

A photograph of a young child wearing a pink knit hat and a patterned jacket, sitting on a wooden picnic table in a forest. The child is playing with a string and a small wooden box. A white stuffed duck is sitting on the table next to the child. The background shows tall trees and a clear blue sky.

# LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

APRIL 2025

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



## Father Simon Our Assistant Area Dean writes:



And so the end of our Lenten journey is in sight, with Holy Week and Easter drawing ever closer.

Each year, I always find it interesting to note which day occupies

my mind most – Good Friday or Easter Day. It seems like a gauge of my attitude to life at that particular moment.

Will the Good Friday accounts of Jesus' sacrifice and suffering hit home more to me this year, particularly with the wars and conflict of the past few years still in our thoughts and prayers, along with the hardship and illness that many have to endure? Or will the joy and celebration of Jesus' resurrection engage my heart and mind more as we remember the eternal new life God offers to each one of us, and the joy that that reassurance can bring to Christians?

But then there's the additional - often overlooked - dimension of the Easter story which sometimes catches me unawares. With the joy and celebration comes the fear and shock and bewilderment of the



resurrection that was part of the Easter story for Jesus' disciples as they came to terms with what, in today's

phraseology, might be described as a paradigm shift.

For me, that reminder of the fear and struggle that can be associated with new starts is a helpful image. I've called more than ten towns or cities 'home' over the years. Each move has been prayed about and chosen, and has held the promise of good things to come. But each move has also held sadness and struggle.

In the end, it was always the right thing to do and brought joy and growth, but that doesn't mean that it was always easy. It's no doubt a fear and struggle that many Ukrainians experienced on a much greater level when their war with Russia began and they became refugees. Even though a move to the likes of the UK meant they were now safer from the Russian invasion of their homeland, it didn't make the fear and struggle any easier.



And new starts - be they, for example, of work or relationships or in the wake



of an unwelcome diagnosis - are rarely always easy. Whether chosen or forced upon us, new starts can be hard - particularly if we don't know

whether we've made the right decision or what the future might hold. These new opportunities can challenge, confuse, and scare us. And so it's in those situations that the Easter story can bring hope as we see the victory, new life, and freedom that came as a result of Jesus' death and resurrection to new life beyond the initial fear and shock and bewilderment.

So, as we celebrate Easter this year, I pray that you can celebrate the hope that God is offering each one of us, know the joy that God is giving, and, whether it's difficult or not, you're able to grasp the gift of new life that God offers each one of us.

May God bless you this Holy Week and Eastertide,

*Fr Simon*



## LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

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To find out more about the life of our Church, please visit our website:

[www.riverashchurches.org.uk](http://www.riverashchurches.org.uk)

## EDITORIAL DEADLINE

All articles for inclusion and payment for advertising in the next issue **must** be received by the **15th** of the month.

(BACS preferred, email the editor for details.)

Editor reserves the right to edit copy received, and add or omit pictures where necessary.

View the Parish News Online including back issues: [www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/parish\\_news.html](http://www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/parish_news.html)



**From the Registers of St. Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham**

Nothing from the registers this month.

## ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

If you would like to advertise in our magazine, please contact the editor at: [littlehadhampn@gmail.com](mailto:littlehadhampn@gmail.com) for more details.

The Parish News is funded and distributed freely by St Cecilia's Church. We really appreciate the support of all our advertisers to help cover our overheads and keep the Parish News in print. Please support them and shop local.

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You can also offer support by making a donation to the magazine, contact the editor for details.

The magazine is written by many contributors who report for themselves or for a club or organisation they represent. The church and production team does not necessarily agree with the opinions aired in any article printed here.

# Little Hadham Parish Council

Carole Page

[www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk)

Little Hadham Parish Council meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall. There is no meeting in August or January. All residents and press are welcome to attend the meetings.

## Meeting dates – all meetings commence at 7.30pm

<b>1st April</b>	6th May	3rd June	1st July	2nd Sept
7th October	4th November	2nd December		

Agendas are posted on noticeboards and the Little Hadham Parish Council website.

## Information Boards

Four out of the five Information Boards have been installed. Big thanks to Councillors Mark Moore and Richard Mardell for installing the boards. Also, to Anne Wright and The Humble Line graphic design studio [www.thehumbleline.com](http://www.thehumbleline.com), for all the hard work she has undertaken in the research, design and production of the boards. I, as the Clerk of Little Hadham Parish Council fully recommend her and her company for their professionalism and commitment, without whom the project would not have been completed. Go and check them out, we think you'll find them very interesting.

## Highways Update

- Speed and Traffic Surveys – The S&TS is now complete and has been shared with the contractors, who are reviewing with a start to Phase 3 in the new financial year.
- Pedestrian crossing at the Smithy - Due to the road being used as a diversion route for roadworks at the end of March, the work on the Smithy will commence in May
- Having a Speed Indicating



Device on the A120 – Highways are looking at feasibility of locating a SID near the school. Do we want a speed camera on the hill down towards the traffic lights at the Ash?

- Pavement clearing on the A120 – To be included in future schemes.
- Speeding through the village – the 30mph repeater signs have been replaced along from the traffic lights to the Ford.

## Neighbourhood Plan

We currently have 7 volunteers for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council is exploring if there is sufficient interest to move the Neighbourhood Plan forward as a viable option. Cllr Kent advised that if we have sufficient volunteers the Neighbourhood Plan will be revived.

If you would be interested in volunteering to help with a Neighbourhood plan for Little Hadham, please do contact Carole on [clerklittlehadham@gmail.com](mailto:clerklittlehadham@gmail.com). The time commitment would be to give at least 4-6 hours a month of their time (potentially more some months and less in others). Anyone with planning experience would be particularly welcome!

## Parish Assembly

Cllr Kent – confirmed the date is the **27th May 2025**. We want the Assembly to return to the format pre Covid and will be inviting the village groups to attend and present.

## Little Hadham Ramblers

[clerklittlehadham@gmail.com](mailto:clerklittlehadham@gmail.com) | 01920 870 809 | 07825 011 975



Our next walk is **Wednesday April 2nd**. We start from the Village Hall at 10.00, with a return between 11.30-12.00. There is a lunch available at the Warm Spaces Café. Always a delicious choice of soup, filled jacket potato or a main meal. Dogs welcome.

This walk from Albury Road, up to the Church, then up Nut Walk to Hadham Hall, across to Church End and through the Polo Club to end up back at the Nags Head.

## Little Hadham Parish Council Website

[www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/](http://www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/) We now have a new PC website and would ask for any ideas as to content.

## Little Hadham Community Group – Facebook Page

The group is for residents to share information about the village: roads closed, trees down, events in the village, etc. This is our Facebook page and is about our village and what is going on.





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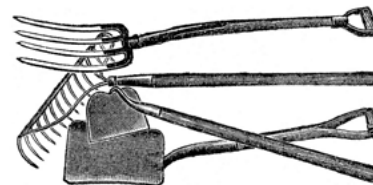
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## Spring Churchyard Clear Up

This year's Spring Clear up is on **Saturday 5th April from 10am**

Can you spare an hour or two to help spruce up the churchyard ready for the mowing season.

Refreshments will be provided.

Looking forward to seeing you.



## Distributor for the Parish News

We are looking for someone to help deliver Parish Magazines to the local distributors. This is a once-a-month job.

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**01279 771 532**

for more details.

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## Down at the Doctors

Andrew Wilkinson, Practice Manager

[www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk)



The Government's commitment to digital technology in the new 10-year NHS Plan is becoming increasingly prominent. A key part of this initiative is the NHS App, and I highly recommend signing up if you haven't already.

The app provides easy access to your medical records, blood test results and investigations, along with a convenient way to order medications. It also includes health and wellbeing resources to help you manage your care more effectively. Having the app on your phone ensures this information is always at your fingertips—especially useful in emergencies or while travelling.

If you're hesitant about installing it on your device, a digital inclusion session is held every Wednesday from 2:00 to 3:30pm at Little Hadham Village Hall. Members of our patient group will be there to help you get set up and answer any questions.

The previous edition, along with the next two job articles, have been written by members of staff who visit and support the practice as part of the 'additional roles' initiative.

"I'm Jacqueline, a Pharmacy Technician with the Stort Valley & Villages Primary Care Network. My career began at Lloyds Pharmacy in Hertford—though, at first, it wasn't meant to be a career at all! I simply wanted a job to fund

my love of clothes and makeup. But I quickly fell in love with the work, completed my Pharmacy Technician qualifications, managed multiple branches, and ended up staying with Lloyds for 15 years.

In September 2023, I joined the PCN and haven't looked back. I now work three days a week at Church Street Surgery in Bishop's Stortford and spend Wednesdays at Much Hadham Health Centre. My role involves conducting audits, ensuring prescribing aligns with local and national guidelines, monitoring medication and condition requirements, and supporting our pharmacist, Dilusha. (Pretty please get your blood tests done—it really helps me out!)

Outside of work, life revolves around my firefighter husband's busy schedule and our two football-obsessed little boys. I love watching football myself, especially the women's game, and I'm a big Arsenal supporter—sorry, Spurs fans!

I'm so grateful for the warm welcome from the Much Hadham family and look forward to my future with them."

Our team is very fortunate to have Tina, our community paramedic, along with Jacqueline and Dilusha (next month's author), as integral members. Their support is invaluable as we work together to provide quality healthcare in the community.



### Yoga Classes

All levels welcome

**Mondays 11am-12pm**  
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Rose Yoga Studio, Standon  
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March has been an action-packed month for Woodland Rangers, filled with learning, laughter, and adventure in the great outdoors.

In celebration of World Book Day, we brought to life Michael Rosen's beloved story, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. Children and families joined us in squelching through thick, oozy mud, stumble-tripping through the forest, splash-splashing through water, and tiptoeing their way to the bear's cave.

We also celebrated 'Tell a fairy tale day' with a story walk through the woods, retelling the classic tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Our story walk ended back at the campfire for a delicious bowl of porridge to warm us all up.

Pancake Day was another highlight, featuring campfire cooked pancakes.

Over at Little Hadham Primary School after-school club, our young problem-solvers engineered innovative ways to transport water across the forest using drainpipes. This challenge showcased their ingenuity and teamwork

Our after-school club children have also excitedly used bamboo to create a windchime, demonstrating their crafting skills as they used saws and drills to work together on a joint project.

Nikki & Louise

[www.woodlandrangers.co.uk](http://www.woodlandrangers.co.uk)

 [woodlandrangersuk](https://www.facebook.com/woodlandrangersuk)

Signs of spring have been emerging across the forest, and we celebrated the season of renewal with a spring scavenger hunt. Children delighted in discovering budding flowers, new life, and the cheerful bloom of daffodils - a reminder of nature's magic!

Looking ahead, April marks the first birthday of Woodland Rangers. We are very thrilled to be celebrating this very exciting milestone next month and are looking forward to our birthday celebrations in the woods.

Bookings for the summer term are now open, so don't miss out on joining our woodland adventures, as well as a special family day on May Bank holiday. Bookings can be made at [www.bookwhen.com/woodland-rangers](http://www.bookwhen.com/woodland-rangers)





We hope you are all well and enjoying the signs of spring. Here are some of the things Little Hadham Primary has been up to recently!

A big thank you to those who donated old but useful items for our Loose Parts Play—your generosity is much appreciated, and the children's imaginations are thriving because of it!



## Supporting Our Local Foodbank

This week, we welcomed Jane Towns from our local foodbank for a thought-provoking assembly. She shared how foodbanks are a lifeline for many families, especially as the cost-of-living crisis continues. Our School Council proudly presented Jane with the donations from our school community and even helped carry them to her car—such brilliant helpers! Jane was incredibly impressed by the children's thoughtful questions and reflections, and she awarded us a special certificate in recognition of our ongoing support. Our Food Bank Fridays continue to make a real difference.

## Maths Champions!

Eight of our Year 5 pupils recently took part in the HFL Education Mathematics Challenge, competing alongside schools from across



Hertfordshire. It was an exciting test of teamwork and problem-solving, and we are thrilled to announce that Team A has made it through to the next round! What an incredible achievement for a small school—proof that big things really do come in small packages! Well done to all who took part.

## Science Week: Mini Beast Madness

Our Science Week theme, 'Change and Adapt,' saw children explore the fascinating world of mini beasts with the help of staff and students from The Bishop's Stortford High School. Armed with magnifying glasses and 'pooters,' the children uncovered an incredible array of creatures in our forest area—centipedes, woodlice, worms, snails—each perfectly



adapted to its environment. The excitement was contagious, and we are so grateful to our visitors for making science come alive!

## Cross-Country Training in Full Swing

With an upcoming cross-country tournament ahead, our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been putting in the hard work! From dragging tyres to intense aerobic sessions, they are building both stamina and determination. I even joined them for a few laps—let's just say I felt it the next day! We are so proud of their dedication and can't wait to cheer them on.

## Exciting News: Our Polycrub is Coming!

Thanks to funding from Stansted Airport, we are soon installing a polycrub—a brilliant structure that will support learning in science, geography, and forest school activities. It will be a fantastic space for planting and exploring sustainability. Watch this space!

Thank you for your continued support—it's wonderful to be part of such a caring community.



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# Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett

We do not meet in April so the next meeting will be on **Tuesday 20th May** at Little Hadham Village Hall when we will have a talk by Liz Lake on 'Bridge End Gardens'. Full details next month.

## Plant Sale

Our annual **Plant Sale and Coffee Morning** is on **10th May**, so when tidying your gardens and dividing perennials this year, please pot up some extra plants for sale. This is an important fund raiser for the club so please support us.

## Give your lawn a boost now

Find out how to give your lawn a spring boost, ready for the wear and tear of summer. Take these simple steps in spring, and look forward to a vibrant, healthy lawn this summer...

## To do: March/April/May

The first time you mow the lawn each year, it should be done with the mower blades set high to help thicken the grass. Afterwards, focus on weeding to reduce competition for nutrients and moisture.

## You Will Need

- Garden fork or hollow-tine aerator
- Sharp/silver sand,
- Half-moon iron or spade
- Wire-tooth rake or powered scarifier



*Clematis 'Markham's Pink'*

## Step 1

Aerate to prevent waterlogging. This is particularly important if your lawn has endured heavy rains over winter. If yours is still squelchy, spike it with a garden fork every 15cm. You could also buy or hire a hollow-tined aerator that will remove cores of soil. You can sweep sharp/silver sand into the holes to help the ground dry out and help prevent future water logging.

## Step 2

Recut edges using a half-moon iron or spade. You can do this by eye, but you'll get a better result by following the line of a scaffolding plank or other

sturdy plank of wood, some taut twine or a snaking hosepipe if you want smooth curves.

## Step 3

Use a spring-tined rake to rake moss from lawns to encourage grass to grow more vigorously.

## Creating lawn patch fillers

When reshaping the lawn, collect up the strips and place them 5cm apart in a compost-filled seed tray, then grow on outside or in a cold frame. To replace the bare patch, cut out a square or rectangle around the area and, using a hand trowel, dig up the soil in the rectangle to whatever depth of soil your new turf strip is. Gently lay the turf, cut to fit, over the patch. Firm it down so that there are no gaps and your new turf is no higher or lower than your existing lawn.



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# Millennium Wood

Jon Kemmish

[sales@jklandscaping.co.uk](mailto:sales@jklandscaping.co.uk)

COME AND CELEBRATE  
MILLENNIUM WOOD'S  
**25TH ANNIVERSARY**  
ON THE  
**13TH APRIL 2025**  
**12-4PM**

Please come and join us in the woods for a BBQ and drinks to celebrate this special anniversary. Everyone welcome, please bring some food and chairs as we are unsure on numbers on this occasion. I'll be on hand and happy to cook food on the BBQ. Pop along with family and friends sit and chat have a glass of wine and enjoy this beautiful community wood. I would like to say a huge thank you to Little Hadham Gardening Club for their support and help in letting people know about the 25th Anniversary and putting up flyers around the village. If you would like to become a member of your local gardening club then please contact Gail Ellis at [gailee34@yahoo.com](mailto:gailee34@yahoo.com).

In other news, we had yet another great work party with our fantastic volunteers who were busy clearing more of the forest floor from bramble allowing more light to penetrate the soils helping with the germination of any dormant seeds. The children were busy with painting new timber and replacing the benches and table tops ready for everybody to use in the warm summer months so pop on down and enjoy a picnic by the pond.





# Little Hadham Village Hall News

Jan Williams

[www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

**Our AGM is on Tuesday 8th April at 7.30pm** in the main hall and is open to the residents of Little Hadham. Please come along and support your village hall and meet the hard-working volunteers that keep it going. There are volunteering opportunities that you can get involved in, that are fun to do, enable you to meet new people and take up very little of your time. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our monthly Community Breakfast was fully booked again in March serving over 60 breakfasts. Well done to all the kitchen staff, especially to Carol who



came in to volunteer on her birthday. Unfortunately, for Carol, 'the cat was let out of the bag' and her birthday wasn't the secret she thought it was. Hope you had a good birthday Carol and thanks again for all your hard work.

We hope that those of you that attend the Community Breakfast enjoy the menu options available and the endless cups of tea and filter coffee along with all the cakes and pastries. Please be reminded that we rely solely on donations from all attendees without which, the Community Breakfast would not be able to meet its costs which has to include hall hire. Booking for the Community Breakfast in April is now available online via the village hall website.

## Darts and Games Social

Our new Darts and Games Social afternoon started on Tuesday 4th March

and we were thrilled that more than 20 people turned up to enjoy an afternoon of darts, cards or a board game, not to mention a good natter with tea and biscuits.

If you are interested in coming along, dates are alternate Tuesdays and for April are Tuesday 1st, 15th and 29th April. No need to book, just turn up between 2pm and 4pm. Cost £3.

## Afternoon Cinema – Red Chair Community Cinema

Doors Open: 2.30pm Film starts: 3.00pm – Entry £7 includes refreshments

**Monday 28th April** – Wicked Little Letters (2023)

**Monday 16th June** – The 100 yr Old Man Who Climbed Out of a Window (2013)

## Bishop's Stortford Sinfonia at Little Hadham Village Hall – Saturday 31st May



Book your tickets now for an Afternoon Tea and

Bishops Stortford Sinfonia on **Saturday 31st May**. Enjoy an afternoon with friends and family while enjoying live music performed by Bishop's Stortford Sinfonia strings. The Sinfonia has been delighting audiences in the local area for 9 years with its high-quality performances and is excited to be coming to Little Hadham to present an afternoon of much-loved

music. The programme includes Holst – St Pauls Suite Jig and Ostinato, Elgar – Serenade for Strings and much more.... It is a perfect afternoon for music lovers.

To enjoy beautiful music and a delicious afternoon tea, simply book via our website: [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/What'sOn/Events](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/What'sOn/Events) - Tickets are £20 per person. If you do not have access to email or the internet, bookings for events can be made in person at the Welcome Café and help is available at our weekly Digital Inclusion workshop. We look forward to seeing you.



## Digital Inclusion Workshop – Every Wednesday from 2pm to 3.30pm

Let our knowledgeable volunteers help you navigate the internet, deal with any difficulties you're having with a digital device and access any apps you may wish to use. The NHS is keen for patients to use its NHS App, and our volunteers can help you download it to get you started. Accessing the NHS App lets you access and manage your healthcare needs all from a simple app on your smart phone or device. It gives you a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services. Use the App to make appointments, get test results quickly view your hospital letters and care plans, and order repeat prescriptions.



## Air Fryer Demonstrations – Next: Monday 7th April

Our popular Air Fryer Demonstrations are available to book online via our website - next available date to book for the Air Fryer Demonstration is Monday 7th April, starts at 7pm. Thank you to Lisa and Carol who supported the March demonstration and prepared some fabulous dishes for everyone to try. Your generous donations support this event.

If you would like to know more about anything mentioned in this article please phone me, Jan Williamson: 01279 771 272 or email me at: [chairvillagehall@littlehadham.org.uk](mailto:chairvillagehall@littlehadham.org.uk)

## Little Hadham Village Hall

### Be part of our great volunteering team

Your support will help the village hall continue to thrive

We have lots of exciting things going on that you can get involved with, so we are asking if you have a any spare time once a month or once a week, to help out.



### WE NEED HELP WITH:

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Robert, Rudi's Mum

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# What's On in April @ LH Village Hall

See website [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com) for latest details

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### MONDAY'S

**Mum's Matter** (Mother & Baby Group) **10 – 11:30am**

### TUESDAY'S

**Brownies** **5:45 – 7pm** **Term Time Only**  
**Bereavement Group Meeting** Every **THIRD** Tuesday of the month (1-1 every other Tuesday from 10am - 12:15 **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** ring Jan 01279 771 272 or Ron Bunce mob: 07903 194 991)

### WEDNESDAY'S

**Welcome Cafe** **10am – 2pm** No need to book just drop in and enjoy!  
**Druman Chair Yoga** **11am – 11:45** Mark Cox 07368 293 062  
**Tai Chi & Qi Gong** **1pm -2pm** Sarah Baker 07740 701 102  
**Digital Improvers** **2 – 3:30pm** Jan 07710 325363  
**Fitsteps** **6 – 7pm** Jacqui: 07731 454 228  
**Tai Chi & Qi Gong** **7:30-8:30pm** Sarah Baker 07740 701 102

### THURSDAY'S

**Mike's Bowls Club** **2 – 4pm**

### FRIDAY'S

**Friday Fitness Group** **11am -12noon** contact Daisy Osborne 07585 309 933 or email: daisy.af.osborne@gmail.com

**Indoor Bowls** **7:30 – 10pm** **except 2nd Friday**

## FORTNIGHTLY

**Tuesday 1st, 5th & 29th** **2 – 4pm** Darts, games and social (£3 per session)  
**Tuesday 8th & 22nd** **2 – 4pm** Turn up & Play Scrabble (£3 per session)  
Annette: 07926 088 202

## MONTHLY

<b>1st</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	Parish Council Meeting (main hall)
<b>7th</b>	<b>7 – 9pm</b>	Air Fryer Demonstration - pay on entry £7
<b>8th</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	Little Hadham Village Hall Management Meeting AGM <b>All are welcome</b>
<b>10th</b>	<b>10 – 12 noon</b>	Community Breakfast morning <b>BOOKING ESSENTIAL</b> on website: <a href="http://littlehadhamvillagehall.com">littlehadhamvillagehall.com</a> or email <a href="mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com">vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com</a>
<b>25th</b>	<b>9am – 1pm</b>	Little City Kids role play
<b>28th</b>	<b>2:30pm for 3pm</b>	Afternoon Cinema Wicked Little Letters (2023)

# NOTICEBOARD

## VILLAGE HALL AGM

**Tuesday 8th April  
at 7.30pm**

Please come along and support your village hall and meet the hard-working volunteers that keep it going. There are volunteering opportunities that you can get involved in, that are fun to do, enable you to meet new people and take up very little of your time.

We look forward to seeing you there.



**Friday 11th April  
7pm**

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# St Cecilia's Church Bells

## Quasi

It is thought that bells were first created over 3,000 years ago and that even from their early origins they have been associated with religion and religious services.

### Church bell facts:-

Metal bells were first made in ancient China. The tradition of using bells was passed on through to Hindu and Buddhist religions. Bells were installed at the entrances to Hindu temples and rung for prayer.

Paulinus, Bishop of Nola and Campania introduced bells to Christian churches. Though the ringing of bells is not mentioned in the Bible, it does encourage worshippers to 'make a joyful noise'. Bells were introduced into Christian churches around 400 AD by Paulinus after missionaries had been using handbells to call people to worship. It would take a further 200 years for bells to be featured prominently in churches and monasteries across Europe. In 604 Pope Sabinian sanctioned the use of church bells during worship. By 750 the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of London introduced rules for the ringing of the church bells.

It was believed church bells held supernatural powers in the Middle Ages. It was believed that church bells could ring themselves, particularly at times of tragedy and disaster. One story being, when Thomas Becket was murdered, the bells of Canterbury Cathedral rang themselves. In the 18th century bells were rung to drive away evil, heal the sick, protect the

souls of the dead, calm storms before journeys and mark days of execution.

Medieval bells were made from sheets of iron which was bent into shape, then dipped in copper.

People were paid to ring and maintain the bells and this often equated to a substantial amount of the church's outgoings. The ringers in a Westminster church were paid 1 shilling to ring to mark the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

If you want to give bell ringing a go and keep the tradition going, go to <https://riverashchurches.org.uk/river-ash-churches-bellringers/> for more information.



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# The Hundred Parishes Society

Ken McDonald

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)



Late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps record the location of numerous ponds in farmland across lowland England, but since then farming practices have changed and many have disappeared.

Well-maintained ponds are hot spots for biodiversity, supporting special plants and animals. Responding to concerns about the loss of such habitats, researchers at the Pond Restoration Research Group at University College London joined forces with others to investigate the potential for restoring such lost ponds and produced advice about the best ways to create new ones.

Following on from this, Essex Wildlife Trust identified 17,200 Essex farmland ponds on these old maps but noted that 10,400 had since disappeared. A few have been restored, and the team is working with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group to secure funding to help more farmers reinstate their lost ponds - <https://www.fwageast.org.uk/ponds>

However, pond restoration can be challenging - as evidenced by the difficulties faced during the project to resolve problems with Doctor's Pond in Great Dunmow. In recent years it has been polluted by toxic blue green algal growth. Ambitious and costly plans were drawn up to desilt the pond which necessitated the safe removal of fish so they could be returned in due course. Work commenced last October with the installation of safety fencing and

the draining of water so that a digger could be used to help remove over 1,900 tons of contaminated silt. Heavy rains made the silt very slippery, and the digger became stranded in January. By the end of February all the silt had been removed.

Future plans include landscaping of the surrounding area and replanting with suitable vegetation once the pond is refilled. It is anticipated that in the coming months this attractive pond will once again provide a great habitat for ducks, fish and dragonflies.



*Albury - Patmore Heath*



*Finchingfield*



*Matching*



*Matching Green*



*Little Bardfield, pond NW of Church*

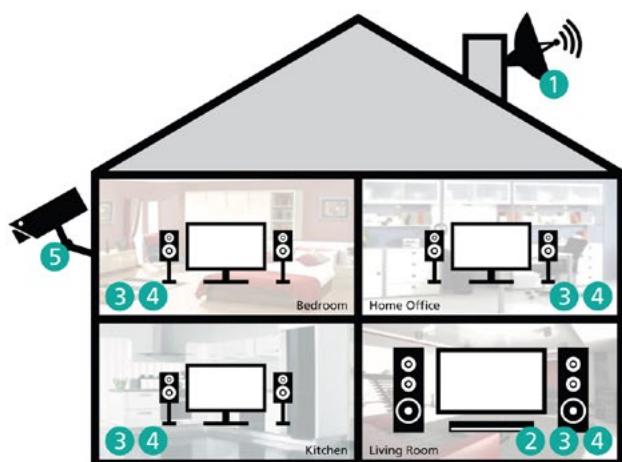


*Doctor's Pond, Great Dunmow, February 2025*



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## News from the Venue Hub at Much Hadham Bowls Club

Much Hadham Bowling Club: Recreation Ground, Much Hadham SG10 6DL

The success of the Event Calendar continues to grow. The latest and our first attempt of a Bingo Evening on Saturday, 22nd February (which included a light meal of baked potato with accompaniments including chilli, tuna etc), followed by our DJ, Tony B proved to be another success. As a first in our experiment to bring a widening variety of entertainment to the village, that was pleasing.

On Monday, 17th March, we held our St Patrick's Day 'CRAIC' - still to happen at the time of writing but all the tickets are taken so we are expecting 'a lively evening' with a 2 course Irish meal and entertainment includes a duo on piano and violin.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday 5th April:**

#### Grand National

Not only will we be watching and cheering the Big Race itself but also the 2 previous races to "build the atmosphere" and there will be a sweepstake to add to the excitement. The bar opens at 2pm and the big race starts at 4pm,

That will be followed by a superb smoked salmon, avocado and blueberry salad and meringue nest with fruit and cream. Later with Tony B's music. Not a Horse racing fan? At £7.50 it is worth coming for the meal itself!

### Thursday 8th May: VE Day

80 years to the day that peace came to Europe after 5 long years of destruction, separation, blackouts, bombing and severe rationing. Not difficult to imagine the relief, the joy and the exuberant celebrations of that day and we aim to recreate those celebrations.

There will be music of the era to sing and dance to such as Vera Lynn, Glen Miller and maybe the 'hokey cokey' and the 'conga' etc.

A "Feast from those ration book" days also included £12.50 pp

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## THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Jill Goldsmith  
[www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk)

The Gardens open for visitors on **Thursdays from 3rd April**, in time for the bluebell and blossom season at the Gardens and the last daffodils. Bluebells thrive in the dappled shade of the woodland margin at the bottom of the Glade. The lush greens of the grass and fresh leaves on the trees and emerging perennials set off the pink and white of the blousy apple and cherry blossom; the vibrant reds, oranges and purples of the tulips; and the first roses, the yellow canary birds, in the Italian Garden. Hopefully, lovely sunshine and early spring warmth, will mean these flowers provide lots of nectar and pollen for the bumblebees and other insects, which we hope might start to do well again after the terrible year they had from the cold and wet spring and early summer of 2024. On Thursdays, the gate is open from 11am-3pm and hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes are available.

Our first main season **Sunday open day is on 13th April** and will be an opportunity for families to enjoy Easter activities, with an Egg hunt, fun crafts and face painting for children. There will be a plant stall and a range of other craft and produce stalls. Local duo, Karen and Tony, will entertain with folk and popular songs. Daisy's catering kiosk will be open, providing bacon, cheese or hummus rolls.



*Apple Blossom in the Kitchen Garden*

The Trust's volunteers will be working hard to ensure the Gardens are looking at their best for the start of the season. Hopefully the bigger development projects will be completed in March – new beds and fruit cages in the walled kitchen garden and further extension of the Japanese style garden. Spring planting will have started, both for flowers and, of course, vegetables too. And we will be weeding again, as the soil warms and all those pesky weed seeds germinate.

For more information on opening times, prices etc go to [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk)

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The History Society met in January and Sarah Kerrison gave an extremely interesting talk on "Treasurers of the Hertfordshire Archives" which everyone really enjoyed. Sarah was very helpful in providing information for anyone tracing their family history and what leads and documents could help with this from the Archives.

In March Chris Lydamore gave a talk on "Excavations at Grange Paddocks". in Bishop's Stortford.

**Our April meeting will be on the 24th April**, Paul Jiggins will be coming along to talk about "History of 'The Frith - Welwyn'".

Our May meeting will be a possible visit to the Verulamium - St. Albans.

You may wish to join our Society. We have an excellent programme arranged for the whole year - you may come along as a visitor to see what we are about - and hopefully you will join - all new members will be made very welcome.

## Hadham Cross Congregational Church

### PREACHERS FOR APRIL SERVICES AT 11am

6th April	Ralph Evershed	Spicer Street, St Albans
13th April	Mike Hillyer	Oakwood Chapel, Harlow
18th April	Kathy Hamilton	Much Hadham Congregational Church
20th April	Andrew Mayo	Spicer Street, St Albans
27th April	TBA	

There will be a service on **Good Friday at 10:30am** at the Congregational Church. Please do come along and join us you will be made very welcome.

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 9th April**, 10am-noon. Please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat.

Our next **AFTERNOON TEA MEETING** will be on **Thursday 17th April**, 2 - 4pm - All are welcome for tea/coffee cake and a chat. This meeting is a week earlier than usual because of the Easter Holiday.

Do come and join us on Sundays at 11am - all are very welcome to our Services.

Church Deacons: Brenda Coleshill 01279 842 800 | Kathy Hamilton 01279 843 756



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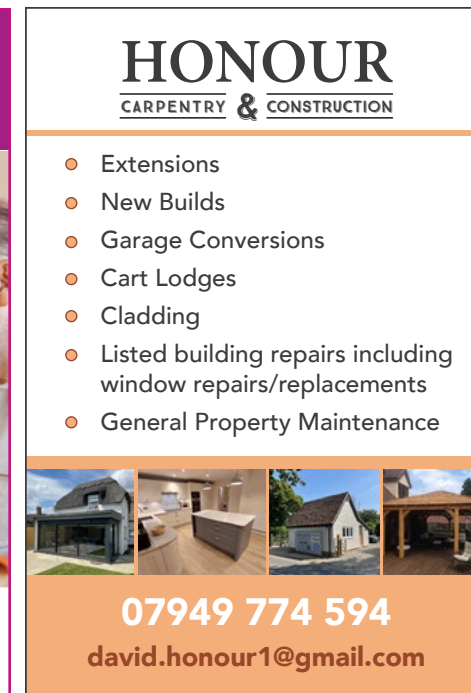
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## Rural Ramblings

### Cherry Mardell

This month I'm having a good, old fashioned, moan. Because, it is bad enough getting old, without the added worry of gently losing one's senses and abilities. I know because it is happening to me. So, only a year ago, the thought of life in general and my life in particular, had no worries for me...yet now I am awash with doubts and problems, with a brain which doesn't function so well, a sleep pattern which has gone out of the window, and the ability to do the most ordinary things hard to regulate.

A good example is my computer. This has been a lifeline for me in my years as a journalist. Now I have to fight it to make it obedient to my wishes! Take my eye off the darned thing, and it has gobbled up my latest article - or deleted the whole thing before I had a chance to save it.

Walking the dog, once a highlight of my day, has now become a chore. OK, a well trained dog might be different, but this high spirited animal is the bane of my life! If he isn't

rushing after another dog he has seen in the distance, he is consuming the half eaten remains of a pigeon he has found in the grass.

I can almost hear you saying that "It'll all be better when the weather improves... but I don't think it will. I believe this is what old age is all about. And it is something I didn't sign up for!

This past month has been a busy one. My kind, hard working husband celebrated his 90th birthday. And, as warrants such a splendid age, our family celebrated accordingly. Just about everyone on his side of the family, plus a few close friends, came together for an evening of food and laughter. It was a happy, noisy, free-for-all evening which, I hope, was enjoyed by all. We certainly did!



# Parish Services April 2025

Benefice of: Little Hadham | Much Hadham | Albury

	Lent 5 <b>6th April</b>	Palm Sunday <b>13th April</b>	Maundy Thursday <b>17th April</b>	GOOD FRIDAY <b>18th April</b>	EASTER DAY <b>20th April</b>	Easter 2 <b>27th April</b>
<b>St Andrew's Much Hadham</b>	9:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Tayo</i>		7:30pm Holy Communion & Stripping of the altar	12 midday-1pm Joint St Andrew's & Holy Cross Walk of Witness (starting from Congregational Church)		9:15am Benefice Holy Communion
<b>St Cecilia's Little Hadham</b>		9:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Tayo</i>		St Andrews 1pm-3pm Benefice Good Friday Reflection		
<b>St Mary's Albury</b>					9:15am Benefice Holy Communion	

## OTHER SERVICES:

<b>Saturday 12th April</b>	<b>3pm</b>	<b>A Journey to Jerusalem</b> , St Andrew's <i>Juan Salinas</i>
<b>Monday 14th April</b>	<b>7pm</b>	St Andrew's & Holy Cross <b>Stations of the Cross</b> (St Andrew's)
<b>Wednesday 16th April</b>	<b>7pm</b>	St Andrew's & Holy Cross <b>Stations of the Cross</b> (St Andrew's)
<b>Thursday 24th April</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Little Hadham Communion</b>

## Donating to St. Cecilia's

As well as the Parish Giving Scheme, cheques and cash, we have now caught up with modern technology and have Contactless Giving in the Church. You can also donate via our QR code.

Thank you



**All are welcome to join our services**