

**Little
Hadham
Parish News
January 2011**

**Happy New Year
everyone!**



The New Bridge –

“a thing of beauty is a joy forever”

Rector of Parish: Revd. Chris Boulton
01279 842609

e-mail: rectory@muchhadham.com

Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter
01279 844955

e-mail: cp.slaughter@virgin.net

Churchwardens: Don Gibson 01279 771325, Tony Skidmore 01279 771688

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

Letter from the Rectory

Across the Team we have felt the loss of several friends. Just before Christmas Val High died, a very beloved and active member of the Church and community in Braughing. In Little Hadham Bryan Burton, much respected, a former Churchwarden, beekeeper and woodwork teacher died; in Albury Cindy Sporborg, who was known to so many for her work in the Pony Club and the Bluebell Ride and many other spheres of activity also died. There were others too, all of whom were loved and cherished by family and friends, and who will be deeply mourned.

In such circumstances the Christmas celebrations are naturally clouded by sadness. As we celebrate the birth of a child, we are reminded of the proximity of death. The new year of 2011 beckons and we will journey forward without their company; at least not their physical company; though as Christians we believe in the continuing community of the living and the departed.

Birth and death are closely intertwined in the fabric of life. And I was reminded, as we approach the Feast of the Epiphany on the 6th of January, of the end to TS Eliot's poem called "Journey of the Magi". Having described their journey from eastern lands, across unfamiliar territory, to the place of the Christ child, the wise man reflects:

*"Were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different: this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation."*

Christ's birth and death are one: They are held together in the mystery of the divine love; just as our birth and death are held together in one precious life.

When someone we love dies, things can never be the same again. Yet strengthened by faith and by their love, we may be enabled to move forward to a new dispensation, and find another way.

I wish you a very blessed new year.

Chris Boulton

ADS REMOVED

Parish Council News

Precept for 2011/2012

The Parish Council has decided to freeze the precept for 2011/2012. There will be no increase to parishioners, via Council Tax, in the cost of the work of the Parish Council. We are also pleased to report we have a healthy "bank balance" which we look forward to spending wisely on new projects next year.

Pot Holes & Road Matters

Please report all road faults to Herts Highways on 0300 123 4040. Alternatively visit the Herts Highways website, there is a facility there where one can report faults on-line. Generally speaking Herts Highways perform well although we may start to notice some difference, with cut backs, in the near year.

Bridge over the Ash

Thankfully with works complete life should return to some normality! On the whole the Parish Council is not impressed with the finished item; however we shall, no doubt, learn to live with it.

Village Hall Notice Board

The Parish Council has agreed to have the notice board near the entrance doors of the village hall refurbished. The work will be carried out early in the new year.

Fun Run

It may only be January but Little Hadham Parish Plan Group is working hard in the background arranging the 2011 Little

Hadham Fun Run. It will be the third Fun Run to be held in June the date of which will be released very soon; your support will be much appreciated.

Herts County Council Consultations

The Parish Council makes responses to many of these consultations during the year. In December alone we had three to respond to and respond we did. You too can make your views known by visiting the Herts County Council website and researching and responding to the various consultations which are pertinent to Little Hadham/East Herts area. Hot topics at the moment are HCC Consultation on School Transport, HCC Consultation on Minerals & Waste Disposal and HCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Flood Alert Warning System

Parishioners who are worried about flooding in their area are invited to join a new Flood Alert Warning System run by the Environment Agency. The new system promises to bring flood alerts to those on their system very quickly. If you are interested in signing up to this system call - 0113 231 2467 or email enquiries@environmentagency.gov.uk

The Parish Council wishes everyone in the community a Happy & Peaceful New Year.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 8pm at the Village Hall on Tuesday 1st February.

ADS REMOVED

Nature Notes: November/December

Jonathan Forgham

A period of increasingly cold weather, interspersed with snow showers meant I was able to get out and about due to there being little in the way of gardening work for me. Consequently, I spent more time wandering the parish than I had planned and these walks were rewarded with views of several unusual species for the parish.

In the snow on 30th Nov. I recorded both snipe and lapwing. These were both 3rd parish records, with the former being flushed from a field opposite South Cottages whilst the lapwing pair were seen flying west over the golf course. On the 2nd Dec. a most unseasonal chiffchaff was observed along the footpath off Chapel Lane. Normally a summer migrant, chiffchaffs overwinter here in small numbers. Probably a decision it now regrets!

Another noteworthy bird was a merlin, seen from the golf clubhouse on 16th Dec. This was a hunting female, flying low over the putting green and then using a ditch as a means to get "under the radar" of the finch flocks that reside in the hedgerow.

On the 4th, I opened the curtains to discover a grey heron perched on the chapel roof, as shown right. Not a regular sight for the village.

Other birds seen during this period (Nov. 18th – Dec. 17th) were: common buzzard (30th) bullfinches (most walks with a high count of 5 opposite Acremans on the 12th) and huge numbers of fieldfare and redwing (6th). I mentioned last month of the possibility of waxwings occurring locally and indeed they duly arrived. Unfortunately, the closest so far are to be found on the Bishop's Park estate in Bishop's Stortford. These birds were reported to the Herts and Essex Observer and

continued on page 7



ADS REMOVED

Down at the Doctor's

Happy New Year!!

For our Christmas party in December, we all went to The Hertfordshire Golf Club in Broxbourne where they had a 70s evening! Drink was drunk, hair was let down and (I hope) everyone had a good time.

We are all excited at the prospects for 2011. Our extension plans for Much Hadham Surgery are moving forwards, we hope to have our website up and running soon and Dr Macbay plans to return in August.

For those who attend our Hunsdon Village Hall surgery there is more good news; the council has agreed to resurface the lane which leads to the rear entrance. This should allow for much easier access and will also mean that we could provide more sessions regardless of whether the main hall is being used. In addition, I am reliably informed that the heating in the new extension will be improved soon, certainly before the spring equinox!

Finally, whilst still on the topic of Hunsdon, I would like to thank Diana Gee and Molly Wiseman for inviting me to the over 60s' anniversary lunch on 24th November, which I very much enjoyed. Seeing all those old folk (there were none under 70) made me realise that my colleagues and I are not doing too bad a job!

ADS REMOVED

Nature Notes, *continued from page 5*

an article was printed on 16th Dec. I suspect they will remain in Primrose Close for several weeks judging by the amounts of rowan and cotoneaster berries present. However, it is reasonable to assume that a flock will descend upon the parish over the next few months, so keep an eye on any berry bushes in the garden. A photo of several of these splendid birds here. .



Also, a trip to North Norfolk on the 14th gave up 92 species of birds including unusual species such as velvet scoter, great northern diver and spoonbill.

Just a reminder to all readers who are generous enough to put out bird food in their garden. Please make sure the feeders are kept clean at this time of the year and that there is a constant supply of fresh water, especially when local puddles are frozen.

My book "Natural History of Little Hadham" will be published by mid-January. To reserve a copy, please contact me with phone number and address and then I shall deliver the book when I receive the batch from the printers. For parishioners the cost will be £5.00 per copy (retailing at £7.95).

May I remind readers that I am organising a yellowhammer survey in the parish on Sunday 2nd January (weather permitting) and I am looking for volunteers to cover small areas of the parish between 10am and 1pm. Meet at the Village Hall at 10 and please email or phone (jforgham@theprimaryworks.com/07805571551) to express an interest in participating, especially families with enthusiastic children. Thank you in advance. Note that no experience is required, just a willingness to get out and about, perhaps to walk off the excesses that the festive season may have encouraged.

Finally, may I wish all readers a most Happy and Prosperous New Year and I look forward to recording my 100th species for the village and beginning the bio diversity action plan outlined in my book.

Nasty Notes from an Ugly Sister *(The prettier one)*

Buttons has been so down in the dumps this month because we managed to get Cinderella imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay over Christmas and New Year. Those CIA men were really helpful; I knew they wouldn't be able to resist our advances; even my sister (the ugly one) excelled herself!

Unfortunately, those lovely men have a boss; some president or other called O'Barmy (or something) who has insisted our little upstart of a stepsister be released on 17th January. To make matters worse, Prince Charming is now having four parties to celebrate his so-called "coming of age" on 21st, 22nd, 28th and 29th with two extra afternoon ones on 22nd and 29th for all the local kids (ugh!!).

We still have a few tricks up our ample sleeves, however, and if you want to see how we get on, then COME TO ONE OF THE PARTIES!!

ADS REMOVED

Rural Ramblings

by Cherry Mardell

Going through the airport x-ray is a disaster with my husband. He always gets stopped and frisked! One of the worst times was a couple of years ago when we were off to America. He decided to clean our car upholstery and it was still wet when we had to leave for the airport. To save our delicate posteriors, he decided to cut large pieces of polythene to cover the seats. All good till we arrived at the x-ray check in and the bells, as usual, rang out. He was taken to one side, frisked – and, to his utter horror, a large, kitchen-sized pair of scissors was found in his back pocket!

It's been downhill ever since . . . especially since he has had his new hip. Those bells – and the bright lights above the walk-through machine – never give up. It doesn't matter that he mumbles about the hip – out comes a vicious looking guy, mobile machine in one hand and a sneer on his face, and my tolerant, law-abiding husband has to have the third degree! I cannot tell a lie, there have been the odd occasions when he was at fault, like the penknife, (confiscated!) and a lovely pair of nail scissors found in his hand luggage (ditto!), his aftershave bottles, not to mention a small-change treasure trove which rang that bell and was discovered in some obscure pocket.

Now, with security even tighter, things have got worse. We returned a few weeks ago from our lovely sunshine holiday to see the new 'see all' x-ray in operation at Miami airport. Hubby was, as usual, frisked with vigour – those hands went just about everywhere. In fact he was searched in parts even I wouldn't dare probe! (It was noticeable, though, that the only person who had to take the see-all full body x-ray was a very attractive twenty-something female with an abundance of curves in all the right places!)

I have come to realise that part of every journey with him now includes me waiting the other side of security with all his worldly goods in tow; shoes, glasses, newspaper, belt, coat and hand luggage, while he stands, legs akimbo, sheepishly being manhandled by some stranger. And the only thing he is guilty of is having a new hip!

ADS REMOVED

What's on in January ...

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

There is no meeting of the Parish Council in January.

2 Sun, Bird Survey, meet at Village Hall, 10am. See Nature Notes, page 8.

6, 20 Thur, Mobile Library, See back page.

10 Mon, The proposed Hadhams History Society, 8.00pm at the Forge Museum. An extraordinary general meeting of this new group to determine how it can be organised, and what its members would like it to do. Anyone interested in furthering the study of the history of our two parishes is invited to attend. More info from Mike Smith, 771568.

11 Tue, Coffee Morning 10:30–12 noon for Isabel Hospice, Markwell Pavilion 755320

11 Tue, Little Hadham & Albury Social Club, 8pm. Samirah and her Belly Dancing Team will entertain us. Just £1.50 admission, which includes refreshments. We have a raffle and a charity book sales table. Tel: 771580 or 658585 for information.

18 Tue, Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club, 1pm (afternoon talk). June Crew is talking to us about the 'Lea Valley Park'. We are offering a ploughman's lunch before the talk at 12 noon, please book your lunch with Karin 771532 or Barbara 771987.

20 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning, 10am - 12 noon. Come and have a cuppa and make new friends. Rear of Village Hall .

21 Fri, Jazz Night at Haileybury, 7.30pm. Call Maria Alexander in Fundraising for your tickets (£25) on 01707 382500.

29 Sat, Farmers' Market, 8.30 - 11am. Fresh veg, cakes, pet food, meat, crafts and the famous cooked breakfast.

30 Sun, music@stansted. 3pm, St John's Church, Stansted. Victoria Sayles (violin) and Martin Cousin (piano). Their programme will include Handel's Sonata for Violin and Piano in G minor Op1 Nr6; Brahms G major Sonata Nr1; Sarasate "Zigueneweisen"; and also music by Ravel and Elgar. This concert is sponsored by Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers and The Countess of Munster Music Trust. Tickets cost Adults £12, Children £1, and are available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282) and at the door.

... and then?

Feb 5 **Big Band Dance Night** for Isabel Hospice. Tickets £20 from 01707 265333 or 01707 658531.

Feb 8 **Coffee Morning** for Isabel Hospice, 10:30–12 Markwell Pavilion 755320

Feb 8 **Social Club Annual Supper**. 771580 or 658585 for information.

Mar 19 **Social Club Table Top Sale**.

Mar 24 **Garden Club AGM**

April 20 **Over 60's Fun Night**, Standon Village Hall.

ADS REMOVED

Garden Club News

Our meeting this month is on 18th January at 1pm (afternoon talk). June Crew is talking to us about the 'Lea Valley Park'. We are offering a ploughman's lunch before the talk at 12 noon, please book your lunch with Karin 771532 or Barbara 771987. There's not a February meeting.

Advance notice that at the AGM, Thursday 24th March we will hold a seed swap. The idea being that often a packet contains too many seeds for a year's sowing so bring the excess seeds along and see if somebody else has something different to try. Why not order some unusual seeds to trade with?

As for your garden, January is a month of planning and maintenance. If there's time, treat and repair fences and shed, along with servicing your mower and checking tools.

Thanks

I am grateful for all the help, offers of help and visits, love and kind wishes. It makes a great difference to have so much support.

Best wishes for Christmas, and love to all,

Sue (Isaac)

ADS REMOVED

ADS REMOVED

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

Our Festive Social evening began with serving mulled wine and nibbles, and after a few news items we enjoyed chatting and catching up with everyone's news. The menu for our Annual Supper, to be held in the Little Hadham Village Hall on 8th Feb, was distributed. The cost is £18. which includes wine and entertainment. Full payment is required at our January meeting, please.

We have booked the Table Top Sale for Saturday, 19th March, 2011. Details of times and cost of hiring a table to be given next month.

For our meeting at 8 p.m. on 11th January Samirah and her Belly Dancing Team will entertain us. This should prove a fun evening, so make a note in your new diary now and come along. We have a varied programme planned for 2011 and would welcome new members. We are not an OAP Club, but a facility to meet with new and old friends to chat and be entertained. There is no registration fee, just £1.50 admission, which includes refreshments. We have a raffle and a charity book sales table. Tel: 771580 or 658585 for information.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year and wish you all a Merry Christmas time and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Barbara, Binnie and Ennis

ADS REMOVED

ADS REMOVED

Standon Village Hall

Our next formal event will be a joint **Over 60's Fun Night** with S&P Community Centre on Wednesday 20th April which will start at 5.45pm and go on until about 9pm. There will be a fish and chip meal plus dessert and coffee/tea, free bingo and raffle with prizes. There will also be a one-hour show by a professional troupe entitled 'Put that Light Out' which reminisces on war time songs etc. We will also arrange collection and delivery of participants who are unable to arrange their own transport and this will be very heavily subsidised by Standon Village Hall, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre and also Standon Calling who have also kindly made a donation. We will be making a very nominal charge of £2 per head for this and we can accommodate up to roundly 125 senior citizens on a first come first served basis.

Tickets from Denis Olliver 01279 842625 or from the Post Office but we will of course need to know addresses etc. for anyone that requires transport. Because of the extensive organisation for this event we have decided to postpone our **Race Night** which was to be held on 18th March. This will now be held in October.

ADS REMOVED

ADS REMOVED

Some snippets of information to fill up a ...

Repeat prescriptions

How to order your repeat prescriptions from the Much Hadham Health Centre:

1. By post
 2. By using the existing drop-in box just inside the main door
 3. When you collect your medication from the dispensary, by completing the right hand strip and leaving it with us (this option is also available to those collecting from the branch surgeries)
 4. By fax on 01279 843973
 5. By e-mail (much.hadham@nhs.net)
- Make sure you type in both dots!**

Useful phone numbers

Citizens' Advice Bureau, East Herts District
08744 848 9700

Environment Agency Incident Line:
0800 807060

Fireworks hotline: Jan Finn, 771113

Smell Gas? Call free on 0800 111 999

Mobile Library info: 01438 737333

Police non-emergency phone number (local rate): 0845 3300222

Power cut helpline: 0800 7 838 838

Road or Pavement problems, call Highways
on 01438 737320

Stansted Airport Noise Complaints:
0800 243788

Traveline: 0871 200 22 33

Village Hall bookings: Mrs Fardell, 771697

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

Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving

We finally got to the end of term, despite many coughs and colds getting in the way. All our presentations went really well and the children never cease to amaze us! Our Christmas Bazaar was a huge success raising a fantastic £3000 towards school funds. Equally, our parents never cease to amaze us either!

We were really thrilled that everyone's talents have been recognised as our last year's KS2 SATs results achieved 54th placed primary school in the County, ahead of many of our local primary schools. Well done, everyone!

We look ahead to 2011 and wish all our readers a Happy New Year!

Liz Stockley, Head

... few spaces

Regular events

in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated

Badminton: 8.00pm Mondays

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

Judi Wheeler 654624

Carpet Bowls Club, Social and League:

8–10pm Fridays, Eileen Booth 771426

Farmers' Market: 8.30–11.30am, last Saturday of month. Geoff and Jan Williamson 01279 771272 www.lhfm.org.uk

Garden Club: third Tuesday of the month.

Karate: 5–6pm Wednesdays,

Catherine Petch, 771636

Mobile Police Station: 9–11 am first and third Tuesday, in the car park.

Parent & Toddler group,

9.30–11.30am, Wednesdays, term-time.

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

Playgroup: 12.30pm–3.30pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays in the Nursery at LH School. Mirandi Smit 771241

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

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

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

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

Little Hadham Whist Drives

Costs £1 to play including scorecard, tea and biscuits at interval.

Also large raffle on night.

All drives commence 7:30 pm

(doors open by 7:15pm)

on the last thursday of the month,

in the Village Hall.

We've been going in the village since the 1950s, and all of our profits go to support the Village Hall.

Further info can be obtained at our website www.whistdrive.org.uk

Little Hadham Farmers' Market held on the last Saturday of the month 8.30 - 11.30am

Fresh seasonal vegetables

Soft fruits (in season)

Perennial and annual plants

Apples, apple juice and cider

Pickles and condiments

Home made ready meals

Hand made chocolates

Chicken and game

Saffron brewery

The Forge, Much Hadham

Hand made soaps, lotions and potions

Cakes, pies and deli

Lamb and associated products

Breads, pies and buns

Pork and associated products, eggs, cheese,

Honey

Coffee beans, both whole and ground

Curry sauces and associated products

Beef and associated products

Cards

Home made jams and marmalades

Dog Biscuits

Hand made pork pies

Cooked to order farmhouse breakfasts

made with produce from the stallholders

January diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

2 Sunday

Christmas 2 and New Year

9.30am

Sung Matins St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9 Sunday

Epiphany

9.30am

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

5.00pm

Taizé Service in St Andrew's Cottage (near to St Andrew's Church MH)

16 Sunday

Epiphany 2

8.00am

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

9.30am

Family Service in Little Hadham Village Hall

6.00pm

Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

23 Sunday

Epiphany 3

11.15am

Parish Communion at St Mary's, Albury

No Evensong

30 Sunday

Epiphany 4

9.15am

Benefice Communion at St Andrew's, Much Hadham

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

Register:

The funeral of Bryan Burton of Albury Road took place on 23rd December. Bryan was 88.

The 'Way Inn'

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

6th & 20th January Mobile Library

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

A fortnightly service.

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

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

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