no past experience of Church do not feel daunted or put off. We therefore use modern language services (approved by the Church of England) and a modern version of the Bible. Contrary to Mr Collins' assertion, there is always a Gospel reading.

Mr Collins asserts that "Christianity is no longer taught in school." Well, in Little Hadham it most certainly is! Although not a church school, Rev. Giles normally visits the school at least once a month in addition to taking services for the children four times a year in the church. Furthermore, the children use the church for various educational activities from time to time. The Church of England Primary Schools in the team (Albury, Furneux Pelham and Much Hadham) all have a strong Christian ethos.

Since Rev. Giles' arrival about two years ago, we in the six parishes have all learned that we need to operate as a team and therefore we visit each others' churches quite regularly to support each other. This is how the Church will survive and grow in rural areas. There is a wide variety of services available to cater for all tastes.

Constabulary's new magazine, continued from page 22

**The Constabulary is currently recruiting Special Constables and is particularly keen to attract those interested in becoming a Rural Special Constable. Those with an interest in the countryside and rural issues could be perfect for this unique role. Rural Specials are dedicated to rural communities and are specially trained to have an understanding of rural issues and the countryside they serve. They work alongside the force's Rural Operational Support Team (ROST) and local Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Visit www.herts.police.uk/specials and click on 'apply online' or browse the pages to find out more or call 0800 358 3990.*

April diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

5 Sunday

8.00am

9.15am

11.15am

Easter Day

BCP Holy Communion, St Thomas'

Family Communion, Much Hadham

Family Communion, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

12 Sunday

9.15am

11.15am

Easter 2

Holy Communion Service, Much Hadham

Holy Communion & Sunday School at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

19 Sunday

9.15am

11.15am

Easter 3

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

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

26 Sunday

9.15am

11.15am

Easter 4

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

Family Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury

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

29 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

A 'Lent Lunch' was held at The Village Hall on Sunday 8th March as part of the Church festive period leading up to Easter. The invitation to join was extended to all residents of The Team area: Much Hadham, Braughing, Albury, Little Hadham and the other smaller but important Churches. About 40 people attended and enjoyed a magnificent Italian soup, (prepared by Carmela Picollo) French bread, English cheese – quite a continental touch to the meal. Carmela also prepares the monthly soup dish at The Way Inn in the Village Hall – you should come along and enjoy her culinary skills – see the date of the next meal in the advert of this edition of the Parish News. Our sincere thanks go to Carmela.

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