

# Little Hadham Parish News

December 2010



Report on page 22

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

## Christmas letter from the Rectory

I have just bought my charity Christmas cards. They will be sent to family and friends, many of whom I rarely see. I suppose in time, and with the cost of stamps ever rising, I may be forced into the electronic Christmas greeting mode. For now the cards continue to be my way of communicating not only my good wishes, but also the fact that we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, who for Christians is our Saviour. There is something good and satisfying about giving the cards.

In many ways, however biblical or tasteful the illustrations on the cards, it seems an inadequate way to mark such a significant event. Yet the activity reminds me that I am part of a network of family, friends and acquaintances who have helped me become the person I am. Greeting them is a way of saying that they have been, and in many cases are still, significant and cherished people in my life.

Christmas can be a very lonely time for some people, and it may be that simply receiving a card can be a small gesture that breaks into the loneliness. I know several elderly friends and relatives who really value receiving a card, reading the message, and feeling cheered that they have been remembered. It is perhaps the young, with lots to do and many still around them, who think "just another card" or "what a chore" to send them.

If there is no time to send cards, it may be that emailing or some other electronic or phone contact is a better option for some. Better still perhaps is to find time to make that one visit you have been intending all year to someone who feels bereaved, lonely or forgotten.

For Christians, and even those who are not regular worshippers but who are open to the message of Christ, going to church will be part of greeting others and greeting the new born child. However for everyone Christmas may be a time to strengthen the ties of kinship, to reach out to friends and to those who are lonely or sorrowful, and to bring a little light into the darkness that often surrounds and threatens to engulf us.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1.5

Happy Christmas. Chris Boulton



## The Future of SSE

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has been consulting on the type of organisation (if any) that should succeed it now that the immediate threat of a second runway had been removed. The feedback taken as a whole, amounts to a strongly held belief that SSE should continue more or less in its present form. There is a widespread view that in the continuing campaign to achieve some form of long term protection against the threat of a second Stansted runway – and in making representations on ongoing issues associated with current operations – SSE should hold on to its well established identity.

Developments on the political front over the past couple of months have also now made it clear that a major campaign effort will be needed not just over the next year or so but beyond. The aviation industry is already lobbying in force trying to persuade politicians and their advisers that "in the interests of UK plc" airport expansion must quickly come back onto the agenda. We now know that the Government will begin the process of formalising its aviation policy early in 2011, starting with a scoping document which will be used as the

*continued on page 22*

# Parish Council News



## **HCC Consultation on the Herts Local Transport Plan**

The Parish Council reviewed Hertfordshire County Council's transport strategy and goals for the next twenty years following the plan's adoption in April 2011. The Parish Council feels HCC's proposals for traffic development are sound, has confirmed its support of the strategy and has suggested five priorities as: 1. ITS: Real time passenger info including linked traffic light signals. 2. Development of pedestrian and cycle routes. 3. Publicity and promotional work in schools and businesses. 4. Addressing congestion hot spots and 5. Establishment of a Taxi Share Scheme.

## **East Herts Core Strategy Consultation**

The Parish Council has sent its response to this consultation by way of a letter. Broadly speaking we felt that the future development of East Herts should take place in the five towns surrounding our area; we believe these are better placed with regard to infrastructure, etc. to absorb new housing and service upgrades which will need to be delivered over the next twenty years or so. We have said we are strongly opposed to development within the Green Belt and to any further development to the areas north of Harlow. We obviously have to accept that "natural growth" of our village will take place over the coming years however we hope this will be minimal as we believe the integrity of the ambience of the rural countryside which surrounds us should be protected as far as is practically possible.

## **Damage to the War Memorial**

Thank you to the helpers who turned up to lend a hand and especially to Tony for all his hard work. The War Memorial was repaired and in good shape again for the Remembrance Sunday ceremony. It would be a good idea to

set up a small working party of local people who could take it in turn to keep an eye so that any damage that may occur in the future could be dealt with on a "running repair" basis. Any volunteers please? Contact Carmela 466331 or [cam2403@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cam2403@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Village hall notice board**

It has been agreed that the notice board just outside the village hall entrance doors will be refurbished in the very near future. A new door will be installed with new perspex; the new door will allow notices to be displayed and read in a much more practical way.

## **The Ash Bridge Refurbishment**

Least said the better. Works so far are on schedule so only a couple more weeks of inconvenience. . .fingers crossed!

## **Police Locality Meeting**

Cllr Mary Wilkinson attended the recent meeting where she raised a couple of important local issues on our behalf. As a result of her efforts police are now scheduled to keep a check on drivers speeding through Little Hadham and also on drivers jumping the lights from the direction of the side roads, as drivers are apparently attempting this dangerous manoeuvre quite regularly. Let's hope the police presence proves positive.

## **Airport News**

The Chairman Andy Morris was pleased to report the withdrawal by NATS of the proposed change to local flight paths – Little Hadham would have suffered even more disturbance if this move had gone ahead. It is hoped that any new plans will not have such a detrimental effect on our village.

## **Brownie Pack Donation**

It is with great pleasure that the Parish Council has agreed to donate £100 to the [continued on page 13](#)





# Nature Notes, October/November

by Jonathan Forgham

As November becomes increasingly grey, the winter birds are now beginning to show in good numbers. Earlier in the period the colours around the village were excellent, before the first frosts encouraged the leaves to drop.

Wintering gulls were a feature on the 27th October when I counted in excess of 170 around the polo fields at Bury Green. The majority of these were lesser black backed gulls which were accompanied by 12 herring gulls and over 30 black headed gulls. I suspect these are the same birds that roost at Amwell Nature Reserve between Stanstead Abbots and Ware. Also on this particular day I recorded good numbers of fieldfares. Their constant "chack chack" call being heard from trees around Ash Valley Golf Club.



On the 11th, a walk around the golf course realised 33 species in all, with a hunting merlin being the highlight. The smallest British falcon, it was seen in fields opposite South Cottages, firstly chasing linnets and then again later, itself being chased by a mob of jackdaws. Other birds on the golf course were skylarks, a male sparrow hawk and the resident kestrel.

On Bonfire Night another walk around the Chapel Lane/Westland Green vicinity gave excellent views of over 30 fieldfare and 20 redwings.

However, the 100th bird species for the parish may not be far off as there has been an

*continued on page 6*



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# Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving



The countdown to Christmas has officially started!

The Foundation Stage children kicked it off with their annual 'Glitter Morning' when parents were invited to work alongside their child in creating an array of different Christmas decorations.

We hope to see many of you at our traditional Christmas Bazaar on Sunday 5th December from 12-3pm. Come along and let Santa know what you wish for Christmas!

Our Senior Citizens are warmly welcome to our KS1 Dress Rehearsal of 'Whoops-a-daisy Angel' at 10.00am on Monday 6th Dec with a cuppa and a mince pie afterwards. They are also welcome to KS2's 'Carols around the Tree' Dress Rehearsal on Monday 13th Dec at 2pm.

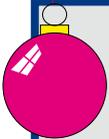
Everyone is also welcome to join us in our very special 'Carols by Candlelight' at St Cecilia's Church on Wednesday 15th Dec at 6.30pm. If that doesn't get you in the mood for the festive season-then nothing will!

We also continue to run our Tuesday Senior Citizens ICT Club at 4pm, so come along and surf away!

Next year is the school's 150 years' celebration and we are beginning to gather together historical information about the school over the years. If you have any old newspaper cuttings, photos, anecdotes or other information, please could you let us know so that we can build up our 150 year school history jigsaw puzzle.

For those of you with pre-school children, may I remind you of our Thursday morning 'Mini Movers' Club and Wednesday afternoon 'Musical Minis'. Please contact the school for further details. Thank you for your continued support and Season's Greetings to you all!

Liz Stockley, Head Teacher



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*Nature Notes*, continued from page 4

invasion of Scandinavian birds over the last month. Amongst these are thousands of waxwings. A charismatic bird, with its wonderful colours and fluffy crest, it will appear anywhere where there are red berry trees, so keep an eye out for this bird on rowan, hawthorn and cotoneaster. These invasions (irruptions) of waxwings occur every five years or so and are caused by the berry crop failing in Norway and Sweden as well as by there having been a most successful breeding season. Other birds to look out for that have arrived across the North Sea are bramblings, siskins and redpolls. All are likely to be seen in East Herts.

I would like to thank all those who attended my talk in the village hall, a super audience. A most enjoyable evening where I concluded with a brief overview of my bio diversity action plan.



The first action will be to monitor the population of yellowhammers (shown left) in the parish and I propose a survey on Sunday 2nd January, meeting at the village hall at 10.00a.m. We shall then head off to a variety of sites to count the amount of yellowhammers present. No knowledge of this easy to identify bird is required as I shall bring along photos and a recording of its call and song. The survey should be completed by 1.00pm. Please bring your car as it would be best if we could cover areas

from south of The Ford, Millennium Wood and parts of the parish that adjoin Albury parish. Please email or phone if you would like to volunteer for this 3 hour survey. The more the merrier.

([jforgham@theprimaryworks.com](mailto:jforgham@theprimaryworks.com) or phone 07805571551)

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## Down at the Doctor's



We've seen the baby! Sara Macbay popped in on Monday 8th November with little Oliver and surgery was suspended for a few minutes whilst all the girls cooed and brooded; I'm afraid they all look the same to me! Mother and baby are doing well, although Sara does look a little tired (anyone out there with the t-shirt?).

Some of you eagle-eyed villagers may have noticed that yellow planning notices regarding our proposed extension have been posted, so things are moving ahead with that project and by this time next year . . .

With winter on its way, we've been busy with the typical autumnal viruses and flu clinics. Oonagh Morris, our nurse practitioner, has settled into her branch surgery sessions in Little Hadham and Hunsdon on alternate Thursday mornings, which seems to be very popular with the punters (or are you "clients" these days?). However, on a personal note, I'm so busy rehearsing with the Much Hadham drama group, Little Hadham pantomime and local band (yes folks, I have delusions about rock-star status) that I actually look forward to Monday mornings when I can go to work for a rest!

Finally, I would like to wish you all, on behalf of both myself and all at the Health Centre, a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. See you in 2011.

*Brian & Brenda Kain wish all their neighbours and friends a happy Christmas and healthy and happy New Year.*



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## Pottery Kilns at Bromley Hall Farm

A packed Little Hadham Village Hall was enthralled by a talk given by Chris Lydamore from Harlow Museum and sponsored by Little Hadham Parish Plan Group. The presentation was based on work done in the late 1960s by Bernard Barr from Enfield, a first class, but underrated amateur archaeologist from Enfield. Sadly Bernard never received the full credit that his work deserved, mainly because he never formally reported any of his results. Fortunately, after his death, his daughter passed on all his notes to Chris, who managed to put them into order.

In the early 1960s Bernard and Eric Stacey commenced a long field study of the Wellpond Green area in an attempt to trace a Roman road from Braughing. This proved difficult because most of the area was wooded, or put down to pasture, which hid any ground features. By 1964, when Bromley Hall Farm changed ownership, they were able to persuade the new owner to allow them a close and detailed study of the fields at Pig's Green and Caley Wood, an area straddling the boundaries of little Hadham, Much Hadham and Standon. Their chances were greatly improved by the changes in farming techniques being introduced at that time, with a move towards increasing field size. The resulting removal of many hedges exposed large quantities of pot shards, and several areas where the soil was blackened by charcoal remaining from the potters fires.

By 1966-7 they had found, and examined the first of several kilns, which proved to be a simple up-draught kiln with a stoke hole attached to a furnace and oven. Uniquely for that time, the structure of the oven showed that it had been relined no less than nine times before being

*continued on page 14*



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## Nasty Notes from an Ugly Sister (The prettier one)

WELL!! Mummys, the Baroness, has had to have stern words with my sister (the ugly one) and me about our behaviour.

Firstly, she says we're not being nasty enough to our upstart of a step-sister Cinderella; or "Cinders" as she's called by that love-struck idiot, Buttons. We really don't know how we can be any nastier and cruel to her but I've read somewhere about a place called Guantanamo Bay; perhaps those nice chaps at the CIA could give us some ideas.

Talking of "nice chaps", that's the other thing Mummys saw the need to have words about. This Prince Charming bloke, who obviously can only marry one of us, seems to be the only suitable bachelor around. We have been trying very hard but my sister (the ugly one) keeps putting men off. She really needs to see a plastic surgeon for her baggy eyes, a nose job, face lift, botox and collagen. Even then, the prince is bound to choose me, as long as he doesn't clap his eyes on Cinderella, and I will be a Princess and live in a big castle with lots of servants and have holidays to Verbier and the Caymans. Ooooooh, I can't wait...

## Anyone in Little Hadham interested in doing some running ..?

I am a total beginner, but desperate to find a way to get fit! I work from home, have two small children (and a great 'full time' stay at home Daddy!) and find it difficult to motivate myself to get out of the house to go to the gym or commit to any kind of regular sports club, so am keen to find someone in the village who would like to run 1-2 times a week (flexible times during the day and/or weekends) around the local area, so that a quick 40mins exercise means exactly that! If you are interested, please call Kate on 01279 771076, or email: [katehipkin@yahoo.com](mailto:katehipkin@yahoo.com)

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## Footpath destruction in Little Hadham



As many of you are aware the footpath running from the side of Millhouse along the back of the houses on the western side of Albury Road to the oak trees by the farm track was illegally ploughed in October to such a degree that what was probably the most widely used footpath in the village has now become a quagmire.

EHCC have inspected the destruction and have confirmed that the actions taken by the farmer are illegal and that, in law, he had 2 weeks to make good his destruction. Those 2 weeks have now long gone and so EHCC are being actively pursued to follow this up. As the anti-rabbit fence that now runs down the middle of the old footpath was initially placed there illegally earlier this summer I have requested that the council make enquiries as to having this fence removed so as to at least enable villagers to be able to make some use of the path.

Anybody wanting an update as to what the current situation is should contact Nicholas Maddex at EHCC on [nicholas.maddex@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.maddex@hertsc.gov.uk) mentioning that your request pertains to footpath LH Fp 57

Many thanks to everyone in Ford Hill, The Ford and Chapel Lane who gave so very generously when I was collecting money for the poppy appeal. We raised an amazing £180.09, which is quite a record for our little area! Thanks for all the kind offers of tea/coffee/ Gin and tonic and wine too!

Helen.

***The committee would like to thank all members of Much Hadham Horticultural Society and Allotment Club for their support over the past year and wish you a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.***



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# Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

Why are men so boring? I ask this after an abortive trip to various shops to try and get going on my Christmas present buying. And I have decided that, unless you are a man who likes football or golf, there is very little on the market that I can buy for you. OK, there are always the 'smellies', pre-shave/aftershave/shampoo/skin conditioner/deodorant – and also that old chestnut, the needy car. But buying wash kits and anti-freeze or the obligatory key ring with flashlight doesn't do it for me.

Then there is the seasonal glut of ties including those featuring Santa and his reindeer (mercifully only wearable around Christmas and the New Year!)... but would YOU like to have your clothes chosen for you by another? I think not!

Go into any shop and the place is full of wonderful pressies for women. I could choose 20 items for every one I know. But turn to the men's gift department, and there is nothing which rings that bell! Even good old M&S have let us down with their male offerings – golf, footie and fast car knick-knacks. The whole range takes up one shelf of one fitment, while the women's gifts crowd out the whole of the rest of the department.

Ask most men what they would like this coming festive season and chances are all you'll get is a grunt with a comment "I'll have a think about that one". Maybe the cynic in me thinks that really his favourite pressie would be someone prettier, sexier and younger than his current model!

Meantime, may I wish you and your families a very happy, harmonious Christmas.

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# What's on in December ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

**There is no Dec. meeting of the Garden Club.**

**4 Sat, SSE Celebratory Party.** Tickets (£10) must be booked in advance, include supper with licensed pay-bar. Info. 01279 870558.

**4 Sat, Braughing Music Soc. Note new venue.** See poster on page 13.

**4 Sat, SSE Celebratory Party** See page 16.

**5 Sun, Jingle Bells & Bows Fun Run/Walk.** 9:30 -1:30 This successful event in aid of Isabel Hospice is in its 4th year, with runners and walkers circling Stanborough Lakes in Welwyn Garden City. The 5K run is at 10.30 with registration at 9.30. The 4K walk is at 11.30, registration at 10.30. Run in fancy dress if you wish, maybe a Christmas Pudding or Father Christmas (prizes for the best costumes). Entry is £12 (free entry for under 16s). Hot drinks & mince pies will be available. Email [julie.north@isabelhospice.org.uk](mailto:julie.north@isabelhospice.org.uk).

**5 Sun, Christmas Bazaar,** LH School, 12-3pm Santa's Grotto, Raffle, Carols from the School choir, Refreshments, Boozy Tombola, Crafts, Face painting, Home-made baking, & more.

**5 Sun, music@stansted,** 3pm, St John's, Stansted., a piano recital by the internationally famous pianist, Charles Owen. Programme will include Bach's Partita no 6 in e minor, Debussy's Images Book 1, Schumann's Papillons op 2 and Ravel's Le Tombeau de Couperin. Info: [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com) Tickets cost £12, Children £1, available from: Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted, Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford, Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282).

**5 Sun, Reflections at Christmas.** 4pm, St Elizabeth's Chapel. Dedicate a candle and sing carols. Service followed by mince pies and mulled wine. All are welcome.

**7 Tue, Parish Council meeting,** 8pm.

**9, 23** Mobile Library, See next page.

**11 Sat, St Elizabeth's Santa Dash.** 11am start. Get on your running shoes and take part in this new fun event. Help raise money for St Elizabeth's.. Registration form 01279 844355. Children welcome.

**12 Sun, Much Hadham Christmas Market,** 12-6pm Village Hall, Hopleys and The Forge. More details on page 15.

**14 Tue, LH & A Social Club,** 8pm. A Christmas Fun evening, with cheese and wine. There is no membership fee, just £1.50 per evening, which includes refreshments, and we have a raffle and charity book sales table. Info. 771580 or 658585.

**16 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning. A Special Christmas edition from 11.00am-1.00pm** (rear entrance to the Village Hall). At 11.30am we will be singing carols by request. There will be mince pies, sausage rolls, etc. Please come and join us if you can. The timing is, of course for December only. In January we return to the usual 10.00am - 12.00noon.

**22 Wed, Special Christmas Farmers' Market,** 5pm-7pm, for customers to pick up their Christmas orders, get their fresh produce ready for the festive season as well as picking up those last minute items.

**22 Wed, Carol Service,** St Cecilia's, 7.30pm Refreshments and mince pies after the service. Everybody welcome.

## ... and next year?

2 Jan **Bird Survey,** meet at Village Hall 10am.

21 Jan **Jazz Night** at Haileybury, 7.30pm. Call Maria Alexander in Fundraising for your tickets (£25) on 01707 382500.

30 Jan, 12 Mar, **music@stansted.**

# Local History Talk



Over 100 people enjoyed a fascinating and very informative talk on the kilns discovered at Bromley Hall, organised by the Parish Plan Group. There is a wealth of history in our area as shown by the many artifacts brought along by staff and helpers from Harlow Museum. Experts were on hand to date any "bits of old pottery I dug up in the garden" and some were pleased to find that they were, in fact, very old. It is hoped to start a local history society and details can be obtained from Mike Smith, Tandle, The Ford.

*Braughing Music Society* -

**Candlelit Concert**  
Music for Advent and Christmas  
with carols for audience  
participation

**The Fairhaven Singers**

Saturday 4th December - 7:30 pm  
St Mary's Church, Standon

TICKET PRICES  
£12 Premium; £10 Standard

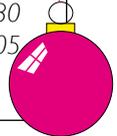
Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073  
www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk

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**9th & 23rd December  
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.



## PC News, continued from page 3

Little Hadham Brownie Pack. Brown Owl Judy Wheeler said the money would go towards equipment which the Brownie pack is in need of.

Seasons Greetings to all parishioners. We hope this Christmas will be a peaceful & restful one for all.

There will be no Parish Council meeting in January. The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 1st Feb 2011.

## Little Hadham Brownies.

I would really like to thank the parents of my Brownies and the Brownies for attending the Remembrance Service and laying one of the wreaths. The Brownies looked excellent in their uniforms and made me very proud to be their Brown Owl. Well Done.

The Brownie Unit is currently full but we have an open waiting list for new Brownies. We meet Tuesdays 4.30-6.00 in the Village Hall.

Judi Wheeler



## Pottery Kilns, continued from page 8

abandoned. It was christened the "onion" kiln.

Subsequent years enabled an expanded team with a dedicated group of local volunteers, to discover several more kilns; a horizontal draught kiln with two stoke holes; a further onion kiln; and a more thoroughly engineered kiln dedicated to producing floor tiles. These were associated with large quantities of substandard (known as wasters) pots which had subsided during firing; as well as much broken pot. Both the waste dumps and the kilns were dated to between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD by finding associated coins.

Detailed study of the pottery forms has enabled the presence of Hadham Ware to be identified in other places, such as Colchester and even on Hadrian's Wall. The Bromley Hall site was evidently of an industrial scale, exporting significant quantities of produce via the excellent Roman road system (Ermine Street and Stane Street) to other parts of the Province.

Following the discussions many of those attending stayed to examine the various samples of pottery, and coins which had been brought along.

Plans to form a local history group for the Hadhams area were announced. If you were not present at the meeting, but would be interested in supporting such a group, please contact Mike Smith (telephone 771568) or Christine Harrison at the Forge Museum.

**Frank & Karin wish all their friends in Little Hadham  
a Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year**



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## A glass slipper for a ruby anniversary

2011 will mark the 40th anniversary of Little Hadham Pantomime Group who are celebrating by returning to their very first production, Cinderella.

The traditional, well known and much loved pantomime will be performed over the last two weekends of January at Little Hadham Village Hall and a spectacular show is promised by producer, Sue Wetherall, from a witty script by John Leech. The usual ingredients will be there for all to enjoy; the downtrodden Cinders, her friend Buttons and, of course, the two nasty, scheming ugly sisters in their outrageous costumes. Wonderful scenery and special effects along with plenty of songs, dance routines and a few surprise characters will ensure that all who come will have a magical time.

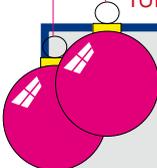
Show dates are: Friday 21st (7.45) Saturday 22nd (2.30 and 7.45) Friday 28th (7.45) and Saturday 29th (2.30 and 7.45). There will be a raffle and refreshments available at all performances, and a bar for the evening ones. Tickets are available on 01279 843427

Come and help us celebrate our 40th in style.

### **Much Hadham Christmas Market 12th December 12-6pm Village Hall, Hopleys and The Forge Museum**

Refreshments, handcrafted stalls, food hall and general market stalls

Entertainment from Youth Create, Mulled Wine, Christmas wreaths, Christmas trees, Visit from Santa and much more . . . Please join in the fun for the whole family. For more details contact Annica on 841481



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## Garden Club News

Our talk last month on 'Plants of the Southern Hemisphere' made us all think of warmer climates. Also our club supper gave us the opportunity of fine food and good company. Our thanks go to Jan at Clouds for the lovely food and also to those committee members who made it all possible.

We have no meeting in December; our next one is on 18th January at 1pm (afternoon talk). June Crew is talking to us about the 'Lea Valley Park'. We are offering a ploughman's lunch before the talk at 12 noon, please book your lunch with Karin 771532 or Barbara 771987.

As for your garden, continue tidying – sweeping leaves, digging when possible, unless of course you have it all under control. When the weather is bad you can clear out and clean your shed and greenhouse ready for the new season. If there's time, sit back and start planning next year and order your seeds. Be creative and cut some of your winter foliage to make Christmas decorations such as wreaths and table centres.

### Stop Stansted Expansion Celebratory Party, Saturday 4th December

While SSE still has important unfinished business to complete to obtain long term security against the future threat of airport expansion, the campaign group will be taking time out to celebrate the successes of the year - the withdrawal of the second runway application and change of government policy. All are welcome to join the celebrations at the annual Christmas party which this year will be held in Great Easton, near Dunmow, on the evening of **Saturday 4 December**. Tickets must be booked in advance (£10 per head), to include supper with a licensed pay-bar. For more details or to book, contact SSE's campaign office on 01279 870558.



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## **New structure arrangement for Local Resilience Forum in Hertfordshire**

A NEW streamlined partnership approach to emergency planning in Hertfordshire comes into effect this autumn with a focus on reducing bureaucracy and being more innovative against a backdrop of increasing financial challenges.

Following extensive consultation between all partners and volunteer agencies involved in supporting Hertfordshire Resilience, the new structure has seen the creation of two distinct work areas – ‘response and planning’ and ‘people and communities’.

Keith Emsall, Executive Member for Community Safety and Culture, said “Hertfordshire Resilience is successful because of the positive contribution of its partners. Together we have supported each other through some of the most challenging major incidents this country has seen in recent years.

“However, we had become increasingly bureaucratic with more than 20 separate working groups supporting the activities of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) which is challenging to sustain even in the best of times. Working closely with our partners we have developed a new structure that can enable us to be more dynamic. The two work stream areas will be supported by task and finish groups to ensure we are delivering and not getting bogged down in bureaucracy.” He further explained: “Everything we have done is subject to review and can only work if our partners remain supportive.”

Hertfordshire Resilience activities will now be directed through a new ‘Management Group’

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# Neighbourhood Watch Update

## Garden Sheds

Folks we are still being asked to be vigilant as there have now been many thefts from garden sheds in Little Hadham. I realise that most things that are stored in sheds cannot be kept in the house but please take a good look at smaller valuables in your shed and if you can please lock them away in the house. Let's give the thieves a hard time. Remember gather information if it is safe to do so but never approach a suspect. Our local Bobby is particularly interested in "suspicious" car makes and models and car reg numbers.

## Scam Phone Calls

Please be aware that we are being targetted by scam phone calls again; I have recently received messages from two parishioners who have been on the receiving end of such calls from 'house alarm companies'. If a phone call sounds in the least bit suspicious please just put the receiver down. Feel free to email me to join the Neighbourhood Watch Alert contact list: [cam2403@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cam2403@hotmail.co.uk)  
Carmela 466331

## Thank You

As always my friends and neighbours in Cradle End & Green Street were very generous recently when I collected donations on behalf of The Royal British Legion - thank you for your support for this very worthy cause.  
Carmela



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## Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

We had a full hall at our November meeting, when Jonathan gave an overview of local nature sightings and also talked us through his recent visit to The Camargue, all with delightful photographs. He also told us of his Bio Diversity Action Plan for the parish of Little Hadham and his new publication 'The Natural History of Little Hadham 2008-2010', of which he has no doubt given more detailed information in this magazine. It was an excellent evening, enjoyed by everyone and we are already looking forward to his next visit to the Social Club in November, 2011!

We plan to hold a Table Top Sale in the Village Hall in the early Spring, 2011, proceeds to be given to the Grove Cottage Charity, Bishop's Stortford. So, in the dark days of winter, sort through items you could sell, adding any unwanted Christmas presents, and book a table. More details to follow.

The 2011 programme will be available in December, commencing with Samirah and her Belly Dancers on 11th January – make a note on your calendar now! Also, our meeting in February is our Annual Dinner, this year to be held in the Village Hall. We will have menu details etc., next month. But, before that, do come along at 8 pm on 14th December, when we are organising a Christmas Fun evening, with cheese and wine. We are always pleased to see old friends, but would be delighted to see some new faces – the Social Club is open to everyone and we would also welcome new ideas. There is no membership fee, just £1.50 per evening, which includes refreshments, and we have a raffle and charity book sales table. Phone 771580 or 658585 for information. Our very best wishes for a very lovely Christmas and for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Barbara, Binnie and Ennis.



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**LRF in Herts**, continued from page 17

chaired by Hertfordshire Constabulary. It will be responsible for decision making and overseeing programmes of work aimed at making Hertfordshire better prepared to respond in a crisis. This includes more effective engagement with the public.

Above the 'Management Group' sits the 'Executive Group' chaired by Hertfordshire County Council, set up with the aim of giving the LRF a clearer focus in how it manages emergency planning issues on behalf of the diverse communities of Hertfordshire.

"A huge amount of work has been done behind the scenes to adapt the structure of the LRF; this includes the creation of a new link [www.hertsdirect.org/readyforanything](http://www.hertsdirect.org/readyforanything) which we hope the public and partners can access more easily to find out more about what we do and how we can help," added Keith.

# We want to make healthcare better for people with learning disabilities.

Please tell us what you think of our plans.



Visit our website: [www.eoe.nhs.uk/learningdisability](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/learningdisability)  
Email: [vision@eoe.nhs.uk](mailto:vision@eoe.nhs.uk)  
Or telephone: 01223 596 888

Please respond by 11 January 2011

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## Full House with Slap and Tickle

*On 16th October, Standon Village Hall entertained 90 people (full house) to an Old Time Music Hall Show put on by the Slap & Tickle Players, a professional troupe from North London. The show was excellent and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the fun and banter, particularly the impression of Hylde Baker by one of the group. They also enjoyed the licensed bar and the raffle with 28 prizes. This is the first time the Hall Committee have put on something similar to this and the show was very well received with numerous complimentary remarks and observations made.*

*Some £454 profit was made from the evening and this will go towards the Village Hall funds and the Committee are hoping to organise a village senior citizen evening around Easter time in conjunction with the Community Centre at which the proceeds from this and other events will be used to hopefully good effect.*

*Thanks to all who attended and supported the evening. Our next formal event will be Friday 18th March which will be a Race Night with a fish and chip supper – cost £9 per ticket.*

*Tickets from Denis Olliver 01 279 842625..*

**Come to a Carol Service on Wednesday 22nd  
December at 7.30pm at St Cecilia's with  
refreshments and mince pies after the service.**



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## Remembrance Sunday

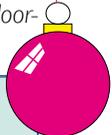


The high attendance at Little Hadham's War Memorial Remembrance Service echoed the Nation's awareness of the sacrifices made by many of our young men and women in conflicts around the world. No doubt the frequent media reports of conditions and casualties in Afganistan had concentrated minds on the price paid by our soldiers and airmen in that hostile environment, and the 100 villagers who attended the Service on 14th November demonstrated a great strength of feeling and solidarity for our troops.

This year four wreaths were laid: the first by the Chairman of the Parish Council, then another by four uniformed Brownies carrying their Standard. Two pupils from Little Hadham School followed laying their wreath on behalf of the School, and lastly a wreath from the Church. The Service was conducted, as usual, without clergy, by Mick Crace. It was felt that small though our contribution may have been we had shown support for those who daily risk their lives on behalf of our country. A serving soldier, S/Sgt Leak QGM of the REME (Bomb Disposal Squad) had been given leave to join us that day and is pictured at The Memorial with his twin sons and the two School Captains; Mary and Joshua from Year 6. Picture on front cover.

### Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

On behalf of the British Legion, I should like to thank everybody who helped with this year's appeal, to those who gave so generously and to those who gave their time to go collecting door-to-door. A record amount of £813.78 was raised. Congratulations to all concerned.



### The Future of SSE, continued from page 2

basis of a full consultation the following year. The starting point will be 'no new runways in the south east' within the current Parliamentary term. SSE will be actively involved at every stage of the policy development process, working hard to convert the exclusion in the review of any more runways in the south east into a longer term moratorium, and will be providing guidance on responding.

Shortly after the Secretary of State's announcement about the development of the new policy, SSE had a formal meeting with his Aviation Minister Theresa Villiers to discuss the call for a moratorium on additional runways at Stansted and the issue of the continued ownership by BAA of hundreds of homes bought under the threat of compulsory purchase in recent years, most of which are rented out on very short leases. Her stated willingness to look closely at the issues was encouraging and SSE is providing more information to the Minister for this purpose.

**Action on noise.** While the NATS consultation on the proposed airspace changes for this region has been postponed for several years pending a more wide-reaching review of flight paths across southern and eastern England, noise from current airport operations continues to be an issue of serious concern to many.

It is important that you complain to BAA when you are disturbed by noisy or off-track aircraft so that a record is made of this within the statistics. Ideally, this should be done through SSE's website [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com) (see the 'Complain About Noise' link) so that its

*continued on page 24*



## Scam in Little Hadham

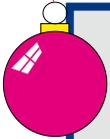
Have you recently received through your letter box a little white plastic bag from an organisation calling itself Little Treasures Children's Trust? Those who run LTCT ask you to donate good quality clothing and similar items, place them in the little white bag, leave them outside your front door and a linked organisation called ELT (East London Textiles) will collect them the next Friday and ensure the proceeds go to worthy causes.

Sounds OK doesn't it, especially as we're coming up to Christmas; and with plenty of goodwill in the air it was noticed that some kindly Christian folk in the village had complied with the request and left bags outside on the nominated Friday.

However, as with all these cold calling, professed charitable groups there's a catch! A search on the internet reveals that all is not well with LTCT and ELT! One on-line subscriber says, 'It is either an unlicensed scam or involves the theft of charity bags' and an ELT employee named IVAN claimed, 'there's a turf war going on in north London'. Yet, we fall for it time and again. A call to East Herts revealed that this particular collection was indeed unlawful and no application had been made for a 'License'.

The question is where will all our good quality garments and rarely used clothing go? By now you may have guessed that hungry and disadvantaged children are unlikely to benefit from our donations and the thought may cross your mind that we've been had!

So why do we do it? Why, when it's so easy to pop into town and hand our clothing, books and other useful items to a properly registered, well run, honest and, usually, volunteer staffed shop like, for example, Isabel Hospice, Heart Foundation etc? Think on.



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# December diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

**5 Sunday**

**2nd of Advent**

9.30am

Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**12 Sunday**

**3rd of Advent**

9.30am

Shared Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**19 Sunday**

**4th of Advent**

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Little Hadham Village Hall Service

6.30pm

Carol Service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

**15 Wednesday**

6.30pm

School Carols by Candlelight at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**22 Wednesday**

7.30pm

Family Carol Service in St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**24 Friday**

**Christmas Eve**

6.00pm

Christingle at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11.15pm

Midnight Communion at St Mary's, Braughing

**25 Saturday**

**Christmas Day**

9.30am

Family Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**26 Sunday**

**St Stephen's Day**

9.30am

Benefice Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

**2 January Sunday**

**Christmas I**

9.30am

Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**Register:** Nelson Hume (Jack) Cowland, aged 96 years of Albury Road, died 2.11.10. He leaves a widow, Babe. Funeral was at St Cecilia's on 15th November, followed by cremation.

## The Future of SSE, continued from page 22

noise experts can follow up and use the complaints as leverage to press for improvements. If you do not have Internet access, call SSE on 01279 870558 for a copy of their explanatory leaflet about other ways to register complaints.

Your complaints will also be invaluable when it comes to registering the widespread concerns over night flights in the forthcoming 'Night Flying Restrictions' consultation which is expected in 2011 and will cover the period 2012 to 2017. **If there are only a few complaints – particularly about night noise – this will be used by BAA to claim a lack of disturbance and to resist attempts to tighten controls – even if complaints fatigue is simply born of frustration.**

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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