

Little Hadham
PARISH NEWS
April 2009

LITTLE HADHAM PANTOMIME GROUP

Congratulations and jubilations!!



The Pantomime Group is very proud to announce that once

again our Pantomime has been awarded "The Best Pantomime" in District 7 of NODA East.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRODUCERS, CATHY WHEATLEY AND MARGE ELLIS for their production of "ALADDIN"



.....

Stansted Airport up for sale!

BAA are being forced by the Competition Commission to sell Stansted Airport within two years. This is likely to sound the death knell for the proposed second runway. The Commission criticised BAA's airport monopoly (it must also sell Gatwick and Glasgow or Edinburgh airports) and its standards of service. Stop Stansted Expansion says the battle is far from over but this forced sale greatly increases the chances of curbing airport expansion.

Rector of Parish: Revd. Chris Boulton 01279 842609
e-mail: rectory@muchhadham.com

Team Vicar: Revd. Jeanette Gosney
01920 822619
e-mail: vicar@braughing.org.uk

Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter
01279 844955
e-mail: cp.slaughter@virgin.net

Churchwardens: Don Gibson 01279 771325, Tony Skidmore 01279 771688

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

Letter from the Rectory

Recently I went to the Police Station twice; not, I hasten to add, to be arrested, but first to give a witness statement and second to look at some photographs. A few months ago I witnessed a van being stolen from my neighbour's driveway, in broad daylight and right in front of my eyes. The whole incident was quickly over in a few minutes. Time had passed since it happened and the van was recovered. Nevertheless the statement I gave was several pages long and, when confronted with various faces, I could not clearly identify anyone. Conviction will depend on more than my testimony alone.

It made me think about the nature of witness and report in the Bible testimony to Jesus' death and Resurrection, which we will be celebrating during Holy Week and Easter. The witnesses are various, ranging from St Paul, who never saw Jesus in person, to the many figures in the Gospels who feature in the accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; people like St Peter, St Andrew, St Thomas, who was absent from the first appearance of the risen Lord, or Mary Magdalene, weeping at the tomb; and a host of nameless individuals like the soldiers. When their testimonies came to be written some time had elapsed since the events occurred. The witnesses saw things from different angles and recalled different things. Their testimony was reported through the narrative of a third person.

They were people of integrity and their testimony was honest; the general picture was consistent. They all agreed that Jesus had been crucified, though they did not all understand the reason; they knew that something dramatic had happened at the resurrection, though not all saw first hand. But the real difference between my witness of the theft and their witness of the Passion and Resurrection was that it was they who were "convicted" and not the person to whom they witnessed. What I mean to say is that for many, their witness changed their lives and affected them profoundly; whereas I was just an observer.

Christian witness is not just about seeing; it is about being; and being changed by the experience of faith. What really happened to Jesus in those few days before and after his death is important. How we can be changed by relating to Him and to the love of God that He showed, matters just as much. My hope is that I may be a more effective witness this Easter, and show the love and joy that comes from a living faith.

Chris Boulton

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Log on to wine – absolutely free!

A ‘tap’ that simply plugs into the USB port of any computer or laptop and decants wine that comes absolutely free is now available to anyone in Little Hadham capable of surfing the internet.

Users merely have to log on to a web site and enter a simple password. The laptop or personal computer will serve wine at a rate of one standard glass per megabyte of ram. The quality of the wine is rated as ‘well above average supermarket standard’.

This technical breakthrough follows two years of collaboration between a French wine company and Little Hadham’s ‘Internet Café’, the computer club which offers weekly training sessions for computer beginners and those who want to develop their internet skills.

Known in the UK as a ‘tapette’, the specially designed USB attachment is being offered free to existing and new members of our local computer club. It normally costs 9.95 euros but in a ‘launch’ deal with the French producers, the club has been offered a small consignment free of charge – but only while stocks last.

New members who sign up at the Internet Café next Tuesday, March 31, at 4pm at Little Hadham School, can reserve a ‘computer welcome pack’, their own ‘tapette’ and the all important password that links their computer to a well-known French online vineyard. Stocks will be delivered the next day, Wednesday April 1.



You may know that Dr Colin Brookbanks is due to retire at the end of June

after 32 years in General Practice here. We would like to buy him a present to thank him for his outstanding contribution to our community. If you would like to make a contribution there are addresses listed below where you can leave your donation. If this is in the form of a cheque then kindly make it payable to:- The Colin Brookbanks Fund

Bunty Anderson, The Old School House, Tower Hill, Much Hadham, SG10 6DL

Diana Scholefield, North Lodge, Much Hadham, SG10 6BP

Caroline Jones, The Vineries, Green Tye, SG10 6JJ

Don Gibson, Priors Cottage, Albury Road, Little Hadham. SG11 2DN

Angela Fardell, Brook House, The Ford, Little Hadham, SG11 2AY

Olga Caton, Heathend Cottage, Patmore Heath, SG11 2LX

Charles & Ann Newcomb, The Labour in Vain, Church End, Albury, SG11 2JG

Judith Scott, Rose Cottage, Ware Road, Widford, SG12 8RB

Diana Breerton-Martin, The Pump house, Hunsdon, SG12 8NT

Parish Council News

Police alert

Householders in Little Hadham and especially those living in remoter areas and on farms are being advised by the police to be vigilant about vehicles driving into properties and then driving off – often a precursor to a burglary.

This was one of the points made by police community volunteer David Kitching at the March meeting of the Parish Council. Preventative measures include free pagers under the police RIGS scheme, joining the OWL online watch link (part of Neighbourhood Watch) and the police's own Operation Agrarian that targets vehicles in rural areas late at night.

The latest Policing Plan requires 80% of PC and PCSO time to be spent on patrol. Crime figures for Little Hadham remain low. For more information about policing matters contact Cllr Mary Wilkinson (842675).

Planning matters

Councillors will shortly meet with heads of planning at East Herts Council to express concern about threats to the Conservation Area status that covers large parts of the village and to clarify the rules and constraints under which planners have to operate. Following strong opposition from residents, the Parish Council and District Councillor Mike Tindale, a planning application to replace the bungalow at Elfering Bank, The Ford, with a large house was turned down. The Parish Council also opposed plans for a new house adjoining Ford Hill House (subsequently refused).

Footpaths

The council has joined the Parish Paths Partnership and will organise a survey of footpaths as a first step.

Bypass

Cty Cllr Mary Bayes said alternative funding
continued on next page

Adverts removed

Parish Council News, *continued*

sources were being explored and work in preparation for the new road was proceeding.

Traveller sites

The Government's response to the recommendation of the public inquiry that East Herts should have 20 additional pitches is awaited. There will be a further public consultation before sites are considered.

Traffic lights near miss

Further information is awaited from the police after a car narrowly missed children crossing the road by the A120 traffic lights after it jumped the waiting queue.

Thermal imaging camera

The council has backed a scheme under which householders can apply to have heat loss measured with a thermal imaging camera and seek advice on energy efficiency.

Stansted

A council representative attended the High

Court appeal by SSE against the Government's go-ahead to expand the existing runway. The hearing was one reason why the start of the second runway inquiry has been delayed.

Flight paths

The council has been active in lobbying against NATS' plans for new flight paths, which are now being re-thought.

Business plan

The council is formulating a business plan to provide clearer objectives and a plan of action to enable it to function more proactively.

**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**

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Village Guide is launched and Parish Plan2 heralds busy year ahead

A new Village Guide for Little Hadham, the first for many years, will be unveiled at the annual Parish Assembly on April 16. It's part of a bumper pack that includes the latest Parish Plan containing a programme of new village projects and family activities as well as a directory of local organisations and services.

The Village Guide has been in the making for more than a year with extensive research and hard work by a small team of dedicated volunteers. The result is a 24-page publication in full colour with a profile of Little Hadham today, an account of its fascinating history going back to Roman times (with Captain Cook and an execution thrown in for good measure), a directory that includes useful phone numbers and even a village bus time table, and specially devised guided walks to help you explore our countryside.

Inside a customised folder you will also find your own copy of the latest Parish Plan reviewing the success of the plan to date

– including the results of the questionnaire in the Parish News asking for your view on the activities so far. The plan sets out a range of activities coming up this year including five-a-side soccer, a barn dance, a plan to establish a village-wide email network, an environmental project in which the whole family can take part, and the 'big event', a fun run in June.

The other good news is that the Village Guide and Parish Plan 'pack' comes free! It has been organised and funded by the Parish Plan Group with the help of a 'Grassroots' grant from the Hertfordshire Community Foundation. More information about all this at the Parish Assembly on April 16 – see page 19 for details of the Assembly programme and how to get your invitation to this most important event in the village calendar.



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LH & A Social Club

Our Wine Tasting Evening in March was a great success. Stefanie Stiel, from The Mixed Case Wine Co. allowed us to partake of 8 different wines and we all left the hall rather jolly! Those who could easily do so had walked to the village hall and drivers had been very sensible. The selection of wines available at The Mixed Case continues to grow and you can be assured of an excellent selection.

Our April meeting on Tuesday 14th is a Members meeting, when we will finalise outings and be happy to socialise and/or listen to any stories or information you may have. We still only ask £1.50 admission, which includes refreshments, plus our charity book exchange. We look forward to meeting old and new friends. Tel 771580 or 658585

Much Hadham Bowls Club

The outdoor bowling season starts at the end of April. Much Hadham Bowling Club (The Recreation Ground, Tower Hill, Much Hadham) would be delighted to welcome new members. Club night is on Wednesday from 5pm when anyone is welcome to join us.

Would you like to give it a trial?

For just £2 pp per morning, we will be holding coaching sessions for beginners on Tuesday mornings from 5th May to 16th June (excluding 19th May) 10.30 – 12.30. If you think you may be interested then make a note in your diary and come along on the day. Just wear casual clothes with flat shoes.

Please contact Ken or Shirley Howlett (01279 842637) for further details.

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Peter Pan takes The Young Ones to new heights

What a cracker! The latest production by The Young Ones, our youth drama group, was a total success. It marked the group's tenth anniversary and played to large audiences on each night. This adaptation of J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan with plot, songs and music specially written by director Jenny King, raised the standard of performance to new heights.

So polished was the performance that some in the audience might at times have wondered if they were watching an amateur production by a cast whose oldest member was just 16. Weeks of rehearsals under Jenny King's dedicated direction produced an ambitious show of confident dialogue, captivating song and hilarious humour, set off by costumes and sets that would not have looked out of place in the West End.

The use of short scenes – but eleven in total – ensured pace and variety. This clever approach helped the more experienced ones to perform with ease and confidence and those making their stage debut to leave their nerves in the dressing room. The cast of 24 really connected with the audience – sometimes literally, as pirates and Indians entered and exited through the auditorium. Many of the cast played two parts.

Lily Pope played an accomplished Peter Pan, as confident an actor as ballet dancer on point. Sian Atkins' permanent smile enhanced a polished performance as Wendy. The complex story line was delightfully portrayed by a host of other lead players including Benito Garrod as the fearsome Captain Hook, Maddie Pay (Tiger Lily) who led a convincing band of Indians, and Angus Hinton as grumpy Mr Darling whose dog Nana (Lucy Morris) eventually gets its revenge.

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Adverts removed

Peter Pan, *continued*

The show was memorable for its songs and its singers including Charlie Ellis as the maid, Amy Morris and Helena Marrington in the mermaid scene, and a very poised Angela Stockman as Mrs Darling. Georgie Arkell (Mullins) was determined the show would go on despite illness. And a sparkling performance was



given by spotlight operator Callum Neill as the omnipresent Tinkerbell.

Peter Pan will also be remembered for its dazzling costumes (Penny Deans, supplied by The Costume Workshop), special effects and spectacular scenery (by stage manager and set designer Jon Fardell) as the action switched effortlessly between Kensington Gardens, a blue lagoon and an Indian reservation.

Footnote: The Young Ones are looking for a new producer/chairman to give Ross Barron a break, as well as a director for the next main production as Jenny King has other commitments this year. If you could fill either role or would like to join the production committee, please call Ross on 077323 70923.

Adverts removed

Little Hadham and Albury Garden Club

Our February talk was given by Annie Godfrey of the Plant Nursery Daisy Roots, (see their stall at the Farmers' Market) and is also a garden designer. She was in sparkling form and we now know what to plant in the hot dry areas of our garden. The slides were lovely and the information given means that none of us, who were there, have any excuse as to what to plant in those conditions.

The Humble Spud is our talk on April 23rd and Mr Walker will be telling us of the history of the vegetable and hopefully how we can never fail with our crop. Please come and join us for an entertaining evening and free refreshments.

See our leaflet in this month's Parish News for all our Talks and events for the coming year.

We have a trip to Pashley Manor Gardens for their Tulip Festival on the 24th April and may have some spare places. Please contact Barbara Taylor on 771987 for information.

Here are some more tips for your April Garden; hopefully you have managed to get through some of the March tips!!

Veg Plot

My Granddad always planted his potatoes on Good Friday, every one has their own ideas, but we will hopefully be doing this in April. There is no need to chit the potatoes (putting them in light to sprout) you can plant them straight in the ground. Most main crop vegetables can be planted now except the frost tender varieties.

Flower Borders

You can now plant roses, trees, shrubs and perennials. Move evergreens and conifers. Plant dormant dahlia tubers and gladiolus corms. Begin mowing the lawn regularly. Apply lawn feed and treat moss and weeds. You can also prepare the soil and sow grass seed or lay turf.

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Hertfordshire Constabulary Launch New Initiative

Hertfordshire Constabulary are calling on neighbours to look out for suspicious behaviour in a bid to reduce distraction burglaries. The call comes as part of a new initiative which detectives hope will help tackle the problem.

Residents are being asked people to display new 'burglar beware' window stickers in their homes and cars.

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Williamson, from the Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: "Distraction burglary means quite literally that a criminal will attempt to distract a person in their home while they or a colleague carry out a burglary. They tend to target the elderly and more vulnerable people in our communities and can be very convincing.

"We're asking people to display the stickers in their homes to act as a warning to offenders that the residents of the county are keeping a watchful eye on them. But we hope they will have a dual message for residents to report any behaviour which they believe is suspicious, or simply out of the ordinary."

In a recent example in West Watford, a man dialled 999 to report two men who were acting suspiciously near some sheltered accommodation in his street. Minutes after his call, police officers had arrested the men. They were later found guilty of carrying out a distraction burglary in the home of an elderly man, and are now serving a combined prison sentence of over nine



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Adverts removed

What's on in April ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

7 Tue, Parish Council meeting, 8pm. Everybody welcome to come and watch the fun.

2, 16, 30 Thur, Mobile Library (see p13)

4 Sat, SSE's Showtime at the Civic (Full details March Parish News) Tickets are now on sale at just £15 (£12 concessions) Civic Theatre Chelmsford box office 01245 606505 or online at <http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=16362>.

SSE 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.

4 Sat, 'Song Scenes', 7.30 St Nicholas's Church Great Munden. (Full details on page 19)

8, 15 Out2Play 1-3pm (See yellow panel)

14 Tue, LH & A Social Club, a Members' meeting, when we will finalise outings and be happy to socialise and/or listen to any stories or information you may have. We still only ask £1.50 admission, which includes refreshments, plus our charity book exchange. We look forward to meeting old and new friends. 771580 or 658585 for information.

15 Wed, Annual Church Council Meeting, St Cecilia's, 8pm. This is the meeting when church wardens and members of the PCC are elected to act on behalf of the community. Please attend, support your church and cast your vote.

16 Thur, "Way Inn" coffee morning (see p13)

16 Thur, Annual Parish Assembly, 7pm. COME.

18 Sat, Dawn Chorus Walk, 4.30am Village Hall car park. **Phone Jonathan to book, 776211**

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

23 Thur Red Cross Spring Sale, Cottered

Village Hall, SG9 9PS, 10 - 2.30pm. Entry £3 includes tea or coffee & biscuits. Large number of stalls, including Cashmere, Crafts, Pottery, Silk, Gifts, Kitchenware and Shoes.

23 Thur, LH & A Garden Club 7.45pm Mr Walker will be telling us of The Humble Spud.

25 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30-11.30

25 Sat, Concert 7.30pm, Rhodes Centre. **BS Choral Society and East Herts Youth Orchestra:** "The Most Beautiful Sounds" a collection of popular music from Abba to Zadok! Tickets £12 (Concessions £10) from Rhodes Arts Complex 01279 651746. or www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk

26 Sun, 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

29 Wed, "Leading in Prayer" Albury School An evening to explore how to pray well in public and encourage others to pray effectively. A sharing of ideas led by Jeanette Gosney and Chris Boulton. (See page 21)

... and later on

May 2 **Medley of Meals**, Info. 842094

May 8,9,15,16 **Much Ado about Nothing**.

May 9 **Isabel Hospice Charity Dinner Dance** Paradise Wildlife Park £55 Info. 755320

May 10, **Teas in Gardens**, Bayford Manor

May 14-16 **"The Entertainer"** Sawbridgeworth Players. Tickets 07752 161802

May 17 **Teas in Gardens**, Jenningsbury, Hertford Heath for Isabel Hospice.

May 30 **Jumble Sale** for Isabel Hospice

June 7 **Open Garden**, Henry Moore, Red Cross

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."

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 as Friday 15th May 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 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 xtn 229 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk

Out2Play back during the Easter Break

The Out2Play Team will be back at our Village Hall Playground on Wednesday 8th & 15th April 09 from 1pm until 3.00pm. Kids between ages of 8 and 11 (7 & 12-year-old siblings accepted) will get the chance to try out lots of fun outdoor activities and best of all it is absolutely FREE. Fantastic fun guaranteed! Hope to see you there - make sure you bring a friend! For more info. call Carmela 466331. (Out2Play team members are insured & CRB checked).

Buntingford Dramatic Society

Don't miss

'We did it our way'

the Variety Show with a difference!

at the Benson Hall, Buntingford
8.00 Fri 1st May, 7.30 Sat 2nd May
8.00 Fri 8th May, 7.30 Sat 9th May

Tickets from the 'Bell House Gallery'
£10 including deli-supper & Licensed bar available
For more information contact Kim - 01763 271 727
or
www.buntingforddrama.org

The 'Way Inn'

Come and meet friends and neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee. Rear of village hall, 3rd thursday of the month, 10 - 12 noon

2nd, 16th & 30th April

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.

Canterbury Tart *(a cracker for Easter entertaining)*

One 8" tin with removable bottom, buttered and floured (or 12" for a larger size tart).

Pastry

3oz butter, cut in cubes (4oz)
6oz plain flour (8oz)
1 oz icing sugar
1 egg, beaten

Points to help you (or not). If you are cooking this in an Aga you do not need to prebake the pastry case. This recipe will give you 6 medium slices. If you want a larger tart, then use a 10-12" tin and increase the recipe with the amounts mentioned in brackets above. Cooking times the same. Preheat oven to 200C/400F or gas mark 6. Top oven for Aga. Make the pastry, either by hand or in a processor. When mixed wrap in cling film and put in fridge for about 30 mins. This pastry is very rich and needs to be kept cold, otherwise it is hard to work. Roll out and line an 8" tin with removable bottom. The tin can be buttered and floured before the pastry is put in. Chill for another 30 mins. For the filling, firstly melt the butter, but don't let it boil. In a mixer beat the eggs, sugar,

Filling

3 eggs (4)
6oz caster sugar (8)
Grated rind and juice of 1 or 2 lemons depending on size (2 large)
3oz melted butter (4oz)
3 cooking apples peeled (4)
2 dessert apples peeled (3)
1 oz Demerara sugar (2oz)

lemon rind and juice. When the butter is very cool, mix with the eggs etc. Grate the cooking apples on all four sides, leaving the core. Much easier than quartering and then coring. Get the grated apples into the mixture asap so that the apples don't go brown. Pour the apples mixture into the pastry case. Quarter the dessert apples and core(!) – sorry you have to do that this time. Cut very thin slices of the quartered apples and then arrange around the edge of the pie tin. Sprinkle with the Demerara sugar. Put in the middle of the oven and cook for approx 45 mins in a conventional oven or on the floor of the top oven of Aga for 20 mins. Then put on grid shelf on 3rd set of runners so that the top of the pie browns. Freezes beautifully.

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Nature Notes: February/March

by Jonathan Forgham

A period of increasingly spring like weather that culminated in several warm and bright March days. A good time to be out and about to record new arrivals as well as creatures emerging from hibernation.

This was certainly the case on the 15th March, a super day where three new records for the year were recorded. Firstly, a fly by brimstone butterfly along a footpath off Chapel Lane. This is often the first butterfly of the year, the bright yellow male emerging from hibernation once the temperature rises above 15C. Secondly, a recently woken peacock butterfly was observed in Caley Wood, where also the third record was made.



This came in the form of a singing chiffchaff, recently arrived from southern Europe or even south of the Sahara. Two more of these small, common warblers were later witnessed near The Ford. The following evening (16th), 3 pipestrelle bats, also fresh from hibernation, were recorded feeding between The Ford and Chapel Lane at 6.30pm.

The highlight bird for this period (18th Feb – 18th March) was discovering 6 mandarin duck (20th) on the disused gravel pits in Caley Wood. The male is an unmistakable bright orange bird. 84th species for the area.

Other highlight birds were: first drumming great spotted woodpecker (10th), woodcock (19th, 4th and 15th), goldcrest (4th), reed bunting (4th), barn owl (10th), common buzzard (most walks, including 4 on 15th) and meadow pipit (14th).

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Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

Whisper it quietly, but I'm off to Australia in a few days' time. Most people are totally in awe of the luck I have in going to that far-off land, but I'm a gibbering mass of terror – mainly because I'm flying non-stop on one of those big new planes – 22 or so hours of non-stop flying in an economy seat!

And luck? Well, the reason I'm going was a casual remark I made to my daughter many months ago when she told me of a special Internet offer to celebrate the 'birth' of Qantas' mighty new Airbus 380. Three hundred and eighty seats being sold for £380 return!

She told me of the offer and I casually said that if she wanted a companion, I'd be game. The words were hardly out before she informed me the seats were booked and it was all-systems-go!

The holiday didn't seem real at the time, but this week, in readiness for Saturday's flight, I'm making packing lists and paring down the mass of clothes I'd like to take to a bare minimum. After all, Australia is a hell of size, and we aim to explore half of it, mostly by train!

You couldn't ask for a more diverse couple; she, a free spirit who will be taking a small rucksack, a woman who never plans ahead and takes life as she finds it, and me, great on organisation, a bit long in the tooth for mad escapades, and rather keen on luxury holidays. We couldn't be less suited.

We begin our adventure in Sydney in a hotel which is described in the guide book as "a great base for clubbing". She booked that! We end, back in Sydney four weeks later, in a luxury hotel overlooking the Sydney Opera House. I booked that. It should make for an interesting

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Rural Ramblings, *continued*

four weeks!

Meanwhile, back on the ranch, Beloved is left to fend for himself. Yes, he has the added problem of my 20 cherished chickens, now frantically laying in the first flush of spring...

...and not forgetting my four alpacas, who are each characters in their own right, (including one who could spit for England) stoic, independent, but still having to be fed and checked daily.

Yes, it's a tough old world for farmer Mardell... but, who knows, he might appreciate me all the more when I return!

Red Cross Spring Sale

Thursday 23 April, 10am - 2.30pm Cottered Village Hall, SG9 9PS

Entrance including coffee or tea and biscuits, £3.00. Sandwiches will be served at lunchtime. Last year's Sale total was a marvellous £2,800 and we are grateful to all who helped raise that amount. Our fundraising group has ensured that the stalls this year will be offering a wide variety of products and there will be much there to interest you, including Designer Kitchenware and Gifts, Classic Children's Clothes, Decorated Tinware, Golfing clothes and accessories, Polish Pottery, Vintage-look Dresses and Separates, and many many more.

Please come and join us.. Susan Lewthwaite, Chairman East Herts Fundraising Committee

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 15

Winter thrushes, fieldfares and redwings are still present locally, soon to be heading to their breeding grounds in Scandinavia. Over the next four weeks, I anticipate a busy period recording newly arrived migrants, especially warblers, flycatchers and cuckoos. However, with luck, a passing migrant or two may be witnessed, perhaps wheatear and ring ouzel.



Plants are now showing themselves with the first splash of colour being offered by primulas. Also, dog mercury is carpeting woodland areas, especially Bush Wood on the path towards Winding Hill, Much Hadham.

Photos and further details of these walks can be seen at <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com>

A reminder that my 2nd dawn chorus walk is planned for 18th April. All welcome but please contact me

so I can pass on numbers to Ash Valley Golf Club where we shall take a break for a breakfast sandwich and hot drink. I look forward to meeting new faces. Meet at the village hall car park at 4.30am!

Email address: jforgham@hotmail.com or phone 776211. Photos included this month are of a long tailed tit at Caley Wood and a spectacular sunset from Millennium Wood where the barn owl was seen hunting on the 10th February.

Finally, thanks to Ellen for details of the 4 buzzards over Clintons Farm.

Jonathan Forgham

Adverts removed

Come to your 'Village Show'!

What do the following have in common: a burglar deterrent, rare birds in flight, a traffic calming device, and a free glass of wine? Give up? The answers will be fully revealed when you accept your invitation to the Little Hadham Parish Assembly on April 16 – see this edition of the Parish News.

Hear about what's been happening in the village and forthcoming events. Also a chance to get closer to the people and the services that make your lives more rewarding, enjoyable and safe. Or maybe you've got some questions or a grouse to air – bring those along too!

The Parish Assembly is at 7pm in the Village Hall on Thursday April 16. Please make a note in your diary.

Free refreshments (first answer to the above quiz) will be served from 7pm when there will be exhibits and demonstrations from many of our participants. The police will demonstrate how to protect out-buildings, explain the Rural Information Gathering System (RIGS) and how you can increase your protection with Online Watch Link (OWL). And talking of owls, Jonathan Forgham, our local naturalist, will be showing some of the 80 birds that share our village and explain how you can help with his 'nature watch' project. You'll hear the latest on the airport and the bypass, be able to join our local computer club or submit ideas for traffic calming on the A120 once the bypass is built.

Then there's the long-awaited Village Guide, free to every household. Fancy a fun run, a barn dance or game of five-a-side? These are just some of the events coming up in the new Parish Plan, also unveiled on Thursday April 16, 7pm, Village Hall. See you there!

Useful phone numbers

Citizens' Advice Bureau, East Herts District
08744 848 9700

Environment Agency Incident Line:
0800 807060

Fireworks hotline: Jan Finn, 771113

Smell Gas? Call free on 0800 111 999

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

Music at St Nicholas's 'Song Scenes'

*an evening of exquisite music-making by
Emma Rothman and Les Melomanes
Saturday 4th April at 7.30pm*

*This programme includes music for
harpsichord, voice and continuo.
Handel arias (Giulio Cesare and Semele),
Purcell songs including 'Sweeter than Roses',
J S Bach 'Es ist vollbracht' from St John's
Passion, Haydn's*

'English Songs' and 'Arianna a Naxos'.

*Tickets £12.50 from books@hertford
12 Railway Street, Hertford,
01992 503444*

St. Nicholas's Church Great Munden

National Debtline

An unforeseen change in circumstances like redundancy or sickness, becoming financially over-committed over a period of time, or being part of a financially or socially excluded group can all result in debt problems which can build up if left to fester.

National Debtline is a national telephone helpline for people with debt problems. It is part of the Money Advice Trust, a registered charity, and has been providing free, confidential and independent advice since 1987.

The service handles over 200,000 calls a year and it seems likely that the figures for coming years will be higher still. The majority of callers have problems with banks, building society loans, overdrafts and credit cards, but advice can be offered on all types of debt problems.

NDL advisors give expert, professional advice designed to help clients deal with their debts in an informed and proactive way, including organising debt management plans.

There is also an excellent self help pack, 'Dealing with your debts', along with 35 easy-to-understand fact sheets on debt issues.

The helpline is available on Freephone **0808 808 4000** and is open 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday and 9.30-1pm on Saturdays.

Read the full National Debtline article and others, including Digital TV explained, on the trading standards website:

www.hertsdirect.org/tradingstandards (search for 'Consumer News' Issue 6)

Adverts removed

What's in a name? *Quite a lot when you haven't got one!*

[Scene – **The Nags Head**: **Chapel Lane** and **Ford Hill** are passing the time of day and enjoying a pint of Abbots. **Whatshisname** is sitting all alone at the bar.]

Chapel Lane: Nice weather recently, but a bit quiet up my way.

Ford Hill: I agree about the weather, but frankly, I'm rushed off my feet what with all the cars in the mornings and evenings, to say nothing of the concrete lorries and the Polish drivers with their wonky satnavs.

[They're joined by **Whatshisname**.]

Whatshisname: Hello! Recognise me? I run right past the end of your roads. You think you're busy! I get the lot – heavy trucks, school buses, the doctor and the vicar on their rounds, the parish chairman on his Harley, and 4x4s doing 50. And what recognition do I get – nothing!

Chapel Lane and **Ford Hill** in chorus: What do you mean 'Nothing'?

Whatshisname: I mean I don't have A NAME!

Chapel Lane: I thought you were called 'The Ford'.

Ford Hill: Hey, steady on! That's a bit close to home. You may be right but I've also heard you called 'Hadham Road', even [leans forward] 'The Road with No Name'.

Whatshisname: Exactly! No one seems to know. Those fellas at Wallfields and down at the Parish Council even call me 'The Unnamed C15'. How's that for a moniker!

Ford Hill: Gosh, we're sorry, we didn't know you felt like that.

Whatshisname: Too ***** right I do!

Chapel Lane: Hold on chaps, I've got an idea.

Whatshisname: Have you been watching 'The Italian Job'?

Chapel Lane: No, seriously. Let's put something in the Parish News and see if the readers can come up with a name ...

Ford Hill: ... or prove that one already exists!

Whatshisname: Brilliant!! And I'll stand a pint for the best answer.

Chapel Lane and **Ford Hill** in chorus: We'll drink to that.

Leading In Prayer

Prayer is at the heart of the Christian life; and leading others in prayer both a privilege and a challenge. In order to encourage one another in the parishes across the Team, we would like to invite you to an evening about leading intercessions and guiding public prayer.

Some may be practised in doing this; to others it may be something new: However we can learn from each other and benefit from another person's insight.

It will take place at Albury School Hall on Wednesday April 29th at 7.30pm -9.00pm. Would you please let either Jeanette Gosney or Chris Boulton know if you want to come.

Herts Constabulary Launch New Initiative, continued from page 11

years for the offence.

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Williamson, from the Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: "We rely on immediate information from residents to be able to apprehend these criminals and this is the main focus for the new initiative. We're asking everyone to look out for their older and more vulnerable neighbours and report suspicious behaviour to the police immediately with as much information as possible, such as descriptions or car details."

DCI Williamson continued: "I can understand that some people feel like they may be wasting police time by reporting suspicious behaviour, but we'd rather people report it in the first place and it turns out to be innocent, than not report it at all."

If you would like a sticker, please contact your local safer neighbourhood team. Contact details can be found on www.herts.police.uk.

Distraction burglaries account for a small proportion of burglaries in the county, however Hertfordshire Constabulary gives the following advice to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of distraction burglary, or bogus callers:

1. *If a stranger calls: not sure? Don't open the door! If you are not expecting anyone and you don't recognise them, don't let them into your home. Be aware, bogus callers can be very convincing and will often pretend to be representing a utility company; a genuine caller won't mind coming back at a time when you can arrange to have somebody you trust with you.*
2. *If you are expecting a caller: Only open your door when you are happy that you know the person. If you can't see who is calling and need to open the door, use your door chain and ask for identification or a pre-arranged password before you let them in.*
3. *Never keep large amounts of cash at home. If you ensure that large amounts of money are securely in a bank or building society account and any valuable jewellery is safely and discretely locked away then, even if a criminal cons their way into your home, there is nothing of value for them to steal.*

More advice and information about can be found on www.herts.police.uk.

Adverts removed

Obituary – Joan Gladys Joynson, 22.12.1921–25.2.2009

Our dear friend and neighbour, Joan, died on 25th February at the age of 87. She had been in and out of hospital over the last two years, but always returned home to Boundsfields, Cradle End. She had some help from carers, but was still cooking most of her own meals and there was always a home-made cake to be sampled when you called in to see her. Sadly, just before Christmas, she was admitted to hospital and, this time, didn't make it home.

Joan was a true Hadhamite, attended Little Hadham School and she and her family, husband John, daughter Maureen and son Paul, had been in continual tenancy since the development at Boundsfields was completed. John, a Lancashire lad, unfortunately died 21 years ago and Maureen sadly died in a car accident a few years ago.

Joan could tell such great stories. Most of them were true, but she could also tell a tale, with great humour! At her funeral Paul told the story of when she and a cousin, both aged about 9 years, having watched a funeral process to St. Cecilia's, decided to walk up to the church. On arriving they saw a mass of flowers piled upon the new grave. 'That's so unfair', said Joan and she and her cousin proceeded to distribute the flowers to all of the other graves! She worked in the canteen at Hadham Hall School and when the school closed she was employed at Haslems, which then became Maslens, in Bridge Street. After her retirement she remained in contact with many of her colleagues. After John's death she became involved with the MacMillan Nurse Charity and Isabel Hospice. She also helped to run the Over 60's Club in the Village for many years.

We moved to Cradle End 34 years ago and Joan was always a good friend and neighbour. Our knowledge of her long life is sketchy, but she was a great personality and we are sure there are still village people who will remember her from her early years. We and her many friends will truly miss her.

Eric and Ennis Rogers.

Medley of Meals

The next Medley of Meals is being hosted by The Rector, Revd Chris Boulton, at 7pm on Saturday 2nd May at The Rectory, Much Hadham.

Tickets, £7.50, from Linda English (842 094) or through the church wardens:

Don Gibson, 771 325 or Tony Skidmore, 771 688

Children say the funniest things

My daughter asked my three year old granddaughter if she knew what Daddy's job was. "Yes", she replied, "Daddy is a plumber." "And what do you think Daddy does at work?" was the next question. After a little thought the reply came: "He picks plums." A lengthy discussion on the fitting of radiators and boilers and repairs on leaking taps followed.

The moral of this story? Do not presume your child knows things that you take for granted.

Barbara Taylor

April diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

- 5 Sunday PALM SUNDAY**
9.30am Morning Prayer at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham with the reading of the Passion Narrative and distribution of palms. Officiant: the Reverend Clive Slaughter
- 9 Thursday Maundy Thursday**
7.30pm Service to celebrate the Institution of Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham, followed by an informal supper at the Rectory.
- 10 Friday Good Friday**
12 noon Procession of the Cross, ecumenical witness, beginning at the priest's house in Malting Lane, Much Hadham. Followed by a Vigil from 1.30pm-3.00pm in St Andrew's, Much Hadham.
7.30pm Service of Readings and Music for Good Friday at St Mary's, Furneux Pelham
- 11 Saturday Easter Saturday**
Decorating of the Church at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
- 12 Sunday EASTER DAY**
9.30am Parish Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
Celebrant and Preacher Canon Michael McAdam
- 15 Wednesday**
8.00pm Annual Parish Church Meeting in St Cecilia's, Little Hadham (All welcome)
- 18 Saturday**
2.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Gemma Adams at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
- 19 Sunday 2nd Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion Celebrant: the Reverend Chris Boulton
9.30am Village Hall Service taken by Chris Boulton
6.00pm Evensong at St Mary's Albury, Preacher: Chris Boulton
- 26 Sunday 3rd of Easter**
11.15am Shared Communion at St Mary's, Albury
Celebrant and Preacher Clive Slaughter
6.00pm Evensong at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
- 29 Wednesday "Leading in Prayer"**
7.30pm An evening to explore how to pray well in public and encourage others to pray effectively. A sharing of ideas: led by Jeanette Gosney and Chris Boulton at Albury School.

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

There have been no entries in the Register this month

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