

Little Hadham Parish News

September 2011



THE NEW SIGN

The Village Hall Committee are delighted with their new sign which has been made for us by Richard Maynard, the Blacksmith from The Forge at Much Hadham. We are very pleased to have this excellent piece of design and craftwork made for us by a local craftsman and we hope it will become an iconic landmark for the Village as well as the Hall.

l to r: Jon Fardell, Chairman, Karen Green, Richard Maynard, Binnie Keen, Geoff Williamson and Richard Mardell

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

Churchwarden: Tony Skidmore 01279 771688

Log on to www.thehadhams.com for issues dating back to May 2006

Letter from the Rectory

This month's letter is written by the new Team Vicar, Stephen Fielding, who will be licensed by the Bishop at a service in St Mary's Braughing on Thursday September 1st at 7.30pm.

Whenever people learn that I'm going to be a Vicar in Braughing, Furneux Pelham and Stocking Pelham, they tell me how tremendously fortunate I am. I can see why. Already, very many of you have welcomed us with enthusiasm. I am greatly looking forward to getting to know all the villages extremely well, the different communities and families within them, and the many individuals who make up these special places. I am thrilled to have been appointed and delighted to be working within the wider team with Clive Slaughter under Chris Boulton's leadership.

You may be wondering where I have come from. A practising lawyer, specialising in banking law, I later changed direction and spent 10 years as a private banker running part of Coutts & Co. Since 2003 I have built a mediation practice, specialising in inheritance disputes. I was ordained in 2007. Since then I have been a curate in the Welwyn team, a happy and rewarding experience. I like music, cricket and gardening. I am married to Angela, who was for many years a CAB adviser and likes reading, the theatre and singing. We have four grown-up children, the youngest of whom has just graduated. Our other three children all live and work in London. But of course where we've come from is much less important than where we're going - and here I would simply say that for me, on our individual journeys, one of the key words is hope. There are struggles and difficulties, and sometimes it can be frankly unbearable. Yet amid all this the Psalmist can say: 'But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more' (Ps 71, v.12). There is a forward-looking confidence about this which is really encouraging, which mixes hope with the quality of praise and joy which is the hallmark of the Christian life. And part of my role will be to share in these ups and downs, whether formally in the church for baptisms and weddings and funerals and every Sunday in our regular worship, or more informally as we meet each other in the street or at local activities.

I'm so looking forward to getting to know you.

Stephen

Parish Council News

Thank You - Little Hadham Parish Council sends grateful thanks to Frank Green for all his help with carrying out tasks as Allotment Rep; Frank's ready to hand the task over to someone else now after a good few years of voluntary work on behalf of our community. Thank you Frank.

Allotment Rep. - Apropos to the above Little Hadham Parish Council seeks a replacement Allotment Rep; the position is to be carried out on a voluntary basis. The suitable applicant should be prepared to collect yearly rents on behalf of the PC, to generally keep an eye on the use of allotments, to promote this wonderful village facility and to deal with any comments or queries arising from allotment users. Please apply via Bev Evans (Parish Clerk) - email: clerklittlehadham@gmail.com, telephone 01279 842803.

LHPC sincerely hopes all parishioners enjoyed the summer break. We should like to remind the community that next time we meet will be Tuesday September 6th at the Village Hall at 8pm - everyone is most welcome, it would be great to see you there!

Local Travel Disruption

Would parishioners please be aware that due to essential highway maintenance Herts County Council is to close and/or install temporary waiting restrictions to the following areas running along the A120 - Puckeridge, Standon, Little Hadham & Bishop's Stortford; in other words the entire length of the A120 going west towards the A10 and going east towards the Tesco roundabout - closures and/or waiting restrictions will take place during the hours 8pm-5am **Monday to Sunday from 12 September until 18 November.**

Further information from Richard Tagliarini 01707 356287.

Speed Monitoring Equipment Demonstration

Herts Police will visit us at 7pm on the evening of **Tuesday 6th September** at the Village Hall car park to give a demo/talk on the usage of speed monitoring equipment. Thank you to all parishioners who have shown an interest - remember this is your chance to say how you feel about speeding in our village so please don't forget to turn up to the demo, mark the date on your calendar! All parishioners are welcome to attend whatever your feelings on the subject. Need more info? Do not hesitate to call me 01279 466331

Carmela (This is a community-led project)

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On the 3rd September we have our Autumn Show. This is not just for gardeners but also chefs, flower arrangers, artists and many others. If you have not managed to show this year but would like to see if you could be tempted for next year or just like a good village event, come along to the viewing of the exhibits 2.30pm at Little Hadham Village Hall.

Our next talk is on Tuesday 18th October at 7.45 pm for 8pm in Little Hadham Village Hall. The talk is titled 'Up Close and Personal' by Mrs B Kain and all are welcome.

On the garden front, September is the month when autumn starts making its presence felt, the evenings are cooler and late flowering plants come into their own. The jobs continue, with regular deadheading to prolong flowering along with watering. Hedges need their last cut of the year – hornbeam, beech, Leyland cypress, privet and box. There is plenty to harvest both in the garden and the hedgerows which you can turn into beautiful salads, accompanying vegetables and tasty fruit pies. As the month progresses we can start planting bulbs, changing the summer bedding and containers for winter or spring bedding but then again who knows what our weather will bring, will it be an Indian summer, monsoons or Artic weather?

Harvest Supper Saturday 8th October Village Hall 7pm for 7.30pm

After their success at the St Cecilia's Midsummer Concert, The Four Hills Jazz Trio will be playing again at this year's Harvest Supper to be held in the Village Hall. Priced at £8.50 a head, tickets are now on sale and are available from Frank Green on 771532.

Book your seat early, as tickets will be limited!

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Cricket Club Junior section Cricket Match

After training hard since early May, an 8-a-side team from Little Hadham C.C. junior section played their first match against a team from Summercroft Primary School, Bishop's Stortford. Briefly, the game is played with 8 per side, each batting pair facing 4 overs. If they are out then the team loses 5 runs but the batsmen remain in until their allotted overs are up. All players each bowl 2 overs, therefore making it a 16 over innings. Both teams begin with 200 runs. Summercroft won the toss and elected to field. Their team contained 4 from Little Hadham. Hadham got off to a strong start with Josh Bailey scoring 21 and Oliver Golds totalling 20, with 4 fours. The innings progressed at pace with all batsmen scoring runs, including Archie Lovegrove, who chipped in with a useful 7, including 1 four. The bowling from Summercroft was tight, with Hadham's own Liam Askew bowling his 2 overs for 1 wicket and 7 runs. Leon O'Connor and Jenson McDermott both took a wicket as the Little Hadham team lost 4 wickets in total. Their overall score was a very creditable 265.

In reply, the Summercroft team made a steady start, with Little Hadham players Leon and Jenson guesting for the school team. They put on an opening stand of 16, scoring 6 and 3 respectively. Other innings from Little Hadhamites, Kian Northcote and Liam Askew, totalled a respectable 14 runs. The Hadham bowling was tight, with Josh Bailey taking 5 wickets for 13 runs, whilst other wicket takers were Matthew Walker, Jack Walker and Archie Lovegrove. At the end the loss of wickets counted against Summercroft, who totalled 233.

Therefore, a decisive victory for Little Hadham by 32 runs. The team was well captained by Joel Ellis, with George Lovegrove, the youngest player, bowling his two overs for a miserly 6 runs. Well done to all the boys and thanks to all the parents who turned up to support and enjoy the barbeque and bar.

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Down at the Doctor's

Paul Haimes

We had some excitement at Much Hadham surgery recently. A patient collapsed and fell just across the road and it was seen by one of our staff. Within seconds, 2 doctors and 3 staff members, armed with an array of emergency resuscitation equipment (including our automated defibrillator) descended on the patient who had been momentarily unconscious but was recovering. In the end, we only needed to use our emergency oxygen but subsequently called an ambulance as there had been a head injury. After being checked out at Harlow hospital the patient made a full recovery.

This is more than can be said for my red emergency triangle! One very important rule in resuscitation is to make the situation safe. As the patient was partially in the road we needed to alert drivers to this, so I therefore retrieved my emergency triangle from my car and placed it appropriately in the road where it was subsequently run over by a car and broken beyond repair! To be fair, the driver was pulling over to see if we needed any help but I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!!

Another piece of technology may soon be available to those attending the main surgery at Much Hadham. We are hoping to purchase a terminal/kiosk, similar to those at airports, which will allow you to "check in" when you arrive without having to queue for the receptionist. This has been very successful in other surgeries and I believe that you will only need to know your name (possibly only surname) and date of birth to use the system.

We are still waiting for a court date regarding our lease but have some meetings coming up after the deadline for this magazine, so more details of this, hopefully, next month.

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Could you foster for Hertfordshire?

If you're enthusiastic about working with children and young people, have a spare room and want to work from home, why not think about becoming a foster carer for Hertfordshire?

Every day foster carers are helping children and young people turn their lives around. Foster carers are very important as they offer stability, support, care and encouragement at a crucial time in a child or young person's life. By doing ordinary everyday things for them, foster carers make an extraordinary difference and help to create positive futures.

In return you'll receive full training and support, plus a fee and allowance of up to £400 per child per week

For a chance to talk to foster carers and other professionals about what it's like to foster for Herts, come along to one of our open evenings:

Tuesday 27th September, 6.30pm to 8.30pm – High Street, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9AL

Wednesday 19th October, 6.30pm to 8.30pm – Park Inn Hotel, 30-40 St Albans Road, Watford, Hertfordshire WD17 1RN

Please give us a call on 01438 843281 if you'd like to come along or to find out more information.

There will also be information about adoption, shared care and supported lodgings available.

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The Hadhams History Society

*Tuesday 13th September
Much Hadham School Hall*

Beds and Herts Regiment in W.WI

by Steve Fuller

*Learn about life in the regiment
and some of the men from Much
Hadhams and Little Hadham
who died while serving with the
regiment during WWI.*

*Doors open 7.45pm for
an 8.00pm start.*

*Membership is £7.00 per annum
with a fee of £2.00 for non-
members at any talk.*

*For membership contact
Mike Smith 01279 771568 or
Barbara Green 01279 842352.*

Little Hadham and Albury Gardening Club's



Annual Show

At: Little Hadham Village Hall

On: Saturday 3rd September 2011

Public viewing: 2.30 until 3.30pm.

Sale of produce at end.

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Pampering Baby Showers

Are you expecting a baby and thinking of celebrating the imminent arrival with friends? If so why not consider a pampering baby shower in the comfort of your or your friends' home? Carly a qualified beautician offers the following treatments:-

- Nail shape and revarnish
- Back and shoulder massage
- Penny offers a demonstration on baby massage and baby yoga
- Information on how to run a baby shower provided

This is available anywhere between Cheshunt and Puckeridge. Baby Massage and Baby Yoga 5 week courses continue to be run regularly anywhere between Royston and Cheshunt either in small groups or 1:1. Many parents love the fact that they can either come along and meet other new parents or, if they are already know other parents I will arrange private groups. The classes are relaxed, informative and fun. All babies are welcome whatever their moods and many parents are amazed how their babies respond to both massage and yoga both physically and emotionally. There is always time at the end for refreshments including home-made cakes. Contact Penny Constantinou on 07944 416572 www.babymassageherts.co.uk

***Loving home wanted for stray cat** I am helping a friend who needs to find a loving home for a stray cat. My friend cannot keep the stray as she keeps birds and as is natural the cat is rather attracted to them! We have contacted local cat re-homing centres and they are all full. Please let me know if you can help. Many thanks, Carmela 01279 466331*

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Cricket Club News

Having reached the half way stage of the season , Potter Street & Church Langley were the visitors to Bury Breen for a friendly. The visitors batted first and amassed a total of 203 all out. David Jones being the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4 wickets for 24 runs off 7 overs. In reply Hadham collapsed to 49 for 7 , before an unbeaten partnership of 66, between Tim Bones (who scored 14) and Alan South (39) ensured a draw. The following week saw FM Arthurs XI (a team from Hitchin), the visitors to Bury Green. Arthurs batted first scoring 229 for 4 wickets, with Lewis Garrett taking 2 wickets for 55 runs. For the second week running the total was too large for Hadham, who managed to earn a draw, with the score finishing on 161 for 5. Alan South top scored with 66. Another home game the following week, this time saw Hadham bat first against local rivals Manuden. The Little Hadham total of 229 for 5 was mainly due to a magnificent score of 155 not out from David Wheatley, a total which included 22 fours and 8 sixes and was the fourth highest individual score ever made by a Little Hadham batsman. In a close fought match, Manuden eventually finished just 26 runs short on 203 for 9, thereby ensuring a drawn match. Next was a short journey to Furneux Pelham for a 40-over match, which saw Furneux bat first and amass 214 for 3. Little Hadham wickets fell at regular intervals and ending up all out on 105 meant that Furneux Pelham won the match by 109 runs. After Great Canfield were unable to raise a side for the next match, a friendly against Potter Street was quickly arranged. Potter Street batted first scoring 230 for 8, with David Wheatley taking 4 wickets for 60 runs. As earlier in the season, the total was too much for Hadham, who ended up on 168 for 3 thereby ensuring a draw.

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Cricket Club News, *continued*

Little Hadham Cricket Club will once again be holding a quiz night in the village on Saturday 15th October, more details will appear in next months newsletter.

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 Alan South 01279 651603 for further details.

September Fixtures

Sun 4th	Reed	Home	13.00
Sat 10th	Chrishall	Away	13.00
Sun 11th	North Weald	Home	13.00
Sat 17th	Hockerill	Away	13.00
Sun 18th	Barley	Home	13.00
Sat 24th	Hockerill	Away	13.00
Sun 25th	Nazeing Common	Home	13.00

Animals in Distress

Supporters of the ARC (Animal Rescue Charity) in Bishop's Stortford, please note that the orange food collection bin is still in use at Tesco, but has been moved into the recently completed covered area. Its move has resulted in less food being donated and the charity is desperate for more supplies. At present they are inundated with cats and kittens. The supportive stores' motto of 'Every Little Helps' is certainly true for the ARC. Many thanks.

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What's on in September . . .

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

1 Thur, **Licensing of Stephen Fielding** as Team Vicar, 7.30pm at St Mary's, Braughing.

1, 15, 29 **Mobile Library**, see next page.

3 Sat, **LH & A Garden Club Annual Show**. See p 4 for details.

4 Sun, **Parish Picnic**, 12-4pm, Barrons, Bury Green, Bring your own picnic food – drink and glasses will be provided. Swimming Pool, Tennis courts etc., many thanks to Edward and Rosemary Middleton for hosting this year.

6 Tue, **Camera Club** new season, 7:45pm, Hockerill Sports and Social Club, CM23 5LG. Come and see if it's for you.

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

8 Thur, **Social Club Outing**, Details on p23

10 Sat, **Much Hadham Horticultural Society and Allotment Club Autumn Show**, 2.30- 4.30. Much Hadham Village Hall. Free Admission. Raffle, Competition, Refreshments.

10 Sat, **Midnight Walk** for Isabel Hospice, 11.55pm. Entry £15 adult, £12 child (over 12's only). Free t-shirt, warm up session and entertainment. Registration from 9pm. BBQ, hot & cold drinks. Start and finish from Hartham Common, Hertford SG14 1QR. Help us to break the record for the longest conga line. To register email katie.robertson@isabelhospice.org.uk.

St Cecilia's Church Sunday School

11 September
9.30am

11 Sun, **Red Cross Gardens**, 2-5pm Alswick Hall, Buntingford SG9 0AA, includes Plant Fair. Entry £3. Visit this tudor house with five acres of landscaped gardens set in unspoiled farmland.

It includes: two well-established natural ponds with rockeries; herbaceous borders; shrubs and roses; a delightful knot garden; and extensive dahlia beds.

13 Tue, **LH & A Social Club**, 8pm. A visit to Bishop's Stortford's Waitrose Store. If you are interested in this trip. please ring 658585..

13 Tue, **History Society**, 7.45 for 8pm, MH School Hall See page 8 for more details.

15 Thur, **Way Inn Coffee Morning**. 10am until 12 noon in the Village Hall. (Rear entrance of Village Hall, by Post Office.) Meet new friends over a cuppa.

16 Fri, **The Essential Harpsichord**, 7.30pm St Andrew's Much Hadham. Laura Tivendale presents a varied and personal programme, including music by Bach, Handel and Scarlatti. Tickets £10.00 (under 21 £5.00), to include interval drink. On the door or ring 841 196.

18 Sun **Chain Walk**, 9.20am. Join us on one of our 10 guided walks through the East Herts countryside, with a stop for lunch at a pub half way, and raise money for Isabel Hospice. For more information, email katie.robertson@isabelhospice.org.uk.

24 Sat, **Farmers' Market**, 8.30-11.30am.

27 Tue, **Open Evening Fostering**, 6.30-8.30, 01438 843281 for more information.

30 Fri, **Charity Golf Day**, Barkway, for Muscular Dystrophy. See next page.

... and coming soon:

Oct 1, **Free WorldWide Photowalk** hosted by BS Camera Club, all welcome, great prizes, pre-registration required <http://bit.ly/qOpctxg>.

Oct 1, **Furneux Festival**. www.furneuxfestival.com

Oct 2, **Manuden Fun Run** www.manuden.org.uk

Oct 8 **Harvest Supper**, see p 23

Oct 15 **Cricket Club Quiz**.

FOUND

A ladies' wristwatch has been found in a garden in Albury Road. It is possible that it may have travelled there in a lawnmower used to mow the churchyard!

If you have lost a watch in the Little Hadham area please contact the editor on 771113 with a description.

1, 15, 29 September 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.

Tabby cat found in Cradle End

Female tabby cat found in Cradle End. She is predominantly a grey tabby with some ginger bits in her coat. Would say she's a young cat and has had at least one litter of kittens very recently. She has been coming to my house and I have fed her for about one month. Please let me know if this is your cat or if you know anything about her ownership:
01279 651964

Q: Dear PN, How can I save money on Christmas cards and stamps, spread goodwill messages to all my friends in the village AND help to keep the Parish News afloat?

A: Slip the editor a fiver and write your messages in the Parish News. Simples.
<http://clocktower.co.uk>



Need a Challenge?

We have places in
the following events:



adidas Ladies 5k Challenge, Hyde Park
Sunday 11th September 2011

Brentwood Half Marathon
Sunday 25th March 2012

Brighton Marathon
Sunday 15th April 2012

Virgin London Marathon
Sunday 22nd April 2012



Please support us!

For further information and application forms please contact:



The Fundraising Team
St Elizabeth's Centre
Ferry Green, Much Hadham,
Herts SG13 9EW
tel: 01279 844355 or email:
fundraising@st-elizabeths.org.uk



St Elizabeth's Centre is administered by the Diocesan Trustees of the Diocese of the Isles of Man. A registered charity 1388947 and a company limited by guarantee 386707.

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 652229

or call 01279 813710 for more
information

Nature Notes, July/August

Jonathan Forgham

Unseasonal weather towards the end of this period (July 18th/August 18th) meant not as much insect activity as expected, but still good bird passage towards the end of the recording period.

A trip to The Camargue, France took up a few days towards the middle of July, recording over 70 bird species and plenty of dragonflies and butterflies. I spent the whole time wandering, covering over 60 miles in the 3 days, including an overnight walk back to Nimes airport. I arrived at the terminal with several hours to spare, so thought a few hours' sleep would be good and headed off to a nearby field. I found a good place under a tree, only to notice a snake disappearing into the undergrowth. Soon after a lizard appeared followed by endless mosquitoes, a large grasshopper and eventually a spider, measuring 4 inches across, shown here. Related to the wasp spider, it is not poisonous but can give a nasty bite. I decided to move on! Highlight birds for the trip were melodious warbler, bee eaters and short toed eagle. Dragonflies were everywhere, including this superb scarlet dragonfly.



Back in the village, I had several wanders to see what was about. Not too much on the bird front. Good birds however were: hobby at Ash Valley G.C. (13th) reed bunting (Hadham Hall, 14th) and large numbers of migratory swallows and martins. A specific count from my garden on the 16th gave views of 4



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Life on the Run

by Les Williams

My wife Karen and I moved to Little Hadham just over four years ago. It didn't take very long for us to fall in love with the beautiful countryside views, the peace and quiet, the friendliness and politeness of people, the wild life and the quality of life in general. Despite having spent most of our married life in North London, albeit a very nice part, it felt like a different world. It still does and that initial delight has certainly not diminished. If anything, it has grown. There is hardly a day that goes by when we do not appreciate our good fortune to live where we live.

Now, one of my many pursuits is running. I've been a keen runner for many years and even taken part in a few marathons in my time. And if I'm not running then I'm cycling. Either way, I spend a lot of time on the lanes, bridle paths and fields stretching for a few miles around Little Hadham and Much Hadham. You may even have seen me in my black and hi-viz yellow running gear. My wife's cousin reckons I look like a highlight pen. Although I spend most of my working week traveling abroad, I still manage to run and cycle three or four times a week. You get to see so much more when you are on foot or in the saddle, be it running, walking, cycling or horse riding.

There is, of course, no comparison between running around Winchmore Hill (Enfield to you country folk) and running in the countryside that surrounds our village. Except for one or two things that is. And to me, the biggest thing of all is litter!

The Moronic minority

I've always hated the sight of litter and before I came to Little Hadham I would, on occasion,
[continued on page 17](#)

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Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

Sitting here, with the Mediterranean on my left and the Pyrenees on my right, it is difficult to imagine starting back to school in September. This is a far cry from my predecessor, one hundred and fifty years ago, who would have wondered whether the harvesting was going to impact on pupil numbers at the start of the term or whether an outbreak of chicken pox was going to wipe out half the school!

The school has run a very interesting path over the last one and a half centuries and we hope to be able to share this with you on Saturday October 1st when we plan to open up our archives (and any of yours, please, if you have any school memorabilia). Please contact the office on 01279 771285 if you are willing to lend or allow us to copy anything that you may feel would add further interest. The children will be re-enacting school life in the Victorian period in the week leading up to the display, so it will be interesting to get their perspective on life at Little Hadham Primary in 1861.

Meanwhile, back in 2011, we are very proud of our achievements in our KS2 SATs tests where 35% of pupils achieved level 5 in Writing, 59% achieved level 5 in Reading with an amazing 65 % achieving level 5 in Maths. (Level 5 is the expectation for 13 year old pupils!) As we continue on our journey towards becoming an accredited 'Thinking School', as judged by the University of Exeter, there has obviously been quite a bit of thinking going on to achieve these superb results! Well done, Year 6 and we all wish you well in your new Secondary Schools.

Here's to another exciting year ahead at Little Hadham Primary!

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Headteacher

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Life on the Run, continued from page 15

pick up pieces of litter and put it in the next available bin. But when I started running in our countryside, picking up roadside litter started to become an all-consuming obsession. Soon I began to take carrier bags with me on my runs. Just one or two to start with but now I never leave home without being armed with at least five or six.

You do not need me to tell you that the state of our roads, even the quietest of country lanes, is a disgrace. On a typical run (between an hour and a half and two hours) I pick up anywhere between 150 to 300 pieces of litter. Bottles, cans, cigarette packets – you name it, it's lying on our roadsides. I tell you this not because I am looking for thanks or plaudits but because it shows the extent of the problem. I pick up litter purely for the selfish reason that I do not want to see our beautiful countryside spoilt by what I call 'the moronic minority'. There's no point moaning if you are not prepared to do something about it.

The sad truth is that we will never be able to stop people throwing litter from their cars, vans and trucks. In a survey of drivers, more than 20% admitted that they threw litter from their vehicles rather than taking it home. If that many actually admit to it then I am sure that the real figure is even higher. The reality is that no amount of appealing to people's better nature or the threat of fines will make any difference.

We must also accept that we can never expect the local authorities to actually provide the service that we pay for and organize efficient roadside litter collection. The 'Lesser Spotted litter picker' is a rare and wonderful sight. For those who have never seen one, they have bright

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Life on the Run, continued from page 17

yellow coats and move only in straight lines, seemingly ignoring any prey (litter) that is beyond their immediate reach. I recently discovered that good old 'elf en safety' is the reason why they are so rarely seen. Roadside litter pickers are only allowed to collect litter from roads where there is a footpath; strange but absolutely true. And yes, you couldn't make it up!

What's the answer?

So what's the answer? In my humble opinion, the answer lies firmly and squarely with us, the local community. In short, I need help. And before you say it, not the psychiatric kind, although some may say that is a debatable point! There is so much that we can do to compensate for that moronic minority. For example, if everyone took on the task of picking up the roadside litter within, say, a hundred yards of their own front doors, then we could begin to make a real impact. Why not take a carrier bag when we go for a walk? There's a chap who does just that who walks every day up near Cradle End and Bury Green. A very nice lady called Barbara who lives in Much Hadham and Tony and Karen (who are equally nice!) who live between Much Hadham and Thorley are also litter pickers. Imagine if more and more people did that?

Sad as it may sound, I find litter picking very gratifying. It has also led to some interesting 'experiences' so I have a few tales of the road to tell. So (if I am invited of course) perhaps next time I will tell you the story of the Argentinian polo players and the ladies pink underwear!

In the meantime, the mission, should you choose to accept it, is to join our little band of litter pickers and start by making a difference on your own doorstep. We will see where we can go from there.

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Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

It's been an odd summer on the farm. The wonderfully hot spring meant that the barley didn't germinate well. Eventually some germinated and then, just when the crop was ripening, a secondary growth decided to appear which delayed harvesting. The hay crop was only a quarter of what we usually get, so we are pleased that recently the grass has been putting on a spurt and, with some good weather, we may get a second crop. Our two pregnant female alpacas both gave birth without any trouble – and now we have Bonnie and Clyde to add to the herd. Clyde is an all-black boy, full of energy and trouble. Bonnie is a petite white girl with long blonde eyelashes and funnily shaped ears that sort of turn inwards half way up! Bonnie's mum was a young first-timer so we spent the final ten days double checking her at 11pm and again at 5am. She gave birth around 10 in the morning, without any signs of labour. I just happened to see the baby bag drop to the ground and 'mum' totally ignoring it! Fortunately she has now become a devoted mother. It must be my age but I am no longer enjoying all the nervous excitement of all this breeding so my five lady alpacas are being given a year off to enjoy life without being pregnant! Foxes continue to pick off our chickens – we are down to 13 now from a high of 22. Funny thing is they always choose the fattest ones, although their idea of a good meal seems to be eating the bird's head and leaving the rest for us to find. I am torn between buying more and giving up the unequal struggle.

And to add to our other troubles, we were struck by lightning at the end of June and, through the telephone line, lost the computer, the fax machine and the Sky box. Normal service has only just been resumed! We are off on our annual hols this month to the USA and I have bought a mobile phone which works over there. I merely wish to phone and text but this new machine is so complicated I doubt I will ever master it. What I need is a sub-teenager who understands these things, will take pity on me and give me a few lessons. Oh, the joys of getting older!

ADS REMOVED

Village Hall News

September will be a busy month with all the organizations resuming their usual bookings.

We welcome back: **Mondays:** The Badminton Club, **Tuesdays:** Keep Fit, Brownies, the Parish Council and the Social Club, **Wednesdays:** Mothers & Toddlers' Group, Karate Club, **Thursdays:** the Way Inn, Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness Club, the Pantomime Group and the Gardening Club, **Fridays:** Ladies' Fitness Training and the Bowls Club.

Not to mention the Post Office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the Doctor's Surgery, the surgery nurse and prescription collections Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays AND the Farmers' Market on the last Saturday. How lucky we are to have such a versatile hall to cope with all that!

There will be another **Antiques Fair** on the 11th and the **Pantomime Group** will be welcoming old and new members for the read-through on the 8th.

Much Hadham Horticultural Society and Allotment Club Autumn Show

Saturday 10th September

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Much Hadham Village Hall

Free Admission Raffle

Competition Refreshments

Entry slips or E.Mail entries to be received no later than 8pm

Wednesday 7th September

The committee would welcome anyone who could come along to the hall Friday 9th from 6pm to help set up.

All exhibits to be on display by 10.30am the morning of the show for judging. All welcome. Come along and bring a friend.

ADS REMOVED

Much Hadham Afternoon WI

At our August meeting Ursula McNair gave an account of her experience in Germany during 1944 and 1945. Together with her Mother, sister and brother she was evacuated from her home town of Aachen to escape the bombing. They were sent to a small village to the South East of Berlin. Fortunately they were joined by an Aunt who helped look after the children.

By this time the German army was in retreat and they decided that they must flee the brutal advancing Russian army so they set out on foot to walk home. This took nine months, sleeping in barns and ditches and scrounging and stealing food. They were not alone but with groups of people and although they had very little in the way of belongings people did help each other. An example of this was when Ursula cut her foot very badly on a razor blade. Someone bandaged it up and they found a toy cart and her brother and sister pulled her along as her Mother had the family handcart. Eventually they crossed into the American sector only to be sent away in case they had typhoid. Finally an eighteen year old boy led them but at a man's pace and Ursula had to run to keep up, with only a pair of soles tied to her bare feet, up an embankment and across newly ploughed fields.

At last they reached refuge where there was food and warmth. When they returned to Aachen they found it was a heap of rubble but managed to find two rooms in a flat. The family were saved by their Mother's bravery and resourcefulness but she said they must put this experience behind them and never talk about it and they never referred to it again.

The next meeting is on September 7th at 2pm. Evelyn Turner will talk and demonstrate on "Panic-Free entertaining". The competition is A four-line Verse.

ADS REMOVED

Pirate Walk raises £350 for St Elizabeth's!

Ten pirates walking around a local village on a Saturday lunch time certainly attracts a few laughs but luckily for St Elizabeth's it also attracted a lot of generous donations!

The pirates were collecting on behalf of Villa Maria, one of the adult resident units at St Elizabeth's. Staff are raising money to build a new sensory area for the eight residents in their care.

Over the past month the staff and residents have worked hard and have amazingly raised over half of their £1,000 target! It all started at St Elizabeth's Summer Fayre when staff and residents ran a stall with the help of a professional face painter and air brush tattooist. The stall was a massive hit and one of the busiest of the entire day! They also raffled off a generous donation from **McMullen's** of ten litres of cask ale and a fish pedicure from **Blanco Browns** in Sawbridgeworth.



The unit of 14 staff and eight residents went onto organise a cake stall which runs every other Tuesday in the main restaurant at St Elizabeth's. Both the staff and residents bake home-made goodies such as cookies, upside down pineapple cakes and muffins for all to enjoy.

Before setting off on The Pirate Fun Walk, the staff gained permission from the local shops and pubs of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire to collect donations from their customers during the Pirate Walk on Saturday 25th July 2011.

The pillaging started at midday with the ten pirates walking from the **Play Barn** down through Bullfield's to the **Railway Inn** and then onto **The George Fourth, The King William, The Queens Head, The Bell & The White Horse**. A big thank you goes to all of the pubs and their generous customers!

Shoppers in Sawbridgeworth were really positive with many of the children laughing and joking with Captain Jack who had chocolate treats for those who popped a few pence into the bucket! Shops including the **barbers, florist** and the **dry cleaners** were great and so supportive, the atmosphere surrounding the pirates was electric and everyone on the streets were smiling and joining in the fun.



The pirates finished at **The Bull Pub** where Betty the landlady had prepared sandwiches for all the bloodthirsty shipmates. It was also a fantastic surprise to find the eight ladies of Villa Maria waiting for the pirates to finish the walk!

The walk raised a whopping £350! A big thank you for all of the support the group received from staff, families, pub locals and the businesses which were pillaged!

So far Villa Maria has raised over £500 and with continued support they hope to have the new sensory area ready by Christmas!

l-r Joyce Choruma, Martin Fairey,
Amy Rumsey, Lewis Woodley,
Tara Davis (behind)

Jade Gillespie August 2011

Social Club News

'Maggie Taylor's talk about 'The Work of the Donkey Sanctuary' was excellent, giving a history of the Sanctuary in Devon and we will definitely be asking her to return with more stories. As I write, we now have two tickets available for our visit to Euston Hall, nr. Thetford, on Thursday, 8th September. Please check availability if you are interested in this trip – 658585.

Our September club night on 13th, is a visit to Bishop's Stortford Waitrose Store. Again, please enquire if you are interested in this trip.

Everyone is welcome to the Social Club. There is a nominal admission of £1.50, which includes refreshments, but the big plus is that you meet your neighbours and friends as well as making new ones. For info. 771580 or 658585. Barbara, Binnie and Ennis

WANTED

Your local **Green Tye Clay Pigeon Shooting Club**, established over 28 years is looking for a new site.

With approximately 30 members of all ages, meeting twice a month we raised over £3,000 for charity last year.

Ideally we need approximately 2 acres of land with vehicle access.

If you or anyone you know can help save our club please call Ian on 07969 313486 or e-mail greenitye@btconnect.com for further information.

Nature Notes, continued from page 14

house martins, 4 swifts and 200+ swallows heading south along the Ash Valley. Also noticeable were the increased numbers of gulls, now back from their breeding grounds. These, mainly lesser black backed gulls, can be seen heading south just before dusk on most evenings. Over 60 were seen on the 15th.



The moth trap remained busy, with many new species. The total for the garden now stands at 117; not bad for only 2 months' recording. If anyone would like to have the trap in their garden for a night to see what turns up, I will be happy to bring it round and set it up. Text to 07805 571551 or email me at jforgham@theprimaryworks.com. Plenty of the moth photos can be seen at <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com>. The highlight moth so far was trapped on the 2nd, and then 2 on the 3rd: a

waved black. This is a nationally scarce moth, with the record being forwarded to the county recorder. It does, however, seem to be local to our village. The month of September is always an exciting one, where huge numbers of birds, from small warblers to large birds of prey move south and so almost anything can turn up. I hope to be out and about plenty. If you come across any interesting natural history sightings, I am always happy to hear about them.

AD REMOVED

September diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

1 Thursday

7.30pm Licensing of Stephen Fielding as Team Vicar at St Mary's, Braughing

4 Sunday

Trinity 11 Proper 18

8.00am Holy Communion BCP at St Thomas' Perry Green

9.30am Sung matins BCP at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11.15am Parish Communion at St Mary's, Albury

7 Wednesday

6.00pm Wedding rehearsal in Church

7.15pm (Please note change of time) LH PCC in Church

10 Saturday

1.30pm Wedding of Matthew Slade and Natalie Stigwood at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11 Sunday

Trinity 12 Proper 19

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

14 Wednesday

7.00pm Wedding rehearsal in St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

16 Friday

7.30pm **"The essential harpsichord"**, recital by Laura Tivendale, at St Andrew's Much Hadham (for details ring 841196)

17 Saturday

1.00pm Wedding of Christopher Hennem and Deborah Ambrose at Little Hadham

18 Sunday

Trinity 13 Proper 20

8.00am Holy Communion St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am Service in Village Hall, Little Hadham

6.00pm Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

21 Wednesday

8.00pm Deanery Synod at Holy Trinity, Bishop's Stortford

25 Sunday

Trinity 14 Proper 21

11.15am Harvest Festival at St Mary's

6.00pm Evensong at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

Little Hadham Harvest Festival Service: Sunday October 9th at St Cecilia's, 9.30am

Edward Oliver passed away last month in his new home in Puckeridge. Until November last year he lived with his greyhound Lucky in Red Brick Cottages in Little Hadham. Ted as he was known locally was a member of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Sadly his greyhound Lucky who was his devoted companion to the end has recently had to be put to sleep due to ill health.

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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