

Little Hadham Parish News

December 2013



Rector of Parish: Revd. Giles Tulk

01279 842609

muchadhamrectory@gmail.com

Asst. Priest: Revd. Clive Slaughter

01279 844955

[e-mail: cp.slaughter@virgin.net](mailto:cp.slaughter@virgin.net)

Team Vicar: Revd. Stephen Fielding

01279 771892

[e-mail: sffielding@hotmail.com](mailto:sffielding@hotmail.com)

Churchwarden: Don Gibson 771325

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

Letter from the Rectory

Dear friends in Little Hadham

What do we really want for Christmas?

According to Hamleys the major London toy shop, this year's 'must have' Christmas toy for children is, wait for it, the Robo Fish. The Robo fish is a robotic fish which contains sensors that mean it can imitate real swimming patterns. And listening to the Marks & Spencer Chief Executive, Marc Bolland, on the Radio 4 Today Programme recently I understand that the 'must have' present for ladies this year is a cashmere 'onesie!'

However, when we look back with the benefit of hindsight it can be rather embarrassing to see the way we can get so easily caught up trying to find the latest Christmas gift, a gift that will often end up at a car boot sale, jumble sale or hidden at the back of the wardrobe. So why do we fall in to this trap each year? I think the answer lies in the fact that because we have forgotten what Christmas is really about, there is a gap in our lives; a gap which we then try to fill with other things, namely the latest toys and fashion. And the television advertisements merely respond to our need to fill this gap.

However, at the same time as our television screens are full of Christmas advertisements, we have also seen the destruction in the Philippines caused by Typhoon Haiyan, with thousands left dead alongside the devastation of homes and livelihoods. Many of the Philippine communities have lost everything. It is difficult for us to truly contemplate the suffering being endured. Given this, I found it incredibly humbling to see television footage of a packed open-air church service taking place in the ruins of a Church. In spite of all they had lost, the Philippine Christian community knew that God had not abandoned them and was walking alongside them in their suffering.

It is the love of God, with us in the good and bad times, that is the real message of Christmas. As we read in the Gospel of John: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. So when we are shopping online or queuing at the shops for that 'must have' Christmas present, let us try to take a step back and remember that each one of us has already been given the best gift of all; a gift that doesn't wear out, go out of fashion, or have to be exchanged. It is the gift of the love of God manifested in the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our Christmas services at St Cecilia's. May you all have a peaceful and happy Christmas.

God Bless, Reverend Giles

Volunteer wanted

With this December issue, after many years' faithful service, Ann Clayton is taking well-earned retirement from delivering the Parish News. Thank you so much, Ann, you have been much appreciated! This means, of course, that we need a volunteer – so, if you who live in the Chapel Lane area and are willing to take over Ann's round, delivering each month to about seven houses and earning nothing but gratitude, please contact Jan: htfp@clocktower.co.uk.



CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT

COME ALONG TO ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH
ON TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 7.00 P.M.

EXPERIENCE A LOVELY WARM WELCOME
AND ENJOY A GOOD SING AT YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH,
(PLUS A GLASS OF WINE AND A MINCE PIE)



Adverts removed

Parish Council News

Bishop's Stortford North

LHPC is to send a letter of concerns to EHDC as plans are submitted by the smaller developer Countryside Properties PLC – they hope to deliver 450 new homes. In total, if all plans are granted permission, 2,650 new homes will be built over the next decade or so. LHPC's letter will once again outline concerns over infrastructure, namely lack of secondary education and increase in traffic implications for Little Hadham and surrounding villages. Meanwhile plans submitted earlier this year by The Bishop's Stortford North Consortium will be decided upon very soon. Watch this space for more news and info.

Gritting Salt

LHPC is imminently to take delivery of gritting salt from HCC. The salt will be kept at one or two collection points for use throughout the village during adverse winter weather. Roadside bins will be filled as normal. This delivery is for 34 bags of salt that each weigh 25kg, and are for use by parishioners/ volunteers on footpaths or areas of need to help the community get around. Volunteers collect some bags for their area and when it's gone it's gone. Contact numbers will be printed as soon as delivery is made.

Vehicle Crime in Little Hadham

Fortunately we suffer very little crime in our village so it is sad to have to report that a number of parishioners have been affected recently by vehicle crime. Apparently the perpetrator has been found and dealt with by local police. If you are affected by crime do get in touch with our local police – the service they deliver to our village is second to none, we are fortunate to have them on our side.

Westland Green Byroad

Proposals to repair the byroad at Westland

Green, constantly being damaged by off-roaders, are gathering pace – although we must exercise patience as we wait to hear more definite news from HCC in relation to when the work might be carried out. LHPC promises to keep battling on with this and sends grateful thanks to Nicholas Maddex (HCC Footpath Officer) and PCSO Karen Broad for all their hard work in relation to this matter.

Little Hadham Allotments

LHPC is to discuss and come to a definitive decision at December's meeting as to how to move forward with concerns raised by several parishioners over the planting of fruit trees at the allotment site in the village. The outcome of discussions will be printed in January's Parish News.

Little Hadham Website

LHPC encourages parishioners to visit the website where you will find allsorts of snippets of helpful information. Do you have an article you would like to include? Contact the editor: clerklittlehadham@gmail.com.

Thank you

At this time of the year, as usual, LHPC says Thank You to all the people, paid and unpaid, who make Little Hadham a great place to live – you know who you are – Well Done and Thank You!

Merry Christmas and A Very Happy New Year To Everyone!

Our last meeting of 2013 will be on Tuesday 3rd December 7.30pm for 8pm – everyone is welcome – will mince pies and mulled wine tempt you?! See you there!

Little Hadham & Albury Garden Club

We all enjoyed the talk by John Taylor all about Bumble Bees. He covered all aspects of the Bumble Bee from identification, the reasons for their decline and what we as gardeners can do to help maintain their population. We also learnt about the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Our gardens will be really buzzing next year.

We also had a really good supper, with food from Jan at Clouds Catering and a better (I hope) quiz from me. Thank you to all who came and made it a memorable evening.

Our next event is on January 21st with our highly popular lunchtime meeting. We have Anne Godfrey from Daisy Roots coming to talk to us, preceded by a ploughman's lunch. If you would like to come to the lunch, the start time is 12 noon; please phone Karin Green 771532 to book your seat.

Finally we hope you enjoyed your garden this year and hope to see you in 2014. Have a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Adverts removed

RSPCA Alert

Some advice regarding feeding our pets and wild animals and birds, not only during the Festive Season. The following is a list of foods which can not only upset our pet's stomach, but those that are toxic and can cause death.

NO to:-

Chocolate and Liver – very toxic : **Biscuits and cheese** – weight gain : **Dried fruits and grapes** – kidney failure (in dogs particularly, tho some cats) : **Onions, garlic, leeks** – anaemia : **Nuts** – can be fatal : **Sweets and sweeteners, human toothpaste** – liver failure, low blood pressure : **Avocados & Guacomole** – toxic : **Cooked bones** – blockage and gastrointestinal tract damage : **Uncooked bacon rind** – birds.

The veterinary advise is not to give any human foods to pets. Doing so can lead to heart and liver disease, diabetes, blocked bladder, all attributing to a reduced quality of life. All of the animals we care for and feed will delight in the relevant food for them. Their diet is as important to them as our is to us.

I would also like to thank everyone for their support of the RSPCA and local Animal Chairties. I have taken three car loads to the new Charity Shop in Hitchin, banked £109 to the East Herts Branch and sent cheques to ARC and Mutts in Distress with money raised from selling plants at our gate.

Many thanks to all and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Ennis

Adverts removed



Little Hadham School

Believing and Achieving



I wonder if we had a future Olympic gymnast in our school recently when we hosted a S.T.A.G.E. Network Gymnastics Enrichment Day for twenty-four gymnasts from across the local schools network. They certainly were highly talented and very flexible!

Christmas preparations are in full swing in readiness for our Christmas Bazaar on Sunday 1st December from 12-3pm. Do come along and get in the mood for Christmas!

On Tuesday 3rd December, our Early Years Unit are opening their doors for an Open Morning from 9.30 to 11.30am. If you know of anyone who may be considering our school for their child, please do encourage them to come along on that morning.

On Wednesday 11th December at 11am, our Key Stage 1 pupils will be presenting the dress rehearsal of 'Humph the Camel' which is their version of the Nativity. Senior Citizens are most welcome to join us for this. Similarly, on Monday 16th December at 2pm, our Key Stage 2 children will be presenting their dress rehearsal of 'Carols Around the Tree' and Senior Citizens are also welcome then too.

A busy time for all and a Merry Christmas when it comes!

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Stockley,
Head Teacher

Adverts removed

Gas Main accident – can you help again?

Dear Villagers,

My name is Hannah Pearson and I requested your help last year with signing a petition. This was to get the Armco barrier installed to protect the gas box, which is located on the road as you exit the village from Little Hadham to Much Hadham. More precisely it is situated on the bend between Bridgefoot Farm and McVeigh Fencing.

In December 2011 my car skidded on black ice on an extremely poor road surface and crashed into the gas main. The impact broke the pipe, filling my car with gas and causing danger and inconvenience to many people. I sustained serious injuries that I am still recovering from. Fortunately the petition was successful and a barrier was put in place this year making it far safer and preventing another life-threatening collision with the gas box.

On a personal level, I am looking to submit a claim against Hertfordshire Highways for the state of the road surface prior to the accident. The poor road surface caused the water to pool in the damaged surface, which in turn froze and caused a band of ice to form across the road. In June 2012 this section of the highway was re-surfaced.

I have heard from many people in the village commenting about the state of the road at this location relating to damaged road surface, potholes, surface water etc. The highway has been described as a 'known cold spot' especially since the gritting depot moved away.

I have also heard that there have been accidents there in the past. I am asking for anyone who has had problems or concerns with the road condition, water on the surface, blocked drains, potholes, etc., to contact me with information expressing your views. I can be contacted using hannahpearson@live.co.uk.

Any information or views would be greatly appreciated, many thanks. Hannah Pearson

Adverts removed

WWI: The Hadhams on the Home Front

Much Hadham Forge Museum is planning to produce an exhibition, holding commemorative events, producing activities and resources for schools in a HLF funded project in 2014; the centenary of WWI. Our exhibition, activities and resources are centred on life on the Home Front during WWI in The Hadhams. The museum collection and archive is rich in objects, material and inspirational stories, providing great subject matter. Our village show will include sketches, music and song; recreating weekend village shows put on by villagers for stationed troops and convalescing soldiers.

KEEP THE DATE: Sunday Aug 3rd 2014, **WWI: The Village Show**, Much Hadham Village Hall.

The museum is open Friday to Sunday and bank holidays, 11am – 5pm.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the latest news, or visit our website blog at www.hadhammuseum.org.uk

Monies raised by our events support the museum, Registered Charity number 232686.

Adverts removed

Little Hadham & Albury Social Club

We had a good crowd for Jonathan's Annual Local History Talk, plus the added bonus of hearing about trips he had made during the year. Jonathan also presented two cheques during the evening: one to Mike Smith towards the play that Maggie is producing to be held in the Village Hall next year, to celebrate the 100 years since the First World War. The money was raised by the sale of Jonathan's book 'The Natural History of Little Hadham Parish 2008-2010'. He also presented Tracey Johnson, who created the Charity 'Kisses for Kids', with a cheque raised by a sponsored walk that he and Wendy completed in North Norfolk. This money will be used to help hospitalised children have special treats over the Christmas Season. We have already booked him for November next year, so put it in your 2014 diaries!

Our Annual Dinner is to be held in the Village Hall on 11th February, 2014, 7 for 7.30pm. The total cost for the evening is, as last year, £18.50, including wine and a surprise entertainment. If you would like to attend, please pay and chose your menu at our December meeting – we do not have a meeting in January. All welcome.

At our 10th December meeting, Carmela is again 'Cooking Italian' for us. So when you have your tea or supper that evening, leave a space for a healthy sample of her delicious recipes. Plus, wine will be served to celebrate the festive season. There will be a fabulous raffle prize too – a Group Photo Shoot at Award Winning Photographer David Calvert's Photographic Studio in Much Hadham!

All are welcome to the village Social Club. No joining fee, just £1.50, which includes refreshments and we hold a raffle and sell books for a charity. For information, phone 771580 or 658585.

Joyce Taylor, late of Four Acres, New Lane.

We have learned that Joyce died early in November. Binnie contacted Joan Hockley, who was attending her funeral at March, Cambs, and she very kindly agreed to give condolences from the Social Club and the Village. For many years Joyce and Bob lived in Four Acres, Bob having died some time ago. She attended the Social Club regularly and was an early speaker, telling us of her time in the Land Army and meeting Bob, a soldier, who was stationed locally. They were very much involved with the Congregational Chapel and Hall, that Joyce kept going until her health stopped her. It seems pertinent that the Chapel and Hall have now been converted into new homes.

[Joyce used to deliver the Parish News along New Road for me and we had many a long chat about crochet and the like when I dropped off her copies – Ed.]

Socks Socks Socks Socks Socks Socks Socks

Thank you so much to everyone who has left bags of socks on my doorstep during the year. All much appreciated and a great foundation for this year's Christmas appeal. We are threatened with a cold winter and I am sure that Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge is coping with more homeless people than ever, so all your contributions will be a real help. Please keep them coming. With many thanks and all good wishes for Christmas and 2014.

Ann Clayton, Ashford House, next to the Nag's Head.

It's been an extra busy month in our household. Not so much on the farm but with the farmer! His long overdue complete hip replacement was carried out during the end of October – the National Health surpassed itself with the op, the nursing and the successful outcome.

But spare a thought for his nurse/housekeeper/cook/farm-hand/chauffeur/dog walker/alpaca carer/etc ... yes, that was me, all rolled into one!

Probably the worst part of it was trying to get to grips with those ghastly white elastic stockings, which had to be taken off and replaced every day. It all looked fairly simple when the nurse showed me, but those stockings had a will of their own. To get them off required me pulling them with all of my might, holding on to the 'bad' leg and feeling sure I might well dislocate the new hip before it had a chance to settle in! Getting clean ones back on was equally difficult. One half of one pair had, I'm sure, been given to someone else, so the stocking never sat right on the leg. I huffed and puffed, stretched and manipulated them till they were on again. It was, truly, a labour of love!

We were forced to use a car with easy access. I call it an 'old lady' car. I also drive it like the proverbial old lady – badly! I find it difficult to park and still have to get to grips with the lights which have so many permutations that I still, a month later, haven't got them right.

But, by the time you read this, the six weeks' compulsory non-driving period will be up and I will happily relinquish the chauffeur's duties. Even more wonderful will be the ceremonial burning of the dreaded white stockings!

Adverts removed

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

Note changes to the Farmers' Market.

1 Sun, Christmas Bazaar, 12-3pm. Little Hadham Primary School.

3 Tue, Parish Council, 8pm. Will mince pies and mulled wine tempt you to come along?! See you there!

5, 19 Thur, Mobile Library, See p13.

6 Fri, Christmas Fair, 5-8pm, Furneux Pelham School. Mulled wine, hot dogs, mince pies and cakes. Buy your Christmas presents, win a hamper, browse the many stalls. Fun for the children: name the teddy, face-painting, nail art, and busking! Tombolas, and Santa too.

6 Fri, A Night with the Overtures, 7pm. Come along and enjoy a fabulous evening of music with the ever popular Overtures at Presdales School, Ware. Tickets cost £15.00 and there will be a cash bar on the night.

Contact Katie.robertson@isabelhospice.org.uk for ticket information.

7 Sat, Albury Antiques and Interiors Fair, 10-4pm Albury VH. £1 entry, refreshments, all proceeds to Albury VH.

8 Sun, The Santa Run, 11am. A festive 2km family fun run (or walk) in aid of Isabel Hospice and HAD at Stanborough Lake, WGC. Tickets £15 for adults, £10 for 9s to 14s and £5 for under nines. Includes a Santa Suit for adults and teens and Rudolph suit for children. Sign up online www.hatfieldrotary.org.uk.

9 Mon, Hadhams' History Society, 8pm, Green Room, Much Hadham Village Hall. Our popular Christmas Social with fun, food and drink! A potluck event where we all bring festive treats to share. Mike Clark 842131.

10 Tue, LH & A Social Club, 8pm. Once again Carmela is 'Cooking Italian' for us. So when you have your tea or supper that evening, leave a space for a healthy sample of her

delicious recipes. Plus, wine will be served to celebrate the festive season. All are welcome to the village Social Club. No joining fee, just £1.50, which includes refreshments and we hold a raffle and sell books for a charity. For information, phone 771580 or 658585.

15 Sun, music@stansted, 3pm. Cambridge Chorale, voted one of the top 10 adult choirs in the UK, under their Music Director, Julian Wilkins, will be giving a concert comprising movements from many well-known works plus some seasonal favourites. Tickets Adults £15, Under 18s free, available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford; and Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted, 815282.

19 Thur, Way Inn Coffee Morning, 10am-12 noon, rear of Village Hall. All welcome.

19 Thur, Carols in the Chapel, 7pm, Haileybury College. For tickets contact Katie.robertson@isabelhospice.org.uk

23 Monday, Farmers' Market, 5pm-7pm.

... and next year?

Jan 20, **Hadhams' History Soc. AGM** followed by a presentation/exercise on reading Tudor scripts. 8pm, Green Room, Much Hadham Village Hall, Info: Mike Clark 842131

Jan 26, **music@stansted, 3pm.** Louise Alder, soprano, accompanied by John-Paul Ekins. More info from www.musicatstansted.com.

Feb 11, **Social Club Annual Dinner.** The total cost is, as last year, £18.50, including wine and a surprise entertainment. If you would like to attend, please pay and choose your menu at our December meeting – we do not have a meeting in January. All welcome.

Feb 23, Mar 2, **Snowdrop Sundays,** Gardens of Easton Lodge. www.eastonlodge.co.uk for more details.

NOTICEBOARD

**Wishing Everyone A Merry Christmas
and A Happy New Year**



CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

@ United Reform Church

Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford



MONDAY – SATURDAY, 9.30 AM – 4.30 PM
UNTIL TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER

over 25 charities - over 25 designs

WANTED

1/2 size violin to buy or rent

Contact Eileen, 771426

5th and 19th December Mobile Library

Nag's Head from 1345 - 14.05
The Smithy from 14.10 - 14.30
Bury Green from 14.45 - 15.05
A fortnightly service.

**Albury Antiques
and
Interiors Fair**

NO ENTRANCE FEE - ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ALBURY VILLAGE HALL

Refreshments available

Albury Village Hall
7th December 2013 10am to 4pm

Albury Antiques and Interiors Fair where old meets new!

For further information and stall holder enquiries please contact brigitte.welshes@btinternet.com
Village Hall (located off the A120, between Bishop's Stortford and Sandon), Albury, Hertfordshire SG13 2JL

Stansted Airport Community Trust

During the year 2013 the Stansted Airport Community Trust awarded capital grants to the value of £111,000 to a wide variety of organisations within a ten mile radius of Stansted Airport.

One grant for £1,500 was to the Dunmow Majorettes for new equipment for the group and another grant was awarded to the Herts Hogline who needed new hutches for their rescued hedgehogs.

If you think that your organisation qualifies and could benefit from some additional funding of up to £2,000 to help with a project that you have in mind then please contact SACT, PO Box 11, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LX or email cll.susan.barker@essex.gov.uk for an application form or advice.

The closing date for the next round of applications is 28 February 2014.

The Trust does not fund projects for parish councils or individuals and does not grant money for completed projects.

For further details contact:

Cllr Susan Barker, Chairman Stansted Airport Community Trust

Tel: 01245 231250

Email: cll.susan.barker@essex.gov.uk

Adverts removed

Keep Warm this Winter

Two free, practical guides to help rural communities keep warm and cut bills this winter are now available. The Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth community guides have been produced by Community Development Action Hertfordshire's (CDA Herts) national body, Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), in partnership with Calor Gas.

The Energy Efficiency guide explains how families can make simple changes at home – such as insulation, draught-proofing, and low energy light bulbs – to reduce bills. It shows how volunteer 'energy champions' can help people in their neighbourhoods by passing on tips and pointing householders towards sources of professional advice. It also explains how eligible households may be able to get help with improvements to their homes, such as boilers or loft insulation, through Government initiatives such as Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation.

The Affordable Warmth guide focuses on how communities can help households to stay warm and avoid falling into fuel poverty. It explains how the most vulnerable households can get help from the Government towards their heating bills. It includes case studies of work carried out by members of the ACRE's national Network of rural community councils, such as bulk oil buying schemes.

Kate Belinis (CDA's CEO) said: "Evidence shows that rural households are twice as likely as their urban counterparts to struggle to afford to heat their homes, due to lower than average incomes and houses that are less energy efficient. Lack of access to cheaper fuel supplies is also a problem - 36% of homes in rural areas are off the gas grid, so many households rely on fuels such as oil, electric heating, LPG or coal. Tackling fuel poverty is important because the impact of cold homes on people's health and wellbeing is significant. Many households are faced with a 'heat or eat' crisis where they are forced to choose between putting the heating on or buying food.

CDA Herts has a bulk oil-buying group and energy exchange of ideas and signposting and networking opportunities.

The guides are available for free download at <http://www.cdaherts.org.uk/focus-areas/environment-and-energy/practical-guides-to-keeping-warm-and-cutting-bills/>.

Adverts removed



The Hadhams' History Society

A full house of members and guests heard Mr. Gordon Morrison outline the history of the Chaldean Estate at our October meeting. The talk was well illustrated with high quality images. Archaeological evidence, obtained from the present 810 hectare

estate, lying to the West of Much Hadham, has significantly added to the historical knowledge of the area. A large number of items have been found by Kevin Easton and Richard Maddams amongst others. The finds cover the time from the Neolithic to the late Roman period and include flint and iron tools, extensive late Iron Age silver coinage and a gold stater of the Ambiani tribe from about 57-45BC. Earthworks located in Caley Wood (adjacent to the estate) may be from the Iron Age, but their dating and role is not clear. In the field west of Caley Wood, and nearby, Roman kilns and extensive surface finds show the presence of a major pottery industry. A Roman road connected the latter to the road network centered on Braughing, and characteristic Hadham pottery has been found all over Eastern England. High quality late Roman silver has been found on the estate as has evidence of a Roman villa. Surprisingly, no artifacts have been found from the Saxon/Viking period. However, Domesday records show that in 1066, Celgdene (Chaldean) was a Saxon property of ½ hide (about 60 acres) with a value of 40s and held by Eldred, a thane of Edward the Confessor. By 1086, the land value had dropped to 30s and Rodhere held it from the Bishop of London, whose successors retained it until the late 15thC. Pennies and groats from 1166 to 1344 as well

continued on page 18

Adverts removed

Down at the doctor's

Dr Paul Haimes

Apologies to anyone affected by the new computer system, which was installed on 29th October. There were a number of teething problems, particularly with booking appointments and dealing with medication requests, which we have mostly sorted out. However, we know from other local practices that it takes some time to get used to the, often quirky, new way of doing things, so please be patient and bear with us.

The Patient Participation Core Group first newsletter will soon be widely available at the surgery and on our website. "Read all about it" and find out the results of our recent patient survey, what the patient Participation Group (PPG) is about and what you can do to help. If you would like to be involved please contact Elaine Hodges at Much Hadham Health Centre who will pass your details/enquiries onto a member of the team.

A reminder that the Health Visitors have returned to the fold and run a weekly clinic at Much Hadham from 1:30 to 3pm every Thursday.

My dispensing staff have, once again, asked that you give them plenty of time when ordering repeat medication, especially with our new computer system and the Christmas/New Year break almost upon us. They can process a request in 72hrs (or 3 working days) so please try to give them that time if you possibly can.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and remind you all that both I and the illustrious Colin Brookbanks will be appearing in the Little Hadham pantomime over the last two weekends of January. "Roll up, Roll up."

Adverts removed

The Hadhams' History Society, continued from page 16

as Tudor coins have been found in the North Eastern part of the estate. By the 16thC the property had come into the possession of the Parnell family. The last Parnell to own the estate was Hugh, who died without issue in 1906 and left it to his cousin Franklyn Crallan. He named the house Carldane Court and doubled its size, to accommodate his family. His son Hugh sold the estate in 1953 to Patrick Dolan. In 1996 it became the property of the present owner. This excellent presentation was well received by the audience.

SSE News

Judge Ouseley to hear SSE's High Court Challenge

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) will go to the Royal Courts of Justice this Friday (22 November) to present its case that a key element of the work carried out by the Airports Commission has been tainted by apparent bias and needs to be done afresh. The Honourable Mr Justice Ouseley will hear the case.

SSE's legal challenge stems from the involvement of Geoff Muirhead, former chief executive of the Manchester Airports Group (MAG), which owns Stansted Airport. Mr Muirhead was one of five commissioners appointed to the Airports Commission last year. He had retired as MAG's chief executive in October 2010 after 22 years with the Group but he was then immediately

continued on next page

Adverts removed

appointed as a highly paid ambassador to MAG, a role he continued to fulfil even after he was appointed to the Airports Commission.

Mr Muirhead resigned from the Commission on 20 September 2013, "by mutual consent" with the Secretary of State for Transport, shortly after SSE begun its legal challenge.

Mr Muirhead was directly involved in determining the Commission's 'sift criteria'. These are, in effect, the selection criteria for deciding the most suitable airport expansion options and SSE believes that these are clearly skewed to favour expansion at Stansted Airport.

SSE will be asking the High Court to order the Commission to re-determine the 'sift criteria' for assessing airport expansion options and to delay the publication of any short-list of options - due to be published next month - until the sift criteria have been re-determined.

SSE Chairman Peter Sanders said: "We first expressed our concern about Mr Muirhead's role on the Commission on 4 February 2013, and subsequently sent a further five letters to the Chairman of the Commission and the Secretary of State re-iterating our concerns. All of this was completely ignored until we began our legal challenge but by that time Mr Muirhead's involvement had tainted the work of the Commission. That is why it is not enough just to remove Mr Muirhead from the Commission at this advanced stage and that is why we will be asking the High Court to order the Commission to re-visit certain key decisions made by the Commission during the time that Mr Muirhead was involved."

Mr Sanders concluded: "This is a fight for fairness and with proposals before the Airports Commission to make Stansted the world's biggest airport, it is a fight that we cannot shirk."

Adverts removed

A month of continued unseasonal warmth, with just a few light frosts to help the leaves drop. However, at the time of writing (Nov 18th) many deciduous trees are still holding on to their colourful leaves. Also, due to a lack of good frosts, the birds have yet to descend upon the fruit in the hedgerows and gardens. Now that the fieldfares and redwings have arrived from Scandinavia these fruits will soon be in big demand once the cold nights improve the sugar content.

Many local wanders, including leading a walk for the South East Herts Ramblers club on the 2nd Nov. Setting off from the Village Hall we covered several miles towards Dane Bridge and over the golf course to Westland Green and returned to the hall where I gave an illustrated talk on the natural history of the parish. Several buzzards, a sparrowhawk and kestrel were noted along with a few meadow pipits and skylarks.



However, one of the highlights was setting off for Dungeness on the morning of the "storm." High winds had forced the closure of the Queen Elizabeth Bridge and a few lorries were somewhat erratic on the M20, but basically, I arrived at the coast before the really high winds. A power cable had broken free at the power station and this was blowing around, arcing all over the building with blinding flashes. The sea was the roughest

I have ever witnessed and the sight of cormorants and gulls flying into 90mph gales was amazing. Every now and again a gull or kittiwake would make the wrong move and would be blown backwards about a mile or so, before endeavouring to make headway. Incredible flying skills, as shown above.

Another trip to Dungeness and then Sandwich Bay followed on the 8th where I was booked to give a presentation at the bird observatory at Sandwich. Here, I spent the morning helping the ringing group, where the most common bird was the lesser and mealy redpoll. In all, over 40 of these small winter visiting finches were trapped, logged and released. A mealy redpoll shown here. Other trips found me in Norfolk, on the north coast where a reasonable 84 species were recorded in a day, including an incredibly late swallow migrating south.



Many thanks to all who attended my annual presentation in the Village Hall on the 12th. Here I gave an overview of my year in recording the nature in the parish, plus some photos taken in the Baixo Alentejo region of Portugal. To summarise the year, my running totals now stand at 103 bird species, 278 moth species, 14 dragon and damselfly species, 23 butterflies and over

continued on next page

Nature Notes, continued from page 20



120 plants. 2013 has been a successful year where I have added 4 new birds to the parish list and 1 new plant, the early purple orchid found in woods near Bury Green. Several birds, such as common sandpiper have been noted for just the 2nd time since 2008. 21 new moths have made it on to my recording sheet, including this colourful streamer moth.

Over 2013, I have had many great days out, recording a reasonably impressive 209 species of birds in total, including several rarities during

an autumn that will be remembered as one of the best for a long time as far as east coast birds are concerned.

Finally, may I wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and that your New Year is peaceful. I shall continue to add all my findings to my blog site: <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.co.uk>. If any locals ever fancy a trip out birding then please do contact me and I shall be happy to arrange the day to suit your needs, with just a contribution to travel costs and a basic charge required. This also goes for any friends or family you know who may be keen to be guided around the bird hotspots of Norfolk or Kent. I'm always happy to take people along to witness the amazing sights, such as the thousands of geese flying through a North Norfolk sunset. Please do contact me on 07805571551 or jforgham@theprimaryworks.com.

Adverts removed

Supporting Local Good Causes

As Christmas approaches, folks, please spare a thought for the very special people living in our village who work selflessly, on a voluntary basis, for whichever good cause they happen to believe in or support. As a community we can help by collecting bits and pieces we no longer have a use for. So if just before or just after Christmas, like me, you are due a bit of a sort out please put by used books and games, old dog collars and leads, towels/blankets/bedding/duvets/pillows including covers. Even the odd packet of dog biscuits or cat food would be greatly appreciated. A helping hand will make a real difference - our collective good gestures will act as a BIG Thank You. Do please call me, I can collect or you can pop donations on my doorstep at The Old Cottage, Bury Green.

Happy Christmas – Carmela 01279 898591

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Very many thanks to all those who contributed to this year's poppy appeal. In Little Hadham as a whole, we raised £846.41. I am especially grateful to those involved in the door-to-door collections. Very well done to all concerned.

Frank Green.

VILLAGE GREETINGS

Karin and Frank Green would like to wish all their friends in Little Hadham a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2014



A Christmas message to all our Friends and Neighbours

Thank you to everyone for making Little Hadham such a special place to live. We hope to see you all over the festive season and we send you our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With love, Janine, Ian, Fraser and Beth Peart

PS Don't expect a card as well!!

Brenda and Brian Kain wish all their friends and neighbours in Little Hadham and Albury a very happy Christmas and safe and healthy New Year. We are giving a donation to St Cecilia's in lieu of cards.

Remembrance Day

Angela Fardell

On a bright sunny Sunday morning, 9th November, over 120 village residents gathered on Ford Hill to remember all those men and women of the Armed Forces who have given their lives in the service of their country. The wreaths laid were a token of the gratitude of the people of Little Hadham, respect and admiration for the bravery and devotion to duty of those men from the village who did not return. Their names were read out, so familiar to many present.

Villagers of all ages were present, the Brownies and the children from Little Hadham Primary School who laid their wreaths on the steps of the War Memorial and whose great, great grandfathers fought in the Great War, the World War that should have ended all wars. Their parents and their neighbours whose great grandparents had been called to defend our country were there. The older generation whose parents saw service in the Second World War were there. They laid wreaths for the Royal British Legion and the Parish Council. Those who had served and are still serving were there too.

We prayed for the dead and injured, and for the work of the Royal British Legion; we sang "Oh God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come..." but in our hearts we prayed for peace, that future generations should never know the horrors, the losses and bloodiness of war.



Pictures by
Helena Marrington

December diary for Little Hadham and Albury

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

1 Sunday

9.30am

11.15am

Advent 1

Matins at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

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

8 Sunday

11.15am

Advent 2

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

15 Sunday

8.00am

9.30am

6.00pm

Advent 3

Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

Village Hall Service, Little Hadham

Evensong at St Mary's, Albury

17 Tuesday

7.00pm

Candlelight Carol Service

22 Sunday

9.15am

Advent 4

Team Holy Communion at Much Hadham

24 Tuesday

6.00pm

Christmas Eve

Christingle Service at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

25 Wednesday

9.30am

Christmas Day

Christmas Day Holy Communion at St Cecilia's, Little Hadham

29 Sunday

9.15am

1st after Christmas

Team Holy Communion at Much 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, 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.