

LITTLE
HADHAM
PARISH NEWS
DECEMBER 2012



The porch at St Cecilia's

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

Letter from the Rectory

This magazine, covering December, is being written at a time when we in the Church are facing major changes. In the wider world of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion we have learned of the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to follow Rowan Williams who will take his deep knowledge and spirituality to the life of Cambridge University. His successor, presently Bishop of Durham, comes originally from the world of business and will, no doubt, bring many new gifts and ways to the demanding (some would say impossible) role of Archbishop.

In our own group of villages we have, with some sadness, adjusted to the absence of Chris Boulton from the life of both our Churches and our villages. His successor is not yet known, but it is encouraging to learn that there has been sufficient interest in the post of Team Rector that a shortlist has been arrived at and interviews will take place around the end of November. In the meantime we soldier on under the leadership of Stephen Fielding, our Team Vicar.

All change! It's interesting how we react to change. I've met very few people who, as a way of life enthusiastically look forward to change! Most of us feel apprehensive or threatened to a greater or lesser degree. Like the story of the Bishop coming to a parish and meeting a man who had been Churchwarden for 40 years. "My goodness," said the Bishop, "you must have seen a lot of changes in that time?" "Yes Bishop," replied the elderly gent, "and I've opposed every one of them!" Nevertheless, regardless of whether we're talking about a Church, a community, or a person, the fact is that life and growth are dependent on a preparedness to change, or to allow ourselves to be changed. Our God truly is "the same yesterday, today and forever". And yet He is, at the same time, the God "who makes all things new" and through His spirit, constantly calls us into new things, new challenges and new attitudes of mind so that we will NOT be the same yesterday, today and forever!

No-one could have been faced into a more dramatic change in her young life than the Virgin Mary, called by the Angel Gabriel to be the Mother of the Son of God. Yet, after a few questions, and in spite of her undoubted fears, she gave the Angel the reply that is for all time the example par excellence of the Christian response to God. "I am the Lord's servant; let it be to me according to your word". As a result of that response, we are able to celebrate Christmas and the birth of the Saviour of the World. I know that for many of us the new year may hold anxieties and challenges, but let us all take with us into 2013 the knowledge that we are not alone, that He is with us and will be with us in all the changes with which we may be faced. A very happy and peaceful Christmas to you all.

With love, Clive Slaughter (Hon Assistant Priest)

Carol Service by Candlelight – 19 December 7.30pm

This year's Carol Service by Candlelight at St Cecilia's will be laced with plenty of well known carols followed by festive wine and mince pies. The Choir Mistress is looking for new faces and voices to join us at the first Carol Practice on 4th December at 7.30pm (men would be particularly welcome) when the chosen carols will be rehearsed. A beautiful 'Rutter' carol will be a choir-only highlight, together with readings of a Christmas character. If you would like more information please contact Karin Green 771532 or Don Gibson 771325.

Parish Council News

Trim Trail

LHPC can confirm that the new Trim Trail is now fully installed and ready for use – enjoy!

Flood Alert

Cllr Graham Pearson is LHPC's new Flood Liaison contact. Please see separate item from Graham which contains extensive information, including telephone numbers and website addresses, on flooding.

LHPC Supports Hannah

Hannah Pearson has organized a petition to be presented to Herts County Council & National Grid in an effort to try to get them to install an ARMCO barrier protection system to the gas main in Much Hadham which she collided with last year during icy weather conditions. Hannah suffered an injury to her arm and was very fortunate that the incident did not escalate into a very dangerous one - some parishioners may remember that their gas supply was interrupted for some time whilst repairs to the gas main were carried out following the accident. Although repairs proved successful the gas main still remains largely unprotected. So far Hannah has collected over 100 signatures from parishioners showing their support; these will be presented to the Authorities in the hope that they will protect the gas main against any future accident.

Recycled Plastic Planters

LHPC has made enquiries via HCC and has been given the go-ahead to install recycled plastic planters in various locations close to the Village Hall. The planters will hopefully be ordered, installed and planted up in time for next spring. LHPC hopes to place the order for the planters after the December meeting.

Village Sign

LHPC has agreed to place an order for the installation of one "Little Hadham" village sign. The sign will mark the definitive start of our village travelling in from Much Hadham.

Memorial Bench

HCC have also given the go-ahead for the installation of a bench, where the village sign stands opposite the Nag's Head public house, in memory of much loved parishioner Barbara who passed away earlier this year. (The installation of the memorial bench is a community led project).

Tidy Up Team

Jono would like to hear from volunteers who are ready to help with several tidy-ups in and around the village - please call Jono on 07805 571551 if you feel you can help.

Mowing @ Bury Green

LHPC has sent a Thank You letter to Martin Roat following the recent cut to the green at Bury Green. LHPC is to look into some new options in relation to the up-keep of the green in future. Watch this space for more news in the coming months.

Dumped Garden Rubbish into The Ash

LHPC respectfully asks parishioners to think before they throw any unwanted rubbish, be it garden or any other refuse, into the river Ash. Please place all household or garden refuse in the appropriate bins provided by the Local Authority or take refuse to the local dump. Throwing refuse into the river causes blockages that could prove catastrophic for villagers when there is heavy rainfall – please spare a thought for your neighbours and for the overall safety of our village.

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Quinquennial Repairs

Edward Middleton

Visitors to St Cecilia's this summer will have noticed the scaffolding around the tower and along the front of the church as well as other signs of building work in progress. This has all been part of the repairs we have had to undertake under our Quinquennial building review required by the Diocese. It is very pleasing that whilst the review identified many areas which needed repair and attention nothing of major significance or concern came to light.

The work undertaken included: replacement of a coping stone on a buttress on the tower, solving a damp wall problem in the WC in the church room, replacing the fascia board and guttering along much of the front of the church and many other less visible but important repairs. The overall impact is that the church looks a lot better in many areas and is now ready to face the rigours of English weather. Although St Cecilia's is not located in the centre of the village it is an important local landmark and central to village life for christenings, weddings and funerals as well as other community activities. Maintaining it in good order is our responsibility and paramount for the continuation of our heritage.

The majority of the work has been carried out by Nick Spall of NS Restorations. We have been very impressed with Nick's professionalism and craftsmanship and are extremely grateful to him for this and his pride and interest in St Cecilia's. We would also like to place on record our thanks to Robert and Dorothy Collins for generously providing the coping stone for the tower repair and to Oliver Cave of Connect Scaffolding for the generous discount on the provision

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Adverts removed

Even from a distance, the man trying to restrain two snarling German Shepherd dogs looked, as the expression goes, like a nasty piece of work. His 4X4 was parked in front of the closed gate to the Jobbers Wood sports fields. He had obviously been 'walking' his dogs on the fields, although there was no sign of a doggie waste bag. How nice for the kids who would be playing there! I had a plastic Tesco's carrier bag full of litter that I needed to offload so that I could start the next bag. I tied the top and approached him as he manhandled the dogs into their cage. I decided to see if he had any community spirit.

"Good morning, I've been picking up litter. Could you do me a favour and put this bag in your dustbin when you get home?" "Yeah, sure mate, no problem," he replied and took the bag from me. "Thanks a lot, this litter problem is terrible isn't it?" I continued. "Yeah" he said, "It's bad ain't it." He reminded me of Bill Sykes from Oliver Twist. With that, he climbed into his 4X4 and drove off towards Thorley, which was where I was heading.

Not ten minutes later I rounded a bend and there, lying in the middle of the road, was the Tesco carrier bag, all tied up and still full of litter. I can't say that I was altogether surprised. I meet a lot of people when I'm running. Mostly they are very nice and I've made a few new friends over the past 5 years since moving into Little Hadham. One very nice chap in Hunsdon recently bought me a litter picker. It's brilliant. It's much more hygienic and enables me to pick up litter in normally out of reach places like hedgerows and ditches. But like my friend Bill Sykes, some people I meet 'on the run' are mean spirited so and so's.

Years ago I knocked on the door of a house in a nearby lane (you will see why I have not named it in a moment!) and asked if I could put my carrier bag full of litter in the man's

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Adverts removed

Helping our Neighbours & Friends

Folks do please keep an eye on and ears peeled for your neighbours and friends as and when they may need help from time to time, especially now as winter approaches. You could maybe offer to put out or bring in their bin, pick up litter, run an errand, give a lift to or just have a quick chat on the phone. The rewards are two-fold – giving and receiving help and friendship bring joy and happiness to all.

Village Postie Alan Hoy Retires

Folks do please go along to the Nag's Head on December 3rd @ 7.30pm and wish Alan well in his retirement – his unstinting service will be sorely missed.

It's a Record!

Well done to all those who attended the

service at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. It was fantastic to see so many parishioners paying their respect. We pass on grateful thanks to all those who made the occasion possible and to Karin & Frank too for keeping the war memorial in tip top condition.

December Meeting

The December meeting will be the last of 2012 please come along it would be good see you, mince pies and refreshments promised, @ the Village Hall on Tuesday December 4th @ 7.45pm for 8pm start.

LHPC sends very best wishes to all parishioners. We hope yours is a restful Christmas and a very Happy New Year. (There is no meeting in January - first meeting of 2013 will be on Tuesday February 5th.)

Adverts removed

What a fiasco! I'm talking about voting for the new police chief. Yes, we all knew it was to be this November and we all received voting cards. But who were the candidates and what did they stand for? As the day grew nearer I believed, in my innocence, that we would get fliers through the door expounding the benefits of voting for ... whoever. But no, silence reigned, as they say. The day arrived and our Village Hall once again became the polling booth. Surely, I thought, there would be people outside the hall, ready to tell us we should vote for – whoever.

So we made our way there. And, as the other 50 or so people who did turn up found out, nobody was there bar the officials. I found out there were four candidates, one from each political party. Politics? Funny, I thought this was all about how the candidate would guide our police force. So I tore up my voting card and went home. It is the first time ever that I have not voted. But I truly saw no point in putting my X against a complete stranger's name.

What a total waste of time and money. At a time of real recession, I am ashamed that our government went ahead with such a hair-brained scheme.

'Tis the season to be jolly' – but here on the farm we are finding it a wee bit difficult! Currently we have two carrion crows who appear to have taken up residence in our trees. Daily, while one keeps an eye open for humans, the other one flies at our conservatory windows in a mad flurry of beak and wings, spattering the many windows with dirt. Boys and girls may go out to play but here that's not allowed. Our alpacas are now segregated. Bonnie and Clyde were last year's babies but the all-black Clyde has now found his sexual feet. And, as half our herd are related to him, it is necessary for him to be kept at bay. The boys don't like it at all and the females bleat longingly through the fence at their friends. If Casanova Clyde is still with us in the spring, he may well try his hand at fathering a couple of alpacas for delivery in the spring of 2014!

Adverts removed

Arthur Rank Centre – Computers for Rural People

To encourage people living in rural areas to appreciate the opportunities provided by e-mail and internet, the Arthur Rank Centre has set up the "Computers for Rural People" to provide computers at very low cost to:

- people retired or approaching retirement;
- a very busy person, trying to organise things by telephone and letter;
- assist school-children with their homework.

The Centre has arranged with the global charity Oasis, to supply re-furbished computers at charity prices. Applicants are requested to make voluntary donations of £12 minimum, to the Centre, to cover costs and help the charity's charitable work. Contact details: <http://www.google.com/url?sa=D&q=http://www.ruralchurch.org.uk/communities-and-farming/computers-for-rural-people&usg=AFQjCNHgliFoEj9X50YWTclx5pMAzDpwNg>.

RSPCA – Information

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the Herts East Branch of the RSPCA opened their first charity shop at 19, Churchyard, Hitchin early in November. It is quite a journey to expect supporters from The Hadhams to make, but if you would like to give your support by donating items to be sold in the shop, I would be very happy to collect and take them to Hitchin.

Tel. Ennis on 658585. Many thanks and Best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Adverts removed

Age UK –Volunteers please

Local charity Age UK Hertfordshire is looking for volunteers who can help older people remain independent and active for as long as possible.

Age UK Hertfordshire has a wide variety of volunteering opportunities which could fit around your schedule and suit your interests. Roles range from visiting an isolated older person in their home, giving information and advice, assisting at a 10 to 3 club or day centre, supporting healthy eating and exercise groups or helping the charity to raise awareness and funds by supporting its fundraising team at events in your local area.

To ensure you gain the most out of your volunteering experience the charity provides relevant training, ongoing support and out of pocket expenses.

Carla Johnson joined Age UK Hertfordshire as a Visiting Scheme volunteer because she wanted to gain experience in social work. She loved the role so much that she now works full time for the charity as a Healthwise Coordinator. Carla says "If I hadn't volunteered I would still be doing 'little jobs', this role is perfect for me and it is great for my self esteem because I feel like I have done something worthwhile."

Whether you can spare an hour each week or just a couple of hours each month, your support could help change the lives of older people in Hertfordshire.

For further information please visit www.ageuk.org.uk/Hertfordshire call the HR Team on 01707 386060 or email volunteering@ageukherts.org.uk

Adverts removed

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

Jonathan, again, talked us through an amazing amount of information of the natural world, locally and in Portugal. The Red Kite is increasing in Hertfordshire and could well settle in our valley, but a number of migrating birds have had to change their usual migration routine because of lack of food. He had excellent photography of moths and butterflies, whose colouring was superb. We have booked him again for November, 2013!

We are taking bookings for our Annual Dinner, to be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 12th February, 2013. The cost is £18.50 per person, including drinks and the menu is available for you to make your choices. Jan of Clouds Catering is again cooking for us. As we are not having a meeting in January, full payment for the dinner will need to be paid by our December meeting, please.

For our 11th December meeting, at 8pm Stacey Johnson, of the Kisses4Kids Charity, will tell us of the support her Charity has given to many children who are hospitalized for long periods, plus she will tell us of her memories of carrying the Olympic Torch. It will also be a Social evening with nibbles and wine.

Our best wishes for a Very Merry Christmas, Binnie, Sue, Carmela and Ennis

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Many thanks to everybody who contributed to the recent Poppy Appeal and a special thank you to those who went selling poppies door-to-door. Together you raised a magnificent £848! Well done to all concerned.

Adverts removed

Gas Main petition

Thanks to all those who gave Hannah support with her petition. So far it has resulted in over 150 people signing up and Oliver Heald QC MP has also taken this up with Highways and National Grid. Signatures from anyone who lives or works in Hertfordshire can still be entered up until 12th Dec on the link https://consult.hertsdirect.org/petitions/petition?petition_id=66338, or email hannahpearson@live.co.uk or text your name and postcode to 07896 606918. There has also been an item in the Herts and Essex Observer. Hannah will be taking the petition to the Herts County Council Meeting in the New Year where she will make a formal request for the safety barrier to be installed.

Sock Collection

Thank you to anyone who has left bags of socks on my doorstep during the year. Now it is approaching Christmas, so once again, will anyone else please give some socks for Jimmy's Night Shelter for the homeless in Cambridge. New socks are great. Used socks, but still wearable, are always welcome. We had a record collection last year; let's try and break the record this year.**

Thank you and a Happy Christmas to all, Ann Clayton

** Doorstep is adjacent to the Nag's Head.

Adverts removed

What's on in December . . . in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

1 Sat, "Instant Sunshine", The Cabaret and Comedy Group 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Braughing. Tickets £15, £12 or £10. Children free. Box Office: 01763 289073 www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk.

1- 31, Care4aFestive Cuppa You are invited to hold a Festive Christmas Tea party in aid of Isabel Hospice. If you would like help with your fundraising ideas please contact Maria Alexander on 01707 382500.

2 Sun, Jingle Bells & Bows Fun Run/Walk 9:30-1:30, Stanborough Lakes (north side), WGC. Sponsored again by John Lewis, Welwyn, the event has a 5km run or a 4km walk. Come with the family, friends, or on your own, everyone is welcome, including well-behaved dogs. Fancy dress optional. 5K run is at 11am with registration at 10am. 4K walk is at midday with registration at 11am. Admission, adults £12, children under 16 £5, under 5's free.

2 Sun, music@stansted, 3pm, St John's Stansted. Classical guitarist and composer, Gary Ryan will play Bach, Praetorius and John Dowland as well as the popular "Verano Portena" by Astor Piazzolla. Gary will also be playing several of his own compositions and Preludes 1, 3 & 4 from the well known guitar repertoire of Heitor Villa-Lobos. Adults £12, Children £1, tickets from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (01279 815282); or at the door on the day.

3 Mon, Presentation to Alan Hoy, our retiring postman. 7.30pm at the Nag's Head.

4 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm. All welcome.

6 Thur, Forge Fiver Craft Club, 8pm, the Forge MH. Make Christmas Cards or Wreaths £5.

6, 20 Thur, Mobile Library, see p 13.

7 and every Friday, NEW, Weightwatchers, 10am. "I would like to set up walking groups not just for members but their families too, to encourage them to be more active."

11 Tue, LH & A Social Club, 8pm. Stacey Johnson, of the Kisses4Kids Charity, will tell us of the support her Charity has given to many children who are hospitalized for long periods, plus she will tell us of her memories of carrying the Olympic Torch. It will also be a Social evening with nibbles and wine.

13 Thur, Forge Fiver Craft Club, 8pm, the Forge MH. Make Christmas Table Decorations £5.

18 Tue, Christmas Carol Concert, 7:30-10pm at The Chapel, Haileybury College, Hertford Heath. Tickets cost £15 and include festive refreshments. The winner of the Christmas KA will be announced. All enquiries to Katie Robertson on 01707 382500.

18 Tue, LH & A Garden Club, 8pm. A talk on Hellebores.

20 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning, 10am-12 noon, rear of Village Hall. Come and sing some carols.

29 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30 - 11.30am.

... and next year?

Jan 18, **Jazz Night** in aid of Isabel Hospice. Contact Maria Alexander on 01707 382500 for tickets. £25 includes a light buffet supper.

Jan 22, **Garden Club 1pm**. (ploughman's lunch at 12noon (please book by telephoning Karin Green 01279 771532).

Jan 27, **music@stansted**

Feb 2-24, **Snowdrop Gardens**, 12noon daily, at Bennington Lordship, SG2 7BS for Isabel Hospice.

Feb 26, **Garden Club 1pm**. (see above)

NOTICEBOARD

● Personal Assistants ● Required by lady with dementia in Little Hadham

for personal and practical care.

12 hours per weekend, 3 visits
per day plus extra hours to
cover staff holidays.

£10 per hour.

Telephone 01462 439000
quoting SC1 ●

● 6th and 20th 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.

● Acoustic Nights at ●
The Catherine Wheel
Every Monday evening
Bring an instrument or just your
voice and jam with us!!
from 8.00pm **no food available.**

Friday December 14
Come along and listen to "Two's
Company" in the bar.
Tel: 771191 ●

● Alan Hoy, our favourite postman, is ●
retiring. Come to the presentation
and give him a proper send-off on
Monday 3rd December at 7.30pm in
The Nag's Head. ●



● The "Way Inn" ●
Coffee Morning with Carols
3rd Thursday of the month
10am to 12 noon
Welcoming old friends and neighbours
Hopefully many new ones
Pop in and enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits etc
Plus a very friendly, chatty get-together
Always at Rear of Village Hall



● Free to Good Home ●
Rabbit hutch with insulated cover and
bale of sawdust. It's 135cm wide by
120cm high as on legs.
Contact 07925 177322
or 01279 466331
cam2403@hotmail.co.uk ●

Flood News – Little Hadham

The summer rain and more recent wet weather has seen the River Ash rising to higher levels, with the last flood warning being issued in May this year. Recently there have been reports to the Parish Council of householders putting garden waste in the River Ash at Albury Road and also at The Ford near to the Nag's Head Pub. This does not rot down and disappear. It just gets swept along by the next rainfall until it gets caught somewhere and causes a blockage. This means that this increases the risk of flooding to homes near to the blockage. If you see any debris in the River Ash please help protect homes at risk of flooding by reporting it to the Environment Agency who will take steps to clear it and to find out who dumped it there. This can be done by ringing the EA Incident Line 24/7 on 0800 80 70 60. You can leave details anonymously and they will follow it up.

For more information on flooding, preparing a flood plan for your home, or to sign up to have automated flood warnings direct to your home phone or mobile, there is a lot of information on the Environment Agency website on the below link:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31624.aspx>

Current River Ash Levels at Little Hadham can be seen on this link: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/riverlevels/136490.aspx?stationId=7346> You are also welcome to contact Cllr Graham Pearson who is the Parish Council liaison with the Environment Agency for Flooding. Email grahampearsonlhpc@gmail.com or phone on 07896 606918.

Adverts removed

Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

Our October talk on 'Weeds a Social History' gave us all a better angle to view those plants that grow in the wrong places and our November 'Hellebore' talk will have us going out hunting for new varieties to brighten a corner of the garden. A big thank you to all those that helped organise the Club Supper, as usual a good time was had by all.

Looking forward to the New Year we have two LUNCHTIME meetings – Tuesday 22nd January we have a talk on 'Shady Border' by Daisy Roots and Tuesday 26th February we have a talk on 'Italian Lakes' by Robin Carsberg. The talks start at 1pm but if you would like we have on offer a ploughman's lunch at 12noon (please book by telephoning Karin Green 01279 771532). We hope that this change of time in the cold, dark winter months when it is so hard to go out of the house in the evening will mean we might see some new faces.

Now for the last time here is a list of plants looking at their best :- Ivy, mistletoe, spruce and holly have to be mentioned – pick and add to your Christmas decorations around the house. After our talk last month the *Helleborus niger* (Christmas rose) must be brought to your attention. Other plants to mention are *Sarcococca hookeriana* (Christmas box) which has purple tinged stems with long thin leaves interspersed with small white flowers. Two beautifully scented flowering shrubs to spot are *Lonicera purpusii* (a shrubby honeysuckle) and *Chimonanthus praecox Grandiflorus* (wintersweet).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Gardening Club.

Adverts removed

A month of mixed weather patterns, with regular frosts finishing off the last of our garden dahlias. The extremes of the weather were highlighted on the 26th October, when I returned from The Algarve to Stansted airport where I alighted from the plane in t-shirt and shorts to be greeted by an icy blast, 5°C and a light fall of snow the following morning!

Bird wise, much the same, with winter thrushes arriving in large numbers. However, due to a poor berry crop many fieldfares and redwings have carried on over Hertfordshire and are now being recorded in the far south west of England. This winter should give us a good fall of Scandinavian migrants, including the glorious waxwing. The berry crop has totally failed in Norway and Sweden, so consequently they have travelled over the North Sea to our eastern shores. Look out for parties of these stunning birds in your garden if you have cotoneaster, rowan or any other red berries. Several local walks have been undertaken, giving views of bullfinches (Millennium Wood and Acremore Street,) red kite (Hadham Hall,) tawny owl (Muggins Wood,) Little Owl (golf course) and nuthatch (village garden). Thanks to Sue for the latter record. As well as local visits I have been busy giving talks to RSPB groups. One was at Broadstairs, Kent where I spent a few hours at Oare Marsh Reserve. Here, I watched a hunting short eared owl and a splendid black redstart. A great grey shrike was found at Rye Meads Reserve whilst a scaup and red crested pochard were seen at Amwell gravel pits.

My Portuguese trip was to the Western Algarve where I had planned a day watching migrating eagles and vultures but the weather was so poor nothing was flying. Instead I spent a few hours

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Much Hadham Photowalk

Andrew Macpherson

We had a great turn-out for the Photowalk on 13th October and the walkers have started sharing their shots from the day in an on-line Flickr group: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/wwwpw-2012-mh-gb/pool/>. Walkers were both local from the Hadhams, from Stortford, Braintree, and the furthest travelled came from Stockholm! At the time of writing I'm still waiting for the entries for the competition for a photography e-book to all be submitted, and that winner also gets to take part in a global competition for a lot of prizes.

Thanks to Hopleys we were able to finish round a long table and compare our results, a photographic practice known as "Chimping" because of the noises and pointing. Come join us next year!



Adverts removed

Down at the doctor's

Paul Haimes

I am pleased to announce that our new dispenser, Sarah Broad, will be joining us in early December from the pharmacy at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow where she worked for many years. We are lucky to get someone with her qualifications and experience and I'm sure she will be a great asset to the practice; just in time for the usual Christmas rush/silly season. The builders are getting there! Soon, and perhaps before you read this, they will be knocking through from the extension into the main building. Hopefully, to minimise noise and inconvenience to the punters, it is intended to do this on a weekend, which suits me fine as I can't wait to knock through that first, almost ceremonial, brick!

Most of you know that, come the second half of January, I am to be seen treading the boards with a band of happy brothers and sisters, in the Little Hadham pantomime. This year, however, we welcome back onto the stage the pleasantly ageing, retired and relaxed Colin Brookbanks, my partner in crime for almost 20 years. Who knows, this may be the start of our much awaited stage careers (remember Morecombe and Wise, Cannon and Ball, Little and Large). Roll on the 2014 panto season in Clacton!!

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

“I would like to say a big thankyou to all the residents of Cradle End for coming to the bonfire night, hoping you all had a great time.”

from Alan Swann.

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 16

in the rain watching a huge passage of sea birds heading out across the Atlantic. Over 25,000 gannets in 2 hours, along with great shearwaters, cory's shearwater, Balearic shearwaters and sooty shearwater. Other good birds seen were chough, blue rock thrush, bonelli's eagle, audouin's gull and this spectacular white stork. The cold nights have all but finished off the moth trapping. However, I set up the trap



on 17th November and had a good haul of December moth, red line quaker, shown left and feathered thorn. I don't anticipate many more moth species this year, with the garden list now an impressive 237 species for 2012.

Many thanks to all who attended my talk in the Village Hall earlier this month, a good turn out and I trust all enjoyed the photos of our village wild life over 2012 and then views of birds and habitats from my Algarve trip.

To finish the year, I am planning a nature walk to a pub for some mulled wine and nibbles. If you would like to come along, all welcome, we shall meet at the Village Hall at 10.30 on Sunday 16th December and either head towards Standon or Much Hadham, depending on what might be about. We should return to Little Hadham by 3pm. Be good to have a good group for this wander and fingers crossed for a crisp, dry and bright day. Maybe we shall come across a grey heron as the one shown here, photographed at Amwell. Finally, may I wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year and maybe 2013 will give me the 100th bird species for the parish. I have been stranded on 99 species since March 2010! Maybe the waxwings will descend upon our village. Keep your eyes peeled.



Adverts removed

News from the Cricket Club

Neil Oxborrow

The end of September saw the club play a rare Saturday match at home against a team from Hockerill, with the visitors batting first and reaching a total of 218 for 6 wickets. The Hadham reply struggled to keep up with the required rate and despite 44 from David Wheatley and 33 from his brother Keith, the home side finished up on 153 all out, thereby losing by 65 runs.

The following day Nazeing Common were the visitors to Bury Green. Nazeing batted first and had reached 69 off 13 overs before they lost their first wicket. However a dramatic collapse where they lost 9 wickets for just 27 runs meant they were all out for 96, with Neil Oxborrow taking three wickets, and David Wheatley and David Jones taking two apiece. Hadham reached their target in just 19 overs, with Paul Mason-Smith scoring 64 and thereby winning by 7 wickets.

The final match of the season saw the annual game between Little Hadham and Albury for the Ron Oxborrow trophy. Little Hadham batted first and made a good start with a partnership of 92 between Neil Oxborrow (51) and Paul Mason-Smith (38). Further scores of 33 from David Wheatley and 31 from James Law saw the home side reach 193 for 5 off their allotted 40 overs. Albury made a solid start reaching 60 for the loss of Mark Jolly (27) and Josh Wheatley (24). Further wickets fell steadily, however Keith Wheatley held firm for the visitors (scoring 85) and with good support from Ciaran Nash (26 not out) ensured Albury won the match by three wickets, with 4 overs to spare.

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 either Martin Hallmark 01279 771033 or Alan South 01279 651603 for further details.

Adverts removed

Vitriol from a Pantomime Villain

Hello again Losers!

Well, the tickets for the shortest and most one sided panto in history went on sale to the general plebs on 12th November; shortest because it will all be over by half time and most one sided because I'm going to win (**Oh! Yes I am**). The box office floozy tells me that she had a pile of requests for tickets many days before the 12th and I just don't understand why; it'll be like watching Barcelona play Bishop's Stortford! I suppose it might be mildly amusing to watch all those village idiots trying (and abjectly failing) to get the better of me and my master, the Giant. It's going to be like Darth Vader (me) and the Emperor (Giant) against Luke Skywalker (Jack) Leia (the Princess) and Han Solo (SIMPLE Simon) but with a **very different ending**.

So if you want a bit of gory entertainment and an early finish, call the floozy on 01279 843427 for tickets but beware, I have spies everywhere and I'll know who you are (**Oh! Yes I will**).

Life on the Run, continued from page 5

bin, explaining that I had picked it all up along the lane he lived in. He refused, saying that his bin gets very full and he didn't see why he should deal with other people's litter. I had a similar but much ruder reaction from a man in Hunsdon (not my litter picker donor) who suggested that I go and do something which, if it were physically possible, would probably mean that I would never want to leave the house! Both men made a big mistake.

I run along the 'lane I cannot name' very frequently, in fact almost weekly, and for the past five years I have made a point of putting a bag of litter in that man's bin every time I pass his house. He leaves his bin by his front gate and I must have put more than 150 bags of litter into it by now. So he is helping to keep our community tidy, even if he doesn't know it! And so is the man from Hunsdon, although sadly not quite so frequently but it makes me happy all the same.

Next time I hope to have some new experiences to tell you about. A neighbour friend and I are going to be taught by the police how to use a radar gun so that we can carry out our very own DIY speed traps. As they say, you couldn't make it up! Have a great Christmas.

Concerned about Aircraft Noise? A certain amount of aircraft noise is unavoidable if you live close to an airport but that does not mean you have to put up with any amount of aircraft noise at any time. This can happen when an aircraft is flying low, is off-track, or is simply generating unusually loud engine noise. It is vital that, if you are annoyed by aircraft noise, you register this as soon as possible after the event. Registering a 'noisy aircraft' event ensures that the airport has the information and can take appropriate action. It also enables patterns to be identified so that longer term solutions can be considered. Finally, it also serves as a useful reminder to the airport, the airlines and the Department for Transport that those of us who live around airports are not immune to the effects of noisy aircraft – including helicopters as well as planes. The best way to register a noisy aircraft event to the Stansted Airport noise complaints unit is via the SSE website at http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/noise_complaint_form.asp. This ensures that SSE can keep track of complaints and follow up with the airport management as appropriate. If you don't have internet access you can register a noisy aircraft event with the airport by phone on 0800 243788. For further information see <http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/noise.html>.

Our Traffic Lights: a huge concern

Yet again, problems at our traffic lights have become a serious issue. A dangerous and potentially lethal habit appears to be increasing with cars not only jumping the lights when they have already turned red but considerably worse.

Many will have witnessed the unbelievable practice of cars overtaking vehicles that have halted at the red lights and then driving up the A120. This happens at both the road from The Ford and opposite on the Albury Road. The parish council has written letters to Herts. Highways, HCC, EHDC, the police and local MPs and will, by publication, have contacted other local parish councils, so they too can highlight this selfish and thoughtless practice. Also, it is hoped that an article will have been published in the Herts and Essex Observer. One day it will end in a terrible accident and must be halted before such a tragedy occurs. The fact that these dangerous drivers are clearly breaking the law by speeding to beat the lights changing, shows that they know the sequence well and it can therefore be deduced that they are local folk who use the lights regularly.

The parish council urges all who witness such actions to contact the police, giving the car registration plate, car type and colour so that the police can follow up the law breaking.

On several occasions, children walking to school have begun to cross the road when the lights should be safe, only to find, to their horror, a car speeding on the wrong side of the road. Recently, a family was left stranded on the traffic island as cars sped past them on both sides of the road. The lights had been red for over 20 seconds!! All agencies are presently looking into ways to halt this queue-jumping and it is hoped a police presence on a regular basis may indeed lead to prosecution.

To all; please leave plenty of time to get through the lights safely and if you are tempted to overtake and jump the lights, don't. It could be a child's life you take followed by a prison sentence. Is that really worth beating a few minutes' wait? To be honest, words nearly fail me.

Quinquennial repairs, continued from page 4

of the scaffold for the tower work. Our thanks also go to Gerald Barrett, the Diocesan surveyor, who defined the work needed and to Jon Fardell for his advice on the detail of some of the work.

Despite the generosity referred to above the programme of repairs has still cost in excess of £11,000. Whilst we expect to receive grants to reduce the overall cost, nevertheless there has been a significant reduction in our limited funds and, unsurprisingly in a building which is up to 900 years old, there are still many items of repair required under our longer term Quinquennial programme.

Accordingly, the PCC would be most grateful for any donations, legacies or increases in regular funding that you are able to make so that we can ensure that St Cecilia's remains in a sound condition to be enjoyed by future generations. Please contact Frank Green, our Treasurer, on 01279 771532, if you are able to help in this way. Donations can be made under the Gift Aid scheme which means that the Government also supports our fund raising through the tax we are able to recover.

Letters

Sirs, At the last Parish Council meeting it was stated that the "community" led initiative to catch speeders in the village with a radar trap is to be reintroduced. As a member of this community since 1972, and with three of my five children living in the village, two with families of their own, I would like to disassociate myself from this initiative. It will do exactly the opposite of the oft stated community building culture as it will set villager against villager. Statistics show that the majority of offenders will be villagers themselves. I am not against radar traps, but they should be manned by the police. There are various ways of reducing speed, as we all know, my favourite being a 20 mph limit.

John Welsh

Happy Christmas Everyone!

We would like to wish all our friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas, also a sincere Thank You, once again, for all your kindness and support. (and Barbara)

Brian and Brenda Kain wish all their friends and neighbours in the parish a happy Christmas and healthy and happy New Year. We will, as usual, be sending a cheque to the Isabel Hospice instead of sending cards. We hope you understand

Frank & Karin Green would like to wish all their friends in Little Hadham a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Wishing all our friends in LH a very happy Xmas and a healthy new year.
Don and Mags Gibson

Service of Remembrance

A clear blue sky and bright sunshine greeted the 120 people who turned out on Sunday morning, 11th November to honour all those killed on active service and those maimed in body and mind in the service of their country. Parents brought their children, Leaders brought Brownies and school children, all silent as the wreaths were laid. The names of dead from two World Wars were read by Frank Green and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Parish Council by Jonathan Forgham, Little Hadham Junior School by the Head Girl and Boy, and Sue Knight for the British Legion. Edward Middleton laid a wreath from St. Cecilia's and two small Brownies laid their wreath with the others against the War Memorial. Mrs Gill Booty read the Remembrance promise to remember the dead and wounded and "We will remember them" came back from the congregation. Because we must.

December diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

2 Sunday

Advent Sunday

9.30am

Sung Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11.15am

Parish Communion and Sunday School at St Mary's, Albury

4 Tuesday

7.30pm

1st Christmas Carol Practice at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9 Sunday

Advent 2

9.30am

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

16 Sunday

Advent 3

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Village Hall Service, Little Hadham

18 Tuesday

6.30pm

School Carol Service at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

19 Wed

7.30pm

Village Carol Service by candlelight at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

23 Sunday

Advent 4

9.15am

Parish Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

No Evensong at St Cecilia's

24 Monday

Christmas Eve

6.30pm

Christingle at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

25 Tuesday

Christmas Day

9.30am

Family Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11.15am

Family Communion at St Mary's, Albury

30 Sunday

Christmas 1

9.15am

Team Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

No Service at St Cecilia's

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

Prayer Chain

Within our congregations we have a network of people who will receive prayer requests. Whatever the problem, worry, anxiety or personal need, when received, will be forwarded to the people on the chain who will pray immediately for each request for a period of time.

All requests will be confidential.

Please ring anytime: Janet: 842671, Karin: 771532

There have been no entries in the Register this month

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**)

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