

Little Hadham Parish News

February 2014



Nature Notes, page 9

Rector of Parish: Revd. Giles Tulk
01279 842609

e-mail: gtulk@waitrose.com

Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter
01279 844955

e-mail: cp.slaughter@virgin.net

Team Vicar: Revd. Stephen Fielding
01279 771892

e-mail: sffielding@hotmail.com

Churchwarden: Don Gibson 771325

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

Letter from the Rectory

Dear friends in Little Hadham

Serving our Community

On the evening of Thursday 9th January the Bishop of Hertford, The Right Reverend Paul Bayes, came to St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham to lead a special service to commission and bless our new team of seventeen Pastoral Visitors. It was a truly happy and joyful occasion. The service was the culmination of a Diocese of St Albans training course which the seventeen Pastoral Visitors from across our team of churches had attended over the period from October to December.

The purpose of the Pastoral Visitor Team is to enable us as a church community to visit the lonely, the elderly, the sick and the bereaved in all our parishes. It is a sharing of the historic ministry that in the past was undertaken mainly by the parish priest, in those days when most parishes, including our own, had the luxury of their own priest. The pastoral visiting is a form of shared outreach that goes to the heart of our calling as Christians to minister to those in need in our community. This ministry is summed up in one of the hymns we sang at the commissioning service: brother, sister let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you.

The seventeen Pastoral Visitors cover all ages and have a range of different life experiences. In spite of their different backgrounds they all have one thing in common, and that is a calling to the ministry of pastoral visiting, a call they have all responded to. Along with the clergy, the Pastoral Visitors will be the hands and feet of Christ in our community, ensuring we can visit all those in need.

So if you know of anyone who you think would welcome a visit, to have a chat over a cup of tea, (and perhaps a biscuit!) please do contact me and I will ensure the person is visited. We need your help and support to make this shared ministry a success.

God Bless

Reverend Giles

Adverts removed

Obituary – Mick Crace

We were all saddened by the death, on 28th December 2013, of our dear friend Mick Crace. Condolences have been sent to Christine to whom Mick was married for 55 years. Mick was a past Church Warden at St Cecilia's, a long serving member of its choir, leader of the Annual Remembrance Sunday Service, adviser on legal matters and, most importantly, a man of the highest moral, ethical and Christian standards. His contribution to St Cecilia's and Little Hadham generally cannot be quantified. He will be greatly missed by us all and leave a void which will not be filled. A Commemoration Service to celebrate his life takes place at St Cecilia's - 12 noon on 30th January, 2014.

Mick Crace was a well-educated and learned man; an Eton Scholar he went on to win an Exhibition to Cambridge where he switched to law and qualified as a barrister. Army Service took him to Palestine where he served in the Coldstream Guards and on his return he decided to re-qualify as a solicitor.

He became a Partner at Moon Beever and enjoyed a long and happy working life in Family and Trust management.

Mick had many interests, he loved music and sang in St. Cecilia's choir and The Ware Choral Society; he enjoyed playing cricket and served as President for Little Hadham Cricket Club. He was a Master of the Girdlers Company, a City Livery Company, and at Mick's recommendation the Village Hall, St. Cecilia's and other village organisations have benefitted from significant donations from the Company for which the village is extremely grateful. He served on the Village Hall Management Committee for many years, as Vice Chairman, Honorary Solicitor, Chair of the Finance Committee and Representative for the Red Cross. He continued to advise on legal and financial matters after his retirement from the Committee; Jon Fardell is particularly grateful for his wise and sound counsel over the years.

Mick's was a voice of quiet authority at Parish Council Meetings where he served for many years, guiding and advising with good humour and generosity of spirit.

Mick and his wife, Christine, moved to Lodge Farm in 1969, where they created a wonderful garden together, much enjoyed by their children, Caroline and Christopher, and residents of the village. 12 years ago they moved to Standon but continued to worship at St. Cecilia's and contribute to Little Hadham's community. Mick was greatly respected, much loved by his family and friends, and a more upright, generous and modest gentleman would be hard to find.

We will miss him very much.

Angela Fardell, Don Gibson

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

There was no meeting in January, but we would like to remind you that Tuesday 11th February is our Annual Dinner, 7 for 7.30 pm in the Little Hadham Village Hall. The total cost is £18.50, which includes wine, entertainment and our raffle. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to attend, old and new friends are always welcome.

Tel 771580 or 658585 and we will send you a menu for your choices.

Down at the doctor's

Dr Paul Haimes

A belated Happy New Year to you all.

Unfortunately, Dr Sara Macbay, who is presently on maternity leave, will not be returning to Much Hadham Health Centre. During the six and a half years she was with us, she became a valuable member of the team and was well liked by patients, staff and colleagues. She leaves with our very best wishes for the future.

We have just experienced our busiest December ever in the dispensary. For some reason a significant number of patients insist on "panic ordering" their medication for what is, essentially, only a 2 day break. There are also those who do not adhere to our 3 working day request for processing a repeat medication, all of which puts extra strain on the dispensing staff.

All our staff would like to send a big thank you to all those who generously gave chocolates, biscuits (and alcohol!) for Christmas; it was much appreciated.

Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

The children are really engrossed in our enterprising 'Make your pound grow' project. As part of our 'Going for Goals', each child was given a £1 coin and asked to make it 'grow' in some way. Their ideas have been amazing, ranging from Film Club snacks to car washing to baking cookies. All monies raised will be 'spent' by the children for the children in school. If Lord Alan Sugar needs new apprentices, I can point him in the right direction!

Once again, singing is high on our agenda – not only with our Sign2sing world challenge on 5th February but also our older pupils preparing to sing at the Royal Albert Hall in March – a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Finally, do put the FRIENDS Quiz Night, in the Village Hall, in your diaries for Saturday 15th March. If you would like a table, please let the office know on 01279 771285 or admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Head Teacher

SSE News

SSE welcomes call for an independent Noise Watchdog

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) welcomes the call by London First for an independent noise ombudsman to protect people living near airports and under flight paths from aircraft noise. London First, which represents many of the UK's leading businesses, suggests that a new independent noise ombudsman should have a range of powers including the ability to fine airlines that break noise limits. It believes this would help address the lack of trust and transparency between those pressing for airport expansion and local communities.

SSE very much agrees with London First on these points. SSE has in fact been calling for an independent noise watchdog since 2006 and has repeatedly been pressing the Department for Transport, the CAA and MPs, to introduce independent oversight of aircraft noise and the other environmental impacts of airports on local communities.

At present, airport operators are themselves responsible for monitoring and reporting upon the environmental impacts of their own operations, acting as judge, jury and policeman. It is not therefore surprising that there is so much mistrust amongst local communities in relation to the fairness and transparency of the current arrangements for policing aircraft noise and other adverse environmental impacts of airports on local communities.

The French Government set up an independent authority over 12 years ago to control noise disturbance at airports. Amongst other jurisdictions, Frankfurt Airport in Germany has an independent noise abatement group as part of an agreement with local stakeholders.

The UK Government, however, has even entrusted airport operators to produce their own noise action plans. The UK is the only EU Member State which has left this important environmental task in the hands of the airport operators themselves.

SSE's noise adviser Martin Peachey commented: "This is like being both poacher and gamekeeper at the same time. An independent noise watchdog is long overdue."

Adverts removed

Stolen Posters

I haven't been inundated with replies, regarding posters being taken down relating to charity fund raising events in the Albury Village Hall, but I did have a very helpful email that explained some of the legalities of displaying posters, plus general information about posters being left after the event or taken down before to make room for their own.

When I fund raised locally for the RSPCA I often had posters taken down, though they were on official notice boards and I always took down those that were left, either at the end of the event or the next day. I totally agree that posters advertising commercial gain are a nuisance and an eyesore, but do find it extremely uncaring to destroy the efforts of volunteers who are trying to help their local community. Historically posters have been displayed, advertising many things – even the Police tried to get their 'wanted man, or woman', by doing so!

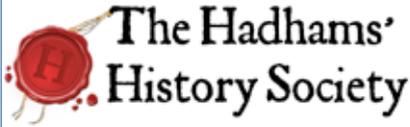
Ennis

Non-collection of bins

A number of you have reported problems with bins not being collected, so here is the number and online reporting address for anyone who needs to use it.

Phone number: 01279 655261

Online address: https://e-services.eastherts.gov.uk/eforms/ufsmain?ebz=1_1387873196292&formid=REFUSE_P0526B_DOMESTIC_NON_COLLECTION



The Forge Museum is staging a major exhibition of WWI memorabilia at Much Hadham Village Hall in Aug 2014 with the help of local volunteers. All aspects of life "on the home front" are to be highlighted using a large variety of relevant

artefacts, photographs, documents and postcards etc. At our November meeting, the Forge Museum curator, Cristina Harrison, showed us some of the many objects she intended to use. These included a section of a zeppelin which had crashed locally and a number of interesting photographs and documents. Members brought along a wide selection of material from their own collections for potential use in the exhibition. Non-members who are also willing to loan suitable material are encouraged to contact the museum.

The society had a very successful and enjoyable social event in December which incorporated an excellent local history quiz set by Bill Cullen.

As a result of my earlier appeal, the 1954 Much Hadham WI Scrap Book has been located and again forms part of the Forge Museum's collection. Images from this fascinating, but fragile book, covering both historical and 20thC life in Much Hadham have been put on to CD; one CD has been given to each WI. The book can thus be read whilst avoiding wear and tear of the original.

Our 2014 programme comprising a mixture of talks by learned experts, local history walks (Ware & Standon) in the summer and members' evenings is shown on our web site:

www.thehadhamshistorysociety.org.uk

Mike Clark 842131

Adverts removed

Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

Hopefully by the time you read this the weather will have dried up a bit and you will have been able to get out a bit on the garden.

Our February meeting, on Tuesday 21st, is a talk by the Gardener's World feature writer and Garden Designer, Helen Riches, who lives in Saffron Walden. She has written numerous articles for the magazine and designed lots of lovely gardens. Helen also runs courses on garden design, and has a lovely website helenriches.co.uk; have a look for inspiration. Her talk is about a bit of the garden we usually forget about – our garden boundaries.

This is again one of our popular lunchtime meetings combined with a ploughman's lunch. The talk starts at 1pm but if you would like a ploughman's this is served from 12noon. Please book your ploughman's with Karin Green on 771532.

New Year, New Start

The "Way Inn" is changing.

*Still on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the rear of the Village Hall, the next one is on the 20th February **from 12.30 to 1.45pm**. Along with tea and coffee we are now offering soup and a roll. So, if you fancy a chat and want to meet people, come along to the Village Hall on the 3rd Thursday of the month where you will receive a very warm welcome!*

Adverts removed

A month that has remained frequently wet but warm, with only a couple of heavy frosts. However, most of my birding during this period (18th Dec–18th Jan) has been done abroad during a 2 week stay in Sri Lanka. Therefore, there will be a tropical flavour to this month's article.

A trip to Welney Reserve just before Christmas and another visit to North Norfolk on the 29th were my final visits for the year and I also managed a few local wanders in between rainy days. A good count of 40+ common gulls in fields off Chapel Lane was the largest count of these gulls I have had, but little else appeared to be about. Along several footpaths winter



parties of bullfinches were seen and a treecreeper was noted in woods opposite the Nag's Head. Due to the warm evenings I have run the moth trap on a couple of nights, but without any success. With February beckoning it is the time to hear both tawny owls calling and great spotted woodpeckers drumming to claim their territory.

Welney Reserve, near Ely, was full of birds, with both whooper and bewick swans being seen along with 10,000 lapwings, numerous black tailed godwits and 30,000 pochard. Staggering numbers. A pair of whooper swans shown here.

In Norfolk, a count of over 80 species meant we had a good day, but we spent time trying

continued on page 16

Adverts removed

Airports Commission - High Court Challenge

Issued By Stop Stansted Expansion 2 December 2013

High Court Judge Mrs Justice Patterson has today (2 December 2013) issued her ruling on the challenge brought by Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) arising from the role played by Mr Geoff Muirhead as a Commissioner on the Airports Commission.

Mrs Justice Patterson agreed it was right for Mr Muirhead to step down from the Commission as soon as it became known that his former employer, the Manchester Airports Group (MAG), the owners of Stansted Airport, would be submitting proposals for extra runways at Stansted.

Nevertheless, Mrs Justice Patterson ruled against SSE in deciding that no previous harm could have been done by Mr Muirhead, in terms of bias, during his involvement with the Commission from 2 November 2012 until his resignation on 20 September 2013 - which happened only after SSE had instructed its lawyers to commence legal proceedings.

Notably, Mrs Justice Patterson remarked in her ruling that neither the actions of Mr Muirhead, in remaining as a Commissioner until September 2013, nor those of the Commission in retaining him until then, could be regarded "as the most wise".

Mrs Justice Patterson was also critical of the Commission for not being more transparent about Mr Muirhead's consultancy arrangements. The point she was referring to was that neither Geoff Muirhead nor the Commission had made any formal declaration that he was still being paid £150,000 a year by MAG when he was appointed to the Commission.

Although SSE has achieved its principal objective in pursuing this legal challenge, namely the removal of Mr Muirhead from the Commission, SSE still has some concerns about the integrity

continued on page 11

Adverts removed

High Court Challenge, continued from page 13

of the process going forward. Some of SSE's concerns were addressed in the course of the legal proceedings as a result of confidential information disclosed by the Commission in witness statements and exhibits, including the minutes of internal meetings.

Despite its public commitment to be open and transparent, the Airports Commission considers that it is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, much of the information released to SSE as a result of its legal proceedings could not otherwise have been obtained.

One (non-confidential) point that has become clear during these proceedings is the pivotal role played by Department for Transport civil servants on secondment to the Airports Commission. This is because Commissioners only work on Commission business for two days a month, one of which days is set aside for its monthly meeting. The Chairman is expected to work four or five days per month. All the Commissioners work pro bono.

Because there is so much at stake, and because the position is still not entirely satisfactory, SSE needs time to give proper consideration to the Judge's (60-page) ruling and to discuss it in detail with its legal advisors before deciding whether there are aspects of the judgment that need to be taken to the Court of Appeal. In the meantime, SSE will be making no further comment.

Adverts removed

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

1 Sat, Herts and Soul Community Choir 'Dedicated to Stage and Screen', 7.30pm at Harlow Playhouse, supporting St Clare Hospice. Tickets £13.50 from 01279 431945, or online at www.hertsandsoul.com or www.playhouseharlow.com.

4 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm. Everybody's welcome, so please come along.

8 Sat, Valentine's Ball, 7.30pm-12, presented by Furneux Pelham school, in Berden Village Hall, feat. Tom Braggins Band. Bar, buffet, bubbles on arrival. Tickets £25 from Jo Burke, Rosie Somers or Holly Mulheron.

11 Tue, LH & A Social Club Annual Dinner, 7 for 7.30 pm in the Little Hadham Village Hall. The total cost is £18.50, which includes wine, entertainment and our raffle. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to attend, old and new friends are always welcome. Tel 771580 or 658585 and we will send you a menu for your choices.

13, 27 Thur, Mobile Library, see p13.

15 Sat, Jumble Sale, 2.30pm Thundridge Village Hall. These popular jumble sales are run entirely by volunteers. You can always be sure of a bargain, and they get very busy! Entry is just 20p. For information please contact Isabel Hospice on 01707 382500 or go to www.isabelhospice.org.uk.

17 Mon, A Mixed Bag: Local History and Beyond (cont.) by Stephen Ruff. Hadhams' History Society, 8pm, in the Green Room at Much Hadham Village Hall.

18 Tue, LH & A Garden Club, Ploughman's lunch at 12noon followed at 1pm by a talk by Helen Riches: 'Garden boundaries'. Please book your lunch with Karin Green, 771532.

20 Thur, The Way Inn, 12.30-1.45pm, rear of Village Hall. **Note new times, and see p8, 'New Year, new Start.'** for full details.

22 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30-11.30am. Come in time for a hot breakfast, and then get all your lovely fresh produce.

23 Sun, Snowdrop Day, Easton Lodge, See p19 for details. The Essex Austin 7 Club will be joining us this Snowdrop Sunday and visitors will be able to look at these lovely cars while they are with us.

... and then?

March 2 **Antiques Fair** BS Football Club.

March 2 **Snowdrop Day**, see p19.

March 15 **LH School Quiz Night**, V Hall.

March 17 **Hadhams' History Society**.

March 30 **Annie's Adult Aquathon**, 300m swim for Isabel Hospice. Details from Annie Thomas on 0774369776. Entry forms can be downloaded at www.isabelhospice.org.uk.

April 26 **Paradise Wildlife Ball** in aid of Cancer Research UK. See p18.

NOTICEBOARD

13th and 27th February

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.

... and once again the printer seems to be playing up. Another replacement part is on the way, but won't arrive in time for this edition. Apologies once again!

The 'Way Inn'

Come and meet friends and neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee, or enjoy soup and a roll.

Rear of Village Hall,
third thursday of the
month, 12.30 - 1.45



If you, or
someone
you know,
needs help
to keep their
home warm
this winter

call  HertsHelp

0300 123 4044

(local rate) or email info@hertshelp.net

from Carmela

My Resignation

Many parishioners will by now be aware of my resignation from LHPC. I resigned following December's meeting. My resignation has brought me great sadness – but it had to be done. The good news is my work in the community goes on so if you need me for any thing at all please do not hesitate to get in touch – cam2403@hotmail.co.uk, 01279 898591 or 07825 177322.

Oil Syndicate

We now have 120 members! Please join - it's FREE! Collectively we make great savings – in January we paid 53.75p lt. If you are paying more than this do get in touch! Spread the news to neighbours and friends! Next order early March – I will print a reminder in the March PN – email me for more info. – cam2403@hotmail.co.uk

Neighbourhood Planning

East Herts District Council has issued the long awaited DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN. It is a substantial document (do get in touch if you would like a copy) and seems to be the detailed robust plan they were hoping to achieve. Little Hadham, of course, features in the plan. In particular reference is made to the amount of residential development to take place in our

[continued on next page](#)

Adverts removed

continued from page 14

community and also the potential for delivery of the A120. Little Hadham is set to grow by at least twenty dwellings over the next couple of decades, if we as a community are to have a say or to influence the type of houses to be delivered then we must now get to work in earnest on our Local Plan. The areas earmarked for development are stated as THE FORD and THE ASHE. These development areas are unlikely to change; they are considered as Sustainable Category 1 Areas because of the facilities available locally namely the school, the pub and the part time post office. To deliver a Local Plan will take hard work and skilled voluntary commitment; our plan will not be acceptable if it does not conform to criteria laid down by The Authorities. I cannot tackle this task alone – if you feel you can help please get in touch, in particular we need professionals who are familiar with planning law. The other option is that we do nothing and accept that our position to influence future local development will be very much compromised. East Herts will launch, for public consultation, its plan proper in February 2014. Please remember LHPC is not tasked with delivering a Local Plan – it's up to the community. Thank You.

Carmela

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 9

for 3 rarities: parrot and 2 barred crossbill as well as a Richard's pipit, all without success.

So, straight after the New Year we headed off to Colombo and spent a week touring before resting at a beach hotel in Galle. Truly amazing birding all round, with well over 100 species seen. The highlight birding day was having 2 safaris around the Yala National Reserve. Here, elephants, monkeys, crocodiles, water buffalo, wild boar, iguanas, monitor lizards, deer and jackal were all seen but I was



there for the birds and was certainly not disappointed. Over

70 species were seen including this stunning green bee eater. Also, a photograph of a grey langar.



Another trip took me to an area of ancient rainforest. Here, the density of the vegetation meant birds were easy to hear but very difficult to see. Several parrot species were

continued on page 17

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 16

observed along with some very spectacularly coloured birds. A huge millipede, 8 inches long and thicker than a finger was found in leaf litter as were plenty of leeches that I had to remove from my ankles.



During our stay, I managed to fit in a short birding wander most mornings and just about on each occasion saw new birds for the trip.

Now back on my old patch and a new year means a new project. Consequently, I have decided to study a year in the life of one very old oak tree that stands on Brick Kiln Hill opposite the pub. It will be interesting to discover just how many creatures, from insects to owls utilise this venerable oak. I shall be recording all creatures that visit it for both food and

rest, so if you come across a chap half way up a tree, shaking branches or wandering around it with my head torch, you'll know it's me. Reports, along with all my other findings can be seen at <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.co.uk> where I have also loaded many photographs of all the nature I witnessed whilst away, including this. A very good reason to keep your eyes open as you wander around Sri Lanka!

Adverts removed

Paradise Wildlife Ball 26 April

My name is Becca and I live in Dane End, I am 34 years old and, on 13 April 2014, I hope to be 10 years in remission from Hodgkin's disease. In order to raise funds for Cancer Research UK I am holding a ball at Paradise Wildlife Park on 26 April 2014:

Paradise Wildlife Ball in aid of Cancer Research UK, Date: 26 April 2014 at Paradise Wildlife Park. Ticket price: £60 pp. includes: 3 course meal and 2 glasses of wine.

6:30 – Arrival to wander the Animal Park animals brought to reception – dependent on weather

7.00 – Reception commences

7:30 – Guests will be asked to take their seats for dinner

9:30 – Raffle/auction

10.00 – Disco

11:45 – Last orders at the bar

Midnight – Carriage home.

Further details on the auction prizes, menu choice etc. will follow.

Tables seat 10 if you are interested in booking a table although individual seats can also be booked. For further details please visit <https://www.facebook.com/paradiseball2014?ref=hl> or email me, becrann@aol.com.

If you know anyone who would like to sponsor, promote their business (in the programmes that are going out with tickets) or donate an item for the auction/raffle - please contact me at: becrann@aol.com. Many thanks.

Adverts removed

News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

The Trustees and volunteers are looking forward to welcoming visitors back to the gardens this year and they will notice some changes that have taken place over the winter. Most noticeable is the opening up of the walkway between the Italian Garden and the Lime Wood where we have uncovered the site of the original stone seating areas. This area will be developed over the coming year with the planting of new hedging and yew trees.

Our first two open days will be for snowdrops on the 23rd February and 2nd March. We will be selling snowdrops in the green and the details and order form for these will be on our website from the 1st February for those who would like to pre-order. Delicious and warming homemade soup will be on sale at lunch time along with bacon rolls and burgers; hot drinks and homemade cakes will be available all day. There will be some children's activities available and there will be one of our very popular complimentary guided tours at 1pm.

We have new opening hours for 2014 with entrance now from 11.30am. The gardens will close at 4pm for snowdrops with last entry at 3pm and in the main season the last entry will be at 4pm with the gardens closing at 5pm.

We have lots planned for the coming year including band concerts, World War II Day, craft fair and much more so keep an eye out for our news or check the website www.eastonlodge.co.uk. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers so if your New Year's resolution was to get out in the fresh air more or give something back to the community why not get in touch on 01371 876979 or enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk and we will help you achieve your goal.

Adverts removed

Green Street: let's all pull together

My neighbour and I would like to make an appeal to all Green Street residents to join in our campagne to bombard all relevant authorities with complaints about the awful state of the street. Although the street has been a source of flooding for years nothing long term has ever been looked at. We have had a few running repairs but this has only been a short term fix. The constant flow of water has eroded the sides of the street with huge potholes developing deep enough to rip tyres off cars. The water flowing out of the culvert can travel no further either due to a broken pipe or blockage.

Please report this and report every time the lane becomes flooded. We need to be proactive on this. We can both be contacted regarding Highways Telephone Number. Also the Job No. Ref for any telephone calls.

The verges and the Green are the responsibility of the Marquis of Salisbury and again we have the relevant telephone number. The willow tree has caused problems in the high winds losing several large branches. This caused major problems to telephones and electric during the last storm. The tree is constantly shedding small branches and leaves which block up the culvert. The mud, leaves and debris on the lane are then swept along by the flood water causing all the culverts and drains to block.

Green Street looks really beautiful in the spring when the daffodils come into bloom, but they will struggle this year with the debris littering the green.

Let's all pull together and maybe we could get something done between us.

Rita 01279 652939 Elaine 01279 504052.

Adverts removed

The terrible floods during January must have made all of us thank our lucky stars we were relatively safe. Oh yes, it was horrible and depressing and, for those of us who had animals, it was jolly hard work. But spare a thought for those who lost almost everything as the waters crept into their homes, ruining their fixtures, fittings, furniture – and their future. Those who, because of their proximity to rivers or the sea, had no insurance because their homes were non-insurable. Those who now have virtually nothing left, no insurance money – only true grit to get them through.

I don't pretend to understand how government works, but I truly wonder at the way we pay out huge sums – always millions and sometimes even billions – to other countries who are not in great need. Some, in fact, are downright hostile to us, some commit terrible acts of terrorism, some even kill off competition by throwing their relatives to hungry dogs!

There's the £2 million going to Argentina (umm, what about the Falklands?); the billions going to India (who are spending billions on defence plus a space programme!); and don't forget a hefty sum to Egypt, Tunisia and the Middle East. All this money going to those and many other governments – some of whom are known to be totally corrupt.

And yet the Environment Agency – which has a key role in dealing with flooding – is going to have to cut back 1,500 jobs next year.

That will save a mere drop in the ocean (no pun intended) when compared with the sums we give away. Is it me, or is the UK utterly mad?

While I am on my soapbox, may I just remind you of a recent Government warning. It said that no longer picking up rubbish bins from homes every week 'must surely increase the risk' to health.

This comes after years of us being told that the change to fortnightly collections have no effect on health – and that infestations or smells that began after the change in collections was OUR fault because we were not observing the rules!

What utter tosh! Rules say our food bin must only contain brown paper bags or newspaper to wrap up the old food – so is it any wonder that we, like many of you, had maggots infesting our bins last summer!

To crown it all we are told we may have to tighten our belts even further, to comply with European recycling targets. That's rich – have you seen the way some Europeans treat their rubbish?

Where we holiday, the rubbish is picked up most days from central points and any form of rubbish, from old furniture, metal, cardboard and all food stuffs go into one stinking container. You hold your breath and run for it if you're on dustbin duty!

Would YOU go 'paper-free'?

Choose the green version of the Parish News by choosing to receive your copy online. Email your address with 'Paper-free' in the subject line to hftp@clocktower.co.uk and save us time and money.

Didn't she do well?

Don Gibson

Residents of Little Hadham will have noticed a short note in last month's issue of the Parish News reporting that in the '2013 National Parish Magazine Awards' our excellent monthly news sheet came 53rd out of a total of 710 entries!

To put this achievement into context it means that out of the several thousand parishes in England, 710 felt sufficiently confident that their magazines merited high recognition – the rest realised that the competition was too hot and didn't enter.

The entire responsibility for publication of LHPN and, consequently, all the congratulations go to the editor, Jan Finn, who, with a little help from husband Alan, consistently produces a high quality publication which is the envy of surrounding villages and highly prized by those 500+ residents to whom it is delivered, free of charge, every month.

In the near future Jan and Alan are moving house, but we have been assured that in this modern age of computer technology distance is no obstacle to future publication of the PN – everything is completed 'on line' and only requires delivery of the printed result from Jan's new address to the nineteen distributors in and around this village.

Jan may tell us in her editor's note how long she has been in charge of the PN, [since 2006 – ed] but we all greatly appreciate her talented work over so many years, thank her for serving her community in a purely voluntary capacity and wish her and Alan much happiness in their new home. [Gosh, thanks – ed]

Adverts removed

“Thanks”

Thanks to everyone who gave socks at Christmas and throughout the year.

We managed to send a record parcel to Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge – THREE HUNDRED PAIRS!

Well done Little Hadham, keep them coming.

Best wishes for 2014 to all,

Ann Clayton

“Thanks” and, er, “Sorry”

Many thanks for the numerous messages of congratulations on being marked 53rd out of 710 in the 2013 National Parish Magazine Awards. Ironic, really, when I now have to apologise for the quality of last month's effort – but due to circumstances quite beyond my control – Christmas! – some of you received really messy copies of the January Parish News. Unfortunately I was unable to get a replacement part for the printer because of the holiday period, so I just had to go with the red stripes and creased pages. Please accept my apologies. Of course, if you really can't put up with that sort of thing you could always go 'paper-free' to see a perfect magazine online – and save us the cost of printing, to boot! Just email me your address with 'paper-free' in the Subject box and it will be done.

Jan

Adverts removed

February diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

(Please note new times and new Services)

2 Sunday

Candlemas

9.15am

Family Holy Communion, Much Hadham

11.15am

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

9 Sunday

4th Sunday before Lent

9.15am

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

11.15am

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

16 Sunday

3rd Sunday before Lent

9.15am

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

11.15am

New Family Communion Service at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

6.00pm

Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

23 Sunday

2nd Sunday before Lent

9.15am

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

11.15am

Holy Communion at St Mary's, Albury

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

The Register: There have been no entries in the Register this month

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

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

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

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