

LITTLE HADHAM  
PARISH NEWS  
January 2009

**FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

Little Hadham Village Hall  
8pm onwards

Bring a plate of food and your own drinks.

Disco provided with chill-out zone  
for the children.

Tickets £10 per family of four.

Single tickets available.

Contact Tracii or Suzanne:

776081 or 776035

**Don't be stuck with nowhere to go -**

**Come along!**

Rector of Parish: Revd. Chris Boulton 01279 842609

e-mail: [rectory@muchhadham.com](mailto:rectory@muchhadham.com)

Team Vicar: Revd. Jeanette Gosney

01920 822619

e-mail: [vicar@braughing.org.uk](mailto:vicar@braughing.org.uk)

Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter

01279 844955

e-mail: [cp.slaughter@virgin.net](mailto:cp.slaughter@virgin.net)

Churchwardens: Don Gibson 01279 771325, Tony Skidmore 01279 771688

Log on to [www.thehadhams.com](http://www.thehadhams.com) for issues dating back to May 2006

# Letter from the Rectory

2009 promises to be a very difficult year for many people. Those who face unemployment or immediate financial hardship will be in the forefront of the suffering. A few may profit from the opportunities offered: nevertheless it seems that all of us will be affected; no one will be untouched.

It is interesting to me that capitalism should be the instrument that drives home the fundamental principle; namely that we are all dependent upon each other. I had hitherto assumed that capitalism was principally about individual gain and free enterprise: but then I am no economist.

Now it appears that, just as global warming is reminding us that we are one planet, and that in order to effect change we must find global solutions to carbon emission; so also global recession is reminding us that we are one world, and that in order to achieve prosperity we must find global solutions to money supply and employment.

There is another common denominator. Just as global warming is impacting most disastrously on the poorest of the world, so also is the global recession. Even in our country, it is likely that the poorest will suffer disproportionately when unemployment increases and spending cuts are made. I fear that the poorest nations also will suffer most, as money is restricted. Perhaps 2009 will be the year to test just how generous humans can be – or how selfish. Seeking the common good may be the best way not only to save the planet, but also to save our material wealth.

Truthfully I do not know what the new year will bring, although it does seem to promise a threat of darkness.

Many of us will have heard, at some time in our life, the words written by Minnie Louise Haskins in 1908, made famous by King George VI reading it as part of his first Christmas message to the nation at the start of the second World War. Maybe it is still the most appropriate response a hundred years after the author wrote it; at least for a believer.

*“And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,  
‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown’  
And he replied: ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand  
of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.’  
So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night.”*

Chris Boulton

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## Bob is 90 years young

A large gathering of family, neighbours and friends celebrated the 90th birthday of Bob Sewell



at a celebration in the Village Hall. Bob has lived with his wife Pam in Ford Hill for 35 years. He has played a leading role in the village where he is a popular figure – and a sprightly one as he strides out on regular country walks.

He served the parish council for many years as both parish clerk and as a parish councillor for two terms. He has been a

member of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) and the Royal British Legion, and was local organiser of Neighbourhood Watch. Bob plays a leading role in the annual Remembrance Day service at the Little Hadham war memorial. He served in the Army and before his retirement worked at the Ministry of Defence.

Bob and Pam are pictured at the party with son-in-law Andy and daughter Roberta (on the left), and Bob's sister Molly (right).

## Parish Council News

### **Budgeting for the year ahead**

The Parish Council will ask East Herts Council (EHC) for an increase in its annual precept – the money it receives to carry out its parish responsibilities – for 2009/10. The precept applied for of £13,500 is 13% more than the current annual payment. The increase is due to higher insurance premiums and increased maintenance costs, particularly for the new improved playgrounds. One example is that climate change has resulted in the need for more frequent grass cutting. Councillors agreed to an increase in the pay of the Parish Clerk, Bev Evans, in recognition of the exceptional level of service he provides.

Indications from EHC are that revenue from council tax will be down next year with fewer new houses coming on-stream and more

homes qualifying for exemptions and discounts. As a result, fewer people will share council tax costs and the parish precept as a percentage of the tax will go up. However, to put that into context, the increased parish council precept for next year represents a rise per household of £4.16 per annum for a house in 'D' band, £6.94 pa for one in 'G' band and £8 pa for one in the highest 'H' band.

In the parish precept league table, Little Hadham lies in the middle, with a lower precept than Albury, Much Hadham and Braughing. The Parish Council says the increase will put its finances on a stronger footing for future years.

### **Improvements will come to 'old' A120**

When the Little Hadham bypass is built, local residents will have a say about improvements

*Continued on page 4*

## Parish Council News, *continued from page 3*

to the existing A120. These could include traffic calming measures, new cycle paths, pedestrian crossings, and different surfaces such as tiling or cobbles.

This news was one of the outcomes of a meeting between representatives of Herts Highways and the Parish Council. The Highways team confirmed it is likely that a flood prevention scheme will be incorporated into plans for the bypass, due to start in 2012, with completion some 15 months later and at a cost of £20 million.

In response to concerns about the chosen route, the team has produced maps to show it is closer to the preferred Option 5 than Option 4. Reasons for changes to the route include less land-take and reduced costs. There are no plans to include a slip road from the bypass to the Pelhams. Traffic from Bishop's

Stortford heading for the Pelhams would be directed on to the bypass and then on to the old A120, turning left at the traffic lights into Albury Road. The team said the scheme did not predicate any new housing development.

### **Development plan may 'invite' more housing**

A new set of planning rules requires East Herts Council to 'call for sites' early next year, which could result in developers submitting housing applications on land identified for possible development. The new rules – EHC's Local Development Framework (LDF) – are due to come into force from 2010/11, replacing the existing Local Plan (second review).

Two sites in Little Hadham – gravel pits in Albury Road and the garage site near the traffic lights on the A120 – have been identified in a technical study although previous applications for both have been turned down.

*Continued on page 6*

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## Herts East RSPCA

*I am pleased to have been able to bank over £400 again this year and am very grateful to everyone who has donated gifts, brick-a-brac, books etc.*

*I was interested to read the welcome report in the December magazine, regarding microchipping your pets. A few years ago I reported the return of a dog who had been 'stolen' from Cradle End. She had been chipped and was returned after about two years – amazing. But a true story I have read recently tells of a 15-year-old cat who had been missing for 9 years. Dixie was thin and matted and found less than half a mile away from her home. More than likely she had climbed into a car or van and been taken away unknowingly by the driver. When scanned for a chip she was able to be returned to her owners! So, if your pet is not microchipped already, resolve to do so NOW. Ask your vet for information, or go to [www.rspca.org.uk/microchipping](http://www.rspca.org.uk/microchipping), or [www.cats.org.uk](http://www.cats.org.uk). Have a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.*

Ennis Rogers

Adverts removed

## Parish Council News, *continued from page 4*

The LDF will become part of proposals by the Government for 500,000 houses in this region by 2021, including 10,000 in East Herts. These would include affordable homes and may involve incursions into green belt. At present, Little Hadham is afforded a good deal of protection against development. The Ash and The Ford areas are designated Category 2 (where only limited infilling is allowed) and the rest Category 3, which assumes no development. Little Hadham's housing needs survey concluded the need for only four units of affordable housing.

There will be a further update from EHC before the end of 2008 and a public consultation next year. The parish council will monitor the situation and respond when the results of the 'call for sites' is known.

### **Need Parish Council information?**

The Parish Council has adopted the new government guidance on making Council information available to members of the public. You can see details on The Hadhams website. In general, if you require any Council information you can either email or write to the Clerk (details below). Information sent by email is free while information sent by post will cost 10p per page plus the cost of 2nd class post.

Mr Bev Evans

Parish Clerk to Lt Hadham Parish Council

Pryersfield, New Road,

Little Hadham

Herts

SG11 2AW

Email: [clerklittlehadham@homecall.co.uk](mailto:clerklittlehadham@homecall.co.uk)

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# What's on in January ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

*There is no meeting of the Parish Council in January*

**13 Tue, LH & A Social Club**, 8pm. Chris Boulton will be telling us of his recent visit to South Africa. We look forward to seeing new and old friends. £1.50 admission, including refreshments. Info. 771580 or 658585.

**15 Thur, "Way Inn"** coffee morning, 10-12, rear of village hall. All welcome.

**8, 22 Thur, Mobile Library** (Details on right).

**17 Sat, Isabel Hospice Jumble Sale**, 2.30pm Thundridge Village Hall, info: 01920 462992

**18 Sun, music@stansted**, Benedict Nelson (baritone), accomp. Marc Verter. Information: [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com)

**20 Tue, LH & A Garden Club**, 7.45  
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE. Our speaker will be R. Carsberg talking about "Great Wessex Gardens".

**31 Sat, Farmers' Market**, 9-12 noon.

## 8th & 22nd January Mobile Library

**Nag's Head from 13.45 - 14.05**

**The Smithy from 14.10 - 14.30**

**Bury Green from 14.45 - 15.05**

**A fortnightly service.**

## ... and after that?

14 Feb **Valentine's Dinner Dance**, Tewin Bury Farm. Ticket details 01707 334229

22 Feb **Sunflower Sponsored Swim**, 9-4pm Haileybury School Pool, Hertford Heath. If you would like to put a team in on the day or help with marshalling or sponsorship, call Pam Shepherd on 01707 382500.

## Would your daughter like to join Brownies?

Did you think we had no spaces? Well we have!

Lt Hadham Brownies has six spaces for girls 7-10 years

We meet every Tuesday in term time at the Village Hall 4.30-6.00

Subs are paid termly  
Please come and join us.

Phone Judi, Brown Owl, 654624

Advert removed

## The 'Way Inn'

**Come and meet friends and neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee.  
Rear of village hall, third thursday of the month, 10 - 12noon**

**A reminder to all those planning to let off fireworks to let the editor know in advance. This is so that those with nervous dogs can be warned in time to administer tranquilisers to save them from unnecessary distress. Hotline number: 771113**

# Nature Notes for Nov/Dec

by Jonathan Forgham

A month of many hard frosts and, on the whole, a dry period. However, when the rain came it was heavy, causing the River Ash to flow which attracted moorhens out from the fields. These were seen on the 29th Nov. and also 14th Dec. On both occasions they were observed south of the ford.

No new species were recorded but two local reports of a barn owl had me out and about in the weekend dusk as from 3.00pm until dark. Although diligent in my watching, I have to report no records for myself. One report came from Chapel Lane just before Westland Green whereas the other, from a fellow member of Bishop's Stortford Bird group, was from south of the village. An hour and a half waiting and watching proved fruitless. However, a common buzzard was observed heading from Caley Wood and the numbers of roosting corvids (crow family) was counted at over 1200 in the time I waited for the owl on the 14th Dec. An early evening fox headed south over the fields, eyeing me with suspicion.

A morning walk to Muggins Wood and Millennium Wood on the 7th gave up 25 species including a reed bunting, goldcrest, and several yellowhammers. The northerly facing garden thermometer read -9°C as I set out in early morning light. A cold and huddled rabbit,



photographed on the cricket pitch shows a hard frost. Other birds of note this month were: bullfinch (6th Dec), kestrel (two also on the 6th), goldcrest (every walk in this period). Shown here, a goldcrest silhouette.



Continued on page 10

## LH & Albury Social Club

A good number enjoyed a pleasant evening at our Christmas Dinner in December, organised by Binnie and Gill. Barbara issued free raffle tickets and Binnie distributed 'boozy' quotations, only to be read after the first glass had been emptied! It was a fun evening.

At 8 pm on Tuesday, 13th January, Chris Boulton will be telling us of his recent visit to South Africa. We look forward to seeing new and old friends. £1.50 admission, including refreshments. Tel 771580 or 658585 for information. Our best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Advert removed

## Nature Notes continued from page 9

With the end of the year approaching my total for the year stands at an impressive 81 species. I still think that the winter will offer a possible few more (brambling, barn owl, lesser spotted woodpecker to name three) and then the early migration of spring 2009 should raise the total to near the century mark.

As there is little to report I thought I would take the opportunity, suggested by a fellow villager, to write about feeding garden birds.

Plenty of us enjoy the view of great, blue and long-tailed tits on the nut feeder whilst dunnocks and chaffinches feed on the ground. Local jackdaws and wood pigeons are also common garden visitors but here are a few tips that may attract a wider variety of birds.

Wrens love cheese and soft pork fat (cut into very small cubes) placed on the bird table, as do a fair amount of other species. To keep robins and thrushes local, a supply of live or dried mealworms, left in a container from which the live ones cannot escape, can prove irresistible. Great spotted woodpeckers love the fat balls as well as peanuts but a plea here: can you please remove them from the coloured netting as birds have been known to snag their claws in this.

For goldfinches and maybe siskins and bramblings, niger seed can prove a roaring success, again placed in a metal or plastic feeder. These work best when hung near other vegetation where birds can eat well hidden from preying sparrow hawk eyes. The latter species is quite

*Continued on page 13*

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# Little Hadham School

*Believing and Achieving*

**Happy New Year!** I hope that everyone enjoyed a Happy Christmas and that you have not yet broken your New Year resolutions! Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas festivities, including the Christmas Bazaar, which raised £3000 – an excellent result in the present economic climate! 'Going for Goals' is our new theme for 2009 where we will encourage the children to set themselves a specific target for improvement. We, too, will have our own new 'target' as we set up our 'Early Years Unit' for our Foundation Stage children. As we extend our morning sessions to three hours, we look ahead to an exciting new venture which is highly regarded as the way forward for future Early Years provision. Best Wishes for 2009.

Liz Stockley

## Christmas Quiz Results

I received several entries to the quiz set in the last Parish News. However, two entrants gave 100% correct answers and so I thought their endeavours should be rewarded with a prize each. Consequently, a bottle of Marques De Solariago, Rioja Reserva 1999 has been duly delivered to both **Jan Finn** and **Nick Bickel**. Congratulations to both for their knowledge and interest in participating. **A Happy New Year to all readers for 2009** The answers are on page 14.

Jonathan Forgham

## Cricket Club News

Little Hadham Cricket Club is commencing winter indoor cricket nets on Sunday 11th January.

The club is always looking to attract new members and whether you have played before or would just like to give cricket a try then you will be made very welcome. The nets will run every Sunday from the 11th January until the 5th April for one hour starting at 10am. They will be held in the Bishopsport Sports Hall at the Bishop's Stortford High School, London Road, Bishop's Stortford. The first Sunday will include coaching with an ECB accredited cricket coach, who will be on hand to help players of all ages and abilities. Further details are available from either Neil Oxborrow on 01279 506062 (mobile 07769 850827) or Martin Hallmark on 01279 771033 (mobile 07917 425076), so if you are interested then please give us a call and help maintain the Village Cricket Club.

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# Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

*New Year Resolutions seem great on paper – but they are much harder to keep than they appear. Every year I've made wonderful promises to myself at the beginning of January – only to look in horror come February at how I have let them slip!*

*So this year I plan on much smaller, less mind-boggling resolutions, hopeful that they may be more successful. Instead of promising I will lose loads of weight, I have decided on lesser hurdles: like walking the dog ten minutes longer each day; of eating a healthier breakfast (the end of the two-slices-of-white-bread-and-jam!) and only indulging in the odd chocolate at weekends! Instead of fuming at the Little Hadham traffic lights as I just miss my green light and know I've now around four minutes doing nothing, I'm going to use the time on neck exercises to release tension, think pleasant thoughts and be grateful that the lights ARE there and thus avoid unnecessary accidents...(though how long this one will last is a moot point!).*

*Instead of feeding our lovely wild birds for three weeks and then allowing the food to run out and leave the poor things for a few days while I restock their larder, I'm going to be more organised and keep bird food plentiful. Instead of the bountiful meals I sometimes give Beloved, (especially when we have visitors), I am going to try and be more organised, so it isn't the current feast and famine. And, as 2009 is one of those horrid, "meaningful" years when my birthday is not just another nail in the coffin, but a thundering great wedge, I intend to look after myself more, not stint on hair and beauty products, and maybe even visit a health farm (a life-long ambition).*

*However, in case Beloved thinks he might be in line for a much-improved model, I do draw the line at going under the surgeon's knife!*

Adverts removed

## Nature Notes *continued from page 10*

canny at waiting near garden bird tables. Coal tits are birds that don't like to feed in the open, so thick local bushes adjacent to the feeders will attract this particular species.

With Christmas leftovers; any meat cut into small cubes, dropped into molten lard or dripping and then poured into an empty yogurt pot works well. A few nuts make this feed even more appetizing. These can then be hung upside down from branches. Turkey carcasses can be hung up but remember large quantities of food can attract vermin that may cause more damage than good.

Another plea, please keep all bird feeders clean, taking them in before refilling and using a mild detergent or diluted bleach to wash away bacteria that will build up from rotting food. This can prove fatal to birds and always give the bird table a wash over weekly to keep it clean and attractive.

A good handbook for garden bird feeding is available from Dorling/Kindersley entitled Pocket Birdfeeder Guide by Robert Burton. It is published in conjunction with the RSPB and costs £5.99. Very good value that also covers plants that offer a food supply for specific species. Many of you have probably noted the fieldfares and redwings feeding on the red berries around the village lately.

Finally: a very Happy New Year to all readers and may 2009 offer you good opportunities to observe interesting nature around the village.

Jonathan Forgham

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## Useful phone numbers

**Citizens' Advice Bureau, East Herts**  
District 08744 848 9700

**Editor, Parish News:** Jan Finn, 771113

**Environment Agency Incident Line:**  
0800 807060

**Fireworks hotline:** Jan Finn, 771113

**Mobile Library info:** 01438 737333

**Police non-emergency phone number**  
(local rate): 0845 3300222

**Power cut helpline:** 0800 7 838 838

**Road or Pavement problems, call**  
Highways on 01438 737320

**Stansted Airport Noise Complaints:**  
0800 243788

**Traveline:** 0871 200 22 33

**Village Hall bookings:**  
Mrs Fardell, 771697

**Water/Sewage problems, call Thames**  
Water on 0800 376 5325

Adverts removed

**Nature Quiz answers:** 1. A charm 2. A murder 3. Birds of a feather flock together 4. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush 5. Every cloud has a silver lining 6. When the cat is away, the mice will play 7. A leopard can't change its spots 8. One swallow doesn't make a summer 9. An apple a day keeps the doctor away 10. Care killed the cat. 11. Dog eat dog 12. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink 13. Pied wagtail 14. Speckled wood 15. Bee orchid.

Advert removed

## Regular events

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

**Badminton:** 8.00pm Mondays

**Brownies:** 4.30 - 6pm Tuesdays, term-time.  
Judi Wheeler 654624

**Carpet Bowls Club: Social and League,**  
8-10pm Fridays, Eileen Booth 771426

**Farmers' Market:** 9.00-12 noon, last  
Saturday of month. Brenda Kain 771028

**Karate:** 5-6pm Wednesdays,  
Catherine Petch, 771636

**Mobile Police Station:** 9 - 11am first and  
third Tuesday, in the car park.

**Parent & Toddler group,**  
9.30 - 11.30am, Wednesdays, term-time.

**Playgroup:** 12.30pm - 3.30pm Mondays,  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays in the Nursery at  
LH School. Mirandi Smit 771241

**LH Post Office:** 9.00 - 11am Tuesdays and  
Thursdays, rear of the Village Hall in the  
Doctor's Reception Room.

**The "Way Inn":** Third Thursday of month

**Whist Drive:** Last Thursday of month.  
Ross Barron, 771694

*Anyone spot the deliberate mistake in  
the Su Doku last month?  
The missing letter was a D, although  
an O worked for me. Sorry!*

## Gratuitous socks

I am always astonished to see how many bags of socks land on my doorstep at Christmas and throughout the year. It is evidence of the great generosity of Little Hadhamites. I know the homeless people in Cambridge will be particularly grateful this cold winter. Thank you all very much. Keep them coming - anytime!

All good wishes for 2009, Ann Clayton

**Crossword Answers:** ACROSS 1. Heat, 6. AA, 8. RAC, 11. Albino, 12. CC, 13. AGA, 14 Dyad, 15. Rhythm, 16. HST, 17. Annie, 19 SAS, 20. Aion, 22 Ged, 23. Manfred, 26. ETA, 27 Tor, 28 Ada, 30 Psi, 32. Abettor, 36. Ali, 37. Taxi, 38. Ail, 40. Bilge, 41. His, 42. Drawls, 43. Hide, 44. Zit, 45. Al, 46. Ironer, 47. Eth, 48. We, 49. Diss, DOWN 1. Hadham, 2. Elysia, 3. Abaton, 4. Tid, 5. Younger, 6. Acrid, 7. Ache, 8. Rats, 9. Aghast, 10. Cams, 18. Ned, 21. NFT, 24. Rot, 25. Ide, 28. Abigail, 29. Att, 31. Spirit, 32. All, 33. Tahini, 34. Oxides, 35. Risers, 36. Aisle, 38. Adze, 39. Lath, 40. Blaw, 43. Hod.

# January diary for Little Hadham and Albury

(part of the Ash and Quin Valleys' team incorporating Much Hadham, Braughing, Furneux and Stocking Pelham.)

<b>4</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Epiphany</b>
9.30am		Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
11.15am		Parish Communion and Sunday School at St Mary's, Albury
<b>11</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Baptism of Christ</b>
9.30am		Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
5.00pm		Taizé Service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham
<b>18</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Epiphany 2 and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b>
8.00am		Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
9.15am		Village Hall Service at Little Hadham
6.00pm		Evensong at St Mary's, Albury
<b>25</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Feast of the Conversion of St Paul</b>
11.15am		Shared Communion at St Mary's, Albury.
6.00pm		Evensong at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

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*There is a service of Holy Communion every Wednesday at 10.30am at St Andrew's*

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## Thanks to the Nags Head

*The Nags Head at Little Hadham was packed to the rafters on Sunday evening, 14th December for a quiz night organised by landlords Paul and Natalie in aid of the Village Hall. I should like to publicly thank them on behalf of the Trustees of the Village Hall and all those who very generously supported the event which raised £120.*

Brian Kain  
Honorary Treasurer

## ... and more Poppy thanks

*Hadham Hall residents and the businesses on site contributed £106.54. (This is part of the Grand Total of £670.29 mentioned by Frank Green in the December magazine.)*

*Many thanks to Hadham Hall people for your generosity.*

Tony Skidmore  
(site collector)

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