

LITTLE  
HADHAM  
PARISH NEWS  
MARCH 2013



This beautiful picture of Nutwalk was sent to us by Louise Coombs

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

## Letter from the Revd. Clive Slaughter

*Dear friends in Much Hadham, Little Hadham and Albury*

*This magazine will be published halfway through Lent and, of course, will have been written a couple of weeks before that. But all around us are signs of Spring which provides the origin of that strange word LENT which comes from an old English word meaning 'lengthen' describing the days at this time of year beginning to grow longer and lighter after the dark and gloom of winter, and the signs around us of new life and hope.*

*As I walked down the garden to my study/shed this morning, the last of the snow has disappeared and the flowerbeds are full of emerging bulbs thrusting up undeterred by the cold, while snowdrops, primroses, aconites and even the odd Lenten lily are already in flower and what had looked, until now, like dry bundles of twigs tied to the walls and posts are revealing themselves as clematis.*

*Over a thousand years ago the Christian Church appropriated this word and season as 'Lent' joining it into the final period of preparation and fasting for new converts getting ready to be baptised at Easter. Gradually this became a time of fasting, almsgiving and spiritual reflection for all Christians as they followed the Bible accounts and journeyed week by week with Jesus to the momentous events of his death and resurrection which we celebrate at Easter.*

*So 'giving up something for Lent' has a very ancient pedigree and an ever relevant value as a time to get back on track with God, although not everyone thought of Lent in this way. Dean Swift, in the eighteenth Century (the author of Gulliver's Travels) wrote that he hated Lent! "I hate different diets and furnity, and butter and herb porridge and the sour devout faces of people who only put on religion for seven weeks"!*

*Half way through Lent, on Sunday March 10th, comes 'Mothering Sunday'. Look out for special services in our Churches on this day. And then your next magazine will arrive for Easter.*

*Please continue to pray for Giles and Sara Tulk as Giles prepares to be installed as our new Team Rector on Monday April 15th. And also give thanks for the leaders of our villages and Churches who work so hard to maintain and enrich our Churches life and our communities.*

With love, Clive

## A thought from Judith and Karin

### Feeling Down?

*In the midst of the cold, you may have noticed that nature is waiting to spring into life; at the time of writing the snowdrops are out and the daffodils have started to emerge from the frozen ground.*

*It always lifts the spirit to see these signs of rebirth when it is all too easy to be negative about the cold, the dark and the grey of this time of year. When you receive this Parish News we will be in the midst of Lent, you may have chosen to give something up or you may be making a special effort to do something new. Whichever course you have chosen may these signs of spring help you to resist temptation.*

*Easter is just round the corner.*

# Parish Council News

## Police Presence @ LH Lights

The Police came and gave an update in relation to their recent work carried out at LH traffic lights. The monitoring of the traffic lights has confirmed that there is a problem which needs tackling, interesting to note that many of those stopped during police sessions were locals. LHPC is to assemble a working party and, with the support of the police evidence, is to bring on board the Local Authority in order to try to work on a plan which will eventually lead to a solution to the dangerous problem of drivers jumping the lights. More news to follow over the coming months.

## Flooding Issues

LHPC is to set up a meeting with Herts Highways, Thames Water and the Environment Agency in an effort to try to find a resolution for the flooding issues facing many parts of our village. The matter is becoming more and more difficult to manage and help and advice is required from the Authorities. LHPC is to make available a small amount of funding towards this initiative. More news to follow over the coming months.

## Little Hadham Website

LHPC is pleased to announce that parishioners can now visit [www.thehadhams.com](http://www.thehadhams.com) where you will find interesting village news updates. LHPC's aim is to run an **inclusive website where everyone can contribute** . . . so over to you. Any items you wish to feature; news, views, info, photos, etc - please send to the editor at [derklittlehadham@gmail.com](mailto:derklittlehadham@gmail.com). We especially look forward to contributions from the children/youngsters in the village.

## Little Hadham Sign

A Little Hadham village sign, signalling the arrival into and the boundary of our village travelling in from Much Hadham, is to be installed in the next few weeks on the grass

verge just past the entrance to Ash Valley Golf Club.

## Village Flower Planters

The planters made from recycled plastic are now on order, they will be planted up in the Spring and installed along the verge outside the Village Hall. Herts County Council's full permission has been granted. LHPC hopes the community will enjoy the the new planters in the coming months.

## Barbara's Bench

LHPC sends thanks, on behalf of all the community, to Dennis - he's made a smashing job of the bench (in memory of dear Barbara) installed at the Village Pump opposite the Nag's Head. Thank You Dennis!

## Bishop's Stortford North

Parishioners will be aware that developers have submitted plans to develop the area known as Bishop's Stortford North. One Planning Officer, three days a week, will be dedicated to working on this submission. East Herts Council admits this is one of the largest applications to be submitted for many years and there are many considerations to be made. The Planning Office has confirmed that it will take on board each and every comment made by local residents. LHPC will be registering its opinion in the coming weeks and we encourage parishioners to get involved and write/email letters to the Planning Office at East Herts District Council. We all recognize the huge impact such a development would have on the local area - for those who are interested the developer has launched its own website at [www.bishopsstortfordnorth.com](http://www.bishopsstortfordnorth.com). You can also visit Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation at [www.stortfordcf.org.uk](http://www.stortfordcf.org.uk). Sign the petition by clicking on the **Save Our Stortford** link.

*continued on next page*

## PC News, continued from page 3

### Playground and Telephone Kiosks

LHPC hopes the community continue to enjoy these facilities. Don't forget the new Trim Trail equipment is ready and waiting for lots of action now the nicer weather is with us, enjoy!

### Stop Stansted Expansion

LHPC will no longer be contributing financially to this organization. The £100 donation will now be used as donations to LH organizations.

### Working Parties

LHPC is always looking for volunteers - do you have a few hours to spare each month to help

out at our various projects? Please contact Councillor Carmela Piccolo [cam2403@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cam2403@hotmail.co.uk) – thank you.

### Thank You

to all the parishioners who attended February's meeting we had a very good number ... please come again next month! Village Hall Tuesday 5th March @ 8pm. Everyone's welcome!

**\*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\***

**LITTLE HADHAM PARISH ASSEMBLY  
THURSDAY 18th APRIL  
Village Hall @ 7PM!**

## Horse riders!

The residents at The Ford, Little Hadham would like to remind all horse riders to use the bridleways and roads, and not the footpaths in the Ford area. **Please do not ride your horses over the footbridge at the Ford** where they may come face to face with a mum with a pram, a dog or someone who is partially sighted who regularly uses the footpath through the village.

Thank you very much.

Adverts removed

## music@stansted

*Sponsored by Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers and The Countess of Munster Trust, our final concert of the 2012/13 season at 7.30pm on Saturday, 23rd March at St John's, Stansted will be a recital by Kimon Parry (clarinet) and Tony Ingham (piano).*

*The recital will feature a range of virtuoso showpieces for the clarinet, including variations on the famous 'Carnival of Venice' theme by Giampieri and, for opera lovers, a Fantasy on themes from Verdi's 'La Traviata' by Lovreglio. There will also be compositions showing off the romantic side of the instrument's repertoire, such as the 'Premiere Rhapsodie' by Debussy, and Rachmaninov's sensuous 'Vocalise'. The programme will also include music by Lutoslavski, York Bowen and Milhaud's lively 'Scaramoche'. An evening not to be missed!*

*Tickets, Adults £12, Under 18s £1, are available 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.*

*If you would like further information about us, please visit our website – [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com)*

**Adverts removed**

*A period of intensely cold weather, with more snow along with a few days of wonderful sunshine and a little warmth by the end of the reporting period (18.02.13). The cold weather meant birds were hard to come by and several walks in the parish were rather disappointing. On the 23rd January, I revisited my old haunt, along the River Stort from the town to Spellbrook. I used to wander along here several times a week and had recorded enough wildlife to deserve it being turned into a nature reserve. I was pleased to note a sign saying that part of the area known as Thorley Wash has now been bought by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and is*



*being developed into a local reserve. Around here I caught sight of lesser redpolls, siskins and an over wintering chiffchaff. Seven little grebe were also noted.*

*On the hill opposite the local pub I counted 4 meadow pipits (27th) and on the 5th this superb grey wagtail feeding by the river at The Ford. Other notable birds were barn owls (Westland Green and Hadham Hall,) bullfinches at Westland Green and several nuthatches and treecreepers scattered through the parish.*

*My thanks to Maria for the barn owl record and Andy for the bullfinches. Good to get locals sending in reports. Please feel*

*continued on page 22*

**Adverts removed**

*We acquired ten new chickens a week or so back. Some of our current ones will be drawing their old age pension soon and laying eggs is furthest from their minds!*

*We usually keep the new ones in a separate area – this time an empty stable – for the first few days and then gradually introduce them to the big wide world. Within a week or so, they have met up with the older free range birds on neutral ground and are happy to mingle and eventually go into the proper hen house, with the oldies, to sleep.*

*However, this lot have other ideas. They sit, timidly, by the open stable door, within pecking distance of suitably placed corn. . . and that is where they stay.*

*Should I venture round to see what is happening, they rush into a far corner and cower – well, if chickens can cower! I do believe we have bought a group of agoraphobics!*

*As cold, wet and miserable days follow one another, I have found one way to cheer myself up, at no extra cost.*

*As an inveterate hoarder, I always keep maps of wherever I have been on holiday – going back 40 years. Probably said maps would be of little use today because roads alter all the time. . . but the pleasure I gain from fondly looking through them is worth it all. It also shows how the world has broadened for some of us. I used to visit Spain, in the days when it wasn't one huge holiday camp. France came next, and I have enough maps of various French regions to start my own shop. Then it was Greece, then Portugal. Wow, we even made one trip to the Canaries. Then it was the USA, the Caribbean and even Thailand.*

*I defy any of you, who are also map hoarders, not to enjoy reliving the good – and bad –*

*continued on page 9*

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## Down at the doctor's

Paul Haimes

*It is with great sadness, from both a personal and professional viewpoint, that Carmel Naughton, one of our practice nurses, leaves us at the end of March. Carmel has been an invaluable member of our nursing team for 7 years and assures me that she hasn't got the 7 year itch but is moving to Singapore for 4-5yrs, where her husband Alan is now working. She goes with all our very best wishes and at least I know where my 2014 holiday will be!!*

*We have now had our first two Patient Participation Group (PPG) meetings which have gone well. A core of 6 or 7 people are forming the PPG board whose job will be to liaise between the practice and the patients as a whole, and their first task is to produce and distribute a questionnaire asking a sample of our "clients" some basic questions on appointments etc. If you are fortunate enough to receive one of these questionnaires please respond because we will take all your comments seriously and look at areas for improvement in our services that you highlight. It's not too late to join the group, so if you're interested please contact Elaine Hodges, one of our receptionists, who works on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.*

*The extension has met with yet another delay; this time the floor has to dry out before the final flooring can be laid and so far it's been 3 weeks! Oh well, it's been over 2 years since planning permission was granted so what's another few weeks!!*

*Finally, a date for your diary; the Jack May Trust Fund is organising a fund raising concert in St Andrews church, Much Hadham, on 31st May. More of that, and of Carmel's replacement, next month.*

*Adverts removed*

## Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

*A note for your diaries everybody. Our AGM is on Tuesday 26 March, starting at 7.30pm. Come along and join in the competition and hear about our programme for the forthcoming year. Drinks and nibbles will be served.*

*Are you chitting yet? Most of the articles I see says that you should be chitting your potatoes. Yet, some do not. Do you remember Albert Sage, staunch supporter of the Gardening Club and winner of many trophies many times? He never chitted his potatoes, just planted them very deeply and didn't need to earth them up. Perhaps that's the way to win trophies!*

*Get sowing too. Broad beans, peas, carrots, lettuce, leeks, onions, parsley and spinach.*

*Shallot and onion sets can be put out, but remember to cover them with protective netting, I understand the birds are quite partial to the stems poking up through the earth.*

*Snowdrops are making a welcome appearance. Take lots of pictures and bring them along to the club AGM for us all to appreciate. See you there.*

## Rural Ramblings, continued from page 7

*which those maps throw up at us. I still remember vividly the first time I went to the States with a girlfriend to Miami. Our hire car was an automatic – new to me at the time. And as I approached the first toll booth, I had no idea how to stop the car! Only her shrieked instructions saved us from hitting said booth at around 60mph! So look at those saved foreign maps, remember those holiday times – and before you know it Spring will be here again!*

**Adverts removed**

*Allo. Allo. Leesten very carefully, I shall say these only vunce. There will be a meeting these Saturday in zee villarge of 'all of zee V VP, zee Villargers Vigilante Poleece. Vee will be 'aving lessons on 'ow to use radar speed traps and Tazer guns.*

*I'm joking of course but there has been much debate in the village lately about locals (vigilantes) helping the police to catch speeding motorists and traffic light jumpers and how it could turn "villager against villager". As a runner, cyclist, pedestrian and someone who has volunteered to help the police, I have the totally opposite view to those who advocate "peace in our time" yet seem prepared to allow dangerous drivers a free rein.*

*Let's be clear about this issue. What we are dealing with here are drivers who are prepared to risk the lives of others by jumping the lights and driving at high speeds throughout the village. Last week I had to jump clear as a speeding driver skidded towards me when he found that he could not swerve around me because of approaching cars on the other side of the road. A similar thing happened to my daughter in the summer when cycling at almost exactly the same spot. A few weeks ago I watched in horror as a lady driving a 4X4 with two children in the back drove down Chapel Lane towards the Nag's Head with her mobile phone wedged between ear and shoulder while holding a mug of coffee! Even before the snow and ice came, at least four vehicles have very recently left the road and crashed between the edge of our village and Much Hadham. As far as I know, only one incident was reported to the police.*

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## Life on the Run, continued from page 10

*I for one applaud the efforts of our Parish council who have managed to get the police to take action at the traffic lights at long last. At the time of writing, no fewer than 58 drivers have been caught blatantly overtaking or driving through red lights. Four of those were Little Hadham or Albury residents. Changing the phasing to allow more time to get onto the A120 from the village would only make matters worse because it would increase delays along the A120 itself and thereby give even more incentive to choose the rat-run routes. What is needed now is for the police to set speed traps in the village during peak periods. I can virtually guarantee that they would catch at least 30 drivers per hour at peak times. And I'm not talking about marginally over the speed limit; I'm talking about 40 to 50mph plus. When they pass the War Memorial heading towards Much Hadham that's when they really put their foot down. It's the same as they enter the village from the other direction. My neighbours have to get small children across the road. My wife and I have to help our elderly mothers across the road and it is a frightening experience. The cars bear down on you at breakneck speed and the devil take the hindmost.*

*We also need the 30mph zone extended right through from the traffic lights to Much Hadham and for drivers to always fear that they could be caught by the police. If they happen to be a 'local' then more shame on them. Enforcement is the only feasible deterrent. Without such action there is no doubt in my mind that there will be a serious accident. Quite possibly a fatal one. If that time comes and we have sat back and done nothing to prevent it happening then we should hold our heads in shame.*

**Adverts removed**

## What's on in March...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

**3 Sun, Antiques Fair**, 9.30-4pm, Football Club, BS. Refreshments available. Entry £1.

**4 Mon, Badminton Club**, 8-10pm. The club will once again be meeting on Mondays. All are welcome to come and join in.

**4 Mon, Village Hall Booking Meeting for 2014/2015**, 8pm Committee Room. See p15.

**5 Tue, Parish Council**, 8pm. Take an interest in local issues that affect us all.

**6 Wed, Village Hall AGM**, 8pm in the Committee Room at the Hall. See p15.

**9 Sat, Some Enchanted Evening**. Concert at Haileybury College Chapel SG13 7NU in aid of Isabel Hospice. Favourite songs from the shows will be performed by Abigail Victoria (Soprano), Richard Arundel (Baritone) and Julian Barber (Piano). There will be Operatic Arias and Duets. For tickets call: 01992 706229. Tickets are £15.

**12 Tue, LH and A Social Club AGM**, 8pm. We will be discussing finance, outings for the year etc. Everyone welcome. See p17.

**14, 28 Thur, Mobile Library**, See p13.

**16 Sat, Isabel Hospice Sunset Swim**, 5-10pm. Join us for a Sponsored Sunset Splash and take on the mile challenge! Individuals try to swim 1 mile in an hour, or come as a team and try to complete the 4 mile challenge! Entry £12 per adult, £5 per child. Register to gain a place and a swimming time will be allocated to you. This year at Haileybury Swimming Pool, Haileybury College, Hertford Heath. For more information please contact Katie Robertson in fundraising on 01707 382500.

**16 Sat, School Quiz Night Supper**, Village Hall. Ring 771285 to reserve a table.

**21 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning**, 10am-12 noon, rear of Village Hall.

**23 Sat, Simple Photographic Fixes**, 10.30-3.30 at Hopleys, with an hour break to go for lunch. Intended for those who want to start using their computer alongside their camera. Hopleys will be making a charge for this. **Please note** this is **not** about basic computer skills.

**23 Sat, Churchyard clear-up**, 10am at St Cecilia's. Please join in. See page 13.

**23 Sat, Jumble Sale** for Isabel Hospice, 2.30-4.30pm, Thundridge Village Hall. 20p entry. Come and grab some bargains. Contact details 01920 462992

**23 Sat, music@stansted** 7.30pm, St John's, Stansted. A recital by Kimon Parry (clarinet) and Tony Ingham (piano). See page 5.

**26 Tue, Garden Club AGM**, 7.30pm. Come along and join in the competition and hear about our programme for the forthcoming year. Drinks and nibbles will be served.

**30 Sat, Farmers' Market**, 8.30-11.30am. Come and get a cooked breakfast and stock up on local produce, crafts and more.

## ...and then?

April 14 **Dawn Chorus Walk**, 07805 571551.

April 14 **Over 60s Fun Night**, Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre.

April 18 **Induction** of Revd Giles Tulk at St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham. Time TBA.

April 18, **Parish Assembly**, 7pm.

April 24 **St Cecilia's Annual Meeting** 7.30pm.

May 19, June 2, **Open Days at Hertford Bowls Club**. Ring Hertford 581697 for info.

May 31 **Fund raising Concert** for the Jack May Trust Fund at St Andrews, Much Hadham.

# NOTICEBOARD

## St Cecilia's Church

Mothering Sunday  
Service

10th March 2013  
9.30am

and thank God for the  
unconditional love freely  
given by our Mothers

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

## 14th and 28th March Mobile Library

Nag's Head from 1345 - 1405  
The Smithy from 1410 - 1430  
Bury Green from 1445 - 1505  
A fortnightly service.

## The 'Way Inn'

Come and meet friends and  
neighbours over a cup of tea or  
coffee. Rear of village hall,  
3rd thursday of the month,  
10 - 12 noon

## Will YOU go 'PAPER-FREE'?

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## St Cecilia's Churchyard clear-up

Help is needed to carry out the  
Spring Clear-up of the Churchyard  
and grounds at St Cecilia's. If you  
can spare half an hour (or an hour)  
please come to the Church at  
10am on Saturday  
23rd March 2013

jobs to be done: grass cutting,  
light bonfire, clean windows, tidy  
up churchyard, lop-off & pick-up  
unwanted/dead tree branches, clear  
guttering AND make tea.

Please do come along and  
give a hand

## Little Hadham School

*Believing and Achieving*

Over £100 was raised for the charity SignHealth through our Sign2Sing Day last month. We hope that by joining with thousands of others around the world, we may have created a world record in the Guinness Book of Records, as well as having great fun learning how to sign and sing!

You may also have spotted a stray Viking warrior or two near school recently when Lime Class experienced a 'Viking Day' as part of their studies. 'History off the Page' workshop company worked with the children, who were also dressed in Viking costume, to re-enact a day back in 878 AD.

On March 21st, our Y6 pupils will be joining in with other local Y6 children in the Bishop's Stortford Music Festival at Rhodes Theatre – a little smaller than our last 'gig' at the O2!

Finally, may I remind you that our FRIENDS Association are running their annual 'Quiz Night Supper' on Saturday 16th March in the Village Hall, so please contact the school, if you would like to reserve a table.

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Head Teacher

**Adverts removed**

Once again we have a quantity of lost property, don't any of the mums ever wonder what happens to their children's socks? There are umbrellas, cardigans, reading glasses, socks, scarves, children's toys and some really nice gloves: grey with fluffy fur edges and some very smart brown leather ones. Please contact Angela, 771697, for collection otherwise they will go to the charity shop.

**The Weight Watchers** meetings are proving very popular so if you want advice, slimming products and a lovely chatting atmosphere come along on Friday mornings, from 10.00am when Paula will be pleased to help you.

**The Village Hall Annual General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 6th March at 8.00 p.m. in the Committee Room at the Hall. Everyone from the village is invited to attend to hear how the past year has gone, ask questions and make suggestions. We would like to see some younger faces, don't forget this is your Hall, for your use and, we hope, generations to come.

Calling all Affiliated Societies! The annual **Booking Meeting** for the year 2014/2015 will be held on Monday, 4th March at 8.00 p.m. in the Committee Room at the Hall. Please come with your dates ready to book but if you cannot attend please send a representative from your organisation as it's first come, first served as usual.

**The Badminton Club** is starting up again and look forward to seeing members, old and new, on Monday evenings, 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. beginning on Monday, 4th March.

St. Cecilia's Church will be holding the **Annual Meeting** on Wednesday, 24th April at 7.30 p.m. in the Church and we hope many parishioners will be able to attend.

*Adverts removed*

*Government's new air traffic forecasts show no case for Stansted expansion.*

*New air traffic forecasts just published (29 January 2013) by the Department for Transport (DfT) reveal that even in 2050 Stansted would be able to meet all its market demand without any need for a second runway.*

*For Stansted, which handled 17.5 million passengers last year, the DfT predicts unconstrained demand of 26 million passengers in 2030 and of 38 million passengers in 2050.*

*The figures, provided as part of an overall picture of predicted demand for UK air travel show that for the UK as a whole, demand for air travel will grow from 221 million passengers last year to just 320 million passengers a year in 2030, a growth rate of just two per cent a year, compared to average annual growth of five per cent over the past 40 years.*

*The DfT cites the main reasons for the slowdown as higher oil prices, market maturity and an end to the days when air fares were becoming cheaper, year on year.*

*Welcoming the downward revision in the DfT forecasts, Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) Chairman Peter Sanders said: "These new official Government forecasts are far more credible than anything we have seen before, and far less threatening. They show that even in 2050, Stansted would be able to meet all its market demand without any need for a second runway."*

*The new DfT forecasts are also very much in line with the aspirations of Stansted's new owners, Manchester Airport Group (MAG), whose Chief Executive, Charlie Cornish, has set his sights on restoring Stansted to its 2007 traffic peak within a decade. That would mean a return to*

*continued on next page*

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## Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

*Our Annual Dinner evening was very pleasant, though the hall was cold. 28 friends and neighbours enjoyed quite a bit of jollity, an interesting competition and a lot of good food – our thanks again to Jan, of Clouds Catering, who supplied our chosen menu. It was delicious.*

*Our 12th March meeting is our AGM, when we discuss finance, outings for the year etc. This year we would also like to discuss our fund raising for Barbara's Music Foundation Charity, which has been created by her son Martyn and championed by Dennis.*

*Though we haven't a speaker for this evening, it is a good time to be with us, as we do enjoy a neighbourly chat, have a cuppa and, possibly, win a raffle prize – all for £1.50! For information tel. 771580 or 658585.*

### **SSE, continued**

*an annual throughput of 24 million passengers by 2022. Mr Sanders continued: "Amidst all the hot air from Boris Johnson about building a four-runway 'mega-hub' at Stansted, it's refreshing to have some realism from the Department for Transport and Stansted's new owners."*

*Mr Sanders concluded: "If we can remove the threat of any new runways once and for all, this will lay the foundations for a vastly improved long term relationship with the local community, based on maximising the benefits of the airport and minimising its adverse impacts."*

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Thankyou to Louise  
Coombs for this picture of  
St Cecilia's in the snow.

*Adverts removed*

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**Environment Agency Incident Line:**  
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**Smell Gas? Call free on 0800 111 999**

**Mobile Library info:** 01438 737333

**Police non-emergency phone number:** 101

**Power cut helpline:** 0800 7 838 838

**Road or Pavement problems, call Highways**  
on 01438 737320

**Stansted Airport Noise Complaints:**  
0800 243788

**Traveline:** 0871 200 22 33

**Village Hall bookings:** Mrs Fardell, 771 697

**Water/Sewage problems, call Thames Water**  
on 0800 376 5325

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*Adverts removed*

## Calling all “Crafters”!

If you enjoy sewing, knitting or crochet, the Gardens of Easton Lodge Preservation Trust could really do with your help.

We are planning to start selling a range of home-made crafts from the gardens this season to help raise funds for our various projects. We have put together some simple kits that we would like people to sew, knit or crochet for us – we will provide all the materials we just need your expertise and energy.

If your skills are a bit rusty or you're a beginner, don't worry – we'll also be having regular crafting get-togethers where there will be a chance to chat, share skills and do quality control on potential cakes for the gardens!

If this sounds like the kind of thing you would like to get involved with then please contact the Trust Administrator, Helen Carter on [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk) or leave a message on 01371 871979 and she will get back to you.

## Nature Notes, continued from page 6

free to do so as it helps build a better picture of the wildlife we have around our parish.

On the 18th I spent an enjoyable day in North Norfolk. 87 species in all with a good selection of birds observed. The light was superb so photos were better than my usual efforts. This little egret was particularly confiding as I hid in damp reeds!



This pair of foxes was seen along Green Street; about the only mammals recorded recently, apart from the squirrels, rabbits and muntjacs. Very inquisitive they were, too. A weasel had left tracks in the snow across the polo fields, but no other signs were found.

With a few warmer nights there has been a little success at the moth trap. A pale brindled beauty turned up on the 15th, an unusual form for the area. As temperatures hopefully begin to increase, I plan to be out and about with the trap, particularly Millennium Wood. If you note a bright light emanating from this region, it will be the trap. Do come along and say hello. If anyone would like to come out for an evening mothing, please let me know and we can arrange a date and time. Likewise, if you're keen to see what flies in your garden at night, I can set up the trap very easily. Just need a powerpoint and away we go.

As we approach April my thoughts turn to dawn chorus wanders. I plan to do the first of these on Sunday 14th April. All welcome. Please email me for details nearer the time. All records gratefully received to [jforgham@theprimaryworks.com](mailto:jforgham@theprimaryworks.com) or texted to 07805 571551.

## Meatballs with Spaghetti (How contentious is this!) Serves 4

2 tbsp mild sweet paprika  
1 tbsp ground cumin  
¼ tsp cayenne pepper  
Cloves garlic crushed  
2 handfuls flat leaf parsley  
450g (1lb) lamb mince  
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon  
1 medium onion chopped  
2 tbs olive oil  
2 x cans 400g chopped tomatoes  
2tsp sugar  
350g (12oz) spaghetti

Mix together the spices, garlic and 1 handful of the parsley (food processor makes this easier). Mix half of this mixture into the lamb, season generously, add the lemon zest and massage for a couple of minutes with your hands. Shape into approximately 24 balls rolling them between your palms. Heat the oil in a large frying pan and fry the

meatballs in 2 batches until just brown on all sides. Tip most of the fat from the pan leaving just 1 tbsp. Add the onion and brown gently.

Stir in the remaining half of the spice mixture, cook for 1 minute and then add the tomatoes and sugar, and season well.

Stir in 150ml (5 fl oz) of water and bring to the bubble. Simmer gently for 15 minutes

Add the meatballs to the sauce, cover and simmer gently for a further 10 minutes.

Cook the spaghetti as per instructions on the packet and drain

Divide between 4 plates and add the meatballs and sauce.

Sprinkle the remaining chopped parsley over.

This recipe has more of a North African flavour than Italian. The meatballs and sauce freeze well, so if you don't need it all at once pot up, label and freeze.

## Regular events

Please advise the editor of any changes to this list

**Badminton:** 8.00pm Mondays

**Brownies:** 4.30–6pm Tuesdays, term-time.

Judi Wheeler 654624

**Carpet Bowls Club, Social and League:**

8–10pm Fridays, Eileen Booth 771426

**Farmers' Market:** 8.30–11.30am, last Saturday of month. Geoff and Jan Williamson 771272 [www.lhfm.org.uk](http://www.lhfm.org.uk)

**Garden Club:** third Tuesday of the month.

**Karate:** 5–6pm Wednesdays, Catherine Petch, 771636

**Parish Council:** first Tuesday of the month (except January and August) at 8.00pm.

**Parent & Toddler group,**

9.30–11.30am, Wednesdays, term-time.

**LH Post Office:** 9.00–11 am Tuesdays and Thursdays, rear of the Village Hall in the Doctor's Reception Room.

**Social Club:** second Tuesday of the month: 771580 or 658585 for information

**Sunday School:** second Sunday of the month 9.30am at St Cecilia's church.

**"Way Inn" coffee morning:** third Thursday of month, rear of Village Hall, 10–12 noon.

**Whist Drive:** Last Thursday of the month, 7.30pm start. Ross Barron, 07732 370923

# March diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

## **3 Sunday**

### **Lent 3**

9.30am

Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11.15am

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

## **10 Sunday**

### **Mothering Sunday**

9.30am

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

11.15am

Family Service at St Mary's, Albury

## **17 Sunday**

### **Lent 5**

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Village Hall Service, Little Hadham

6.00pm

Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

## **24 Sunday**

### **Palm Sunday**

11.15am

Parish Communion at St Mary's, Albury

6.00pm

Evensong at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

## **31 Sunday**

### **Easter Day**

9.30am

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

11.15am

Holy Communion at St Mary's, Albury

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

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## **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**

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Editor: Jan Finn, Ash Cottage, The Ashe, Little Hadham, SG11 2DX (771113) e-mails to [htfp@clocktower.co.uk](mailto:htfp@clocktower.co.uk)

All articles for inclusion; sponsorship; and payment for advertising in the next issue **must** be received by the **18th** of the month. (cheques payable to **Little Hadham PCC**)

Little Hadham Parish News is distributed free by St Cecilia's church