

Little Hadham Parish News November 2016

Lest We Forget



Act of Remembrance - War Memorial 10.50am Sunday 13th November

Rector of Parish: Revd. Steve Bate
01279 842609

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Churchwardens

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

Letter from the Rectory

Rev. Steve Bate



"How are you settling in?" that's the question I've often been asked since my collation service at the end of September. Val and I received such a warm welcome from everyone who shared in the service with us – a welcome that has made settling in so much easier for us. So how are we settling in? Very well – so well that it's hard to believe that only three weeks have gone by. We already feel very much at home in our church community and also in the wider community of Much Hadham together with Little Hadham and Albury.

A highlight of October for me has been taking part in the Harvest Festival services in our churches and with our schools. I've also enjoyed meeting with people involved in different aspects of the life of the church. Over many cups of tea and coffee, they've helped me to discover how many good things are already going on through the ministry of our churches and have shared some of their hopes for the future.

Another question that's sometimes been put to me is "What was it that attracted you to this area?" It's a wonderful part of the world in which to live but here's what first attracted me to the post of Rector: the desire of the three parishes to unlock and develop potential, to discern a strategic vision and to embrace new ideas.

That's what attracted me and that's a significant aspect of what I'm here to encourage - unlocking and developing potential, helping each person in the church to discover the gifts God has given them and to put those gifts to use in serving God and in serving others.

Over the next few months I'll be working with our churches as we refresh and renew our vision of how God's love is to be lived out among us. There won't be any major changes at first. Why? Because we need to take the time to reflect and pray. We need to listen to God and one another. We need to discern God's priorities for us and we need God's help to put those priorities into practice.

One thing has changed already. It's reflected in a small but important change of name. We now belong to the Ash and Quin Valleys Group. On 1 October we became 'The Benefice of Albury, Little Hadham and Much Hadham' – the southern half of our larger group ministry. In practice, Julie and I will still be working closely together, supporting initiatives in each other's benefice. This new form of collaboration is already beginning to take shape. On 9 October, people from our new benefice joined with others from the wider group, taking part in a new informal service at St Mary's Braughing called 'Refresh.' Refresh takes place every second Sunday at 6pm. All are welcome from across the group and beyond to come together and be spiritually refreshed.

You might like to talk with me about something I've mentioned or some aspect of church life – or anything else such as a pastoral matter. You're very welcome to come and see me or arrange a visit. You can contact me directly or via the Parish Office by phoning 01279 842609 or by email using my address rectorhightrees@btinternet.com or the Parish Office address muchhadhamrectory@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve".

Parish Council News

Power Cuts:

Several residents have raised concerns about the number of power cuts that are occurring within the Parish. Often, the power can be disrupted by overhanging trees hitting against the power lines. If you are aware of any areas where this is occurring please report it to UK Power by ringing 105, or 0800 3163 105, or via their website. Once reported they can send you progress updates via text message to your mobile phone. [Sir Oliver Heald has taken this up with UK Power; a reply he received is shown on page 5. - ed.]

Footbridge at Nag's Head

There have been concerns for safety about

the broken rail at the footbridge by the Nag's Head. The Parish Council have raised this several times with the Footpaths officer at EHDC and are pleased to report that it is now repaired.

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be at the Village Hall on Tues 1st Nov 2016 at 8pm. We 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 being carried out.

Parish Clerk is contactable on 01279 842803 or email clerklittlehadham@gmail.com.

Community Car Share

Following the problems last month with road closures and the lack of replacement bus services Cllr Lloyd-Williams met with Claudia Fleischmann, a representative from the Community Car Share Scheme.

This is a scheme open to members of the community who, for whatever reason, do not have access to a vehicle to take them on important journeys (for example a hospital appointment, a weekly visit to see friends or family, or the weekly shopping run).

Those interested in either asking for lifts, or willing to become volunteer drivers, should contact the team directly on 0300 123 1677. Lifts are charged at a reasonable rate of 45p a mile, paid directly to the driver to compensate them for time and petrol.

While Claudia was keen to emphasise that they would be thrilled if new drivers came forward from our community, we are in the lucky situation that currently there are drivers from nearby communities who could start offering lifts to our residents immediately.

Harvest Supper Thanks

This year's Harvest Supper in the Village Hall was another well supported and most enjoyable evening. Our new Rector, Revd Steve Bate, was introduced to the 'harvesters' and the music was complemented by the excellent table service provided by five local children. But, the highest praise and most thanks must go to Karin Green who organised the event and ensured that the 70 people who attended went home very happy.

Many thanks, Don.

LITTLE HADHAM

Neighbourhood Plan



The proposed Neighbourhood Plan is very significant for our village. Once complete, it will have the same importance as all the other planning rules and regulations including the new District Plan which is currently being reviewed. If our community wants anything specific, or think that some places need protection there is a good chance we can get what we want, so this is a really exciting time and we encourage you to get involved.

Thank you for all the completed questionnaires we already have and we look forward to receiving more. The deadline is the 5th November and you can find the survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/littlehadham.

We will also put out some larger print copies in the Village Hall in case you find that easier. The answers will all be considered and expanded at a public workshop on Saturday 10th December at the Village Hall. It will be held between 10am and 5pm and please do drop in through the course of the day - to encourage you to come there will be mulled wine and minced pies!

Also, if you would enjoy a group walk or two we are looking for volunteers to put together a Character Assessment of each hamlet. A training day will be held on Saturday 12th November from 10am and if you are interested please let us know at littlehadhamnp@gmail.com.

So, dates to remember are:

5th November - questionnaire deadline

12th November - character assessment training 10 - c.3 pm

10th December - public workshop at Village Hall 10 - 5pm with mulled wine and mince pies.

Thank you for your support - The Neighbourhood Plan Group

Book Boxes

As many of you will sadly remember, in October last year the Mobile Library service across Hertfordshire was axed, meaning our own bus ceased to visit Little Hadham. Villages were asked if they would like to receive books as part of the closing of the service to support existing, or start new, book sharing schemes. Although our book boxes are thriving I took the library service up on this offer and the Bury Green book box has had a total stock overhaul. So next time you're passing either phone box do pop your head in and see if anything takes your fancy. There are books to suit all readers young and... erm, not so young! Also with the autumn well upon us please remember that the floors of both boxes get damp over the winter months so please leave any donations off the ground.



Happy reading!

Letter received by Sir Oliver Heald :

Dear Sir Oliver –Thank you for your email of 03 October 2016 regarding the power cuts in Little Hadham, Hertfordshire. Upon receipt of your email I asked Stuart Varney, Operations Manager for Lea Valley, to investigate this on my behalf. Stuart has confirmed that there have been 10 short interruptions to power in the Little Hadham area since the beginning of 2016. Each caused by an interference with our high voltage overhead lines, most commonly trees or bird strikes. When an object makes contact with the line, a device on the network automatically switches the power back within one minute. In order to address this issue we have carried out thorough investigations along the affected sections of the network and consequently completed further tree trimming. I am pleased to confirm that there have not been any power cuts affecting Little Hadham since 15 August when the works were complete. We will of course continue to monitor this network closely and explore options where available to reinforce and ensure Little Hadham has a robust and reliable supply of electricity.

A power cut on 12 June 2016 occurred due to a faulty high voltage transformer. The majority of customers were restored within three hours via network switching, however the remaining customers were restored and permanent repairs completed within 11 hours. This is longer than we would usually anticipate. We are sorry to your constituents who have experienced these power cuts especially as we aim to provide all our customers with the best possible service. We have a particular focus on supporting those customers who may need extra help, for example those who rely on power for medical needs or those who feel more at risk for other reasons,

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Down at the doctor's

With winter in mind we have increased the number of appointments available by utilising additional locum Doctor Services. These GPs are very experienced and most have worked in the locality, some as partners in other practices, for many years. Please feel free to see them for any long term medical problems, not just acute/urgent ones.

At a recent meeting of our Patient Participation Group (PPG) committee there was discussion of how to increase awareness and members of the Reference Group. This group is composed of patients interested in receiving information and newsletters from the PPG.

If you are interested then please sign up at Reception with a valid e-mail address. There is no obligation; it's just another way to keep patients informed of what is happening at the Surgery.

Some of you will have noticed the potholes in our car park situated in front of our main entrance. Cones and notices have been in place for a few weeks and we are waiting to have the whole front portion of the car park repaired and tarmacked. Obviously, this can only be done over a weekend, which will delay things a little, but we hope to have completed the work before, or very soon after, you read this. Don't forget your flu jab!

Dr Paul Haimes

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Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

Our November meeting on Tuesday 15th ,at 8.00 in the Village Hall, is all about growing Giant Pumpkins. Mathew Oliver from RHS Hyde Hall is going to tell us all about how he has grown the UK's largest outdoor grown pumpkin. I am sure we will be amazed.

Just a reminder about the Garden Club Supper on Saturday 26th November, 7.00 for 7.30, contact Karin 771532, for more details.

Saying for the month: Gardening is a way of showing you believe in tomorrow.

Oil Syndicate Update

Our next order for heating oil will be submitted during the first week in November. We order in November so we avoid the pre-Christmas rush and price hike! So do get in touch if you would like to order or indeed if you would like to join the syndicate...IT'S FREE and we make great savings by buying collectively and don't forget; spread the word so friends and neighbours can save money too!

Thank you, Carmela - cam2403@hotmail.co.uk

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My much loved car, which I have owned, from second hand, for 14 years, has cruise control. I am slightly embarrassed to admit I have never, ever used it. Why - because I like to feel in total control of what I do when driving. So you can imagine my reaction to the ever increasing list of cars on sale which do just about everything without help from the driver. The latest luxury car to hit the news is a BMW which allows you to take your hands off the steering wheel at speeds up to 130 mph for up to 30 seconds. The spokesman tells us: 'This is a safety system designed to help drivers who may be momentarily distracted by children messing around in the back of the car, it's not to encourage motorists to take their hands off the wheel to send texts'. Oh yes?? Plus, with the car costing between £36K - £49K, I very much doubt you can afford to have kids, either messing or otherwise in the back seat! The only gadget which I do approve of is the remote control parking app which allows the driver standing outside this vehicle to park the car into or out of a tight parking spot. Now you're talking!

I spent a week recently with a friend, who, fresh out of hospital with a new hip but with the wound infected, had no one else to help. And we got to thinking just how much a wife – or for that matter a house husband – is worth.

Once I had gone, and with her still poorly, she was left with a number of things she wasn't allowed to do, but which still had to be done. Her big beautiful young dog had to be walked daily - £10 an hour. Her housework - £12 an hour. Living in the depth of the country, someone had to shop and cook for her – even if she relied on ready-to-eat

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Rural Ramblings» continued from page 8

meals -£10 an hour. Visits to the hospital and the doctor (no driving for 8 weeks remember), probably by taxi at an alarming cost! And all that doesn't include the washing, ironing, garden maintenance, and general TLC. Yes, there is no doubt about it, we are worth our weight in gold!

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

At our October meeting Holly Mulheron came along to give a fascinating talk about acupuncture. Holly studied acupuncture at Reading university and qualified some four years ago. Holly has helped many clients with varying ailments. At the meeting Carmela volunteered together with poorly shoulder and underwent the insertion of gold pins into both ear lobes. Within two to three minutes the pain was more than halved, ASTONISHING! At time of writing the pain has been reduced to a minimum and as a consequence of the treatment other, let's say womanly ailments (hot flushes) have completely disappeared! AMAZING! (Do contact me if you would like to be put in contact with Holly).

On Tuesday 8 November @ 8pm Kiran Chakravarti is coming along to give what promises to be an OUT OF THIS WORLD talk on THE SKY AT NIGHT! I've seen a preview and it all looks very exciting. Please come along, everyone is welcome, bring a friend it's £2.50 at the door inc. refreshments & raffle and really good company! Thank you for your support.

Carmela, Binnie & Sue.

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Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

Our older children are certainly more knowledgeable about the past since their recent trips to the Victorian Fantasy at Colne Valley and the Hatfield House Experience. First-hand opportunities give the children such an insight into our fascinating British History.

At the other end of the school, we will be holding a series of Nursery Open Mornings in our Early Years - every Friday morning in November, from 10-11.30am. So please do come along and visit us and hear about our plans for the future!

We are also very proud to be able to call ourselves an official Forest School now after Mrs Nicklin's successful studies. A great achievement!

Do come along to our Christmas Bazaar on Sunday 27th November and start off your Christmas celebrations!

We also continue to look for a Community Governor to join our Governing Body, so please do contact us on the contacts below, if you may be interested in finding out more.

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley (Head)

admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk or 01279 771285

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Calling all Freshers: remember to get your meningitis jab

HCC is reminding school leavers, particularly those going to university or college, to get vaccinated against Meningitis W (MenW) and septicaemia.

East of England figures show that less than a fifth of 18-year-olds leaving school had received their vaccination by the end of August. New students are at greatest risk because they mix closely with large groups of new people, some of whom unknowingly carry the bacteria, allowing it to spread more quickly.

Teresa Heritage, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Localism and Libraries at Hertfordshire County Council, said: "In the first few days of university, exposure to the bacteria that cause meningitis increases dramatically. It is vital that new students get this highly effective, potentially life-saving injection from their GP - either at home, or where they will be studying.

"Meningitis can be fatal and can cause long-term complications, but it is easily prevented. The vaccination is safe and effective with minimal side-effects, so I would urge everyone who is offered the vaccination to take up the offer.

"It's also vital to watch out for your friends if they're unwell. If people do have meningitis it can be like a very bad hangover that quickly gets worse. It can be deadly so act fast and get medical help."

It is advised that the following groups get vaccinated as soon as possible:

- all 17 and 18 year olds
- 19-year-olds who missed getting vaccinated last year
- anyone aged up to 25 starting university.

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Adverts removed

What's on in November

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

1 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm. Please come and let the Councillors know what you would like to see happen in our village, and listen to the work being carried out

6 Sun, Millennium Wood Event. Search for caterpillars and leaf miners. All welcome, 11 - 1pm. Contact jforgham@hotmail.com.

8 Tue, Lt Hadham & Albury Social Club, 8pm Kiran Chakravarti is coming along to give what promises to be an OUT OF THIS WORLD talk on THE SKY AT NIGHT! £2.50 at the door inc. refreshments, raffle and really good company!

13 Sun, Lt. Hadham Antiques Fair, 9.30-4pm. Free entry on production of advert on page 5, otherwise £1. Refreshments available.

13 Sun, Remembrance Service, 10.50am See front cover.

15 Tue, LH & A Garden Club, 8pm. Growing Giant Pumpkins with Mathew Oliver from RHS Hyde Hall. All welcome.

16 Wed, Hadhams' History Society, 8pm, LHVH. The Buntingford Line (continued). Stephen Ruff will continue his account of the line between St Margarets and Buntingford.

17 Thur, The Way Inn, 12.30, Don't forget to come along for good food and a chat.. Rear of Village Hall.

17-19, Much Hadham Drama Group, dir. Mike Carver, will stage an amateur production of 'Rumours' by Neil Simon at 8.00pm in MH Village Hall. Tickets at £9 will be available from Londis, MH High Street, or nclarke167@aol.com (01279 842822).

19 Sat, St Cecilia's Day Concert, 7pm at St Cecilia's Church. See back page for details.

24 Thur, Village Hall AGM 8pm, in the committee room, We would like as many people as possible to come and hear what

we are doing. Please enter by the kitchen door.

24 Thur, Whist Drive. We are a friendly group and would like to welcome new players. If you would like to learn to play whist contact Mrs Ross Barron on 771694.

26 Sat, Christmas Bazaar, St Elizabeth's Centre, Much Hadham, 12-4pm. Craft stalls, live music, Father Christmas & his reindeer, and food from around the world.

26 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30 - 11.30am. Come and stock up with Christmas presents.

26 Sat, Garden Club Supper 7 for 7.30pm, contact Karin 771532, for more details.

27 Sun, Christmas Bazaar, Little Hadham School Do come along and start off your Christmas celebrations!

Socks, socks & more socks ...

If you are sorting out old socks please consider donating them to those less fortunate than ourselves. any socks, any size, any colour, any thickness.

Please deliver to Carmela at The Old Cottage, Bury Green or Ann Clayton next door to The Nag's Head, Little Hadham. Thank you.

Coming soon

12th Dec, **Hadhams' History Soc 8:00pm** Green Room, MH Village Hall. **Our Annual Social Evening** where we bring drinks and food to share.

1066 (or how we lost England to France)

When a group of marchers set out from York after the Battle of Stamford Bridge to march the 310 miles to Battle they did not know what a warm welcome they would receive at the village halls and Churches along the route. Here in Little Hadham a small crowd waited anxiously to see them arrive at the Village Hall; a cheer went up as, footsore, weary and very hungry they came down the footpath from the lights. Will, retired engineer, Karlos, blacksmith and historical enactor, Brian also retired, Josh, a geophysical field biologist and their leader, Nigel, an historian and historical interpreter for English Heritage tramped in and tired though they were they



posed for photos, dumped their gear and marched off to the pub to enjoy one of Vojtech's best steak and ale pies. In the morning the horses arrived, all owned by the men, were checked and saddled up. Villagers, school children, mums and dads turned up to see them off as, with a banner at the front and a shield at the rear to ward off marauding cars, the warriors rode off in their cloaks and helmets to do battle in Hastings. Pity they lost.

Puppet Workshop



A group of 20 primary school aged children from Much and Little Hadham spent much of the day in Much Hadham Village Hall on Saturday 8th October. A professional and enthusiastic workshop leader and her assistant from the Little Angel Theatre, Islington arrived at the hall early in the morning loaded with materials ready to show the children how to make a



puppet each. Everyone worked very hard, with only a ten minute break in the morning and twenty minutes for lunch. The children's concentration and application was admirable. At the end of the session parents were treated to a short performance devised by the children and using their puppets. Afterwards one of the parents wrote me an email saying, "I would like to thank you and your colleagues for my daughters' wonderful experience yesterday. They both very much enjoyed the workshop."

Thank you to my helpers: Penny Deans, Angela Fardell and Lisa Pope. A wonderful time was had by all!

Sue Clarke

An extremely dry and frequently unseasonally warm period between 18th Sept. and 18th October has led to several pleasing finds, both locally and further afield.

The strong easterlies we experienced towards the 2nd week of October failed to produce any unusual birds in the parish but a storm petrel was found in Spellbrook, sadly dead. This almost totally marine species will have been pushed eastwards overland where it eventually died of starvation and/or exhaustion. Only the 6th Herts record and first for 26 years, a most unusual local find.

The local juvenile hobbies eventually departed Bury Green on 21st September, heading off to West Africa. A pair of grey wagtails appear to have taken up winter residence at Hadham Hall, commuting between the pond at the end of Nut Walk and the lagoon east of the hall. First noted on 23rd September and recorded on each subsequent visit. Shown here.

In watching nature, it is often the case that nothing too rare is seen for months on end and then suddenly, several sightings happen in rapid succession. This was indeed the case on 30th September when I again, walked to the lagoon. Firstly, a small copper caught my eye as it breezed past me. Fortunately, it settled, permitting several photographs. Only my 4th sighting of this species of butterfly since 2008 (photo overleaf). About 5 minutes later I was scanning



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The Hundred Parishes

Ken McDonald, Secretary

The Society held its annual general meeting in September at the Forge Museum, Much Hadham. The formal business was preceded by a most interesting guided stroll around Much Hadham, led by museum curator Cristina Harrison. There is much to see all along the High Street and inside the church. Much Hadham became an important place almost a thousand years ago when the first palace was built here for the Bishop of London. It was used by the bishops for hundreds of years and Edmund Tudor was born there in 1430. His son became King Henry VII in 1485, the first of the Tudor dynasty. The current palace, dating from the 16th century, still stands beside the church. It is no longer used by the bishops and has been converted into private houses.

After the short formal meeting, members of the Hundred Parishes Society explored the excellent small museum, built around the forge which is still used. There was an added bonus as Cristina explained the museum's fascinating Elizabethan wall paintings. They have been there for some 400 years and were hidden beneath several layers of paint until their recent restoration. There is a surprising number of museums within the Hundred Parishes, covering a whole range of interests and all staffed by enthusiastic people. Most have now closed for the winter, but a few remain open. These are: Imperial War Museum, Duxford, and Saffron Walden Museum are open most days, whilst Linton Zoo, Great Dunmow Maltings Museum and Ashdon Museum have limited hours. To check their opening times, and perhaps be prompted to visit somewhere new, please follow the links from the Attractions pages on www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

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Nature Notes, continued from page 14

across the water of the lagoon and came across a pair of wigeon. These winter visiting duck arrive from Scandinavia and the Arctic in huge numbers along the east coast in mid Autumn, but this was only my 2nd sighting of them in the parish. Two most pleasing finds. That evening I set the moth trap up at Hadham Hall near the footpath at Stable Cottages. Not too much was flying so I popped into Millennium Wood to see if



anything was flying there and then repeated the exercise at Westland Green before returning to the trap. In total, 14 moth species were recorded without anything being new for the year or parish. Other sites visited with the portable trap have been Alder Wood, footpaths on the golf course and, with Steve Stigwood's permission, the private farm track leading over towards the A120. In total I have trapped nearly 200 moths in October, a total much higher than last year when we were already experiencing colder, more typical autumn temperatures. However, the nights are now cold and so the total of insects visiting the garden trap has dropped to an average of 4 per night. Moth numbers this year have been quite staggering, with 9,200 moths recorded in the parish, made up of an amazing 470 species. Certainly 10,000 moths of 500

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Nature Notes, continued from page 16

species in a year would be remarkable.

The highlight moth of the period has been a Dark sword grass. This is a primary immigrant, migrating north from Southern France/Northern Spain and usually found in the UK after some southerly breezes. My 1st for the parish. Other migrant moths accompanied this to the trap on 6th October, a Silver Y and a *Plutella xylostella* micro moth. Both of these may well have travelled over The Channel, too.

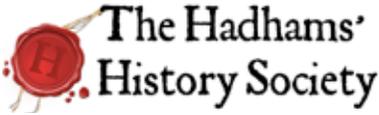
The last of the dragonflies are on the wing, with a common darter seen in the garden and several larger migrant hawkers noted in Millennium Wood, where a few Speckled Wood and Red Admiral butterflies were recorded up to 15th October.

As the temperatures continue to drop I am noting that birds such as coal tit, bullfinch and mistle thrush are coming into the garden. The first fieldfares were heard overhead on the night of 2nd October. It won't be long before they and the redwings begin to strip our bird cherry tree of its abundant fruit.

The highlight bird whilst away for a weekend in Norfolk (14th – 16th) was a migrating osprey, seen out to sea near Sheringham. Not a common sight and my first this year.

As usual, please do contact me with any interesting sightings or of a species you are unsure of. jforgham@hotmail.com and all recent sightings I make can be seen at <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.co.uk>.

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Sr Ainsworth our September speaker, spent most of her teaching life teaching children with special needs and has lived and worked at St Elizabeth's for over 40 years. The Centre's origins can be traced back to two

Belgian sisters, Jeanne and Ferdinand Haze of Liege, who had dedicated their lives to the poor and sick. In 1833 they made their vows and formed the Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross. The congregation flourished and a school for children with epilepsy had been opened in Unterrath, Germany. In those days, children in England who suffered from epilepsy tended to be hidden away due to the stigma surrounding the condition. In 1899 the elementary Education Act was passed which stated that children with epilepsy must have access to education. Cardinal Vaughan was the driving force behind St Elizabeth's, having asked the head of the order to provide Sisters to open a residential school for Catholic children with epilepsy. In 1903 the first nine Sisters arrived at the newly built establishment. In 1904 the first three children were admitted. The centre now caters for people of all or no faiths. Funding for placements is provided by the local authorities for the running costs but not for buildings. St Elizabeth's is a recognised centre of excellence in the field of epilepsy and complex needs, constantly updating and expanding in order to provide the best possible care and education for all who live there. The Daughters of the Cross are the trustees of St Elizabeth's which is a charitable trust.

This very interesting history and insight into the Centre's work was much appreciated by the audience. A booklet written by Sr Ainsworth in 1983 is held at the 'Forge Museum' for those wanting more information.

Mike Clark 842131

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Hertfordshire County Council warns residents to be vigilant against rogue traders

On average, almost 250 reports of rogue trading are made each year in Hertfordshire, but it is estimated that only between five and 20 per cent of these crimes are reported – that's why Hertfordshire County Council's Trading Standards team is advising residents to follow a few top tips:

- Say no to doorstep callers. Do not buy goods or services at the door.
- If you are considering having work done, shop around first and get at least three quotes.
- You can search for a Hertfordshire Trading Standards Approved Trader on the Which? Trusted Traders website or by calling Trading Standards.
- Honest businesses agree pricing beforehand, including VAT. There's no evidence without a written contract.
- Avoid paying cash in hand. It's better to pay by bank transfer or cheque, as these can be traced.
- If you think you or a vulnerable relative or neighbour has become the victim of a rogue trader, report it straight away.

David Russell, 67, from Ware, contacted a local trader when he had a problem with a drain in his back garden. "From the beginning, the trader didn't seem the least bit friendly. After about an hour he came and he said, 'Well, this is going to cost more than we thought [...] because I need more equipment.' He was there for about five hours altogether, and as time went on seemed to get unhappier." The trader quoted him £200, but David was charged almost £1,500 for a job that wasn't done to a satisfactory standard. "I did write a cheque and when I thought about it the next day or so, I thought, well this is really a bit too much, I should take advice on this. I was speaking to friends, and one of them recommended that I go to Trading Standards. I phoned them up and they said, 'Well, the first thing to do is to cancel the cheque.'" David was lucky as he contacted Trading Standards quickly and was able to cancel his cheque before it was cashed. As the trader had failed to give cancellation rights or indicate VAT-inclusive prices, Trading Standards brought him to court, where he pleaded guilty and was fined a total of £2,400 for David's case and two others. The company he worked for was also fined a total of £5,600.

Richard Thake, Cabinet Member for Community Safety at Hertfordshire County Council, said: "Hertfordshire County Council is committed to keeping residents safe, so we recommend that everybody reads and shares this advice, particularly with vulnerable older relatives and neighbours. If you've been targeted by a rogue trader, don't let them get away with it. Always report anything suspicious to our Trading Standards team."

Russell Reeder, Principal Trading Standards Officer at Hertfordshire County Council, said: "It may be tempting to just find someone in the phone book or say yes to the trader that's just knocked on your door but, as David's story shows, you don't know that you'll be getting a fair price or a good service."

He added, "Our partnership with Which? Trusted Traders helps consumers to find reliable traders who have been thoroughly assessed and checked."

- Get advice through Hertfordshire County Council's website at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards
- Report rogue traders through the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06
- Search for trusted traders at <http://trustedtraders.which.co.uk/>.

Meningitis, continued from page 11

Meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning) are very serious diseases caused by meningococcal bacteria. Cases of MenW have been increasing year-on-year, from 22 cases in 2009 to more than 200 cases in the past 12 months.

The disease can develop suddenly and progress rapidly. Early symptoms include headache, vomiting, muscle pain, fever, and cold hands and feet. Students should be alert to the signs and symptoms and should not wait for a rash to develop before seeking medical attention urgently. Students are also encouraged to look out for their housemates and friends, particularly if they go to their room unwell.

For more information on symptoms visit www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Meningitis.

For further information about other health initiatives in Hertfordshire, please visit www.hertsdirect.org/healthinherts.

Christmas Greetings

Save postage!

Have your festive messages printed in the
Parish News for a small donation

A120 Bypass (Little Hadham) and Flood Alleviation Scheme update

After pausing the planning application process for the A120 Bypass (Little Hadham) and Flood Alleviation Scheme additional information has now been submitted and modifications made to the design. This means the planning decision process has restarted.

The original application for the scheme, which would alleviate traffic congestion from The Ash traffic lights in Little Hadham and reduce flood risk from 72 properties, was submitted in November 2015. In March this year, we paused the application process to allow a review of the application in light of consultee comments relating to protected species and a recent change in government mitigation guidance.

Over the summer we have undertaken an extensive suite of bat surveys to better understand impacts on barbastelle bats, working with the Herts & Middlesex Bat Group and a national expert. Barbastelle is one of the rarest UK bat species and a breeding colony is known to roost within woodlands to the east of the Proposed Scheme. It is thought that this is the largest colony in Hertfordshire.

Jenny Singh, an ecologist studying the bats said: "The barbastelle is one of the rarest UK bat species, found in southern and central England and Wales. Very few breeding sites are currently known in the UK and it is important that surrounding habitats and winter hibernation sites are maintained."

Terry Douris, Cabinet Member for Highways, said: "While the A120 bypass will bring great benefits to the area it is imperative that the local wildlife habitat is not compromised in the process. It was important that we took our time to ensure the surveys were undertaken and

continued on next page

the necessary measures put in place. I am delighted that the scheme is progressing in the right direction."

The further survey results have provided information about how barbastelle use the local area. This information has been used to devise a mitigation approach that will ensure that this colony is protected. We have replaced the proposed Hadham Park Bridge with a new underpass which combines crossings for bats, farmers and bridleway users; maintaining their links across the scheme for the same costs. This change also reduces the visual impacts of the scheme. We have also included additional planting for suitable replacement habitat, and reduced the impact of lighting in key areas to maintain the bat colony.

The additional information will be consulted on by the Planning Authority. All information relating to the application can be found on the Hertfordshire Planning Portal by searching for application reference PL10744/15 or contacting the case officer Rob Egan.

Thank you, on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council, Hannah Smith, planner.

Dog Poo, continued. . . Having read the item on Dog Poo in the September magazine, may I add my own experiences. I walk our dog in the Cradle End, Green Street area and am shocked and amazed how much poo is left on the verges and on the field footpaths. It is quite thoughtless, rude and dangerous. We are fortunate to have a number of young children in our area, who take advantage of the countryside in which they live. Keep it safe for them, please. I always carry poo bags when walking our dog and it really is not a problem to collect the poo and dispose of it at home. Wherever you exercise your dog please be prepared to keep your footprint clean. Ennis.

Adverts removed

Message from your County Councillor, Graham McAndrew



As we move deep into the Autumn months, Hertfordshire's gritters on are standby for when the temperature plummets.

The county council's winter maintenance service began on 1 October and runs until the end of April. During that time, our highways contractor, Ringway, has a fleet of 58 gritters on standby to salt the county's roads when icy conditions are forecast.

Gritter crews are ready around the clock to cover nearly half of Hertfordshire's entire road network – that's more than 1,400 miles (2,230km) or the equivalent of salting from Hertford to Berlin and back. This year we have reviewed the routes that we grit as a precaution to ensure that we are consistent and fair in our approach. Some routes have been added and some no longer meet the criteria. This means 45km of road has been removed from the precautionary routes; however they will still be treated during severe weather conditions. To see a map of all the routes we salt when temperatures are below zero visit www.hertfordshire.roadworks.org and select 'Winter gritting routes' from the 'Driver Information' menu.

For more information about Hertfordshire County Council's winter service programme, visit our website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/salting. There is plenty of advice to help you stay safe this winter, including information on clearing snow and ice from outside your property, to staying safe on the roads.

To receive real-time updates direct to your computer or mobile phone visit the website and follow the 'salting decision' link. You can also find out the latest salting decisions by following us on Twitter via [#grittertwitter](https://twitter.com/Herts_Highways) on www.twitter.com/Herts_Highways.

If you need assistance, are struggling to heat your home and don't know who can help, call HertsHelp, a network of community organisations, on 0300 123 4044 or email info@hertshelp.net for free help, advice and information or visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertshelp.

Little Hadham Village Hall

Planning a children's party? Look no further than our lovely spacious hall, with a kitchen and room off for tea. Plenty of room to run around and have fun!

Special rates for residents, and no mess at home too.

Please contact Angela, 771697 for details



Village Hall News

Angela Fardell

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 24th November at 8.00 p.m. in the Committee Room, please use the kitchen door. We would like as many people as possible to come and hear what we are doing to keep your village hall up and running. The hall is owned by the village and run by voluntary trustees and committee members who give their time freely. If you would like to come along you will be very welcome, better still if you have any ideas – let us hear them!

Thanks for the ride

This year's Annual Bike Ride to boost funds for the repair of local churches occurred on 10th September. Only two volunteers from Little Hadham took part - Tony Skidmore and Peter English - but between them what a magnificent haul they captured - nearly £1,000. Gift Aid will raise that total to about £1,200.

Whilst thanking them for their great efforts in visiting almost 30 local churches and other places of worship, we should not forget to thank all those very generous donors who 'dug deep' to ensure that for the fourth year running St Cecilia's exceeded the £1k barrier! It will be noted that many much larger and more affluent parishes do not match the large sums raised in this parish year after year. Now we look forward to next September when, perhaps, more riders will join Peter and Tony in this most worthwhile venture.



An interesting email received by Brian Kain re. the proposed new broadband service! Happy reading :

Good afternoon Mr. Kain,

Further to our telephone conversation earlier, I contacted the Project Manager regarding a forecast for your community.

He advised that we are unfortunately still a long way away from starting the build in Little Hadham as we are constrained by the fact that a couple of areas on the route have had their roads resurfaced which normally requires two years before building work can take place.

We are discussing this next week to see what can be done but I'm afraid we won't be starting the build very soon.

Once we have updates, we will send these out via email.

I hope this helps.

If you have any further queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards, Natalie Gartzen | Customer Care Advisor, Gigaclear

Letter received by Sir Oliver Heald, continued from page 5.

such as having a young baby or elderly relative. We therefore offer a free Priority Services Register. Those who sign up will receive a welcome pack with useful advice about preparing for a power cut, a priority number that can be called 24 hours, regular text updates and possibly a home visit from our staff or through our charity partner, the British Red Cross. Your constituents can apply at www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority, ring 0800 160 9970, or email psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk. We also have sign-up leaflets and posters that, if you would like, I would be very happy to send to your constituency office so that your constituents could sign up. Please let me know if you would find this helpful.

I also want to let you know about a new national power cut phone line that has been launched to help your constituents contact us. By calling '105' they can report or get information about power cuts as well as report damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put themselves, or someone else, in danger. Kind regards – Matt Rudling, Director of Customer Services, UK Power Networks

November diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

6 Sunday,

9.15am

11.15am

Trinity 24

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury

13 Sunday,

10.50am

Remembrance Sunday

Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial

20 Sunday,

9.15am

11.15am

Christ the King

Holy Communion, Much Hadham

Family Holy Communion, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

27 Sunday,

9.15am

11.15am

Advent Sunday

Holy Communion Much Hadham

Holy Communion, St Mary's, Albury

30 Wednesday,

10.00am

Midweek Communion

Holy Communion, St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

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

Prayer Chain

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

All requests will be confidential.

Please ring anytime: Janet: 842671, Karin: 771532

St. Cecilia's Day Concert

Saturday 19th November 7.00, St Cecilia's Church Little Hadham

The Herty Jazz Folk are playing a selection of folk music, jazz standards and pop hits through the decades.

Tickets £10,

including a glass of wine and nibbles in the interval.

Available from Frank Green 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