

Little Hadham Parish News

May 2015



The School held its Easter Service at St Cecilia's on Monday 30th March. 145 children and 65 teachers, mums and dads filled the Church to hear the children's story of the Easter message from 2000 years ago. Revd Giles officiated.

Rector of Parish: Revd. Giles Tulk
01279 842609

e-mail: muchhadhamrectory@gmail.com

Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter
01279 844955

e-mail: cp.slaughter@virgin.net

Churchwarden: Don Gibson 771 325

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

Letter from the Rectory



Grief and New Life

On Easter Sunday in our churches across the Ash & Quin Valleys Team and in churches all around the world we celebrated the cornerstone of our Christian faith; that on Easter Sunday Jesus Christ rose from the dead in the cold dark tomb in which he had been laid to new resurrection life. And by doing so he broke the power of death, so that we may all know that death in this world is not the end. Rather we too have the joyful promise of resurrection life; a promise which can help provide us comfort when we have lost a loved one.

This does not diminish the grief and pain we feel when we have lost someone who we have loved dearly, perhaps sometimes for the majority of our lives. My own view is that you never get over losing someone you have loved dearly, as if you could somehow wipe the slate clean and start again. Rather, we learn to adapt and cope and move on, but living a changed life with a part of us missing. However, when I speak to recently bereaved people they often feel under pressure from family and friends, who often have the best of intentions, to somehow 'get over it' quickly and move on. I think this is often because family and friends feel embarrassed by grief because it is such a raw emotion.

With this in mind at 3.00pm on Sunday May 10th at St Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham we are holding, in conjunction with Daniel Robinson Funeral Directors, a Thanksgiving in Remembrance Service. The service will provide the opportunity for all those who have lost a loved one (however long ago) to light a candle to remember and give thanks for their life, safe in the promise we have of resurrection life. Many people who came to the service last year found great comfort in the service, not least from the opportunity to share experiences, memories and yes, some tears, with others who had experienced a bereavement over a cup of tea afterwards.

I would encourage anyone who has experienced a bereavement to come along to what will be a both a reflective and joyful service on Sunday May 10th at 3pm at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

God Bless,

Reverend Giles.

Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

It was good to see many of you at the recent Parish Assembly.

Life at school continues to be busy with our KS2 pupils recently enjoying our annual K'Nex Challenge run by SETPOINT. The children worked in mixed pairs on a specific design project using K'Nex construction kits and produced some amazing designs- great Teamwork!

However, back to Earth with a bump, as May is our 'testing' month when we wish our Y6 pupils lots of luck in the last year of SATs as we know it! At least they have a residential trip to Kingswood in Cromer to look forward to next month!

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley, Head teacher

Parish Council News

The last Parish Council meeting for this session is **Tuesday 5th May** at 8pm in the Village Hall. The first meeting of the new session will be on **Thursday 14th May** at 8pm. We now use the main hall so there is plenty of space, and there is also 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.

Parish Council Elections in May:

After an uncontested election Cllr Graham Pearson, Cllr Mary Wilkinson, Cllr Liz Lloyd-Williams and Cllr Chris Bhatt will remain on the Parish Council.

Thank you to those moving on!

This month three of our longest standing councillors will be stepping down from their duties on the Parish Council. On behalf of all those of us in the Parish, the Parish Council would like to thank Wendy Woodgate, Geoff Williamson and Jonathan Forgham for their efforts and significant contribution to the smooth running and enjoyment of our villages. For those of you who don't attend monthly meetings, amongst other things Wendy has been the main driver in procuring and running our great phone box "libraries" (which could soon become even more important if we lose the mobile library service). She has also planted (and replanted!) our village planters, catered for us at Parish Assemblies and monitored our playgrounds.

Geoff, who independently co-hosts our village Farmers Market, has brought his experience as an East Herts District Councillor to his role on the Council. His knowledge of current matters at district level has helped inform the council aiding decision making at local level. We wish him luck as he stands this month for District Councillor for our Ward.

Last and most definitely not least is Jono who has chaired the council for the past 6 years. Jono has steered the council across all areas, and with his special interest in nature he has been an excellent custodian of the parish footpaths, green and wooded spaces. With his extensive and expanding knowledge of all our bird species, plants and wildlife peppering his parish reports, he has worked tirelessly to ensure much needed work is carried out across the Parish to repair road surfaces (I was trying not to mention the pot holes), cut back verges, install bollards and improve footpath safety.

A huge thank you again to Wendy, Geoff and Jono. In their place they leave three Parish Councillor vacancies, including the very important Chair-ship. Could you be our next village Councillor? Please get in touch with us if you think you could be!

So why become a Parish Councillor? If you think it is for the money, power and kudos, then stop reading now! You get no financial reward for being a Parish Councillor and will be held accountable by local people for things that happen locally.

If however, you care about the Parish, want to do what you can to support the quality of life that you have by living in it and help others who live around you, then read on. Most people who become local Parish Councillors state they want to do something positive and hope to make a difference by influencing decisions that affect their community.

Whether you moved here deliberately or by accident, Little Hadham is a lovely place to live. This is, in part, due to the efforts of interested residents and the Parish Council, who work to maintain the quality of life that we all benefit from by living here. Their work, and ours, is voluntary; we do it because we care.

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So what types of things could you become involved in?

Well, apart from the formal Parish Council meetings each month, the Parish is involved in all kinds of things: planning, highways, pot holes, traffic, community safety, flood prevention, pot holes, allotments, pot holes, rubbish, playing fields, the war memorial, seats and shelters, rights of way – oh and did I mention the pot holes?

On top of this, the Government is encouraging Parish Councils to deliver more services and play a greater part in their communities. The job of the Parish Council is to represent the interests of the whole community. The diversity of the Parish Council is our strength. This diversity arises because the councillors have different enthusiasms and interests; some work with ideas while others are very

practical. The Parish Council needs this range of skills to be able to work effectively as a team.

So if we have not put you off and you have read this far, perhaps it may be for you.

If you want to know more about becoming a Parish Councillor or details about the application process, please speak to Bev Evans or one of the Councillors.

Fly Tipping near A120 traffic lights:

Someone has been regularly dumping builders' waste in the bin at the Bus Stop on the A120 near to the traffic lights. This has caused such a problem that the bin has had to be replaced with a smaller one to try and stop this. The matter has been reported to East Herts District Council and to the Police as it is fly tipping. If you wish to report an incident of fly tipping then you can do this anonymously by

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Adverts removed

Hatfield Broad Oak Flower Festival

Join us for a blooming lovely weekend Saturday 23, Sunday 24 and Monday 25 May, 2015, 10am-5pm, St Mary the Virgin Church, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex CM22 7HD

COME and enjoy a family day out in our picturesque village over the late spring bank holiday weekend, when our 50-year-old flower festival blooms again. There will be fabulous floral displays inside our historic 12th century church and numerous stalls and activities in the churchyard to entertain all the family – including fun for the children. On Saturday, BBC Essex star presenter Sadie Nine will officially open the proceedings, and then you can visit the stalls, watch your teddy bear parachute from the church tower and enjoy refreshments – including a barbecue – and various displays. On Sunday there will be relaxing organ music in the church and a chance to visit the displays, and on Monday you can support the 10km runners as they race through the village and have another chance to enjoy the barbecue and variety of stalls. Free entry, free parking. For details, visit www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchFlowerFestival..

Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

It was lovely to see so many of you at our AGM. We launched our 2015-16 events list and of course the all-important Autumn Show Schedule (it is never too early to start thinking about it). Copies of the schedules can be obtained from Karin Green 771532.

Our May meeting is actually an outing to Audley End for a talk and tour of the Kitchen Garden on Friday 15th May. For information and to book your place please contact Karin Green. Please don't forget the Plant Sale and Coffee morning on Saturday 9th May at 9.30, we would love to see you there.

Adverts removed

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

Thank you to all who helped out, baked cakes and attended our Bring & Buy Sale in April - we raised £92, all of which will go towards our trip to The House of Charles Darwin this summer. Watch this space for more news on this!

On Tuesday 12th May we are off to Standon Green End Farm where we will learn all about modern farming, see livestock and buy sausages! Everyone is welcome, just turn up at the Village Hall car park @ 6.30pm - we will be car sharing as the farm is close by.

Willow Weaving Courses at Easton Lodge

We are pleased to announce that one Saturday a month over the summer there will be a willow weaving course at the gardens run by the very lovely Deb Hart. Each month she will offer the opportunity to make a different item, or even two and we have no doubt it will be great fun. The courses would also make ideal gifts.

There is a lot more information about each course and how to book on our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk under the "follow Us" tab and then "Events". Please note that the Gardens are not open to the public at this time and the course must be booked in advance.

Adverts removed

Our Patient Participation Group (PPG) AGM on 18th March was well attended and two main projects for 2015 were discussed.

The first is the production, by the PPG, of a "what to do if you're ill" leaflet designed to provide information on who to contact for help and advice if you are injured or unwell, with appropriate telephone numbers. It should be distributed within the next month or two and I would like to thank, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, all those on the PPG for their hard work. We would also like to thank Much Hadham Parish Council for their support in this venture.

Secondly, the provision of defibrillators in both Much Hadham and Little Hadham, which I have mentioned previously, was discussed and this is likely to be another collaborative effort by the Health Centre, our PPG and the Parish Councils. Of course, there has been a defibrillator in Hunsdon for some years and those involved are more than happy to attend meetings and share their experiences.

Dr Oates has asked me to mention a resource to assist all you carers out there, of which we know there are many. The website is www.carersinherts.org.uk and their telephone number is 01992 586969.

Finally, May 2nd represents a personal milestone for me in that I will have been at Much Hadham Health Centre for 25 years, although I still have another seven to go if I'm going to beat "old Brooky"! Any of you wishing to cross my palms with silver, please donate to the Jack May Trust Fund so that all patients may benefit.

Don't forget to vote on May 7th.

Adverts removed

East Herts Grants

East Herts Council is pleased to launch its 2015 capital grants programme in rural East Herts only. We have £80,000 to allocate to new projects improving quality of life for residents in rural East Herts. Applications and Terms and Conditions are on our website, go to www.eastherts.gov.uk/grants to find out more.

For projects that cost up to £16,000, the Council may award up to 50% of costs. The maximum grant available is £8,000. To be eligible to apply for a large capital grant, you must have one third of the total cost of the project available at the time of application.

In the past, we have funded such projects as equipment to enhance sports coaching in the community, equipment to improve play opportunities, upgrade to Village Hall kitchen and improved access to facilities. Successful projects are those that are well-thought out and are a close match with the Council's own priorities. The deadline to submit an application is 5pm on 1 June 2015.

Claire Pullen, Engagement and Partnerships Officer (Grants) and Scrutiny Officer (East Herts Health and Wellbeing), East Herts Council.

Oil Syndicate Update

We shall be ordering heating oil during the first week in May - with oil prices at rock bottom (39.5p/lit early March) we are enjoying really good savings by buying collectively. Do pass my details on to friends and neighbours so they too can enjoy the savings we make - for more info email: cam2403@hotmail.co.uk - Thank You, Carmela

Adverts removed

A month of increasingly warm temperatures, leading to a heat wave towards the end of this reporting period (18th March – 18th April.) Consequently, it was time to get out and about to find the newly arrived migrants as well as record the early insects.

I tried to cover as much of the parish as possible in the week beginning 6th April. On the 8th I recorded the first swallows, with more seen around Hadham Hall on the 14th. A blackcap was singing in Millennium Wood on the 7th and a count of 11 singing chiffchaffs was made on the 7th. Lapwings have been observed in what could be a nesting site, which is a great record for Hertfordshire. On the 15th 3 ring necked parakeets and 2 red kite were observed as I played an abysmal round of golf at Ash Valley. Perhaps I should concentrate on the golf, not the wildlife!



The highlight, however, was encountering a trio of owls in the same tree as I checked the barn owl residents for any signs of rearing young. Photo here, showing both tawny and barn owls living next to each other, a rare sight, indeed.

As with the last few years, I would be grateful for any news of calling cuckoos within the parish in an attempt to estimate the breeding population in our parish. Please just text site and date details to 07805571551 or email

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Adverts removed

Little Hadham Cricket Club

Neil Oxborrow

As we move further into spring and the warmer weather starts to arrive a new season for Little Hadham Cricket Club is about to begin. The club is pleased to welcome our new president Ron Bunce. Ron was instrumental in reforming the club in 1983 and played for the club in over 400 matches.

The first match of the season was due to be on the 19th April and as in previous years the club will play matches predominantly on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Anyone wishing to come along and watch at the ground in Millfield Lane will be made more than welcome and we are always looking for new players of all ages and abilities. If you would like to join the club or just wish to make contact call Alan South on 01279 651603.

May Fixtures

| | | | | |
|-----|----|--------------------|------|------|
| Sun | 3 | Stocking Pelham | Home | 2.00 |
| Mon | 4 | North Weald | Away | 2.00 |
| Sun | 10 | Craven | Home | 2.00 |
| Sun | 17 | Takeley | Away | 2.00 |
| Sun | 24 | Farnham Harlequins | Away | 2.00 |
| Mon | 25 | Thorley | Away | 2.00 |
| Sun | 31 | Nazeing Common | Away | 2.00 |

FLOODING

A free, practical guide to help rural communities protect themselves from flooding is now available from CDA Herts. **The Community Guide to Your Water Environment** has been produced by the charity's national body Action with Communities in Rural England, in partnership with Farming Wildlife Advisory Group, the National Farmers Union and the Countryside and Community Research Institute. The ACRE guide, sponsored by environmental consultant Enzygo Limited, is available to download free from www.cdaherts.org.uk

GUIDE

Adverts removed

The Hundred Parishes

Easter saw the reopening of many of the area's smaller attractions. If you haven't been for a while, do try one of our super small museums at Ashdon, Great Dunmow or Much Hadham or the Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden. You will learn much about our heritage at each of them. Please check the Attractions page on our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk for opening times or links to their websites.

Until a hundred years ago, there was an active mill in almost every parish – primarily grinding wheat from local fields into flour for the village baker. A few mills are sufficiently well-preserved to open to the public. May 9th–10th is National Mills Weekend and some of our local mills will be manned by volunteers and welcoming visitors: the watermill at Hinxton and windmills at Ashdon, Finchingfield, Stansted Mountfitchet and Thaxted. For details, please see our website's What's On page. May 9th–10th will also see the start of local Magna Carta anniversary celebrations with a medieval weekend at Pleshey Castle.

Now should be a good time to visit our bluebell woods; for example those at Much Hadham or Quendon and Rickling which have public footpath access.

Before you set off to one of these "attractions", please review our parish introduction – it may encourage you to look around a little more and will give you ideas for where to eat.

We rely on funding from membership subscriptions to keep our website live and to be able to expand the services we provide. Membership costs only £10 a year for a household, a council or any other organisation. If you are not already a member, please consider joining – the easiest way is to go to our website and select the Membership option.

Adverts removed

What's on in May

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

4 Mon, Zumba Challenge, 10.30–1.30pm Mountfitchet Romeera, Leisure Centre, Forest Hall Road, Stansted, CM24 8ZT. Join this great fun event and help raise funds for Isabel Hospice. Adults £10, children £5. Info: Tina Croft 01707 382500.

5 Tue & 14 Thur, Parish Council, 8pm. Come along to the last of the old session and the first of the new. Everybody welcome.

7,21 Thur, Mobile Library, see p13.

9 Sat, LH & A Garden Club Plant Sale and Coffee morning, 9.30am. See p13.

9 Sat, Old Time Music Hall 8pm–10:30pm, Thalian Hall, 64–68 Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City. Take yourself back to the days of Old Time Music Hall. Tickets £12.50 from Pete Dunham. In aid of Isabel Hospice. Enquiries & Tickets: 0783 6763 949.

10 Sun, Little Hadham Antiques Fair, 9.30–4pm. Free entry on production of advert on page 17. Refreshments available.

10 Sun, Thanksgiving in Remembrance Service, 3pm, St Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham in conjunction with Daniel Robinson Funeral Directors.

12 Tue, Coffee Morning Markwell Pavilion, Castle Gardens, Link Road, Bishop's Stortford. Coffee morning held in aid of Isabel Hospice every second Tuesday of the month. All welcome. Enquiries: 01279 755320.

12 Tue, Social Club Outing, 6.30pm. Full details on page 6.

14 Thur, Parish Council, 8pm. See p3.

15 Fri, Garden Club Outing to Audley End. For information and to book your place please contact Karin Green, 771532

18 Mon, Hadhams' History Society, 8pm, Green Room, Much Hadham VH. Saxon & Medieval Artefacts, by Dave Rayment. Part of the artefact identification team at Verulaneum,

he is nationally well known and will show and describe many objects he has acquired during many years. Info, Mike Clark 842131.

21 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning, 12.30–1.45pm, rear of Village Hall. See p13.

21,22,23 Sawbridgeworth Players present 'Bazaar & Rummage', an adult comedy by Sue Townsend, Victoria Hall Theatre, Bury Road, Old Harlow CM17 0ED. Tickets £11 (£9 concessions) from The Tuck Shop (Nisa) Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth or phone 01279 724608, email lotsofbears@gmail.com or on the door.

23 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30–11.30am.

23 Sat, Albury Antiques and Interiors Fair, 10–4pm, Albury Village Hall, SG11 2JL.

23,24,25 Hatfield Broad Oak Flower Festival 10–5pm, St Mary the Virgin Church, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex CM22 7HD.

31 Sun, On Your Bike BS Rugby Club, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford. With three circular distances on offer (25, 50 and 100k), you will be on the highway to health whichever one you choose! Suitable for teams and individuals of all cycling abilities. Smoothie Bike, medals, team trophy, hot refreshments. £18 adult, £5 child. (On the day £25 adult, £5 child.) Entry: www.isabelhospice.org.uk. Info: 01707 382500.

Coming soon

June 7 **Happy's Circus Comes to the Pelhams**. Information at www.facebook.com/furneuxpelhamshappycircus or email FPSA.events@hotmail.com or call 07970 124 070.

June 19 **Madrigals** perform at the beautiful Amwell Pool.

July 15 **Open Club Night**, MH Tennis Club. See page 13.

NOTICEBOARD

It is time for the famous
Little Hadham & Albury
Garden Club's

PLANT SALE & COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th May at 9.30 am

At Little Hadham Village Hall

Lots of plants for sale, Garden
tools and bits & pieces,

Book stall and of course our
Home-made cakes.

Please come along - we would love
to see you.

*I will be letting off some
fireworks in my meadow
on Saturday June 20 at
around 10.30 for a friend's
birthday. These will last
about ten minutes max so
apologies in advance for
any inconvenience.*

Chris, Ashmeads.

FOR SALE

**6' x 4' Snooker and Pool table
with folding legs, 2 sets of balls,
2 keys, chalk and counter bar.**

Buyer collects. Offers near £75.

Alan Swann 01279 652229, evenings.

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

7th & 21st May Mobile Library

Nag's Head from 13.30 - 13.50

The Smithy from 13.55 - 14.15

Bury Green from 14.30 - 15.30

A fortnightly service.

Much Hadham Tennis Club

We would be delighted to welcome new
members - try us out on Club nights
for mixed play on Wednesdays from
7pm, men's nights on Tuesdays from
8pm or ladies' mornings on Fridays
from 9.15am. We are also having
an open Club night for members and
non-members on 15th July followed by
light bites at The Bull.

Contact Sally Barra [barratribe@
yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barratribe@yahoo.co.uk) or Justin Akester
justinakester@hotmail.com for info.

Nature Notes, continued from page 9

jforgham@hotmail.com. Over the last 7 years, cuckoo numbers in the parish have fallen from 7 calling males in 2008 to 3 in 2014. A decline that is in keeping with national numbers. As yet, no known reason has been found for this rapid decrease in the population, but habitat destruction in their African wintering grounds is a high possibility.

Butterflies have been recorded in good numbers, with brimstones (the large yellow ones,) small tortoiseshells, peacocks, large and small whites, commas and orange tips all seen during the mini heatwave. Nothing remains very slow, with numbers half those of last year. On 17th April 2004, I had recorded 196 moths of 23 species, this year so far, 126 moths of just 13 species. The cold, frosty nights probably being a major factor in this drop in numbers, again, in line with south east recordings. An early thorn moth shown here, first trapped on the 14th.



Further afield, the local birding world was on high alert after a very rare bluethroat was recorded at Amwell Reserve near Stansted Abbots. It was found midday on Monday 13th and I visited at first light on the Tuesday to find that it had decided to continue its migration to Scandinavia. Only the 2nd Hertfordshire record of this spectacular bird.

On the mammal front, 2 fallow deer were noted near Hadham Hall on the 13th, shown overleaf in a photo taken from distance.

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Adverts removed

Nature Notes, continued from page 14



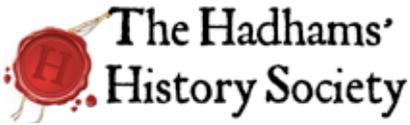
As most migrants were late this year, I postponed the planned dawn chorus walk on the 12th and now intend to be out and about early on Sunday 3rd May. Again, a 4.45am meet at the Village Hall for a wander around the golf course, Westland Green and some local woods. All welcome to join me but do email to say you'd like to come along just so we can wait if you're a little late.

Over the next 4 weeks, I anticipate a busy time adding to the insect list for the parish by checking local nettle patches, as well as hoping to record more arriving migrants such as garden warbler, willow warbler, whitethroat and indeed, cuckoo. Here, a superbly named *Dryophilacorix flavoquadrimaculatus* which can be found in oak trees from May to July, feeding on young leaves.

As always, I am happy to hear of any creatures found in your garden or within the parish and always happy to attempt to identify any that you find. Just send a description or even better, a photo and I shall endeavour to let you know what it is.



Adverts removed



Local Civil War expert, Alan Tompson, gave a very thorough and entertaining account of the 1647 mutiny at Corkbush Field, near Ware.

This was in spite of the fact that his slides on projection were pink!

Parliament's New Model Army (NMA) destroyed Charles 1st's main army at the Battle of Naseby in 1645, but within a year the NMA had become mutinous, not having been paid for many months. Parliament was eager to disband it without having settled the dissent. A radical group ("Levellers") with many members within the NMA promoted a manifesto "Agreement of the People". Alarmed at the strength of Leveller support in the NMA, three rendezvous were arranged by Cromwell & Fairfax (the NMA's C in C), to thrash out differences. The first rendezvous was at Corkbush Field on the 15th Nov 1647. Fairfax demanded that the army sign a declaration of loyalty. Whilst most regiments agreed, some officers with Leveller sympathies refused and encouraged their men to do likewise. One regiment arrived late with dissenting placards fixed to their hats, and stones were thrown at one of Fairfax's officers. Cromwell was furious, dissenter ringleaders were arrested, tried for mutiny and sentenced to death. Fairfax realised that executing them all was a bad idea. Three were selected and one - chosen by lot - was executed. This effectively quelled the mutiny, and the NMA leadership became the power in the land. After Charles I was executed in 1649, Cromwell, as "Lord Protector", adopted many of the trappings of his former King. Not much changed in society for ordinary people and Universal Suffrage had to wait for many centuries. This was an excellent, much appreciated, and well researched talk.

Adverts removed

How you and your family can make a huge difference to a child's life

Moreton Romanian Orphans Fund is a long-established local charity that brings abandoned children from some of eastern Europe's poorest regions to the UK for a two-week break, offering them the chance to experience life in a family environment. It's something that we all take for granted, but for these kids it's something that they will never have known.

On Friday, July 24, our latest crop of children will be stepping foot in Britain for the first time, probably feeling more than a little nervous about what's ahead of them. Given that they won't speak much, if any, English, they will be feeling the need for someone to look after them. Which is where you come in! Upon arrival, each child will be placed with a hosting family, who will care for them, house them and feed them for two weeks. During the two weeks they are here, the charity will be organising a full program of events such as discos, picnics, sports events and days at the seaside, meaning that all you need to supply is a roof, and of course lots of love and attention!

As well as the obvious benefits for the Romanian kids, the trip can be enormously beneficial for our own children, helping them to understand how those in other parts of the world may not have access to things we would normally take for granted.

The good news is that for all families hosting for the first time, the entire cost of the trip is funded by the charity. If you're interested, then please call the hosting officer Rachel Berry on 07830 534129 or rachelberry46@gmail.com. You can find out all about the charity, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary, at our website, www.mrof.co.uk.

Adverts removed

News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge Preservation Trust

May Open Day

Our open day in May is on Sunday 17th and we will be welcoming Dunmow Wind Band to the gardens for the first time. They will perform from 1pm – 3pm with a 20 minute interval and we can't wait to hear them; there is something very special about listening to live music in this magical place.

Delicious homemade soup, bacon baps and cheese rolls will be on sale until 2.15pm; hot and cold drinks, crisps and homemade cakes will be available all day. There will be children's craft and nature activities on offer and guided tours at 12.30pm and 3.15pm; as always dogs are welcome on leads. There will also be a selection of craft stalls for you to browse and our archive building will be open offering a glimpse into the fascinating history of the gardens.

Entrance fees are just £3.50 for adults with children FREE. We also offer annual season tickets at only £10 for 12 months' entry to the gardens on open days; again details are on the website or you can buy them at the gate.

Gates are open from 11.30am until 5pm with last entry at 4pm.

You can get more information about open days and volunteer opportunities from the website www.eastonlodge.co.uk or you can call 01371 876979 (recorded information but you can leave a message) or mail us on enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk.

Adverts removed

Over 60 people attended this event in the Village Hall where wine with cheese and biscuits was laid out. Many thanks to Councillor Wendy Woodgate for organising this and spending time presenting the food so well and to Councillor Graham Pearson, his wife and the Parish Clerk, Bev and his wife for helping with setting up and clearing up.

The local police gave an informative breakdown of local crime as well as ways in which residents can prevent crime. County Councillor Graham McAndrew highlighted jobs still pending within our parish, such as grass verge repairs along the A120, gully clearances, pot hole repairs etc. He also informed the audience of bypass developments and answered several questions about the funding of this project.

Mrs Liz Stockley and the school captains, Beth and Ryan presented a talk about the Forest School initiative that the primary school is undertaking; a most exciting and imaginative way to spark interest and learning. Richard Beckett informed us of the distribution of monies from the Little Hadham charity whilst Don Gibson updated the audience on matters to do with gypsy and traveller sites within Herts. Thank you to all for their valued input.

Finally, the chairman of LHPC waffled on incessantly, as he gave a round up of many of the year's issues that the council have dealt with before concluding with an inevitable mention of local wildlife! In all, a most informative and enjoyable social evening.

Councillor Chris Bhatt gave a brief talk on parish councillor recruitment, as LHPC are looking for 3 new councillors following the standing down of Wendy for family reasons, Geoff Williamson due to commitments to East Herts District Council and myself due to increased work commitments.

I, personally, and on behalf of LHPC, would like to thank both Geoff and Wendy for all their input to LHPC and for making my job as Chair considerably less onerous than it might have been. In doing so, I would also like to thank Graham, Mary, Chris, Liz and Bev for their support and help over the last few years. If anyone would be interested in standing for the council, please contact myself or the Parish Clerk for further details. We would be very happy to hear from you.

Adverts removed

Great British Fish & Chip Supper: Friday 15th May

“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury”



Want to eat Fish and Chips, whilst raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15th May whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services. You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2015 we want to make the batter matter and raise £40,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £20,000 from the suppers. The money raised will help the

Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury. Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk

Adverts removed

Epilepsy Awareness Week 18th to 24th May

There are over 52 million people worldwide with epilepsy. You probably know quite a few, and there's probably quite a few people you know, who you don't even know has it. It's a 'forgotten' condition, because 70% of people with epilepsy have it under control with medication. However for the 30% that don't, epilepsy can be a devastating condition, that strips the person of all their confidence, and their ability to live a normal life.

Epilepsy Awareness Week this year is 18th to 22nd May, and epilepsy organisations across the UK will be working hard to raise awareness, so that we can help even more people who struggle daily with this condition.

What is Epilepsy? Epilepsy is one of the most common chronic neurological disorders. Epilepsy is a seizure disorder. The brain is made up of billions of nerve cells or neurons that communicate through electrical and chemical signals. When there is a sudden excessive electrical discharge that disrupts the normal activity, a seizure may result. A seizure can take many different forms including a stare or absence, muscle spasms, uncontrolled movements, loss of awareness, peculiar sensations or a convulsion. When unmanaged, a person can have as many as 40 seizures per day.

What to do if you are diagnosed. There are many organisations across the UK that can help you. Contact the Epilepsy Society on 01494 601400 and they will talk you through your condition, and sign post you to specific help in your local area, or call St Elizabeth's on 01279 844270.

What to do if you are with someone who has a seizure.

- 1 Make sure the person is in a safe place. If you can guide them to a safe place, do so, however if they have fallen to the floor, do not move them, but do move objects that may harm them (such as a hot cooker, or near a busy road) to keep them safe.
- 2 Try to cushion their head. This will help stop injuries with convulsive fits.
- 3 Take a note of the time. If the seizure lasts more than 3 minutes, start to prepare to call for an ambulance. After five minutes, an ambulance must be called.
- 4 Stay with them and try to stay calm. Talk gently to them until they come out of their seizure.
- 5 When they have come out of their seizure, put them in to the recovery position. Check their airways and ensure that they can breathe clearly. Wait with them until they are ready to get up.
- 6 If they have another seizure without fully recovering, or their breathing is laboured, call for an ambulance.

St Elizabeth's is a home and school for all those who are struggling to manage their epilepsy. If you would like to know more please take a look at www.stelizabeths.org.uk. You can also like us on Facebook ([stelizabethsepilepsycare](https://www.facebook.com/stelizabethsepilepsycare)) or follow us on Twitter ([@st_elizabeths](https://twitter.com/st_elizabeths)) for updates on our work. Whilst the essential costs of care, accommodation and education are met from government sources, the children and adults referred to St Elizabeth's have increasingly complex needs requiring more specialist care and support. This means that for anything considered to be 'non-essential' we must fundraise. Perhaps you can help?

phoning EHDC on 01279 655261 or email a photo to operations.admin@eastherts.gov.uk, or reporting online at www.eastherts.gov.uk. This is your village; please help to stop other people from ruining it.

Footpaths blocked by cars and hedges:

At Albury Road, Stortford Road, and The Ford, there have been reports of inconsiderate parking on footpaths and verges, and also of footpaths and roads being obstructed by overgrown hedges and bushes. Pedestrians have had to walk into or close to the road to get past. This still continues despite last month's appeal. Please park considerately, and please check your hedges. If they are encroaching onto the footpath or road, please cut them back.

Traffic Lights:

Cars have been reported to be continuing to jump the traffic lights at the A120, and speed along Albury Road and the C15. The Police have been asked to continue with their checks.

A120 Blocked Gullies:

The Parish Council has been pursuing the issue of the blocked gullies along the A120, where water is often seen running alongside the highway, and frequently freezes in winter causing a hazard. Hertfordshire Highways have agreed to clear and repair the gullies

and say they are starting work in Standon and will work their way through to Tesco's roundabout. If you see blue paint on a gully it has been cleared. If you see blue paint and it is still blocked, or a gully without blue paint (which has therefore been missed) please register it on the Highways website or contact County Councillor Graham McAndrew who is currently checking the progress on our behalf.

Allotments:

There are two half allotments available. They could be let to either one or two people. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk - clerk@littlehadham@gmail.com.

Picnic bench and noticeboard:

These have now been installed.

Bonfires:

Residents have raised concerns about the timing and frequency of bonfires impacting on their enjoyment of their gardens, not being able to use them due to the smoke. Where possible, please consider not having bonfires at popular times such as sunny weekends, or when your neighbours are using their garden or drying washing. Please consider having your bonfire later in the evening as most people will have had the most enjoyment of their garden by that time.

East Herts Citizens Advice Service

For help with legal, money and other problems, you can access online advice any time at: www.ehcas.org.uk and click on Adviceguide a self-help tool.

Phone Advice available on: 03444 111 444.

Drop-in sessions at: Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Buntingford, Ware and Sawbridgeworth.

We are an independent charity and rely on trained volunteers.



Grass cutting begins for 2015

The Council's contractor Ringway has started this year's grass cutting programme. Ringway cut the grass on the 'A' classified roads across the District, such as the A414 and A10 where lane closures are often required to undertake the work safely. Where lane closures are required, Ringway aim to efficiently utilise these closures by undertaking as many routine maintenance activities as possible such as hedge cutting, sign cleaning and gully cleansing. We also work with the District Council to enable them to co-ordinate litter picking where possible.

More evident in the rural areas will be the work that is undertaken by the District Council to maintain highway verges on our behalf. There are different cutting regimes depending upon where the grass is located, but typically the rural highway verges are cut back twice a year. This "swathe" cut is started in the third or fourth week in May each year and takes about six weeks to complete with a team of four tractors with flail mowers.



This work is not only required to keep the verge areas looking neat and tidy, but it also serves a road safety purpose by ensuring visibility and safe passage is not impeded. We also take care to ensure the cutting is undertaken sympathetically to the wildlife habitats that are supported by roadside verges. If there are any highway verges of

specific local interest then please let me know at graham.mcandrew@hertfordshire.gov.uk for me to feed this information back. I would also urge you to report any noxious weeds, like Ragwort, via our website www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults.

The Way Inn

I was truly touched to read the Thank You note in April's Parish News, it's really nice to be appreciated. I love cooking at The Way Inn ... it's an absolute pleasure to watch friends & neighbours come together and enjoy a chat whilst they put my latest recipe to the test! We often laugh when I tell parishioners that the food we eat is classed as "peasant food" in Italy, the food I was brought up on, and is still so to this day! So Thank You all for allowing me to share my "humble (but tasty!) cooking know how" with you ... it really means a lot. Please do come along whenever you can – third Thursday of the month @ 12.30pm @ the Village Hall - everyone is welcome. I love village life ... Carmela

May diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

3 Sunday

Easter 5

8.00am BCP Holy Communion, St Thomas'
9.15am Family Communion, Much Hadham
6.00pm Evensong, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

10 Sunday

Easter 6

9.15am Holy Communion Service, Much Hadham
11.15am Holy Communion and Sunday School, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
3.00pm Thanksgiving in Remembrance Service, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

17 Sunday

Easter 7

9.15am Holy Communion, Much Hadham
11.15am Family Holy Communion, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham
6.00pm Evensong BCP, St Mary's, Albury

24 Sunday

Pentecost - Whit Sunday

9.15am Holy Communion, Much Hadham
11.15am Family Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury
No Service this day at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

27 Wednesday

Midweek Communion

10am Holy Communion, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

31 Sunday

Trinity Sunday

11.15am Benefice Holy Communion, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham.

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, 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.