

The Parish of Little Hadham

Little Hadham is an attractive, rural village nestling along the banks of the river Ash in East Hertfordshire. The gently undulating landscape is rich in woodland and farmland and contains many historic timber framed cottages and farmhouses.

With a population of around 1200 residents (500 dwellings), Little Hadham is divided into eight small hamlets, The Ash, Church End, Hadham Hall, Cradle End, Green Street, Bury Green, Hadham Ford and Westland Green. They are all linked by a great network of ancient footpaths and bridleways, covering an area of around 12 square miles. There are many interesting features to discover along these walks: the medieval St Cecilia's Church, Hadham Hall, family home of the Capels, the historic village pump and war memorial. The village also has some quirky features to look out for such as the old telephone boxes that have been converted into community libraries.



Silverleys Polo club has events throughout the year and the clubhouse is open to all for refreshments during Polo season. Millennium Wood is well worth a visit for families and nature lovers. This community asset is filled with imaginative ways to learn more about nature. The Village Hall is a great community hub hosting clubs and events and with a stage for performances. There is also ample parking and a good sized children's play park with picnic benches.

Points of Interest



Village Pump: A fine grade II listed subscription pump of considerable artistic, social and technological interest. Decorated cast iron painted white. Raised lettering reads 'Erected by subscription April 1880.'

Village Sign: Hand carved by a local woodwork teacher in 2000 to mark the Millennium. Made from timber featuring intricate carvings of St Cecilia's Church, Hadham Hall, the Village Hall and the Primary School.

War Memorial: Erected in 1919 and inscribed with the names of the 17 men from the Parish who died in the First World War. Most likely funded by the village's principal benefactor Mr W Milnet at Hadham Hall, who had a major hand in the design, together with architect Mr A J Carpenter. The 1919 memorial service was attended by some 300 people gathered on the roadways. The names were read aloud with a pause after each one to allow a child to come forward and lay a wreath. A similar service takes place here on remembrance day every November.



Nag's Head Pub: Built in 1595 The Nag's Head is the last remaining public house in Little Hadham providing a central hub for the village. Renovated by new landlords in 2018 it now has 2 new courtyard gardens and serves hearty homemade bar snacks and an a la carte restaurant menu.

How to get there

Little Hadham is situated two miles west of Bishop's Stortford, on the A120. Bishop's Stortford has excellent rail links from London and Cambridge. A bus service runs to Little Hadham; visit www.intalink.org.uk or contact Traveline on 0300 123 4050 (open 8am-8pm) for more details.



Other Local Walks

These walks are part of a series of [Walking in Hertfordshire](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/walkcycleroutes) circular walking routes. Download these and other walks from: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/walkcycleroutes



Wildlife

You might be lucky enough to see a variety of wildlife along these walks. Common sightings include: Deer, Hares, Rabbits, Foxes and of course, plenty of Grey Squirrels. You might even see a Hertfordshire Hart, plus Horses, Llamas, Donkeys, Cows and Sheep in the fields.

107 species of bird have been recorded in the Parish including the Red Kite, Green Woodpecker, Buzzard, Yellowhammer and Barn Owl.



Produced by Little Hadham Parish Council as part of the Parish Paths Partnership, funded by Hertfordshire County Council. www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/cms

Design by Anne Wright Design: www.annewright.com

Hadham Hall: Dating back to the 16th Century, Hadham Hall was home to the Capel family for many years. Queen Elizabeth I was entertained by the Capels at Little Hadham in 1578. The grounds of the Hall were occupied by troops in both World Wars, and in 1948 it was sold to Hertfordshire Council who converted it into a school. It opened in 1952 with 142 pupils, increasing to 172 the following year including 14 boarders. The school closed on 20 July 1990 as the council decided there were not enough children in the area to justify the expense of keeping it open. It was put on the market for £3m, and is now residential.



St Cecilia's Church: The original 12th Century medieval Church was reconstructed in the 14th/15th Century. In the Church is a memorial stone to Arthur, Lord Capel who was executed for treason and hanged on March 9th 1649. An ardent royalist during the Civil War, he was sent to the Tower after being captured by Parliamentarians. He escaped but was re-arrested and one of his last requests was for his heart to be buried with King Charles I. The Bishop of Winchester preserved it in a silver box and gave it to Charles II when he was restored to the throne. It is believed the King sent it to Capel's son, the first Earl of Essex because in 1703 a heart in a silver box was found at Hadham Hall.



Church End: Church End Industrial Estate is an interesting business hub with a vibrant mix of businesses. Currently including a Vintage Emporium & Tearoom and the Hertfordshire Air Ambulance. (Please check opening times etc if planning to visit any of these businesses.)



Little Hadham Walks

Walk 1: Hadham Ford - 2 miles

Walk 2: Westland Green - 3 miles

Walk 3: Bury Green - 4.5 miles

Combined walks up to 8.5 miles



Congregational Chapel & Graveyard: Single storey 19th Century place of worship of red brick construction with decorative horizontal banding, tiled roof; original windows and single chimney. The burial ground contains a range of interesting 19/20th Century tombstones including Charles Chipperfield who died in 1927. Chipperfield generously bequeathed £300 to the Parish Council, and requested that the interest amounting to ten shillings each, was to be given each Christmas to the oldest inhabitants of Little Hadham.



Millennium Wood: This much loved 3.7 acre stretch of woodland was established in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium and is used and maintained by the local community. It plays host to many local wildlife events such as moth nights and birdwatching, and also Easter and Christmas trails, children's parties and is regularly used by the primary school for Forest School sessions.



Silverleys Polo Club: Thought to be the oldest Polo Club in the country, founded in 1894, it has its own club house, polo field, stabling, practice and grazing areas.

KEY

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Byway open to all traffic
- Hertfordshire Way
- Pylons
- Rivers
- Parish Boundary
- Walk 1: Hadham Ford Circular
- Walk 2: Westland Green Circular
- Walk 3: Bury Green Circular
- Links to Albury Walking Map
- Point of Interest

Please note these paths can get muddy when wet so appropriate footwear is recommended.

For a longer walk you can join 2 or all 3 walks together and start and end at the Village Hall or Nag's Head Pub. You can also link from Walks 1 & 3 to the walks on the Albury Walking map available from: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/walkycycleroutes

WALK 3: BURY GREEN
APPROX 4.5 MILES / 2 HOURS

You can begin this walk at whichever point seems most appropriate for you, and follow its circular route back to the start, or join it with the other walks on this map.

NB: The footpath alongside the A120 from Hadham Hall to Hadham Park crosses a field and is not always hugely visible. Please look for footpath waymarkers and landmarks.

Points of interest: Hadham Hall, St. Cecilia's Church, Church End, Millennium Wood, Silverley's Polo Club.

WALK 1: HADHAM FORD
APPROX 2 MILES / 45mins

An easy walk along good footpaths, beginning and ending at the Nag's Head Public House. There is limited parking opposite the pub or just down the road in the Village Hall car park.

Points of interest: Nag's Head Pub, Village Pump & Sign, Chapel Lane Graveyard, Silverley's Polo Club.

WALK 2: WESTLAND GREEN
APPROX 3 MILES / 1 HOUR

Beginning and ending at the Village Hall with good car parking available and a children's play park.

NB: The footpath crosses through the Ash Valley Golf course so please be aware of golfers and golf balls.

Points of interest: Village Pump & Sign, Nag's Head Pub, Chapel Lane Graveyard, War Memorial.

