

*Little Hadham  
Parish News  
March 2009*



A tender moment between the King (David Locke) and Princess Pearl (Jessie Pyatt)



P U S S I N B O O T S

# Letter from the Rectory

Lent 2009

A very mournful looking Andy Hornby, former chief executive of HBOS, said "sorry" before a Treasury Committee. He moved from ASDA to lead the Bank in 1999, and in 2008 aged 42, resigned on a salary with bonuses of £1.93 million. He, along with many other senior bankers across the world, has been cast in the role of penitent: sinners called to repentance for causing all our financial woes, for being greedy and profligate with our money. It is like an extended Lenten exercise of examination.

The spectacle of politicians, clerics and journalists falling over themselves to point the finger of blame at the bankers is not altogether edifying. The bankers may be at the top of the pile, but no-one was complaining when shares were high, assets increasing in value, credit flowing, and prosperity increasing. We have to question how sincere is the penitence or the moral indignation, when we would perhaps all do the same again, given the chance. Saying sorry is only useful when we do something to make amends, or change future conduct; otherwise it is hypocrisy and whitewash.

This all makes the 2009 season of Lent, beginning on February 25th and ending with Holy Week on the 5th of April, more relevant perhaps than in recent years. A time to re-examine moral priorities, to take stock, to put the brake on consumption, to simplify one's life, and of course to seek spiritual experience, has always been advocated by the Church. It is a good exercise, even for those who have no faith in God at all. In the Churches we give opportunity for Christians to increase giving to charity, study and discuss fundamental issues, and examine their consciences.

Very often the consequence of this time of self-examination is not to make huge changes in our lives; but to realise that a few small steps and simple adjustments to the way we manage our time, attitudes or habits, can make a big difference. This may also be true of society at large; and if all this penitence has some effect, then maybe it will be worthwhile. If however we only blame the bankers, nothing will really change.

Chris Boulton

Let us thank all those who have met the challenge and contributed to this month's *Parish News*. We have fresh articles, a recipe and a new Gardening column, and a couple of good old moans, too. Well done everyone, and please keep them coming in!

## Contents

Letter from Chris Boulton	2	Rural Ramblings	9	Be Prepared	20
Rant from the backwoods	3	RIGS	11	Fish and Chips	21
Social Club News	3	What's on in March ...	12	Gardening Hints & Tips	22
Resolutions?	4	... and after that?	12	Lost and Found	23
Parish Council News	5	Learn to use a computer	13	Doggy dos – don't!	23
Showtime at the Civic	6	Panto success	14	Peter Pan dates	23
Best Pantomime Award!	6	The Peasants are revolting!	15	Church Diary	24
Nature Notes	7	Recipe	17		

## Rant from the backwoods

by Pat Wilkinson

Now that the wind turbine debate at Benington is over, due to the refusal of planning permission by East Herts Council, where do we go from here? Do we bury our collective heads in the sand and hope climate change goes away or do we start a real fight to do something to reverse our mad charge toward potential climatic disaster? O.K. that sounds a bit melodramatic I know, perhaps the problem will go away after all. I for one happen to think that it won't.

We are using far too much energy from fossil fuel sources; I think we are all aware of that by now. There are two options to reverse this trend: use less energy; and use non-fossil fuel for what we do have to use. Easy – well it could be if everyone did their bit. Most of us only have control of the energy we personally use so that must be where it starts. Be responsible for your own energy use. It seems boring to keep on about all the usual things, (turn off lights, only use compact fluorescent (cfl) or i.e.d light bulbs. – they cost a bit more but last 50 times longer so won't cost any more financially,) but they could save a power station or two if adopted nationally.

I am amazed at the number of lights so many people have around the outside of their houses. I have counted 15 on one house and they aren't all low energy either. Why are they on, are people so frightened of the dark or are they suffering from that most prevalent of modern diseases, L.A.M. syndrome (“Look at

Me syndrome”)?

Turn down the thermostat on the heating obviously, put on another layer of clothing, put that insulation in the loft, fit that draught excluder on the doors and windows, walk or bike to work, only make multi-purpose trips in the car etc., etc., all pretty straightforward.

Now there are people who have control of buildings; offices, clubs, pubs, halls, schools, hospitals, any work place; now they can have a bit more effect. I think we have all been in buildings which are just too hot; they are often single-glazed, so wasteful of heat at the best of times, and yet what happens? someone opens the window to let out the heat. We all know this is stupid – where is the person in control of this room/office/whatever? Find him/her, tread on his/her head and do whatever is necessary to change that situation. We have to be forceful, proactive, nasty if necessary; we share this world, we all have responsibilities. Do something.

Houses can be and are being built, even locally, which require no space heating. Why aren't all new houses built this way? Again, get nasty with those who have power; Parish Councillors, District Councillors, County Councillors, M.Ps, everyone, make a fuss.

When was the last time you used a bus? When you left school probably – they are actually brilliant. Most people think they are free spirits when they drive their cars but in reality travelling by bus is the ultimate freedom.

*continued on page 16*

## Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

February is when we discuss if everyone is happy with the club, outings, speakers etc., view details of finances and do so over a glass of wine. A few of us ventured out on a chilly evening and those present seemed happy with the way things are organised. Our March meeting, on Tuesday 10th is to be a Wine Tasting evening, organised by 'The Mixed Case' of Little Hadham. There will be an entry fee of £5 and the evening will start at 8pm. Everyone is welcome. Do come along and support both your neighbours and a village business. Info. 771580 and 658585.

## Where DID those New Year's resolutions go?!

Now, March may seem like an odd time to be thinking about New Year's resolutions but if you bear with me to the end of this article then I hope you'll agree it was a worthwhile read.

A New Year's resolution is simply a promise you make to yourself, and following through on one requires you to change 'who you are' – in some small way. Those changes to 'who you are' are often forced and awkward because – let's face it – it just doesn't 'feel like you' to be this new person. However, if you're persistent and consistent you might just succeed – but it takes time, a bucket load of will-power and, if you're honest, a fair share of luck too!

If you succeeded in your New Year's resolution then congratulations! You can reward yourself by not reading the rest of this article and by going off and making yourself a cup of tea. If you're still reading at this point then, if you don't mind, I'll assume you were less successful. You may wonder why that was. Well, I have three questions that should help you work out the answer for yourself. These questions are firstly, why did you wait until January the 1st to make this promise to yourself? Secondly, did you properly understand *why* you wanted to make the change? Finally, how did you phrase your promise? Let's consider the significance of these questions individually and then in relation to one another.

Firstly, can you explain to me, or more to the point, can you explain to yourself, why you waited until January the 1st to make your promise? There is a whole host of different days that you could have chosen. For example, December the 1st, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, the Chinese New Year, your birthday or the first day of spring. So what we need to understand is the significance you attached to January the 1st. Most people who I teach this stuff to tell me that January the 1st is the start of a new year so there's hope that things will *somehow* be better ... they can't tell me *how* or *why* things will be better it's almost that they have a superstitious belief that January the 1st has

the power to change them. They think about themselves on this bright clean shiny new day in a fresh year and hope that somehow they'll be better at whatever it is they're making a resolution about. Reading between the lines, what people are really telling me is that they don't think they can change themselves and they need help. They hope to succeed but in the back of their minds they actually expect to fail!

So much for January the 1st. The second question I'd like you to consider is whether or not you really *wanted* to make this change. "Of course I did!" I hear you cry. OK, so if that's the case then can you explain to me, or more to the point, can you explain to yourself, why it would have been personally beneficial for you to have made this change? Why would the 'new' you have been better than the 'old' you? What was 'in it' for you to make this change? Take a short break from reading his article now and say that reason out loud – right now – as if you're speaking to me in person ...

If you had trouble doing that then my suggestion to you is that you probably hadn't thought through clearly enough *why* you wanted to make the change that went along with your New Year's resolution. It's important to understand what's 'in it' for you when you make a resolution or a promise to yourself because the depth of desire for the end goal is what drives you on when the going gets tough – as it surely does. Knowing why you want something will make all the difference to the way in which you summon up your mental resources to keep yourself going through the difficult times, and this in turn will have a significant bearing on your chances of success.

Now finally, let's think about how you phrased your resolution. You may have said "I must stop smoking" or "I need to lose weight". Perhaps you said "I have to get up earlier" or "I must stop being late". If you think about a resolution as a promise to yourself, then if you read these examples carefully you'll see they're not really

*continued on page 8*

# Parish Council News

## **'Attack' on Conservation Areas:**

Little Hadham Parish Council expressed concern at its February meeting that the rural character of the village and the Conservation Area status that exists in many parts of the parish are threatened by recent planning decisions of East Herts Council (EHC). Parish councillors have requested a meeting with EHC's development control committee and its planning officers to discuss recent planning decisions and the likely outcome of a 'call for sites' under the Local Development Framework that could lead to further applications to build in our part of East Hertfordshire. The parish council objected to three separate planning applications in The Ford area of the village on the grounds that they were inappropriate in a Conservation Area.

## **Footpaths:**

Little Hadham Parish Council has agreed to join the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) to help maintain and improve our extensive network of footpaths. First action will be a footpath survey. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cllr Carmela Piccolo (466331) or Veneta Aldous (503775) who will help to co-ordinate volunteers.

## **Near miss at traffic lights:**

The council heard how a mother and her three small children had a narrow escape when a car travelling on the wrong side of the road overtook other vehicles queuing at the traffic lights on the C15 (from Much Hadham). The police were given the car's number and are investigating.

## **Fighting crime:**

The targeting of known offenders is one of the crime-busting measures included in the Draft Policing Plan for Hertfordshire. The police want to increase the policing element of council tax to maintain manpower. A representative of the police will address a future council meeting.

## **Tackling heat loss:**

It may soon be possible to measure the amount of heat lost in your home and to obtain advice on energy saving. Little Hadham will join with neighbouring parishes to seek funding for a thermal imaging camera capable of measuring heat loss.

## **Business Plan:**

The council will draw up a business plan for the next five years which will provide a set of clear objectives and help the council to take a more proactive stance on the growing number of increasingly important issues facing the community.

## **Your 'AGM' on April 16** *Make a note of the date!*

Little Hadham's Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Thursday April 16 in the Village Hall, starting at 7pm. This is the village's 'AGM' and a chance for you to hear what has been going on, what will be happening in the year ahead and to have your say. They'll be refreshments and a chance to meet your local councillors and hear about the work of the police, our school and other local activities, how we are tackling environmental issues and what the new Parish Plan has in store. More details next month.

## Showtime at the Civic – Saturday 4 April

TO HELP FIGHT AGAINST STANSTED EXPANSION PLANS

A fantastic team of professionals and amateurs from the communities most directly threatened by plans for expanding Stansted Airport are joining forces to present **'Showtime at the Civic'** on Saturday 4 April at the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford.

The performance will be held in aid of Stop Stansted Expansion which is spearheading community representation at the second runway public inquiry scheduled to start in mid April.

The fun-packed variety show of comedy, singing, dancing, magic, music and juggling at the Civic will be led by Derek Connell of The Three Horseshoes pub at Duton Hill, near Dunmow who will bring his extensive and varied experience in theatre to the fore on the night as both host and performer.

Highlights from the acts drawn from the villages around Stansted will be **Brian Miller and Audrey**. Members of the Magic Circle, they have performed their magic at countless theatres including the world famous London Palladium and have television appearances to their credit including The Magic Show Live from Caesar's Palace.

Meanwhile, the fabulous **'Vlada'** from Little Canfield, a professional dancer and former ballerina who has performed in her native Russia and across Europe will present cheeky bellydancing routines (in the best possible taste!) to give the audience something to smile about.

The show builds on the success of the previous variety performance staged at The Barn in Little Easton last April which played to a sell-out audience and raised over £2000 for the Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) second runway fighting fund.

Once again, all proceeds from the one-night-only show at the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford, will be donated to the fund.

Tickets are now on sale at just £15 (£12 concessions) and can be booked through the Civic Theatre box office at 01245 606505 or online at:

<http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=16362>.

Stop Stansted Expansion is also organizing a coach to the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford, from Takeley to Chelmsford/return for those who would like this option. Seats can be booked through the SSE Campaign Office on 01279 870558 at £7 per person.



## Our Panto is the winner - again!

More proof of the high standard of Little Hadham Pantomime Group is the news that its 2008 production of 'Aladdin' has been chosen as the Best Pantomime by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association in District 7 covering Hertfordshire, Essex and Suffolk where there are 23 amateur theatre companies.

Our local group won the same award in 2007 for 'Sing a Song of Sixpence', produced by Doreen Musgrove. Her daughter, Cathy Wheatley, who produced last year's winning production of 'Aladdin', also produced and directed this year's highly successful pantomime, 'Puss in Boots'.

## Nature Notes: January/February

by Jonathan Forgham

A period of memorable weather; with snow on the ground for the first two weeks of February. I managed an above average amount of walks due to having two days of unforeseen holiday.

The highlight bird for this period was undoubtedly a kingfisher. First heard along the River Ash near Winding Hill and then observed resting on branches over the river. This was on the 1st Feb. Apparently a common sight along the river at Much Hadham ford, but a pleasing addition to my local list, now 83 species since January 2008.

Other birds of note were: common buzzard (most walks), mistle thrush (28th), pied wagtail (19 at Westland Green on the 31st) red kite (east over Westland Green and Hadham Ford, 31st), grey wagtail (2nd), bullfinch (2nd), redwing (3rd), sparrow hawk (3rd) and skylark (14th and 18th) The latter observation was of a male singing near Bush Wood.



Also of note, 37 goldfinches met in a tree in the garden as part of their pre-roost routine. Photo shows a couple of these feeding in the garden.

Hares were evident in snowy fields and an early walk on the 2nd February, in the snow, gave up evidence of all the regular mammals having had a nocturnal wander. A weasel was also observed south of the village on the 14th.

Snowdrops are now adding colour to the hedgerows and bluebells are now pushing through.



I have just returned from a two day trip to Poland, one day spent at Poznan University, Faculty of Physics, whilst the other was a most enjoyable day birdwatching in woods and along the River Warta north of the city. Temperatures dipped to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  with good snow. Here, I recorded one new bird, a crested tit along with birds rare to the UK such as crested lark, short toed treecreeper, middle spotted woodpecker. The former was seen in the airport car park!

continued on page 10

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## Where DID those New Year's resolutions go?! *cont'd from page 4*

promises at all. Whenever I hear the words “I have to ...” or “I need to ...” or “I must ...” then the unspoken piece is that the person doesn't really want to do the thing they're speaking about or thinks that they're doomed to fail. “I need to get up earlier ... but I'd rather stay in bed a bit longer”. “I must stop smoking ... but actually I enjoy it”. “I must stop being late ... but I can't help it because that's how I've always been”. “I need to lose weight ... but I'm not prepared to change my habits”.

Now if you're with me so far then it should be apparent that if you know *why* you want something, and you know *how* to make a promise to yourself, then any day can be a New Year's Day for you – you can make a resolution tomorrow and keep it ... but why wait for tomorrow? Why not start today? If you're already thinking about excuses and reasons why you couldn't start today then I doubt that you're serious about making the change. Make yourself a small promise today. It doesn't really

matter what that promise is, the key things are to know clearly why you want to make the change and how it will be personally beneficial to you. Then all you have to do is to keep the promise. Once you learn to trust yourself by delivering on these small promises then more is possible. Start with something small and you'll soon surprise yourself with what you can do.

If you want to change something in your life but you're not sure where to start, or you've tried and failed before, then I'd love to hear from you. You can give me a call or send me an e-mail; my advertisement for the Thought Academy appears elsewhere in this magazine and contains my contact details and website address.

So I'll sign off by simply saying 'Happy New Year' and wishing you the very best of luck with the promise you're about to make.

Best Wishes, Mark.

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# Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

WITH THOUGHTS of freezing February still much in our minds, I must mention conversations we have had often these past few weeks. They start "Remember when..." and then go on to reminisce about the days when, with virgin snow everywhere, local farmers would happily go out and clear the roads with their tractors and buckets, sometimes charging the local council, other times for free. They would clear not just the main roads but all those treacherous side roads which, recently, were sometimes impassable and always scary. My Beloved was one of those who volunteered, always happy to turn out, however bad the weather. But not any more. 'Elf and Safety' stopped all that some years ago. Oh yes, farmers could still do the gentlemanly thing and push the snow away, but should, subsequently, any accidents occur, the farmer would be held totally responsible. What a shame that this nation of sue-'em, get-rich-quick, no-win-no-fee fanatics has halted a perfectly workable custom!

HAS ANYONE else received the e-mail about the changes to BT's services? It starts by saying "At BT we're always looking for ways to give you value for money. That's why we've come up with a few changes that could save you money." It then tells us that 0845 and 0870 numbers are now free according to our call plan. Has anyone pointed out to BT that, with free weekend calls (the cheapest of the plans they offer) there is very little point offering them free because these are business numbers and most businesses shut shop at the weekends? The second BT plan offers free weekend and evening calls – so that perk is still of little use. It is only for the rarefied few who have a call plan which allows them all-time free calls where this added 'bonus' would come in handy. Then BT state they are discontinuing the current Friends and Family but instead are bringing out two new schemes. What they fail to say is that now you'll have to pay for the privilege of using them! And then the very last paragraph adds one other change is going to occur – an increase for everyone of £1 a month on line rental.

Save money? You must be kidding! What totally BAD public relations was that!

PS. VISITED North Weald market during the snowy weather - much depleted in both traders and public. However one thing caught my eye... a miniature gollywog key ring. I think it is illegal to sell them, but I bought one – just to spite all those who want to create problems where none existed, centred on what was one of my most loved toys!

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## Nature Notes, cont'd from page 7

As February moves into March more birds will be heard in the morning and evenings. Joining the robins and dunnocks (pictured right, singing at the Ford on the 18th February) will be blue and great tits, blackbirds, song thrushes and several of the finches. An increase in temperature will also encourage the flowering spring woodland plants to add welcome colour to the undergrowth, with dog mercury, violas, speedwells and wood anemones becoming prominent. A couple of warm days may also bring about the first butterfly sightings of the year, with the easily identifiable brimstone often being the first to emerge. A brilliant yellow butterfly; always a sign that spring is nigh.



My dawn chorus walk, planned for the 21st March has proved to be a success, with several residents wishing to be involved. I am happy for more to come along, meeting in the village hall car park at 5.00am. Please ring me (776211) or email: [jforgham@hotmail.com](mailto:jforgham@hotmail.com) if you would like to come along.

Finally may I thank local residents who have rung me with sightings, especially Sue, who was fortunate enough to have a flock of bramblings in her garden. However, by the time I managed to walk there they had obviously moved on. Also, thanks for the report of a barn owl, hunting locally. For more details: <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com>

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**Muscular  
Dystrophy  
Campaign**



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**FRIDAY 21 AUGUST 2009**

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## Neighbourhood Police Contact System

Did you know the Police run a system, mainly for farmers and landowners called RIGS (Rural Information Gathering System) which enables people to receive local information on crimes committed or suspicious behaviour which might lead to criminal activity?

The Police provide free beepers for people who are likely to need them, ie landowners and farmers, so that they can phone the mobile radio and leave a message which can be transmitted to all local beeper holders in the area; the message might be concerning a van that arrived in their yard but left quickly when someone went out to investigate, or that a farmer had had a trailer stolen last night, etc. This system has been in operation before and proved very successful but long-term funding of the beepers was not available then so the beepers had to be returned. Funding has now been secured and it is hoped that this system will assist the police and the community in reducing crime. If you wish to know more please contact our Community Police Liason Officer [Tracey Fegan @herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Tracey.Fegan@herts.pnn.police.uk) or ring Bishop's Stortford Police Station 0845 3300222.

The Police say thieves tend to target an area for particular items, ie stables etc., and then do not come back for a few months (presumably when people have restocked) but the RIGS system can help prevent such crimes by warning the next possible victim so that they are on their guard.

Mary Wilkinson  
Little Hadham Parish Council

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# What's on in March ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

**2 Mon, A Night to Remember** 7.15-11pm  
Join us in a beautiful starlit marquee in the grounds of The Laurels, Ware Park, Ware for a relaxing evening of dinner and entertainment in aid of Isabel Hospice. Graham P Jolley, the world-renowned mind reader and psychologist will entertain us. Tickets: £55 include dinner  
Enquiries: Barbara Doherty 01279 842140  
[barbara.doherty@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barbara.doherty@tiscali.co.uk)

**3 Tue, Parish Council meeting**, 8pm. Everybody invited to listen in on your councillors.

**5, 19 Thur, Mobile Library** (See back page)

**6 Fri, Casino Night** to be held in aid of Isabel Hospice, at Wodson Park, Ware. Tickets £20  
Info. 07708 366564.

**7 Sat Jumble Sale**, Thundridge Village Hall, 2.30pm. For Isabel Hospice 01920 462992

**8 Sun Big Fun Walk**, London Parks. Once again the North London Hospice has invited Isabel Hospice supporters to participate in the beautiful 7.5 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. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Check in is at 9.15a.m. at East Finchley underground for those wishing to walk with Isabel Hospice Group. Registration forms are available from Renee Friend on 01279 755320. Dogs welcome.

**10 Tue, LH & A Social Club** 8pm, Wine Tasting evening, organised by 'The Mixed Case' of Little Hadham. Entry £5. Everyone is welcome. Phone 771580 and 658585 for information.

**12-14, Peter Pan**, The Young Ones Youth Drama Group, Box Office 771884

**14 Sat, music@stansted** 7.30pm in St John's Stansted. The final concert of the season, when

Erdem Misirlioglu, this year's winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year (piano section), will be giving a recital. Tickets (Adults £12, Students and Children £3) available from: Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square., Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (01279 815282) or at the door.

**19 Thur, "Way Inn"** coffee morning. Make new friends, 10-12noon, rear of village hall.

**19, Thur LH & A Garden Club AGM** and launch of our 2009/2010 list of events and outings. 7.45p.m. for an 8pm start.

**21 Sat, Dawn Chorus Walk**, 5.00am Village Hall car park. Info. Jonathan Forgham 776211 or: [jforgham@hotmail.com](mailto:jforgham@hotmail.com)

**28 Sat, Farmers' Market** 8.30-11.30. Treat yourselves to some local produce.

**29 Sun, It's Summer!** Clocks go forward by one hour at 1am.

## ... and after that?

April 4 SSE's **Showtime at the Civic** (page 6)

April 16 **Annual Parish Assembly**, 7pm.

April 18 **Dawn Chorus Walk**, 4.30am Village Hall car park. Info as above.

April 18 **Jumble Sale**, Thundridge 14:30 - 16:30 Details 01920 462992

April 26 **Flora London Marathon**, 9am. In 2008 Isabel Hospice had 14 runners who raised an amazing £30,000 for us. If you have a place in your own right, and would like to run in aid of Isabel Hospice, please call Pam Shepherd on 01707 382500

July 4 **music@stansted's** "Summer Soiree" will be held in St John's Church and Gardens. Info from [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com)

Aug 21 **Charity Golf Day** (details page 10)



Local services

## Like to learn to use a computer?

Would you like to be able to e-mail your grandchildren, catch up with that programme you missed on TV or go 'shopping' without leaving home? Computer lessons for beginners and those who want to improve their skills have recommenced. They are run every Tuesday in term time at 4pm in the computer suite of Little Hadham School by Bev Evans, parish clerk, school governor and retired information technology (ICT) teacher.

The classes, initiated by Little Hadham Parish Plan, recently won £350 to buy a laptop under the Community Pot scheme sponsored by Herts and Essex Observer. If you would like to join, contact Bev on 842803.

**THE MIXED CASE**  
 WINE MERCHANTS  
 ARE HOLDING A  
**WINE TASTING EVENING**  
 ON BEHALF OF THE  
**LITTLE HADHAM &  
 ALBURY  
 SOCIAL CLUB**  
 AT THE LITTLE HADHAM  
 VILLAGE HALL  
**TUESDAY, 10TH MARCH,**  
 AT 8 P.M.  
 ADMISSION £5.  
 RAFFLE.  
 EVERYONE WELCOME

Local services

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## Audience laps up Panto success

The lucky cat not only got the cream but the crème de la crème in Little Hadham Pantomime Group's latest production, **Puss in Boots**, when seven highly talented newcomers joined the accomplished resident cast. This was another spanking production by our local group – its 37th pantomime – with outstanding acting, singing, dancing – and laughter.

Playing *The Dame* for the first time, Dr Paul Haimes proved to be a brilliant comic as well as a quick-change artist with an endless wardrobe of colourful costumes. As the splendid Witch, Anne Senior revelled in time-honoured boos and hisses. Looking every inch the Princess with a voice to match, Jessie Pyatt was romanced by principal boy Tom, played dashingly by Kirsty Harrison in only her second pantomime role. Kirsty also proved to be a talented singer, as did newcomer Jill Oxborrow as the Good Fairy, casting a spell with her voice.

Making a welcome return to the stage of the Village Hall as goblins and woodland creatures were young dancers from the Jenny Myhill School of Dance. Abbie Bailey made a double contribution to the show: as a 'graduate' from the Young Ones youth drama group, she gave a splendid performance as Dame Doris's daughter, but also succeeded in enticing her father, Ian, to take on his debut role as Major Domo.

Lydia Norris was the youngest of the newcomers in the shared title role of Puss. Thanks to a pair of magic boots, Lydia became the heroic, cape-swirling talking cat, played magnificently by Peter Rosborough. Other newcomers were the splendid and crafty Robin Gregory as Oddjob and Peter Slaney as the solicitor, with Jan Williamson as one of the dancing and singing villagers.

With great costumes, scenery and technical wizardry, this was a happy show, one of the highlights of which was undoubtedly the hilarious rendition of Queen's "I want to break free" by ✓

**Adverts removed**

## **The Peasants are revolting!**

For the last four months we have been under threat of Elfering Bank bungalow being demolished and a huge four bedroom, three bathroom house being erected in its place. As we here in the Ford live in a conservation area we were especially concerned at the consequences. East Herts Planning Officers were minded to approve this application. and at this point FFG was created (The Ford Focus Group), the membership made up of local residents who care very deeply about the conservation area. We shared all the information we could gather and at least 13 letters of objection from residents were received by EHDC, together with others from the Parish Council, Little Hadham Conservation Society and even a letter from the archeological society. We

lobbied the District Council, inviting them to site to view the proposal, and sent in a very detailed letter citing relevant planning policies and our objections.

Our District Councillor, Michael Tindale, supported our objections and made a stirring speech about the planning officer's flawed document. The recommendation was overturned and planning permission was refused.

Our names were at the bottom of the very detailed letter, but it was the efforts of all in the Ford Focus Group who spent a lot of time and energy ascertaining relevant facts, and we thank them all. It just shows what can be achieved when we all pull together.

Brenda and Brian Kain

*the male chorus dressed as maids and crooning into their kitchen mops.*

*Puss in Boots played to seven packed houses, including a special performance attended by a large contingent from St Elizabeth's Centre. The pantomime was produced and directed by Cathy Wheatley.*

**Adverts removed**

## Rant from the backwoods *cont'd from page 3*

When you step off the bus at your destination you are free, unencumbered; you can wander at will. No queuing to get in the car park, no scrabbling for the right money for the pay and display, no long walk from the car park. Well all right, there are disadvantages, but give it a go, I think you will be surprised. You may even get to talk to a complete stranger! (No, no, not that, you cry, not a complete stranger!)

It won't affect the climate much but we could begin a move to a more communicative society . . . but that is a rant for another day.

Back to the climate, something else you can do: join the 3 Villages Eco Group and start making local changes. [threeveg@googlemail.com](mailto:threeveg@googlemail.com). And finally back to wind turbines. The ones in Benington were turned down, so I understand, purely on aesthetic grounds. Why should the impact of our use of power not be local so

we can see where it comes from instead of some distant community suffering the visual and pollution impact of large chimneys, cooling towers and the endless trains running coal into power stations like Didcot or Drax? Is that a just society? "Oh no, we can't have that turbine on our bit of the landscape let someone else have it." I personally would love to see a 2 megawatt turbine on any one of the hills around our villages – free non-polluting power for us.

My question to those who argue against wind turbines is, "What will you do to reduce our use of fossil fuels?" (and don't even mention nuclear; that is not an option and it sure ain't green) because we surely have to do something.

*Man from the parish edge, Pat Wilkinson*

**Adverts removed**

## Molly's Minted Chicken Serves 6

*(named after Molly Gough who makes the best Seville marmalade)*

- 6 chicken roasting joints (thighs are most flavoursome) or joint a whole chicken
- 4 tbsps Seville marmalade (home made is best)
- Bunch of mint leaves (if you can get) or 1 tsp mint sauce or jelly
- 3 garlic cloves crushed
- Grated rind and juice of 1 orange
- 1 oz (25g) softened butter

**For the sauce:** • 10 fl oz (300ml) chicken stock • 1 tbsps plus 1 tsp cornflour • Salt & Pepper • A roasting tin large enough to hold the chicken joints in a single layer

**Preheat oven** to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6 (Aga, cook towards the top of roasting oven for about 30 mins).

**Method:** Trim off excess fatty skin from the joints. Sprinkle base of tin with salt & pepper and then put chicken joints on top. Combine marmalade, mint, garlic, orange rind and butter in bowl with additional S&P. Mix well and spread mixture over the chicken. Roast for 35-45 mins, basting once or twice with pan juices. Test chicken is cooked and remove from roasting tin to warmed serving dish. Cover and keep warm. Skim the surface fat from pan juices. Pour a small amount of the measured stock into a bowl and mix with the cornflour. Pour remaining stock and orange juice into the roasting tin, combining with the juices in the pan. Stir in the cornflour blend. Bring to the boil stirring briskly and scraping the base and side of tin. Simmer gently for 2-3 mins, taste and if necessary season with salt & pepper. Pour the sauce over the chicken joints and serve immediately.

**To Prepare Ahead:** Chicken joints can be spread with the marmalade mixture. Cover with foil and keep in fridge for up to 12 hours. Bring up to room temperature before cooking. Freeze beautifully. Thaw for at least 6 hours at room temperature or overnight. To reheat, cook gently for approximately 30 minutes in low temperature oven.

**Adverts removed**



# Housing Benefit And Council Tax Benefit

## Am I Eligible For Help?

If you pay rent and/or Council Tax you may be eligible for help.

You will not be eligible if:-

- You pay rent to a close relative who lives in the same property, ie your parents.
- You have over £16,000 in capital. This includes savings, investments and some property and land. (Unless you also receive Pensioners Guarantee Credit). This does not include Far East Prisoner of War payments.

## When Should I Claim?

You should claim as soon as possible because any Benefit you are entitled to will be calculated from the Monday following receipt of your claim.

If you have been made redundant, or are due to retire, and have been paid in lieu, send your application in now with details of your income when your pay runs out. If you are not sure about the amounts say so and we will write to you to confirm any details. This way, your application will be in ready for your claim to start from the earliest possible date.

## *Don't Delay - Apply Today*

### How Long Do I Get Help For?

You can claim help with your Rent and Council Tax for as long as you need to. This might be for a few weeks or a number of years.

We will contact you to check your claim occasionally. If your circumstances or income changes at any time, you have to write to us immediately so that we can amend your claim.

### How Do I Claim?

You need to complete a form HB1 available from:-

The Benefit Section  
East Herts Council  
The Causeway  
Bishop's Stortford  
Herts CM23 2EN

or

Freephone: 0800 373 852  
Telephone: (01279) 655261  
Fax: (01279) 502013  
Email: [benefits@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@eastherts.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.eastherts.gov.uk](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk)

visit our website at  
**[www.eastherts.gov.uk](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk)**

**TRANSPORT PROBLEMS?**



**MAY BE THE ANSWER!**

ARE YOU 16-25?  
DO YOU LIVE OR WORK IN A VILLAGE  
OR RURAL AREA OF HERTFORDSHIRE?

NEED TO GET TO:

- WORK
- EDUCATION
- TRAINING ETC?



SCooTS is a wheels to work & education scheme that helps 16-25 year olds living or working in a rural area of Hertfordshire via the loan of a moped. All training, safety equipment and support is included .

YES?...THEN CONTACT **SCOOOTS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**t: 01707 695513 OR e: scoots@cdaforherts.org.uk**



**Adverts removed**

## Be 'Ready for Anything'

The best items to have in your home in case of an emergency are a torch, radio (battery powered), telephone numbers of family and friends and emergency help lines, bottled water, ready-to-eat food and a first aid kit.

Simple things to prepare include making copies of financial documents and keeping them somewhere safe that you can access in an emergency, and familiarising yourself with how to switch off gas, electricity and water supplies.

Have you befriended a vulnerable person; are any of your neighbours vulnerable or are members of your family vulnerable? A leaflet called 'Ready For Anything' providing information and guidance is available at your local library. It includes useful tips, advice and contact information on issues such as:

- a Carers' Emergency Scheme;
- the effects of flooding and how to prepare;
- vulnerable customer schemes offered by utility providers;
- what to have in your home and car in case of an emergency;
- electric blanket and home fire safety checks.

If an emergency happens, tune in to your local radio station. The authorities will use local radio to update and advise the public. The leaflet, plus further information is available at [www.hertsdirect.org/emergency](http://www.hertsdirect.org/emergency) or call 01992 555961 for a copy.

**Adverts removed**

## Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 15th May



*“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”  
Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15th May 2009 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA’s information and support services.*

*You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre. SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.*

*In 2009 SIA will celebrate its 35th Anniversary and being that Friday 15th May 2009 is Spinal Cord Injury awareness day what better way to raise funds than eating Fish and Chips and raising money for SIA?*

*The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed, and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.*

*Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.*

*For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 extn 229 or email [fishandchips@spinal.co.uk](mailto:fishandchips@spinal.co.uk) or visit [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)*

**Adverts removed**

## **Little Hadham and Albury Garden Club – Hints and Tips**

The talk by Robin Carsberg at our January meeting gave us a whistle stop tour round the Great and Small gardens of Wessex, was very interesting and brought back memories for many members and also inspired others to visit the region.

Our March meeting on the 19th is the A.G.M. and our Chairman gives a short appreciation of the previous year's events and we launch our 2009/2010 list of events and outings along with the new Autumn show schedule, so come along and join the club, meet other gardeners and would be gardeners, have a nibble and drink. The doors open at 7.45 p.m. for an 8pm start.

We launch a new short column giving some hints and tips for the coming month. As this is written in the middle of the previous month these tips are a memory jogger and at the end of the day it is the weather and soil conditions that will finally decide when you do things.

### **Veg Plot**

Dig over the ground ready for sowing the first seeds towards the end of this month or beginning of April. The first direct sowings of Broad Beans and Peas can be made. Towards the end of the month if the soil has warmed up then Carrots, Parsnips, Summer Cabbage, Cauliflowers and Brussels sprouts can be sown. Also Onion Sets and Shallots. Harvest the last of the Parsnips and pick the first of the early Rhubarb (especially if it has been forced).

### **Flower Borders**

Spring clean the borders – hand weeding or hoeing and mulch to help keep the weeds down during the summer. Prune Roses and finish pruning Wisteria.

**Adverts removed**

## Lost & Found

Found after the last Farmers' Market on Saturday, 30th January, a toy character from "Madagascar" was found in the Hall.

Will its small owner please contact Angela Fardell, 771697.

Found after the Pantomime: college scarf belonging to E.M. Summers, 19 Ambleside Avenue .....

May be "Bradford", rest illegible, from Skelton's, 64 Market Street.. Please contact Angela as above.

## THE YOUNG ONES

Little Hadham's Youth Drama Group  
present their 10<sup>th</sup> production

## PETER PAN



Thursday 12 March

Friday 13 March

Saturday 14 March

in the Village Hall

Box Office 771884

## Calling all dog owners/walkers

Please clear up after your dogs. Every time I walk to the post box a dog has fouled the pavement between the Pub and Ford House.

I am sure there is a law against this and there is a heavy fine! Many thanks,

Ann Church

**Adverts removed**

# March diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

**1 Sunday First Sunday of Lent**  
9.30am Sung Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**8 Sunday Lent 2**  
9.30am Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham  
5.00pm Taizé-style service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

**15 Sunday Lent 3**  
8.00am Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham  
9.30am Family Service in Little Hadham Village Hall  
6.00pm Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

**22 Sunday Mothering Sunday**  
9.30am Special service for families at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham  
(This is instead of Evensong)

**29 Sunday Lent 5**  
9.15am Benefice Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham  
10.30am Benefice Communion at Stocking Pelham  
6.00pm Deanery Evensong at St Andrew's, Much 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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There have been no entries in the Register this month

**5th & 19th 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  
A fortnightly service.

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

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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