

LITTLE
HADHAM
PARISH
NEWS
JUNE 2009

Have you entered the Fun Run yet?

Little Hadham's answer to the London Marathon is just a couple of weeks away and there is still time to enter. Just picture the scene: thousands of runners (well a couple of hundred maybe), some serious athletes, mostly fun-runners, some walking, families, the odd pushchair, and loads of funny costumes. Admittedly it's only 5k or 10k and not 26 miles, but it's in a good cause and all participants get a complimentary drink, a certificate to say they completed the course, and a barbecue to celebrate.

The Little Hadham Fun Run is on Sunday June 14. The start is at 10.30 am in the Village Hall car park. Both the 5k and 10k routes take in most of the village's hamlets and finish at the Nags Head. A map of the routes can be found on www.thehadhams.com and there are notices on boards around the village.

This is the first event of the year in the new Parish Plan programme. It is in support of CRY, Cardiac Risk in the Young, in memory of 17-year-old Caroline Johnstone, who lived in Chapel Lane and died tragically a year ago. Proceeds, after costs, will be split between CRY and a starter fund for our next Parish Plan event.

As well as runners and walkers, we are looking for marshals and helpers. To enter and for offers of help, call Mike Smith (771568) or any committee member (names on back page of latest Parish Plan).

This is probably the most fun you could have in a pair of trainers!

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

This time last year I was travelling through the desert regions of Namibia. Leaving the more fertile area of the Cape, we journeyed across long, dirt roads (I shall never complain about the Hertfordshire potholes again!), towards Windhoek and then the Skeleton Coast. Once we had crossed the Orange River, we passed vast salt pans and desert, with only the occasional settlement. Some so-called towns were no more than a petrol station and a few shacks, yet children seemed to come from nowhere and crowd round our vehicle. Many were very poor and undernourished; in the more populated places, quite a few were street children with probably no parents. Namibia is a country of cattle ranching and diamond mining, but it is still desperately poor and suffers corrupt government. The vast country has a population of only 2 million.

In the south we visited the magnificent Fish River Canyon, 160 Kilometres long and 27 wide. Then, as we approached the central coast at Swakopmund, we saw the glorious sight of the red sand dunes, undulating patterns against a clear blue sky. Some were like small mountains. Once we stopped to climb to the top of one; an exhausting exercise in the heat. Although it was nearly the African winter, it was still at times in the high 30s centigrade. Coming down the dunes was however "cool": rolling and jumping in giant slow motion leaps into the soft sand, until we reached the bottom. We also walked to the spectacular valley of the dead trees. A place once of lush forest and lake, now a desert with ancient trees fossilized into strange and wonderful shapes. On another occasion we went quad biking among the dunes and horse riding across the arid plains, with only snakes and lizards our companions. We saw the ancient rock pictures, (carved not painted), and had a lesson on how to produce the glossal clicks of the local language, much to the amusement of our guide.

What a contrast to our green and pleasant land! This late May/June I hear the daily weather forecast bemoaning the rain. How awful it is that we cannot "escape" the showers. One Namibian farmer had only one short rain period in 15 seasons. What he would have given for a shower! It is said we may have a hot summer, but it will be as nothing compared to the Namib Desert. And if they cannot moan about the weather, our Press turn to politics and rail against our MPs and their expenses; now that the Recession has left the front pages. I realise that it is important to have a critical attitude to things; I suppose it made our country what it is. Yet how I long for just one moment of thankfulness; of positive appreciation; for the fertile land we live in, the immense relative material comfort we possess, a political and religious freedom, a stability so many peoples would envy. Perhaps it is time for me to return to the desert!

Chris Boulton

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Threat to Village Hall

Applications to open a pharmacy in Much Hadham could threaten the branch surgery in Little Hadham Village Hall and affect the viability of the village hall and our sub Post Office.

Little Hadham Parish Council and concerned residents have written to North and East Herts Primary Care Trust to object to the applications. It is not known who the applicants are or where a pharmacy would be based.

Most Little Hadham residents are registered with the health centre in Much Hadham, which has its own dispensary for prescription medicines. A pharmacy in Much Hadham would reduce revenue from dispensing at the health centre, which could lead to a cut back in services including branch surgeries such as the one in Little Hadham Village Hall.

This would have a knock-on effect on the Post Office, which is housed in part of the branch surgery. The Post Office was recently reprieved under a government review. If the branch surgery was forced to close, the Post Office could become unviable which, in turn, could affect the viability of the village hall itself.

Cllr Tony Skidmore, who looks after health-related matters on the parish council said: "The council has objected to the prospect of a pharmacy in Much Hadham in the strongest terms. We have a patient-focused, friendly and accessible service based in Much Hadham, with a convenient branch surgery in Little Hadham three days a week. We do not want this level and quality of service to be put at risk."

**Muscular
Dystrophy
Campaign**



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FRIDAY 21 AUGUST 2009

supporting

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Invitation

All friends and patients of Dr. Colin Brookbanks, who has so kindly and generously donated to his leaving present, are invited to his farewell party. This is on Sunday June 28th, 12 noon–1.30pm at Hopleys, Much Hadham (by kind permission of Aubrey Barker).

Red Cross thanks

Thank you to everyone in Little Hadham who donated to the British Red Cross during Red Cross week at the beginning of May. We collected £201.42 which is a fantastic result. Special thanks once again to Carmela Piccolo for giving up her time to help.
Sandra Evans

Major Changes to Refuse and Recycling Services

In the autumn East Herts Council will be introducing major changes to your refuse and recycling services. The scheme is called ARC — Alternate Refuse Collection. You'll be able to recycle more materials more easily.

Food waste and cardboard can be added to garden waste in your brown bin and it will all be composted. Another new material we'll be collecting from your kerbside is plastic bottles and we'll give you a blue box for them. Because you'll be putting much less in your black bin we'll only need to collect it once a fortnight, with your brown bin collected on the alternate week.

To find out more information and ask questions about ARC please come to Little Hadham Village Hall on Tuesday 7 July at 8pm where a representative of East Herts Council will talk to you about the scheme.

Receive Hadhams News direct to your email

Subscribers to the Hadhams Website can now receive articles posted on the website directly to their email.

This is how it works:

After you have logged in you will be directed to the **Subscriptions** page. If you leave the check box ticked a weekly compilation of articles will be emailed to you each Friday

If you do not want to receive this click the checkbox to remove the tick and you will be un-subscribed.

Forgotten your Password? If you have forgotten your password click the **Lost Password** link in the login form on the left of the website.

Not Registered yet? Why not join the community of 285 people who have registered on www.thehadhams.com

Registered members can...

- Use the Message Boards
- Receive Hadham News directly to your email
- Post up non-commercial events into Calendar

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Feed the Hungry

Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge, where we send the Harvest Festival offerings and the Sock Collection is appealing for supplies to feed the homeless in these hard times.

St Cecilia's church is planning to send a parcel of basic groceries, eg tea bags, sugar, squash, tinned food (not past sell-by date please!), rice, pasta, jam, peanut butter, cereals.

If you can help please leave your contribution in the Church or with Ann Clayton (next to the Nag's Head) by June 10th.

Thank you very much.

Village Marquees for hire

With the summer under way (ever optimistic), thoughts turn to garden parties, weddings, birthdays and other celebrations outdoors. But what if it threatens to rain?

*The Parish Plan committee has the answer: you can hire the **Village Marquees**, which are easy and quick to erect, robust and very reasonably priced compared with the cost of commercial hire.*

Both marquees measure 10 ft square and can be joined up to make a 20 ft x 10 ft space. They are the 'pop up' design, take minutes to erect and have guy ropes if windy. They come in their own zip-up container and will fit in an estate car or hatchback.

They are £40 each or £70 for both for a week-end or 3-day hire. Contact Mike Fairchild on 771302.

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Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

Little Hadham Primary School certainly went back in time just before half term when a mobile Dinosaur Museum took over the school hall for the week!

A twelve foot pterodactyl hung from the wall bars, a nine foot Dimetrodon displayed his gigantic sail while an equally large Triceratops looked on!

Our in-house 'curator' of this museum, Peter Ta'bois from www.dinosaurs-fossils.com, worked with all classes each day during the week. Beginning with the very first life forms on Earth, he then gradually worked through the different developmental periods in prehistoric times, demonstrating how creatures adapted to the land and how they evolved.

Whilst some of the exhibits were accurate replicas, the children handled actual fossilised vertebrae of a sea-based dinosaur as well as a real meteorite from outer space!

Parents enjoyed an Evening Workshop on the Thursday night and, at the end of the week, every child was given a real fossil to take home as a souvenir of this amazing experience.

Life at Little Hadham Primary will never be the same again!

Liz Stockley, Headteacher

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Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

For our May meeting we had an interesting talk from Martin Copping about The Great Fire of London. Despite the fact that the fire destroyed four fifths of the then City of London, it is reported that only six people died – and there was no Fire Service in 1666! Also, Pudding Lane has nothing to do with the stuff we add custard to, but the olde English word for the entrails of pigs! The talk encouraged a few more people to sign up for the trip into the City on Monday 6th July, when Martin will walk us through the area of the Great Fire; plus a guided tour of The Mansion House.

We also have a trip booked to The Spears Games Museum at Dane End, on Tuesday, 23rd June and we are visiting Frogmore Paper Mill in August.

If you are interested in embroidery and design, there is an excellent exhibition by New Horizons Textile Group at The Gallery, Wimpole Hall until 28th June, from 1-5pm, closed Thurs. and Fri.

For our meeting on 9th June, at 8 pm, our retired detective returns with more stories. Do come along and learn about the life of a Metropolitan Police Detective – very gripping; don't have nightmares!!

We look forward to meeting old and new friends. £1.50 admission, which includes refreshments, plus our charity book exchange. Tel: 771580 or 658585 if you would like further information.

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Nature Notes

from Jonathan Forgham

Overall, a mostly dry four weeks (19th April – 18th May) with showers watering the vegetation towards the latter days of the recording period.

As would be expected at this time of the year, several new sightings for 2009 were made. A lesser whitethroat was heard singing at The Ford on the 29th April whilst the first house martins were observed on the 6th May. Both swift and hobby were first seen on the 7th. A chance observation of the hobby, as I was busy on the allotment watching good numbers of swifts overhead. From the east a medium size falcon could be seen which fortuitously flew directly overhead showing its diagnostic "red trousers". A superb bird to see and only my 4th for the parish. Coincidentally it was the 7th May last year when I recorded the first swifts for the area. The final new addition to the 2009 list was a cuckoo. First heard as I wandered along Acremore Street and eventually tracked down to Little Hadham cricket ground off Millfield Lane. Here it showed well before heading off in a southerly direction. This was on 13th May. Very low numbers of cuckoo this year, continuing the decline that has been apparent for the last decade.



Other birds of note were: 20 linnets on Ash Valley Golf Course (27th April), bullfinch (29th), common buzzard (several walks), kestrel (6th), herring gull (1st year non-breeding specimen 7th), and sparrow hawk (13th). The green woodpecker shown here

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Little Hadham Brownies

Our Brownie Unit has been busy this month. We have enrolled new members and continue to be a thriving unit always welcoming new girls, with three trained leaders, who have 45 years' experience between them, and our Brown Owl who has just gained her 30 years' service bar (12 years at Little Hadham).

Last term we took part in "Changing the world" challenge, and as part of this we made paper carrying bags for leaf collecting and identification; we recycled old tubes for new bee homes and many other things. We took part in the Mothering Sunday Church service and admired the daffodils in flower that we had planted a few years ago.

This term sees the lighter evenings and a chance to practise our outside skills. We will ramble about the village fields, do outside cooking and use the playing fields to play with our parachute.

In June we have our regular under canvas Camp so we are busy preparing for that – this includes attending the Sunday family church service. We hope it will be a dry weekend.

Places are available for Brownies for girls 7-10 years. Contact Brown Owl, Judi Wheeler on 01279 654624

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. Fireworks Hotline number:

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What's on in June ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

2 Tue Parish Council meeting, 8pm. Everybody welcome – come and watch the fun.

6 Sat MH Bowling Club Open Day See p13.

9 Tue LH & A Social Club, 8pm. Our retired detective returns with more stories. Do come along and learn about the life of a Metropolitan Police Detective.

10 Wed LH & A Garden Club Outing We have a few places left on this trip to Lullingstone Castle and Gardens. Please contact Frank Green for information on 771532.

11, 25 Thur Mobile Library See back page.

13 Sat JUMBLE SALE 2pm at Rickling & Quendon Village Hall (on B1383). Entry 30p Raffle/Teas Volunteers needed to help sort, set up and sell. If you can help, please call Amy on 01799 543469. Open Fri 12th from 7pm-9pm and 10am to 12noon on 13th June to accept donated items. Raffle prizes also welcome. All proceeds to the Animal Rescue Charity Reg No. 1007182

13 Sat Sunset & Stars Walk, 6:30pm-11:55 Our FIRST EVER evening walk in aid of Isabel Hospice, contact Fundraising on 01707 382500. The 9-mile walk starts from St Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club near Ware. Tickets cost £15, children over 12 £10. We are looking for walkers, marshalls and sponsors. Info: Gina@Bridgman.me.uk

14 Sun Little Hadham Fun Run 10.30am Details on front page.

18 Thur "Way Inn" coffee morning Meet and make friends over a cuppa. See back page.

27 Sat, Farmers' Market Cooked to order farmhouse breakfasts made with produce from the stallholders. Other goodies include handmade chocolates, perennial and annual plants, dog biscuits, homemade ready meals and of course fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.

29 Mon Midsummer Fair 2.30-6pm. Tea Party in marquee at Woodlands, Hunsdonbury, Hunsdon, Nr Ware in aid of Isabel Hospice. Cream teas, cakes, summer stalls, raffle and live music. Entrance £5 adults £2.50 children. Tickets from Renee Friend 01279 755320

... and then

4 & 5 July **Teas in Gardens**, 2pm, Pump House, Coles Park, Westmill for Isabel Hospice. £4, children free. (3m S of Buntingford.)

5 July **Open Garden**, Fanhams Hall 2-5pm. Teas and home-made cakes, plants, books and collectables as well as a tombola, for Isabel Hospice. Enquiries: 01920 462992

7 July **Parish Council meeting**, with a representative from EHC to answer questions about ARC, the new recycling system

11 July **Jumble Sale** Thundridge Village Hall 2.30pm. Contact Details 01920 462992

19 July **Tandem Sky Dive** Costs £375, of which Isabel Hospice will receive £230. For further information contact Lisa Seccombe on 01707 382542 or email lisa.seccombe@isabelhospice.org.uk

21 August **Charity Golf day** See p3.

21-23 August **Flamstead Scarecrow Festival**

5 Sept. **Annual Garden Club Show**

20 Sept **Great North Run** for Isabel Hospice. We have ten guaranteed places which we will be able to allocate on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Pam Shepherd for more information on 01707 382500.

20 Sept **Open Garden**, Moor Place, Much Hadham, 2-5pm in aid of Isabel Hospice.

24 Sept **Wine Tasting** 6-8.30pm in aid of Isabel Hospice at The Mixed Case, Little Hadham. Tickets £8 to taste eight wines with nibbles, Renee Friend. 01279 755320

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Kyokujitsu Kyokushin Karate Club

English Championships 2009 Club Report

On 16th May, six students and the club instructor from the Little Hadham Kyokujitsu Kyokushin Karate Club competed in the English National Championships in Derby. Despite notable past successes in national competitions, this was undoubtedly our best performance to date. Our seven competitors returned home with FIFTEEN trophies between them, including seven first places ie: SEVEN English Champions! Confirmation has not yet been received but I am pretty sure that, incredibly, Little Hadham Kyokujitsu finished top of the overall medals table – defeating opposition from clubs from big cities like London, Durham and Nottingham! With the exception of one fight, none of the competitors lost to anyone who wasn't a member of our club. The role of honour of our unstoppable squad is as follows:

Ryan Andrews: 1st place under7s clicker (semi-contact), 1st place under7s knockdown (full contact)

Toby Booth: 2nd place under7s clicker, 2nd place under7s knockdown, Winner of 'Most Spirited Junior Fighter'

Benjamin Petch: 1st place 10-14 yrs kata, 1st place 10-12 knockdown, 2nd place 10-12 clicker

Zac Jeffery: 1st place 10-12 yrs clicker, 2nd place 10-12 knockdown

Lewis McDonald: 3rd place 10-12 yrs clicker, 3rd place 10-12 yrs knockdown

Jamie Petch: 1st place 14-15 yrs clicker, 2nd place 14-15 yrs knockdown

Catherine Petch (enjoying her return from retirement!): 1st place Ladies' Clicker

In addition to all these notable successes, the club also prides itself on being very friendly, very disciplined and very spirited. We train hard so that we can fight hard! – but in the process we enjoy ourselves (I hope!) very much and receive so many benefits, both physically and mentally. If you would like to join in our 'fun', please come along to the Little Hadham Village Hall on Wednesdays from 5pm-6pm or come along to our 'Barn Dojo' where we train on Mondays (6.30-7.30 for juniors, 7.45-9.15pm for adults & teenagers). For further information, please contact myself on 771 636 or 07946484498 or catherinetch@yahoo.co.uk.

OSU! Senpai Catherine Petch

Much Hadham Bowling Club Annual Open Day

We look forward to your joining us – everyone from 9 years to 90 years – on Saturday, 6th June from 2.00-5.30pm The Club enjoys an excellent reputation for its facilities and hospitality. If you want to take up or try out this relaxing but surprisingly skilful and addictive sport in a very sociable environment then bowls is for you. Experienced bowlers will be there to help you, and everything you need will be supplied on the day, although it would be helpful if you could wear a pair of flat soft-soled shoes.

The Open Day will be followed up by coaching sessions throughout the season. These will be held on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am and Wednesday evenings at 6pm. These will enable you to develop your game so you can take a full part in all the Club's bowling activities, which include friendly matches, leagues and competitions. The Club can be found in the Recreation Ground, Tower Hill, Much Hadham. Further details of the Open Day may be obtained from Ken or Shirley Howlett (01279) 842637.

Nature Notes, *continued from page 8*

was photographed off Chapel Lane.

Plants continue to bloom, with herb robert, jacob's ladder, germander speedwell, red and white campion, yellow archangel, a hybrid campion (one clump in Acremore Street) all being evident in hedgerows and verges.



Plenty of butterflies have enjoyed the weather, with good views of most of the usuals. Green veined whites were a new addition to the year list. Also, shown here, a Drinker moth caterpillar was observed on dewy grass off Acremore Street on 16th as was a brimstone moth (shown below). These were both new recordings for me in the parish.



The weather towards the middle of May was perfect for unusual migratory birds, so I may have news to report next month.

Any unusual sightings please contact me at jforgham@hotmail.com or 07805571551

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Rural Ramblings – help needed!

by Cherry Mardell

Now, here's the problem... I am currently feeding 20 chickens and about 100 assorted jackdaws and crows. By day, the chickens have always had free access to a big feeder in the garden. This was fine before the crows realised they had, on tap, unlimited amounts of good chow with absolutely no worries. They arrive in droves, are totally unconcerned about its proximity to the house, seem not to notice the strips of flapping black plastic I have artfully arranged round the feeder – and just tuck in! If I forget to bring in the feeder at night, it is empty by the time I awake in the morning. And this is all costing me plenty money!

I have threatened to shoot one and hang its carcass up by the feeder (not a pretty sight but I'm getting desperate!)...I've even asked Beloved to do just that...but the crows are artful dodgers and so far, remain unscathed. So, what's the answer? Starve the chickens by day, hoping they will voluntarily return to the hen house for their rations? Any helpful suggestions would be gratefully received.

Update on our alpacas: Laurel, the chocolate brown one, is due to give birth in the next month. Apparently they are as bad as us women at working out dates, and hers can be anything from on time (any day now) to two or three weeks late. Mulan, the ginger one, is due around the end of July. Mums only produce one offspring at a time and these are called crias.

Then, about two weeks after giving birth, the poor mums are introduced to their new partners, and the whole process, which takes at least eleven months, will start again!

Meantime, back at the farm, June is the month our lot get shorn...something I am not looking forward to because, unlike sheep, alpacas have to be "strung up" on a board while the shearer, (a lady!) takes off their beautiful, luxurious and much prized woollen coats. Mulan, the spitter, will have her work cut out!

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Cricket Club News

Little Hadham's season has begun in fine style with three wins and two drawn games over the first month. The first game of the season was a home match against Craven who had travelled up from North London and the match resulted in a close fought draw. On a slow early season pitch the visitors scored 139 all out (David Barnes 3 wickets for 33) and in reply Hadham finished just 4 runs short, losing 5 wickets in the process with David Wheatley top scoring with 61.

The next match was against Chrishall and once again Hadham managed to dismiss their visitors relatively cheaply for 132 (Frank Jaynes taking 3 wickets for 26). This time however the target was reached for the loss of 6 wickets with James Law scoring 56.

Next up was a local derby against Stocking Pelham and batting first Hadham scored 234 for 8 with Alan South scoring 103, whilst getting good support from Paul Mason-Smith (40) and Harry Brooks (45). In reply Pelham were all out for 108 with Septuagenarian David Barnes taking his best ever bowling figures of 5 wickets for just 26 runs and Frank Jaynes 3 for 16.

May Day Bank Holiday Monday was cold and generally dreary; far from ideal for playing cricket, however that did not stop the visitors from Ardleigh Green in Essex from scoring 247 for 5. In reply Hadham scored 121 for 6 to ensure a draw and maintain the unbeaten start to the season, with Neil Oxborrow top scoring with 42.

The following Sunday saw the visit of Newport for a hastily arranged friendly. Newport batted first and after being 54 for 0 collapsed to 127 all out. Terry Booth (also approaching his 70th birthday, so he informs me) took a career best 5 for 50 with David Barnes also taking 3 more wickets. Hadham reached their target for the loss of just one wicket in only 21 overs thanks mainly to James Law who scored 86 off just 59 balls, a score that included 4 sixes and 11 fours.

JUNE FIXTURES

Tuesday 2nd	Newport	Away	6.00pm	Davis Cup first round
Sunday 7th	Stocking Pelham	Away	2.00pm	
Sunday 14th	County Hall	Home	2.00pm	
Sunday 21st	Potter Street	Home	2.00pm	
Sunday 28th	Ardleigh Green	Home	2.00pm	

The club is always looking to attract new members and whether you have played before or would just like to give cricket a try then you will be made very welcome. Further details are available from either Neil Oxborrow on 01279 506062 (mobile 07769 850827) or Martin Hallmark on 01279 771033 (mobile 07917 425076). As you can tell from the article above, age need not be a barrier as two of our senior members are having a very good season with the ball. So if you are interested then please give us a call and help maintain the Village Cricket Club. Alternatively please pay us a visit on home match days in Millfield Lane Bury Green, where you will be made very welcome.

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KIDS DO YOU WANT YOUR SAY?



In the next couple of weeks there will be a survey carried out on behalf of Little Hadham Parish Council. Parish Councillor Carmela Piccolo (left), whose role involves Young People Liaison, and Suzanne Joslin, who works within the Specialist Adolescent Department at HCC, will be knocking on doors explaining the benefits of a Youth Council in our community. The survey will tell us all about "what kids in Little Hadham want" - we need to carry out the survey before funding can be secured. Once we have collected the information we want to help kids set up a Youth Council so they too can have a say about what goes on in the village. In the longer term with help from mums and dads a Youth Club can be set up, bringing fun into kids' lives. Kids - it's YOUR community too - have YOUR say!

Tel. Carmela 466331 cam2403@hotmail.co.uk.

Little Hadham Parish Poos

A recurring theme in the Parish News is that of dog poo. No-one likes seeing it around, and the guilty ones don't like picking it up, but what is being done to encourage them to do so? Can't we have a few dog bins in the village? If they cost too much to install and empty maybe a few really selfless people could put a bin outside their property? Or how about a poo-picker? That'd be a nice job for someone! Come on, Parish Councillors, you can sort this out!

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The 2009 Flamstead Scarecrow Festival



The Flamstead Scarecrow Festival is now established as a must-see annual event in Hertfordshire. This highly successful and unusual three day event in the picturesque village of Flamstead is ever more popular with its clever and creative Scarecrows. Flamstead is just off the A5, South of Luton.

Every year the residents of Flamstead build over 100 scarecrows which are placed around the village. To join in the fun come along and collect a voting form and trail map at either the village hall or the car park for just £2.00 – make your way round the village, listing your favourite scarecrows, then take your form back to the village hall where there will be various attractions including Tombola, Cake Stalls, Refreshments, Puppet Shows, Bell Ringing and English Miscellany Folk & Morris Dancers to name but a few. There will be a Care Bus laid on to take anyone unable to walk around the village on the Scarecrow trail.

The proceeds are split between two charities – the Hertfordshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Letchworth and the Friends of St. Leonards in Flamstead. This year it will be taking place on Fri 21, Sat 22nd and Sun 23rd August.

The Festival takes place between 2.00pm – 5pm on Friday, 11.00am – 6pm on Saturday and 10.30am – 5.00pm on Sunday. Come along for a fantastic day out for the whole family and help to raise money for these two very worthy charities.

If you need any further information contact Charlene at the Herts MS Therapy Centre Tel: 01462 684214, E-mail: charleneredmond@hmstc.net

Visit our websites to see last year's scarecrows and to find out more about the Herts MS Therapy Centre and the Friends of St. Leonards www.flamstead-herts.co.uk & www.hertsmstherapy.org.uk

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Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

A very BIGTHANKYOU, to all who made the annual plant sale and coffee morning a success. To those who brought plants and bric-a-brac, made the wonderful cakes, helped to sell, helped in the kitchen and most of all to those who bought the plants and sundries. If you missed it make the date for next year. We had a very interesting talk in April from Mr Walker all about the plants in the potato family and the history of the potato; we are all the wiser and will be growing a wide variety of lovely flowers from this family. We have a few places left on our trip to Lullingstone Castle and Gardens on the 10th June please contact Frank Green for information on 771532. Our next event is the **Annual Garden Club Show** on 5th September. You don't have to belong to the Garden Club to enter and copies of the schedule will be at the Post Office. We have classes for everyone and you never know – you could win, so please take the time to have a look and think about entering.

Tips for June in the Garden

Veg Plot

Keep weeds down by hoeing in between rows of vegetables. Use netting to protect soft fruit from birds or strips of tinfoil on canes or even old CDs or old computer discs.

Pick early vegetables and salads and sow beds again to continue cropping.

Feed and water tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, cucumbers and melons regularly.

And of course enjoy the fruits of your hard work.

Flower Borders

Feed and dead head roses after the first flush of flowers.

Sow seeds of perennial plants and winter bedding outdoors.

Keep watering hanging baskets daily and dead head every day to prolong flowering.

Dead head perennials as the flowers fade to encourage a second flush.

Also take time to look round the garden and enjoy.

adverts removed

Chicken with Almonds & Apricots *Serves 4*

150ml chicken stock

4 chicken joints *

1/4 tsp turmeric

1/2 tsp cornflour

150ml natural yoghurt

25g butter

1 tbsp olive oil

1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

1/2 tsp ground cardomom

1/2 tsp ground coriander

5cm piece root ginger (peeled and grated)

Juice 1/2 lemon

1/4 tsp paprika

1 level tsp curry paste

75g no-soak dried apricots (chopped)

150ml whipping cream

75g ground almonds**

25g brown flaked almonds

Mix ground spices together.

Heat butter and oil in frying pan and brown chicken on both sides. Sprinkle with ground spices and fry for a couple more mins on both sides. Mix cornflour and yoghurt, add to chicken and stir gently, then add lemon juice and season with salt and pepper.

Put in oven dish, cover and cook 375°F, 190°C, gas 5, Aga on floor of simmering oven for 25 mins.

Mix ground almonds and cream; add curry paste and paprika.

Remove chicken pieces, skim off any excess fat from sauce, add a little to the cream mixture before returning all to the pan. Replace chicken pieces and return to oven to heat thoroughly.

Serve sprinkled with toasted almond flakes.

Excellent dish for a buffet served warm or cold with rice. Freezes very well.

* It is always more economical to buy a whole chicken and joint it yourself. The raw chicken will freeze well and you can make stock from the carcass.

** You will get a better flavour from the almonds if you buy whole and then grind them as needed.

adverts removed

Regular events

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

Badminton: 8.00pm Mondays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The "Way Inn": third Thursday of month

Whist Drive: Last Thursday of month.
Ross Barron, 07732 370923

Useful phone numbers

Citizens' Advice Bureau, East Herts District
08744 848 9700

Environment Agency Incident Line:
0800 807060

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/Pavement problems, 01438737320

Airport Noise Complaints: 0800 243788

Traveline: 0871 200 22 33

Village Hall bookings: Mrs Fardell, 771697

Water/Sewage problems, 08003765325

Poo Corner

From one dog owner to another

Late this afternoon whilst walking my dogs along just near Holly Cottage I was confronted with a large pile of dog poo. Despite this not being from my own dogs I felt I had to clear it up before someone trod in it - something I usually don't do on behalf of other people but as a dog owner I didn't want to be blamed for this because I happened to be walking my dogs past the same spot. Whoever didn't clear up after your dog shame on you making other dog owners feel guilty because of your irresponsibility.

Sue Trundle

The whole of the East Herts District Council's area is designated for the purpose of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

This means all land that the public have access to is "poop scoop" area. If a dog fouls on designated land it is an offence if the person in charge of the dog fails to pick up the mess.

Any person found guilty of this offence could face a fine of up to £1,000. The animal warden can offer the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty of £25.

Land includes pedestrian areas, footways, verges, play areas and highways within a speed limit less than 40 mph.

Use a poop scoop or a suitable bag and dispose of deposits at home in the dustbin or in any Council litter or "doggie" bins. In the interests of hygiene, always please tie the neck of used bags.

Extract taken from www.eastherts.gov.uk

June diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

7 Sunday

Trinity Sunday

9.30am

Sung Communion (Prayer Book) at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham, Celebrant and Preacher the Reverend Chris Boulton, Team Rector.

14 Sunday

Trinity 1

9.30am

Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

5.00pm

Taizé service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

20 Saturday

1.00pm

Wedding of Matthew Dedman and Christel Gierelt at St Mary's

21 Sunday

Trinity 2

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Family service in Little Hadham Village Hall

6.00pm

No Evensong at St Mary's, Albury. There is a joint Songs of Praise at St Mary's, Braughing at 6.30pm

28 Sunday

Trinity 3

9.30am

Family Service at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham, special Brownie Service. No evensong at St Cecilia's.

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

Funeral

On Friday May 1st at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham: Stanley Wright aged 98yrs of Broadfield Close, Much Hadham.

FUTURE NOTICE: a Quiet Day for the Ash and Quin Valleys Team will be held at Stocking Pelham on Saturday July 11th, 10am–3pm. For further details contact Chris Boulton.

The 'Way Inn'

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

11th and 25th June 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.

Editor: Jan Finn, Ash Cottage, The Ashe, Little Hadham, SG11 2DX (771113) e-mails to hfp@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