

Little Hadham PARISH NEWS March 2008

Conservation Society re-established to oppose gypsy site

RESIDENTS URGED TO CREATE CAMPAIGN FUND

The campaign to oppose the creation of a caravan site for gypsies and travellers in Little Hadham requires the urgent support of the whole community. That is the key conclusion of the working group set up to plan a campaign of opposition to a possible traveller site in Little Hadham.

The campaign will be the first for a new local organisation, **Little Hadham Conservation Society**. The working group representing residents and local business that set up the society believes that a body with the aim of conserving the essential character of Little Hadham provides the most appropriate campaigning vehicle. Little Hadham Parish Council and the Parish Plan Group have endorsed the setting up of the society.

It is a revival of a previous organisation with similar aims, the Little Hadham Preservation Society, created in the 1980s to oppose the expansion of Stansted Airport and other threats to the community. The body will adopt the new name of the Little Hadham Conservation Society.

more on page 3

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Letter from Chris Boulton

This Spring I have the joy of doing several baptisms in Much Hadham. Some of them have been the children of couples whom I married at St Andrew's; others are families who live locally and who want their children to be part of the Christian family, not only at St Andrew's, but also the world wide fellowship of believers.

I am sometimes asked why we baptise those who cannot make a profession of faith for themselves. And I know of no better explanation than that contained in the Prayer Book of 1662. After a reading from St Mark 10 where Jesus blesses the children, it goes on to say:

"Beloved, ye hear in this Gospel the words of our Saviour Christ, that he commanded the children to be brought unto him; how he blamed those that would have kept them from him; how he exhorted men to follow their innocency. Ye perceive how by his outward gesture and deed he declared his good will toward them; for he embraced them in his arms, he laid his hands upon them, and blessed them. Doubt ye not therefore, but earnestly believe, that he likewise favourably receives this present infant; that he hath embraced him/her with the arms of his mercy; and will give him/her the blessing of eternal life."

And what is true of children, I think is equally true of adults. Reaching out to others is the hallmark of the Gospel. Forbearing rather than forbidding is the way to come to Christ. The rest will be added later at the right time.

Baptism is the key to understanding Holy Week and Easter. Along with the Eucharist, its complex symbolism draws us in so that we can see that through baptism we participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus. When we are confirmed and each Easter we renew our baptismal vows, we recall the story of Christ's Passion and Resurrection, because we want to know again, like a little child, a fresh expression of God's mercy and grace.

Chris Boulton

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Consultants working on behalf of several local authorities, including East Herts Council, have identified two possible caravan sites in Little Hadham. The sites, alongside the A120, east and west of Millfield Lane, are considered potential residential sites for gypsies and travellers. This location would increase the volume of traffic on the A120 and the risk of accidents, and put unacceptable pressure on local services including doctors' surgeries, the Police and the village school.

A proposal by the East of England Regional Authority (EERA) would mean that every authority in the region would be required to find a minimum of 15 new caravan pitches for gypsies and travellers by 2011. EERA rejected the alternative approach favoured by EHC that additional pitches should be found in existing sites.

While recognising that gypsies and travellers have accommodation needs, Little Hadham Conservation Society will develop a powerful case that the possible sites in Little Hadham are totally inappropriate.

The society has called on all residents to support its aims by joining as members and by making donations and pledges towards an initial campaign fund of £15,000 to pay for advice from planning and legal experts. Residents will also be asked to volunteer their time and share relevant experience and skills.

Little Hadham Conservation Society has been formed ahead of a three-month public consultation announced by EERA, starting on March 13. The society's proposals, to be detailed in future editions of the Parish News, will show why the two possible sites in Little Hadham would be wrong. In addition to objections listed above, a gypsy and traveller site would have an impact on public utilities such as water supply, sewage and drainage,

and could increase risk of flooding.

One of the biggest impacts could be on the value of people's homes. No final decisions on sites will be taken until 2009. Uncertainty during this lengthy consultation period would create blight, leading to the devaluation of house prices in the district.

Little Hadham Parish Council has already come out strongly against the prospect of a traveller site. Among its objections is the fact that the two possible sites are on privately-owned farmland that could be compulsorily purchased to accommodate gypsies. The potential sites have also been strongly opposed by our district and county councillors and Oliver Heald, MP. An update on the traveller site situation will be given at future parish council meetings. Will you help oppose the prospect of a traveller site in Little Hadham? Can you offer relevant expertise?

Please contact any of the members of the newly-formed

Little Hadham Conservation Society:

Don Gibson 771325;
Olivia Elton Barratt 651497;
Jon Fardell 771697;
Carmela Piccolo 466331;
Mike Fairchild 771302;
Tony Skidmore 771688;
Phil Roberts 652652;
Graham Farrant 07917 067264.

You can help in several ways including joining Little Hadham Conservation Society, pledging to make a donation, and offering your services. Please complete the pledge form enclosed with your copy of the Parish News and return it as soon as possible to one of the addresses shown. Thank you!

WANTED

Youth leader

Do you have experience of working with young people and would you like to make a unique contribution to your community?

Do you know anyone living in the area who is a qualified youth worker?

If your answer to either question is "Yes", we'd love to hear from you.

The Parish Council and the Parish Plan Group are looking for someone with experience of working with young people, especially teenagers, to help develop a programme of activities and events and to find ways of giving our youngsters more of a 'voice' in what goes on in the village.

Your experience might be in sport, live music, dance, rollerblading, drama, mountain biking, or outdoor adventure activities. Or maybe you're just brilliant at motivation and helping youngsters to organise their 'own thing'.

If this sounds like you, or someone you know, please contact Carmela Piccolo on 01279 466331.

Parish Council News

Parish Council's objection to 'trading estate' over-ruled

East Herts Council's planners have turned down a request from Little Hadham Parish Council for a planning brief to guide future non-agricultural development at Church End Farm. The parish council had objected to an application for change of use of two redundant farm buildings in the absence of a planning brief. The parish council was concerned that piecemeal development could lead to a large industrial estate in an unsuitable location creating an unacceptable level of additional traffic accessing the A120. The chairman of the parish council and a director of Church End Farm addressed the development control committee but it approved the application because several buildings already had industrial use and East Herts Council did not have the resources to create a development brief.

continues on page 10

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A farmer's wife's tale . . . by Cherry Mardell

I've only been a farmer's wife for a relatively few years so I'm still learning all the time.

For instance, I've come pretty proficient at the long sigh as we gaze at our crops, all bedraggled in an excess of rain. I'm equally good at a sympathetic groan when the tractors won't start . . . though my usual query about getting a new battery is always met with the same steely-eyed glare.

But I have recently been allowed to buy some chickens and in this area, I'm in charge!

We had ten beautiful birds, though one did a disappearing act for a couple of days but returned – I reckon she realised life outside wasn't as cushy as she had imagined.

They spend half the day in their luxury hen house and the rest cavorting around our garden, running at breakneck speed if they

see me to check for extra titbits!

I bought them as "point of lay" - but they knew better and kept me in suspense for about eight weeks before finally deciding to get down to business. Now they are in full production and we have loads of lovely deep brown eggs.

We have just returned from a holiday with a time difference of seven hours. So I have been waking around 3am, unable to sleep any longer. Today, in desperation, I got up and decided to do something useful, like using up some of the surplus eggs.

An hour, and ten eggs later, we are the proud owners of two huge cakes.

And there's me, trying to lose the holiday bulge!

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Bees by Sheri Hazell

As a novice bee-keeper I have worried about my hive of bees surviving their first winter with me. I am totally inexperienced; the hive is old and in completely the wrong place being under trees and too shaded. The bees have not been vaccinated and I did not even know if they had sufficient honey stored to feed themselves.

However, during the second week of February, I was delighted to see my bees venturing into the bright spring sunshine. They are a distinct pale amber, easy to spot. They foraged on the hellebores and heather in the garden; danced among the spikes of vibrant yellow, sweet-smelling mahonia; carefully balanced on the wide open petals of the aconites before heading back to the hive. They have survived.

I was overjoyed to see them flying again, to know they have managed to keep themselves warm and fed during the darkest days of winter. The sharp decline of the honey bee worldwide is of great concern to conservationists. No one quite knows how this will affect the life cycle of plants and animals, but we all know how important the tiny, tiny bee is in the balance of nature.

Against the odds my small colony is still alive and by the look of things, they are well and will be ready to pollenate the nearby rape and orchard blossom as it comes into flower this spring.

How did I come to keep bees in the first place, you ask. It's a fair question, and maybe if you are interested, I will tell you – another time.



Adverts removed

March events . . .

4 Parish Council meeting, 8pm

6 & 20 Mobile Library, details p 13

8 Sat, Jumble Sale, Thundridge Village Hall 2.30 – 4.30 Information 01920 462992.

8 Sat, Social Club Table Top Sale, 10 – 12.30 Book your tables now. Small table £6, large £10. (Table hire fees and profit from refreshments to be donated to LH Village Hall Fund). Payment with booking, please, to Binnie on 771580.

8 Sat, LH School & Playgroup Quiz Night, in the Village Hall. Tickets £10 (inc. f&c supper) from LH Post Office or 771285.

8 Sat Stansted Village Music Club, 7.30pm, St John's Church, Stansted. Another "Duo": oboist, Thomas Barber and pianist James Southall. Tickets £10, Children £3. Children accompanying members £1 at the door. From Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., BS; and Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (815282)

9 Sun Big Fun Walk, Isabel Hospice supporters are invited to participate in the beautiful 8 mile Big Fun Walk across the parks of London. It takes in Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Wood, Parliament Hill, Belsize Park, Primrose Hill, Regents Park, Green Park, St James Park and finishes at Westminster for tea and Jazz. Check-in is 9.15-10.15 and the first departure is at 9.30 and leaving at fifteen minute intervals until 10.15. If anyone wants to walk with the Isabel Hospice Group, we are leaving at 9.30am and registration forms are available from Renee Friend. If you are interested in taking part, call Renee Friend on 01279 755320. Dogs welcome.

11 Tue LH & Albury Social Club, 8pm. Our speaker is Mrs A. Barnes who will talk about 'Traid Justice'. We look forward to seeing old and new friends. We are at the start of our

at the village hall unless otherwise indicated

fourth year of the Club and have a complete calendar of interesting speakers, a couple of social evenings and our Christmas Party Dinner ready booked. At present we are organising trips, starting with a walking tour of the City of London mid-March and a tour of Highgate Cemetery in May. Please let us know if you are interested in either of these venues. If you are new neighbours you would be very welcome to attend our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm.

20 Thur Way Inn coffee morning, 10-12

25 Tue EHC Planning Policy Meeting 7.30-9pm. Don't miss this opportunity to get your views heard. (See article on p12)

29 Sat Farmers' Market 9-12noon

29 Sat Meyer Williams Charity Ball, 6.30pm for 7pm start, Broxbourne Civic Hall. This fantastic Meyer Williams Charity Ball will be their 12th Black Tie Ball. The evening will consist of a four course meal, plus an auction and a raffle. Tickets £35. For tickets or more information please contact Stephanie Maffey at Meyer Williams on 01992 550721

30 Sun Teas in Gardens, 2–5pm at Pelham House near Brent Pelham. 3.5-acre informal garden started by the present owner in 1986 with a wide variety of trees and shrubs, especially birches and oaks. Also bulb frames, raised beds with alpines and acid-loving plants, plus a small formal area with ponds. All proceeds from refreshments to Isabel Hospice. Directions: On the east side of Brent Pelham. On B1038, when travelling from Clavering, it is immediately after the village sign.

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... and later

12th April – **Jumble Sale**, Thundridge 2.30pm to 4.30pm 01920 462992.

13th April - **FLORA London Marathon 2008**
If you would like to run this fantastic event in aid of Isabel Hospice, we would very much like to hear from you. For all enquiries please call Pam Shepherd 01707 376782.

3rd & 4th May – **Abseil for Isabel Hospice**
Nearly 2,000 people have descended from the Three Valleys water tower in Church Langley, raising £390,000 for more than 200 charities. Contact <http://www.harlowtye.freeuk.com>

6th May Glorious Gardens in Furneux Pelham 10.30–5.00. For full details of the day and for a ticket application contact: Barbara Doherty 842140 or: barbara.doherty@tiscali.co.uk

Teas in Gardens

4th May Pelham House

11th May Jenningsbury, Hertford Heath.

18th May Cockhamstead, Braughing

25th May White House, Dane End

26th May Fanhams Hall

LH Cricket Club

With spring just around the corner, Little Hadham Cricket Club is now preparing for the new season. Indoor cricket nets are currently taking place on Sunday mornings at the Bishops-sport sports hall at the Bishop's Stortford High School. The nets begin at 10am and we would welcome anyone interested in coming along to get some cricket practice. Even if you have never played before but would like to 'give it a go' then you will be more than welcome. Further details are available from either Andy Yarwood on 01799 540041 or Martin Hallmark on 01279 771033 (mobile 07917 425076).

The club's next social evening will be the pre-season 'signing on' evening which will take place at the Nag's Head in Little Hadham on Sunday 16th March from 7.30pm. This evening is a friendly social evening for existing players and any prospective new members to get together. If you are interested in coming along then you will be made very welcome.

Jack is about 2 or 3 yrs old – he was a stray. He has spent about 10 months in kennels before being fostered in Little Hadham for



Heathlands Animal Rescue at Royston. He is a young dog and needs a home with experienced dog owners and no children. He is a very loving dog and will be very loyal to his owner. Jack is fine with most other dogs and some cats who stand their ground. He is clean in the house, vaccinated, neutered etc. If anyone can give Jack the secure loving home that he so desperately deserves please telephone Gillian Knight 01763 244488

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Parish Council News, continued from page 4

Combating rat-runs:

one step nearer – at a price

Herts County Council is willing to carry out a study into possible solutions to the problem of rat-running through Cradle End, Bury Green, Ford Hill and Westland Green but the Parish Council would need to raise £5,000 to pay for it. The council will look for sources of funding with the help of Herts CC Cllr Mary Bayes. The council cannot fund the study out of its own budget.

Work in progress

Among tasks being tackled by the parish

council are supplying smart new gates to our new playground next to the Village Hall, lowering the surrounding hedge to increase visibility so children can play there more safely, and seeking an economical and long-lasting solution to the problem of damage to the war memorial wall.

We had the biggest turnout for a long time at the February parish council meeting in its new venue of the main hall. Come and contribute to the big decisions that affect Little Hadham. Next meeting: TUESDAY MARCH 4, 8pm in the village hall.

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Nature Notes: January

by Jonathan Forgham
jforgham@hotmail.com

On the whole, a wet and relatively warm month. I began my nature watching for 2008 by establishing four walks, all radiating from home in Chapel Lane. January is notoriously a slow month for bird watching as there is very little movement of birds, with most of the residents remaining faithful to the patch they have made for the winter period. However, several warm days did produce some early singing males and courtship in the corvid (crow) families was also evident.

For me, the highlight of the month was discovering three snipe (26th Jan) along the River Ash beside the footpath south of Bridgefoot Farm. Great spotted woodpeckers have begun their seasonal drumming. Selecting the correct tree for this endeavour is important, with the most resonant tree being a prized possession. One bird was particularly noisy in the wood opposite the Nag's Head. This was first heard on the 19th. Other birds of note included a superbly plumaged male bullfinch (26th), common buzzard over Chapel Lane (27th) and a large flock of finches and buntings, including some 40 yellowhammers (21st). Tawny owls established territories and called most nights as from the second week of the month. Early morning activity featured territorial singing from male robins and blackbirds, along with one especially vociferous song thrush. The latter sang from the hedgerow on Brick Kiln Hill. Great to hear as I waited for the morning bus in the pre-dawn light.

Skylarks made the most of the warmer days, singing above their territory on the Ash Valley golf course (15th). Also here, several parties of reed buntings and meadow pipits were either observed or heard. The month finished with another highlight as I flushed a woodcock from the garden on the evening of the 30th. A single marsh tit on the feeder outside one of Ford Cottages was also a pleasure to watch. This is a species that appears to be in decline in East

Herts., so particularly good to see one around. I also recorded a pair; in conifers with a pair of goldcrests near the river adjacent to Winding Hill. I shall be keeping a careful watch for all marsh tit sightings and would be grateful for any sightings to be relayed to me. In all, I recorded 47 species of birds during the month. Also seen were the regular mammals, (rabbits, fox, muntjac and grey squirrel) as well as plenty of evidence of mole movement. A solitary hare was recorded on the 8th.

Snowdrops became evident towards the end of the month along the River Ash south of the village and muntjac deer were pairing off. Foxes called nightly with roving males being susceptible to traffic. Over five dead males were observed on the A120.

February should offer a chance for more evening walks as the days increase in length whilst mornings will bring a wider selection of singing males attempting to attract mates and establish hard fought for territories.

For more details, with maps and photos please go to: <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com>

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East Herts Council Local Development Framework

Shaping Now – Shaping the Future

Work has begun on our new Local Development Framework (LDF) – the name of the new planning system. Your views are vital as the LDF will affect how the District develops to 2021. To help the Council produce the LDF we need to know your views:

- What do you like about your village and the rural area?
- What don't you like about your village and the rural area?
- What do you think are the issues facing your village and the rural area?

The Planning Policy Team has already attended the January round of Community Voice meetings – the series of regular public meetings that are held in each of the five towns – but we need the views of East Herts rural community. So come along to one of the meetings below to find out more:

- **Tuesday March 4, 7.30-9pm at Cottered Village Hall**
- **Wednesday March 12, 7.30-9pm at Watton-at-Stone Memorial Hall**
- **Tuesday March 25, 7.30-9pm at Little Hadham Village Hall**

Regular updates will be posted on the Council's website at
www.eastherts.gov.uk/ldf

For more information please contact the Planning Policy Team by email at planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk; by post at East Herts Council, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8EQ; or by phone 01279 655261.

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Little Hadham Snooker Tournament



The tournament completed its annual event with the final on Friday 1 February. Andrew Kerr and Paul Andrews were the winners for the second year in succession. We play a doubles contest with forty-eight entries this year, which starts in October and usually ends in January.

We raised £1475 in aid of the St Clare Hospice and I would like to thank all those who took part in raising that total for such a good cause.

Robert Collins - organiser

6th & 20th March Mobile Library

Nag's Head from 13.45 - 14.05

The Smithy from 14.10 - 14.30

Bury Green from 14.45 - 15.05

This is a fortnightly service.

Please sponsor me to walk the

Great Wall of China

I live in Albury and am wondering if any of the villagers would be interested in sponsoring me to walk the Great Wall of China. A group of us is aiming to raise £100,000 for the breast unit at St Margarets/Princess Alexandra hospital.

The breast unit has been involved with several groundbreaking clinical trials in breast cancer. The funds raised by this event will help us to research newer drugs improving outcome for the patients.

The walk is between 3rd and 12th May and to do it I need to raise £4000.00 by 15th March.

If anyone is interested I would be grateful if they would contact me, Jane Brace: 01279 771204 Cranford, Church End, Albury, Herts SG11 2JG or janebrace007@msn.com

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The residents of Cradle End would like to say a big thankyou to a few of their neighbours.

Early in January a double-decker bus took a wrong turn into Cradle End and on turning round, completely demolished the triangular piece of land just past Bourne Fields. Tony saw what was happening and spoke to the driver, who was very rude to him. Fortunately, Tony made a note of the details on the bus and Carmela was able to contact the company who owned the vehicle (after 4 hours on the computer!). After a lot of haggling, the bus company agreed to repair the triangle and sent someone with top soil and a young cherry tree to plant in the middle of the site, with help from Carmela, Tony and Alan.

Also, one Tuesday afternoon in February, Carmela, Alan and Eric carried out a 'litter pick' in Cradle End. They cleared a vast amount of rubbish; please help them by taking your rubbish home with you. Thank you to our neighbourly neighbours.

Parish Plan gets the thumbs up . . . but more work to be done

Results from the questionnaire in last month's Parish News seeking views on the Parish Plan show that the overwhelming majority think the Parish Plan has been worthwhile. The most popular achievements were the Fun Day in 2006, improvements to the playing field next to the Village Hall and our livelier and newsier Parish News. [Yay! – Ed]

Other good news is that just about everyone received a copy of the plan – and most still have it. While the majority of respondents think the Parish Plan has made Little Hadham

a better place, a significant number are not sure. The numbers of people who think the plan has not improved community spirit or are not sure, is roughly twice the number who think it has helped to make our village friendlier.

One pleasing result is that more than half the people who replied are willing to help – although not everyone gave their contact details! The Parish Plan Group will consider the results, along with comments and suggestions, as they prepare the next stage. Thanks to those who took the trouble to reply.

Kyokujitsu Kyokushin Karate Club BIG CONGRATULATIONS

to Kyokujitsu's Assistant Instructor Dan Dass who has been picked to represent England for a five-day European Squad Training session to be held in Bulgaria at the beginning of March. Dan will be training with Europe's elite full-contact fighters with a view to competing in the next World Championships in Tokyo in four years' time. He is in intensive training – so plenty of encouragement and support please if you see him running through the village! It's another great honour for the club and I'm sure all the students will reap the benefits of Dan's training and experiences with Europe's top fighters.

If you would like to join our thriving club, please come along to Little Hadham Village Hall on Wednesdays from 5.00pm-6.00pm or give me a ring on 771636. OSU! Senpai Catherine Petch

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PLEASE SLOW DOWN

What's the hurry? Why the fury?

May I please ask that drivers slow down whilst travelling through the hamlets from Cradle End to the War Memorial and vice versa. I am not the only one to have noticed that in more recent times "local drivers" are as much in a hurry as those who rat-run. Please remember there are NO pavements and that the verges at this time of year are extremely wet and slippery. Also remember that children's and animals' reactions can be unpredictable. Slow down and allow plenty of time for adjustment when you are driving past pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and animals and please don't view us as a hindrance. Be considerate and do unto others as you would have others do unto you. A wave and a smile wouldn't go amiss. So I ask again:

What's the hurry? Why the fury?

Please drive slowly.

Carmela Piccolo

Anyone for yoga?

A few of us were thinking how great it would be to start up a yoga or pilates class in the village. Speaking as a complete novice, I'd hope we could welcome all abilities! If you're interested in joining us or if you could recommend an instructor, then please do get in touch with Kirsty on 01279 771002 or by emailing flimzee@hotmail.com. Hommmm!

MORE HOME BIRTHS

I too had one of my daughters at home at Brook House in 1976, and it was a good experience. Dr. Peter Elder was our GP at the time and on discovering we were calling our baby Rosemary, returned later clutching a rosemary bush from his garden. Doreen Musgrove was our local midwife but was off-duty when Rosie arrived, so I was attended by the wife of a teacher at Hadham Hall. A real "Little Hadham" event!

Angela Fardell

Advert removed



**FOUND
BLACK CAT**
Please contact Viv
07891956005



Music Makers



Music Makers offers fun, musical activities for all children from birth up to five years.

Each structured session lasts for 35 minutes and is based around different themes each week. Through traditional songs, finger rhymes, dance and percussion instrument playing we aim to introduce you and your child to the joy of music making together.

There are two sessions which take place on Thursday afternoons at Little Hadham School, in the Nursery classroom.

Session 1 is from 1.15-1.50 pm

Session 2 is from 2.10- 2.45 pm

Please contact Fern Oliver for more information
01279 506369

March diary for Little Hadham and Albury

2 Sunday 9.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Service at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
5 Wednesday 12.00pm	Lent Lunch at the home of Gill Booty: Regions, Bury Green, Little Hadham
9 Sunday 9.30am 4.00pm	Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham Production of the musical play, "Pilgrim" at Much Hadham
16 Sunday 8.00am 9.30am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion Service at Little Hadham Village Hall
20 Thursday 9.30am 8.00pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham Ecumenical Eucharist at St Andrew's, Much Hadham
21 Friday 12.00pm 1.00 – 3.00pm 7.30pm	Good Friday Procession of the Cross at the Priest Garden, Malting Lane Veneration of the Cross and devotions Readings and music for Good Friday, St Mary's, Furneux Pelham
23 Sunday 9.30am	Easter Day Parish Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
30 Sunday 9.30am 6.00pm	Second of Easter Benefice Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham Deanery Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

Advance notice: 29 April Annual Parish Church Meeting for St Cecilia's 8.00pm in Church.

Could we be the 'Village of the Year'?

Little Hadham has been invited to enter for the Village of the Year competition. Unlike 'best kept village', this contest is not about hanging baskets but about what we do to make ours a better place in which to live.

There are four categories: Environment (gardening club, allotments, recycling etc.); Business (types and mutual support); People (clubs, sport, children's involvement in decision-making); Communications (how well do we communicate?).

Sponsored by Calor in association with Herts County Council, Campaign to Protect Rural England, The Hertfordshire Society, Majestic Trees and the Herts Mercury, the competition offers cash prizes and 'value added' for the community.

Do you think we should enter? If 'Yes' (or 'No'), write to the Parish News (by March 15) and tell us why. Deadline for entry is May 1st. More details at www.calorvillageoftheyear.org

Editor: Jan Finn, Ash Cottage, The Ashe, Little Hadham, SG11 2DX (771113) e-mails to htfp@clocktower.co.uk

All articles for inclusion; sponsorship; and payment for advertising in the next issue **must** be received by the 18th of the month. (cheques payable to **Little Hadham PCC**)

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

Log on to www.thehadhams.com for issues dating back to May 2006