

Little Hadham Parish News

August 2010

Attention All Talented Gardeners & Chefs.

Do you have any
prize winning
fruit and veg?

Are you
artistic?

Do you
dabble in
the
kitchen?

Would your children
like to try their hand
at a fun competition?

Little Hadham & Albury Gardening Club's Autumn Show is on SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER at Little Hadham Village Hall. Why not give it a go? Show schedules are available at Little Hadham Post Office and The Nag's Head. Show us your talents.



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

We have another new Bishop, the Bishop of Hertford, to replace Christopher Foster who left to be Bishop of Portsmouth. He is Paul Bayes; his wife is called Kate and he has three grown up children. Paul has been National Mission and Evangelism Advisor to the Church of England. For now, we have a non-controversial figure, who will bring many gifts to his role as area Bishop. We welcome him.

One day in the future perhaps another Rector will be announcing the appointment of a woman Bishop, or a gay Bishop, or both. In my time as Rector it is unlikely now that we shall have a woman Bishop in this area. Some would say that the Church of England will be so split that we will disintegrate and there will be no Rector in this place, male or female. If this is to be the case, it will not be because of arguments about gender, but because we are regarded as unnecessary and irrelevant to the community we serve. I do not know the future, but I have faith that the spirit of Anglicanism will find a place to continue.

So what was going on at the recent Synod of York?

We do already have female Bishops in the world wide Anglican Communion, and they have been well received. We already have agreed in principle to ordain women to the episcopacy in the Church of England, since the ordination of women to the priesthood had opened the way for this. There is already provision for those who cannot accept the authority or validity of the women's orders to find alternative ministry and oversight. It is too late to put the genie back in the bottle. The Archbishops wanted to provide more legal backing for "flying" male bishops to go into Dioceses and provide a stronger alternative oversight. I think they were primarily motivated by issues of unity in the wider Anglican Communion rather than the Church of England itself. But this proposal was deemed unnecessary by a majority of the clergy, since there are already plenty of male Bishops to give alternative care.

The truth is that the Anglican Communion has always been divided, or less pejoratively, diverse, in its theology and practice. In our theology of Church, of Biblical interpretation, of sacramental practice, even of basic doctrines we have argued and diverged. If now some want to make this single issue the one and only cause, then no compromise will satisfy. Some are using it as an excuse to vent their feelings about a host of other issues; all of us involved are motivated by a complex mixture of attitudes and convictions. Meanwhile most of our society doesn't care.

And that is surely the vital truth. There are so many more important matters to deal with: War, terrorism, poverty, disease, over population, environmental degradation, to name but a few. We in the Church need to keep our eye on the main reason for being; namely bringing people nearer to God and to the spirit of Jesus, and working for a time when we no longer need the Church, because the Kingdom of God will be established upon earth.

Chris Boulton

Pam and Bob Sewell wish to express their very grateful thanks to everybody who "saw them off" so splendidly on Tuesday 2nd June and for the very kind parting gift.

They are sorry they missed the Editor's deadline of 18th June for last month's news.

They are settling in to a new routine in very attractive surroundings but miss Little Hadham and all their good friends of many years' standing.

Parish Council News

Verges, Bury Green. The Parish Council has now had confirmation from the houseowner at Chasedene that he will take responsibility over the repairs to be carried out to the verges which were damaged during building works last winter. The houseowner assures us that the repairs will be carried out in September.

Ridgeway Playground. The Parish Council passes on to Arthur Northcote grateful thanks on behalf of the community for the great effort put into sourcing and arranging delivery of timber and the refurbishment of the see-saw at the Ridgeway playground. We trust the children will once again enjoy using the see-saw throughout the summer and beyond. Many thanks Arthur.

Telephone Kiosks. The kiosk at The Ford is up and running with new shelving thanks to Geoff Williamson, so Folks, you can start using it as a "book swap"/information centre. The PC would be grateful of any offers of help with keeping the kiosk clean & tidy. Please bring any books which you feel would be of interest both to adults and children, we would like to see villagers of all ages making use of the facility. The kiosk at Bury Green will soon be equipped with shelving and hopefully be used in the same manner. Do feel free to let us know how you feel about these new facilities!

Fun Run. What can be said that hasn't already been said - HUGE community success! See you there next year!

Bury Green Wedding. Great weather and a wonderful day had by all. Newlyweds very happy indeed. The PC sends warmest wishes for their future happiness and the happiness of their family. We are delighted to announce that Mark & Megan have made a

very generous donation to the Little Hadham School, for this we send our thanks.

East Herts Rural Parish Conference. A colleague from the PC attended this conference in June and reported back on a number of matters raised including: funding available for new small rural business ventures £2.5m being put forward by government and the private sector; setting up of a village Youth Club more info on either of these two topics from Carmela 466331 or email cam2403@hotmail.co.uk. Hertfordshire Police were represented at the conference and confirmed that Hertfordshire is still a safe place to live; the crime rate being reduced year on year in recent years. The Local Development Framework reported that an extra 8,500 homes need to be built in East Herts by 2031, although during the current period of economic down-turn the authorities would expect progress to be slow. The PC will keep the community updated on this matter as and when new information is gleaned, it will no doubt be a long drawn out affair.

Little Hadham a Fairtrade Village? The PC Chairman, with colleagues' support, would like to see LH become a Fair Trade village. Work will commence in earnest after the summer recess to gain more knowledge about the subject and to look towards achieving this status. We would like to encourage villagers to buy a few Fair Trade items each week - together we can help make a difference.

Which GP For You? The PC has received news of a Government Consultation on GP Provision; "Your GP, Your choice, Your say". The document implies that it must be better for patients to be able to choose which GP they register with. For instance it might be more convenient if you work to use a GP close to

continued on page 19

THE 2010 FLAMSTEAD SCARECROW FESTIVAL

The **Flamstead Scarecrow Festival is a Fun, Family Fundraising Event**, held in the picturesque village of Flamstead in Hertfordshire. This highly successful and unusual three-day event grows in popularity each year. It is amazing to see creativity of the villagers with their amusing and clever scarecrows.

Each year the residents of Flamstead build over 120 scarecrows, which are placed around the village and attract about 5000 visitors over the three days. Join in the fun come along and collect a voting form and trail map at either the village hall or the car park 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 and the Aldbury Morris Men on the Saturday. English Miscellany Folk & Morris Dancers and the Hemel Hempstead Band on the Sunday. 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 the dates of the festival are; **Fri 20, Sat 21st and Sun 22nd 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.

Flamstead is just off the A5, South of Luton and adjacent to Junction 9 of M1..

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

Hertfordshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Ltd.
Tel: 01462 684214 Fax: 01462 487172
E-mail: charleneredmond@hmstc.net
Web Site: www.hertsmstherapy.org.uk

F.O.S.L.
33, College Close, Flamstead, Herts. AL3 8DJ
Tel: 01582 841195
E-mail: s.bates55@btinternet.com Web Site: www.flamstead-herts.co.uk

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

Our July meeting was both harrowing and uplifting, when Violet and Bob Slade, with their two PAT Dogs, told us of their involvement with the Chernobyl children. They are both championship judges at dog shows and in 1997 were invited to judge in Russia. First hand they saw how everyone was affected by the Chernobyl disaster and they vowed to help. This they have done by yearly visits, taking with them medical supplies, clothes, books and school equipment and much more. They have funded the refurbishment of a Polly clinic for sick children. Perhaps most importantly they have continued friendship and watched children grow and improve and given them hope. The Chernigov community thanked Violet and Bob by sending two of their very special Russian Black Terrier puppies. They have bred from Nina and Ludvic and a three year old descendent, plus a miniature Poodle, showed their skills as PAT dogs. Violet takes them into various wards at Addenbrookes Hospital and the patients gain tremendous pleasure at being able to just pat them. A truly inspiring evening.

Barbara had arranged celebratory refreshments in memory of Gladys Hounsell and told of her many involvements in the village.

As we go to press there are still 5 spaces remaining for our trip to Elton Hall on Monday, 23rd August – Tel 658585 for details.

Our August 10th meeting is a social evening. Everyone is welcome. There will be a 'Sales Table' and items can be sold for charity or yourself. Admission still £1.50, including refreshments, with a raffle and charity book sales. Tel 771580 or 658585 for information.

Adverts removed

Goodbye and thank you!

John and Jenny Duke would like to thank all their friends and neighbours from Little Hadham and surrounding villages for their support and kindness over the last very happy 37 years. We will miss you all, but Saffron Walden beckons, providing us with a new, fresh, exciting challenge! We hope to keep in touch and look forward to seeing you in Saffron Walden. Lots of parking!

Down at the Doctor's

from Paul Haimes

I trust that you have all been enjoying this spell of good weather, as reported elsewhere by my neighbour and hope that you are all being sensible by wearing hats, using plenty of high factor sun protection creams and drinking lots of water.

Some of you have been concerned about the recent notification regarding changes to ordering repeat prescriptions. From 1st September, following strict PCT guidance, we will no longer be taking such orders by telephone and you will not be able to leave your request on an answer phone; it has been shown repeatedly, throughout the NHS, that this is one of the main causes of medication error. You will, however, now have five ways to order your repeat prescriptions:

1. By post; 2. By using the existing drop-in-box just inside the main door; 3. When you collect your medication from the dispensary, by completing the right hand strip and leaving it with us (this option will also be available to those collecting from the branch surgeries) 4. By fax on 01279 843973; 5. By e-mail (much.hadham@nhs.net) There will be notices in all our surgeries for those that don't subscribe to their parish magazines (shame on you!!) or who live elsewhere.

continued on next page

Adverts removed

Down at the Doctor's, continued

Soon, we hope to have a website (as previously mentioned) which will add a further option and will be separate from the e-mail address above.

I am pleased to say that the Hunsdon village hall building work is almost completed and we hope to restart surgeries there in the first week of September, after a gap of 6 months. In addition to yours truly, we will hopefully have a regular nurse practitioner session, which we have been providing at Little Hadham since the first week of June, and this seems to be very popular.

Finally, I hope you all have a good summer break; no doubt the fine weather will change just in time for the school holidays!

Medley of Meals

The next Medley of Meals will be held at The Rectory, Much Hadham on Sat 14th August at 7pm.

Tickets £7.50 from Don Gibson 771325, Tony Skidmore 771688 or a member of the PCC. Those who have not previously been to one of these 'non churchy' events would be most welcome, however, tickets are limited in number.

Adverts removed

Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

Our Year 6 Leavers went out with a flourish as they gave their fantastic version of Cinderella/Rockerfella in the last week of term. Their singing strengths shone through as they demonstrated how they had grown in confidence and talent during their time at Little Hadham. Not only do their talents lie in drama but over half of the Y6 children achieved Level 5 (13 year old standard) in this year's Maths and English KS2 SATs. Such stars!

We would also like to thank the Parish Council for their support and also the Hills family for their very kind and generous donation to the school for celebrating their wedding on Bury Green.

We are now busy organising some new activities to support our young pre-school children next term, one of which is entitled 'Mini-Gym', which is a mix of movement and gymnastics for Toddlers to Nursery age pupils on Thursday mornings. We are also hosting different Children Centre activities which will start next term-so watch this space!

The time has come for a well-earned rest and look ahead to starting off again in September.

Happy Holidays to you all! Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Head Teacher

Adverts removed

Nature Notes

from Jonathan Forgham

A period of exceptionally high temperatures and virtually no rain led to a huge increase in insect activity, with few noteworthy birds. The end of June and July are notoriously poor for bird watching and so my attention turns to dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies and the weather meant good recordings.

A new dragonfly for the parish was recorded on 11th July in the form of a male broad bodied chaser, observed along the Ash Valley south of The Ford. This was the day of my nature ramble, where 6 of us wandered around Bury Green, via Danebridge to Much Hadham before returning along footpaths along the River Ash. A super 5 hour outing with good views of 5 dragonfly species. My thanks to the owners of Hadham Barns in Bury Green for giving permission for us to enter their garden to study the insect life in and on their superb pond. Emperor dragonfly, black tailed skimmers, 4 spot chasers (shown here) and a solitary brown hawker were all noted here along with common blue and azure damselfly (shown below). Also: 10 butterfly species were discovered, including 2



marbled whites. This is an uncommon butterfly for this region but appears to be growing in numbers as I witnessed 15+ of this wonderful butterfly as I toiled with my golf on Ash Valley G.C.

Another long walk was undertaken on 28th June, where I followed the

continued on page 16

Adverts removed

The past month has seen summer finally begin and with it ideal cricketing weather. Towards the end of June Little Hadham entertained Potter Street, who batting first scored 198 for 8, with David Wheatley taking 3 wickets and Ollie Radley 2. In reply a good opening partnership of 97 between Alan South (who scored 51) and Paul Mason-Smith (94) set up a very close encounter, with Hadham eventually winning by 6 wickets with just 2 balls to spare. In the next match, on a very hot summer afternoon, Little Hadham batted first against the visitors of Ardleigh Green. Little Hadham scored 237 for 7 declared with David Wheatley scoring 57 and Neil Oxborrow 51 not out. With an opening stand of 123 Hadham were always struggling to contain the Ardleigh Green batsmen and despite taking 7 wickets eventually lost with 5 overs to spare.

High Beech were the next visitors to Millfield Lane and batting first scored 179 for 8 with Paul Mason-Smith and David Wheatley both taking 3 wickets apiece. In reply Hadham collapsed to 14 for 3 before recovering thanks to a quick fire 46 off just 24 balls from James Law. However at 126 for 9 Hadham were again struggling until Martin Hallmark (36 not out) and last man in, David Barnes (14) put on 35 for the last wicket before David Barnes was out just 18 runs short of the target.

After a month of home games the next match was away to Barley. Batting first the home side scored 254 for 5 with David Barnes taking 3 wickets. In reply Hadham were 103 for 2 before one of the Barley fielders badly injured himself on the boundary and the match was

continued on page 17

Adverts removed

Village Hall News

“We found Love and an Exquisite Set of Porcelain Figurines aboard the SS Farndale Avenue”

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank the Ladies of the Farndale Avenue Townswomen's Guild (and Gordon) for their fine performance of “We found love.....”; a fine performance not without its ups and downs thanks to Thelma's tantrums – she could have left the palm tree for the Pantomime Group, although we'll let her keep the back wall of her husband's shed. They hope you all enjoyed the fish and chips – they had a party after the show (Gordon got a bit tiddly) and enjoyed theirs with tartare sauce (Waitrose), a nice Chardonnay and plenty of gossip.

They raised an amazing £1,062 for the external redecoration of the Hall after Thelma's compensation (don't ask) and extra cleaning of all the blood. Will they be back, I hear you ask. Well, dear Felicity is keen, but Mrs. Reece is doubtful. Watch this space!!

August

A quiet month with most of the Organisations taking a break with the exception of Karate Club on Wednesday afternoons, the Bowls Club, and Way Inn on 19th, Church Service on 15th. Whist Drive as usual on 26th, and Jo Alexander is back on 21st and 22nd with a fine selection of teak furniture. And The Farmers' Market will have plenty of soft fruit for sale, so out with the jam pans!

Adverts removed

What's on in August . . .

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

5th and 19th August 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.

The "Way Inn" coffee morning
Come along and meet friends and neighbours
over a cup of tea or coffee.

Third Thursday of the month

10.00am until 12 noon in the Village Hall
(Rear entrance of village hall, by Post Office)

No Parish Council meeting in August.

10 LH & A Social Club. A social evening. Everyone is welcome. There will be a 'Sales Table' and items can be sold for charity or yourself. Admission is still £1.50, including refreshments, with a raffle and charity book sales. Info. 771580 or 658585.

13 Fri Charity Golf Day, Barkway, see p13.

14 Sat Medley of Meals, 7pm, The Rectory, Much Hadham. Details, page 7.

15 Sun Church Service 9.30am, Village Hall.

19 Thur Way Inn Coffee morning 10 - 12 noon at rear of Village Hall. Meet and make friends over a cuppa.

21, 22 Teak Furniture Sale.

23 Mon Social Club trip to Elton Hall Tel 658585 for details.

28 Sat Farmers' Market, 8.30 - 11.30am. Come and get your fresh produce here.

29 Sun Village Picnic from 12noon. Ash Farm (by the lights) by the kindness of Mr & Mrs Lennox. Due to a technical hitch in the BBQ department, (oh yes there was) **please bring your own picnic**, but drinks and ice cream will still be provided. Everybody welcome from Little Hadham parish. See p 20 for the ad.

30 Mon Rock in the Car Park, 3pm - 9pm
10 bands playing in the car park of The Farmer's Boy, Brickendon. Collection in aid of

Isabel Hospice. For more information contact Gary on 01992 511610.

. . . and later

19 Sept **10th Anniversary Chain Walk,** 10:00 - 15:00 This year there are 2 new walks added to the already 17 strong walks which form a chain around the area in which we care for people. Each lead walk is circular with a break at a pub for lunch. Walks are between 8 and 12 miles in distance. A new shorter route will start at the Crooked Chimney in, Lemsford. Unlike the other routes lunch will be at the end of the walk. Distance - Approx 3.5 miles. For more information, please call Maria Alexander on 01707 382500, Isabel Hospice.

26 Sept. **Hallingbury Hike** (see p13)

3 Oct **Open Gardens** Bromley Hall Standon 2 - 5.30pm Support Isabel Hospice by visiting these beautiful gardens. Mature 4½-acre garden surrounding C16 farmhouse (not open). It is both an architectural and a plantsman's garden with an immaculate kitchen garden. Location: 6m W of Bishop's Stortford. On Standon to Much Hadham Road. SG11 1NY contact Renee Friend 01279 7553

9 Oct **Harvest Supper.** Tickets £7.50 from 771532. Book early, as tickets limited.

16 Oct **'A little of what you fancy'** - Old Time Music Hall, Standon VH.

St Mary's Church, Braughing

Flower Festival

Displays created by local societies and Jenyns School

Retrospective exhibition of art work by Marie Sole

Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 August
11am to 4 pm

In aid of Braughing Friends of St Mary's



Light refreshments
Bell ringing



**Muscular
Dystrophy
Campaign**

BARKWAY PARK
GOLF CLUB



CHARITY GOLF DAY at BARKWAY PARK GOLF CLUB

FRIDAY 13 AUGUST 2010

supporting

THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CAMPAIGN

sponsored by



18-hole Stapleford in teams of four

Cost £128 per team to include
Coffee or Tea before play and Buffet
after the Golf.

Team Prizes + Individual Winner's Trophy
Nearest the Pin + Longest Drive Prizes
Putting Competition

ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM

ALAN, 01279 505147

or call 01279 813710 for more
information

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) is staging the Hallingbury Hike, a special four mile circular walk, on Sunday 26 September to highlight the blight which lingers over the beautiful north west Essex countryside in the wake of the recently withdrawn plans to construct a second runway at Stansted. Hikers will set off from 2pm after a commemorative photo at the village hall in Great Hallingbury, just to the south of the airport. There is no charge for taking part. Refreshments will be available from 1pm to 5pm for departing and returning rambles and route maps will be provided.

While the area around Stansted Airport is not spectacular in the way of the Lake District or the Devon coast, it nevertheless has its own quiet, distinctive and outstanding beauty. In the words of Sir John Betjeman, writing in October 1967: "It is a quiet, prosperous, agricultural area of old stone and flint churches, pargetted cottages with red tiled roofs, spreading farms and gabled manor houses, little hills, elms, oaks, willow streams and twisty lanes leading to towns of such renowned beauty as Thaxted and Saffron Walden. The very fact that this country is so gentle, unobvious and typical of the best of England makes it all the more important that, being so near to London, it is preserved from noise and 'development'."

However, while plans for a second runway at Stansted have been scrapped for the time being, airport operator BAA is refusing to give a guarantee that it will not revisit its plans for major expansion over coming decades. This is exacerbating the blight which has hung over the area since plans to expand Stansted were mooted for the fourth time by the Government in 2002.

Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

Do you believe we should build more jails or just allow 'lesser' criminals to face non-custodial sentences? I ask because I used to believe that jail taught offenders a lesson. I don't think that way any more because I believe jail is too cushy and seems an easy option. So let me introduce you to the Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who runs a tented city jail in the Arizona desert, where temperatures can sometimes reach 130°F.

I was first attracted to Sheriff Joe when on visiting Arizona one Christmas, I travelled the highway which runs near to his jail. There, twinkling with Christmas lights, was a "Vacancy" sign outside the entrance to his jail. Joe believes in making life hard for his inmates. He started chain gangs, so the men could do free work on county and city projects. And yes, they march, chained together, wearing the arrowed uniforms we used to see in films. I've seen them. Then he started chain gangs for women so he wouldn't get sued for discrimination.

Jail meals cost 30p, and prisoners must pay for them. He doesn't allow smoking, coffee or porno magazines. He stopped cable TV until he found this was against a federal court order, so he re-instated it but only allows the Disney and the Weather channel. When the 2,000 inmates complained, he told them if they didn't like it, "then don't come back!"

More recently he has taken over the job of caring for the stray animals in the region. It used to cost the County £18 million dollars. Now prisoners operate the animal shelters. They feed, care and walk the dogs and give classes for those wanting to adopt. The cost is now down

[continued on next page](#)

Adverts removed

Rural Ramblings, continued

to \$3 million. Inmates are paid around 23p an hour – and love it – anything to get out of their tents!

Sheriff Joe is re-elected every time with huge majorities – last year it was 83% of the vote. OK, so I don't quite see why he makes the guys wear pink boxers, pink socks and even have pink towels . . . but all the rest I think is quite brilliant.

Why can't we in the UK run a similar type of prison – where hard work and no privileges are the order of the day. Health and Safety or some other namby-pamby government department would surely not allow it. And that, in my opinion, is where it has all gone wrong.

As the Americans would say: "Way to go, Sheriff"!

Averse

Eye halve a spelling checker
It came with my pea sea.
It plainly marks four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long.
And eye can put the error rite
It's rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no.
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My checker tolled me sew.

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 9

parish boundary from Tesco's right round to Albury End, via Bury Green, Danebridge, Ash Valley, Westland Green and over the A120. In all 41 species of bird were recorded including 1 sparrow hawk, 3 bullfinches, 4 chiffchaffs, a willow warbler and the unusual sight of 2 cape teal. The latter will be escapes from an ornamental garden or wildfowl centre.

On the insect front, 12 butterfly species including the threatened small heath, 19 small tortoiseshells, 10 common blues and a single small copper, which is only my 2nd record for the parish. Both 5 spot and 6 spot burnet moths were also observed. (The former shown here)



Finally, a walk to Standon on the 18th July gave superb, if fleeting views of a tawny owl as it flew out of a hedge, nearly dislodging my hat before disappearing into an oak. A southern hawker dragonfly was a first for the year and ringlet, (shown below)



red admiral and peacock butterflies were witnessed. I am now planning my 2nd butterfly and insect walk where all are welcome. Meet at the village hall on Sunday 15th August at 11am for a walk via footpaths to Standon for refreshments at The Star before returning via Bromley and Westland Green. Please email jforgham@theprimaryworks.com or phone 07805 571551 to register your interest. I look forward to meeting a good crowd.

Finally, many thanks to Mick and Judy Wheeler for letting me know of a family of little owls, visible from their garden. I spent a most pleasant 45 minutes photographing these birds whilst enjoying a fine glass of wine. Life can be hard when you're involved in natural history!

Adverts removed

Cricket Club News, continued from page 10

abandoned as a draw.

AUGUST FIXTURES

Sunday 1st	Manuden	Home	2.00pm
Sunday 8th	Furneux Pelham	Away	2.00pm
Sunday 15th	Bengeo	Away	2.00pm
Sunday 22nd	Little Hallingbury	Away	2.00pm
Sunday 29th	Hatfield Heath	Home	2.00pm
Monday 30th	High Beech	Away	2.00pm

The club is always looking to attract new members, so if you are interested in playing cricket and therefore help support your village side, then please contact us on the numbers below even if you have never played before or wish to take up the sport again after a break from playing. 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 for more details. <http://littlehadham.play-cricket.com>

Adverts removed

Lawn tips

Welcome to the first lawn hints and tips section, I am Wes of Lawnsience in Welwyn and have offered to do this column due to the current weather conditions that are hitting lawns severely. Firstly the Met Office is predicting parts of England will be at risk of drought this summer due to the unusually dry start to the year.

Dry Patch can occur in lawns after prolonged dry periods, similar to those predicted for this summer. When Dry Patch occurs, the soil in the lawn becomes coated in a waxy substance causing it to become water repellent. Once this occurs and the soil becomes hydrophobic, it is very difficult to rehydrate even after substantial rain fall. It is far better to prevent Dry Patch than treat it. A wetting agent can be applied which will aid water penetration into the soil profile, reducing surface run off in high spots and prevent puddling in low spots. It also reduces the amount of irrigation or watering needed to maintain the health of the lawn during dry periods.

Cutting your grass to the correct length is vital, the grass plant is designed to have a long leaf (1.5-2 inches) and a longer leaf is a healthier leaf. Leaving the leaves longer means more energy is taken in from sunlight meaning stronger grass and roots battling against the drought.

The previous wet and current warm weather is creating perfect conditions for the fungal disease Red Thread to infect lawns. The disease is especially severe on slow-growing turf. The first noticeable symptoms are reddish patches of grass. When infected, leaf blades are often interspersed with healthy unaffected leaf blades giving the grass a ragged appearance. In

continued on next page

Adverts removed

Lawn tips, continued

severe cases, most leaf blades may be killed and diseased grass looks scorched or yellowed in irregularly-shaped or circular patches from 5 to 50 cm in diameter. The patches may be widely scattered or, if close together, may coalesce into larger spots; any signs of Red Thread should be sprayed with the relevant fungicide to prevent further spreading.

For more information on any of the subjects or for any other questions you may have please do not hesitate to contact me on 01707329080 or email me, wes@lawnsience.co.uk

PC News, continued from page 3

your place of employment or to choose which GP they register with. For instance it would probably be much more convenient if you work to use a GP close to your place of employment or to have a choice as to whether you see a male or female GP. Maybe you need a GP who specialises in a particular illness pertinent to you or if a GP is an awkward journey away from where you live to be able to choose one

in a more convenient location. Overall the PC felt that parishioners would benefit from choices.

Happy Holidays Everyone! - The Parish Council will not meet in August . . . but we will be back in September. We wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

Adverts removed

Come to the
VILLAGE PICNIC

Sponsored by
St CECILIA'S CHURCH

For **ALL** in Little Hadham

at Ash Farm, Standon Road
(near the traffic lights)
in the barn if wet

Sunday 29th August
12 noon onwards

PLEASE NOTE
BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC

Ice cream & soft drinks
will be provided

children's games, tennis & swimming

By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Stuart Lennox



Adverts removed

The 'walking' Stick

Whilst on a visit to Little Hadham on 2 July my trusty walking stick left me and disappeared. Maybe it was tired of being "leaned on" to provide a service or perhaps it was just fed up with my company and needed some time on its own. Whatever its reason it left me standing on my own two rather unsteady feet and I thought that our companionship had come to an end. At the time of our parting I was visiting the parish church graveyard so maybe the afternoon had become too distressing for my companion seeing all my old friends who had passed on. I left without much hope of ever seeing my staunch supporter again but on the following Sunday he was spotted leaning against the wall of Manor Farm house as if he had just returned from a morning walk.

Now the mysterious bit to which I hope the parish magazine may be able to provide an answer. Did this errant perambulation aid accompany a living person to the wall of Manor Farm or was it used by a more ethereal being in need of propping up? Whatever the answer I must extend a heartfelt "Thank you" to this unknown person as later that day my friend and I were reunited.

To whoever left that white stick with red bands against Manor Farm wall "Thank you very much." It was not stolen but returned to me by a friend.

Derek Goodson,
Ibstock,
Leicestershire

Adverts removed

Tribute to Gladys Hounsell

On the 9th July Little Hadham said a sad farewell to Gladys who passed away on 22 June after living every one of her eighty eight years in the village. What was remarkable was the fact that she was the third generation to live entirely in Little Hadham. This must be quite rare these days.

Gladys, the youngest of seven children was a very talented lady. She had a very good singing voice, singing in choirs and performing in many of the village pantomimes. Gladys was also a good artist. Those who visited her in her home would have seen many examples of her water colour paintings around the walls. For many years she was on the committee running the Little Hadham Women's Institute and she was on the committee for the Little Hadham Gardening Club until very recently.

She would knit and crochet in her spare time, producing many garments for her children and grandchildren and was part of a small group of local ladies who meet regularly to knit for charities and hospitals in various parts of Africa.

Having spent all her life in Little Hadham she knew much of the village history. She loved to tell tales of the many characters who had lived here in the distant past.

Above all her talents and interests was the obvious pride she took in her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We, your friends, shall all miss you, Gladys.

Barbara Taylor..

Adverts removed

Complaints Corner

Grumpy Old Men and Moaning Minnies only

I felt compelled to respond to the article written by Nick Bickel.

Please, please Ed keep Complaints Corner - it's not bitching. It's where I quite often have a right good old rant & rave about all & sundry but still remain anonymous if I so wish! What's wrong with that?!

I have asked my identity to be withheld, mind, albeit I'd wager a bet that most people in the village know exactly who wrote this!

Age UK Hertfordshire

Do you have spare time to help local older people?

Age UK Hertfordshire provides a wide range of services throughout the county to help people in later life keep active, independent and up-to-date with the latest helpful information. It is our aim to help make later life a more fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

We are looking to recruit new volunteers to reach increasing numbers of older people in Hertfordshire. Whether you have an hour or a day each week to spare we have volunteering opportunities to suit all.

*To find out more about the roles available contact our HR Team on 01707 386060 or email volunteering@ageukherts.org.uk. Alternatively visit our website www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire
Registered Charity Number 1116662*

Adverts removed

August diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

1 Sunday

Trinity 9 (Proper 13)

8.00am Holy Communion at St Thomas's, Perry Green
9.30am Sung Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
11.15am Parish Communion at St Mary's, Albury

8 Sunday

Trinity 10 (Proper 14)

9.30am Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
5.00pm Taizé Service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham
6.00pm Songs of Praise at St Mary's, Braughing

15 Sunday

Trinity 11 (Proper 15)

8.00am Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
9.30am Village Hall Service at Little Hadham

No evensong at Albury

22 Sunday

Trinity 12 (Proper 16)

11.15am Parish Communion at St Mary's, Albury
6.00pm Evensong at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

29 Sunday

Trinity 13 (Proper 17)

9.15am Shared Benefice Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

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

There have been no entries in the Register this month

Art and Craft Exhibition

This is just to tell you all that our Art & Craft Exhibition went very well. We sold 30 pictures and with the raffle etc. raised £1004 for the Standon Village Hall fund and in spite of the hot weather, Wimbledon and the World Cup we had a very steady through put of visitors on both days. All in all a very good success. Thank you all for your help and support.

Our next event will be on Saturday 16th October 7.45pm – an old Time Music Hall (a professional troupe) presenting 'A little of what you fancy' – cost £10 per head and there will be a bar, refreshments and a raffle. We hope to see you all there.

Denis Olliver

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