

Little Hadham Annual Parish Meeting Report

Tuesday 6th May 2023



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Little Hadham Parish Council Chair's Report – Cllr Neil Faraday

This is my last Chair's report as I am standing down as a councillor. In truth the year has been a failure against the objectives set and I have generally found it difficult to move anything forward in the time I have available. I hope that the next Chair has more success than I did.

Of the objectives for the year, we failed on both an annual event and a neighbourhood plan as there was insufficient interest from the parish to volunteer. The re-development of Ridgeway park has stalled after much good work from Councillor Westlake. It was my view that any investment had to have the support of the Ridgeway community, so we circulated two proposals and asked for feedback. Very little was forthcoming. The next Chair may take a different view, but I hope the Ridgeway residents find a consensus that the parish council can fund.

Generally, I have found it very difficult engaging with agencies, in particular Highways and the Environment Agency. These organisations have a natural inertia that requires near constant attention to overcome, and I simply didn't have the time. I also expect the financial situation to become more difficult. East Herts substantially cut funding this year (without any consultation or even a courtesy notification) and general inflation will inevitably flow through to costs over the coming 12 months.

Despite largely failing I have learnt a lot about the parish, met some great people and continue to admire those that give an inordinate amount of their time for free to make this a better place to live. I'd like to thank my fellow councillors and, in particular, the parish clerk, Carole Page, who admirably keeps us right and moves us forward.

Little Hadham Village Hall: Report – Jan Williamson

This past year has been a challenging. We have experienced rising cost of living and rapidly increasing energy bills.

To add to our increasing financial burden, we saw the dissolving of the Doctors lease which left us with an annual income deficit of £4000. It also left the Post Office without any form of agreement or funding. This now sadly has also closed its doors for good!

Works achieved

We have refurbished the old consulting room at a cost of approximately £2000. We now have 3 sessions hired out weekly and hope that it will attract many more as the word gets out.

We had to renew part of our floor in the kitchen due to the poor condition of the sub structure. We replaced a wall panel and put in new bi folding doors to the meeting room which was starting to pull the main wall down. The meeting room has been painted, decorated, carpeted, blinds put up and new power points created for digital use. This project has cost the best part of £12000. Thanks to our trusted volunteers we were able to keep labour costs down. This room is now far more usable and has various weekly hiring's.

We had our 5-year electrical inspection completed with many upgrades to our stage, main hall, and outdoor wiring. This is a legal requirement so upgrades to wiring where necessary to ensure the hall and it's users safety!

There are a few finishing touches to be done which will be done in August when the use of the hall is quiet.

The NHS have become regular hirers for vaccinations and rolling courses and training sessions such as let's talk menopause which ran for 4 weeks last year and is about to do another 3 sessions this month. This utilises our streaming equipment plus our big screen and projector. We have great connections with our NHS social prescribing link workers who regularly sign post people to our community services such as the digital workshop and bereavement café.

We have many new groups that started post pandemic such as the mums matters group on a Monday, Anti natal monthly, family and baby clinic twice weekly, musical theatre group, relaxed screening which brings people in from surrounding villages and a stroke recovery group from Harlow, forever cycling, Zumba and hopefully to come Tai Chi

The biggest achievement this year was to start the warm welcome café which has people come from Much Hadham, Albury, Little Hadham and Bishops Stortford. Even our village postman pops in for a cuppa. This was sponsored by the Parish Council, Much Hadham Health Centre, and Herts Community Foundation to whom we are very grateful. We have helped people through some difficult times and supported people when they needed it, so it was money well spent. Through this cafe we have seen our volunteer base increase which has really helped us to connect with even more people.

The community breakfast is putting on a special belated Coronation breakfast this Thursday! We are fully booked.

To achieve all we have done involves lots of grant applications and fundraising events such as discos, quizzes and craft fairs.

The next big fund raiser in June will be the village open gardens. David Willet has worked tirelessly on this event, and I hope that the village will get behind it and support it. The village hall will be open all day for refreshments and information.

We had planned a murder mystery but sadly it had to be postponed. It had a great deal of interest so we will work hard to ensure it does get rescheduled.

What are our future plans?

To continue to improve our hall and cast our net wide so we may attract other people to our events. In this current day and age Little Hadham village hall will not survive on LH residents alone as was expected many years ago when it was built. It is an old hall and is in constant need of repair.

Future projects will be the replacement of the roof and the floor which will be major projects and will require a very large sum of money.

We are also in desperate need of storage as we are constantly moving chairs and tables around to accommodate certain functions. This would ordinarily be done by a caretaker, but we do not have the funds available to afford such a luxury.

All of Little Hadham Village Hall Management committee members are volunteers plus additional community volunteers who help us when we need it. Without these volunteers we cannot exist. Without our sponsors we cannot exist and without village support we cannot exist.

The future challenge for us is how we can connect our rural villages to a decent transport system between the villages enabling them to access other rural village halls activities. With the help of Much Hadham's Patient Participation group and the digital workshop we are working with people from surrounding villages to trial accessing the Lynx bus service and dial a ride.

Our afternoon relaxed screening has successfully increased its attendance through groups such as the stroke recovery from Harlow using their own minibus.

There is a real need for rural village transport, and I can assure you we are working on it.

Thank you for listening and always happy to answer any questions.

Little Hadham Parish Council Planning Report – Councillor Wilkinson

We have had not had many difficult planning applications this year but 80% of our recommendations were in line with the findings of EHDC which is good to know we are in agreement on most planning applications.

We are still awaiting the final outcome of the application for the Traveller's site on Chapel Lane. The High Court have not supported East Herts refusal for the site but hopefully East Herts refusal for the conditions on the site not to be lifted will now be supported by the High Court.

District Councillors Report – Cllr Williamson

Little Hadham Charity Annual Report

Known locally as "The Little Hadham Charity", the name registered with the Charities Commission is the "Charity of William Chapman".

The trustees are Eileen Booth and Richard Beckett.

I am pleased to report that Doctor Paul Haines has agreed to become a third trustee.

The charity as it stands today is the result of the amalgamation of several local charities over the course of the last 300 years.

All the charity's money is now invested in a portfolio of shares managed on behalf of the trustees by KMD Private Wealth Management in Stansted.

Each year, just before Christmas, the Charity makes a distribution of money to some of the older residents of Little Hadham, Bury Green, Cradle End and Westland Green. Beneficiaries are selected by the trustees, based on their age and with preference being given to those who are long-time residents of the Parish.

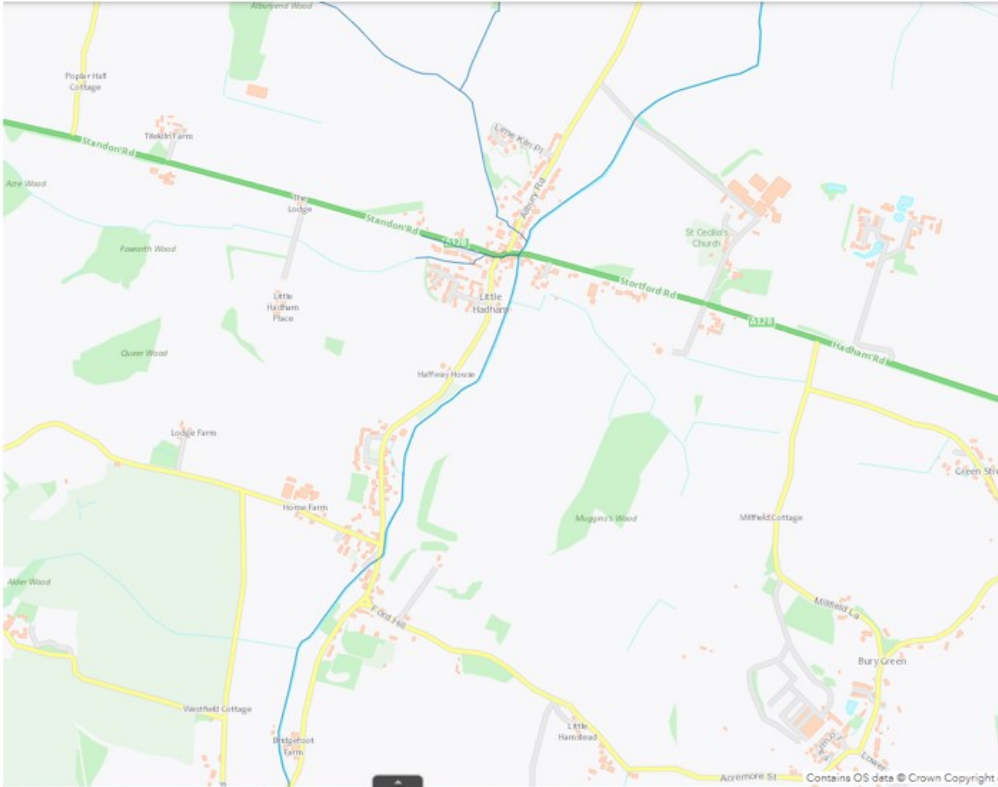
The trustees take advice from their advisors as to the amount that can be drawn down each year without reducing the capital value of the investments. In this way, it is hoped that the charity will be able to survive well into the future.

Last Christmas we gave £70 each (an increase of £10 over the last few years) to a total of 22 people (20 people last year).

Richard Beckett
8th May 2023

Environmental Report – Andrew Freeman

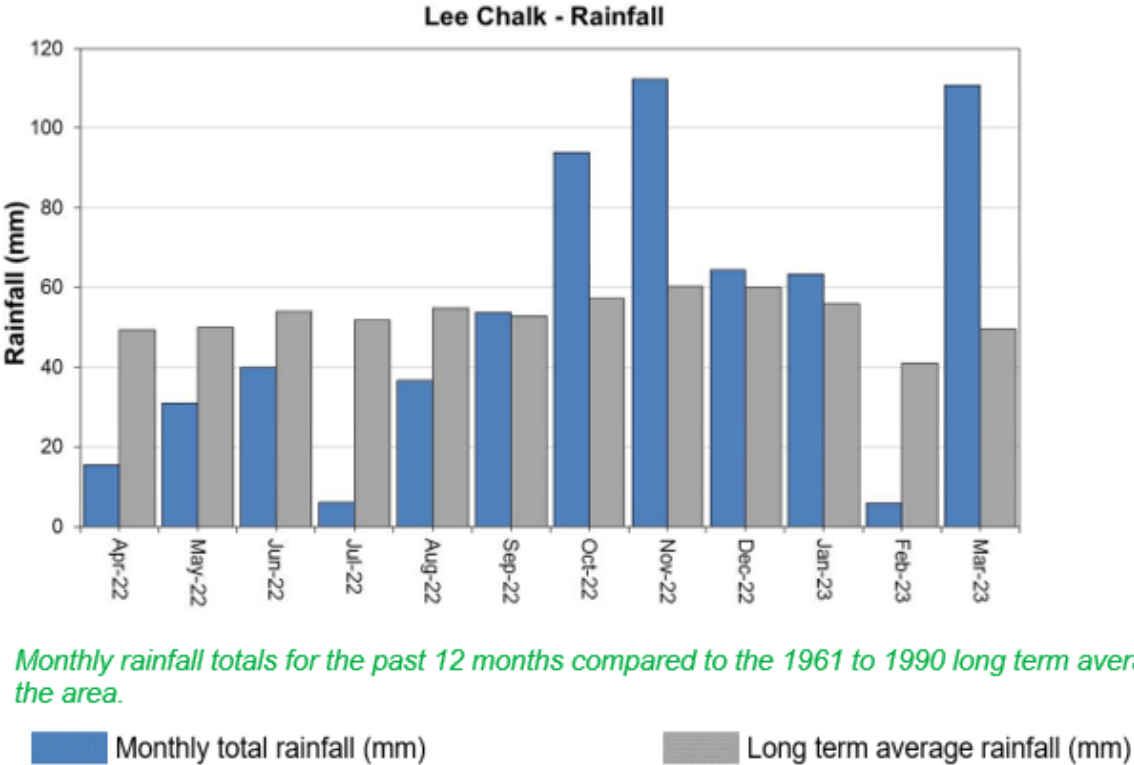
Little Hadham Parish May 2023 River flooding report for Annual Parish Meeting Environment Agency Remit The Environment Agency's remit covers the flood risk from Main Rivers, which in Little Hadham include the River Ash running south through the parish, the Albury Tributary in the northwest, sections of the Lloyd Taylor Drain through the houses and gardens in Lloyd Taylor Close and on Standon Road, and the Cradle End Brook in the east. These are shown on the Main River Map.



Main River Map covering Little Hadham

Main rivers are usually larger rivers and streams. The Environment Agency carries out maintenance, improvement, or construction work on main rivers to manage flood risk using its permissive powers. We are planning to make the new channel around the side of The Smithy a Main River, following a legal process.

Maintenance work in Little Hadham During the 2022-23 financial year we carried out vegetation clearance along the River Ash through the village last November and on the Main River length of the Lloyd Taylor Drain in June. This included cutting vegetation on banks, removal of debris reducing conveyance, hand cutting vegetation on the bed where required. In addition, we removed a fallen tree from the river near where the new channel around The Smithy joins the River Ash. For the 2023-24 financial year we are planning vegetation clearance along the river Ash in July and March, with a debris clearance in December. On the Main River length of the Lloyd Taylor Drain we are planning vegetation clearance in July and debris clearance in January. This planned maintenance is subject to resource availability at the time. Performance of the A120 Little Hadham Bypass and Flood Alleviation scheme The Flood Alleviation scheme constructed between 2019 - 2021 benefits properties in Little Hadham by holding back water behind the embankments of the A120 bypass around the village. This water that would otherwise over top the banks of the river through the village. Residents in Lloyd Taylor Close and Standon Road also benefit from water being diverted away from their properties in a new channel. Together these manage nearly all the river flows through the village and other nearby communities, protecting them from all but the most extreme river floods. This year we've seen the wettest March since 1981, with over double the average March monthly rainfall for the area. This follows an exceptionally wet November 2022, with near 200% average November monthly rainfall, which saturated soils for the rest of the winter making further rainfall more likely to run off the land directly.



For all these wet months, our reports for Little Hadham have indicated minimal impact due from the heavy rainfall and without any major river flooding issues within the area. The A120 Little Hadham Bypass flood scheme reservoirs successfully held back the

surface water from Little Hadham on six occasions during this winter season, and at the same time the Lloyd Taylor Drain diversion channel diverted river waters away from properties in Lloyd Taylor Close and beside Standon Road. The most significant of these events was at the very end of March when both the Albury Tributary and River Ash reservoirs held back a significant volume of water, this almost reaching one-third of the available storage height behind the embankments. Without the scheme being in place river flooding of properties in the village would very likely have occurred.



Water held back in the [River Ash reservoir](#) following the storm overnight on 31st March - 1st April 2023.

In the storm a large number of debris was washed down to the reservoirs by the rivers, and our maintenance teams visited soon afterwards to clear the debris screens to prevent the reservoir outlets blocking. This March's event was similar in scale to the storm that occurred on Boxing Day 2021, soon after the scheme became operational. Storms of this size are estimated to occur every couple of years, with larger storms less frequently. The delivery of the flood alleviation measures was made possible by the partnership between Hertfordshire County Council and the Environment Agency, and after successfully managing construction of the dual use scheme during the pandemic both the road and flood alleviation have delivered their benefits to the community. Steve Whipp, Advisor, Asset Performance (Upper Lee & Stort) Environment Agency, Hertfordshire & North London area

Clerks Report

The precept for 2022/23 was £14,600, the precept for 2023/24 is £14,892. The Council no longer receives a New Homes Bonus grant. Also, this year we no longer receive a grant from East Herts for litter picking. Instead, the council are emptying our bins and cleaning our roads directly.

A detailed breakdown of the accounts is shown over the page and the Council's books will be available for inspection later this year.

Footpaths Report - Nicholas Maddex

REPORT ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Most of the snagging problems from the construction of the bypass have now been resolved, including the non-waymarking of the diverted route at the east end of bridleway 36.

A short section of footpath 43 has been legally diverted, just west of Millfield Lane. Because the owners discussed the details of this with the parish council and the local user representative at an early stage, it was possible for this to be processed without undue delay, and the new path has advantages for walkers over the old one. The resident of Westfield at Westland Green has adopted a similar approach in his consideration of a possible diversion of footpath 5, which will hopefully be equally productive.

Rotten steps have been replaced where footpath 21 meets the road at Bury Green and the ramp repaired where bridleway 13 meets New Road. Byway 10 at Westland Green has been resurfaced again with crushed concrete and fine material in order to maintain it in a fit state for users. Damaged or missing waymark posts have been installed by our practical volunteers on footpaths 42 and 46 off Millfield Lane. Several missing or damaged metal roadside signposts have been replaced or corrected.

Quotations have been requested for the replacement of the footbridge on bridleway 36 which is starting to rot. At present it is still open to walkers and riders, who should use it with care, but if it becomes unsafe it may need to be closed temporarily.

A number of fallen trees have been cleared from paths, following the winter storms, including Footpath 24 and bridleway 27 at Bury Green.

Problems with fly tipping continues to be a concern, most recently gas canisters on byway 11 at Westland Green. These have several times been reported to the district council, who are required to clear fly tipping from public rights of way, under the terms of the Environment Protect Act.

I continue to be very grateful to parish councillors and to Brian Caffarey for alerting me to problems on the network at an early stage when they can be most easily tackled.

Little Hadham Primary School

Dear All, Thank you for inviting us to share a report on what's been happening at Little Hadham Primary this school year. We are very sorry we couldn't attend but this week is SATs week (a week where the children sit national tests) and it's quite late for our children to be out. Here are some of the challenges and some of our successes we have had this year.

Some of our challenges!

- The field! As you may have seen and heard we have problems with the development of our field. This has impacted on our curriculum delivery and our

fundraising opportunities. The situation currently is that: The County Council recently appointed a different project manager to oversee the work and he is very actively working to resolve the situation. Counties are also working with a company that specialises in providing playing fields and they in turn have commissioned a contractor who, subject to County approval, will undertake the work.

- Budget: Like all schools balancing the budget is always a challenge. This year in particular energy increases have had a significant impact on our resources. We are letting the school more in the evenings at the weekends which helps bring in some income. If anyone needs a premises for a few hours, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Some of our added extras to celebrate!

- Successful trips in and out of the school have taken place.
- Beech Class- Great Fire of London and the Fire Brigade in school.
- Willow Class took a trip Bletchley Park.
- Maple Class had a Stone Age workshop on their history topic in school.
- Our captains of Little Hadham Primary joined the village commemorating those who have died in world wars and other conflicts. They, alongside children from the school and village placed a poppy wreath and poppies. The children learned that it is incredibly important that we come together in our communities to pay our respects to the fallen.
- We welcomed Mike Mullen from the BMX Academy for inspirational workshops with all our year 4, 5 and 6 pupils, followed by growth mindset assembly on the playground. The children put their growth mindsets into action as they learnt some tricks and stunts on the BMXs during their workshops. Mike's messages of perseverance, overcoming challenges and positive thinking tied in with the way children at the school have been learning resilience and perseverance.
- Willow Class celebrated the end of a fantastic autumn term with a trip to Alexandra Palace in London. They had great fun learning to skate and improving their skills. There were lots of smiles and laughs as some of us found it more difficult to stand upright than others! We also enjoyed a delicious hot chocolate for all our hard work and resilience- very impressive skills Willow Class!
- The whole school watched Jack and The Beanstalk at Southmills Art Centre. It has become part of our tradition each year. The children loved watching the various characters, they giggled, cheered, sang, and even booed at some of the characters.
 - We had a whole school performance poetry event. Each class recited and performed poetry in front of a live audience.
 - Children have taken part in an Art show from the Royal Academy of arts and their work will be displayed in the summer term.
- Bikeability: You may have seen as you were passing through the village that our Year 6 pupils were learning road safety while cycling their bikes. First pupils had to develop cycle handling in an off-road environment (the playground) to prepare for cycling on the road. Next the children learnt how to cycle on single-lane roads and simple junctions with moderate motor traffic flows. Apparently, they have been the best school so far this year!

- Graham McAndrew came to open the EYFS new road. He was very impressed with our Early Years and the children are delighted with their new road.
- Each end of term, we have a Golden Morning. This is enrichment time, with a wealth of opportunity to practice, to enjoy or to learn something new. Each term we try to offer new and exciting activities for the children to participate in. The children had the choice of sport, cooking, knitting, sewing, coding, computer science, arts and crafts, origami, cheerleading and even had a go at being a Scientist. The aroma of baking scones was drifting through the school, and I heard a child saying isn't that smell just beautiful- I agree, though they didn't want to share! Thank you to Mrs Forgham- patience and delicious recipes- what a talent!
- In February, we celebrated Women and Girls in science, we celebrated International Women and Girls in Science Day with some female sixth formers from Hockerill School. In an assembly they discussed the different science subjects they are studying and the area of science they wish to study at university. An ex-pupil of ours Una, did a very exciting WOW experiment. It was a huge success, and we also discovered a few potential future scientists amongst us! One of the quotes from the 'Hockerill Steminists' was, 'It was a brilliant opportunity to meet some of the minds of the future and though we set out to inspire the next generation, their enthusiasm inspired us to continue being curious about all our fields of study.'
- Maths Challenge: Eight of our Year 5 mathematicians entered the Herts for Learning Education annual Year 5 Mathematics Challenge Competition and qualified for the final. This is a national competition for Year 5s across the country and is organised by the Herts for Learning. There were 260 teams, from Herts and all over England, both State and Independent Schools. Both teams entered the final stage, and they got the 3rd and 4th places!
- We have attended different sporting competitions against other local schools and even came joint first in the rugby- what a talented bunch!
- International Learning at Little Hadham Primary School: Our school has just received the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of our amazing and consistent international work to bring the world into the classroom. We are proud to have participated in many e-Twinning and one Erasmus+ project, from which we have received many European quality labels and National awards. The last three years we have been leading an Erasmus+ project that is about immigration, inclusion, school values, Forest school, eSafety and SDGs. Throughout the year, our pupils get involved in different activities, such as organising and participating in online meetings. Our children love learning through the online meetings! Our pupils also had the opportunity to organise successful fundraising activities as well as research, create and present presentations and videos to our partner schools.
- Our school captains were very fortunate to have been invited to help out and then join the rest of Willow class to perform T.S. Elliot's Macavity the Mystery Cat at Little Hadham's Village Hall for the Coronation Afternoon Tea. Thank you, Mrs Forgham, for inviting us, what a wonderful experience for the children to have shared.

What can I say...Little Hadham Primary is a culturally and artistically rich environment for our children to learn within, where our staff teach to the whole child (head, heart, and hands). We do pride ourselves on offering a wide range of creative opportunities that go beyond the National Curriculum and are so thankful for such creative staff and our wonderful volunteers to allow these activities to take place. So... if you do fancy offering one of your many talents, please let us know for our summer term's Golden Morning in July! Also, our children love listening to stories, so if you fancy sharing a book you know who to call! Furthermore, for those who would like something quieter, our Friends PTA are holding a 'Quiz Nite' on Friday 23rd June at 7pm. All are welcome and tickets are available from the school office on 01279 771285.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sinead Connolly Head Teacher

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