



LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024

Little Hadham Parish News is distributed free by St Cecilia's Church

Letter from the Rectory

Father Simon Vivian



This year, Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent - 14th February - is also Valentine's Day - the day for lovers.

Some might think that ironic because they see Lent as a season without much love. Many view it as a time when we're called to be harsh and restrictive on ourselves; a time when we're encouraged to almost loathe ourselves.

But this couldn't be further from the truth. Lent is an opportunity to set aside all the distractions of life and to face up to emotions such as pride and anger which so often cloud our judgement, so as to earth ourselves again in the reality of what really matters in life. That, it strikes me, isn't a process of loathing ourselves. By opening ourselves up to the possibility of an honest encounter with God, it's a healthy process of loving ourselves.

Of course, Valentine's Day is a celebration of a different kind of love: of romantic love - and an answer to the prayers of retailers of flowers, chocolates, jewellery, and bottles of pink fizz! For those particularly in the first flush of love, it's a day to remember.

But for many, love is a bit more complex than that, not least because, when we use the word 'love' in English, it can mean so many different things. In some ways, the Greeks have made an easier job of it by having up to eight different

words for love, each with a subtly different meaning. So, for example, 'eros' denotes sexual passion and 'philia' relates to the love of platonic friendship or brotherly love.

But what about the love often talked about in the Bible? Well, that's derived from the Greek word 'agape'. 'Agape' is considered the highest form of love: selfless, unconditional, and sacrificial. It's a deeper love which, once all other loves have been burnt away, doesn't look for something in return. It's therefore not even necessarily about feelings. It's the sacrificial love one finds on the battlefield for one's neighbour, for humanity, and for the greater good. It's the love which Christ showed on a Roman cross for each one of us. It's the love which, despite our frequent rejection of him, God shows for humanity and his creation.

As we journey over the next six weeks from Ash Wednesday towards Easter at the end of March, love - not loathing - should be at the heart of our thinking as we try to understand how and why, through his passion, Jesus was and is able to look upon us with a continuous agape love, even as the soldiers nailed him to a cross. It's a love which can transform our love on Valentine's Day - and every day - so that we too can resonate with God's agape love, to the very end of all love.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Simon



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 add or omit pictures where necessary.

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

From the Registers of St. Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham

Cover Photo: Willow Valentine Heart, Millfield Road - by Michael Attwell

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

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

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You can also offer support by making a donation to the magazine, contact the editor for details.

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.

There were no entries in the registers last month.

Little Hadham Parish Council

Carole Page

www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk

Little Hadham Parish Council meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall. There is no meeting in August or January. All residents and press are welcome to attend the meetings.

Meeting dates – all meetings commence at 7.30pm

6th February	5th March	2nd April	7th May	4th June
2nd July	3rd September	1st October	5th November	3rd December

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

AMA Fest Update

Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward, the Executive Member for Planning and Growth, East Herts Council will present the findings from the enquiry into the AMAFest held at Silver Leys Polo Club on Saturday 2nd September 2023 at the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 6th February from 7.30pm.



Lets wake up the orchard!!

Wassailing with the Chiltern West Gallery Quire.

A Wassail to awake the apple trees and scare the evil spirits to ensure a plentiful harvest in our community orchard!!

Meet outside Nags Head 2.30pm
16th March for procession to orchard. Bring your saucepan lids and wooden spoons to make a din!!

Come to the pub earlier for snacks and a complementary mulled cider or apple juice.

Music, singing and dancing in the Orchard including the traditional Serpent instrument.

Everyone welcome! Free but donations welcome.

Individual Hamlet Information Boards

We are still looking for anyone who might have local knowledge they can share for our individual hamlet information boards.

We are looking for facts or historical information people may not generally know about your hamlet, and bright, stunning photographs, showing off our lovely hamlet's at their best, or showcasing specific features or wildlife.

If you have any information to share, please contact us via the editor at: littlehadhampn@gmail.com.

We hope to start this project soon.

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Down at the Doctors

Dr Dayan Mathanarajah www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk

Firstly, a belated Happy New Year to you and a very big thank you from all the staff for the generous Christmas treats!

Before handing over to Dr Rajah I want to do a quick recap on appointments. Appointments are split between those that are urgent on the day (65%) and those that are routine (35%).

Patients can ring from 8.30am with any urgent on the day requests. The reception team will ask for a brief reason for the request, solely to allocate the patient to the appropriate Doctor or Nurse. You will also be asked if you would prefer a face-to-face or telephone appointment.

If it's a routine appointment you require, please call after 9.30am and you will be allocated an appointment in the next week or sooner depending on availability.

We do monitor appointments and demand daily and if needed tweak the system. For example, just before Christmas rather than sending the paramedic on home visits we created a minor illness clinic. At the time there were lots of coughs, colds, sore throats and possible chest infections. Of the 22 appointments we created for him 19 were for these ailments and this certainly took the pressure off the other GPs to concentrate on more serious conditions.

Hello, I am Dr Dayan Mathanarajah known as Dr Rajah and I have been with the practice for a couple of years. I qualified in 2018 from London University and started my career as a salaried GP in Welwyn Garden City and at the same time was a locum GP at various practices in Herts. Upon arriving at Much Hadham I was pleasantly surprised by the warmth exuded by both staff and patients and the unique connection between the two. I was also very impressed by the excellent patient access, a rare gem in the world of healthcare. For me patient access is like Wi-Fi – you only notice it when it's not working!

Aside from the routine general practice responsibilities I have trained to do minor surgery alongside Dr Sharif. Her Friday skin clinic has been a great success and together we tackle the benign lumps and bumps that have been assessed by the consultant dermatologist for removal in house. I also wear another hat as the St Elizabeth's GP responsible for the residents with epilepsy and very complex needs.

Outside of work life revolves around the family with my wife and two very young boys and the chaos that comes with parenthood. It is like having my own little medical research team at home – they keep me on my toes!

Anyway, enough about me - in summary I am extremely happy I made the decision to join Much Hadham and I look forward to being your doctor for many years to come.

Best wishes, Dr Raj



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Church Roof Fund – Update

Helen Walker



2024 has got off to a flying start and the Church Roof Fund has already received donations totalling a whopping £1,000 – that's already 10% of our total target only 1 month into the year. A massive **'THANK YOU'** to all our generous benefactors!

Kicking off in February is a virtual tower of coins: a 10p coin measures 1.85mm, so a stack of 2,500 10p coins would stand 4.625 metres tall, which is approximately the distance from the floor to the roof of the church where the rain came in and would be a £250 contribution to the fund. 10p will buy you nothing these days so if you find a spare one in the pocket of that winter coat that only comes out when it snows,

spare St. Cecilia's a thought and drop it in! The collection box can be found in the wall on the left of the church door. We'll let you know how the tower grows each month.

And your donations are still more than welcome – remember if you pay UK income tax, you can Gift Aid any donations you make and that adds 25% to the amount the Church Roof Fund will receive. Just contact Karin Green (Church Warden) for a declaration form (gouldburn.green@outlook.com, tel. 01279771532).

Look out for a further update in next month's Parish News....



Christingle at St. Cecilia's

Thank you to everyone who came to the Christingle on the 24th December.

It was a lovely service taken by June Knight and her snoring Teddy. We collected £268 for the Childrens Society.

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Little Hadham Primary School

Sinead Connolly, Head Teacher



Happy New Year to you all and welcome back! The weather may be grey and gloomy and January may be very long, but the children at Little Hadham Primary are as cheerful and ready to learn as ever. The staff have been hard at work making sure the children have hit the ground running and new topics are already well underway.

Our children in Willow Class (Year 6) have begun their new topic 'Frozen Kingdoms - Poles apart.' They're very excited to be heading off in February to visit The Polar Museum at The Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, where they will enjoy workshops and exploring to further enhance their learning in this area. Maple Class (Years 4 and 5) are looking forward to their trip to St Albans to learn more about the Tudors. They're really enjoying this topic- why is it children love to hear about beheading and gore?!

Little Hadham Primary also wants to be a school where children's rights are at the heart of our ethos and culture, to improve well-being and to develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. As part of this plan we're working towards recognition as a Rights Respecting School, an award given to schools on behalf of UNICEF UK. UNICEF UK works with schools to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting

Schools Award helps schools put in place a set of standards based on equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. These values stem from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). We're very excited that at Little Hadham Primary, our children will learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day.

Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place on 6 February and we're looking forward to learning around the theme 'Inspiring change - Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online.' Our children will have the chance to engage in interactive sessions and to further enhance their learning on how to remain safe and make smart choices online.

Guest speakers: We're looking for an adult who is either a dentist or an oral hygienist who would like to come in and talk with our younger classes about caring for their teeth. The children love when guests come to speak to classes. Please contact the school office if you have availability: admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk.

Nursery applications are open! The deadline for children looking to enrol in Nursery for September 2024 is 8 March.

Application forms are available online at littlehadham.herts.sch.uk.



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Save Little Hadham Farmer's Market!

Keith Hutt



Several years ago Little Hadham Primary School was asked to become the venue for the Little Hadham Farmers Market, and then in February 2022 to take over the running and licence. We saw this as a great way to further embed our school in the local community while raising much needed funds.

During our custodianship the Farmers Market has been run by a small team of volunteers from the school community and all profits raised have been spent on resources to directly benefit the children (several thousand pounds!).

We believe that the profile of the school has been enhanced during this time also. We would therefore like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been involved in

this success, both from within the school community, and those who attend and supported us on market day each month.

Although it has been a great privilege running the market, each month it involves preparatory work and helpers on the day itself. Unfortunately, we have been unable to find and sustain the level of support needed to continue. Sadly therefore, January's market will be our last.

We are aware that Little Hadham has a long tradition of holding monthly Farmers Markets and would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone interested in continuing this tradition to **get in touch on 07825 399 371**.

Keith Hutt

Chair of Governors



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Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett



Our next meeting is on **20th February 2024 at 12.30** when we will be having a Ploughman's Lunch at the Village Hall followed by a talk from Nick Gibson at approx 2pm on Tulips.

The cost is £5 for members and £7 for non-members.

Please contact Anne Willett on 07904 150 595 or 01279 771 564 to book your place and whether you would prefer cheese or pate.

Sowing Seeds from February onwards

- is something that some gardeners avoid, but it's easy when you know how. Germination is triggered by the correct combination of light levels, temperature and moisture – get these right, and the seed will start to grow. Sowing seed is a simple and inexpensive way of growing

new flowers and vegetables for your garden. Sowing seed indoors allows you to start the growing year much earlier than if sowing seeds outside.

You don't need a lot of kit to sow seeds. Many gardeners buy expensive propagators but a seed tray or a few plastic pots, will do the job. If you don't have plastic pots then try using old yoghurt pots with holes punched in the bottom, or tomato or mushroom punnets instead of a seed tray. Any vessel that can hold compost and allow water to drain freely is suitable.

Buy peat-free, multi-purpose, compost. Avoid damping off - low light levels and stuffy indoors can both encourage damping off - a fungal disease that sweeps through trays of seedlings. Prevent it by using fresh compost with perlite added, watering

trays/pots from below and opening propagator vents during the day.

Some very small seeds need specialist 'seed compost' to germinate, but multi-purpose compost is fine for most seeds.

Fill small pots or seed trays with compost. Use a watering can fitted with a fine rose to water the compost, and leave to drain.

Sprinkle seeds evenly and thinly over the surface of the compost. Cover seeds with a thin layer of compost, about the same depth as the size of the seed (the smaller the seed, the thinner the layer of compost).

Cover the pot with a clear polythene bag or piece of glass or clear plastic, to maintain an even temperature for germination, and keep the compost moist. Place the pot of seeds on a well-lit windowsill or in a heated propagator.

Remove the plastic or glass cover as soon as the seeds have germinated and you can see the seedlings growing out of the compost. Grow them in a warm place indoors – if growing them on a windowsill you may need to move them at night as temperatures can drop dramatically. The young plants will be ready to be 'pricked' out when the second pair of leaves, known as 'true' leaves, emerges.

When pricking out seedlings, handle them only by their leaves, not the stem. Fill a larger seed tray or small pots with compost and plant seedlings, burying them up to the base of the first set of leaves.

After a couple of weeks, the young plants will be large enough to pot individually into 7.5cm pots, or planted outside in well-prepared soil. Handle plants gently, firm compost around them and water well. Don't allow the soil or compost to dry out.



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Millennium Wood Update

Jono Forgham

jonoforgham@gmail.com

A quick check around the wood following Storm Henk showed there to be 5 trees damaged. 3 have been partially blown over but are still well rooted. Two, however, have snapped about 1 metre up the trunk but fortunately neither pose a risk to those using the wood. A willow near the gate at the Polo Club is wedged in an oak whilst an Ash has snapped well off the path in the northeast corner.

I shall attend to these asap but at present, I suggest all using the wood just stick to the paths and try to keep children and pets from roaming further afield. All will be tidied up by the time of publication, weather permitting. However, another windy night may cause more disturbance as it may well be the storm damaged and/or loosened trees that will succumb in another gale. Please take care and if you note any trees down or larger boughs on the ground, do contact me at jonoforgham@gmail.com

There is quite a lot of work to be done in the wood before Spring and so I have pencilled in **Sunday 4th February** for a good session cutting back with loppers, trimmers and secateurs etc. **Just a 3 hour work party from 10am – 1.00pm.** This, if well attended, could be the last session for the winter, so please do come along, even if for just an hour. There will be a chance for youngsters to help plant wildflowers that I have brought on in my garden, so jobs for the whole family. If you enjoy Millennium Wood then please come along to help make it even better. Thank you.



Blackbird



Female Bullfinch



Greenfinch



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'Art Matters' Charity Exhibition

Jane Davalle

www.gravellybarn.com

We're delighted to announce that we are planning to hold another charity 12-inch Canvas Exhibition at the EJD studio at Gravelly Barn, Braughing, in July.

Many of you have bought 12-inch blank canvases before and helped to raise thousands for charity. Our last exhibition in 2022 raised over £12,000 alone.

You can buy a canvas for £10 and create your masterpiece using any medium you like, from paint, watercolour, charcoal, pencil, and crayon to needlework, collage, photography, sculpture, tapestry... the choice is as wide as your imagination.

The only stipulation is that your work must remain within 12 inches square.

Completed canvases will be put on display at the exhibition in July and offered for sale at £50 each. All the money raised will be going to charity. This year our chosen charities include: the Princess Alexandra Hospital Breast Unit at St Margaret's

Hospital, Epping, and the Head and Neck Cancer Foundation.

Completed canvases must be returned by **June 21** and everyone submitting a completed canvas will be invited to a special private view.

The exhibition will be open on **Friday July 19 to Sunday July 21 and Saturday and Sunday July 27 -28**. Teas, coffees, cakes and refreshments will be available on all days and there is ample free parking

Further details can be found on our website **www.gravellybarn.com**

Please join us in taking part, either by buying a blank canvas or coming along to the exhibition in July. We look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like to buy a canvas, please contact:

Jane Davalle
jdavalle@aol.com | 07905 184 619



Air Fryer Demonstrations



Second Monday of the month

**8th January, 12th February, 11th March,
15th April, 13th May, 10th June, 15th July**

Sessions start promptly at 7.00pm

Join us for food tasting and glass of wine



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Little Hadham Village Hall News

Jan Williamson

www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

January 2024 got off to a busy start with our popular Air Fryer demonstrations now being held on the second Monday of every month. Air Fryer audiences are increasing in number so please do book so we can cater for everyone who attends. If you would like to come to any of the advertised monthly activities, email your name or the names of those coming with you to: vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com. You will then receive by return, a confirmation notification.

Weekly activities are back in full swing too, with our **Wednesday Welcome Café** continuing to provide refreshments and (on the day pre-ordered) light lunches. Don't forget to pop in from 2pm, if you would like support from our team of knowledgeable volunteers at any of our weekly held **Digital Inclusion Workshops**. **Chair Yoga, Forever Cycling and Tai Chi** are also back. Please see our website for details of these and other activities and events - www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

In the months leading up to the end of 2023, we were busy applying for grant funding. We are pleased to say that we have been successful and have been awarded grant funding from Herts Community Foundation (HCF) in support of the Welcome Café and from Clarion Futures. Grant funding from Clarion Futures supports the café, air fryer demonstrations, weekly

digital inclusion workshops and a small refurbishment project. Our thanks as always to our grantors and their support in the year ahead.

Village Hall Week: Open Showcase Event – Saturday 23rd March 2024

Nationally, Village Hall's Week is being held in March this year and presents us with an ideal opportunity to invite everyone from The Hadham's and surrounding areas to come to the village hall to have a look around, enjoy some refreshments, meet management committee members, chat to those who organise regular activities or just see what's on offer.

The event is open from 11.30am to 2.30pm on Saturday 23rd March.

Management Committee News

We are delighted to welcome Janine Peart to the village hall management committee, who has taken on the role of minutes secretary. We are still looking for a new treasurer who would be able to manage village hall accounts using Xero accounting software. The intention is for the software to be installed and set up ready for a new treasurer to take it over. If you have experience of Xero and would be interested in contacting us in respect of this important role, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

*Please contact: Jan Williamson
M: 07710 325 363*

Date for the diary - Meet The EH Rural Police Team', first of all.

Come along to our welcome and café and meet our friendly rural East Herts Police Team.

Lastly we have chosen a date for our Little Hadham Open Gardens this year which is on **30th June 2024**

We look forward to seeing you soon!

If you would like to know more about anything mentioned in this article please phone me, Jan Williamson: **01279 771 272** or email me at: chairvillagehall@littlehadham.org.uk

Community Engagement Event

When: WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2023 at 10:30am

Where: LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL



OWL keeps communities safe, helps reduce crime and keeps people informed of what's going on locally. It's a secure platform for the public and shared with the police and local authority to maximise the potential of Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Watch, Business Watch and dozens of other

- Meet your Local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team
- Get crime prevention advice & Sign up to OWL (Neighbourhood Watch).
- Discuss your local concerns.

What's On in February @ LH Village Hall

See website www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com for latest details

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY'S

Mum's Matter (Mother & Baby Group) 10 – 11:30am

TUESDAY'S

Brownies 5:45 – 7pm **Term Time Only**

WEDNESDAY'S

Welcome Cafe	10am – 2pm	No need to book just drop in and enjoy!
Chair Yoga	11am – 11:45	Mark Druman 07368 293 062
Digital Improvers drop in	2 – 3:30pm	Jan 01279 771 272
Fitsteps	6 – 7pm	Jacqui: 07731 454 228

THURSDAY'S

Olio food collection 9:30am Tara and James - rear of VH collection

Mike's Bowls Club 2 – 4pm

FRIDAY'S

Fancy Feet children's dance class	4 – 5:30pm	Term Time Only Hannah 07538 262 835
Indoor Bowls	7:30 – 10pm	except 2nd Friday

FORTNIGHTLY

Tuesday 13th & 27th 2 – 4pm Turn up & Play Scrabble (£3 per session)
Annette: 07926 088 202

Wednesday 7th & 21st 12:30 – 1:30pm Tai Chi (Sarah Baker 07740 701 102)

Wednesday 14th & 28th 12:30 – 1:30pm Virtual Cycle Studio
(Karl.puranik@aitc.org.uk or Adam Howard 07538 706 560)

MONTHLY

8th	10 – 12 noon	Community Breakfast morning 01279 771 272
9th	7pm	Red Chair Cinema Club Membership required, contact: redchaircinema@littlehadhamvillagehall.com
12th	7 - 9pm	Air Fryer Demonstration (1st Monday in the month) Book through Jan 07710 325 363

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Sunday 11th	9am – 4pm	Antiques Fair
Monday 12th	2:30 for 3pm	Afternoon Cinema - Tea with Mussolini (1999)

NOTICEBOARD



Lost Cat?

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Afternoon Cinema - Tea with Mussolini (1999)

Monday 12th February

Semi-autobiographical comedy-drama war film - Tells the story of a young Italian boy's upbringing by a circle of British and American women before and during the Second World War.

Entry £5 at the door.

Tea/Coffee included.
Carers entry free.

Runtime: 1 hr 57mins

Doors Open: 2.30pm.
Film Starts Promptly at: 3.00pm

Work Party in Millennium Wood

Can You Spare an Hour or Two?

Sunday 4th Feb
10am - 1pm



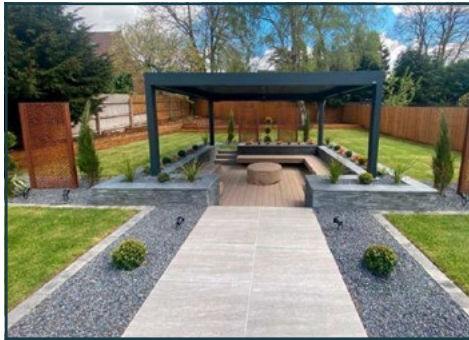
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Nature Notes

Jono Forgham

jonoforgham@gmail.com

At the end of 2023 I forwarded all my moth records to the county recorder. In total, 16,322 moths were recorded, made up of an amazing 513 species. My best year for 12 years. Many were from my ongoing survey of Stocking Wood, where I added 83 new species to the wood records.

This year, I managed to record 25 new species for the parish, taking the total species I have encountered over the last 12 years to 849. A reasonably pleasing total. All records for the whole of the county show that over 1600 moths have been observed and identified, so to have in excess of 50% in one rural parish is pretty good.

My regular survey of Stocking Wood continues and I am, even on cold nights with minus temperatures, coming across new species. Only on Sunday 14th Jan I found a small fly species on a tree trunk: *Leuphenga maculata*. We also had a work party in the wood in early January, but still much to be achieved this winter.

A trip to Abberton Reservoir on the coldest Thursday of the winter was excellent, with some good birds noted, including Goldeneye, Goosander, Great White Egret and Rock Pipit. Well worth the 3rd degree frost bite!



False Ladybird



False Ladybird Larva



Leuphenga maculata



Rock Pipit



Redshank



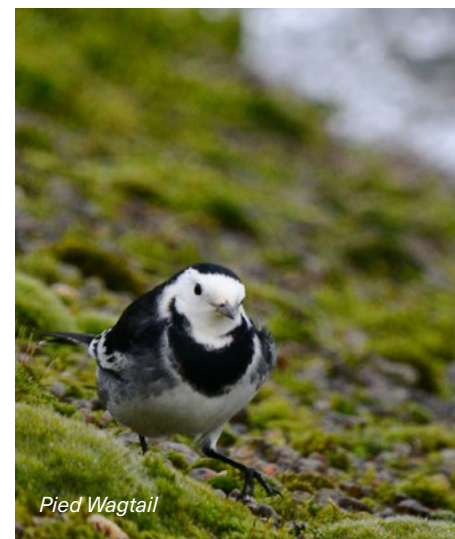
Green Sandpiper



Goldeneye



Redwing



Pied Wagtail



Great Crested Grebe

St Cecilia's Church Bells

Quasi

Notre-Dame

Some of you might wonder why each article is signed off by Quasi. Well it's Quasimodo, the Hunchback of Notre-Dame who was the cathedral's fictional hunchback bell ringer depicted in the 1831 novel and the Disney film. Quasimodo was feared by the townspeople as a sort of monster who eventually found sanctuary in an unlikely love with gypsy beauty, Esmeralda.

With that in mind the terrible fire at Notre-Dame on 15th April 2019 shocked the world. The damage caused run into hundreds of millions of Euros, donors contributed over EURO 840 million. The spire with its three carillon bells and the oak roof were lost but fortunately, the cathedral's ten bells in the two towers survived but only just, as the fire was reportedly only a few minutes from engulfing them.

Each of the ten bells is rung by being swung by an electric motor back and forth through 45 degrees in the 'Continental' style. English style ringing is 'full circle ringing' where the bells swing through a full 360 degree.

Notre-Dame's largest bell dates from the 15th century. It was recast in 1681 at the request of King Louis XIV who named it the Emmanuel Bell. Located in the south tower and weighing just over 13 tons it is said to be one of the most beautiful and remarkable sound



vessels in Europe. The remaining nine bells were all recast in 2012 at the Royal Eijsbouts bell foundry at Ashen in the Netherlands. The ten bells together weigh a total of 22 tons.

At the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury & York and the Prime Minister, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers asked bellringers across the UK to ring out on Thursday 18th April 2019 in solidarity with Notre-Dame following the devastating fire. This was Maundy Thursday when normally ringing activities are curtailed during holy week but these were exceptional circumstances. Our local bells rung with half muffles which mean the bell strikes normally on one side of the bell but hardly rings on the other.

Notre-Dame is expected to reopen in December 2024 although it may take 10 to 40 years to completely restore.

If you want to join us in the bell tower contact us through the link www.tinyurl.com/riverash

Quasi

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Shelley, Rachel's Mum

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I'm Rolo

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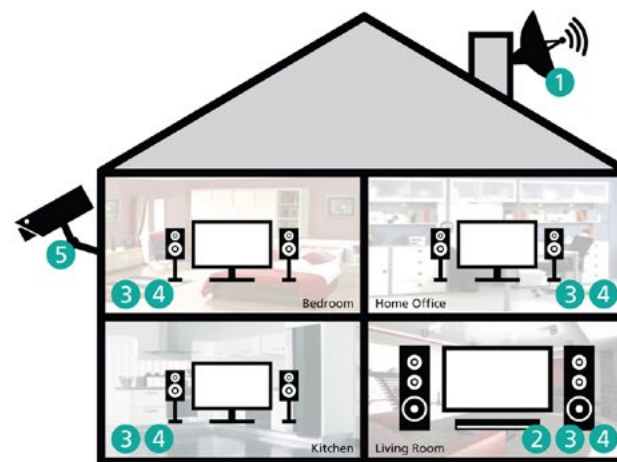
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Chilly conditions often greet us as we step outside in the early months of the year. The old saying - "When the wind is out of the East, tis never good for man nor beast" - certainly rings true. Before the advent of broadcast weather forecasts, people had to rely on checking nearby weathervanes for the wind direction. These were usually found on tall buildings such as church spires, while Audley End House has gilded weathervanes mounted on eight corner turrets. Today, a variety of designs can be seen.

Robert McFarlane's books of old words include about fifty that describe winds, storms or clouds. One Essex term he mentions is aigrish, used to describe a sharp cutting wind. The East Anglian word for a strong sudden gust is gussock, or twitchy for an unsteady wind.

Forecasting the weather for those who till the soil is helpful as weeks of westerly winds can bring relentless rain causing waterlogging of the ground, while cold easterly winds dry out the soil and retard growth.

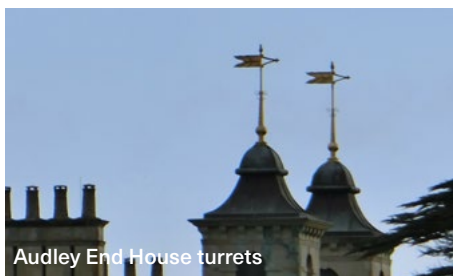
Currently, the UK Meteorological Office operates over 200 official automated sites, each recording accurate measurements of temperature, wind speed and direction, and the amount of precipitation. These readings are processed by powerful computers and the results enable forecasters to make predictions about future weather conditions. Local recording sites include the Cambridge Botanic Gardens and Stansted Airport. By

searching the Met Office website www.metoffice.gov.uk you can check the local weather forecast to help plan your day.

Many individuals or schools are interested in operating a personal weather station and the Met Office is keen to enhance the weather observations network; it asks those who have a personal weather station, manual or automatic, to send data to its Weather Observations Website, WOW, at wow.metoffice.gov.uk



High Roding church bellcote



Audley End House turrets



Clavering



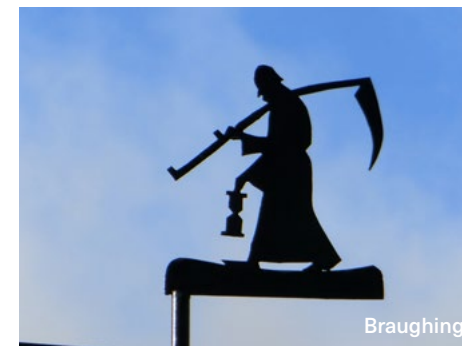
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Dear Olioers,

I thank all people that came to Little Hadham Village Hall on Christmas Eve at 5pm to collect food waste. At Christmas time food waste still happens.. we had over 50 people come to help save food from being thrown away.

Most people took away 15 items from Brussel gratin to all types of different potato and plenty of pigs

in blankets! and we had festive bread ... sage and onion bread. We had our normal sandwiches and many pastries as well.

We are at the Little Hadham Village Hall on Thursday and Saturday at 9.30 am. If you want to save food being wasted, please come, and get some free food as well save the planet a little bit.

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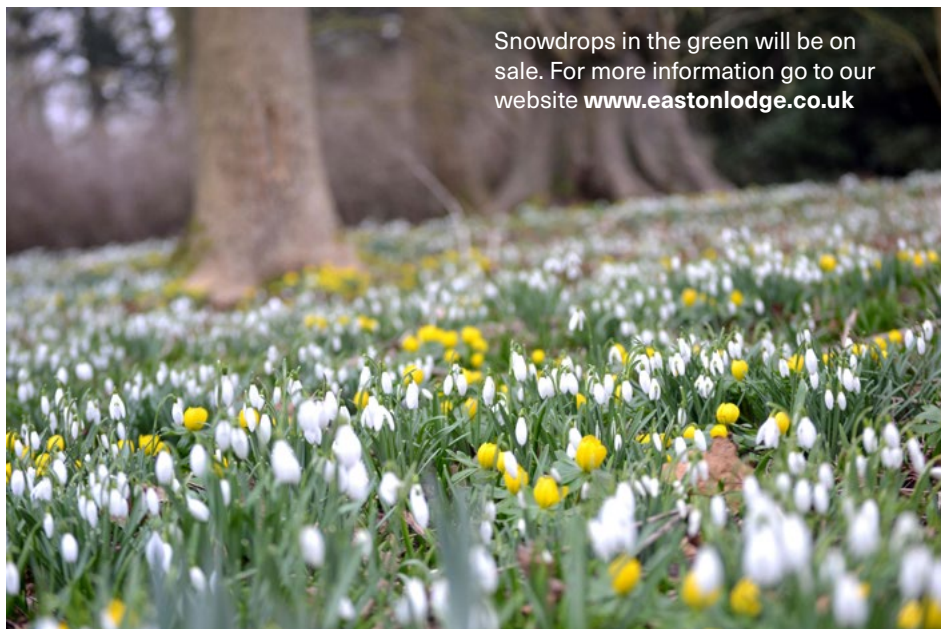
I am writing this as volunteers work to clear the Gardens of fallen trees and boughs brought down by the torrential rains and winds at the beginning of January. Hopefully February will be seasonal with some cold weather, of course, but also with some of those lovely bright winter days on which it is a joy to be outside, seeing the early flowers emerge.

For us that means snowdrops, and with luck some aconites too. The snowdrops have spread hugely through the Gardens in recent years – partly because we have planted extra, but also because we have been careful to leave grass cutting till after the bulbs have replenished themselves and divided, producing extra bulbs; and after they have formed seeds, which apparently are planted unwittingly by ants carrying them into their nests!

We don't have as many aconites as we would like. Their bright yellow flowers make for such a cheery sight, often coming a bit before the snowdrops. They are native to Italy, Bulgaria, the Balkans, Turkey and Iraq. I have read they were introduced to Britain in 1596 and were first recorded as being naturalised in the wild in 1838. We have some longstanding clumps – I wonder when they were planted? But we have found it difficult to establish more. We keep trying though!!

Our open days for snowdrops are on Sunday 18, Thursday 22, Sunday 25 and Thursday 29 February and we have our fingers crossed that the snowdrops will be at their best then. Gates open at 11.00 and tickets will be purchasable in advance through our website or direct through www.Trybooking.com.

Snowdrops in the green will be on sale. For more information go to our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk



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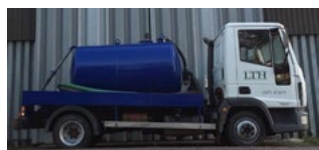
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Rural Ramblings

Cherry Mardell

I'd hate to be a dentist. The thought of looking into strangers' mouths for a living, fills me with disgust! I'm not too keen on being that stranger either!

It all started when I was a child, and yes, that's going into near-prehistoric times. There were no high speed drills or quick injections to lessen the worst of the pain. There was just that grim, elderly man, dressed in white – with his room full of weird pieces of machinery which clicked, hummed, and drilled into my poor young teeth.

My mother used to drag me and my sister along, amid my floods of tears and sister's steely silent terror, which was almost worse!

Only now do I realise that the worst person off in our little group was mother, who herself (I later found) was also terrified of dental work!

One way of escaping the terror was to cut and run. This I did one time and spent the day watching trains go by, huddled under a tree– too scared to return home and face the music. I think my mother aged 20 years looking for me!

But the terror of a dentist visit never really improved, even as an adult. I've moved around the country over the years, meeting up with a variety of dentists... from the one who actually said, when I made the comment that I'd rather have a baby than visit him,

"Well decide which, because I have to alter the angle of the chair" to the one I have now, who is kind, skilled and expensive!

Recently I had to have two teeth removed, because of gum trouble. Instead of a normal extraction, the dentist appeared to produce a drill, (or was it a hammer?) and proceeded to drill out the offending gnashers. It was horrific.. not painful, just terrifying. His murmurs of "well done, nearly finished... not much longer" helped not at all, as my hands grasped the chair sides as if about to be ejected from a plane in mid-air!

On reflection, I never have thought just what the poor dentist has to tolerate. Maybe he'd love to say "Pull yourself together woman.... act your age...if you don't then I'll give you something to moan about"!

Let's hope he (or she?) has a happy home life, with a partner who understands the trauma of being a dentist – the person we need in times of trouble but who terrifies every bone in our body!

Parish Services February 2024

Benefice of: Little Hadham | Much Hadham | Albury

	2nd before Lent 4th Feb	Sunday next before Lent 11th Feb	Lent 1 18th Feb	Lent2 25th Feb
St Andrew's Much Hadham			9:15am Holy Communion <i>Rev'd Chris Boulton</i>	
St Cecilia's Little Hadham	11:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Rev'd June Knight</i>			11:15am Holy Communion <i>Rev'd June Knight</i>
St Mary's Albury		11:15am Benefice Holy Communion or Morning Prayer <i>tbc</i>		

OTHER SERVICES:

Sat 3rd	4:30pm	Messy Church at St Andrew's Church
Wed 14th	7:30pm	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes
ASH WEDNESDAY		Rev'd June Knight, St Andrew's, Much Hadham
Wed 28th	10am	Mid-week Communion
		Rev'd Claire Finlay, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

All are welcome to join our services