

Little Hadham Parish News November 2015

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Please leave socks at Ann Clayton's house - next door to Nag's Head pub

Thank you for your generosity!

Rector of Parish: Revd. Giles Tulk
01279 842609

e-mail: muchhadhamrectory@gmail.com

Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter
01279 844955

e-mail: marcia.slaughter@virgin.net

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

Change

On Sunday 11th October I announced that I will be leaving my role as Team Rector of the Ash and Quin Valleys' Team at the end of December to take on a new role responsible for five rural parishes on the Welsh borders in the Diocese of Hereford. Although Sara and I will of course be sad to say goodbye to the many friends we have made in Little Hadham (in St Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham School and wider community) we are at the same time excited about the opportunity for me to minister in a part of the country we know well and love. Change tends to always generate these two emotions: sadness at leaving (usually friends and colleagues) and excitement about the challenges that lie ahead.

For people of my generation and younger, change has become an accepted part of life, including changes to individual circumstances, in job, or maybe a complete change in career direction, and of course moving house. This is in marked contrast to my parents' generation, when most people did the same job (and often for the same employer) for the whole of their working life, and often they lived in the same locality.

So what does the Bible say about change? In the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament we are told: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. This reminds us that life is never static, but rather life changes just as the seasons do. But whilst things around us change, the one thing that remains constant in our lives is the love of Jesus Christ for each of us, as the Book of Hebrews in the New Testament reminds us: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

In a changing world and in the changes we encounter in our own lives, it is a comfort to know that Jesus Christ is always walking alongside us, never changing, always there when we need him.

God Bless.

Reverend Giles

Harvest Supper

This year's Harvest Supper on 10th October at the Village Hall was an unqualified success, and the introduction of a new and talented musical duo added enormously to the evening's enjoyment. Due to holidays and illnesses the numbers were down on previous years but a great atmosphere prevailed and the organisation by Karin and Frank Green ensured we all went home very satisfied.

Rev'd Julie Gawthorpe from Braughing was introduced to those present, said Grace, and during the meal mixed in well with local people.

The back-room staff, led by Ann Fuller, served up a great meal and 'Jono' rounded off the evening by thanking all those involved, including the six children who earned 'pin money' by serving the meals and tidying up afterwards. All proceeds from the Supper and the Harvest Church Service on 18th will go towards the Syrian Appeal, helping those in dire need of food and shelter.

Parish Council News

Cyclists at the Traffic Lights

The public have raised concerns that numerous cyclists have been jumping the traffic lights whilst at red, causing a danger to themselves as well as others. The local Police have been asked to pay attention to the traffic lights again.

A120 Bypass and Flood Alleviation.

Hertfordshire Highways have issued an update leaflet showing the route of the bypass, and how they intend to address some of the concerns raised during the last consultation. Their Planning application has not yet been lodged, but once it is the Little Hadham Parish Council will review it. Each household should have received a leaflet and if you have not

received one please ring 0300 123 4040, email A120bypass@hertfordshire.gov.uk or visit their website at www.hertsdirect.org/a120bypass. The documents relating to the Little Hadham Parish Council response to the bypass continue to be listed on the website: www.thehadhams.com.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at the Village Hall on Tues 3rd Nov at 8pm. We use the main hall so there is plenty of space, and there is a hearing loop installed for the hard of hearing. Please come and let the Councillors know what you would like to see happen in our village, and listen to the work that is being carried out. Contact the Parish Clerk on clerklittlehadham@gmail.com.

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

Vic Bottrill came along on Tuesday 13 October – he shone a lot of light onto the interesting subject of **body language** – eye contact, facial expressions, hand shakes and even ‘being in very close proximity with strangers in a lift’ came up – depending on the situation, human behaviour is truly fascinating. On Tuesday November 10 Vie Carter from Albury Road will give a demonstration on card making – Vie makes absolutely beautiful greeting cards. Well worth coming along and ordering those ‘special or personalised’ cards for Christmas or indeed any occasion. Wine and nibbles will also be abundant so do please come along and bring a friend, everyone is welcome! Thank you to all who support our social club. Carmela, Binnie & Sue

Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

I can't believe that we are now on a countdown to Christmas! We have a very busy half term ahead and some dates for your diaries!

Firstly, we are holding an Early Years Open Morning on Thursday 5th November, so please encourage all young families to come along at 10am and share the morning with us.

November 29th is the date for our Christmas Bazaar, so do mark the date on your calendar and come along to start off your Christmas festivities!

Thank you for your continued support and hope to see you on the 29th! Thanks to everyone who supported the Nag's Head marrow weight competition.

Liz Stockley, Head teacher, 01279 771285 or admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk.

The Hundred Parishes

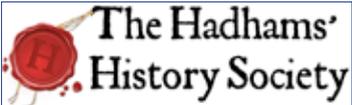
Ken McDonald, Secretary

Our area is one of the driest in England, with relatively low rainfall and no major lakes or rivers. There are, of course, lots of small rivers whose valleys contribute to the beauty of our countryside. Three have their source on the relatively high ground in the Henham and Debden area near the centre of the Hundred Parishes: the Chelmer eventually flows into the Blackwater and reaches the sea at Maldon; the Roding flows into the Thames; and the Cam flows north to join the Ouse and discharge at the Wash.

The absence of water has been a key factor in allowing this area to remain relatively unspoilt, with insufficient natural water supply to service major industrial or residential developments. However, man's ingenuity has enabled a growing population to survive, with a variety of manmade devices to supplement natural water sources. Water is pumped from rivers or from deep artesian wells; farms have invested in reservoirs; and our waste water is recycled.

One of the most remarkable man-made devices for increasing water supply is the New River, which passes through the far southwest corner of the Hundred Parishes at Great Amwell. Water is pumped from the River Lea near Ware into this aqueduct and it flows south for nearly 30 miles, through London's northern suburbs to Hackney. What is perhaps most surprising about the New River is that it was constructed over 400 years ago. At that time, it took desperately-needed clean water into the heart of London. It still serves that purpose. Our selection of walks from railway stations includes number 19 whose easy 4 miles from St Margarets Station to Ware station includes an interesting stretch of the New River. The route can be downloaded from our website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

Adverts removed



Tom Doig's recent talk on dating Victorian photographs from the 1820s until ca 1900, was historically illuminating and delivered with many amusing anecdotes on the examples shown. The earliest was by pioneer

Niepce in 1827 and needed a 13hr exposure. By contrast his contemporary Daguerre, was able to get an image from a 10 min exposure on the back of a glass slide. When the two finally collaborated in 1830, the process was firmly established and images could be mounted and framed. Photographs of life events, e.g. marriages, were taken in studios and subjects needed a long neck clamp to keep them still during the long exposures. This was tortuous and might well explain why sitters had serious non-smiling expressions. What a long way we have come since then, sending images instantly to anywhere in the world. Framing is crucial to dating Victorian era photographs as about every 10 years, mounts changed to keep up with the latest trend. By contrast sitters' clothes were very often loaned by the studio and could be from any period. One word of advice, if you have images of your Victorian family, do not take them out of the frame and do keep them out of sunlight or any other strong light. This was a really interesting talk especially for those of us tracing our family history. Barbara Green.

Society Matters We will shortly be losing our Web Master and hope to replace this role from the current committee. However we are already short of one committee member and I also need to hand on the role of Events Secretary, to get novel ideas for future events underway. We really do need some new blood, so please put your names forward for next year's officers and committee so that we can keep the momentum of the society moving forward.

Mike Clark, 842131.

Adverts removed

Millennium Wood Update

A meeting was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd Sept. A pleasing number of residents attended and heard the plans to aid the future growth of the wood as well as plans to encourage a wider diversity of wildlife into the habitat. I appreciate some may have not been able to make this meeting, but could be interested in helping out with simple jobs such as lopping the straggling saplings, removing lower branches and opening up a path for insects through the middle of the wood. By the time of publication we shall have had our 1st work party, the second being planned for **10am on Sunday 15th November**. Please do come along to help, bringing gloves, wellies or boots, loppers, bow saws and secateurs, no power tools please.



Recently, I began the cutting of the grass areas and shall continue this throughout the winter. The grass will then be encouraged to grow back, some being mown regularly, some at the end of the year and other areas left for cutting once every 2 years. A photo here of a well camouflaged barred sawfly moth found recently in the wood.

Please also note the special session in the wood on **Sunday 1st November** with internationally recognised insect expert Colin Plant. More details in Nature Notes.
continued on next page

Adverts removed

Millennium Wood update, continued from page 6

Great possibility for children interested in Natural History, especially bugs etc to come along and find what is still about so late in the year. Just need to bring plastic bags, pencil and note paper to keep a record of what tree you found the specimen on. Don't worry if you don't know, experts will be there to help and encourage. If enough interest, I shall also run an owl pellet dissection session, where children (and adults) can pull apart owl pellets and find the skeletons of rodents etc. that the owl has consumed. Sounds gory, but children love it, so do bring them along!

If you would like further details on the management plan for the wood, please email me at jforgham@hotmail.com and I shall be happy to forward the plan and the dates for future work parties. I shall add you to the newsletter list as well.

Village Oil Syndicate

During the first week in November we shall submit our last 2015 order for heating oil, thus avoiding the Christmas rush & price hike. It's FREE to join and together we make very good savings - in early September we paid around 30p/lt.

More info: cam2403@hotmail.co.uk - Carmela 07825 177322 or 01279 898591.

Adverts removed

In October we ran a couple of Saturday morning flu vaccination sessions which were popular and well attended. We will, therefore, be doing the same in November so, if you are eligible, just ring to find out which Saturdays we're open and book your appointment.

Whilst on the subject of vaccination, I have been asked to mention two other things. Firstly, a reminder that the Shingles vaccine is available free to certain age groups; namely those of you born between 2/9/42 and 1/9/45 and between 2/9/35 and 1/9/37. Outside those birthdates you can obtain it privately from the Rivers Hospital in High Wych or through the Nomad travel clinic in Bishop's Stortford.

Secondly, due to nursing hours, we are no longer able to offer a travel enquiry service. Comprehensive advice, from trained nurses, on travel health and vaccinations can be obtained free from a Travel Health Clinic such as Nomad or Boots. If certain vaccinations are advised which are available free on the NHS (Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio) then we will happily do these at the surgery; just make an appointment with our practice nurse. We can also arrange, on a private basis, Malarial tablets should they be required.

Finally, the "Powers that Be" have made available to all practices certain "Winter Monies" designed to help us reduce hospital admissions for conditions deemed preventable and/or treatable at home such as pneumonia and urine infections. Most of this money will be used to employ locum doctors so that the Partners can provide more sessions in the Nursing Homes and make more home visit assessments. This means that there may be fewer appointments available with your usual GP and some new faces dealing with the acute ailments such as coughs/colds/tummy upsets/rashes etc.

Progress eh??

Adverts removed

A surprisingly dry and, on the whole, relatively warm period (18th Sept. – 18th Oct) which saw me out and about both around the parish and further afield.

Of particular note was a walk that I led for the Broxbourne RSPB Group on Sunday 4th October. Several residents and 20 RSPB members met at the Village Hall for a walk over to



Hadham Hall, Millfield Lane and then down the hill for refreshments at the Nag's Head. In all 38 species of bird were recorded, including common buzzard, sparrow hawk, barn owl, grey wagtail and, most surprisingly, a pair of stonechat in the hedgerow up the hill from the pub. Certainly a good selection of less often seen local birds and a new site for me to observe stonechats. Photo here.

Also observed, several speckled wood butterflies and a small white, along with a few common darter and migrant hawker dragonflies by the River Ash. All in all, a most successful walk and many thanks for the donations to our Sri Lankan fund from those who came along.

Other walks around the parish have also taken place, noting both tawny and little owl, both of which are becoming very vocal after dark and carrying on all night, still going strong when I visit the moth trap around 6a.m. However, I have been busy giving presentations to RSPB groups across the south east, visiting Crawley, Harpenden, Bedford, Bromley and Lavenham in

continued on page 10

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 9



the last few weeks. I try to fit in some nature watching before the talks, consequently, popping into Rainham Marsh Reserve near the Dartford bridge where this fine kingfisher offered photo opportunities. Also, visits to Elmley Marsh and Tring Reservoirs where I saw a new bird for me. A ring necked duck, a rare American migrant, only the 5th new bird for me this century!

Moth wise, the highlight was trapping and identifying an unusual moth. On the night of 23rd September, I popped down to check the trap before locking up and disturbed a small micro moth that I managed to catch. On checking the field guides it looked to be the tricky to identify *Dioryctria sylvestrella*, so a 2nd opinion was needed. Off to my friend Graeme in Stortford who agreed with my identification but we both realised that, as this would be a first record for the county, we needed it to be confirmed by Colin Plant, the recorder and internationally renowned moth man. He, most pleasingly, agreed with our identification, so a first for the county! A pleasing record. Moths are now dwindling in number with the regular autumn species on the wing and, even these tend not to fly on cloudless, cold nights. Numbers, albeit low, are still being recorded, with the total moths trapped and recorded this year by me in the parish, presently at a staggering 5716! These numbers are made up of 385 different species!

continued on next page

Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 10

Several night time excursions to Millennium Wood have been undertaken, but very quiet. On the night of the 6th October, I managed a few expected moths, but also saw tawny owl, little owl, fox, weasel and a few rabbits. One more, day time trip is planned for **1st Nov, meeting in the wood at 11.30am** where Colin Plant will be offering his immense expertise in identifying any leaf mines we can find. Basically, many micro moths lay their eggs on the specific foodplant, the caterpillars hatch and tunnel their way in between the 2 layers of the leaf, where they continue to live and feed. As they do this they leave tracks, known as mines, on the leaf surface. Many of these are like a signature and the moth can be identified by the pattern that is left upon the leaf. All are welcome, especially families where the children can search for the leaves and Colin will be on hand to tell you what they are. I shall also be leading an owl pellet dissection session for children, so do come along, if the weather is fine. Could be a fun few hours as we should find over 40 species of moth caterpillars in a few hours. Colin is always in demand, so great to have him help with this.



As always, jforgham@hotmail.com for any advice or help on things to do with natural history and frequent updates of all aspects of my interest can be viewed at <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.co.uk>

Adverts removed

What's on in November

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

1 Sun, Millennium Wood Nature Watch. Meet in the Wood at 11.30am. See page 11.

1 Sun, Fireworks Display, Furneux Pelham School. Gates open 5pm. Bar, BBQ, glowing things & yummy things. Tickets include a hot dog. £22 for family of 4 or £8 adults, £6 kids

3 Tue, Parish Council Meeting, 8pm. Everybody welcome.

6 Fri, Christmas Craft Charity Evening, 6-10pm, 2 Uplyme Mews, Balfour St., Hertford, SG14 3BE held by Charlott Spurway in aid of Isabel Hospice. Lots of crafts and Christmas cards on sale. £10 entry, inc fizz and nibbles.

6 Fri, MH Horticultural Society AGM, 8pm in the Green Room, MH Village Hall. Includes presentation of certificates to cup winners and a talk by Brian Grundy of Pesteco. All welcome. Refreshments and raffle. Free entry.

7 Sat, Jumble Sale for Isabel Hospice, 2pm Thundridge Village Hall. These popular jumble sales are run by volunteers and you can always be sure of a bargain. They get very busy. Entry just 20 pence.

8 Sun, Antiques Fair, 9.30-4pm. Free entry on production of advert on page 5. Refreshments available.

10 Tue, LH & A Social Club, 8pm. Card-making with Vie Carter. Come along and bring a friend – everyone is welcome.

10 Tue, Music at the Palace. The talented Haileybury Choir and the Chamber Orchestra join to celebrate the music of Mozart. Tickets £25, inc light supper, from www.isabelhospice.org.uk. Paying bar and raffle.

15 Sun, Working Party in Mellennium Wood, contact Jono: jforgham@hotmail.com if you want to help. See page 6.

17 Tue, LH & A Garden Club, 8pm. A talk by David Marsh on Tools of the Trade. Also book

your place for the supper which is on Saturday 28th November at the Village Hall 7 for 7.30. Telephone Karin Green for more info 771532.

19 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning, 12.30 - 1.45pm, rear of Village Hall. See page 13.

21 Sat, Barn Dance, Albury. See page 13.

23 Mon, Hadhams' History Society: 'Local Airfields' a talk by James Pettigrew, who has considerable knowledge of this subject. 8pm, Green Room, Much Hadham Village Hall.

26 Thurs Whist Drive, 7.30. £2 includes tea and biscuits. Contact Ross Barron 01279 771694 for more details. (If you would like to learn to play whist please let me know.)

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

28 Sat, Garden Club Supper, See above.

29 Sun, Christmas Bazaar, LH School.

29 Sun, Much Hadham Christmas Market, 12-6pm, If you would like to meet Santa or the reindeer, (reindeer 2-4pm only) please visit the Forge. The tea room and craft shop will be open too. The Grotto visit is £7.50, which includes time with Santa, a great gift, a VIP Reindeer wish and entry into the Children's Raffle! (Reindeer wish only, £2.00).

Coming soon

3,4,5 Dec, **'A Christmas Carol'**, 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham. MH Drama Group and invited players. Tickets from Londs, Much Hadham, and Sue Clarke 01279 842822 or nclarke167@aol.com. Priced at £10 includes mulled wine and a mince pie.

14 Dec, **History Society Members' Social,** 8pm in the Green Room, Much Hadham Village Hall, where we bring food & drinks to share. BYO glasses would be much appreciated.

Jan 2016, **Snow White.** LH Pantomime Group.

NOTICEBOARD



Redbridge Brass presents A Christmas Celebration!

St. Andrew's Church, Much Hadham
Saturday 12th December 3pm

Get in the festive mood with London's leading Championship Brass band!

*'from singing Hark the Herald to Frosty the Snowman, an afternoon of fun,
music and Christmas entertainment for the whole family'*

This concert has been organised by Kathy Mackenzie, a band member and local resident of Much Hadham. Much Hadham Health Centre's Jack May Trust Fund is also involved in helping promote ticket sales to support their own fund-raising activities. (Please contact Lyn Lynn, at the Health Centre for details).



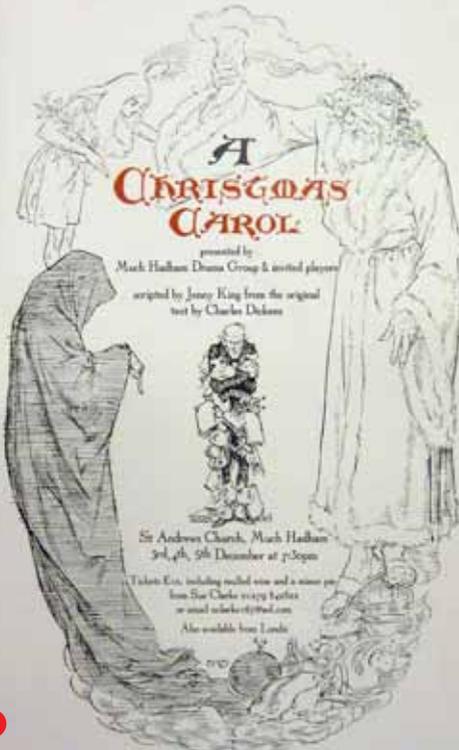
Tickets £10 (children 12 and under free)
Direct from London & M. Hadham Health Centre, M. Hadham
Ticket-line: 07882647241
Online www.RedbridgeBrass.com

Barn Dance

Albury Village Hall
Saturday 21st November
7pm Tickets £10 per
adult with accompanying
children free. Please bring
your own food and drink.

Raffle with all profits
going towards the cost of
replacing fire doors
in the Hall.

Tickets available from
Stephanie Stroud
dstrouds@hotmail.com or
phone 01279 771478.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

presented by
Much Hadham Drama Group & invited players

scripted by Jenny King from the original
text by Charles Dickens

St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham
Sat. 4th, 9th December at 7.30pm

Tickets £10, including melted wine and a mince pie
from The Clarke 11379 74678
or email whd@redmail.com

Also available from London

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

Scouts



EXPLORERS

We are delighted to announce a fantastic new Scouting opportunity for young people aged 14 - 18 in the Much Hadham area: Subscriptions are £45 per school term, which include the annual membership and insurance fee. If you think Scouting's just about knots, woggles and big shorts, then be prepared to be surprised. It's how Richard Branson, Barack Obama and David Beckham got their start in life and you can benefit too. There are 450,000 young people in Scouting, spread across five sections: Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network. Each section has its own balanced programme of activities, badges and awards. Explorers are encouraged to lead themselves in deciding the programme and direction of the Unit, with support and guidance from leaders. The section also includes the Young Leaders' Scheme, where young people are able to take on a leadership role in one of the younger sections. Our Activity Programme is also supplemented and complemented by regular events and activities delivered across the district, allowing for the opportunity to socialise and work with other local Explorer Units. In addition, there are a number of activity badges and ambitious top awards that Explorer Scouts can gain during their time in the section to recognise their achievements. There is wider scope for activities like sailing, hiking, camping, kayaking, performing, parascending, gliding, rock climbing, mountaineering and expeditions, and linking in to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. We will be starting on Mondays at 8.00pm in the Scout Hut, Much Hadham – come along on the night to sign up. For more information, please e-mail William Compton on mhexplorers@outlook.com. Looking forward to hearing from you! William.

Adverts removed

Departure route trials show improved track keeping at stansted

Stop Stansted Expansion ('SSE') welcomes the recently announced consultation on the results of improved track keeping trials within two existing departure routes from Stansted Airport. These routes, known as Noise Preferential Routes, are the departure routes 22 Clacton and 04 Detling (previously called 04 Dover).

The trials undertaken with a number of participating aircraft have demonstrated that aircraft can consistently follow a more precise course. Stansted Airport says that by following the more precise flight paths on the 22 Clacton and 04 Detling routes, the participating aircraft directly overflew 85% fewer people compared to existing departure procedures.

The consultation is seeking views from the local community on the impact of these trials with the view to permanently adopting the trial procedures subject to the approval of the Civil Aviation Authority.

The consultation closes on Friday 27 November 2015 and SSE is urging residents and local councils to respond to the consultation.

SSE's position on any proposed change to flight paths is that there must be clear and compelling overall benefits for local residents before any changes are implemented. Furthermore, SSE cautions that when flight paths are changed there will inevitably be winners and losers.

continued on page 18

Adverts removed



Support from bump to five

Hertfordshire County Council has 82 children's centres providing an excellent service for parents-to-be, right up until their little one turns five. New-start baby sessions are just one of many groups that the centre offers. Other sessions include breastfeeding classes, new-born and young parent groups, and stay and play for the older children - the support and offering is extensive; and most of the time it's free of charge. Every centre across the county has a different range of sessions – but all provide support and advice from bump to five years. To find your local children's centre visit: www.hertsdirect.org/childrenscentres. If you are expecting a baby, why not visit your local children's centre to register and attend a parent-to-be session. It's a great way to find out what your local centre has to offer for when your baby arrives, and it also provides a great support network from both the staff and other mums.

Your school needs you

Could you give up some of your spare time to make a real difference to the lives of young people in Hertfordshire? More than 6,000 people are helping shape the future of schools by volunteering as a governor in one of Hertfordshire's 550 schools. School governors work closely with head teachers and are responsible for ensuring good quality education in local schools, setting aims and policies and deciding how the school's budget is spent. You don't have to have a child attending a school, or have particular links to a school, to be a governor. You also do not

continued on next page

Adverts removed

Message from Graham McAndrew, continued from page 16

need to have a background in education to become a governor, just an interest in being part of the school team and improving outcomes for young people. Many of the county's governors are retired or have grown up children but wanted to use their skills to get involved in their local community. There are plenty of opportunities to learn new skills through being a governor and being part of a team who are all working together for the good of the school community. The county council has a dedicated governance team which works to support governors and governing bodies in all Hertfordshire schools, in line with national legislation and guidance. To find out more about becoming a governor in Hertfordshire please visit www.hertsdirect.org/governors

Changes to library opening hours

From Monday 9 November 2015, the opening hours of many of Hertfordshire's libraries will be changing in response to feedback from library users across the county. The changes made will reflect the needs of the local community as well as current patterns of use, so that libraries are open at the times when most people want to use them. More and more customers are also accessing the library service online. Online visits between April and June 2015 increased by 13% over the previous year, and more than 5000 people have downloaded the Hertfordshire Libraries App since its launch in June, enabling them to renew or request books and find library information on smart phones and tablet devices. For details of the changes, visit <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/libraries/newopeninghours> or drop into your local library.

Adverts removed

SSE, continued from page 15

However, SSE supports efforts that reduce the number of residents suffering from aircraft noise annoyance, provided this does not give rise to a disproportionate and unbearable noise impact upon the minority of 'losers'.

SSE's noise adviser Martin Peachey commented: "The Government's environmental guidance for airspace up to 4,000ft is to minimise the noise impact of aircraft and the number of people significantly affected by it. The introduction of satellite-based precision navigational aids enable more efficient flight operations with associated benefits to communities living around airports and under flight paths. These trials have shown that it is possible to tailor flight paths to reduce the numbers of people currently overflown".

What's been happening at the Forge this month?

Our 6th Forge Annual Conker Championships was well supported and we were blessed with a fine day. 32 players and over 100 spectators came, raising very welcome funds for the Museum. Many thanks to our team of volunteer judges, scorers, caterers and craft activity hosts who kept everybody entertained, fed and watered throughout. Thank you to the Prince of Wales, David Calvert Photography, Miles Kelly Publishers, Deb Scutts (Phoenix Cards) and Lynne Mills for providing raffle prizes. Our 2015 Winners were Will Scutts (Junior), Nina Hall (Ladies), James Kennard (Men) and the Kennard Family scooped the team prize. Congratulations!

Adverts removed

I wish I could grow old gracefully. Life would be much easier like that. Unfortunately (and I blame my workaholic Dad's genes for this) I find it near impossible. I am of an age when most women are only too happy to retire from work. I am not sure what they do with their lives, especially if they don't read much, hate knitting, can't do cross stitch, dislike coffee mornings and don't have a clutch of grandchildren to indulge...

So I continue working, running my own business and, if I'm honest, enjoying every fraught, time consuming, worrying, yet satisfying moment of it. I promise long-suffering husband that this year I will, I really will, give it all up... and then when the time comes I just can't!

I do battle with my computer daily, wishing I was 30 years younger with a more elastic brain in tow which would understand all the jargon – and be able to navigate the keyboard with the ease that primary school children achieve within a term or two. I give you an example – in all the years I have used a computer (and that goes back a good 20+ years,) I still don't know what the F1 to F12 keys are for. I've managed without them till now, so presumably they are not life-threatening! I worry about everything at night and can't remember a time when I slept the whole night without waking in a cold (or more often hot) sweat! I take myself off to the spare room and read magazines. If this fails to blank out the current worry, I descend into the TV room and watch late night films – (but why are they always SO horrific?) I have been known to down a bowl of cornflakes around midnight or indulge in toast and marmalade at 4am. I'll creep back to bed around 6.15 only to have to get up again 'moments' later.

So what's to do? Do I take the plunge and stop working or carry on, driving myself into what could be a –fairly – early grave? I suppose only time will tell!

Adverts removed

Beds & Herts Bike Ride

The annual Bike Ride on 12th September this year realised more than £1,200 for the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust. What a wonderful achievement by just two riders – Peter English and Tony Skidmore – who, between them, visited nearly 30 churches.

Half of the money they raised is returned to St Cecilia's to assist with running costs, the remainder goes to those ancient churches in the region which face mounting and increasing repair bills.

An unsung and largely unknown helper in this annual event is Peter's wife Linda who knocks on doors and makes a zillion 'phone calls persuading friends and relatives to donate part of their hard earned cash towards this worthy cause – thanks Linda.

It's worth noting that dozens of churches within the catchment area participate in the Bike Ride but only those churches with congregations much larger than ours raise equal or larger amounts, and many fall way short of our total – so well done you three!

Adverts removed

Parish Councillors and their responsibilities

The list of Councillors and their responsibilities is also available on The Hadhams' website: www.thehadhams.com

Liz Lloyd-Williams [Chair]	lizlloydwilliams@gmail.com
Mary Wilkinson	marywilkinsonlhpc@gmail.com
Chris Bhatt	chrisbhatt@btinternet.com
Tony Hoodless	antonyhoodless@gmail.com
Gavin Tooke	gavintooke@yahoo.co.uk
Will Wright	willw@hotmail.co.uk
Graham Pearson	grahampearsonlhpc@gmail.com
Parish Clerk Bev Evans	clerklittlehadham@gmail.com

	Areas covered	Lead Cllr	Supporting Cllr
Highways:	Road maintenance (potholes, drains, kerbing etc), communication with EHDC on same. Parking issues, Rat Running.	Graham	Liz
Environment Affairs:	Parish Paths, PC-owned land maintenance, tree surgery, litter and dog bins, conservation area, river and stream quality issues.	Tony	Mary
Groups and Amenities:	Parish groups Liaison, Village Hall liaison, School liaison, Church Liaison, MH Health centre (Patient Group and Little Hadham Surgery), NHS Matters, Defibrillator, LH Conservation Society Rep.	Will	Liz
Community:	Playing fields, Local events liaison, Post Office, War Memorial, Allotments, Local Businesses, Housing needs, Young People's needs.	Gavin	Mary
Consultation and Public Relations:	LHPC website, Social Media accounts (Twitter, Facebook), Parish Magazine, Press Liaison (papers, TV), improved Broadband mobile phone provision.	Chris	Graham
Planning:	Planning permissions for dwellings within the parish.	Mary	Will & Tony
Strategic	Neighbourhood plan, Stop Harlow North, Stop Stansted Expansion, BS North Development (ASRs).	Will	Gavin
Flooding/Flood planning:	Housing at the Ashe, the Ford and Green Street. Liaison with Fire Brigade, flood defence planners and environment agencies.	Graham	Will
Security:	Police liaison, Fire Brigade liaison, Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Watch liaison.	Tony	Chris
Parish Council:	Insurances, Precept, Clerk's salary, legal issues, training, discipline, co-options, minutes.	Chris	Gavin

A resident responds

I read the "Letter from a Visitor" in last month's issue and must say that it is seldom that my humble Nature Notes is mentioned alongside such establishments as the BBC! However, I feel I must correct the contributor on several of his/her assumptions regarding matters of nature as there is clearly little evidence for many of the rather rash and knee jerk statements contained within.

Regarding badgers: badgers rarely die from TB. ("untimely deaths, presumably to TB in overcrowded setts") Badgers will suffer breathing difficulties and kidney problems and become emaciated but continue to live, feed and be part of their social group. Indeed, there is a body of evidence that shows infected badgers share setts with perfectly healthy badgers.

There has not been a badger census since the 1990s and whilst it may be assumed that the population has increased since the 1992 Badger Protection Act, it is not known. Latest estimates showed a rise in badger social groups from 42,000 to 50,000. Whilst this is an increase (DEFRA figures) it does not necessarily indicate a large rise in badgers as numbers within the group may be smaller. The badger, by its shy and nocturnal habits is a difficult creature to census.

"Conclusion: Question. Will badger populations continue to grow and grow now there is no natural predator to keep their numbers in check?"

Answer: "Extremely unlikely. We hope this short note puts to rest the myth about badger populations being out of control." Ref: Battersby J. & Tracking Mammals Partnership. UK Mammals: species, status and population trends. DEFRA website, dated 2013.

Sadly, I find many dead badgers around the A120 and local roads all looking like road kills. Badgers are creatures of habit and rarely stray to pastures new apart from when males are leaving their birth sett. If I come across a dead badger in an unfamiliar site I inspect the creature. In too many instances they are not road kill, but results of badger baiting, an illegal and barbaric practice. The damage to the muzzle shows that they have been ripped from their sett by dogs and then the bodies thrown out of vehicles on to roads to make it look like road kill. These are always reported to the police but little can be done.

Hedgehogs are indeed part of the badger diet and they remain the number one predator of the hedgehog, with foxes, dogs, common buzzards and golden eagles also known to take hedgehogs. However, even the Hedgehog Trust agrees that the badger is not responsible for the crash in hog numbers. Hedgehog numbers have declined severely over the past 40 years from areas where there are few badgers (East Anglia) as well as in urban gardens where badgers are few and far between. Ref: www.hedgehogstreet.org. Indeed, where there are good numbers of invertebrates, badgers and hedgehogs continue to co-exist.

Garden fencing, slug pellets and a change in gardening fashions are also responsible for the decline. Easily remedied: no poisons in the garden, remove decking and cut small holes in your fence to permit the hogs to travel further to find mates.

Yellowhammers: In my book, *The Natural History of Little Hadham Parish* (2010) I set out a bio-diversity plan to monitor yellowhammers within the parish. (Chap 18 p 129) This, I continue to do and along with Herts Natural History Society their numbers are regularly monitored in 4km square tetrads. The records, stretching back to 1967 show indeed a fall in breeding yellowhammers within Herts from 224 tetrads showing breeding pairs (1967 – 73) to 135

continued on next page

A resident responds, continued from page 22

tetrads (2008 -12) Note that in the first survey 475 tetrads were checked (i.e. whole of Herts) whereas in the follow up only 401 tetrads were surveyed. However, with more farmers leaving a 10 metre wide rough area around their fields and next to hedgerows the yellowhammer numbers now appear to be increasing again. Indeed, my records for the parish show both an increase in overwintering yellowhammers, (especially along the footpath from Ford Hill to Winding Hill, Much Hadham) and breeding birds. 2015 I recorded 48 breeding territories within the parish, up from 27 in 2011. Herts. data will be available in 2017 at the end of another 5 year survey. Just for interest, the breeding population of yellowhammers within Herts is between 9,100 and 18,000 territories. (Ref: Birds of Hertfordshire, pub HNHS 2015)

This rise in uncut rough grassland around field margins has also helped grey partridge numbers to begin to increase. Again, surveys show 143 tetrads within Herts holding breeding greys between '67 – 73 whilst this fell to 22 tetrads 2008 – 2012. A Herts Natural History recovery project has been established, especially around Royston and this now shows strong evidence of increased numbers. Ref: Game and Wildlife Conservation Project, Birds of Herts pub HNHS 2015.

Technology, modern living and need for space will always be detrimental to nature and only by monitoring it, recording it and analysing the data and developing new habitats and establishing projects can we continue to help it survive and flourish. I am always happy for company when I am out monitoring all local wildlife and carrying out bird surveys in Spring and Summer. I hope this clarifies some of the statements made last month.

Feel like giving Tesco* £10 for cards this Christmas? Of course you don't. So why not give it to The Parish News instead, and let us wish all your village friends "A Happy Christmas" from you. Send your donation to Frank Green and your message to htfp@clocktower.co.uk by the 18th November for it to go in the December magazine. Merry Christmas!
* other supermarkets are available

The continued circulation of Little Hadham's Parish News is secure!

A few weeks ago the ancient printing machine which for many years has produced our excellent Parish News finally gave up the ghost and expired. Spare parts were hard to find and expensive, and the age of the machine made any further repairs too costly and with no guarantee of long-lasting use.

On-line enquiries showed that a replacement would cost more than £1200 and without a new one our free Parish News would quietly and quickly come to an end.

However, miracles do happen! Realising the importance of the future publication of our monthly village newsletter the Parish Council stumped-up half the total cost and Stansted Airport Community Group donated the rest – job done.

Our sincere and grateful thanks to both these organisations. In addition The Stansted Group also financed the Church Tower repair, carried out on 11th October by our abseiling builder, Nick Spall. It just goes to show that good things still happen.

November diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

1 Sunday

All Saints' Day

9.15am

Family Communion, St Andrew's, Much Hadham

11.15am

Benefice Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury

No Service this day at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

8 Sunday

Remembrance Sunday

9.15am

Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Much Hadham

10.50am

Remembrance Service, St Mary's, Albury

10 50am

War Memorial Service, Little Hadham.

15 Sunday

Trinity 24

9.15am

Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Much Hadham

11.15am

Family Holy Communion Service with band, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

22 Sunday

Christ the King

9.15am

Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Much Hadham

11.15am

Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury

No Service this day at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

25 Wednesday

Midweek Communion

10.00am

Holy Communion, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

29 Sunday

Advent Sunday

11.15am

Benefice Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury

1.00pm

Bring and Share Advent Lunch, Little Hadham Village Hall.

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

The Register: Renewal of Vows: Karin and Frank Green at St Cecilia's on 20th September.

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.
vAll requests will be confidential.

Please ring anytime: Janet: 842671, Karin: 771532

Editor: Jan Finn, Jute House, 85a Bradford Street, Bocking Essex, CM7 9AU e-mails: 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