

LITTLE HADHAM

PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

Your local free magazine printed & distributed by St Cecilia's Church



Not every space needs to be filled.



Rev Tayo Wale-Falope

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 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-pc.gov.uk/parish_news.html



FROM THE REGISTERS OF ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH

We welcomed into the family of the Church Ezra William RENNIE who was baptised on Saturday 22nd August.

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

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. Please support them and shop local.

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 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.

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

		6 Oct	3 Nov	1 Dec
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Agendas are posted on noticeboards and the Little Hadham Parish Council website.

LAND NORTH OF A120

Following last month's update, the Parish Council continue to work on the objection to the prospective development. The unique elements of the site are the view looking up the valley to the church and the River Ash chalk stream. Further investigation is being undertaken as to ways in which the River Ash can be protected.

PROPOSED DATA CENTRE – BURY GREEN

Planning permission has already been granted in 2008 for a data centre at Bury Green and the developers seek to vary the existing application to facilitate the build, in part to fill the proposed void in the middle of the two proposed buildings.

The Parish Council have asked to see the traffic Management Plan, particularly as this will be nearly 20 years old. We have also sought reassurances as to how the construction traffic are to gain access to the site.

The application to vary the current approved application will be lodged shortly, and residents will be able to object in the usual way. A lawful development certificate was issued in 2024 to confirm the planning permission from 2008 had been commenced and so any objections should be focused on the variation as the principle development already has permission.

The developers state that the data centre will be powered by diesel generators until the National Grid can provide a connection.

PUBLIC INQUIRY FOR LAND OFF CHAPEL LANE

Representatives from the Parish Council attended. Our District Councillor spoke on our behalf. There were 12 local residents in attendance. Two conditions haven't been met: disposal of foul water and runoff water. We now await a decision from the planning inspector.

WOOD OFF ACREMORE STREET

We have been informed that the Appeal against the Forestry Commission and the Restocking Order at the Wood on Acremore Street has been refused and the landowners now have until June 2027 to restock the felled area with 88 trees either by regeneration, replanting or a mixture of both.

HIGHWAYS

Resurfacing of the footpath is complete by the garage, some of the bollards are being replaced outside the garage.

Hedging needs to be cut back along the Stortford Road to ensure traffic signs are visible.

Attempting to get Ford Hill added to the gritting list for this Winter.



LITTLE HADHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: HAVE YOUR SAY

By the time you read this, the Little Hadham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will have held two public consultation events in the Village Hall. We've been working hard getting ready for the events, to give us as much chance as possible of reaching as many local residents as we can, including hand delivering 500 or so invitations. We hope as many readers as possible have attended one of the events and will have given us your feedback.

A full update on the events and the general progress of the Neighbourhood Plan will be presented at the next Parish Council meeting and will be written up in the next edition of the Parish News. Please keep in mind that your engagement at this stage is more critical than ever. Our Parish faces mounting pressure from large-scale housing proposals and a robust, legally recognized Neighbourhood Plan is our best tool to influence how and where building happens across the hamlets.

THE PLAYING FIELD

The equipment in the playing field is getting a little tired looking. We need to give the equipment a deep clean. Can anyone volunteer some time to help with this. Please contact either: cllrrichardmardell@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk or the clerk.

LITTLE HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

<https://littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/> We now have a new PC website and would ask for any ideas as to content.

ALLOTMENTS

We have 2 vacant allotments. If you wish to take on a wonderful project for the new year, please contact: clerk@littlehadhamparishcouncil-pc.gov.uk

LITTLE HADHAM COMMUNITY GROUP – FACEBOOK PAGE

The group is for residents to share information about the village: roads closed, trees down, events in the village, etc. This is our Facebook page and is about our village and what is going on.



LITTLE HADHAM RAMBLERS

Our walks are scheduled for Wednesdays:

7th October

4th November

2nd December

We start from the Village Hall at 10, with a return between 11.30-12. There is a lunch available at the village hall. Always a delicious choice of soup, filled jacket potato or a main meal. A suggested donation of £5 for a beautiful lunch in a very social environment. Dogs welcome.

The Parish of Little Hadham

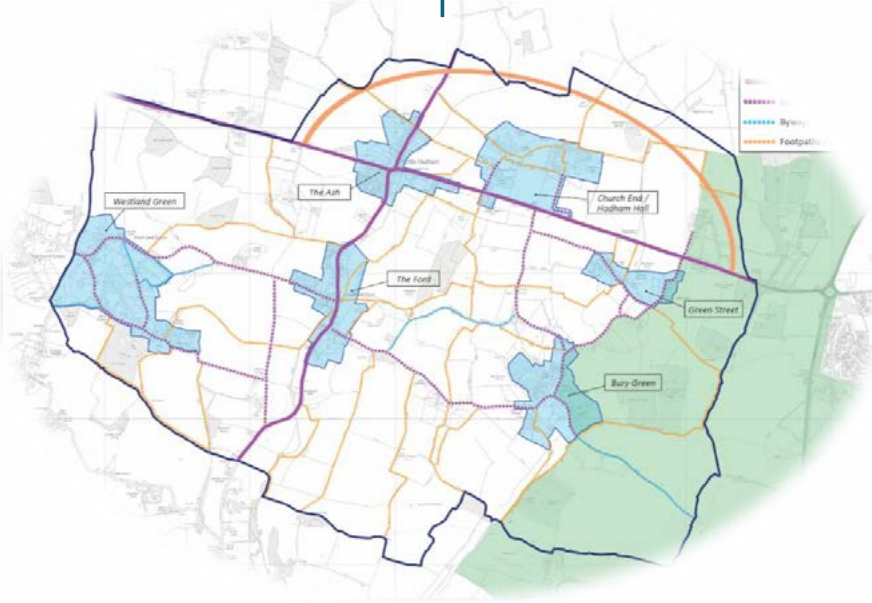
Ancient History & Rural Character in East Hertfordshire

Origins & Foundations

Rooted in Anglo-Saxon times (*heath ham*, meaning "estate on the heath"), Little Hadham appears in historical records as early as the 950s. The Parish Church of St Cecilia retains 12th-century origins, sitting in an idyllic rural location separated from the current village centre. Near Church End lies the 16th-century Elizabethan Hadham Hall, built in 1575 on former manorial lands.

Valleys & Hamlets

Covering roughly 12 square miles across the River Ash valley, Little Hadham is defined by seven distinct hamlets rather than a single core: *The Ash, Hadham Ford, Westland Green, Bury Green, Green Street / Cradle End, Hadham Hall, and Church End*. The landscape features rolling farmland, ancient woodland, and historic road networks newly relieved by the A120 bypass.



Demographics

- ❑ Population: approximately 1,194 residents (2021 Census)
- ❑ Dwellings: just less than 500 properties
- ❑ Ranging from medieval timber-frame cottages to modern homes
- ❑ Over 100 Listed Buildings, including Grade I listed St Cecilia's Church

"Seven hamlets, one parish—a landscape shaped by centuries of agricultural heritage and the River Ash."

Christopher

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DOWN AT THE DOCTORS

ANDREW WILKINSON, PRACTICE MANAGER

www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk



We are slowly coming to terms with the loss of our much-loved colleague and friend, Dr Natalie Jennings, who sadly passed away following a very short illness on 31st August 2026.

I have written a tribute to Natalie on our website, and we also created a book of condolence for patients and staff to leave messages, memories and a few words for her family. Thank you to all the patients who have contacted us to offer their support and condolences to Natalie's family and to all of us at the practice. Many of you have brought in cards and flowers, and made donations, all of which we will pass on to her children.

Natalie was someone who always brought energy, humour and positivity to the practice. The one thing she would not have wanted would be for us to mope around and be sad. She would have told us, in no uncertain terms, "business as usual!"

So, with that in mind, we will continue to do what Natalie would have wanted us to do, look after our patients, support one another and carry on.

With that said, I am handing over to Colin Brookbanks, Chair of the Jack May Trust Fund, who would like to update you on some of the Trust's recent achievements and the ways in which it continues to support Much Hadham Health Centre and our patients.

JACK MAY TRUST FUND

Charity Commission No. 1088104

It has now been more than 20 years that patients of Much Hadham Health Centre have benefitted from the Trust, and this seems an appropriate time to highlight some of its more recent achievements.

PRACTICE INFORMATION LEAFLETS

The Practice Manager, Andrew Wilkinson, produced an excellent and informative new leaflet reflecting changes within the NHS, including updated staff details and expanded patient facilities.

AIR CONDITIONING

The installation of air conditioning was very well received by both staff and patients, particularly as it coincided with a period of exceptionally hot weather.

CHECKING-IN SYSTEM

A new touch-screen system has been installed, enabling patients to check in for appointments quickly and efficiently within the waiting area.

VACCINATION CLINICS

Vaccination clinics are typically held at Little Hadham Village Hall to accommodate the large number of attendees for COVID-19 and flu vaccinations. With approximately 7,000 registered patients at the Health Centre, the Trust has provided highly visible road signage to help ease traffic congestion during these sessions.

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

The Trust continues to support the practice through the provision of essential equipment, including weighing scales, ear irrigation equipment, and the recent replacement of an outdated examination couch.

DONATIONS

We are extremely grateful to all those who have supported the Trust through donations, whether large or small. Legacies have played an important role

over the years. An additional option for donating is through a Deed of Variation, allowing beneficiaries of a will to redirect funds to a charity or individual. This process is straightforward and does not require professional assistance.

TRUSTEES

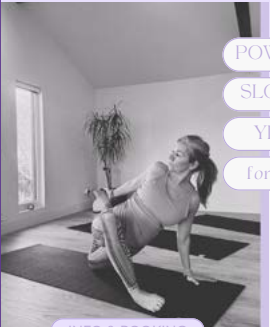
We are currently seeking a new Trustee following the resignation of a founding member, and as some existing Trustees are stepping back. Applicants must be registered patients of the practice and able to attend four meetings per year at the Health Centre. Meetings are typically held at lunchtime, and refreshments are provided.

If you are interested or would like further information, please contact the Practice Manager at **andrew.wilkinson7@nhs.net** or Colin Brookbanks at **colinbrookbanks@gmail.com**.

Andrew



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LITTLE HADHAM GARDENING CLUB

ANNE WILLETT

There are a lot of talented people in our village. This was clearly evident at the Little Hadham Gardening Club's Annual Show, held on Sunday 30th August. Whilst the glorious sunny summer was wonderful, making us all feel like we were on holiday every day, it was dreadful for plants, flowers and vegetables. Despite such a terrible growing year, where water was scarce, heat was intense and we had to carry watering cans everywhere, great produce was still on display at the Show. Sections for vegetables, fruit and flowers. jam, curd, chutney and pickles were plentifully presented. Bakers created breads and cakes, and crafters' displayed their art work.



Plant is *Caryopteris x clandonensis*
'White Surprise'

Our external judges said how impressed they were with the quality of the entries. Judi Wheeler had an incredible show, winning the flower and vegetable section along with the Club Shield for most points overall. Jon Fardell won 'Best Vegetable in Show' with his perfect tomatoes, which were also awarded the [overall] 'Best in Show'. Other winners included Louise Clark, Gail Ellis, Mick Wheeler and Dave Willett (for a well contested men's cooking category).

Our talented youngsters created miniature gardens, painted stones, vegetable characters and baked cakes - well done to Francis, Hazel and Rose. Overall winner in the junior section was Rose.

Following on from last month's article it is surprising how resilient flowers are as just following a couple of heavy downpours, plants which looked like they were on the way out have taken on a new lease of life. Let's hope things recover for next year.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 20th October** in Little Hadham Village Hall when we will have a talk about 'Bee Keeping' by Brian Mason. Doors open at 7.45pm for an 8pm start. First visit free to prospective members. Refreshments included.

In view of the success of our Plant Sale in May, the price for the Club Supper on **21st November 2026** will be held at £20 per person for members. Non members £25.



The menu is as follows:-

Vegetable tagine and couscous
Cottage pie (beef), veg and gravy
Chicken tagine with savoury rice
Chocolate Fudge Cake
Apple Pie
Fruit Platter

Please contact Veneta on 07909 945 025 to reserve your place.

Also coming up in November is our Christmas Wreath Workshop on **Tuesday 24th November**. Your place can be reserved at the next meeting or by contacting a committee member.



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NIKKI & LOUISE

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BLACKBERRIES, GRUFFALOS & AUTUMN ADVENTURES!

After an amazing summer of holiday camps, we've had a brilliant start to the new term at Woodland Rangers! Our Stay and Play sessions have been fully booked, and it has been wonderful to welcome back familiar faces after the long summer break, as well as meet lots of new families joining us for the first time.

We've been making the most of the last few blackberries of the season, foraging them to create beautiful blackberry tie-dye. From our youngest children who have just joined us, right through to our good friends at Little Hadham Primary School, children of all ages have been amazed by the wonderful effects the blackberries created.

We've also been taking a stroll through the deep, dark woods, discovering the Gruffalo's friends hiding around the forest. To celebrate the launch of Gruffalo Granny, we made one of our favourite campfire snacks – Gruffalo Crumble! With a little help, our younger children peeled and chopped apples, added the “purple prickles”, then mixed and sprinkled over the crumble before cooking it on the campfire. It was delicious!

As we start to see signs of autumn, we're embracing the changing season with autumn leaf crowns and scavenger hunts to spot signs of autumn. We're excited to see what we can create with autumn treasures such as conkers and leaves.



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COME AND HAVE A GO WITH MUCH HADHAM BELLS! OPEN DAY SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2:30-4PM

Come and have a go on Much Hadham's bells! We are hosting an open day on **Sunday 11th October 2:30-4pm**, at St Andrew's with Holy Cross. If you've ever wanted to see if you can throw around a bell the weight of a small car, or to have a genteel tinkle of a smaller one, or both, or just see what goes on, this may be your one chance this year! We welcome people from age 10-110. Unlike the Busy Week session – for younger children – have a go at ringing them properly – flipping them around 360 degrees under their own weight. No great strength is required, given enough skill – an elegant former ballerina regularly rings our heaviest bell.

Are you looking for a new hobby, or a new social group? Some gentle exercise? A little mental stimulation? And to be more part of village society and events? Bell-ringing is a non-competitive team sport that will bring you all of these. Quasi has just launched his latest new-starter on the wonderful world of ringing, after a couple of months of successful beginners' sessions. She is now gracing bands ringing at Braughing and Furneux Pelham as well as at Much Hadham itself. We therefore have a vacancy for a new beginner to join the other two who are currently progressing through the first stages

of their ringing journey on Tuesdays. Although people who are just curious are very welcome to the open day, we're looking for a new recruit. It is a listed 'skill' for those doing Duke of Edinburgh, several have done that with us.

There is a structured learning process, with certificates at each stage:

Level 1: Safe to ring on your own, via around 20 intermediate steps, starting with health & safety and working up to fine control. This takes typically 2-3 months.

Level 2: Ability to ring with others, in time, with precision.

Level 3: Ability to ring changes (yes, that is where that saying comes from)

Level 4: Ability to ring changes in a second pattern

Level 5: Advanced change-ringing, including basic conducting. A bright young person can easily reach this stage in 2-3 years

Beyond Level 5 there are more directions to explore – ringing on more bells, ringing progressively trickier patterns, visiting different towers, conducting, teaching and more. Why not have a go? Come along to the open day or email hadham.bells@gmail.com. I guarantee you'll have a story to tell!

Quasi



To find out more about bellringing, watch our short YouTube video: scan the QR code above.

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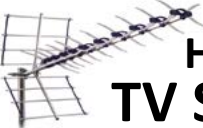


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Notices



COVER PHOTOS

Calling all budding photographers! We are always on the look out for lovely photographs of the village for our front cover. With our new design, it no longer matters if there is a space at the top to put writing over, just something that works with the dimensions we use on our cover which is almost square.

Seasonal photos or photos of events from the village always welcome. Please send them to the editor at: littlehadhampn@gmail.com



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To find out more, please visit
www.annerobsontrust.org.uk

AnneRobson Trust

LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL NEWS

MARK HALL

www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com | chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com

I'm pleased to report that our Summer Fayre, held jointly with the Parish Council raised a profit of £2664. We are delighted with the result considering it was our first attempt and are going to repeat the event in July 2027!

To secure funding for the Village Hall roof, we are also looking at grant funding involving Sport England who will match any attempts by us to secure necessary money through Crowd Funding. If we can raise £15,000, Sport England will match the money raised with a similar amount. Any money you donate to the cause, will allow us to claim Gift Aid (which is a refund from income tax paid). Supporting webpages, further details, and an accompanying video to follow soon.



This September we held a thank you BBQ for our volunteers who helped at the Fayre and throughout the year in general. We could not do what we do were it not for our lovely army of volunteers who step forward and help us in countless ways.

While we are on the subject of volunteering, LHVH is always looking for people to help in the kitchen in a variety of ways. If you like what we do as a village hall and fancy volunteering yourself, then call me on 07938 157 800 for a chat.

WELCOME CAFÉ: OPEN 10AM – 2PM

Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee or stay to enjoy a homemade meal. Sit and have a chat or ask us about any of the events and activities on offer at the hall.

We would appreciate a minimum donation of £5 per person, if you have enjoyed a home cooked meal.

ALSO, EVERY WEDNESDAY FREE - DIGITAL INCLUSION: EVERY WEDNESDAY 1.30PM TO 3PM

Having issues with your digital device, laptop, iPad, mobile phone? Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while one of our knowledgeable volunteers helps you at your own pace. No appointment needed. If you would prefer to get in touch before visiting, please call M: 07588 736610. We are here for you, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Donations appreciated for refreshments.



Bingo & Ploughman's Platter.
Tickets £14 per person.

BINGO EVENING – MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER 7PM – 9PM

Our events committee invite you to book up for another fun prize-winning



Tickets are available now to book online via the village hall website. Visit: www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com See main menu – choose What's On / Events and scroll down to find link to book and pay.

AUTUMN COMMUNITY SUNDAY ROAST Sunday 18th October - 12pm to 2pm

Our events committee invites you to join your neighbours and friends for a homemade three course lunch.

Book online via the village hall website.

Tickets £7 per person – Open to all



(Part funded by HCC Community Connections Grant)

RED CHAIR COMMUNITY CINEMA PRESENTS:

The Christophers (2025) - Monday 19th October

Dark Comedy /Drama (Film synopsis on website) Cert 15.

Runtime: 1hrs 40mins.

- Doors Open 2pm - Film Starts Promptly at 2.30pm
- Entry tickets £5 per person
- Licenced Bar / Ice Creams / Tea & Cake

For full Autumn film programme, visit our website.

Continues >

If you would like to know more about anything in this article please contact Joan McKinlay on: 07789 098 071 or email: vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAIR – SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER

Handmade crafts and gifts brought to you by talented local crafters and makers. Exciting range of original gifts for you to get Christmas wrapped up!

- Open from 10am to 3.30pm
- Food and beverages served all day
- Entry £1 (Children free)

All proceeds to village hall maintenance and improvement projects

Keeping you busy and connected during the week

Details of events held at the hall are available to view on our website along with information on regular activities and fitness groups www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com.
Contact Joan McKinlay M: 07789 098 071 - email: vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com



CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAIR
LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL
THE FORD, SG11 2BP

22ND NOVEMBER 2026
10AM TO 3.30PM

ENTRY £1 - CHILDREN FREE (UNDER 16)
Discover a world of festive wonder at our Christmas Fair
Handmade gifts by talented makers
Something for everyone to get you in the mood for Christmas!

All proceeds to Little Hadham Village Hall funds



★ Quiz Night ★

What was the name of...? Which film featured...?
How many times did...? What is the fastest...? Who was the first person...?
In what year was the...? When did the battle of...?
Which came first, the...? What is the smallest...? Why did...?

SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER 2026
LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL
@7.30PM

★ Cost £15 includes a cheese platter ★
★ Teams/tables up to 8 people ★ Bring your own drink and glasses ★
★ Raffle prizes to be won ★

Please confirm numbers no later than 14th October 2026 to lhbooths@gmail.com or 01279 771426



LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL - SG11 2BP
Join your neighbours and friends for a homemade three course lunch.

AUTUMN

SUNDAY ROAST
SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2026
12pm to 2pm

Three Course Sunday lunch - Open to All

£7.00 per person
Pre-book online - Limited spaces

Part funded by HCC Community Connections Grant
Cash donations at the event will go towards essential roof repairs

Book Online:
www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER @ LH VILLAGE HALL

See website menu for full details of 'What's On': www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

'Drop in' - just turn up - **When contact details are listed** - please phone / email before attending.

Not all fitness activities start back the first week of September, please check with the group organiser.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY'S

Mum's Matter 10am - 11.30am **Drop in:** Parents group supported by NHS Midwife.

TUESDAY'S

Pilates 9.30am - 10.30am Claire Email: cstacey1412@gmail.com

Art Club 11am - 1.30pm Ashlyn M: 07971 022736

Brownies 5.30pm - 7pm Cassey Email: littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY'S

Welcome Cafe	10am - 2pm	Drop in: Coffee & Chat. (Lunch Menu)	DONATIONS
Digital Inclusion	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Drop in: Help with your digital device	DONATIONS
Chair Yoga	11am - 11.45am	Mark Cox	M: 07368 293062
Tai Chi	1pm - 2pm	Sarah Baker	M: 07740 701102
Fit Steps	6pm - 7pm	Jacqui Howard	M: 07731 454228

THURSDAY'S

Afternoon Bowls Club 2pm - 4pm Mike Email: mikebennett12@aol.com

FRIDAY'S

Forever Fit 11am - 12pm Daisy Osborne M: 07585 309933

LH Bowls Club 7.30pm - 10pm Annette Luedtke Email: annetteluedtke@gmail.com

FORTNIGHTLY ACTIVITIES

Darts & Games Social 2pm - 4.30pm **Drop in:** 1st / 15th / 29th September **COST: £3**

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES - Please see website for full details

Community Brunch 10am - 12pm **Book via website:** Thursday 10th Sept. **DONATIONS**

EVENTS

- **Monday 5th October – Bingo & Ploughman's Platter.** Booking & details online via our website - www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com (Fundraising event)

- **Sunday 18th October – Autumn Community Lunch.** Booking & details online via our website - www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

- **Monday 19th October – Red Chair Community (Afternoon) Cinema:** The Christophers (2025) (Cert 15) – Comedy / Drama – Synopsis on website. Doors Open 2pm. Film Starts Promptly at 2.30pm. Entry £5. Licenced Bar / Tea & Cake

CRISTINA HARRISON, CURATOR
hadhammuseum@gmail.com

THANK YOU! A huge thank you to Eloise Daniell for volunteering several days of her summer holidays to help me with the research for our 2027 season exhibition; "Wonder Women: Inspirational stories from The Hadhams".

ARTS IN EAST HERTS – MARVELLOUS MURALS WORKSHOPS!

Sat 24th Oct, 11am & 2pm. Free Family taster sessions, using templates printed onto art paper.

Sun 25th and Fri 30th Oct, 11am and 2pm: Explore the technique of using cartoons to create outlines, explore the medium of painting onto plaster panels. Create your own wall painting panel to take home. £10pp. Places are limited, booking is essential. Reserve your spot! Contact us!

HADHAM HAUNTZ HALLOWEEN, SAT OCT 31ST FROM 5.30 – 8PM (QUEUE CLOSES AT 7.30PM) £3PP.

Be prepared to be scared as Lucas G and team takeover the museum again this Halloween! All new scare trail, with live actors, animatronics and more!

Hot drinks available to buy. Come along and help us raise much needed funds for the museum!



To book a workshop or to contact us:

Email: hadhammuseum@gmail.com or
Mobile: 07483 113 345

To keep up to date why not follow our social media @HadhamMuseum on Facebook, Insta, Threads, X, You-tube and Tik-Tok.

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TALKING BOWLS...OR SOMETHING

Much Hadham Bowling Club: Recreation Ground, Much Hadham SG10 6DL

The latest news regarding our 'sinking' Club House is that following the felling of some surrounding trees earlier this year, we are advised by the Contractor that movement has stabilised and remedial work can commence. When that will be is still unknown but it will be very disruptive and making plans for any social events very difficult until then.

The Club House is not the only thing sinking. Our Seniors team have, for the first time ever, ended bottom of the league table. For years we would finish in the top three and this year got off to a flying start with 2 big wins but that did not last - thereafter we seemed to fall apart. What or whom to blame? The regulars at the Club bar will doubtless have strong views but a hard hat and flak jacket were spotted on the back seat of the Team Captain's car. In readiness for the AGM?

The Mens Evening league finished 5th again this year but, at one stage it was looking 'as if we would improve on that. Next year maybe!

It is likely a Ladies league will be re-instated next year. If so we are hopeful of signing up which would be good news.

All other aspects of the Club are going well. New members seem to have integrated well which bodes well for next year and it is our intention to extend the availability of the Green for both bowls and croquet probably well into October. The weather may have a say but with changing patterns the odds look promising.

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I finished school in the summer and since then I've applied for countless jobs, but I'm not having any luck - most companies don't even bother getting back to me. It's really getting me down - what can I do to be more successful?

Navigating your first steps into the world of work can be really daunting. If you're struggling to find a job, you're not alone. Nearly one million young people aged 16 to 24 in the UK are not in education, employment or training. Clearly, there are some big structural and economic issues that are making it hard for young people to find work, but there are still things you can do.

When you're applying for a job, it's vital to do your homework. Make sure you've done your research about both the role and the employer, and adjust your CV to fit the position you're applying for. Employers will usually want to know why you're interested in working for them specifically, so take some time to look into who they are and their values as an organisation. Then discuss how they align with what you're looking for in a role in your application.

Be cautious about using AI. When you're feeling the pressure to get out as many applications as possible, it can be tempting to turn to AI to help you write your CV, cover letter or application form. But employers can usually tell when you've used AI, and some may use AI detection tools when screening your application. It might put them off wanting to progress your application, so it's best to always use your own words.

If you're worried about your lack of experience, one way to make your CV stand out from the crowd is to try volunteering. Not only will you gain vital skills and work experience but also make a positive difference to people's lives. For example, volunteering in your local Citizens Advice service can give you office experience and customer service skills - you can find

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out more about volunteering at Citizens Advice East Herts on our website <https://citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/volunteer-with-us/> Or look at www.govolherts.org.uk/ for other volunteering opportunities.

If you face barriers to work due to a disability, look at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/adult-learning/campaigns/connect-to-work.aspx for information on support available from Step2Skills.

If you're unemployed you can get help with CV writing and interview skills from Community Alliance Broxbourne and East Herts - see <https://communityalliancebeh.org.uk/our-services/employment-and-skills/job-smart-and-job-club/> or call Sarah on 07487 245 992.

If you're struggling financially, you should check what benefits you're able to get. If you're over 18 (or in some cases 16 or 17), not in education or training, and you have less than £16,000 in savings or other investments, you may be eligible for Universal Credit. You might also be able to get 'new style' Jobseeker's Allowance for up to six months while you look for a job. You can check what benefits you can get on the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/benefits-introduction/what-benefits-can-i-get/.

And lastly, job hunting can take a real toll on your mental wellbeing. Endless applications, back-to-back rejections or - worse - being ghosted entirely can all chip away at your self-esteem and affect your mental health. If you're finding it tough, there's help and support available. You can reach out to organisations like StudentMinds www.studentminds.org.uk/, try YoungMinds www.youngminds.org.uk/ or get in touch with Mind www.mind.org.uk/ - you don't have to face it alone.

For local advice in any area, call our Message Line on 01920 459 944, or visit citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for other advice options.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

KEN MCDONALD, SECRETARY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



At the beginning of September, The Hundred Parishes Society held its twelfth Annual General Meeting. Each year we have chosen a different venue so that we can introduce members to another location they may not have visited before. Last year, for example, we went to the museum in Saffron Walden where we were given an informative guided tour.

In 2026, it was the turn of Great Waltham, one of our largest parishes and in the far south-east corner of The Hundred Parishes. Before the meeting, I took some of our members on a short walk around the centre of Great Waltham village, pointing out a few of its many ancient buildings.

We passed the fascinating 16th-century private house called Badynghams, with four spectacular original chimney stacks, and then the war memorial where the 36 men from the parish who died in the first world war and nine in WWII are remembered.

We moved on for a brief excursion into the Langleys estate, enjoying a view from the footpath of its magnificent Grade I listed Georgian mansion, built in 1719 by the Tufnell family who still own it today.

We then made our way to the parish's Norman church, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Lawrence. Church warden David Williams introduced the group to some fascinating features, especially the splendid Everard memorial which is 400 years old. Church historian Peter Wells was unable to join us but several members purchased copies of his excellent book about Great Waltham and its church, published within the last year.

Just a short walk took us back to the village hall for refreshments and the formal part of the AGM where I and our chairman Douglas Kent were re-appointed. Where do you think we should go next year?



Badynghams



Langleys gatehouse



Langleys



Dragon on church lychgate



Everard memorial



Great Waltham church: Reredos



Great Waltham church

THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

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The rains we finally received at the end of August and the promise of more in September have refreshed the Gardens a bit in time for a tranquil close to the season at the end of October. Often full autumn colours don't arrive until November, but they are already starting, as many trees are preserving their strength by becoming dormant earlier than usual. So in October we will have the joys of kicking up golden brown leaves in the Lime Wood at the same time as enjoying the last flowers of the season: the dahlias,

the hylotelephium (ice plant) and the michaelmas daisies. And of course the roses still, which have flowered continuously, keeping our spirits up through this year's hopelessly dry summer.

At our **18 October Autumn & Halloween Open Day** visitors will be encouraged to really look at the huge variety of trees in the Gardens and appreciate the stories of who planted them, when, while also enjoying the Gardens at their spooky best. In the walled kitchen garden, the pumpkins have enjoyed the heat

of the summer and already in August turned a vibrant orange. They aren't huge - so visitors will need to be very precise to win the guess the weight competition! More squashes were still growing in September, so hopefully there will be lots to make soup for visitors, to use for craft activities for children and to sell. Volunteers have worked hard to jam the fruits from the garden, so there will be a jam and jelly tombola, as well as other local produce and craft stalls. Children will love discovering the Halloween decorations around the Gardens, and the trail and family games. And the Rock Choir will sing lots of our favourite songs from 12pm.

The Gardens are also open on Thursdays to the end of October, from 11am to 3pm, last entry 2pm.

For further details, please look at our website **www.eastonlodge.co.uk**. Advance tickets for the Sunday Open Day can be bought (at a discount) through Trybooking.com.

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The next meeting of The Hadhams' History Society will be on **Thursday 22nd October** in The Green Room, Much Hadham Village Hall. This will be a talk given by Mark Radcliffe on "The Mystery of the Prison Hatfield Heath.

Our September meeting was very interesting - Livery Companies of

London - given by Dave Willett and this was enjoyed by everyone.

Our November meeting will be a social evening.

If anyone would like more information on the Society Meetings do get in touch with me.



HADHAM CROSS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

KATHY HAMILTON

PREACHERS FOR SERVICES AT 11am

4th October	Kathy Hamilton	Hadham Cross Church
11th October	Mike Hillyer	Oakwood Chapel Harlow
18th October	Kathy Hamilton	Hadham Cross Church
25th October	John Fosker	Therfield Congregational Church

All are welcome to our Services at 11am every Sunday

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 14th October** 10am- 12 noon. Please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat.

Our next **AFTERNOON TEA** will be on **Thursday 29th October** 2 - 4pm. Again please do come and join us for cake/tea, coffee and a chat.

Church Deacons: Brenda Coleshill 01279 842 800 | Kathy Hamilton 01279 843 756



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PARISH SERVICES OCTOBER 2026

BENEFICE OF: LITTLE HADHAM | MUCH HADHAM | ALBURY



Date	Day	Church	Service / Event	Time
04-Oct	Sunday	St Mary's Church, Albury	Trinity 18 - Harvest	9:15am
04-Oct	Sunday	St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham	Said Eucharist	5-5:30pm
11-Oct	Sunday	St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham	Trinity 19 - Harvest	9:15am
18-Oct	Sunday	St Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham	Trinity 20 - Harvest	9:15am
22-Oct	Thursday	St Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham	Midweek Eucharist (BCP)	10:00am
25-Oct	Sunday	St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham	Last after Trinity - Bible Sunday	9:15am

ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH, LITTLE HADHAM | SG11 2DY

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15AM - 10:15AM

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

MID-WEEK WORSHIP (BCP)

10:00AM - 10:30AM

EVERY FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH



DONATING TO ST. CECILIA'S

As well as the Parish Giving Scheme, cheques and cash, we have now caught up with modern technology and have Contactless Giving in the Church. You can also donate via our QR code. — Thank you.



ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR SERVICES