

*Little Hadham
Parish News
November 2009*

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31ST OCTOBER

HALLOWEEN DISCO

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FAMILY TICKET £10, ADULT £5, CHILD £2

THE BEST PLACE TO BE AT HALLOWEEN

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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

The Bishop of London will be visiting St Andrew's Much Hadham on Sunday 22nd November. There will be a service of Sung Communion at 11.00am, at which the Bishop will preside and preach. For that reason we are combining with the congregations of Little Hadham and Albury in one joint service. The Bishop will also bless the new north door, which was completed last year.

The Bishops of London have been patrons of the livings of Much and Little Hadham for many generations; most notably of course they owned the Palace at Much Hadham during the middle ages. The Manor and Church was originally gifted to the Bishops of London by the will of Aelfgar, Ealdorman of Essex, in 952; so the connection is very ancient indeed. In 1276 Sir William Baud sold the "advowson" of Little Hadham to the Bishop of London for £20.00, and for 600 years the Rectors were known as Rectors of Much and Little Hadham; until in 1870, when the Diocese of St Albans was formed, St Cecilia's was made a separate parish, whose curates were chosen and paid for by the Rectors of Much Hadham. When I was appointed, there was a representative of the Bishop of London on the appointments panel.

The Bishops were once powerful. Now, although some sit in the House of Lords, their temporal power is greatly diminished, along with their social status. However I still like to think that they do have some moral influence upon national opinion. Yet fundamentally the role of the Bishop remains what it always was; the pastor of a Christian community over which he is given authority to teach the Gospel and lead by example. In our Church I hope that one day their ranks will include women as well as men, as it does in other parts of the Anglican Communion.

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Richard Chartres, the present Bishop of London, is technically a visitor from outside the Diocese. Nevertheless I hope we will make our visitor very welcome, and that as many people as possible will come and hear him preach. I am grateful to the Roman Catholic congregation for giving up their usual mass time so that we can hold the service later than normal.

Chris Boulton

What a load of rubbish!

But how can we Reduce, Reuse & Recycle more?

Households in Little Hadham are just one small community that contributes to more than half a million tonnes of household waste annually in Hertfordshire. The county recycled 44% of this compared with a target of 50% by 2012. However, 360,000 tonnes, enough to fill two Wembley Stadiums, went to landfill. To find out what our county and district councils are doing to 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' and how each household in Little Hadham can help, visit www.hertsdirect.org/waste. One third of all the food we buy is thrown away – that's not a bad place to start!

Parish Council News

War memorial fund under way: Little Hadham Parish Council has given the go-ahead to have the war memorial professionally cleaned. At the October meeting the Council made an appeal for donations towards the cost, likely to be around £1,000. Residents have already pledged more than £100. If you would like to make a donation and pay your tribute to the 21 members of this community whose sacrifice is commemorated on our village war memorial, please contact the Parish Clerk, Pryersfield, New Road, SG11 2AW, or at clerklittlehadham@homecall.co.uk

Cheques should be made out to Little Hadham Parish Council. The much-battered war memorial wall has now been repaired, as promised in time for the service on Remembrance Sunday, November 8, to which everyone is invited.

Stansted Airport: The meeting was told that passenger numbers at the airport continue to fall. They were down by 8% in August compared with the same month the previous year and down 12% for the period January to August compared with 2008. Stop Stansted Expansion estimates that passenger numbers will be below 20 million this year compared with 35m for which they have planning permission on the existing runway. BAA's planning application for a second runway remains in limbo until after the outcome of its appeal this month against the Competition Commission's ruling that it must sell the airport.

What would we do in an emergency?: The Parish Council will be represented at an East Herts Council workshop to consider how the Council and the local community should respond to a major incident. Issues to be considered will include how best to use local knowledge and resources, communication with the emergency services and the role of the Council in the aftermath. Further details at a future meeting.

New planning guidelines: The Council supported the introduction of new guidelines for considering planning applications including considering the views of owners of neighbouring properties as well as those of the applicant, seeking guidance from EHC where necessary and where applications involve affordable housing, giving priority to houses available totally for rent and with local applicants having first refusal whenever possible.

Should we adopt our phone boxes?

BT has invited the Parish Council to consider buying and adopting the red telephone boxes in



The Ford and Bury Green. BT's records show that no calls have been made from the boxes in the last 12 months. When phone boxes are no longer commercially viable, BT invites the local community to buy them for a nominal £1 and adopt them. The telephone equipment is removed and ownership and responsibility for maintaining them passes to the community. The boxes can remain illuminated.

Many communities are fondly attached to their red phone boxes, which are regarded as a design icon and a familiar part of the British street scene. Some phone boxes are listed and the adopt-a-box BT scheme has the support of English Heritage.

The Parish Council is seeking the views of local residents on whether the community should adopt these two phone boxes, what they should be used for and how they would be

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We do remember them.

Eric, Ennis, Elizabeth and Ruth Rogers

Many of you will have had family members who fought and probably died in the First World War. As we are so close to Armistice Day, 2009 we thought you may like to hear our story.

Eric's father, Ernest, fought in the Battle of the Somme. Our eldest daughter, Elizabeth, has been researching her Granddad's military history and, early in September, took us to many of the sites where he had fought. She had also found the cemetery where her Great Uncle Wilfred is buried, Ernest's younger brother.

First we visited St. Mary's Cemetery, near Loos, where Wilfred is buried and we were able to leave a British Legion Poppy Wreath. Most probably we were the first members of the family to visit the grave. On arrival in the area in June, 1916, Ernest had been told that his brother 'had been blown to glory' and before Elizabeth's research we had not known there was a grave.

The next day we went to the Gommecourt area. Unbelievably Elizabeth had been able to source information which gave her the exact position where his battalion was positioned for the start of the battle. We were able to walk across the fields from the British to the German line. On the 1st July, 1916 at 7.30 a.m. (the men had spent the days before marching to the area and the previous night digging trenches), 600 men, each carrying a 60lb pack, were ordered 'over the top'. It was 400 yards uphill to the first German line, against uncut barbed wire and machine guns. 90 men returned, fortunately Ernest being one of them.

We also visited many other British Military Cemeteries and Thiepval, that records thousands
continued on next page

Adverts removed

We do remember them, *continued*

of names of those who were killed but have no grave. During our walks we found two pieces of shrapnel and one cricket ball grenade, unexploded, so we left it behind! The next day we visited a Military museum and informed the curator about it, so it may be exhibited there now?

Ernest didn't talk much about his time in the First World War – like most fighting soldiers today. We know that he was wounded five times and we do know of one amazing story. He had been transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and he and a colleague were ordered to move forward, under darkness, to build a machine gun position. They did this by arranging dead bodies around themselves and the machine gun. Within seconds of the 7.30a.m. whistle all they could see were grey uniforms coming towards them. His colleague was killed but he carried on firing. He was injured and became unconscious. When he came to there were two German soldiers in the machine gun position with him. They had tended his wounds and the three men swapped rations and cigarettes and tried to communicate. The German soldiers asked if Ernest would sign a note to say that they had helped him and then, when it was dark, they would carry him back to the British lines. This was done, with Ernest calling out “don't shoot” to the British line! Ernest was taken to the dressing station and the German soldiers became Prisoners of War.

Since 11th November, 2008 the last three British soldiers of the First World War have died. But we will and should continue to remember all of them. With deep sadness, we also have to remember soldiers who have died in recent years and possibly today.

Adverts removed

Ernie Hounsell 19.11.12 – 28.9.09

Although born and bred in the West Country, Ernie spent most of his life in Little Hadham. He joined the army in WWII and was a motorcycle despatch rider. At one point he was billeted in Little Hadham at Bridge House and there met Gladys. They were married at St Cecilia's in 1943. He took part in the D Day landings and went with the troupes as far as Berlin where he marched in the 1945 Victory Parade. Back in civilian life he resumed his trade as a bricklayer and helped build the Ridgeway houses – in one of which he lived for the rest of his life. Later he worked in hospital maintenance ending up at the Hertford County Hospital, where he became head of maintenance until his retirement in 1967.

He was known in the village as a keen gardener and several times won the best kept garden cup. He was an active member of the Little Hadham Garden Club and was a formidable competitor in their shows, winning many prizes. He joined the Bowls Club in his 90s.

His funeral took place on a glorious autumn day. The church was decorated for Harvest and it seemed a fitting setting for a farewell to a real countryman.

We send our sympathy to Gladys, his children Ivor and Pamela, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including one who was due on the day of the funeral.

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John Baker 8.2.21 – 3.10.09

John died peacefully at home after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was born and brought up in Bishop's Stortford and became a cabinet-maker at Sparrows, that wonderful cavernous shop in North Street. After a period of service in the RAF in World War 2 he joined Joscelynes' and worked there until his retirement.

All this time he was involved with the Church and was a churchwarden at St Michael's, Bishop's Stortford for several years. After his marriage to Margaret he came to Little Hadham and became an active church member at St. Cecilia's, and again churchwarden for a long period.

His great love was music. He started as a chorister at the age of seven and attended his last choir practice for St Cecilia's on the evening before he died. He directed our choir for a long time before his illness caused him to resign. He was a man of faith and it supported him through the loss of his first wife and his last debilitating illness.

We send our sympathy to Margaret and his daughter Anne and other members of his family.

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Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

We really were on another planet recently as we enjoyed our first Theme Day of the year based on Space. The children entered a giant planetarium dome inside our school hall to watch constellations appear before their very eyes! A good excuse to stay up late to look up for the real thing!

Our next Theme Day falls quickly after half term – 'Bright Sparks' – Any ideas?

Our FRIENDS Association are busy organising our Christmas Bazaar on Sunday 29th November from 12 – 3 pm. Anyone bringing this copy of the Parish News to the Bazaar will receive a FREE cup of tea – what a bargain! To support their fundraising towards our Outdoor Musical Instruments Maze, the FRIENDS are also starting up a 100 Club and will be contacting local families to encourage them to join in with the scheme. Watch this space!

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Head

Little Hadham School

Bazaar

Sunday 29 November

12.00 – 3.00

**Lots of stalls
and fun
for everyone**

**Please come and
support
your local school**

*with special appearance
from*

**Father Christmas
in his grotto**

Adverts removed

Safety advice – visit the new ‘virtual house’

HERTS POLICE and Hertfordshire County Council today launched a new way to help the public obtain crime prevention and home safety advice with an interactive online ‘house’. Forming part of the Operation Guardian burglary reduction and prevention campaign, the ‘virtual house’ and its garden are available on the Hertfordshire Constabulary website (www.herts.police.uk) for people to explore. There are 25 hidden crime prevention and home safety tips to prevent and reduce burglary across the whole county over the coming months. Detective Chief Inspector Bill Jephson, who is co-ordinating Operation Guardian for the force, commented: “Burglary is a key priority for us as we move into the autumn and winter months, and people can really help keep their property safe by following just a few simple bits of advice. This online tool, which forms part of our larger campaign of education and enforcement to tackle burglary across the county, offers a new, fun and interesting way of us passing on advice to Hertfordshire residents, and helps them to consider what steps they can take in their own homes to improve security and safety. Of course, there are also the more traditional avenues for advice – speak to your local Neighbourhood Team, call your local Crime Prevention Officer on 0845 33 00 222, or visit the crime prevention section of our website at www.herts.police.uk.” (Click on the Operation Guardian logo on www.herts.police.uk to access the online house.)

Stuart Nagler, Chair of Hertfordshire Police Authority, said: “The Constabulary are already doing a great job in working to bring down the number of burglary offences committed in the county.

continued on page 11

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Garden Club News

This month on Thursday 19th November we have Robert Grant talking to us about Plant Heritage (used to be NCCPG) and it should be a very interesting insight into the workings of the National Collections of plants. Also a reminder that if you haven't booked your Club Supper spot please get in touch with Barbara on 01279 771987. The supper is on the 28th November and again being catered by Jan Williamson of Clouds Catering – an event not to be missed!

Gardening Tips for November

Flower Borders

Plant tulips and hyacinths
Clear fallen leaves from lawns, paths, flowerbeds and rock gardens
Plant bare rooted hedging and roses
Protect plants from frost
Prune roses and wisteria

Veg Plot

Sow green manures
Harvest kale and sprouting broccoli
Parsnips and Brussels sprouts taste better after a frost
And don't forget the birds; put out food and fresh water

The Five Who Rode Forth, Saturday 12th Sept 09 raised £1072 for the Historic Churches' Trust. 50% of this money, £536, comes back to St Cecilia's Church. Peter, Steve, Tony, Dimitri and Robin want to thank those who so generously supported them.

Adverts removed

Safety advice *continued from page 9*

The introduction of the 'virtual house' is a unique and innovative way to ensure that the people of Hertfordshire can learn about crime prevention techniques to protect their homes."

Operation Guardian is Hertfordshire Constabulary's burglary reduction and prevention campaign. It includes road-shows to help people register and mark their property, a new range of advice leaflets and increased enforcement across Hertfordshire - and with this new initiative the county is primed to take on burglars and help deal with any increases in burglary levels, should they occur, over the autumn and winter months.

Some simple crime prevention advice: *If you have a UPVC door, always make sure you lift the handle AND use the key to properly lock it. Check that ground floor windows and doors are closed and locked when you leave the house or go to bed. Upstairs windows should be closed and locked when the house is unoccupied. Secure your rear garden by shutting and locking any gates - burglars can use garden tools to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use.*

For more advice, try out the new virtual house! Alternatively, you can visit www.herts.police.uk and click on 'Crime Prevention' or you can call the non-emergency number and ask to speak to your local Crime Prevention Officer. In an emergency or if you see anything that requires immediate police response always dial 999. If you know someone who may be handling stolen goods, or who you suspect is a burglar, contact police on 0845 33 00 222 or call Crimestoppers (an independent charity) anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Adverts removed

What's on in November ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

3 Tue, Parish Council meeting, 8pm

8 Sun, Antiques Fair, 9.30-4pm Free entry with the Parish News, otherwise, £1.

8 Sun, Remembrance Sunday Service 10.30 at the war memorial. Everyone is invited.

9-15 National Adoption Week To find out more about adoption contact us on 0800 917 0925 or www.hertsdirect.org/adoption

10 Tue, LH & A Social Club 7.45 for 8.00pm Jonathan Forgham will talk about his recent trip to the North Norfolk Coast. Admission £1.50, includes refreshments.

12, 26 Thur Mobile Library, see next page

12-14, "My Boy Jack", Sawbridgeworth Players, details on next page.

14 Sat, Christmas Market, Hatfield House, 10:30 – 4. The event will be taking place in the beautifully extended and refurbished Riding School, adjacent to the licensed restaurant and gift shop. Entrance £2 accompanied children free, with free admission to the park. 50% of proceeds to go to Isabel Hospice. Info. Sandra Benjamin on 01707 262632.

14 Sat, Churchyard Clearup see back page.

19 Thur, "Way Inn" coffee morning, Meet friends over a cup of tea or coffee, 10-12 noon.

19 Thur, LH & A Garden Club Robert Grant will be talking to us about Plant Heritage.

20 Fri, Choir Practice, St Cecilia's, 7.30pm

22 Sun, Christmas Fair, The Garden Court, Marriott Hanbury Manor, near Ware, 10:30-4.30 is once again the beautiful setting for this fabulous Christmas Fair, for Isabel Hospice. Come and see the many stalls with an array of wonderful gifts, food and shopping for Christmas. Lucky dip. Refreshments will be available throughout the day. Information please contact Renee Friend on 01279

755320. £3 entry, children free..

28 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30-11.30 Fresh seasonal vegetables, pickles and condiments, hand made chocolates, breads, pies and buns,, cards,, and much much more.

28 Sat, St Elizabeth's Christmas Bazaar, 1-4. Held in the school hall at St Elizabeth's, this popular event is where you can do some early Christmas shopping and enjoy homemade refreshments. Free entry – everyone is welcome! Do some early Christmas shopping,, meet friends and enjoy homemade refreshments. To ensure that this year's event is an even bigger success offers of help on the day are welcomed as are local stallholders. Contact Bridgette Hutchins 01279 844347 or email hutchinsb@stelizabeths.org.uk.

28 Sat, Garden Club Supper details p10.

29 Sun, Bazaar, LH School, 12.00-3.00pm Meet Father Christmas in his grotto and support your local school. **Free cuppa** with this copy of the parish News.

... and later

3rd Dec **Information Evening** for those who want to find out more about adoption. To book a place, call 01438 844 388 or 01438 844 503 between 9am & 1pm M-F.
4th Dec, **Isabel Hospice Lights of Love**, Bishop's Stortford, 5-6pm

6th Dec **Reflections** 4pm. A candle-lit service of Reflection and Dedication, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. To dedicate a candle to a loved one or friend contact St Elizabeth's Fundraising Department. 844347
Music@Stansted future dates:

13th Dec 3pm, **Cambridge Chorale**;

17th Jan 3pm, **Andrew Booth** (guitar);

6th Mar 7.30pm, **The Coull String Quartet**.

Sawbridgeworth Players

Our forthcoming production, "My Boy Jack", written by David Haig and by arrangement with Nick Hern Books, we are presenting as an amateur production at the Victoria Hall Theatre, Bury Road, Old Harlow, CM17 0ED from 12th – 14th November 2009 inclusive (doors open 7.30pm, curtain up 8pm).

It tells the story of Rudyard Kipling's determination to send his short-sighted son to war and the bitter family conflict which follows, leaving Kipling torn between the love of his family and devotion to his Country.

Tickets will be available from the Café of the Angels and the Tuck Shop, Sawbridgeworth and our box office, telephone: 07752 161802.

Harvest Supper

Karin and Hilary would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Harvest Supper such a great success. From the sponsors of the raffle, the apple crumble cooks, the band and the bar, to the young ladies doing the washing up, it was a wonderful evening raising £167.18 for the Ethiopian Water Aid Appeal. Thank you too to everyone who bought tickets and supported us.

IS THIS DEMOCRACY?

If you live in a conservation area, you would expect some sort of continuity. Not any more. An example for you all to contemplate. A planning application is made to turn a 2 bedroomed bungalow into a 4 bedroomed house. This application is turned down by the Parish Council planning committee, at least 23 letters of objection are lodged, and then by 14 of the 15 officers comprising the EHDC planning committee. An appeal is lodged with the planning inspectorate in Bristol and is passed by a man who lives at least 150 miles away and has no conception of the impact his decision will have on the local community. Can anybody tell me why we have to accept situations imposed on us by people who move into our village and immediately want to change things? Why have planning committees of any sort if they cannot protect our villages?

Brenda Kain

12th & 26th November Mobile Library

Nag's Head from 1345 - 1405

The Smithy from 1410 - 1430

Bury Green from 1445 - 1505

A fortnightly service.

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

Christmas Greetings!

Why spend all that money on cards and postage, when you could support your Parish News and save the world at the same time? Donate a fiver and have your Christmas message to your local friends posted on a special page in the Christmas edition of the Parish News. Email the editor with your message and give the postman a break.

Copy must be received by the **18th November** to make it into the December edition, so do it right now.

<http://clocktower.co.uk> Cheques payable to Little Hadham PCC

Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

In my 'posh' days, when I lived in the Much Hadham area, I walked my various dogs over various farm tracks for more than 30 years. In all those years I think I can honestly say that I stuck to the footpaths and bridleways, as did the dogs.

How things change. Nowadays people seem to regard the countryside as under communal ownership. While they may keep to the footpaths, their dogs appear to have the freedom of the land. They rampage across sown fields while their owners look on with fond encouragement, sometimes even throwing a ball across the field for extra dog enjoyment. Dare to put up a sign asking people to keep their dogs on leads and chances are you will find said sign slung into a nearby hedge. And it is not only dog owners who are in my black books. What about motorcyclists and cyclists who choose to – illegally – use footpaths for their own sport?

And how about people who put up signs on farm fences, totally without permission? I have had a few run-ins with just such people. When they tell me they are doing no harm, I just reply that I wonder how they would feel if they arrived home to find an unwanted poster stuck on their gate!

Now don't get me wrong: I'm no angel. Once, while walking through a farmyard, my bearded collie chased a chicken. He didn't catch it but it died of a heart attack! (Abject apologies and compensation!) I've also been shouted at for riding a horse along the edge of a field which wasn't a bridleway. I got an ear full, quite rightly, but it didn't help that I was totally lost and was trying to find my way off this massive field! (More abject apologies and one no-go farm.)

Could it be that I was just a wimp – or have times and attitudes changed? I think if I yelled at someone walking across one of our fields, chances are they would just yell back to mind my own business! Which, after all, is exactly what I am trying to do!

Adverts removed

Cricket Club News

With the nights drawing in and Christmas fast approaching it is time for me to report on Little Hadham's last six matches for the 2009 season.

The second weekend of September saw the club play the first of only two Saturday fixtures for the season and it proved a struggle to raise a team. However a team was raised but they could not stop the opponents Chrishall amassing 248 for the loss of 7 wickets. In reply Hadham were all out for just 42, with only two players reaching double figures and therefore lost by 206 runs. The following day saw the visit of North Weald to Bury Green. North Weald batted first and scored 242 without losing a wicket, despite seven different Hadham bowlers 'turning their arm'. Hadham made a spirited reply and reached a total of 181 for 9 to earn a draw, with Ben Law top scoring with 37.

Barley were the next visitors to Bury Green. Little Hadham batted first scoring 156 all out, with Paul Mason-Smith scoring 40 and Martin Hallmark 23. In reply Hadham took wickets steadily but could not stop Barley reaching their total with 10 overs and 5 wickets to spare.

The last weekend of September saw hot sunshine and Hadham play their second Saturday match of the season when they went to Hockerill. Hockerill batted first and scored a massive 299 for 4 off their 40 overs. Hadham's reply started by losing a wicket to the first ball and losing wickets at regular intervals were eventually all out for just 124. Despite David Wheatley scoring 45 Hadham lost by 175 runs. The following day Hadham played host to Nazeing Common and batting first Little Hadham scored 172 for 5. David Wheatley again top scored with 55 and with Neil Oxborrow (34 not out) put on 110 runs for the third wicket. Nazeing's reply saw them lose 5 wickets but they eventually overcame the Hadham total to win with just 4 overs to spare.

Little Hadham's final match of the season was played on the 4th October against Albury. Albury batted first and scored 213 for 9 with Keith Wheatley making 122 not out and David Wheatley 33. Of the Hadham bowlers, Terry Booth and David Barnes both took two wickets each. In reply Paul Mason-Smith and Alan South gave Hadham an excellent start putting on 86 for the first wicket before Alan South was out for 43. Hadham then lost wickets steadily, but Paul Mason-Smith continued before finally being out for 88 and with Hadham finishing on 170 for 6 wickets the match ended in a draw.

The club is always looking to attract new members, so if you are interested in playing cricket and therefore help support your village side, please contact us on the numbers below. We are a very friendly club and would welcome new members of all ages and abilities. We currently have a membership with an age range of 10 to 70, so you are never too young or old to play. Please contact either Martin Hallmark 01279 771033 or Neil Oxborrow 01279 506062.

From early January the club will be holding indoor net sessions on Sunday Mornings and at the end of February we are hoping run after many years' absence another Quiz night in the Village Hall. More details to appear in future editions of the newsletter.

SEE calendars are now on sale at £6 each. For an online order form see www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/calendar.html or call SSE on 01279 870558.

Family History Society booklet

Don Gibson

Last year a team from Hertfordshire Monumental Inscriptions carried out an in-depth survey of all gravestones, monuments and other recent and ancient memorials both in and outside St Cecilia's. The result of their hard work is a wonderfully detailed and fully indexed booklet containing a record of every one of the above monuments. Those who wish to conduct ancestral research in this area will find the booklet most helpful. I am in possession of one booklet and will assist those making enquiries, but recommend a visit to www.hertsfhs.org.uk or, better still, purchase a booklet for £5 (incl. p & p): you will be surprised at the information it contains. Enquiries: Postal Booksales Officer, 24 Ashurst Road, Barnet, Herts. EN4 9LF.

St. Cecilia's Carol Service Choir – singers invited!!

If you enjoy singing, why not join the choir for the Traditional Service of 9 Lessons and Carols, to be held on Sunday 20th December? It's not only an opportunity to sing a variety of carols, both old and new, some easy and some more challenging, but also to meet people from Little Hadham, Much Hadham, Albury and further afield. Why not give it a go? All voices are welcome, but tenors and basses would be a special bonus. The first rehearsal is on Friday November 20th at 7.30 p.m. in St. Cecilia's Church. For further information, please phone me on 771000 (after 8th November) or e-mail mary.snyder@btinternet.com or just turn up to the first practice. I look forward to seeing you.

Mary Snyder

Adverts removed

music@stansted

Firstly, a huge thank you to all those who came to music@stansted's first concert of the new season. It turned into quite a drama. Catrin Finch, the famous harpist, was indisposed, and at short notice (9 hours), the current Royal Harpist, Claire Jones, stood in for her and enthralled a full house with her beautifully sensitive playing of the harp and stories about her role working for Prince Charles and the Royal family. What could have been a disaster turned into the most fantastic start to the season!

music@stansted's next concert, given by "Cambridge Chorale" is on Sunday 13th December at 3pm in St John's Stansted. In 2008 the choir was successful in the BBC Radio 3 "Choir of the Year" competition, beating over 100 other adult choirs to win a place in the top six. Their concert at Stansted will be entitled "Joy to the World" and will feature glorious choral music from around the globe. Sacred music spanning the centuries from Gregorian Chant to Lauridsen; Russian vespers by Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky; choral masterpieces by Debussy and Mantylarvi; exhilarating folk songs, jazz, and uplifting spirituals. What a feast it promises to be!

Tickets - Adults £12, Children £1 - are available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford, and Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (01279 815282) or at the door on the night.

Future music@stansted concerts will be on Sunday, 17th January at 3pm - Andrew Booth (guitar); and Saturday 6th March at 7.30pm - The Coull String Quartet.

Please visit our web site at www.musicatstansted.com for more information.

Adverts removed

Nature Notes September/October

An exceptionally warm and dry period, with temperatures above the average, as well as the first frosts of the autumn. The period (Sept 18th – Oct 18th) began with 14 people setting off for a nature ramble. We left the village hall at 10.30 and wandered via footpaths, through Westland Green and Broken Green, arriving for a welcome drink at The Star in Standon. Suitably



refreshed we headed back via Bromley and Westland Green, completing the walk by using the footpaths across Ash Valley Golf Course. The birding was not brilliant, with 22 species seen or heard. A small covey of English partridges, a pair of meadow pipits, several lesser black backed gulls and a few mixed flocks of finches were the best on offer, but a wonderful time was had by all nevertheless.

A three day walk along the North Norfolk coastal path from Hunstanton to Cromer (47 miles) was next on my agenda. Wonderful weather helped make the walk most enjoyable as did 99 species of bird. As hard as I tried, I could not find one more to round off the century. This walk will be the theme for my talk at the village hall on Tuesday 10th November at 7.45. All are welcome with admission being £1.50. Also a raffle and refreshments served by the Little Hadham and Albury Social Club. Always a pleasant evening, with super company.

A new bird was recorded for my parish records on the 7th, a teal (shown here) flying over the lake behind Hadham Hall. Other birds of note this month were: grey wagtail (22nd), chiffchaff (26th) 100+ black headed gulls on a ploughed field (6th), 25 skylarks near Hadham Hall (7th), the first redwings and fieldfares of the autumn over Chapel Lane (8th) and a nuthatch and reed bunting (15th)



A fortuitous find: a solitary clouded yellow butterfly near Hadham Hall (4th) was a first for the parish. This was undoubtedly a migrant, having moved north from the continent. Unfortunately, the first frosts will have brought about its demise. A most colourful creature, (shown here.) Other late butterflies recorded were small and large white, red admirals and an unseasonal common blue.

After the first frosts, I was out collecting sloes, now bletted, and have made a demijohn full of sloe gin. Providentially, it should be ready for Christmas, as will some damson vodka that is also on the go. The prunus family have been exceptionally heavy croppers this year and so damson jam and wine, along with a plum chutney, are all maturing ready for the festive season.

More details of my wanders in the parish can be viewed at littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com.

Dear Dame...the diary of a pantomime Dame

It has been a busy month at Little Hadham Village Hall with all the rehearsing for 'Panto at the OK Corral'. Cathy the producer has chosen the songs, fine tuned the script and has cast all the main characters. It's been a bit like the auditions for the X Factor, although LH Village hall isn't quite as glamorous as Simon Cowell's LA Mansion! The other day I was rehearsing a scene with Sheriff Small Holding and he told me that I was like one of the X Factor judges...thinking he meant the sultry Danni or youthful Cheryl I asked which one. He said "Louis Walsh because you're short, dumpy and a little bit irritating!". Then, when I said I could have been in a girl group like Kandy Rain he laughed and said "Well you do at least have the face of a stripper...PAINT stripper!" The cheek of the man! Anyway I'd better get back to learning my lines, so until next month...Cheerio!



Dame Winnie Peg

If you would like to get involved with Little Hadham Pantomime Group and fancy singing in the chorus or helping backstage then contact Shirley on LHPanto@hotmail.com or if you have any questions for the Dame please e-mail them to DearDame@hotmail.com

Adverts removed

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

Our visit to Highgrove Gardens was a great success. The weather was kind to us, everyone very friendly and we had a most informative guide. Many gifts that have been given to Prince Charles from all over the world are displayed throughout the garden and the garden planting made a very individual and personal place. I think we all thought the journey was worthwhile.

Our October speaker, a retired Registrar, was able to tell us many stories regarding the registration of births, marriages and deaths. Some of the names parents had decided to give their children were amazing; at times permission even had to be sought from the Registrar General! Wedding ceremonies had their funny side too, as you can imagine. Francis had also researched into the history of registration and record-keeping, which made a very informative and fun evening.

For our meeting on 10th November, Jonathan Forgham will give a short review of local nature notes for the year and then talk about his recent trip to the North Norfolk Coast.

We meet at 8pm on the second Tuesday of each month and are always delighted to meet old friends and make new. Admission £1.50, includes refreshments and we also have a raffle.

Tel: 771580 or 658585 for information.

Adverts removed

Speak up Hertfordshire!

The East Of England Regional Assembly (EERA) is currently consulting on plans to shape the development of our area from the current plans end date of 2021 to a new end date of 2031. Significant increases in housing being built per year are being proposed, above and beyond the already ambitious targets. East Hertfordshire is planned to have built between 550 and 770 houses per annum, and this excludes the development of Harlow North which will come into East Hertfordshire. It is important that people's views are taken into account. **The consultation closes on 24th November.** To make your views known please do one of the following: Visit EERA and Hertfordshire County Council online at: <http://www.speakuhertfordshire.org.uk> and <http://www.eera.gov.uk>; telephone EERA for a consultation form: 01284-728151; apply for a consultation form by post to: EERA, Flempton House, Flempton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6EG; or apply for a consultation form by e-mail to: Planning@eera.gov.uk

FREE to loving homes:

The Parish News has been given a pile of old Craft magazines: "Needlecraft", "Cross-stitch", "New Stitches", "Popular Crafts", etc., containing Christmas and other projects. Too good for the recycle bin. Just call the editor to arrange collection. 771 113

Adverts removed

Mark Prisk MP visits St Elizabeth's Centre

Local MP Mark Prisk met staff and residents when he made a tour of St Elizabeth's Centre on Friday 25th September. The purpose of the visit was to bring Mark up to date with St Elizabeth's work.

Mark met some of the young people and adult residents living on campus or in adult residential bungalows at St Elizabeth's. The charity now provides a residential and day school for up to 80 children between the ages of 5-19 years; an FE College for up to 37 young people in the 18-25 age range and residential care in small group homes for 105 adults.

James Connolly (Chief Executive) explained "the fees paid to St Elizabeth's do not meet the costs of the services our residents need, so the Centre has to meet the funding gap. In addition, we want to provide better facilities for our clients, but there is little or no government money available for such reinvestment. Thus, despite continuing to provide a vital service for individuals and the community, we are still very reliant on donations from charitable trusts and voluntary fundraising."



Teresa Ryan, a resident, presented Mark Prisk with a vegetable box containing fresh organic vegetables grown on site at St Elizabeth's Ash Vale social enterprise project.



Later, resident Simon Foster proudly discussed the work he carries out at 'The Drawing Room', a St Elizabeth's social enterprise (watched by Sister Annette Clemence).

Parish Council News, *continued from page 3*

maintained. What do you think?

Communities that have adopted phone boxes have put them to various uses, such as information centres. Or what about a local museum, a book swap-shop or the smallest art gallery in the world? Let's have your thoughts please, especially on how they would be cared for. Please contact the Parish Clerk at clerklittlehadham@homecall.co.uk or by post to: Pryersfield, New Road, SG11 2AW.

Next Parish Council meeting is on **Tuesday November 3** at 8pm in the Village Hall.

100 years of Guiding

We hope you are all having as much fun as we are, celebrating 100 years of Guiding! Here are some of our special celebration activities in Little Hadham Brownies:

Climbing to the top of St Cecilia's Church tower,

Planting 100 bulbs in the churchyard,

Singing over 100 words at the district camp fire . . . and we have only just begun our year of celebration.

Please look out for our Unit's special 100 years' sharing night. Date will be early February 2010, from 4.30 until 7.30, when all guiding ladies are invited to join us. If you have ever helped or been enrolled in guiding, whatever age you are now, please come along and bring your pictures and stories to share with others and have a cup of tea and a chat.

We also always welcome new Brownies, girls only, aged 7-11 years.

Judi Wheeler, Brown Owl



The steps up to the church tower. . .



Planting bulbs



. . . got rather steep

John Baker

Thank you for the many messages of love and support which I have received since John's death. The numbers attending his funeral showed the high regard in which he was held and were a comfort to me in my sad loss.

Margaret.

Fireworks! Tell the hotline, please

Although we all know there will be fireworks on November 5th, please remember to let the hotline know of any planned for other days. Those with nervous dogs will then have a chance to get the tranquillisers administered before they start. Hotline number 771113.

November diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

1 Sunday

All Saints

9.30am

Sung Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11.15am

Parish Communion at St Mary's, Albury

4.00pm

Choral Evensong at Furneux Pelham

8 Sunday

Remembrance Sunday

10.50am

Remembrance Service at the War Memorial.

5.00pm

Taizé Service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

15 Sunday

2nd before Advent

9.15am

Shared Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

6.00pm

Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

22 Sunday

Christ the King

11.00am

Benefice Eucharist at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

Celebrant and Preacher the Bishop of London

No Evensong

29 Sunday

Advent

9.30am

Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

6.00pm

Choral Evensong at St Andrew's, Much Hadham (St Andrew's Day)

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

The Register

There have been two funerals:

October 12th, Ernest Hounsell of The Ridgeway

October 15th, John Baker, of Ford Hill

one burial:

September 16th, Eileen Welsh of Albury Road

and one baptism:

October 11th, Logan Sendall

St Cecilia's Churchyard Clear-up

Help is needed to carry out the Autumn clear-up of the Churchyard & grounds at St Cecilia's. If you can spare half an hour (or an hour) please come to the Church at

10 am on Saturday 14th November

Jobs to be done:

grass cutting, light bonfire, clean windows, tidy up churchyard,

lop-off & pick-up unwanted/dead tree branches, clear guttering

AND make tea

please do come along and help us to do the work & drink the tea!

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

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

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