

Little Hadham Parish News April 2011

Little Hadham Parish Assembly 2011

Little Hadham Parish Council is very pleased to
announce the



Little Hadham Parish Assembly

to be held at the Village Hall

Thursday 21st April, 7.30pm for 8pm start

Everyone in the community is cordially invited.

Complimentary wine and nibbles and a warm welcome as
always awaits! Catch up on local news and views;
put your questions to guest speakers and meet up with
friends and neighbours on what promises to be
an evening of good community spirit!

An added attraction this year meet **local groups and clubs**
including Brownies, Cricket club, Karate club, Social club,
Sunday School and many more.

Be proud - ours is a thriving parish - join in, there's lots going on.

Hope to see you and yours there!

Rector of Parish: Revd. Chris Boulton
01279 842609

e-mail: rectory@muchhadham.com

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

Once again our television screens have been filled with scenes of devastation. From Christchurch New Zealand to Japan the effects of severe earthquakes have shattered any complacency we might have about the superiority of human beings over the forces of nature. Whole communities have been reduced to rubble in Japan by the massive tsunami that swept the coastal regions. Thousands lost their lives. Now the threat from the damaged nuclear plants casts a shadow over the country and alerts all nations to the dangers of uncontained nuclear energy. Japan of all countries knows the horrors that radiation can cause.

Such incidents make many believers ask, like Jesus on the cross: "My God, why have you forsaken me, and are so far from the voice of my complaint?" It is a question; and remains a question. There is no easy reply. If we see God as the mighty force behind such calamities, then he has much to answer. But if we see God as the Spirit who inhabits the hearts and minds of those who show compassion and the one who gives strength from within; then we can find faith even amid the horrors.

I am yet again humbled by the great determination of those affected by the disasters to survive and rebuild their lives and their towns. For me, this is akin to the resurrection hope that fills the church. We will be celebrating this hope in our churches as we come on Easter Day to celebrate Christ's risen presence in the world. It is a hope based on knowledge of suffering, not upon easy answers, and upon our confidence in God as divine compassion.

Chris Boulton

Kyokujitsu Kyokushin Karate Club

Little Hadham's Karate Club excelled itself, even by its own excellent standards, at the recent East Anglia Open Championships. The competition was attended by sixteen other clubs, with approximately 100 competitors entering from all over the UK and one fighter even making the trip over from Holland to compete. The Club completely dominated the children's section of the tournament, receiving sixteen trophies overall which included seven first places. This fantastic performance put the Club at the top of the overall medals table, an amazing 18 points ahead of their closest rivals! Toby Booth, Ryan Andrews, Benjamin Petch & Jamie Petch all came first in their respective semi-contact categories, with Ryan, Benny and Jamie then all going on to making it a double by winning their full-contact (knockdown) categories as well. Other trophy winners were Cole Reeves (2nd & 3rd), Jamie Dunne (2nd), Isabelle Wright (3rd), Tiegan Reeves (2nd), Bobby Holland (3rd), Leon O'Connor (2nd), Ben Harrell (3rd) and James Blaney who came 3rd in the Men's semi-contact category.

Jamie Petch is now in training for the Dutch Open Championships to be held in Holland on 9 April. He will be the club's first ever representative in Europe, fighting in the full contact 16-17 year old category. We wish him all the best!

If you want any further information on the club or the other fitness activities I run in the village, please contact myself, Catherine Petch, on 01279 771636 or 07946 484498 catherinepetch@yahoo.co.uk.

Parish Council News

The Green at Westland Green

You will recall that month we reported damage had been caused to The Green at Westland Green by "off-road" drivers of 4x4 vehicles. The Parish Council has now heard that Mr Maddex (HCC Rights of Way Officer) has applied to the Secretary of State for a temporary closure of the area to off-roaders, who had visited the site as recently as last week. Mr Maddex is seeking quotations from contractors and looking to secure the funding in order to carry out the work required to eventually put a stop to this situation. We are hopeful that we should hear of a decision in the next couple of months.

Playground Equipment

The Parish Council is seeking quotations for on-going maintenance work required to the apparatus at the village hall playground following a routine inspection by East Herts Council which flagged up some minor repairs which are required. Please be assured the apparatus is safe to use - the work required is routine maintenance which we are obliged to keep on top of.

Damage to Verges & Banks from Cradle End to Ford Hill & beyond

Councillor Mrs Piccolo has revisited this situation and is sorry to report there is unfortunately no easy way of solving this persistent problem. Please see separate article on page 4.

Parish Plan Group News

Little Hadham Fun Run 2011 - Sunday 12th June - This year with everyone's support it will

be bigger & better! Please lend your support by taking part in what promises to be a great day of fun for the whole community.

Jono's Book - Jono's book on the biodiversity of Little Hadham is hot off the press and now officially for sale in the parish and beyond! Catch up with Jono at this year's Parish Assembly Thursday 21st April - if you've not secured your copy yet please buy the book there - it's full of local info & photos - all proceeds to go to the Little Hadham Parish Plan Group.

Parish Assembly

Little Hadham Parish Council will hold this year's Parish Assembly on **Thursday 21st April** 7.30pm for 8pm start at the Village Hall - complimentary wine and nibbles together with a warm welcome await all parishioners - please show your support - it's your chance to catch up with what goes on in your village. We have guest speakers and representatives from local clubs & groups as a special feature this year. Hope to see you & yours there!

Parish Council meeting

The Parish Council has invited Mr Hurford (President of Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation) to give a talk regarding the case "against new homes at the Tesco roundabout site" at April's Parish Council meeting **Tuesday April 5th** at 8pm. Mr Hurford would like to make us aware of the impact that approximately 3,000 new homes at the site would have on Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding areas . . . should make for a very interesting talk whatever your view point.

Joel & Holly's Seed Kits.

We sold our seed kits at the Farmers' Market as our business enterprise for Little Hadham Primary School's 'Grow a Pound'. Thank you to everyone who supported us and a special thank you to Geoff and Jan for allowing us to have a stall. We raised £40 which we are very pleased with. We hope that the seeds grow and give everyone lots of fun. From Joel & Holly

Rat Running: Cradle End - Ford Hill - Chapel Lane

I have revisited this situation recently on behalf of many parishioners, myself included, who are fed up to the back teeth with the damage which is being caused by speeding drivers rat running from Cradle End to Ford Hill and beyond through Chapel Lane. It is pitiful how drivers are literally “carving out passing bays” as they tear apart verges and banks along the route. Their selfish behaviour is completely changing the look of the otherwise quiet country lanes we know and love. Some drivers are even using residents’ driveways as passing bays!

What can be done? In short nought. I discussed a few possible solutions with Chrissy Jacques (Assistant District Manager, Herts Highways) and whilst she sympathizes with the situation, she admits a solution is not easily achievable, due mainly to a lack of funding. Of course we all know that the building of the A120 Bypass would be the instant solution; alas the money is not available so plans for the bypass have been put on the back burner for the foreseeable future. One possible solution would be to put in place “entry restrictions” at the Cradle End, Millfield Lane, Ford Hill & Chapel Lane junctions at certain times of the day; say 7.30-9.30am & 4.30-6.30pm but the complexities of installing such a restriction would be beyond any local road spending budget. Indeed the consultation alone would cost many tens of thousands of pounds,

continued on page 16

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Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

Our enterprising youngsters at Little Hadham have netted a fantastic profit of £1000 from their 'Make you pound grow'. Prizes were awarded in four categories:- Most 'Profit' in KS1 and in KS2, the 'Endurance' prize and the most 'Inventive' prize. The 'Profit' winners ran cake stalls and a pizza delivery service respectively, the 'Endurance' prize went to an established car washing enterprise by two brothers and the most 'Inventive' prize went to a family rugby boot cleaning enterprise at Bishops Stortford Rugby Club!

Well done to each and every one of you!

Our Year 6 children represented us superbly at the Bishops Stortford Schools Music Festival recently and will be sharing their expertise back in school with us on Friday 1st April at 2pm. Senior Citizens are most welcome to join us for this.

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Head teacher

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services. Thank God for church ladies with typewriters:

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

There will be more...

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Little Hadham and Albury Garden Club

On those perfect spring days when the sun is out, the air is clear, the blossom in full force and the birds are singing, it is time to get out into the garden and enjoy it.

It is time to plant out potatoes and earth up to protect from the frost. Sow in succession broad beans, Brussels sprouts, early peas, Sprouting broccoli, leeks, onions, spinach, parsnips to name but a few – check seed packets. Remember sharp frosts are still around and try not to get carried away by planting out tender plants.

Our AGM in March went very well with a 'seed swap' where people were able to swap some seeds for something they would not normally grow. New members and visitors are always welcome at any of our meetings. Our next meeting is Tuesday 19th April for a talk on 'Herbs in the Garden' by Mrs Easter at Little Hadham Village Hall 7.45pm for 8pm.

*Another date for your diary is our annual Plant Sale on **Saturday 7th May** at Little Hadham Village Hall starting at 9.30am.*

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Down at the Doctor's

As the evenings get lighter, so we say farewell (or is it au revoir) to that nasty influenza virus and hello to hay fever, wasps and bees! Soon the "yellow peril" that is oil-seed rape will be upon us, clogging our sinuses and aggravating our asthma. Gardeners will be impaled by a great variety of thorns and their backs will suffer from over zealous weeding and digging. Goodbye flu jabs and hello tetanus boosters!

After the doom and gloom of last month I just thought I would cheer you all up with spring delights; and don't forget summer with sunburn, sunstroke, drought and dehydration to look forward to. Add to that the usual steady flow of serious illness and you can see that we all have our work cut out down at the doctors. So three cheers for our nurses who will bear the brunt of dealing with gardeners' ailments, insect bites, wasp stings etc.

We will also be welcoming back, just in time for the August rains, Dr Sara Macbay who is due to return to work on 1st August. However, much water will pass under the bridge before then with lease negotiations, extension plans, GP commissioning and pharmacy issues to address. Oops; there I go again!

Finally, let me wish you all a happy Easter and merry Wills & Kate weekend. Due to the silly number of bank holidays at the end of April, surgery will only be open for 4 days one week, 3 the next and 4 days again on the third week. We will be putting on extra sessions during those weeks on the days we are open but please check your repeat medications and make sure that you have enough.

Paul Haimes

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Dear Editor ...

Dear Editor, Could I just say a great big thank you for all your efforts in publishing the Little Hadham Parish News every month.

Like many busy mums, I rush from here to there. So when the Parish News drops through the door, I have a quick flick through, read the 'school report', make a note in my diary of any key dates and file my copy away (to refer to in case we need a local tradesman at any time).

However, this month was different. I was lucky enough to have a weekend away with my husband (whilst my lovely parents took care of our children). As I walked out the door, I realised I had no reading material for the plane (not something I usually need to worry about!) so I grabbed the Parish News and put it in my bag.

And now, sitting on the plane, I have read it from cover to cover. And what a lot of work must go into producing it. I can only thank all those who contribute on a regular basis. It really made me feel part of a wonderful community. In particular, I have enormous respect for the Wendy and her daughter who spent all night sleeping in a cardboard box! Also, thank you to the Gardening Club for this month's gardening tips and what true dedication from the Editor who gave up an evening to trial the new Indian on behalf of her readers!

I know from experience how much time it takes to edit such newsletters, so thank you, once again, for helping make this village a real community.

Janine Peart

PS From now on, I will make sure that every month, I take some time from my busy week. I will sit with a cup of tea and enjoy reading about how busy everyone else in the village is too!

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Much Hadham Drama Group's next production will be:

**'No Dinner for Sinners'
by Edward Taylor
Directed by Sue Wetherall**

19,20,21 May 2011 Village Hall 8.00 pm

Edward Taylor has written and produced many things for the BBC such as 'Just a Minute', 'Round the Horne', 'I'm Sorry - I'll Read That Again', 'Does the Team Think?' and 'Dr Finlay's Casebook'. He also wrote scripts for Morecambe and Wise, Arthur Askey, Harry Worth and The Two Ronnies. The play promises to be a riot! The story goes something like this.....

Jim Watt runs the London office of a stock exchange firm and is hosting dinner for the International Director and his wife, Bill and Nancy McGregor, members of the anti-permissive society group. As Bill strongly disapproves of unmarried couples living together, Jim asks his girlfriend, Helen, to pose as his wife for the evening. This suggestion goes down like a lead balloon and Helen walks out on him, leaving Jim with no partner, no cook and — after ringing around all of his ex-girlfriends rather unsuccessfully — only one last option: his eccentric cleaning lady, Edna, who will do the job for a fee, of course. Disaster reigns as Edna attempts to cook an elaborate dish while keeping her guests happy with "religious chat". At an extremely inopportune moment, Helen returns to play the role of his wife, and so does his young personal assistant, Terri! A string of hilarious miscommunications unravel as Jim tries to save the situation — and his job — by trading lies and wives almost as quickly as Bill is trading shares.

This is Sue's first dramatic production, though she is already famous for her direction of Little Hadham Pantomime Group's productions. She has been a member of this group since 1974 and is also a founder member of Much Hadham Drama Group. She has been seen treading the boards on many occasions for both groups. Please support her and us- it promises to be good night out – and - bring your friends!.

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Nature Notes: February – March

by Jonathan Forgham

A month of continued increasing temperatures during the first weeks of March, but turning grey and cold again towards the end of the recording period (18th Feb. – 18th March) Several early morning dawn walks were taken to see if any new migrants had arrived. None were observed, but still plenty to report.

Having received 150 copies of my Little Hadham book, I was sure that a new sighting would be made to render the records out of date and so it proved. Not a new bird but a new mammal. A walk on the 13th March around Albury End, and Chapel Lane gave great views of 3 fallow deer running for cover after I had flushed them from a coppice near the A120.



One of the 3 splendid animals shown here. I had actually recorded this species before, but this was a stag that had to be destroyed having been hit by a car. Another mammal that is showing in good numbers within the parish is the hare. 4 were recorded on Ash Valley Golf course during mid March. Last year 5 leverets were born in the long grass that I found myself in when attempting to play the game. A good way of recording nature whilst having a round of golf.

Bird wise, much the same as usual with 2 grey partridges seen in New Road (27th), 20 linnets at Church End (13th), a wonderful tawny owl between Bury Green and Cradle End (7th) with another calling from Muggin's Wood (13th). 15 skylarks were in fine voice over the golf course on the 9th and a count at the rookery opposite the school realised in excess of 30 active nests. A healthy number.

continued on page 14

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Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

We, like many of you, received a curt little letter from our friendly bank recently informing us that, as from the end of June, cheques can no longer be guaranteed with our debit card.

OK, so we knew there was talk about ending the use of cheques, but the sad fact is we didn't really take much notice.

Suddenly, it is all happening. Because, however you look at it, cheques will become totally useless without guarantee cards to back them up.

We are told that there are now other ways to pay bills, the debit card and online banking being at the forefront. But does the government not realise that there are millions of folk out there who don't, or won't have debit cards and certainly don't or can't use the internet.

I speak from experience. My business deals with many of the older generation. About half refuse to pay by any form of debit or credit card, but instead pay by cheque or good old-fashioned cash. And I, as the seller, admit I would not be prepared to take a cheque in future, without a card.

This is a perfect example of why the older generation often feel betrayed.

At the other end of the adult scale, my sympathies go out, particularly to small businesses, who have to cope with staff taking maternity leave. Up to a year off without a key member... how do they manage? And when that employee decides to have another baby soon after, and applies for a second helping of maternity leave, what of the hapless employer?

I'm all for motherhood but, fair's fair...if you aim to procreate shortly, then let some other lesser-maternal applicant have the job.

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What's on in April ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

2 Sat, SSE Giant Sale of good quality 2nd-hand books, 9am-1pm., at the Old School House by the Four Ashes, Takeley, See p19.

3 Sun, Mothering Sunday, 9.30, St Cecilia's.

5 Tue, Parish Council meeting, 8pm. See p3.

6 Wed, Women's Institute, 2pm. Speaker, Chris Liddimore on The Romans and Much Hadham. New members and visitors are most welcome. Teas, raffle and bookstall.

10 Sun, Open Garden Pelham House, Brent Pelham, for the Red Cross.

11 Mon, The Hadhams History Society, MH Village Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm start. Historical Interests Night, see p15 for details.

Membership £7 per annum with a fee of £2 for non-members at any talks. For membership contact Mike Smith 01279 771568 or Barbara Green 01279 842352.

12 Tue, LH & A Social Club, 8pm. Sister Annette, from St. Elizabeth's Home and School, will be attending. As usual, all are welcome and we look forward to welcoming new and old neighbours. For information 771580 or 658585.

14 Thur, Red Cross Spring Sale, 10.30-3pm, Cotted Village Hall. Many stalls, including fashions, homeware, meat, bread, gifts, classic knitwear, children's clothes.

14, 28 Thur, Mobile Library See across.

16 Sat, Churchyard Clear-up 10am. Please come! Details p21.

19 Tue, LH & A Garden Club, 7.45 for 8pm 'Herbs in the Garden' a talk by Mrs Easter.

20 Wed, Over 60s Fun Night, Details p13.

21 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning. See across.

21 Thur Annual Parish Assembly See cover.

29 Fri, Royal Wedding Bank Holiday.

30 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30-11.30.

30 Sat, Abseil for Charity, Church Langley Water Tower, for Isabel Hospice. Contact Mary Bunyard, 01279 734211.

30 Sat, Golden Windows, 7.30. Music from the time of Bach to the 20thC. See p20.

... and then?

May 1, Dawn Chorus Walk, 5am. See p14.

May 7, Garden Club Plant Sale, 9.30am.

May 7, London Piano Trio, See p21.

May 15, Red Cross Open Garden, Fanhams Hall, Ware. Details 01992 586609.

May 15, Teas in Gardens, Manor House Bayford, for Isabel Hospice. Details 01279 755320.

May 18, "An Evening of Flower Arranging", Mountfitchet Garden Club. For more information or tickets phone Maralyn on 07919-478144..

May 19-21, MH Drama Group: "No Dinner for Sinners", MH Village Hall 8pm.

May 22, Open Garden, Bromley Hall 2-5pm.

June 12, Open Gardens, Much Hadham 12-5pm, for St Elizabeth's Centre.

June 25, SSE Runway Ramble. See p22.

June 25, Summer Fayre, St Elizabeth's 12-4.

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)

April 14th, 28th 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.

Over 60s Fun Night

at Standon & Puckeridge Community Hall, Wednesday 20 April. 5.45pm until about 9pm.

Fish and chip meal plus dessert and coffee/tea, free bingo and raffle with prizes. There will also be a one-hour show by a professional troupe entitled 'Put that Light Out' which reminisces on war time songs etc. We will arrange collection and delivery of participants who are unable to arrange their own transport and this will be very heavily subsidised by Standon Village Hall,

Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre and also Standon Calling who have also kindly made a donation. there is a nominal charge of £2 per head for this and we can accommodate up to roundly 125 senior citizens on a first come first served basis.

Tickets from Denis Olliver 01279 842625 or from the Post Office

but we will of course need to know addresses etc. for anyone that requires transport

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St Cecilia's Church

Mothering Sunday

3rd April 2011

9.30am

Join us at St Cecilia's
and thank God for the
unconditional love freely
given by our Mothers

A small bouquet of flowers will be given to each Mother
followed by coffee and biscuits

FRIENDLY PEOPLE WANTED!!

Much Hadham Drama Group invites you to join us for a free glass of wine and to find out what fun belonging to our group can be.

Of course we need actors but also help is needed with set-building and design, lighting and sound, front of house and many other behind the scenes jobs. Come along for a chat at Much Hadham Village Hall Green Room on Tuesday 26th April from 7.30pm..... the wine awaits you!! If you can't make this date, but are interested in finding out more about our group, phone Barry Lee on 01279 843621.

Muscular Dystrophy Campaign

BARKWAY PARK GOLF CLUB



CHARITY GOLF DAY
at **BARKWAY PARK GOLF CLUB**
FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

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

Nature Notes, *continued from page 10*

The warm temperature on the 12th gave me my first butterfly of the year, a male brimstone making its way along the hedges of Chapel Lane. Unfortunately, the frosts the following two mornings will probably have done for this specimen unless it returned to hibernating in a shed or tree hole.



Plants are now beginning to show, with dog mercury, lesser periwinkle (shown) and germander speedwell all in flower. Finally, whilst walking towards Bush Wood (formerly Pest House Wood) near Winding Hill I chanced upon a mysterious footprint in the mud. Shown here, the coin is a £1, giving an indication of the size. At first I was unable to place it to



a specific animal but upon closer inspection I noted that it was indeed 3 prints. Presumably a large dog to begin with and then another dog travelling the opposite way and in the middle is a muntjac print.

However, still a very large dog judging by the size of the claw prints! The following 4 weeks will be very busy as the summer migrants will arrive and, following my dawn chorus walk on the 27th March, I plan another walk at 5.00am on Sunday 1st May. All welcome, meeting at the village car park for a wander around Hadham Hall and Cradle End. Please contact me on jforgham@theprimaryworks or text to 07805571551 if you plan to come along.

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The Hadhams History Society

Historical Interests Night,

Monday April 11th, Much Hadham Village Hall. Doors open 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Share your interests and expertise! Get started on some local research projects. Many of you from both parishes have knowledge of people, places and events of the past. Some of this information may not be widely known and be of great value. If you have any stories to share we would love to hear them, or if you are thinking of researching a local subject and have any questions to ask, please come along and the local historians will endeavour to help!

Hadham and the Domesday Survey,

Monday May 9th, Much Hadham Village Hall. Doors open 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Tom Doig, an international acclaimed social historian, will talk about the Domesday survey of 1086, with his attention focusing on the Hadhams.

Membership is £7.00 per annum with a fee of £2.00 for non-members at any talks. For membership contact Mike Smith 01279 771568 or Barbara Green 01279 842352.

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Rat Running, *continued from page 4*

never mind the complications involved with the rest of the work required for such a proposal. Another solution would be to do away with the traffic lights at The Ash but when pedestrian and traffic safety considerations are taken into account this possibility too disappears into thin air.

Chrissy Jacques did offer a couple of short term solutions; we could ask the local police to "monitor" the rat running traffic (not sure how many police personnel would be required for such an exercise). Realistically though we would only be able to use this facility once in a blue moon (when manpower and money allowed) and to what end? Or we could borrow a hand held speed checking device from the police with which "local volunteers" could "monitor" the rat runners. The hope is that the rat runners through the repeated exercise of being "monitored" would soon learn how to slow down and stop the wanton damage they so carelessly cause on their frantic journeys through our hamlets; remember though, most of these people have a frightening disregard for pedestrians, cyclist, riders and animals so how successful would such an exercise be? Anyway who would want to carry out such a task? It is regrettable and frustrating, to say the least, that solving this situation is so problematic; it's not often I admit defeat - do you have any ideas? I would be more than happy to put your suggestions forward to Herts Highways. Carmela - cam2403@hotmail.co.uk

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Little Hadham Fun Run

Sunday June 12th - Little Hadham Parish Plan Group is working busily in the background arranging the BIG DAY! We hope that this year's event will be bigger and better; with hopefully more runners, more stalls & more attractions. The charity we are supporting is CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) in memory of Little Hadham teenager Caroline Johnson. The community's response last year and the year before was fantastic - this year together we will raise even more funds for the charity. You can sign up for the event and/or get involved on the day. Entry forms now available from Mike 01279 771568 or Carmela 01279 466331. So watch this space for more news; in the meantime – get those trainers out of the cupboard and keep running!

Photographers we need you! If you consider yourself a bit handy with a camera you could be in line to win a prize when your “hot shot” is chosen as the “top pic”! Please contact Mike Smith 01279 771568 for more details.

At this time of year, gardeners are busy clearing debris and getting their gardens into shape for the summer ahead. It is important to remember that if you live in a thatched house or are a neighbour to one, bonfires can pose a potential hazard. Please ensure you take into account the wind direction before lighting a bonfire not only to make sure you do not smoke your neighbours from their gardens but also that hot embers are not able to travel directly towards a thatched roof. It is important that bonfires are lit a good distance from any thatched buildings and are not permitted to get out of control. A source of water should be immediately available in case a problem arises.

Catherine Lewis, The Thatching Information Service, Levens Green

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Are you trying to “grow your own” without success?

Are you tired of finding your lettuces eaten by slugs, or your cabbages demolished by birds? I know there are many of you out there who are trying to grow your own veg and ending up with little or nothing for your efforts, and wondering why. Would you like to have someone explain why this is happening and what to do about it?

What I am proposing is to organise and possibly host, an informal gardening club, where you can come and discuss your gardening problems, and learn how to solve them. Not just aspiring vegetable growers, but anyone who wants to improve their gardening skills.

Older residents will remember the “Dig for victory” campaign during the second world war, when as an island nation it was imperative to grow our own food, or we would have starved. Then, the government organised an army of horticultural advisers to teach people what to do, but the skills so many people learnt then have been lost. So we know it can be done with those willing to learn.

As I grow practically everything here and have been running courses for some time, I am in a position to help. With the current national financial problems, plus the looming crises in oil, acquiring a skill basic for survival would be a sensible thing to learn and pass on to younger family members or friends..

I am not proposing to charge large sums of money for running this club, but there will have to be a small charge to cover expenses, and precisely how much will depend on how many

continued on page 20

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Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

Our March meeting was a social one. We didn't have a large attendance, but we did have a good chat and it was decided to visit Euston Hall, nr. Bury St. Edmunds, for our outing in the Autumn. A problem was also solved regarding finding someone who could take us on an historical walk around Bishop's Stortford. We have been investigating this for a few years and recently were offered the services of an experienced guide. Therefore, Jonathan Forgham will take us on a comprehensive walk around our town, hopefully one Tuesday in June – it will be a morning walk and last for 2-3 hours, details to follow re date and cost.

There have been a number of enquiries regarding the possibility of another coach trip to see 'War Horse' at the New London Theatre. If we could fill a coach this could be arranged for a Monday or Tuesday evening in June or July at a cost of approx. £45-50, including ticket, coach and drivers tip. Please let Ennis know on 658585 and if enough people show an interest I will make the arrangements.

Sister Annette, from St. Elizabeth's Home and School, will be attending our April meeting, at 8pm on Tuesday, 12th April. As usual, all are welcome and we look forward to welcoming new and old neighbours. For info. tel 771580 or 658585.

Stop Stansted Expansion will be holding another giant sale of good quality second hand books at its Campaign Office at the Old School House by the Four Ashes Crossroads, Takeley, on Saturday 2 April between 9am and 1pm. Most of the books will be priced at 50p for paperbacks and £1 for hardbacks. More information is available from SSE on 01279 870558 or info@stopstanstedexpansion.com.

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Are you trying to “grow your own”? *continued from page 18*

people would be interested in attending, and what each person wants to learn or do. I am thinking of having meetings every 4 to 6 weeks during March to October, with possibly group teaching sessions or demonstrations at other times.

What I suggest now is that any adult (over 18) who would be interested in such a project, phone here any day after 18.00 hrs. I need to get some idea as to how many people might be interested and what they want to do/learn. Then there would need to be a meeting (perhaps of an evening), to sort out the practicalities and costs. This invitation is not confined to those who read the parish mag; friends and acquaintances are welcome too, but they would need to live fairly nearby. At the moment it is not possible to involve children in this project.

Valerie Muir, 01279 777 178 valeriesveggies.com

Golden Windows

St Andrew's, Much Hadham, Saturday April 30, 7.30pm

Howard Rowntree (Trumpet), Terence Charlston (Organ)

*This internationally acclaimed duo will
play music from the time of Bach to the 20th century.*

*Tickets £10; £8 (concessions); £5 (under 21) at the door
or from 01279 841196*

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Braughing Music Society -

London Piano Trio

Piano, Cello and Violin

music by

**Haydn, Gershwin and
Mendelssohn**

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

TICKET PRICES

£15 Premium; £12 Standard; £10 Restricted view

Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073

www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk

www.londonpianotrio.com

**St Cecilia's
Churchyard clear-up**

Help is needed to carry out the
Spring clear-up of the Churchyard
& grounds at St Cecilia's.

If you can spare half an hour
(or an hour)

please come to the Church at
10 am on Saturday 16th April

Jobs to be done:

grass cutting, light bonfire, clean
windows, tidy up churchyard,
lop-off & pick-up unwanted/dead
tree branches,

clear guttering AND make tea.
Please do come along and give a
hand.

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Runway Ramble 2011

A visit to the historic Thaxted, so beloved by the late Sir John Betjeman, will be the highlight of the annual Runway Ramble being held by Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) on Saturday 25 June 2011 between 10.30am and 2.30pm.

The five mile circular walk is once again being organised for the campaign group by footpaths expert Stuart Walker who has created a series of walks in recent years highlighting the threat to historic homes, countryside and the community from expansion plans for Stansted Airport.

Starting from the centre of the village of Duton Hill near Dunmow (just off the B184), the route will take participants across the rolling fields of north west Essex along part of the Harcamlow Way to the Thaxted Windmill and Church before returning through the charming setting of the small market town past the Guildhall and a different country path back to the original starting point. There is no charge to take part in the walk whose purpose is to remind people of the need for long term security against the expansion threat. Thaxted is already very badly overflowed by aircraft heading for Stansted, with many pilots coming from the north east lining up their approach to the runway six miles further on using the church spire.

The area around Stansted airport, is not spectacular in the way of the Lake District or the Devon coast but it has its own quiet, distinctive and outstanding beauty. In the words of John Betjeman, writing in October 1967 when the area was then facing the threat of expansion: "It is a quiet, prosperous, agricultural area of old stone and flint churches, pargetted cottages

continued on next page

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Please!

Please shut the gate!

Would parishioners please ensure that when they have used a gate either entering or leaving a field they secure the gate behind them – horses have been escaping from fields in the Bury Green area because gates are not being secured. The consequences of an accident involving loose animals do not bear thinking about – **please shut the gate!** Thank you.

Please pick up your dog's mess!

Would dog owners please be considerate to their neighbours and pick up their dog's mess. Allowing your dog to foul in public areas is offensive, hazardous to health and against the law – **please pick up your dog's mess**, take it home and dispose of it in your black bin. Thank you.

Runway Ramble, continued from page 22

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'.

Hikers will set off at 10.30am after a commemorative photo though the start time is flexible for those who want to begin later (until 2.30pm). Route maps and descriptions will be provided to those taking part. A barbecue, tea and cakes will be served to returning rambles in the grounds of the Three Horseshoes pub in Duton Hill, and the pub itself will be open for most of the day. Plenty of parking is available. The event is free (with a small charge made for refreshments) but those who want to seek sponsorship for their efforts or make donations at the event are welcome to do so. More information on the event and a detailed route will be posted shortly on the Coming Events section of the SSE website at www.stopstanstedexpansion.com or can be obtained by calling 01279 870558.

Stansted Airport Community Trust

In February the trustees of Stansted Airport Community Trust were pleased to award grants of around £72,500 to local organisations.

The Trustees will next be considering applications in the September 2011 and would welcome applications from Community and Voluntary Groups in parishes within a ten mile radius of Stansted Airport. Applications for grants of up to £2,000 from sports clubs, churches, village halls, scouts, guides etc., for items of a capital nature such as repairs, disabled access, heating systems, hearing loops, lawnmowers, cricket nets will be welcomed. The closing date for the next round of applications is 31 August 2011. The Trust does not fund parish council or individuals' projects and does not grant money for completed projects.

For further details please contact SACT, PO Box 11, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LX or e-mail: clr.susan.barker@essex.gov.uk for an application form or advice.

April diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

March 31 Thursday

7.30pm Church's Annual General Meeting in St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

3 Sunday **Mothering Sunday**

9.30am Family service at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham. All welcome.

10 Sunday **Lent 5**

9.30am Shared Communion and **Sunday School** at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

5.00pm Taizé Service in St Andrew's, Much Hadham

17 Sunday **Palm Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am Village Hall Service in Little Hadham

6.00pm Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

21 Thursday **Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Communion at St Andrew's, followed by supper at the Rectory
(All welcome; please let Chris know if you are coming for supper!)

22 Friday **Good Friday**

12 noon Procession with the Cross from the Priest's House, Malting Lane, MH.

1-3pm Veneration of the cross and Reflections on the cross, with readings and music., St Andrew's, Much Hadham

7.30pm Service of music and readings at St Mary's, Furneux Pelham.

24 Sunday **Easter Day**

9.30am Parish Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

30 Saturday

7.30pm Trumpet and Organ Concert at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

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