

# Little Hadham Parish News

April 2010

## **Annual Parish Assembly**

Thursday 22 April, 7pm for 7.30pm start at Village Hall



**Rector of Parish: Revd. Chris Boulton 01279 842609**  
e-mail: [rectory@muchhadham.com](mailto:rectory@muchhadham.com)

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**01279 844955**  
e-mail: [cp.slaughter@virgin.net](mailto:cp.slaughter@virgin.net)

**Churchwardens: Don Gibson 01279 771325, Tony Skidmore 01279 771688**

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

# Letter from the Rectory

April 4th is Easter Day, the principal Festival in the Church's calendar. It comes at a time in the year when new life bursts out of the wintry tomb and the daylight begins to turn the tables on the long dark hours. For Christians it is the time of Alleluia, a time of praise.

St Mary's Albury, St Cecilia's Little Hadham, St Andrew's Much Hadham and St Thomas' Perry Green will all have a Eucharist, a word that means "Thanksgiving"; it is another term for Communion or Mass.

In addition at St Andrew's we will be baptising Toby Ricketts (apologies for the misprint of his name in the last edition of the MH magazine!). Every Easter we renew our Baptismal vows, and so it will be a joy to do so alongside Toby's parents and godparents.

At the same time we will be celebrating the Confirmation of three young people, who will be confirming their baptismal promises at St Albans Abbey the night before, during the Easter Vigil: Elizabeth Clarke, Daisy Pope and Isaac Uwins.

Confirmation used to be a very common practice for early teenagers. I was one such person who duly knelt before the Bishop (of Leicester) at the age of 13 to have Episcopal hands laid upon me. Like many others, I cannot remember much about the day, nor even about my preparation. Nevertheless somehow I have so far managed to stay the course: whether or not I have "daily increased in the Holy Spirit" as the Bishop prayed, is perhaps more doubtful. But I have tried to be open to the Spirit's influence.

Confirmation is not to be confused with spiritual conversion. It is a sacramental moment of transition, when we take responsibility for our own commitment to Christ; although we will always be dependent upon others for support, advice and encouragement. For some, like me, it is a tentative step along a journey that takes a lifetime of searching and learning; but it is no less significant for that. It opens the way for an adult life of eucharist and communion with other Christians who are also seeking to find the way as best they can, in the steps of Jesus. In Albury two adults are preparing for such a step and two more teenagers are doing so also. Each one has a unique journey and a special way to find. I am sure that they will be embraced into our communion with open hearted love. And if anyone would like to join them, they are welcome.

Happy Easter.

Chris Boulton

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# Parish Council News

## **Welcome Robin and Jonathan!**

Robin Gregory and Jonathan Forgham were 'officially' welcomed by the Parish Council. Robin takes over as Parish Council rep for the Hadham Hall area and Jonathan takes over as school liaison rep.

## **Essex Police Aviation Security Team**

PC Stewart Willis and a colleague gave a brief presentation of the work they are involved in: keeping the area in and around Stansted Airport safe for the community to live and work in. The Aviation Security Team is a fairly recent set-up but for obvious reasons, in this day and age, one which performs a vital role in the safety of the community surrounding the airport. The presentation touched on the work they get involved in but mostly centred around 'public engagement'; pointing out our role and how we can help the police in their work. We are the local eyes and ears and should be ready to report any incidents which we feel are suspicious. The number to call is 0300 333 4444 extension 22130. You can also email: [stewart.willis@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:stewart.willis@essex.pnn.police.uk). Remember never approach a suspect and always call 999 in an emergency.

## **Pot Holes**

Local roads (and beyond) are in a terrible mess thanks to one of the longest and coldest winters on record. The Parish Council asks for your help on this subject please; if you spot a pot hole call Herts County Council 01438 737320 and report it! You will be given a reference number and the pot hole will be dealt with generally quite promptly. At the moment it appears that pot holes are not being repaired to the highest standard; please make allowances, it's still cold and wet out there and Highways are trying their best. If a pot hole you have reported does not get

repaired to the standard you expect then please call them and ask for the pot hole to be attended to again.

## **Westland Green Notice Board**

Westland Green should have a new notice board installed quite soon – hopefully by the end of March (weather permitting!). It's going to be a 'local affair' and made 'in-house' so to speak; a couple of colleagues from the Parish Council will construct and erect said notice board for the community of Westland Green to make use of.

## **Summer Activities & Playschemes**

Watch this space. Over the next couple of months we hope to make announcements regarding Summer Activities & Playschemes to be held over the school summer holidays. Jonathan Forgham will be applying for funding on behalf of the community so that we can run summer clubs for village kids. We will keep you updated in the coming months.

## **Parish Plan Group News**

Little Hadham Parish Plan Group rep Carmela Piccolo announced the Little Hadham Fun Run/Fun Day is confirmed for Sunday 13th June 2010. This will be a fantastic day of fun with lots going on after the run; kids activities, food, refreshments, beer tent, music the list is never ending! LHPPG will once more be raising money for CRY. Please support us in our efforts and help make it a successful day for everyone in the community. We're keeping everything crossed for wall to wall sunshine on the day!

## **Bridge over the River Ash**

The Parish Clerk has received notice of major works to be carried to the bridge over the Ash. The bridge is to be reinforced, heavy machinery will be used including pneumatic drills and road planing vehicles. The noise levels of these

*continued on next page*

## **PC News,** continued

*machines will be loud to say the least and the A120 will close at least for the weekend with work continuing for approximately one week commencing 26th July – might be a good time to book that summer holiday so you don't have to suffer the noise, the rat running and*

*the inconvenience. The Bahamas beckon, don't they?! We'll keep you updated on this over the months, don't say we didn't warn you!*

*As always we say "thank you" to the villagers who attended the meeting this month.*

## **Parish Assembly Thursday 22nd April**

*This year's Annual Parish Assembly will be held at the village hall on Thursday 22 April at 7pm for 7.30pm start. As always our invitation goes out to all in the village; this will be your chance to get together over a glass of wine & nibbles, meet up with the Parish Council and other friends from the village. As in past years we will have a varied list of guest speakers; including news on the bypass and other important local issues. Make sure you come with YOUR agenda and have your say!*

*As an added attraction, on this occasion, we are inviting 'village businesses' to come and set up a display of their particular trade. We hope to have a great response to this feature so please get in touch as soon as possible to secure your place on the night.*

*Only with YOUR support and participation will these village events succeed.*

*Contact - Carmela 466331 e-mail [cam2403@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cam2403@hotmail.co.uk)*

**Adverts removed**

# Diary of the long-distance Granny

Cherry Mardell

**Saturday.** Call from daughter-in-law. "Come soon, every time we see a person of your colouring, he insists it is you and demands to talk to you. It's getting embarrassing."

**Sunday.** Drove 100 miles to see gorgeous grandson. Greeted ecstatically by 22-month-old who led me into the playroom with "what shall we play?"

All day long I can do no wrong. It's like being God for a day!

**Monday.** A face appears round the bedroom door. "Granny Cherry" it shrieks. I am persuaded to get up (early!) and go downstairs. He leads me into the playroom "What shall we play?" says the voice.

Later, I decide to take him shopping. Snack, drink and nappy safely stored in a bag, we sally forth in borrowed car, suitable car seat being easier to leave where it was. (In our day one car seat did the whole of small-fry's life. Not now, though!) All goes well until I allow him to hold a jar of cosmetics. In one quick move, the lid is off and the jar is skidding, cream side down, across the supermarket.

**Tuesday.** I hear voices but no face appears. Eventually I go in search of missing grandson. He is happily nestled between mum and dad in the bed. He gives me a quick smile and continues to burble happily to his parents. I am now part of the furniture. My God-like appeal has ended. Eventually, breakfast over, he takes my hand "What shall we play?"

He has learnt the word "no" and uses it frequently. I counter it with "yes" and a battle of wills ensues. He is remarkably tolerant of me and allows me, mainly, to get my own way.

*continued on page 7*

**Adverts removed**

## Abseiling Arkela!



79 year-old Mrs Daphne Parker from Much Hadham, Hertfordshire has decided to abseil approximately 110 feet and raise sponsorship for St Elizabeth's Centre! The abseil will take place during the weekend 1st/2nd May. Mrs Parker has lived in the village of Much Hadham for nearly 60 years and has many recollections of the village and her local charity St Elizabeth's Centre. Mrs Parker explained that she likes to keep busy and so when it was suggested to her that she might like to take on this challenge, she found herself

thinking 'why not?' Local people will know Mrs Parker from her 33 years as a Classroom Assistant at the local school, or Arkela of the Much Hadham Cub Pack and more recently as a member of the Hunsdon Scrabble Group, the Over Three Score Club and the Much Hadham Evergreen Club.

St Elizabeth's Centre would like to thank Mrs Parker for taking on this challenge and raising sponsorship to support our work caring for people with epilepsy and other complex needs.

To sponsor Mrs Parker please contact Bryan Smalley 01279 842184 or e-mail [bryansmalley@btinternet.com](mailto:bryansmalley@btinternet.com) or make a donation online through JustGiving: [www.justgiving.com/Daphne-Parker](http://www.justgiving.com/Daphne-Parker).

**RSPCA The Hadhams, Herts East Branch.** Fund raising was down on previous years, as I only banked £220 in 2009, but I am continually grateful to everyone who donates items for sale. I have recently been given two sets of encyclopedias, in good condition: 'Joy of Knowledge', volumes 1-52 and 'The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Animal Life'. Volumes 1-16. If anyone is interested in buying these please contact me on 658585. Again, thank you for your support. Ennis Rogers

Adverts removed

*Misty has found herself homeless because her owner is ill and had to move into care.*

*She is a really sweet undemanding cross-breed dog who just requires a loving home. She is around 10 years old but has no health problems, is up to date with her vaccinations and is neutered. She likes children and is fine around other dogs, clean in the home. Misty would like a home where she could go*

*for a walk each day and an owner who is around most of the time. Misty is a medium sized dog and is currently fostered in the Little Hadham area. Please contact Sue Trundle 07946556712 or Gillian Knight at Heathlands Animal Sanctuary 01763 244488.*



### **Diary of the long-distance granny,** continued from page 5

*Lunch (pizza, avocado and about half a pound of mini tomatoes!) is followed by a short walk. We converse with three complete strangers and he entertains them with comments about the piece of plastic he has found on the ground and the small stick which he is clasping so tightly it breaks, little by little. Life is indeed interesting with a small child!*

*And then it is time for me to leave. I get a wet kiss and a big smile and off I go.*

**Wednesday.** *Home again, exhausted.... how do parents do this every day? I meet up with husband. I take his hand. "What shall we play?" I ask.*

**Adverts removed**

## Nature Notes: February/March

Jonathan Forgham

A sudden change in the weather made this period of observation, (18th Feb. – 18th March) increasingly interesting. As if a switch had been flicked, a huge improvement in the temperature and light began on March 1st. Consequently, I have been able to get out and about early in the morning, listening to the dawn chorus as it increases in volume. As yet, no summer visitors singing, but only a matter of a fortnight and by the time readers are ploughing through this epistle, I am sure chiffchaff, willow warbler, blackcap and whitethroat will have been recorded in the parish. Maybe, first martins and swallows, too.



Highlight birds for this period were 25 siskins, (shown here), found in Alder Wood, Westland Green on the 2nd March. A visiting winter finch, migrating from Scandinavia; a good find in a year when they have been quite scarce. Also, 2 little owls calling at Millennium Wood (6th), snipe at Hadham Hall ponds (7th), 3 cormorants heading north east (9th) nuthatch calling in Chapel Lane (9th and onwards), reed bunting (16th), goldcrest along the Causeway at Hadham Hall (16th) and, finally, a total of 6 drumming great spotted woodpeckers around Westland Green early morning on the 2nd.

Another unusual bird was finding a solitary common gull along Millfield Lane (9th and shown here) before stumbling on a party



*continued on page 14*

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## Where there's a Willow there's a Way

Imagine a public track beside a river (which only flows in the winter) with a grass verge between them. This grass verge has only existed comparatively recently. It isn't shown on the Old Inland Revenue rating maps from 1845 and 1910. It seems that the edge of the track has gradually receded, moving away from the edge of the river bank as the traffic decreased. As a result the Inland Revenue have never valued it, and to all intents it does not exist; and unsurprisingly has no owner. At some time a number of willow trees were planted along it. One of these is now very old, and has been pollarded at least once. These trees are all crack willow, so called because of the ease with which they snap and break. The old one partly lost two branches in the autumn gales last year. They hadn't fallen off completely because neighbouring trees were supporting them. But the tree is potentially dangerous and this will only get worse as time progresses, if it is left to grow unchecked. It might be argued that this is just a minor village backwater; but it is a public right of way used by many weekend walkers in the summer, numerous local villagers exercising their dogs, joggers, allotment holders and most importantly two householders for whom it is the only access on foot or by car. What should anyone do? We approached the authorities!

**The Environment Agency:** "We are only responsible for keeping the waterway clear and free of debris."

**The Hertfordshire County Council Highways Footpaths, and Public Rights of Way:** "We are only  
*continued on page 16*

**Adverts removed**

## **LH & Albury Social Club**

We were entertained and instructed on the Art of Kyokushin Karate at our March meeting. Catherine Petch brought along a number of her successful members, who demonstrated the skills and disciplines of the Art – the youngest member being 5 years of age, plus an equal number of adults. The Group was only organised about 5 years ago and competes throughout the country, gaining high and often the top awards. Well done The Little Hadham Kyokushin Karate Group.

Our meeting on 13th April will be a social evening and there will be a Sales Table if anyone has items of their own to sell. We look forward to seeing old friends and new at 8pm in the Little Hadham Village Hall. £1.50 admission, including refreshments, plus a raffle and charity book sales. For information tel 771580 or 658585.

## **The Much Hadham Drama Group**

**will present an Amateur Production of**

### **Flare Path**

**A play by Terence Rattigan  
in Much Hadham Villlage Hall  
on Thursday 13th, Friday 14th  
and Saturday 15th May  
starting at 8.00pm**

**(affiliated to NODA)**

**“The Much Hadham Drama Group”  
has a Face Book page.  
Why not log on and become a fan!**

**Adverts removed**

## **A Place Worth Preserving**

*Last month the Parish News published a letter in which attention was drawn to the inconsiderate behaviour of those who posted unwanted notices in and around our village. To show that there are others whose only intention is to improve local matters and who do so for no reward, and without any thought of recognition, it is right that the following be brought to attention:*

*At the beginning of March a team of local people, including Karin and Frank Green and Mags Gibson spent a whole week – Monday to Friday – redecorating and cleaning the meeting room at St Cecilia's. Many old items found there which had served their purpose in earlier years and were now past their prime were removed, wall pictures and other bright and welcoming features provided and the previously drab and dull room was turned into a very welcoming location.*

*The following Monday, John Sinclair, a recent addition to the church choir, whose cleaning company had a vacant fortnight in its business calendar, donated all this time to the church by removing all the ancient cobwebs on the high beams and ceiling with his extending poles, completely cleaning and washing down walls, floor and windows, renovating and polishing the screen, triple-decker and pews and finishing off by professionally vacuuming the church.*

*And then, the day before Mothering Sunday, three dozen volunteers, including six young children, gave up their Saturday morning to help tidy up the churchyard, build a big bonfire, carry out minor repairs in the church building, clear away many unused and dust-collecting items, and last, but not least, supply cakes and tea for refreshments.*

*These are some of the often unreported events which clearly show there is still a great deal of goodness in the community – long may it continue and many thanks to those stalwarts who feel that Little Hadham is a place worth preserving.*

**Adverts removed**

## What's on in April ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

**1,15,29** Thur, **Mobile Library** (See right)

**6** Tue, **Parish Council meeting**, 8pm. Everybody welcome to watch the way our village is run.

**11** Sun, **Open Garden with tea**, 2-5pm The Mill House, Tewin AL6 0JQ for Isabel Hospice

**13** Tue, **LH & A Social Club**, 8pm A social evening There will be a Sales Table if anyone has items of their own to sell. We look forward to seeing old friends and new. £1.50 admission, including refreshments, plus a raffle and charity book sales. For information 771580 or 658585.

**15** Thur, "**Way Inn**" coffee morning Meet and make friends over a cuppa. 10-12noon, rear of the Village Hall

**17** Sat, **Jumble Sale**, Thundridge VH 2.30pm

**18** Sun, **2nd Dawn Chorus Walk** 5am meet Village Hall car park, returning by 9am. Six miles of local footpaths. Contact [jforgham@theprimaryworks.com](mailto:jforgham@theprimaryworks.com) for further details and registering interest.

**18** Sun, **The Gardens of Easton Lodge** open 12-6 (See page 19)

**20** Tue, **LH & A Garden Club**. Mr Bennet will talk on a Wet Week in Wegen. All welcome.

**22** Thurs, **Red Cross Spring Sale**, 10.30-3pm Cottered Village Hall SG9 9PS, Spring clothes etc. in aid of E Herts fund-raising for Red Cross.

**22** Thur, **Annual Parish Assembly** (See page 4)

**24** Sat, **Farmers' Market**, 8.30 - 11.30am Everything you need under one roof. Fruit and veg., plants, crafts, meat, cooked breakfasts.

**24** Sat, **East Herts Eco FilmFest**, Hertford, 1.30pm to 9.30pm. FREE Entry..

Details: [www.transitionhertford.ning.com](http://www.transitionhertford.ning.com) or email [transitionhertford@googlemail.com](mailto:transitionhertford@googlemail.com)

**25** Sun, **Open Garden**, Gt Munden House 2-5pm, Great Munden, Ware.

### 1st 15th 29th 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

This is a fortnightly service.

## ... and after that?

8 May **Garden Club Coffee Morning** (See p15)

8 May **Braughing Music Society** (See p20)

13,14,15 May **'The Elephant Man'**, Victoria Hall Theatre, Old Harlow, CM17 0ED by the Sawbridgeworth Players. Tickets 07752 161802

16 May **Sponsored Ride & BBQ** (Page 18)

16 May **Sponsored Bike Ride**, from Woolmer Grn, for Isabel Hospice. Info: 01707 382500:

23 May **Open Gardens Much Hadham** 12-5 for St Elizabeth's Centre. Tickets, garden guides & refreshments this year will be available from The Forge.

23 May **Sponsored Bike Ride**, starts from BS Rugby Club, for Isabel Hospice. Info: [maria.alexander@isabelhospice.org.uk](mailto:maria.alexander@isabelhospice.org.uk)

13 June **LH Fun Run** (see page 13)

18, 19 June **'The Village Players'** (Note change of previously advertised dates) Reservations are £10 pp to include fish/chicken and chip supper. Whole tables reserved for parties of 8 or more. For bookings and order of supper choices please telephone 01279 755650.

19 June **Much Hadham Playgroup Ball** "Fire & Ice" £75 before 1st April, £80 thereafter. For booking form: [muchhadhamball@googlemail.com](mailto:muchhadhamball@googlemail.com)

26, 27 June **Arts & Crafts exhibition**, Standon.

13 August **Charity Golf Day** Info: 813710

## Annual Little Hadham Fun Run

It's *READY, STEADY GO...* for the countdown to this year's Little Hadham FUN RUN, now in its second year. So you can all have another go.



Last year we were able to give "Cardiac Arrest in the Young" (CRY) a substantial donation thanks to everyone who supported the run. A small portion of the income was held back, and later used to support our 5-a-side football event last August, when we were able to send the three young winners off for a day's tuition at the David Beckham Football Academy.

The Run is scheduled to take place on Sunday 13th June, starting at 10.30am from the Village Hall (where it will also finish). Both the 5km and 10km routes will again include most of the Parish's villages and hamlets. A map of the routes, together with an entry form will be available on [www.thehadhams.com](http://www.thehadhams.com) and from which it can be copied. Entry remains the same, held at £5 per individual participant, with children under 12 years old FREE. As soon as application forms are available you can, of course apply directly to Dr Mike Smith, at Tandle, The Ford, Little Hadham; telephone 771568.

As well as runners, walkers, and fancy dress to participate, we are looking for more marshals and helpers. If you would like to help, but didn't last year, please contact Carmela Piccolo [cam2403@hotmail.com](mailto:cam2403@hotmail.com), telephone 466331.

**Adverts removed**

## Nature Notes: continued from page 8

of 14 at Hadham Hall (16th). Common buzzards are now busy with their courtship flights, as are the local sparrow hawks. Many birds are now beginning nest building, especially the rooks at South Cottages and the rookery along the A120.



Usual mammals have been recorded with good numbers of foxes witnessed as well as several courting hares. One shown here from Chapel Lane (13th).

Butterflies should now be emerging but my only records are from outside the parish. A red admiral in a garden (2nd March) in Much Hadham was only the second Herts. record for 2010 and a male yellow brimstone observed in Cricketfield Lane, Bishop's Stortford.

Soon, orange tip, red admiral, peacocks and brimstones will be on show every warm day.

Plants are beginning to show their heads, all very late, as the daffodils and tulips in your garden will testify to. Lords and Ladies (*Arum italicum*) is now breaking through, its large tongue shaped leaves found in undergrowth and hedgerows. This will shortly be followed by Jack by the Hedge (garlic mustard) which is the larval food plant for the orange tip butterfly.

To keep up to date with what is about within the parish, I propose a 2nd dawn chorus walk on Sunday 18th April, meeting at the village hall car park at 5.00am for a 6 mile stroll along local footpaths. All parishioners and friends welcome. Please email: [jforgham@theprimaryworks.com](mailto:jforgham@theprimaryworks.com) to register your interest. All records can be viewed at <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com>. Feel free to peruse.

**Adverts removed**

## Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club News

The Garden club held its A.G.M. last month and launched this year's programme of events and outings along with the schedule for the Autumn Show (it's never too early to start thinking about it). Frank Green stepped down as chairman after 7 years and the club presented him with an engraved tankard to thank him for all his hard work. For the time being the committee will be running things for the next year, but we are looking for a new chairman. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 20th April when Mr Bennet will talk on a Wet Week in Wegen.

The famous Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 8th May at the Village Hall and is the place to pick up fabulous plants, peruse the book stall, find that all-important garden tool and of course the not-to-be-missed tea and cakes.

### **In the Garden in April**

Hopefully everything has caught up after the slow start to the year and here are a few tips to keep you going:

#### **In the Flower Garden**

Plant roses, trees, shrubs and perennials.

Plant summer flowering bulbs

Put in plant supports so that plants can grow around stakes.

Mulch soil to conserve moisture

Remove the spent flower heads of daffodils and tulips

Begin mowing lawns regularly

#### **In the Veg Plot**

Continue to sow seeds and prick out and pot up seedlings

Plant potato tubers

Most main crop vegetables can be planted out now except the frost tender ones

Keep on top of weeding and digging and look out for slugs and snails.

**Adverts removed**

## **Where there's a Willow there's a Way**, continued from page 9

responsible for keeping paths and tracks clear. It's not our job."

**The District Council:** Again the same excuses/explanations and a suggestion, "we should find the owner, who would be responsible". However their Tree Preservation Officer did agree that the tree was in need of immediate attention, and that we should take the matter up with. . .

**The Parish Council:** Once again we got bogged down in negatives. It would be illegal to cut down the branches in the absence of an owner. They could not responsibly spend money on work which would only benefit a small segment of the community.

Who last pollarded the tree? **The Environment Agency!**

But there is always an "angel" waiting in the wings. One of the residents most affected, called on some favours, and together with another willing friend set to work one Monday morning just as it started snowing (again!). By lunch-time, 5 hours later, they had finished pollarding the tree and cleared up! Well done those civic minded men. Who needs a Parish Council?!

Incidentally, counting the tree rings in some of the main branches, shows that this tree was last pollarded 23 years ago.

Mike Smith

## **A WARM WELCOME**

A very warm welcome is extended to **Mr & Mrs Melton** and their daughter **Stephanie** who have recently moved in to Cradle End. We wish you all the very best and hope you settle in and enjoy living in Little Hadham as much as we do!

**Adverts removed**

## **SSE News** *Yet More Delay On Second Runway: We Can't Go On Like This*

*It could be another two years before a Public Inquiry into a second Stansted runway is held, the Government has been told.*

*The news came in a letter from BAA to Communities Minister John Denham, copied to SSE. The airport operator told the Secretary of State that it would need 12 to 18 months to update its March 2008 planning application and that it could not realistically begin this until there is an end to the present uncertainty about the future ownership of the airport. That of itself could also take well over a year, meaning a further delay of between two and three years before any Public Inquiry could even start to consider BAA's second runway planning application.*

*The Public Inquiry to consider BAA's March 2008 planning application for a second runway was originally due to start in April last year. BAA is now indicating that it could not start until 2012 or even 2013.*

*If the Public Inquiry does not start until 2013, it would be 2015 before a final decision could be announced, meaning that local residents and businesses who received compulsory purchase notifications from BAA in March 2008 would have endured seven years of blight and uncertainty before the final outcome was known. In reality, the blight on local communities in East Hertfordshire and North Essex began in July 2002 when the Government first published its proposals for making Stansted bigger than Heathrow.*

*SSE has repeatedly called on BAA to withdraw its application and thereby allow local communities to return to some form of normality. However, BAA clearly sees some commercial advantage in trying to keep its second runway application on life support, pending an upturn in*

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**Adverts removed**

## **SSE**, continued from previous page

the market, a more favourable political climate or simply as a possible means of obtaining a higher price for Stansted in the event of a forced sale.

Commenting on the news, SSE Chairman Peter Sanders said: "BAA's response to the Secretary of State shows an appalling disregard for the local community. We have lived under the threat of a second runway for almost eight years now. The only honourable course open to BAA is to withdraw its applications and to give a clear and unequivocal statement that it will not be making new applications for a project which creates blight without any real prospect of success."

He added: "With the support of our community, we will continue our campaign to prevent the catastrophic damage that would be caused by expansion at Stansted for as long as it takes – whoever the owner."

## **Sponsored Ride & Barbecue Sunday 16th May**

in aid of the  
**Herts & Essex Border Group of  
Riding for the Disabled Association**

at

Woodhall Pk, Watton at Stone. SG14 3NF

Rides of 3, 6 and 9 miles

A rare opportunity to ride around some  
beautiful Hertfordshire countryside.

The organisers gratefully acknowledge the  
support and generosity of

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Abel Smith over whose  
land the ride takes place.

For more information:

[www.horsedates.co.uk](http://www.horsedates.co.uk)

or contact Alex Cater : 01763 289808

[alex.cater@btopenworld.com](mailto:alex.cater@btopenworld.com)

RDA Charity No 1074385

## The Gardens of Easton Lodge

### **Knockout Success of Sunday Openings**

The Trustees of the Gardens of Easton Lodge in Little Easton, near Dunmow, would like to thank all those who travelled from parishes across the region to visit the



Snowdrop Sundays in February and March. On one March Sunday alone, more than 1200 adults, many accompanied by children, came to explore the marvels of the snowdrop carpets, proving once again the tremendous popularity of this much-loved local amenity.

Volunteers for the Trust have been manning the gates and grounds, as well as serving home-made soups, cakes and other refreshments in the courtyard of Warwick House at the heart of the gardens to make the open days even more enjoyable.

The team is determined that these much-loved gardens be opened regularly and enjoyed to the full and a series of once-a-month Sunday openings is planned from April to October, as follows: Sundays 18 April, 23 May, 20 June, 18 July, 22 August, 19 September and 10 October. Opening hours for these dates are 12 noon to 6pm. Tickets cost just £2.50 for adults, children enter free.

Further information is available from the recorded information service on 01371 876979, online at [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk) or by emailing [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk).

The Gardens of Easton Lodge are located just outside Great Dunmow in Little Easton, off the B184 (Great Dunmow to Saffron Walden road). Follow the brown heritage signs.

**ARTS AND  
CRAFTS AT  
STANDON**

**Saturday 26th and  
Sunday 27th June 2010  
10.00am – 4.30pm both days**

**Standon Village Hall,  
Hadham Road, Standon Herts  
Exhibition and Sale of Paintings  
Plus Craft Stalls**

**Refreshments, Licensed Bar,  
Raffle**

**Free Admission**

**Catalogues 50p – Donations Welcome  
(All proceeds to the Village Hall fund)  
To participate ring 01279 842625**

*Braughing Music Society*

**The Alburni String  
Quartet**

**Three Beethoven Quartets**

**Saturday 8th May - 7:30 pm  
St Mary's Church, Braughing**

**TICKET PRICES**

£15 Premium; £12 Standard; £10 restricted view  
£15 at the door

Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073

[www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk](http://www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk)

*Adverts removed*

## Cricket Club News

With Spring just around the corner the Cricket Club is turning its attention to the new playing season which begins in April. The fixtures have now been arranged and as last year the club will be playing mainly Sunday fixtures, plus entering the Hertfordshire Village Cup and the Davis Cup (which is a local 20-over evening village competition).

### APRIL FIXTURES

Sunday 11th County Hall Home 1.30pm

Sunday 18th Craven Home 1.30pm

Sunday 25th Chrishall Home 1.30pm

The club would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make the quiz evening a great success. Thanks to the efforts of all those who took part in the quiz and those helping behind the scenes

almost £800 was raised for club funds, which will go towards improvements at the ground.

### St Cecilia's tearoom re-vamp

May I take this time to thank my great partners in crime. First my husband, Don, who without his permission as the Church Warden, I would not have got my ideas off the ground. It is invaluable help alongside my other co-conspirators, Frank and Karin Green, good friends, who without their added help we would have taken longer to achieve the end result. Our working relationship was such fun, making the purpose of our aims even more enjoyable (I hope they agree). We hope all those who use the tearoom will enjoy its new state, as much as we did bringing it about. My thanks again,

Mags Gibson.

**Adverts removed**

## Airport Police



Essex police have a new Aviation Security Unit working from Stansted Airport. This unit will be aiming to raise awareness about aviation security and associated terrorist matters. You may live, work or travel under the airport flight paths and for this reason be best placed to know what is normal, and perhaps most important, what is not,

within the area. There is no intelligence, locally or nationally, to suggest any increased threat to aviation; however, we would ask that you contact Essex police in the event that you see anything unusual within your area or within the vicinity of the flight paths. For non-emergencies: 0300 333 444; emergencies: 999. If you would like to talk to a member of the new team please call 01279 680298 or e-mail [aviationsecurity@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:aviationsecurity@essex.pnn.police.uk).

## Refreshing News: It's Time for Tea

After many months of closure the well-known tea rooms at Standon Village Hall will open on Easter Sunday April 4th at 1pm, with a wide selection of beverages, quality sandwiches, delicious ceam teas and first-rate home-made cakes. As a traditional tea room, tea will be served in teapots with china cups and saucers along with matching cake plates.



The tea room venture is being run by Wendy Woodgate of Chapel Lane and she looks forward to greeting parishioners on this or any following Sunday. A 10% discount is offered for all who produce a copy of the Little Hadham Parish News. How can you afford to miss out!

**Adverts removed**

## Complaints Corner

Grumpy Old Men and Moaning Minnies only

Having just read Complaints Corner, I cannot wait to add my two penn'orth....  
How I agree with the beef about unlawful bill-posting in the village! I abhor them, especially when they are put up without the agreement of the person who owns the land. When Anti-Vivisection members used to collect at the entrance to Millfield Lane, they used to splurge horrendous placards, covered in fake blood, all over the fences. When I once dared to approach them and ask them to remove said posters, I was met with unbelievable rudeness. Not happy with their reaction, but unbowed, I asked one member how she would like it if I had gone to her home and put up posters stating my opinions all over her fences and hedges. She didn't reply. The placards (that time) were taken down. Three days later, our lovely new wooden house sign, bought at great cost from a carver at Burghley Horse Trials, was stolen. We never did find the culprit, but I had my suspicions! And it is, sadly, not only those from 'abroad' who leave up posters after the event. Locals are just as lazy at times!

And to those of you who dog walk and do pick up dog droppings, may I add a plea that you don't stuff them in a plastic bag, tie the bag neatly and then throw it into a convenient hedge as you dog walk. There are a number of such plastic bags currently decorating the hedge bordering Little Hadham school. Shame on you all!

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I wish people would keep their dogs on the footpaths. There is one culprit I see often, with two black dogs who just charge around in the fields amongst the crops having the time of their lives. (You know who you are, sir or madam. Please control your dogs for everybody's sake.) It makes me so angry. I have never allowed my dogs to stray from the footpaths, and if I couldn't stop them going off them I would keep them on the lead. Fortunately my present dog understands 'stay on the path!', but I rarely have to say it. It does nobody any favours when dogs are allowed such freedom, as the farmer could quite rightly deny everyone the pleasure of walking alongside the river, which is after all, not an actual public footpath.

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### Can You Help Cradle End's Beloved Cats ?

Several neighbours including myself have had to contend with over £700 in vet's bills because of injuries caused to our beloved, beautiful cats. We believe the culprit to be a short haired, probably male, black cat. There have been repeated sightings of the cat where the incidents have taken place over the past three or four months. There were no problems of this nature in Cradle End prior to this period.

All the neighbours' cats in question have suffered quite severe injuries – enough to warrant veterinary attention and medication. In fact their personalities have changed and they have become nervous, lacking confidence and not wanting to go outside. We fully understand that cats are free spirited but we think it's just not fair that our beloved pets are suffering in this way.

After getting in touch and seeking advice from both the RSPCA & the Cat's Protection League we are led to understand that it is most likely to be an un-neutered Tom staking his territory.

If you think it's your cat then **please arrange for it to be neutered as soon as possible**, thank you.

# April diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

**1 Thursday**

## **Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm

Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham, followed by a supper at the Rectory, Much Hadham.

**2 Friday**

## **Good Friday**

12 noon

Good Friday Procession of the Cross, starting at the Priest's House Malting Lane, Much Hadham

1.00pm

Prayer before the cross in St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham

1.30pm-3.00pm

Reflections and music for Good Friday St Andrew's, Much Hadham

7.30pm

Service of readings and music for Good Friday, St Mary's, Furneux Pelham

**4 Sunday**

## **Easter Day**

9.30am

Family Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**11 Sunday**

## **2nd Sunday of Easter**

9.30am

Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

5.00pm

Taizé Service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

**18 Sunday**

## **3rd Sunday of Easter**

8.00am

Holy Communion St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Village Hall Service

6.00pm

Evensong at St Mary's Albury

**25 Sunday**

## **4th Sunday of Easter**

11.15am

Parish Communion at St Mary's Albury

6.00pm

Evensong at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**Notices** Church APCM Wednesday 28th April in Church 8.00pm.

**There were three baptisms in March:**

Douglas and Mabelle Sinclair on February 28th

Florence Stella Harris of Bury Green on March 6th

Rose Phoebe Baird of Hartsfield, Westland Green on March 21st.

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

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Thank you to all who came and helped with the Churchyard tidy up on March 13th. We are very pleased that our local Churchyard looks so well kept. Thanks also to all who redecorated and renovated the Parish Room in Church and created a special play area for children in the body of the Church.

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

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

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