

# Little Hadham Parish News December 2011

## **Parish Council Meeting: Incinerator at Westmill, near Ware**

The Parish Council have invited The Burning Issue Group from Ware to come and give a presentation in the Village Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 6th December.

This is for parishioners to hear the plans for Biffa to build a huge incinerator near Ware. The facts are quite staggering and whilst it is not on our doorstep it will have an effect on the quality of our air and environment. All areas within a 15 mile radius of the incinerator will be affected from air pollution, not to mention the added pollution and congestion created by hundreds of lorries per week arriving at the site carrying industrial and commercial waste and also removing the toxic "fly ash" to be landfilled in The Midlands.

The size of the stack is 90 metres high, a little less than Big Ben clock tower whilst the building itself is planned to be 47 metres high. The stack will be visible for miles around.

Come along, enjoy coffee, tea and mince pies and perhaps stay to see what the parish council discusses as our monthly meeting follows on from the presentation.

Further details of this can be viewed at [www.burningissuegroupware.co.uk/](http://www.burningissuegroupware.co.uk/)

In trying to be seen to be fair, the parish council have also invited Biffa to offer a presentation, but as of 18th November, we have not received a reply. Further details from Jonathan on 07805571551 or [jforgham@theprimaryworks.com](mailto:jforgham@theprimaryworks.com).

**Rector of Parish: Revd. Chris Boulton**  
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**Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter**  
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Log on to [www.littlehadham.com](http://www.littlehadham.com) for issues dating back to May 2006

## Letter from the Rectory

*I wonder if the protestors understood the irony of placing their tents outside a cathedral dedicated to St Paul, who famously earned his living as a tent-maker (Acts 18.3) while preaching the Gospel. As a well educated Jew he studied the Law, and taught that a worker was worthy of his wages. (1 Timothy 5.18). But above all he believed in Jesus as the son of God.*

*The protest on the steps of St Paul, which may still be there at Christmas, exposed both the powerlessness and the power of Christianity today. On the one hand the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral found themselves hopelessly out of their depth in the PR game that surrounded the protest: a Christian community dependent on City finance, needing money from tourists to survive, compromised by capitalism, yet preaching good news to the poor and treasuring spiritual values above the material; such a community faced a dilemma in response to the protest. Powerless to change the system, nevertheless they were sympathetic to the action of the protestors. Any good person must be concerned about the million young people who are unemployed, the many ordinary people who struggle financially and worry about their future, and the poor who have nothing, while others have money to burn.*

*The very fact that the tents were pitched on the steps of a building which stands for the values of a Christian nation, a building with international fame, that withstood the aerial bombings of the Blitz, a building in short with immense symbolic power; brought the protest into the light of not only the nation, but the world. The cathedral became a focus for derision, but also of our national conscience.*

*Jesus of Nazareth would more likely have been born in a tent than in a palace; but the living Christ is born in the hearts of those who have faith and believe in the values that characterised his Gospel, wherever they live. These values have all to do with a tender conscience, a loving heart, a gracious spirit, and a concern for those in need. For these there is no political or economic dogma that suffices. If only more of us would pitch our tents less ON the steps of St Paul's than IN the steps of St Paul, the world would be a better place in 2012.*

*May I wish you all a very loving Christmas and a blessed new year.* **Chris Boulton**

## Sock Time

*How quickly it comes round again! We hope to send another parcel of socks to Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge this Christmas. The Centre is being enlarged, with residential accommodation so our socks will be even more useful this year. Please help us to send a record parcel and leave clean used socks or new ones on my doorstep (adjoining Nag's Head) by December 12th. Thanks to all who leave parcels of socks during the year – every pair counts! Happy Christmas Everybody,*

*Ann Clayton*

# Parish Council News

## **Refurbishment of Bus Shelters**

The Parish Council sends grateful thanks to Mike Foskett for his first class refurbishment of all three bus shelters in our village; they look great! All works are now complete, we hope the community finds the shelters a more pleasant place to be when waiting for buses.

## **Bury Green Seat**

Councillor Peter Wells is now in receipt of replies from two contractors who are willing to supply and fit a new seat in Bury Green. A decision will be made soon on which quote is most suitable.

## **Playground Maintenance**

The Parish Council is to set up a working party to carry out minor maintenance to the play apparatus in the Village Hall playground. If any member of the community is happy to help with carrying out such small maintenance jobs from time to time please contact the Parish Clerk 01279 842803.

## **Car Speeding Dangers in Westland Green**

Last month we reported the dangers of speeding traffic and faded road markings in Westland Green. Especially endangered are children using the roads when catching the bus travelling to and from school. The PC wrote to Herts Highways regarding the matter - Herts Highways has responded saying that this type of work is of low priority and not seen as a serious risk. Budgets are stretched at the moment and only priority work is being undertaken. This is a frustrating outcome but until budgets allow the road markings will remain as they are.

## **Road Signs**

The Parish Council is to make enquiries regarding the installation of road signs in Westland Green and Bury Green. These signs will be helpful in telling visitors that they have

arrived at their destination. We will keep you updated with news of this item in the coming weeks.

## **Parking on Village Greens**

The Parish Council respectfully asks that parishioners DO NOT PARK on the greens around the village; in particular the green in Bury Green. Parking on the greens is prohibited, unsightly and causes damage. Please be more considerate when parking your car. Thank you for your co-operation.

## **Westmill Incinerator**

The Burning Issues Group is to hold a presentation in opposition to the proposed massive Westmill Incinerator Plant in Ware. Please make time to attend this important talk - **Tuesday 6th December** at the Village Hall at 7pm - refreshments will be served. See separate item on the front page.

## **Drop In After School Club**

Councillor Wendy Woodgate has put forward ideas for what is to be a community-led club for local children aged 12 to 16 years old. If successful the 'drop in centre' would be held in the Village Hall once a week. There is much work to be done prior to such a club being established. The Parish Council would give some funding towards the running costs of the club but ultimately it would be run as a community group possibly through the Parish Plan Group.

**The next Parish Council meeting** will be held on Tuesday 6th December at 8pm in the Village Hall - mince pies and a cuppa await all parishioners! Do come along to the last meeting of the year it would be good to see you! We wish all parishioners A Happy and Restful Christmas and A Healthy New Year. There will be no meeting in January. First meeting in 2012 will be Tuesday 7th February.

## SSE Campaign wins Public Relations ‘Oscar’

Stop Stansted Expansion's successful campaign forcing withdrawal of plans for a second runway chalked up a further victory this week (27/10) at the public relations industry's 'Oscars' when SSE lifted the winning trophy in the Public Affairs category of the 2011 PR Week Awards. The prestigious ceremony was held in the famous ballroom at London's Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, attended by more than 1000 PR professionals. Alistair Campbell, former communications chief at No 10, presented the trophy to SSE volunteers Maggie Sutton and Mike Fairchild who represented campaign director Carol Barbone and the SSE team.

In their commendation, the judges said SSE had "successfully scuppered BAA's plans to build a second runway at Stansted Airport," describing the campaign as "highly impressive". The judges contrasted SSE's relatively tiny budget with BAA's £200 million war chest saying this was "proof that successful lobbying is not about contact books and huge budgets".

Much of SSE's success was attributed to its targeting of individuals and organisations that could influence the runway decision, including Parliamentarians, media, local authorities, environmental groups, BAA's shareholders and the local community. SSE formed alliances with opponents of expansion at other airports to reinforce its advocacy at public inquiries, in three judicial reviews and in the High Court and Court of Appeal. The quality of SSE's briefings was praised in the House of Lords during the passage of the Civil Aviation Bill. Celebrity support was given by Terry Waite, who became SSE's patron, Jamie Oliver, Will Self and the Kaiser Chiefs.

The judges noted the pledge by all three political parties ahead of the last election to oppose a second runway at Stansted. BAA formally withdrew its second runway application in May 2010 after the first policy announcement by the coalition government opposed the Stansted plans. SSE's campaign was also singled out for special mention by Tim Minchin, who performed the cabaret at the awards ceremony. "This latest award is a tribute not just to the specialists who led our public affairs blitz against BAA but to the unwavering support of our army of community volunteers whose opposition to BAA's ambitions simply could not be ignored," said SSE's campaign director Carol Barbone.

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## Down at the doctor's

Dr Paul Haimes

*Some, hopefully, good news regarding our lease and extension plans came in November with notification from the court that they have scheduled a "case management conference" for 6th December. As this will concentrate only on the single disputed clause in the lease, we are hopeful for a resolution soon and could then begin building work in the New Year.*

*Our new practice nurse, Angela Swift, joined us on 21st November having previously worked at St Elizabeth's, the Rivers hospital and Princess Alexandra hospital. We welcome her to our happy band of health care workers and I'm sure she will be an asset to the practice.*

*A good example of teamwork was evident in the 2nd week of November. After a busy day, starting at 7am, Dr Conway embarked on a home visit to the wilds of Albury after finishing his evening surgery. At 8.15pm he called me as he was stranded at Little Hadham lights having run out of petrol (luckily for the patient this was AFTER the visit!). I, of course, being the Good Samaritan, left my Much Hadham Drama Group rehearsal at the Scout hut, nipped home to retrieve a 5 litre can of lead-free fuel from my mower shed which I then delivered to John. He owes me one, methinks!*

*Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and happy New Year from all of us at the Health Centre.*

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## Village Hall News

*Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 12th December at 8pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall. This may seem a boring way to spend a Monday evening but the Hall fulfills the needs of all residents, providing accommodation for our organisations, Post Office and Doctor's Surgery. We have lots of children's parties, furniture sales, rabbit shows and other bookings, and we would love to hear from you. Please come along, everyone is welcome; we have very short reports on what's going on, our finances and bookings, and would welcome your comments.*

*Talking of finances, our Treasurer, Brian Kain, is retiring after many years of hard work on our behalf. We are, therefore, looking to replace him with someone who will take a genuine and considered interest in our financial arrangements. This will include keeping the books, paying in monies and keeping any eye on our investments - could this be you? If you would like more information, please ring me, Angela Fardell, 771697 or Brian, 771028.*

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## Nature Notes: October/November

Jonathan Forgham

The fine weather continues, bringing with it several unusual records of wildlife within the parish. During this period, 18th October – 18th November, I continued trapping moths in the garden and managed to fit in several walks to observe the local bird life.

I received a report of a barn owl spotted near the polo fields at Bury Green (thanks, Bruce) and so spent a few hours around the area trying to find where it roosted. The main reason for this was because I was giving a science day to a Stortford primary school and needed owl pellets for dissection. No luck with barn owl but I did see 4 little owls and 2 tawnies. The latter continue to call regularly throughout the parish. I had a lot of pellets left over, having received them from The Barn Owl Trust in Devon. These I took into the local school for the junior children to dissect and find the bones of mice, birds and shrews. Great fun!

Another unusual bird observed was a teal, seen at the lagoon east of Hadham Hall. The UK's smallest duck, this first year bird was eventually flushed by dog walkers before I got a decent photo, flying off high towards The Hall. I suspect that it will remain in the area over the winter. Other highlight birds were bullfinches, (1 2th) red kite (3rd) sparrow hawk (1 6th) tree creeper (6th) and linnets (1 8th).

At the moth trap, 7 new species were caught. These were all expected autumnal moths which take the number of species in my garden to an impressive 155. I don't expect many new ones between now and February, but may well be tempted to take the trap out to local woods to see what is about.

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## Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

*In November we were treated to a talk by Mrs Barrett on 'Fruit in the garden' which everyone enjoyed and came away with some lovely ideas. The Club Supper was well attended and a great social evening was had by all. Thank you to Jan at Clouds Catering for our tasty supper.*

*Remember that your garden is a great source of home-grown Christmas decorations, so make the most of what is out there.*

*If the soil is still workable there is still time to plant ornamental and fruit trees, shrubs and roses and of course winter digging. Keep the lawn free of leaves.*

*Cut down, lift and divide herbaceous perennials but leave Penstemon until the spring as they can carry on flowering through to early winter in warmer climates. Dahlias, cannas and other tuberous plants such as begonias need to be lifted and stored after the first frost hits.*

*Mulching should be carried out to shelter less hardy plants such as Agapanthus and improve and maintain soil structure. Protect tender plants from winter cold and wet by bringing them inside or into a heated greenhouse.*

*It's the dormant season so maintenance and rejuvenation pruning of deciduous trees and shrubs should be carried out now. Avoid pruning tender plants.*

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

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## Christmas Shopping Festival 4th December

The idea for the 'Uniquely Stortford' (US) campaign was conceived with and on behalf of the 'Stortford Retailers and Restaurants' group. The main drivers are Neil Cooper (Coopers of Stortford), Karen Burton (Karen's Cakes), Rob Drewett (Ce' the Jeweller), Jackie Colman (Elements and Urban Spa), Rhonda Jones (Rondzi Shoes and Boots), Chris Hellmers (Lathamshome) and latterly myself and Dawn Leahey of WhaAm! Pr and Marketing. The US campaign has been keen to emphasise an allegiance to independent traders and for them to use the Uniquely Stortford platforms to promote their respective offerings. Our tenet is simple –for independents to build up a spirit of unity and pull together for a series of town centre based initiatives aimed at delighting the consumer. We are now 60+ strong in membership and growing. Our first initiative will be a Uniquely Stortford Christmas Shopping Festival on **Sunday December 4th** for which the publicity campaign is now underway (see left).

For us, the Christmas Shopping Festival is a 'starter for ten' – if it is perceived as a success, then the wagons will roll unto the next bigger, better resourced initiative.



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# Life on the Run

Les Williams

Whoosh! Another car comes flying through the village. He is easily moving at more than 50mph. I try to flag it down but I get the usual 'salute'. Later the same morning a speeding BMW nearly runs me down in Ford Hill. This time the driver does stop but only to give me a mouthful of abuse for having the audacity to be running in the road. From Cradle End down to the War Memorial is, of course, a popular 'rat run' used to avoid the traffic lights on the A120. Despite the strenuous efforts of Carmela Piccolo (keep up the good work Carmela!) the police have still not begun to use radar guns. Call me Mr Cynical but they will no doubt be out in force (if you will excuse the pun) when someone is killed or injured.

There is also an inextricable link between the rat run drivers and litter on our roads. These people have no care or interest in our village so driving like a maniac and throwing an empty can of Red Bull or cigarette packet out of the window is second nature. Perhaps if we can make the area less conducive for short cuts then I'm pretty confident that we would also see a reduction in litter dropping.

My eyes! My eyes!

Recently I was out running towards Standon. Picture the scene; it is 7.30am on a rather chilly Saturday morning. As I round a bend I am confronted by a clutch of chickens running around in the middle of the lane. Adopting Dr Doolittle mode, I scold the chickens for playing in the road and usher them back through a fence. I decide to inform their owner and go through an

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## Wanted for Christmas! Home for 8000 Books

Stop Stansted Expansion is urgently seeking a new home for its collection of 8000 books which are regularly offered for sale and replenished to raise funds for the campaign.

The need has arisen following the closure of the Old School House in Takeley for health and safety reasons and SSE's recent move to Molehill Green. While the campaign office's new home at the village hall is a perfect base for day-to-day activities, it simply isn't suitable for housing the books or for holding quarterly sales open to the public.

As a result, a new base is needed by Christmas for book display and storage on free-standing shelves which the campaign has gathered over the years as a result of the efforts of the stalwarts who have managed this important fundraising initiative for SSE. The current facilities consist of a hall approximately 10m by 6m and comparable space would be ideal, but all possible solutions will be gratefully considered.

Said Carol Barbone, SSE campaign director: "Our book sales at Takeley as well as at external events such as the Countess of Warwick Show (where SSE has shared the proceeds with the Friends of the Five Parishes) have raised thousands of pounds for the continued fight against the threat of airport expansion. We're continually being approached by those wishing to donate yet more books to keep the fundraising project going but until we can be sure the book sales have a home beyond the New Year, we're reluctant to accept any more."

The deadline for finding a new home for the books is Christmas Eve and anyone who might be able to offer a useful suggestion as to a possible solution is invited to contact SSE on 01279 870558 or by email on [info@stopstanstedexpansion.com](mailto:info@stopstanstedexpansion.com).

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# What's on in December ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

- 3 Sat, Braughing Music Society**, see p13.
- 4 Sun, Jingle Bells & Bows Fun Run/Walk**, 9:30-1:30pm. In aid of Isabel Hospice circling Stanborough Lakes in Welwyn GC. 5K run at 11am with registration at 10am. 4K walk at midday with registration at 11am. Run in fancy dress if you wish, (prizes). Teams and individuals welcome, get your non-running friends to sponsor you. Entry £12 (free for under 16s). Hot drinks & mince pies too. email [julie.north@isabelhospice.org.uk](mailto:julie.north@isabelhospice.org.uk).
- 4 Sun, Christmas Bazaar**, LH School, 12-3pm.
- 4 Sun, Reflections at Christmas**, 4pm. Join us in St Elizabeth's Chapel to dedicate a candle and join in singing traditional hymns and carols. This is a lovely opportunity to remember someone special by lighting a candle. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. All are welcome.
- 4 Sun, St Elizabeth's Carol Service**, 4pm. Join us in St Elizabeth's Chapel to dedicate a candle and join in singing traditional hymns and carols. This is a lovely opportunity to remember someone special by lighting a candle. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. All are welcome.
- 6 Tue, KSI Christmas Presentation Dress Rehearsal** at the school. We look forward to seeing you there.
- 6 Tue, MH Horticultural Society Christmas Social**, 8pm See p13.
- 6 Tue, The Burning Issues Group** will hold a presentation in opposition to the proposed massive Westmill Incinerator Plant in Ware. at 7pm - refreshments will be served. See separate item on front page.
- 6 Tue, Parish Council**, 8pm, but come along at 7pm for The Burning Issues item (above).
- 8, 22 Thur, Mobile Library**, See p13.
- 9 Fri, St Elizabeth's Santa Dash**, 11am start. Get on your running shoes and beard and take part in this new fun event! Help raise money for St Elizabeth's. Children welcome. Contact St Elizabeth's for Registration Form.
- 12 Mon, Carols around the Tree Rehearsal** at the school. We look forward to seeing you.
- 12 Mon, Village Hall AGM**, 8pm in the Committee Room. Everybody welcome.
- 13 Tue, History Society**, 7.45 for 8. See p13.
- 13 Tue, LH & A Social Club**, 8pm. Wine Tasting Evening on behalf of Waitrose, BS at a cost of £5 per person. Everyone welcome and we look forward to seeing you.
- 15 Thur, Way Inn Special Christmas edition Coffee Morning**, 11am-1pm. Carols by request at 11.30am, with sausage rolls, mince pies etc. Please come and join us. Our January meeting will be back to the usual time of 10am - 12 noon.
- 20 Tue, Herts and Soul Concert** See p13.
- 20 Tue, LH & A Garden Club**, 8pm.
- 21 Wed, Christmas at the Much Hadham Drop-in Centre** from 10am - 1pm (please note it is a week early). Come and join us for a glass of wine, mince pies and carols. Look forward to seeing you. Denise Karen and Joan.
- 21 Wed, Carol Service**, 7.30, St Cecilia's.
- 31 Sat, Farmers' Market**, 8.30 - 11.30am.

## ... and in 2012

Jan 9 **History Society AGM**, MH VH 8pm.  
Jan 20 **Haileybury Jazz Evening**, for Isabel Hospice. Contact Katie Robertson on 01707 382500 for more details.

# NOTICEBOARD

## WANTED URGENTLY:

More regular players for our Badminton Club. If you are over 13 and have played before (even if it is a long time ago) please come and join our friendly club on Monday evenings from 8-10pm in the Village Hall, where a warm welcome is guaranteed.

## 8th & 22nd 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  
A fortnightly service.



**Christmas Greetings to all**  
from the committee of  
Much Hadham Horticultural Society  
and Allotment Club

### Christmas Social

Tuesday December 6th 8pm in the  
Green Room Much Hadham Village Hall  
Come along and enjoy a quiz plus a glass of  
Christmas cheer  
Admission Free

**The Hadhams History Society**  
Christmas Social, drinks and nibbles  
Plus

"A Traditional Christmas" by  
Richard Maddams

A short talk on Christmas Traditions  
Tuesday 13th December

St Andrew's School Hall

Doors open 7.45pm for an 8.00pm start.

### AGM

Monday 9th January

The Green Room Much Hadham Village Hall  
Doors open 7.45pm for an 8.00pm start.

Many thanks to everybody  
who donated to the recent  
Poppy Appeal and especially  
to those who went collecting  
door-to-door. A grand total  
of £715.35 was raised.  
Congratulations!



*Braughing Music Society*

**Music from  
West End Shows**

with the  
**Drop Dead Divas**

Saturday 3rd December - 7:30 pm  
St Mary's Church, Braughing

### TICKET PRICES

£15; £12 or £10 in advance. Children free

Telephone Box Office: 01763 280073

Email: [bookings@braughingmusicsociety.co.uk](mailto:bookings@braughingmusicsociety.co.uk)  
[www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk](http://www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk)

## music@stansted

The next concert will be a recital by Katie Bray (mezzo-soprano) and William Vann (piano) on **Sunday, 11th December** at 3pm in St John's Church, Stansted.

Katie Bray is a Karaviotis scholar on the opera course at the Royal Academy of Music, taught by Elizabeth Ritchie and Iain Ledingham, and was awarded First Prize in the Academy's prestigious Richard Lewis Singing Competition this year.

She played Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with British Youth Opera at the Peacock Theatre this summer. During her time as a postgraduate student at the Royal Academy of Music, Katie was awarded the 2009 Major van Someren-Godfrey Prize for English Song, the 2010 Elena Gerhardt Lieder Prize, the Alfred Alexander Scholarship and the Karaviotis and Sir Thomas Armstrong Awards. Katie is grateful for generous support from the Countess of Munster Musical Trust and the Josephine Baker Trust.

William Vann is establishing himself at the forefront of the current generation of young British accompanists. He studied as a pianist at the Royal Academy of Music with Malcolm Martineau and Colin Stone, graduating with distinction. In 2008 he won the Gerald Moore award for young accompanists and in October 2010 won the Great Elm Awards Accompanist Prize. He also works as a coach at the Oxenford International Summer School and is the Director of Music at St Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road.

Their music@stansted programme will include songs by Schubert, Robert Schumann, Clara Schumann, Mozart, Weill and Arlen and piano solos featuring music by Gershwin.

We are most grateful to our generous concert sponsors Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers, who are covering the piano hire cost, and The Countess of Munster Musical Trust.

The first concert in 2012 will be on **Sunday, 29th January** at 3pm in St John's, Stansted and will be given by The Piatti String Quartet (Charlotte Scott, first violin, Michael Trainor, second violin, David Wigram, viola, and Jessie Ann Richardson, 'cello).

Winners of the St. Martins in the Fields Chamber Music Competition and the Martin Musical/Philharmonia Scholarship Fund 2010, the Piatti Quartet are fast emerging as one of the UK's leading young string quartets. Previously recipients of the Tunnell Trust Award and selected as Park Lane Group Young Artists in 2009/2010, more recent news includes a second year as Leverhulme Chamber Music Fellows at the Royal Academy of Music and winning the St Peter's Eaton Square Prize 2011.

For their music@stansted concert, the Piatti String Quartet will be playing Haydn's Quartet Opus 76 No.3 "The Emperor", Smetana's Quartet No.1 "From My Life" and Schubert's Quartet No.14 "Death and the Maiden"

Tickets for each concert cost Adults £12, Children £1, and are now available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282) and at the door.

For further information about us, please visit our website – [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com).

# Little Hadham School

*Believing and Achieving*

We are still reeling from our recent good luck in a national competition, sponsored by Kelloggs, called 'Give a Child a Breakfast'. You may have seen adverts on the television all about it. A very supportive parent, Mrs Lisa Wilkins, nominated our school in the competition and we amazingly won the fantastic amount of £10,000! For a school such as ours with very limited funds, it is a wonderful windfall. It was organised by Heart Radio and they are keen to get lots of publicity, so watch this space! Fame at last!

Hope to see many of you at our Annual Christmas Bazaar on Sunday 4th December from 12-3pm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Headteacher

## **Life on the Run**, continued from page 10

adjoining gate leading to a bungalow. I go to the front door, which has large glass panels and through which I can clearly see down the hallway. All is quiet. Ding-dong. I ring the bell and wait. No response so I ring again. Just as I am about to turn and leave, the door at the end of the hallway opens and a naked man appears. He is pulling on his dressing gown but not quickly enough for me to avert my eyes. Oooh, too much information!

The man shuffles down the hallway, yawning and mumbling. He peers at me through sleepy eyes as he fumbles for the key and opens the door. "I'm terribly sorry to disturb you," I say "but I just found your chickens running around in the road and I'm worried that they might go back out there". The man slowly blinks a few times. "I don't have any chickens," he says quietly, "they belong to my neighbour". I offer my profuse apologies. To be fair, he was very good about it. I'm not sure how I would have reacted if it had been me!

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**Nature Notes** continued from page 7



Photo of the dark brown moth is an unimaginatively named December moth whilst the spectacular green specimen is a Merveille Du Jour. The final moth pictured is a Silver Y, a possible migrant from the continent.

So, almost another year has gone and no new bird species, although another near miss, with a snow bunting being recorded in Bishop's Stortford, some half mile over the parish boundary. Penultimately, a large thank you to all who attended my talk in the Village Hall for the Social Club. A most enjoyable evening. So, finally may I wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year and perhaps hope that 2012 will offer the hundredth bird for the parish. I have not seen a new species since March 2010!

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## **Much Hadham Afternoon WI**

Much Hadham Afternoon WI had a busy time at their November meeting. Brian Smalley gave a moving talk on "Our Poppies". This was followed by the business, which involved several items of communication, including the report on the Autumn Council Meeting. Vivienne Hodgson resigned over our Annual Meeting, where our President, Joyce Spackman, was standing down after three years in the role. Ursula McNair is to be our new president and we wish her well in her new position.

Much Hadham Afternoon WI will hold its Christmas lunch at the Bull on **Wednesday 7th December**. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 4th January** at 2pm in the Village Hall. The speaker is Linda Ketteridge who will talk on "Saffron Growing at Saffron Walden". The competition is "A Splash of Gold" ( use your imagination). We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

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## Rural Ramblings

Cherry Mardell

The past few weeks have been fraught. We are still doing battle with our electricity bill. After countless calls and countless differing replies, we are now back to square one again – with our bill rising at the rate of £390 every month! The latest response from British Gas (who supply our electricity) in relation to the huge increases we are showing since our 'Smart meter' was fitted in May is that our old meter was probably faulty and gave us cheap electricity...but of course they (or we) can't prove anything because said old meter was thrown out!

Then we had a bill for nearly £200 from BT – and we found that they had wrongly changed our 'options'. Instead of admitting the mistake, they (those folk in India) tell me that they have to find a certain call I made to them back in June. They call me 'Mardell' talk me down, but never call back with an answer. So 'nil point' for BT's customer relations!

Some people allow such things to waft over them, secure in the knowledge that, at some point, everything will be resolved. Not me, I fret, I fume, and I don't sleep. So as we approach December, a time when we should have goodwill towards all men, I feel disgruntled, wronged and brittle. Which leads me nicely into warning the phantom poo-thrower, who's at it again, that I've got my spies watching you. If you won't take it home with you, leave it where it is, rather than bagging it and throwing it into the bushes – where it remains for all to see. And to those men and boys on bikes and motorbikes who illegally use our footpaths as a race track – watch it or the police will too.

And should you see our house in darkness, try to call us only to find no phone connection, you'll know that even Santa couldn't work his magic on essential services!

Happy Christmas to you all.

ADS REMOVED

Following the success of the Midsummer Concert  
at St Cecilia's in July the

**Herts and Soul Community Choir**

accompanied by the

**Martyn Stogden Jazz Trio**

will be performing their

**Christmas Concert**

at the United Reform Church

in Bishop's Stortford (next to Waitrose) on

**Tuesday 20th December at 7.30pm.**

Tickets £10 (£8 concessions) from

Tony Skidmore, 771 688 or Barbara Evans, 842803

include mince pie, mulled wine and  
a hearty helping of festive cheer!

ADS REMOVED

## Diary of a Pantomime Dame

Greetings from the quarter deck of the good ship Vindaloo! We have been on this voyage of my nephew Sinbad for a few weeks now and are, apparently, on course for a place called Egypt in order to find a special jewel stolen by an evil sorceress. What a weird bunch of fellow travellers we have on this ship! There's this pompous Sheik Kebab and his wife, their daughter Pappadom (with her handmaiden Tikka) and an even stranger bloke, with a fake Indian accent, called Rogan something or other. In addition we have my other nephew, Binbad, who is Sinbad's brother but is definitely a couple of apples short of a picnic. Then, of course, we have Captain Sam (Oza) whose hands wander more each day; I shall have to put some bromide in his curry.

Talking of curry, my culinary skills have been tested of late. The crew are apparently fed up with fish curry for breakfast, lunch and dinner but, as I tell them, a cook can only use what's available and we all prefer fresh, local produce surely? I got a little worried the other day, though, when I saw a couple of the crew polishing a large plank. Luckily for me, the captain told them to put it away for now.....

Bertha Balti (Dame, cook and bottle washer).

ADS REMOVED

## Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

Our November meeting, Jonathan's review of the year's local nature, plus recent birding trips he has made, was excellent and extremely well attended. There were a lovely set of local faces, plus a large group of Jonathan's birding followers. It was a very pleasant evening.

The 2012 programme was distributed and copies will be available at meetings. The menu for the February Annual Dinner is also now ready. The dinner is to be held in the Village Hall and Clouds Catering are cooking for us. The cost for the evening is £19.50 and must be pre-booked, please.

On Tuesday 13th December we are holding a Wine Tasting Evening on behalf of Waitrose, Bishop's Stortford, at a cost of £5 per person. Everyone welcome and we look forward to seeing you. We thank Carmela most warmly for her kind article in last month's magazine. Our report notes that our attendance for November was very high and a number of familiar smiley faces were noted in the audience. We would also like to add that the village community is supported by a number of clubs and associations, all needing support to keep going. Some are weekly attendance, but most are monthly (all listed in the Parish Magazine). Life is busy; retirees cannot imagine how they had time to attend work; young families have so many activities to be transported to; commuter workers don't get home until late. All very good reasons not to want to leave the house again. But do give us all a try, particularly if you are a new member of the community. Every club will welcome you. Hope to see you soon. We look forward to seeing old friends and new in the future.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year,

Barbara, Binnie and Ennis (771580 or 658585 for info).

ADS REMOVED



# Wishing you all a Very Merry Ch

Barbara and  
Dennis Taylor  
would like to wish  
all their friends  
and neighbours  
a Very Happy  
Christmas.

John and Jenny Duke  
send love and best wishes  
for a Happy Christmas  
to all their friends and  
neighbours in Little  
Hadham. We have settled  
in well but miss you all.



ADS REMOVED

# Christmas and a Happy New Year



**Brian and Brenda Kain**  
wish everybody a healthy and  
happy Christmas and New Year.  
We will, as usual, be giving a  
donation to the Isabel Hospice  
instead of sending cards.



Frank and Karin Green would like  
to wish everybody in Little Hadham a  
very Happy Christmas and very best  
wishes for 2012.

ADS REMOVED

# December diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

**4 Sun**

**Advent 2**

9.30am

Sung Matins at St Cecilia's, preacher Clive Slaughter

**6 Tues, 7.30pm**

Christmas choir rehearsal in St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**11 Sun**

**Advent 3**

9.30am

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

5.00pm

Taizé Service at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

**13 Tues 7.30pm**

Christmas choir rehearsal in St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**14 Wed 6.30pm**

Little Hadham School Service in Church

**15 Thur 11.30am**

Christmas Carols and refreshments in the Village Hall

**18 Sun**

**Advent 4**

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Service in Little Hadham Village Hall

6.00pm

Christmas Carol Service at St Andrew's Much Hadham

**20 Tues 7.30pm**

Christmas choir rehearsal in St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**21 Wed 7.30pm**

Christmas Carol Service at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

**24 Christmas Eve 6.30pm** **Christingle service and blessing of Crib at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham**

**25 Christmas Day 9.30am** **Family Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham**

**St Cecilia's  
Church**

**Carol Service**

**Wednesday  
21st December  
7.30pm**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

REFRESHMENTS & MINCE PIES AFTER THE SERVICE

There will be the usual Sunday morning service on New Year's Day at 9.30am.

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

There have been no entries in the Register this month

**The 'Way Inn'**  
**Special Christmas edition coffee  
morning. Carols, sausage rolls and  
mince pies.**  
**Rear of Village Hall,  
11 - 1pm**

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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