



LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

DECEMBER 2021

Christmas Church Services:

Carols by Candlelight: 12th Dec 6pm

Christingle: 24th Dec 6pm

Christmas Day: 8am, 9.15am, 11.15am see back cover for details

Letter from the Rectory

Revd. Steve Bate

At the heart of Christmas



In the run-up to Christmas, you'll see this logo on our posters and website: 'At the heart of Christmas'.

What is at the heart of Christmas?

It's the birth of Jesus Christ, God coming among us as one of us, coming as a baby, being born a human being like me and you.

A year ago, it was a time of great uncertainty. The November lockdown was drawing to an end and we were unsure what restrictions might still be needed. We were unable to hold larger gatherings that would have filled our churches at Christmas time, but our God-given creativity enabled us to sing carols on our doorsteps and go online with the online Nativity and online Christingle.

This year, we hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive return to our homes, our churches and our communities. Whatever Christmas brings this year, it's my prayer that we will be able to enter more fully into the joy of what is at the heart of Christmas: God come among us in Jesus Christ, coming as one of us, born as one of us.

To help us enter into the wonder of the first Christmas, At the heart of Christmas

includes an opportunity to read or hear a short reflection each day from Christmas Eve to 6 January. There will be personal stories of something that lies close to the heart of Christmas from different contributors including the Archbishop of Canterbury. There are Bible readings, reflections and questions to ponder too. These will be available as online audio, an app that includes material for children and families, and booklets. The app also has daily Advent reflections before Christmas. More details will be appearing on our website www.riverashchurches.org.uk

This year, we'll be celebrating the love of God that lies at the heart of Christmas in ways that are familiar to us. Do take a look at all the services and events going on across the churches of Albury, Little Hadham and Much Hadham. There's something for everyone including our Carol services and on Christmas Eve our Much Hadham Big Nativity crib service and Little Hadham Christingle service. These two Christmas Eve events have always been very popular and in anticipation of this, you are requested to wear face masks. This is because the Government guidance which churches follow is that we are expected to wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed settings to protect ourselves and others.

As we celebrate the amazing love of God who chose to live among us in Jesus Christ, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and may God's peace rest upon you and your homes this Christmas and into the new year.

Every blessing



Little Hadham Parish News

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To find out more about the life of our Church, please visit our website:
www.riverashchurches.org.uk

Editorial Deadline:

All articles for inclusion, sponsorship and copy and payment for advertising in the next issue **must** be received by the **15th** of the month.

(BACS preferred, email the editor for details.)

Editor reserves the right to edit copy received and omit accompanying pictures where necessary.

View the Parish News Online including back issues: www.littlehadham.com

The magazine is written by many contributors who report for themselves or for a club or organisation they represent. The church and production team does not necessarily agree with the opinions aired in any article printed here.

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, it 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: 842 671

Karin: 771 532

Alice 504 781

Advertisements in the Parish News

If you would like to advertise in our magazine, please contact the editor at: littlehadhampn@gmail.com for more details.

The Parish News is funded and distributed freely by St Cecilia's Church. We really appreciate the support of all our advertisers to help cover our overheads and keep the Parish News in print. So if you run a business or service and would like to invest in your local magazine and reach over 500 homes each month with your product or service, we'd love to hear from you. We offer ads at 4 different sizes and prices from a full page to an eighth of a page, with discounts for taking a year at a time. We can also insert flyers for a small fee. You can also make a donation to the magazine, contact the editor for details.

Down at the Doctors

Dr Paul Haimes

www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk



Following my mini-tirade last month we have been pleasantly surprised by the positive feedback to the issues raised. It's very nice to have such support from our patients, especially after the difficult circumstances of the last 18 months or so.

Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow have changed the appointment system for blood tests and you no longer need a form. If the test is non urgent you need to visit their website on www.pah.nhs.uk and select "our services" followed by "blood tests". However, if you don't have access to the internet or the test needs to be done in the next couple of days you can ring 01279 827163 to make your appointment. We will remind you at the time or you can contact the surgery for advice.

As I mentioned last month, Dr Conway is retiring from Much Hadham Health Centre, after 12 years, on 31st December. During that time there has been significant change in the NHS and his input has been invaluable. Some of you may know that one of his passions is motor sport; indeed, he has his own racing car in which he drives almost as fast as Lewis Hamilton (or so he says!)

We wish him well and trust that he will pop in for a cup of tea from time to time.

Finally let me wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at the Health Centre. Let's look forward to normality returning in 2022! Best wishes, Paul.



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OPENING HOURS
Tuesday: 10am - 5pm,
Wednesday: 10am - 5pm,
Thursday: 11am - 5pm
Saturday: 8.30am - noon*

* Except the last Saturday in the month, when you will find us running the Farmers' Market at Little Hadham Primary School

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Healthy Eating Recipe

Dr Mihaly Saary



This month's recipe offers an alternative to the traditional Christmas turkey for anyone keen to try a healthier alternative that is good for you and good for our planet. Merry Christmas everyone.

VM15

NUT ROAST

Source: BBC GoodFood
Serves 3



- o Bread, made into breadcrumbs – 2 slices
- o Mixed nuts, crushed – a few good handfuls
- o Mushrooms – 3
- o Carrot, chopped – 1
- o Courgette – 1 small or ½ big
- o Favourite vegetables – a good handful
- o Baked mixed beans in tomato sauce – 1 can
- o Mixed herbs, (e.g. rosemary and thyme) - 2 tsp

1. Preheat oven to 200°C (fan 180°C)
2. Cut up the carrots into small bits and boil until soft.
3. While doing this make your bread crumbs, either by hand or a blender and chop the mushrooms and courgettes into small bits (they will cook in the oven).
4. Mix the chopped vegetables and boiled carrots in a bowl, add the mixed nuts and baked beans and mix well.
5. Put the mixture into a loaf tin, (remember to grease the tin first).
6. Put into the preheated oven for 40 to 50 minutes.

Little Hadham Village Hall News

Jan Williamson

chairvillagehall@littlehadham.org.uk

Christmas this year will be quite different from last year thank goodness and hopefully most of us will be seeing family and friends over the festive season. Please spare a thought for people who do not have that luxury and please keep safe!

Christmas Coffee Morning

Thursday 9th December 10am – 12pm

Will include festive treats as well as the usual savoury food that we cook for you!

To book your table ring Jan 01279 771272

Bereavement Café

Thursday 16th 10am-12 noon -

Despite hall closure we hope it will not affect the meeting room at the rear of the hall.

Digital Improvers Workshop

We will run through to Christmas except the week we are closed for refurbishment.

Olio food distribution

The kitchen is open every **Thursday between 9am-10am** for any food that Olio has collected on behalf of the Village Hall – You can download the app and book your own food to collect direct from James or collect by arrangement from the Village Hall at the times mentioned. The food is collected at the end of its shelf life and saved from landfill. We cannot

guarantee how much food there will be delivered for distribution!

Window Update

We have had such a busy year despite the pandemic and the fruits of our labours are about to pay off finally with the main hall and front door area receiving new double glazed windows. **This will mean that the hall will be closed from the week of the Monday 13th December - Friday 17th December.** We cannot guarantee any unforeseen delays! At the end of this period we will be installing new curtains to finish off this part of the main hall refurbishment.

We have not fully completed this project as we still need to replace the rear of the hall windows and doors that are no longer fit for purpose hence the last fundraising event of the year which is the **A120 bypass and Flood Alleviation Official opening on December 11th.** Details opposite:

Finally, on behalf of Little Hadham Village Hall Management Committee We would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

For further information on any of the above please contact Jan Williamson:
chairvillagehall@littlehadham.org.uk
or 01279 771 272 / 07710 325363

A120 Bypass Celebration Event

Saturday 11th December 2021: Walk/Jog/Cycle



Little Hadham Village Hall has been working in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council and

the A120 Bypass and Flood Alleviation project team, to create a fantastic fundraising opportunity in support of our village hall refurbishment. We would be delighted if you would join us for a community celebration from 11.00am on Saturday 11 December to walk, jog or cycle, part or all of a 5km route along the new bypass before it is open to traffic.

Get involved in this fun day out for the whole family!

Support fundraising for our village hall. We are asking for a voluntary donation of £3 per adult. Children are free. Volunteers representing the village hall will be at the start point at Albury Road Bridge to collect your donations. Everyone who takes part will be rewarded with a certificate as a memory of the day.

Entry and parking will be at Tilekiln Roundabout, the nearest roundabout to the Hadham traffic lights. Parking will be along the first 400 metres of the bypass for up to 200 cars. You will be directed where to park. You must book and register your parking place as the numbers are limited to 200 cars.

To register for the event and take part in this one-off opportunity please visit: na.eventscloud.com/a120bypass. Registration opens on **Wednesday 17 November 2021.**

Start point will be at the new Albury Road Bridge. If you do not need to park at the entrance at Tilekiln Roundabout, and want to walk/run/cycle up Albury Road to the Albury Road bridge, you can do this instead. There is a public footpath from the village to the site, there will be marshalls around on the day to help guide you.

The route there and back is about 5 km (3 miles) and you can walk/jog/cycle this route as many times as you like up to 2.00pm. This will be 2.5 km or 1.5 miles east towards the next roundabout, and then back again.

Refreshments, video presentation/s and children's activities will be available at the Village Hall from 11.00am to 3.00pm. There will be drone video clips of the construction site over the last two years, brought to you by Graham Construction. There will be information stands up around the hall where you can find out about the construction process, how the team protected the wildlife and environment and much more!

At Little Hadham Village Hall we are keen to raise funds for the second phase of the windows and door replacement. This will include stage and window curtains and other refurbishment projects.

Little Hadham Parish Council

Carole Page

www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk

Meeting Dates:

7th December 7:30pm

2022 - 1 Feb / 1 March / 5 April / 3 May / 7 June / 5 July / 6 September / 4 Oct / 1 Nov / 6 Dec

Agendas are posted on noticeboards and the Little Hadham Parish Council website.

The Parish Council Meetings are now back in the VILLAGE HALL The Chair of the Village Hall has worked hard to make the hall Covid friendly. It is a safe environment to meet.

Presentation from Highways

The Highways team presented to the Parish Council in November. The conclusion of the by-pass will have a material impact on the parish, with the current 17,000 vehicles per day expected to fall to 6,000 per day. Highways will return post-implementation to survey the impact of the by-pass on traffic and allow us to consider a range of further traffic calming measures.

A number of immediate improvements will also be carried out, including the re-phasing of the traffic lights to reflect the reduced East-West traffic flow, the introduction of a controlled crossing near Little Hadham Primary School, and new gateways to the village.

clerklittlehadham@gmail.com | 01920 870809 | 07825 011975

Suffylde Wood and Side Hilly

Two issues raised during the public forum were tree felling at Suffylde Wood and the business activity at Side Hilly. The Parish Council was grateful to Gillian Webster, the owner of Suffylde Wood, for her attendance and contribution. The chair relayed his meeting with E&J Properties Limited, the owners of Side Hilly. Minutes of that meeting can be found on the Parish Council website.

Councillor Vacancy

Are you enthusiastic about the parish and its future? Do you have a keen interest in a particular project or activity? The Parish Council has a vacancy so if you'd like more information about joining us, please contact the clerk.

December Meeting - Stansted Airspace Modernisation

The Parish Council chair will be presenting on the Stansted airspace modernisation project having attended meetings on proposed changes to arrival and departure routes for aircraft. This project has the potential to have a big impact on the parish so please do come along to find out more and share your views.



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Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett

There is no meeting in December but the Committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Tips for December:

1. Protect terracotta pots from cracking in freezing weather by bringing them indoors or wrapping in bubble wrap or fleece.
2. Rake up accumulated fallen leaves in borders that could be harbouring slugs and other pests.
3. Cut stems of berried winter shrubs and evergreen leaves for festive decorations.
4. Plant fragrant winter shrubs in pots on the doorstep, including Chimonanthus, Sarcococca and Daphne odora.
5. Prune climbing roses between now and February.
6. Hard prune overgrown shrubs and hedges whilst dormant.
7. Bring all watering equipment indoors, including hoses and sprinklers, so they don't freeze and split.
8. Clear out your shed, and organise and clean your tools.
9. Check tree ties and stakes are for enough to stand up to winter storms.



Sorbus vilmorinii

Sargies

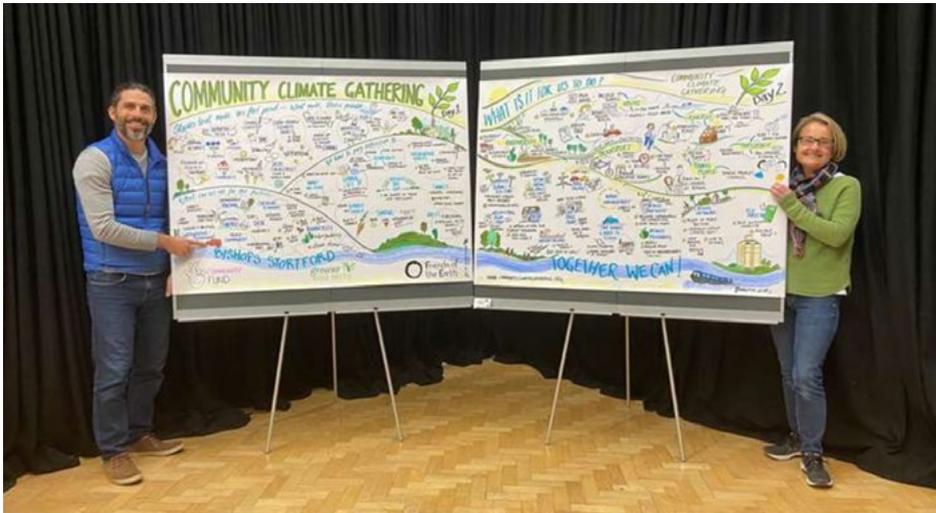
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Bishop's Stortford Climate Gathering

Louise Tennekoon / Anne Wright



Facilitator Augusto Cuginotti and co-organiser Louise Tennekoon at the Bishop's Stortford Community Climate Gathering

Do you feel like you want to do more to mitigate climate change and live more sustainably but are not sure where to start? In the wake of the continuous fires, floods and climate disasters of the last few years and COP26 a lot more of us are trying to do our bit, recycling, eating less meat, making more sustainable choices when shopping. But what else can we do to make a bigger difference? I went along to the Community Climate Gathering on the weekend of November 6-7th to find out.

More than 80 people took part in this initial event, organised by the Bishop's Stortford Climate Group (BSCG), with support from the National Lottery, Friends of the Earth and EHC.

I wanted to find out what we in Little Hadham can do as a village to get involved and make sure that the positive impacts that come out of the BSCG's

work don't leave out those of us in the surrounding villages.

On the first morning, we focused on the strengths of our community and the future we want to see for Bishop's Stortford. The shared future that emerged was one of carbon neutral homes for all, streets designed around people rather than cars and rich biodiversity with wildlife everywhere.

We talked about seasonal food, grown locally and available for all, thriving local businesses and local jobs.



We imagined an integrated transport system with safe streets for cycling and walking, shared car ownership and affordable and convenient bus services.

Above all, we spoke of a safer, tighter community with a strong sense of local democracy, where people feel their voices are heard.

If day 1 gave us a sense of direction, day 2 was all about action, and there was a real buzz of energy in the room.

We brainstormed all the actions that people wanted to see and gradually refined the list down to the following priority projects identified by the whole group. Each of these projects has a team of people taking it forwards, with a follow up meeting planned for next spring.

- Cycling Network – helping people to get on their bikes and campaigning for a local network of cycle paths, cycle parking and 20mph zones.
- Solar – helping people to install solar panels/access renewable energy at home through advice, support and community purchasing.
- Grow Green Spaces – growing food in public spaces, free for everyone to help themselves.
- Waste – making it easier for people to reduce, reuse, recycle, refill and donate.
- Car Free Zone – looking at the timed pedestrianisation of North Street, to create a vibrant new outdoor social hub.
- Anti-idling campaign – cutting emissions and improving air quality.
- Composting – reducing food waste through home and community composting.
- Vegan food map – directory of local businesses offering vegan alternatives to help people move away from meat.

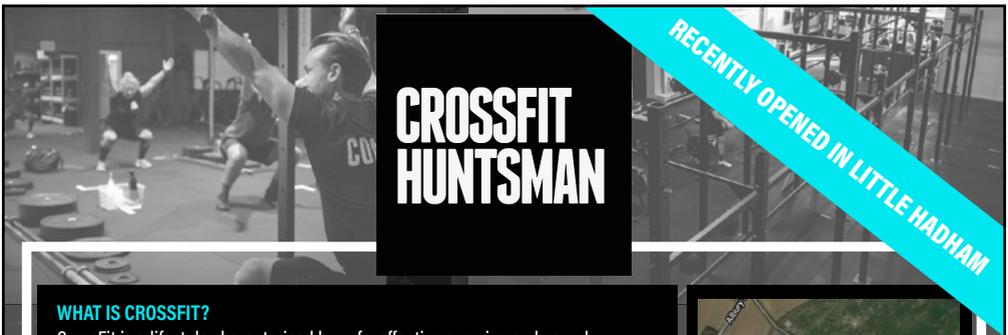
- Directory of Eco-groups – linking different groups and resources in the community in a guide to who's doing what.
- School run app – connecting people to car share/walk safely to school.
- Network of school eco-clubs – linking eco-clubs across schools to mobilise our young people.

This community-level action really matters. As individuals we can only do so much, but if we want to change things more profoundly then we have to act together.

I made the point about ensuring that action includes the villages and the group strongly agreed. So there is every reason and opportunity for us to be involved by;

1. Joining one of the project groups by contacting the project lead – contact details on the climate group website www.bishopsstortfordclimategroup.org.
2. Signing up for the climate group newsletter at Bishop's Stortford Climate Group on the website above.
3. Joining the conversation on Facebook @ Bishop's Stortford Climate Group Discussion.
4. Going along to the climate group's monthly meetings, held on the first Tuesday or Wednesday of each month – see the website for details.





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We look forward to having you visit.

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The Monday Muscle Coffee House is situated on the mezzanine floor of CrossFit Huntsman North and is the perfect space to meet, greet, socialise or relax in a calm, airy & productive atmosphere with a full menu on tap. Whether it's a Barista style flat white or one of our famous fresh bagels or protein smoothies to go, we have all of your food & drink needs covered.

Whether you use our space to meet friends, get some quick tasks done, refuel after you train or as a full on work from home space that actually gets you out of the house...



We welcome members and non members to Monday Muscle. We hope to see you soon!



Latest Update

Tara Murphy & James Conway

Hi to everyone that has collected food waste since my niece, Tara, and I started collecting food waste from Tesco at Bishop's Park. And those that haven't quiet... yet.

My niece was unable to do an Olío/ Tesco collection for one week in October, as she gave birth to her son Finley, but we have continued every week since.

We think having a collection on the same day, Wednesday at 9pm, every week will help people remember to look on the OLIO app and help save food waste.

My niece and I have made an arrangement with the Village Hall to be there every Thursday morning between 9am and 10am for people that can't get the hang of the app. But you can still help reduce food waste by coming and collecting items not collected the night before.

I kept some stats for September.

Date	People collected	App users	Community orgs helped
15/9	7	0	1
22/9	12	4	2
29/9	14	6	2

During those weeks we saved from the Tesco bins, bread, fruit, cake, salad and veg. Some of the highlights of our food collection has been 600 shortbread biscuits, 29 cucumbers and 10 tubs of popcorn!

Olío has collated some stats for us for October food waste. We shared 144.11 kilos of food that was destined for landfill and we must congratulate all of you that have collected in the month of October and November and see if we can continue the reduction of food waste in December and beyond, especially with Christmas coming up!

Did you know? Olío isn't just for food but you can also give away non-food items you no longer need, and sell home-made, home-grown items. You can also now borrow useful items from neighbours using Olío to save you buying something for a one off use. Download the app today and join the sustainable revolution! -Ed



Millennium Wood News

Jono Forgham

jforgham@hotmail.com

Many thanks to Tina Joyce who came along to the wood to help plant plenty of wildflower seeds as well as begin the autumn/winter tidy up.

The next date for the diary is **Sunday 19th December** when there will be a brass band in attendance for the annual Carol Concert, beginning at 3.30pm. All are welcome, with donations gratefully received to cover the costs of the Christmas illuminations, mulled wine and mince pies.

We are looking for volunteers to come along in the morning as from 10am to help set up, so please do try to find an hour or so to pop along to lend a hand. There are marquees to put up, bonfire to be built along with strings of lights to make the wood festive, tables and chairs to arrange etc, so the more hands the better.

Throughout December I shall be carrying out hazel coppicing and taking down several dead ash trees.

When I am in the wood with the chain saw please do make a note of the areas I have closed off for public safety.

The hazel coppicing permits light and rain get to the wood floor and help wild plants thrive in the light. The hazels will then grow back before another cycle of coppicing some 7 – 10 years later. The ones I coppiced 2 and 3 years ago have now grown back well, showing very straight branches which, when coppiced again, can be used for bean poles and fence making.

I have recently begun restocking the bird feeding station with a variety of foods such as suet, sunflowers and nuts. These almost immediately attracted: nuthatch, robin, great tit, blue tit, coal tit and long tailed tit which were all good to see.

Look forward to seeing many locals at the Carol concert. Should be a good occasion.



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Little Hadham Over 60's Afternoon Tea

Wendy Forgham

wendyforgham@hotmail.com



How wonderful to have our Afternoon Teas fully up and running in our Village Hall once again.

We had a lovely turn out in October although sadly we were missing two of our favourite people.

It was with great sadness that last month saw the passing of Little Hadham's lovely Ann Church and the ever smiling John Felstead (OBJ) of Green Tye, both of whom attended regularly at our monthly gatherings. We shall remember them fondly and raise a glass to their memory.

Following our November event, we shall be holding a special Christmas Tea on **Thursday 23rd December** (4th Thursday of the month) between 2 and 4 pm.

If you would like to join us for the Christmas get together, I would ask that you please either call or email me to let me know you planning on coming along.

If you require transportation to the hall or are unable to join us and would like a Tea Box delivered to your door, again, please use the contact details below so that this can be arranged for you.

If any lovely people have a couple of hours to spare to help in the hall, deliver boxes or provide lifts, I would be most happy to hear from you.

To end, I thought I would share with you a snap of 15 month old Leo, looking a little worse for wear after gate crashing Santa's tea party!

Wishing you all the very best, Wendy

T: 01279 776 112 | M: 07817 633 713 | E: wendyforgham@hotmail.com

What's On in December

in Little Hadham Village Hall
unless otherwise stated

Weekly Activities

Monday's

Mother and baby group 10am -11.30am Jessica.dowdle1@gmail.com/07562433327
Badminton 7.30pm – 9.30pm Nigel English: nigelenglish8@gmail.com
Adult Tap Class 12.30 - 1.15pm **Term time only** Hannah 07538 262835

Tuesday's

Upholstery 9.30am - 12.30pm Jackie 01279 842366
Brownies 5.45pm – 7.15pm **Term time only**
Art from the start 2pm-4pm 7th December only

Wednesday's

Digital Improvers drop in 2pm – 3.30pm Jan 01279 771272
Fitsteps 6pm-7pm Jacqui 07731 454228
Judo 7.30pm – 9pm David: 07931 646860 / swsda@hotmail.com

Thursday's

Adult Barre Ballet 6 – 7pm **Term time only** Hannah 07538 262835

Friday's

Fancy feet dance for children 4pm -5.30pm **Term time only** Hannah 07538 262835
Indoor bowls 8 -10pm **Except for 2nd Friday in the month**

Monthly

Tuesday 7th December 7.30pm	Parish Council meeting
Thursday 9th December 10am-12pm	Community Coffee Morning Jan 01279 771272
Thursday 16th December 10 – 12 pm	Bereavement café (rear of hall) Jan 01279 771272
Thursday 23rd December 2-4pm	Little Hadham Afternoon Teas wendyforgham@hotmail.com
Friday 10th December 7.30pm	Red Chair Cinema Club Film Night

Fundraising Events

December 11th December Official Opening of the A120 Bypass - see pg 7

Village Hall CLOSED the week of 13th – 17th December for window replacements

NOTICEBOARD

Karin and Frank Green
would like to wish
all their friends and
neighbours in Little
Hadham a very Happy
Christmas and a healthy
and safe new year.



Early Christmas greetings
to all kind friends and
neighbours and our best
wishes for 2022

Binnie and Les Keen
PS Please, no cards – "Saving
the planet" and the legs!

CHRISTMAS COVER PHOTO COMPETITION



We'd really love to feature a Christmas
Cover photo next year which was
taken here in Little Hadham.

So keep your eyes open over the holiday
season for classic Little Hadham
Christmas moments. Spot some beautiful
decorations? A lovely reflection of some
lights in a puddle? Or just a beautiful
frosty/snowy scene. Please send them to
us at: littlehadhampn@gmail.com

Make sure they are hi-resolution, and have
a relatively clear space for the name of the
magazine. :-) Winner's photo will be used
on our front cover next year!

Herts Lynx Update

Graham McAndrew

Our new local 'on-demand' rural bus service Herts Lynx has implemented an additional 43 bus stops. It now includes Much Hadham and one extra one here in Bury Green by the telephone box. Which joins our stops already available at Hadham Park, The Ford and Chapel Lane/ Westland Green. Download the 'Uber style' app to book your journey.



In addition to the new stops, they are also introducing the new fare structure to the service, which can be seen in this table on the right.

Distance	Fare (Single Journey)	Concessionary Pass Holder	Saver Card Holder
0 – 2 miles	£2.00	FREE	£1.00
2 – 5 miles	£3.00	FREE	£1.50
5 – 10 miles	£4.00	FREE	£2.00
10 + miles	£5.00	FREE	£2.50

Nature Observations

Jono Forgham

jforgham@hotmail.com

2 away visits recently have found me at Burwell Fen in Cambridgeshire and Amwell Nature Reserve near Ware.

At the former I watched 2 hunting Barn owls as well as seeing Peregrine falcon, Woodcock, plenty of wigeon, a huge murmuration of in excess of 10,000 starlings as well as a solitary Roe deer. The hoped for Short eared owl didn't make an appearance before darkness, so shall try again later this month for this elusive species.

At Amwell a single Goldeneye was the highlight along with many species of waterfowl, gulls and plenty of snipe and lapwings.

In the village, both Raven and Rose ringed parakeets seem to be increasing in number and are now seen on a regular basis. Listen out for the deep "cronk cronk" call of the Raven and then you will notice a buzzard sized crow with a diamond shaped tail.

At home I am still recording new moths for the year, with another new species in the trap this morning (14th Nov.) This was a Sprawler, a regular visitor to the trap in November and this was my 405th garden moth species for the year. Only a few more species to find now. A new one for the whole parish, a Juniper carpet, was trapped in the garden on the 3rd November. This was the 804th species that I have recorded in the parish, just over 50% of the total moth species recorded within Hertfordshire. A good total, indeed.



Autumn at Amwell



Mute Swan



Pochard



Grey Wagtail



Stonechat



Yellow Line Quaker



Sprawler



Rabbits



Yellowhammer



Shoveler



Juniper Carpet



The Hundred Parishes Society

Tricia Moxey
www.hundredparishes.org.uk

As 2021 enters its final month, we anticipate seasonal celebrations to brighten the shortest days of the year. The ancient tradition of decking our houses with garlands of fresh green holly branches reminds us of the continuity of life, bringing us cheer when the days are short.

On reaching the age of 20, female holly trees bear red berries on branches covered with prickly shiny green leaves which can be cut to make decorative wreaths. Such wreaths featured in midwinter Celtic and Roman celebrations as symbols of good fortune, a tradition that continues thanks to the intervention of a local man, William Winstanley (1628 – 1698).

During the Commonwealth which lasted from 1649 to 1660, the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell proclaimed that it was illegal to celebrate Christmas, banning frivolities and feasting on mince pies. Winstanley, who lived in Quendon, believed in celebrating Christmas as a time for sharing joy, fun and good fortune with others. After restoration of the monarchy in 1660, using his influence as a writer, he encouraged a return to the seasonal merrymaking which we still enjoy today.

Holly trees were frequently planted near houses to ward off a lightning strike; interestingly scientific research has revealed its spiky leaves can act as miniature lightning conductors! Holly also grows in hedges or as a shrub in woods where its berries provide nourishment for blackbirds, thrushes and wood mice. Its dense branches provide secure nesting sites. Deer and rabbits will eat its nutritious leaves.

Today, many homeowners plant variegated forms of holly to provide interest in their gardens and they can select a mixture of foliage to make seasonal decorations.

Yew is another evergreen with red coloured fruits (loved by birds and squirrels), but as its leaves are poisonous it is less suitable for indoor decorations.





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The Harvest

The harvest has been completed for another year. We managed to get 2.3 tons which will equate to apx 1500 litres and with a little luck in 2.5 years time 1900 bottles. But let's not count our chickens. When we take into account the fact that it was a horrible summer with not a lot of sunshine it was not a bad result .

I would like to thank the 120 volunteers who came up to help both with the grapes and the apple harvest. A special thanks to Nina who e-mailed the supporters of the Little Hadham Store, the Little Hadham Gardening Club, the Much Hadham Horticultural Society, The Hertfordshire College

Wine Club, The WI, The 9 student friends of George from the village who came down from Cambridge University and finally a special thank you to all the individuals and family's who came along. We hope everybody enjoyed the days and we hope to see you again next year.

In The Tanks

The Juice is now fermenting in the stainless steel tanks and in May we will add additional yeast and bottle the juice to achieve the second fermentation. What's really nice is going into the winery and smelling and hearing the fermentation . Another season almost over and again many thanks.

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To coincide with the start of the crucially-important COP26 international climate change summit in Glasgow, Stansted Airport Watch ('SAW') is launching its "Fly Less" campaign.

Aviation currently accounts for around 9.4% of UK carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and on present trends could be the largest single source of UK CO2 emissions by 2050.

The difficulty of decarbonising air travel is widely acknowledged and, whilst technological solutions such as electric aircraft might one day be possible, there is no realistic prospect of a technology 'fix' on any meaningful commercial scale until at least the 2040s. Meanwhile, climate change is a 'here and now' issue and urgent action is necessary if we are to avoid irreversible damage.

The Government's independent Climate Change Committee has called for a slowdown in the level of air travel and a freeze on UK airport expansion until the aviation sector can show a significant reduction in its CO2 emissions. To date, the Government has rejected this call



info@stanstedairportwatch.com

stanstedairportwatch.com

and is putting its faith in technological solutions, at least for the time being.

There is, however, an added problem because aviation emissions have a warming impact far in excess of that caused by the CO2 alone. The impact of non-CO2 aircraft emissions at high altitudes, caused by warming pollutants such as nitrogen and sulphur oxides, aerosols and water vapour, is estimated to be between two and four times higher than for CO2 emissions alone.

SAW's 'Fly Less' campaign will be publicised on the SAW website and social media, supported by posters, banners and car window stickers. In addition, SAW will be writing to the chairmen of the FTSE top 100 UK companies, encouraging businesses to play their part by reducing business flights and so helping to combat climate change. First Class and Business Class flights have a far higher carbon footprint compared to economy class, and private business jets are estimated to be up to ten times more damaging, in terms of emissions per passenger kilometre.

"This is not about telling people that they must not fly or that they cannot have a well-deserved annual family holiday. This is about asking people to try to reduce their carbon footprint. The train can often be a realistic alternative to a domestic flight and a Zoom meeting can often avoid the need for a business flight. It doesn't require a huge change in lifestyle to make a meaningful reduction in your carbon footprint." - SAW Chairman, Brian Ross.

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Jill Goldsmith
www.eastonlodge.co.uk



Early December 2020 seems such a long time ago ... we were coming out of lockdown and expecting to be able to enjoy Christmas with family and friends...We all remember what happened to that! At the Gardens, we had our first snowfall; we were looking forward to the Balustrade being restored; and we were busy planning for snowdrop Open Days in February. For us, we had one positive outcome – the Balustrade!

This year, we are looking forward to our first wintry views of the restored balustrade and keeping our fingers firmly crossed that in February we will not be waterlogged or in lockdown, so that we will be able to welcome visitors for snowdrops again. This year, behind our closed gates, we did manage to plant additional snowdrops around the Gardens, so for the coming snowdrop season they should be more spectacular than ever. **Save the dates: Sunday 13, Thursday 17, Sunday 20 and Thursday 24 February.**

We are also now taking bookings for Group visits to the Gardens in 2022. These can be arranged for groups of 10 or more and include entry, a guided tour and a copy of our informative paper Guide too, and tea/coffee and slice of delicious home-made cake. To arrange a group visit, contact us on our groupvisits@eastonlodge.co.uk or on our enquiries line 01371 876979.

If you arrange your group visit for a Thursday you will see our volunteers hard at work and be able to chat to them about what they love about volunteering with us...such as: working outdoors in a beautiful tranquil place; getting to know a fun group of people; seeing the fruits (flowers and veg) of their labours; and of course lots of tasty cake! We take on new volunteers year round, so why not think about joining us as a volunteer? There is more information on our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk

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Rural Ramblings

Cherry Mardell

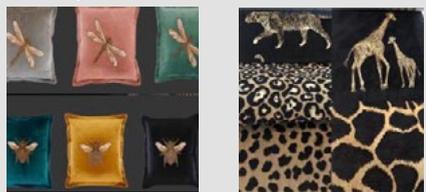
It can't be December already! Where did this year go? And why is it that, as a child, the days approaching the 25th go slowly yet the older you get the faster they travel? This past month has been difficult with the man of the house going into hospital – again -and emerging unable to walk and giving small moans and groans all the while. Those dreaded hospital socks re-appeared. Getting them on and off became an exercise of mind over matter! And, whisper it quietly, it made me realise just how much I missed that second pair of hands around the house. Once I could get him into the car, we took off for a daily spin, even if it was just for a food shop. Big mistake. To begin with, all was well, but as he became stronger, so he became more vocal! My driving was under constant scrutiny as never before. 'Slow down, turn right, mind that pedestrian...', it was endless. I was a fairly confident driver, not so much now. It was pleasing to hear one of his sons recall what 'Dad' was like when he was being driven all those years ago... nothing has changed!

Now, I'm no cook but the strangest thing happened to me this week. I was making a Green Thai curry for the two of us when I started to choke and cough. The more I coughed the worse it became. Hubby eventually came into the kitchen to see what was happening, and he started to cough as well. There was no smoke but there was a kind of gas smell about the room, we couldn't stop coughing. It was uncomfortable, but worse, it was scary. The only possible culprit might have been the actual green Thai paste which was past its sell by date. Could it have been

that? All I know is that I tried one mini mouthful of the chicken... and threw the whole lot away. I even changed the refuse sack, for fear that the potent but invisible element might affect us in other rooms. Now do any of you cooks know what it could have been? I'd really like an answer!

This Christmas, Covid permitting, we hope to visit my son and his family in deepest rural Somerset. He lives on an acreage which boasts, as well as assorted children, pigs, chickens, sheep and horses, so we will feel very much at home. Meantime, may I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

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Parish Services December 2021



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	Advent 2 5th Dec	Advent 3 12th Dec	Advent 4 19th Dec	Christmas Eve 24th Dec	Christmas 25th Dec	Christmas 1 26th Dec
St Andrew's Much Hadham	9.15am Holy Communion with Christingle, band & toy collection <i>Steve</i>	9.15am Holy Communion <i>Steve</i>	9.15am Holy Communion <i>Steve</i> 6pm Shared Carol Service <i>Steve</i>	4.30pm The Big Nativity <i>Steve</i>	9.15 Family Communion <i>Steve</i>	9.15am Holy Communion <i>Tim</i>
St Cecilia's Little Hadham		6.00pm Carol Service <i>Steve</i>		6.00pm Christingle Service <i>Steve</i>	11.15am Family Communion <i>Steve</i>	No Service Today
St Mary's Albury	11.15am Holy Communion <i>Steve</i>		11.15am Family Carol Service <i>Steve</i>			
Services at other Churches	8 am BCP Holy Communion St Thomas Perry Green <i>Michael</i>				8am BCP Holy Communion St Thomas Perry Green <i>Michael</i>	

Other Dates:	Saturday 4th	3.00pm	A journey to Jerusalem (Steve)
	Wednesday 1st	9.00am	Midweek Service via Zoom (Mark)
	Wednesday 8th	9.00am	Midweek Service via Zoom (Mark)
	Wednesday 15th	9.00am	Midweek Service via Zoom (Mark)
	Wednesday 15th	6.00pm	Albury School Carol Service / Nativity (Steve)
	Saturday 18th	--	NO Messy Church (replaced by event on 4th)
	Wednesday 22nd	9.00am	Midweek Service via Zoom (Mark)
	Wednesday 22nd	10.00am	Little Hadham Communion (Steve)
	Wednesday 29th	9.00am	Midweek Service via Zoom (Mark)

All are welcome to join our services which are now in Church - **please book in:**
rectorhightrees@btinternet.com or call: 01279 842609.
 Sunday services are also streamed via Zoom at 9.15am.