LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

AUGUST 2024

Picnic time for teddy bears!

See what the Woodland Rangers got up to at their end of term teddy bear's picnic... and look out for their Summer Holiday Club in August where new adventures await the primary school aged children... See p.8

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

Father Simon Our Assistant Area Dean writes:

'Going anywhere nice for the summer?' It's the hairdresser or barber's standard opening gambit at this time of year.

Many people try to get abroad at this time of year. But it seems to me that the answer to our hairdresser's question depends where we are on life's journey.

In our late teens there's, on the one hand, the thrill of independence. On the other hand, there's the limit of our budget in the wake of our poorly paid weekend job. So our late teens are often the time for adventures such as backpacking with a friend or climbing mountains or camping... usually in the rain!

Then, a few years later, there are the couples dreaming of the future, making memories abroad on beaches under palm branches or sitting outside little harbour-side cafés.

Next, perhaps, come the children. Young laughter and screams of delight mix with the sound of the waves on warm family-filled beaches in Spain or Cornwall.

Then, after the young ones have flown the nest, there's the chance to focus on 'me-time' again. Apart from any duties we may have as grandparents, a cruise or a villa is often the way forward; a bit of quiet relaxation with the finer things of life readily to hand.

And, of course, there are those who decide that, for various reasons, going away isn't the way forward. But even so, holidays are still in the air: with schools closed for the summer and many people away, the fever of life in our neighbourhood cools, the roads are quieter, and, for once, there's a little more room on the buses and trains at rush-hour.

Each phase has its appeal, and each can, if we so choose, fulfil the fundamental principle of a holiday which is hidden in the very word. It is, of course, a holy-day because God commanded us to rest as well as work. Finding space and time to think, reflect and pray are precious holiday gifts.

After all, as we read the Bible, it becomes plain that the message of Jesus – God's son - isn't about work and toil. Whilst crowds gather to see Jesus, he frequently takes the opportunity to find a quiet place to pray and to reflect; to recharge his spiritual batteries.

And Jesus encourages us to find similar time and space in our busy lives. His invitation to each of us – no matter where we are on life's journey and wherever we take our holidays geographically – is to rest in him. He should be our spiritual holiday destination because we can come just as we are, with all the tiredness, burdens and sadness we may be carrying. He offers us a spiritual peace and contentment ultimately far more refreshing, sustaining and everlasting than any 10-day holiday we might find in a glossy brochure.

Keep safe and well,

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

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**

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

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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.

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

No entries for the registers this month

Cover Photo: Woodland Rangers Teddy Bear's Picnic - Nikki &Louise

Little Hadham Parish Council

Carole Page 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

3rd September	1st October	5th November	3rd December

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

Local Nature Recovery in Hertfordshire

It is a Comprehensive Nature Recovery Strategy, which isn't just biodiversity. It is a collaborative strategy for Hertfordshire. It will deliver benefits for wildlife, nature and residents.

- There is a 19% decrease in UK wildlife since 1970 (On average, ref: State of Natures 2023)
- 1 in 6 species at risk of being lost from Great Britain (Ref: State of Nature 2023)

What and how can we help:

Goal 1: More land in Herts & Middlesex is protected and managed for nature By 2030 we want to see:

- At least 30% of land connected and protected for nature's recovery.
- Wildlife habitats are the best they can be for nature and are resilient to the challenges of a changing climate.
- Wild places are better protected in law.
- Species declines are reversed, and their populations are recovering.
- Greater understanding of local wildlife and its ecology.

Goal 2: More people are standing up for wildlife and taking action for nature's recovery By 2030 we want people to:

- Have greater knowledge, appreciation and involvement in nature.
- Be working with the Trust to develop and deliver their own local action for nature's recovery.
- Put nature's recovery at the heart of local decision making.
- See involvement with nature as welcoming and open to all.

The Parish Council have commenced a project in the Orchard, and this will form part of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust's 'State of Nature' and the Local Nature Recovery in Hertfordshire. The initial stage was to have a Green Space Opportunity audit carried out. This gave us an initial focus for the project:

A planted community orchard with a selection of apple, pear and plum trees. Firstly, most of the area could be put on a conservation cut with a mown path network through the area. An area of close mown grass around the bench close to the entrance to the site would provide a useful space for picnics, together with a performance space by the fence. Some hedge planting along the southern boundary would fill gaps in the existing hedge. An interpretation panel and labels for each tree would provide extra interest and local promotion of this community orchard to encourage use.

It is a very exciting time for the Parish Council. We have many projects in the pipeline but lack the councillors to help execute them. We need 2 new councillors. If you would like to join us, please contact the clerk on: clerklittlehadham@gmail.com

UPDATE ON OUR UK PROSPERITY GRANT FUNDING

Village pump renovation	Improved visual appearance of key historic monument .	**Ongoing, be completed by end August 24**
Gateway boxes at the 4 entrances to the village	New flower boxes will be marking village entrance.	**Ongoing, completed by end of August 24**
Points of interest and information boards at Bury Green, Hadham Hall/Church End, The Ash, The Ford, Pudding Stone.	Improved education and providing shared information to all hamlets, encouraging more interaction. To inform visitors, residents of the historic value of the pudding stone.	**Ongoing. Installed by end of September 24.** **STILL LOOKING FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO HADHAM HALL, CHURCH END (MAINLY THE CHURCH), BURY GREEN. PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK**
Community Orchard	Provide seating to encourage villagers and the school to use the space for social and educational purposes.	**Completed. Bench and picnic table provided**
Communal seating on village green spaces and at points of interest	Provision of social gathering places for the whole community.	**Have a request for a bench by the Pond on Bury Green, and by the Vineyard in New Road.** **PLEASE LET THE CLERK KNOW OF ANY LOCATIONS THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM A NEW BENCH OR PICNIC TABLE**
Chalk Stream	**Ongoing. We have purchased bat boxes and are looking at Swift Boxes. Working with Herts and Essex Wildlife fund to set up a working party next year to improve the chalk stream. But will be putting a board up to inform people of what a chalk stream is and why they are very special**	
A120 Bus Stop	Repair and restore bus shelter. Improve aesthetics of the area.	**Ongoing, awaiting contractor to start work. But expect it done by the end of August 24**

Church Roof Fund – Update

Helen Walker

This month we were hoping to report a date for the repair work to the church roof to begin. But with all the rain that has fallen plus holiday season now upon us, we have yet to confirm with the contractor. Watch this space...

Plans are beginning to come together for the proposed Music Festival to celebrate St. Cecilia's Day, so if you have or know of any budding musical talent and would like to take part, please let us know (churchwardenstcecilias@gmail.com or tel. 01279 771 532).

The Festival will take place on the afternoon of **SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER** so SAVE THE DATE and look here in the coming months for further details.

You can still contribute your 10p coins to our virtual tower and of course any donations continue to be welcome.
There is still no news as yet from TESCO regarding the Stronger Starts application but keep a look out in store as the 'good causes' do seem to change quite regularly and every 'vote' counts.

And don't forget, if you are making a donation and are a UK taxpayer, you can boost your gift by 25% at no extra cost. Please contact Karin Green (Church Warden) for a declaration form (churchwardenstcecilias@gmail.com or tel. 01279 771 532).

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Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

14th September for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust

Peter English is again riding round our area visiting as many Churches as he can on this day. This is to raise money for our churches in Beds and Herts. 50% of the sponsorship money raised by our church is returned to our church, St. Cecilia's, whilst the other 50% goes into a pot to support work needed on the other churches in our area.

You can sponsor Peter on his ride by contacting Karin Green Tel: 771 532. or if you fancy your own cycle or hike round the area I have all the relevant details.

Down at the Doctors

Andrew Wilkinson, Practice Manager

At the time of writing this it is the first day of the new government, I am hopeful they will support the NHS with more funding, leading to improved services and a significant reduction in hospital waiting lists – my fingers are crossed!

At our last Patient Group meeting, we discussed the waiting times for our local hospitals. You can find information on waiting times for various specialties at this useful link

www.myplannedcare.nhs.uk/east/east-north-hertfordshire/

Also mentioned was the reporting of blood tests which typically return to the practice within 48 hours. GPs then need time to review and assess these results. Most results are normal with no further action required. If a result is abnormal the GP will ask the reception team to contact the patient to arrange a routine appointment to discuss the findings or may request a repeat test. In the rare event of a significantly abnormal result, the pathology lab will contact the practice in working hours, or the patient directly if it is out of hours. If you wish to know your blood tests results, please call the practice between 10am-12pm or 3pm-5pm. For those of you who have signed up for the NHS App results will appear in the investigations tab.

This Autumn, older patients (75-79) and pregnant women will be offered a new vaccine for Respiratory Syncyctial Virus (RSV). The vaccination programme will start in September. Along with the flu and covid vaccine you may feel like pin cushions!

Church Transport

Having trouble getting to the Church services around our benefice?

We can help with lifts to Church.

Please contact Karin Green if you would like a lift. Tel 771 532

Pet Service

We will be holding a Pet Service at St. Cecilia's on the **22nd September**.

More details next month.

Nikki & Louise

www.woodlandrangers.co.uk

woodlandrangersuk

What an amazing summer term we have had at Woodland Rangers! Since launching at Easter, we have been non-stop busy, introducing children to the wonders of nature though the enchantment of Millennium Woods.

We have met so many wonderful children and parents this term and it has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to give them so many new skills, experiences and knowledge along the way.

We ended the summer term on a high with a teddy bears picnic which included fun and cakes, making picnic snacks and using ropes and pulleys to give rides to the teddies. Booking for our stay and play sessions in September are now open.

Due to popular demand to hold an event over the summer, we will be hosting a family fun session on 30th July, all children and parents are welcome to join, whether you are a regular Woodland Ranger or would like to come along and meet us for the first time.

We are now looking forward to our Summer Holiday Club in August where new adventures await the primary school aged children.

As we approach the end of term, we would like to thank the Little Hadham community for all your support in helping us turn our dreams into reality and making our first term such a huge success. In particular, we would like to thank Jono Forgham for his guidance, support and maintaining the beautiful woods that we have been so fortunate to use.

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Little Hadham Community Orchard

Apple Pressing Day 2024

Donations welcome

Sun 22nd Sept
11am-3pm

Bring your apples (and pears), bottles and a vegetable knife for chopping and make some delicious juice. We will also have some spare fruit if you cant access any yourself so come and join in the fun! Don't forget a bottle or two to put it in.

The Braughing Repair Cafe

Braughingrepaircafe@gmail.com the.sustainable.living.club

The last weekend in June saw the inaugural session of the Braughing Repair Cafe. The ribbon was cut by Cllr. John Dresner of Braughing Parish Council and an opening speech was delivered by Buntingford Green Party Councillor, Sue Nicholls.

Held in the Community Centre, the event attracted families, with visitors bearing numerous dysfunctional items and several who just came to chat and enjoy tea and cake with friends. A total of 34 people booked in advance, with over 40 items being fixed. The broken goods were taken care of by 8 repairers, who brought with them a variety of skills: tool-sharpening, bike repairs, clothing alterations as well as expertise in electronics and carpentry. PAT testing was also available.

Attendees reported that the event had been very enjoyable, that they had learnt from the experts and that the whole project had been very worthwhile. Many said they would return to future sessions. Messages were left by many, all of which were positive: 'Fantastic idea and a very friendly and welcoming group,' said one. 'Absolutely brilliant – great range of repairers and lovely atmosphere – we'll be back,' said another.

A wide variety of teas, coffees and cakes proved a big draw and tables were set with gingham tablecloths and decorated with vases of wild flowers, bringing an air of tradition to the experience.

The cafe was organised and run by members of the Braughing Sustainable Living Club, whose focus is on making do and mending, creativity, re-using and recycling, shopping locally and responsibly and raising awareness of more planet-friendly alternatives in our daily lives.

A second event will be held in late October, again at Braughing Community Centre. Booking takes place online and will open at the beginning of October. Repairs are free, though donations are welcome, and refreshments are available to purchase.

For further information, visit our Facebook page or website: https://the-sustainable-living-club.webador.co.uk/ or contact braughingrepaircafe@gmail.com.

Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett

There is no meeting in August but not long until our Autumn Show on the 1st September, so start your planning now. If you need a schedule please contact Gail on 771 244.

Verbena bonariensis

Bindweed is a perennial weed that can become a persistent problem in gardens. There are two types: hedge bindweed and field bindweed. The most familiar and problematic bindweed is hedge bindweed, Calystegia septum, which is fast growing with slender, twining stems and large white trumpet flowers. It can grow to form a large mass of foliage, choking garden plants, reducing their growth or killing smaller plants entirely. Field bindweed, Convulvulus arvensis, bears smaller pink or white trumpet flowers and is smaller and less vigorous overall, although still perennial and problematic.

How to control bindweed without chemicals:-

* If you can wait 12-18 months before planting, the easiest way to kill all perennial weeds is to cover the soil with something that excludes all light, such as weed control fabric, black polythene or old carpet.

* In beds and borders, digging out is the only way to tackle this weed and winter to early spring is a good time to get on top of it before the plants start growing.

* Every piece of root left in the soil will grow into a new plant. Use a fork to avoid breaking up the root.

* Where bindweed has grown through the root system of established plants, loosen the soil on each side of roots to carefully pull out entire pieces.

* Herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses can be lifted and divided whilst dormant and the bindweed removed.

* In summer if it's not possible to dig up roots, hoe, cut or pull off shoots to weaken growth.

* Never put bindweed roots in your compost bin as they will survive and can be spread round the garden when you use the compost. Bindweed can be disposed of in your garden waste collection.

How to control bindweed using chemical weed killers:-

* Bindweed can only be completely killed with the systemic weedkiller glyphosate. This needs to be applied to the leaves which is then taken down into the roots as bindweed grows. Apply to the foliage only, but take great care to avoid getting this weedkiller on garden plants as it kills everything it touches.

* Where bindweed is growing among garden plants, put canes in the ground for the bindweed to twine up. Then, simply slip the growth off the cane, put into a clear plastic bag (still attached to the roots), apply glyphosate and secure the bag with a clothes peg. Leave in place until the bindweed is completely dead.

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Isabel Hospice Launches Urgent Stock Appeal Campaign – Donate, To Feel Great!

Isabel Hospice has announced an urgent stock appeal campaign, 'Donate, to feel great!', calling on the local community to donate their unwanted quality goods and support the charity's vital work. The campaign, running from mid-July for four weeks, aims to bolster the charity's stock offering across their shops and eBay.

Isabel Hospice relies heavily on stock donations to fund its operations. However, several factors including the rise of selling platforms like Vinted have impacted volume and quality of stock across the sector, as individuals increasingly opt to sell their second-hand items personally, prompting the urgent appeal.

"We are reaching out to our generous donors and the wider community," said Charlotte Greenwood, Head of Retail & Marketing for Isabel Hospice. "The donations we receive are critical to sustaining our services. We need your help now more than ever to continue providing the high-quality care our patients and their families rely on."

Donations can be dropped at any of Isabel Hospice's sixteen shops during opening hours, the Donation Centre located at 61 Bridge Road East, AL7 1JR or at a Tonnes of Care mobile donation day. The appeal encourages donations of clothing, accessories, homeware, vinyl records, small electricals, collectables, and other saleable items. Find a full list on their website **www.isabelhospice.org.uk/what-to-donate.**

If planning to drop a particularly large number of donations to one of their shops call ahead to ensure they have space to accept it that day. Please do not leave donations outside closed shops.

Every donation, big or small, plays a crucial role in supporting the hospice's mission of outstanding palliative care for all. So, donate to feel great now!

In 2022, Isabel Hospice launched Tonnes of Care, an award-winning sustainability initiative to save 25,000 tonnes from landfill. The campaign supports the circular economy through sustainable shopping, saving millions of items from landfill and passing on great value to our community.

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Little Hadham Village Hall News

Jan Williamson www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

As management committee members and volunteers take a break during August from the regular grant funded activities, we instead turn our attention to a bit of maintenance. Although the maintenance schedule is not as ambitious as previous years, we still take the time to make sure that everything is working well and looking as good as it can be. The main project starting this August, is the creation of an outdoor seating area. This will develop as time and funding allows, but hopefully by next summer we will have a safe flat surface, picnic tables and a view over surrounding fields for people to site and relax and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat. By the time you read this, most of the general maintenance work started at the very beginning of August, will have been completed. Our thanks, as ever, go to those who regularly 'step up' and donate their time and skills to get these things done.

Grant Funded Activities

As always it has been a full-on year and we have seen a steady increase in our community attendance numbers. In July alone, we did over 120 lunches in the café, 50 community breakfasts and 100's of teas and coffees in the café and other community attended groups. It is astonishing to learn just how many volunteer hours these activities take per year: Digital Workshop 1000 Community Breakfast 352, Welcome Café 1000, Air fryer demonstrations 275, Red Chair Community Cinema 192, Bereavement group 44 and 1:1 bereavement session to date this year 18. Total volunteering hours for 1-year comes to a staggering 2881! This does not include shopping, planning, advertising, applying for grants and cooking in advance of the event. Without our team of volunteers there would not be any of the above groups at Little Hadham Village Hall so a massive thank you to all you community angels who make Little Hadham Village Hall a better place. There are too many to name but anyone who comes to any of the above community events know exactly who the volunteers are!

Over the past year, we have secured grant funding from sources including, Clarion Futures, Hertfordshire Community Foundation, Stansted Airport Community Fund and Home Instead Charities. This funding has supported Air Fryer demonstrations, Welcome Café and afternoon cinema as well as funding for equipment and improvements. Funding for these activities has now finished in line with agreed funding end dates. Grant funding for 2024/2025 is becoming difficult to secure, but we will keep trying. In the meantime, we will rely on your generous donations at these events to keep going for a September return. If you are a taxpayer and would like to opt into Gift Aid, your donations will go a lot further and help us enormously. We will be making details available of how you can do this from September. For details of events and activities, please visit the website. www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com and select 'What's On from the top menu bar.

News from your Welcome Café

We have been collaborating with local support agencies and in particular Citizens Advice who have brought their advisors to our Welcome Café. Their advice is free to access and has helped people to apply for a disabled parking

badge, talk through issues of concern and apply for benefit entitlements. Hertfordshire Constabulary has also been a regular visitor to the Café to talk about personal safety initiatives and matters of local concern. Our thanks also to the local fire service who pop in from time to time and to our social prescribers, Simon and Guppy. We look forward to welcoming them all back in September.

The Welcome Café is open again from 10am to 2pm on Wednesday 4th September and returns along with the free to attend drop-in Digital Inclusion Workshop, available to attend from 2pm to 3.30pm every Wednesday afternoon.

Cooking for One After Bereavement

There has been some interest in this pilot project and not just from bereaved men but from worried wives who feel their husbands would not cope should they die first. All enquiries will be collated over the summer holidays and a basic class will be put together, hopefully for September/October if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Jan on M: 07710 325 363

Fundraising Quiz Night – Saturday 28th September

Feeling competitive or maybe just enjoy and evening out, then we have the event for you. Teams of between 4 to 8 people. If you need help making up a team, please get in touch and we will do our best to help.

Tickets £16 per person, includes cold fork supper. Please advise any dietary requirements. Raffle and licenced bar.

Please book as a group if you can. To book tickets, please go to the Events page on the website or email: vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com or phone M: 07789 098 071.

Continues >

Treasurer Vacancy from September

Unfortunately, due to family and work commitments, we are once again without a treasurer for the village hall. We have changed how our finances are managed and now have Xero Finance Software in place to help with monitoring and reporting. Our immense thanks to our outgoing treasurer Nina, who has put in an enormous amount of work setting this all up for us. If this is a role you are interested in taking on and have some experience of Xero or a similar finance package, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Please contact Jan on M: 07710 325 363 or Joan M: 07789 098 071.

Chairman Vacancy from March 2025

The role of Chairman is still vacant and when we return in September this will leave 7 months before I step down. In the ideal world it would be great to be able to hand over this role in an organised way and for someone to work with me over the next few months to ensure a smooth handover. If you are interested, please contact me to talk through what the role involves. Jan Williamson M: 07710 325 363

Red Chair Community Cinema

Our evening membership Red Chair Community Cinema is still going strong and always open to welcoming new members from September or at any other time through the year. Every film shown for evening screenings is checked for compliance under our MPLC annual licence. By operating in this way, we can manage without grant funding and keep costs down. This year's membership is £35 for 11 film screenings and works out to be just £3.18 per film, add in an ice cream and that is less than £5 for a fun evening out with friends and neighbours. Licenced bar with wine or beer also available. The film programme is displayed on the noticeboard at the village hall. If you would like details emailed to you, please contact: redchaircinema@littlehadhamvillagehall.com.

Details of afternoon cinema screenings are also on noticeboards at the hall and a link for film programming is also available on the website **www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com** select 'What's On' then choose Red Chair Cinema from the drop-down menu.

If you would like to know more about anything in this article please phone Jan Williamson on: **01279 771 272** or email: **chairvillagehall@littlehadham.org.uk**

What's On in August @ LH Village Hall

See website www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com for latest details

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY'S

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

TUESDAY'S

Bereavement session by appointment only - ring Jan 01279 771 272

WEDNESDAY'S

Druman Chair Yoga	**11am – 11:45**	Mark Cox 07368 293 062
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**	
Hatha Yoga Class	**7 -8pm**	Kirsty Smith 07903 035 180 | km.rabs@gmail.com

FRIDAY'S

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

FORTNIGHTLY

Tuesday 13th & 27th	**2 – 4pm**	Turn up & Play Scrabble (£3 per session) Annette: 07926 088 202
Wednesday 14th & 28th	**12:30 –1:30pm**	Virtual Cycle Studio Adam Howard 07538 706 560)

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You can also give us your flyers to insert for a small fee of £60 per issue, as long as they are A5 or smaller.

Please contact the editor for details: littlehadhampn@gmail.com

NOTICEBOARD

NEW COVER PHOTOS

I would like to update the cover of our Little Hadham magazine to better reflect what is going on in the village. There will still be photos of our beautiful countryside but I would also like to introduce more event based covers. So if you are writing an article for the magazine, consider if there is a good cover photo we could use to showcase your event or story. Or if you have witnessed something unusual or interesting going on in the village...

Please send your photos to me at:

littlehadhampn@gmail.com

Make sure they are hi-resolution, and have a relatively clear space top right or left hand side for the name and issue of the magazine. :-) I look forward to seeing what you send...

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Herts & Essex Country Fair

Anna Clark

TheHertsandEssexCountryFair

The much-awaited Herts & Essex Country Fair, Dog & Heavy Horse Show takes place in The Park, Brent Pelham, SG9 0AT on **Sunday 18th August**. This traditional, local Country Fair provides an entertaining and varied day out for all the family.

The beautiful Heavy Horses return and there will be a range of classes to recognise these incredible working horse breeds, which have played such an important role in agriculture.

The Main Ring events will feature a variety of displays including falconry, gun dogs, horse carriage display, foxhounds, bloodhounds, beagles and a parade of vintage tractors.

All dogs are most welcome at the show. Dogs and their owners will be able to enter classes in the Family Dog Show - there is always a class for every dog and their owner.

In addition, their dogs' skills can be tested in the Gun Dog Scurry.

Local Gamekeeper Steve Reynolds of Hamels Park, Buntingford will be the commentator as well as encouraging spectators to try their hand at traditional games such as egg throwing and the tug of war challenge.

There will be a great number of trade stands and displays, traditional games and a funfair for children. A range of refreshments will be available including village teas, bar and a food hall area.

Heavy Horse classes commence at 10.30am and the Main Ring displays at 11am. Gates open at 10.30am.

This year we are proud to support St Mary the Virgin Church, Brent Pelham, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and Khandel Light

For further details check our Facebook Page: TheHertsandEssexCountryFair

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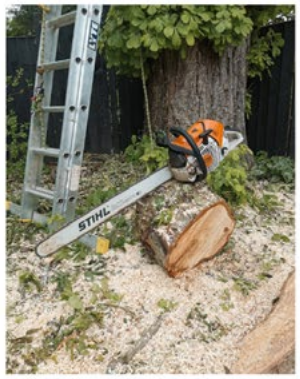

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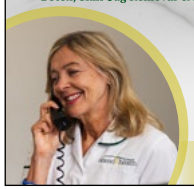

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St Cecilia's Church Bells

Quasi

Bell Ringing in WW2

From June 13th 1940 church bells were not allowed to be rung due to World War II and the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA). It was planned to only use the church bells to inform of an invasion of enemy troops.

Ingenious Bell ringers overcame this problem by 'Silent Ringing'. They rang the bells with the clappers tied so that the bells were silenced, thereby enabling the ringers to carry on practicing and improving their skills instead of losing that knowledge. This happened all over the country. It must have improved everyones rope sight as that was the only way of knowing when to pull the bell due to the sound being missing.

This ban was temporarily lifted in 1942 by order of Winston Churchill on Easter Sunday April 25th 1942.' Ringing was temporarily allowed to celebrate the victory of our soldiers at El Alamein, in Egypt and this took place on Sunday 15th November 1942. The restrictions were lifted completely on 27th May 1943.

During the war 150,000 European church bells were melted down to support the Nazi war efforts, of those 90,000 were from Germany and the rest from occupied countries. The Dutch and Belgium parishes were permitted to keep its oldest and most valued bell - it is thought that this was allowed so that they would view the Nazi's with some favour!

Long may peaceful ringing continue.

Peter Worby
Antiques Restoration

(over 45 years experience)

Telephone: 07803895937
Email: peterworby56@gmail.com

In July I will have been working for 50 years, however as I enjoy what I do and my wife doesn't want me at home every day I have decided not to retire fully but to reduce it to 3 days a week. Going forward I will not be advertising so please keep a note of my email address and mobile number should you need it in the future.

During my career I did an apprenticeship at Beckwith & Sons in Hertford as an Antiques Restorer and a further one as a Cabinet Maker at Todays British Craftsmen in Clavering. I became self employed in 1998 after Sworders Auctioneers asked if I would take on their restoration work and by then I had also built up a large private client base.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have used my services in the past and hopefully see you and any new customers in the future.

The Joy of Grass

Jono Forgham
jonoforgham@gmail.com

Recently, I was approached by a parish councillor who requested I penned a piece about the merits of grass left uncut and perhaps make suggestions as to where this could take place within the village.

The best answer to which height of grass is best is “all of them.”

Grass left uncut for two years attracts plenty of larger insect species such as grasshoppers and crickets and their major predator, the Wasp spider. I have yet to record this arachnid within the parish, but often encounter it in grasslands around Stortford. Long grass is also good for small rodents and therefore is likely to attract owls and falcons. Westland Green is such a site where the vegetation goes unchecked throughout the summer. Here, I record good numbers of grassland butterflies such as Marbled White and Small Heath.

Short grass, such as found on Bury Green attracts very few insects but is preferred by probing bird species such as Carrion crows, Jackdaws, Rooks etc as well as Starlings and occasionally Blackbirds.

Mid length grass is very attractive to other grassland butterflies such as Ringlet, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper. In these grasses wildflowers flourish and so can be populated by good numbers of hoverflies, pollen feeding beetles, bee species as well as those that predate upon these small species.

One ideal site in the parish for grasses to be managed so that in a couple of years there are 3 types of grass heights, would be the allotments near Ford Fields. This coming autumn all the grass should be cut back and then left until July, when a winding path should be mowed through the site. This is a regime that is successfully employed in the orchard at Hadham Hall and I would recommend this to be copied in the smaller orchard adjacent to the allotments. Certainly, this grass should not be cut during late spring and summer as it will attract pollinators that the fruit trees require.

Black headed cardinal beetle

Oedemera nobilis

Marbled white with Xysticus spider

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The Hadhams' History Society

Kathy Hamilton

www.thehadhamshistorysociety.org.uk

The Hadhams' History Society met in June for a visit to The Gibberd Garden Harlow. The Gibberd Garden is a fascinating Grade II listed garden which was created by Sir Frederick Gibberd Master Planner of Harlow New Town. It was a very pleasant warm evening for the visit and everyone enjoyed strolling round the various garden themes and finishing the evening with coffee/tea cake.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 22nd August,** 7:45pm for 8pm in The Main Hall Much Hadham Village Hall. Amanda Halliday - one of our Committee Members - will be giving a presentation on "Local Historic Large Scale Maps" and I know members will find this very interesting

The September meeting will be on **Thursday 26th September** 7:45pm. for 8pm. in the Green Room Much Hadham Village Hall - Tim Turner "Sworders Auctioneers will be giving a talk on 240 Years and Counting."

Please come along to our meetings you will be made very welcome - you can just pay as a visitor or join if you wish - and we have a very varied programme arranged.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in August.

Hadham Cross Congregational Church

PREACHERS FOR APRIL SERVICES AT 11am

4th August	Sam Pakala	Oakwood Chapel Harlow
11th August	Mike Hillyer	Oakwood Chapel Harlow
18th August	Roger Amos	Sawbridgeworth Congregational Church
25th August	John Fosker	Therfield Congregational Church

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 14th August**, 10am- 12pm. Please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat.

Our next **AFTERNOON TEA MEETING** will be on **Friday 30th August**, 2 - 4pm - please do come and join us for cake/tea and a chat. There will be a bring and buy sale so please do bring your things for the stall. All are welcome - we will be very pleased to see you.

Our next **BIBLE STUDY GROUP** will be on **Wednesday 21st August**, from 2 - 3:30pm.
All are invited to join us you will be very welcome.

AGAIN, A PLEA FOR HELP!

Playing the organ once a month at our 11am Sunday morning service.

Further details from Kathy Hamilton 01279 843 756

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

Nature Notes

Jono Forgham

jonoforgham@gmail.com

Nature wise, a rather quiet time as is often the case in June and July. Many birds are in their post breeding moult and consequently, resting in hedgerows as their new feathers push through, displacing the older worn feathers.

A walk along the River Stort from Twyford Locks to Spellbrook Locks was good for odonata species, (dragonflies and damselflies.) Plenty of the magnificent Banded demoiselle about along with Common Blue and Azure damselflies. A Brown Hawker dragong whizzed by me.

I also led a Butterfly Survey walk over the local golf course and then back along the Ash Valley. 9 species were recorded, some such as Meadow Brown and Marbled White in reasonable numbers, but as many have noted, insects are in very low numbers at present. An increase in both the daily and nightly temperatures should see a marked increase, especially with moths and butterflies.

A long walk around Hatfield Forest proved successful. Some years ago, I recorded White-legged damselfly in one of the rides, a new species for the forest. On this recent wander I came across both adult and juveniles. Good to know it has become a resident species.

These notes are being typed from the rather unusual habitat of Central Middlesex Hospital where tomorrow (17th July) I will be having major abdominal surgery. I should be home in 7 days but not too sure if I will be mobile enough to get out and about for next months article. Fingers crossed.

Editors Note: We all wish Jono a speedy recovery!

Black arches moth

Immature Ruddy darter

Immature white-legged damselfly

Meadow brown

Purple Hairstreak

Tenthredo livida

Marbled white

Migrant hawker dragonfly

Silver washed fritillary on glove

White-legged damselfly

The Hundred Parishes Society

Ken McDonald

Linton – Chandlers

Amongst the rich heritage which is a distinguishing feature of The Hundred Parishes, there are many ancient houses that were built originally as a “hall house”, sometimes referred to as an “open hall house”.

Many surviving houses that were built between the mid-13th and early 17th centuries had a standard three-part layout: a central ‘open hall’ flanked by two crosswings. The crosswings were of two storeys and were the same height as the single-storey hall that linked them. Individual houses sometimes had variations to this basic design.

Daily life for members of the household was a communal affair, focused on the large central hall. It was heated by a fire that burned on a central hearth, its smoke rising to escape through vents in the roof. The use of a chimney to remove smoke generally came only in the 16th or 17th century.

The crosswing at one end of the house contained a parlour with a chamber above called the solar, They were used by the head of the household and their immediate family. The other crosswing was a service area, accessed from a passage with front and back doors at either end. The passage also gave entry to the hall, from which it was partly screened. Each wing had its own stairs to the upper floor of that wing.

High Roding – Black Lion

Thundridge – Swangles at Cold Christmas

Lindsell – The Old Vicarage

Between about 1550 and 1650 AD, the open hall concept became less popular, with a desire for more privacy. Most open halls were remodelled with the insertion of a floor to make them two storeys. The open hearth was replaced with a fireplace and chimney.

The Society’s website includes more than a hundred downloadable walk routes. Almost half of the routes pass a former hall house and these are identified in the route description.

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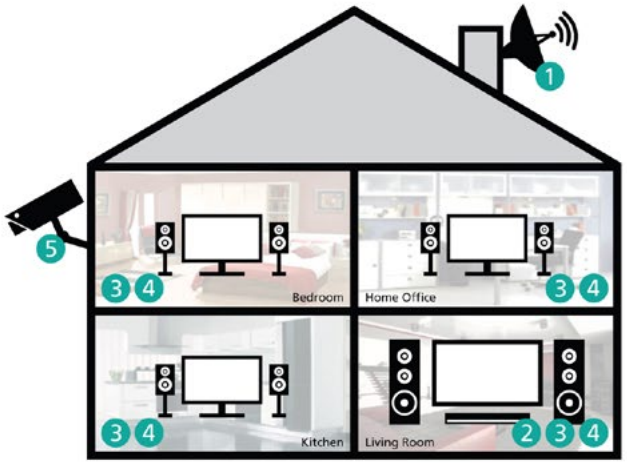

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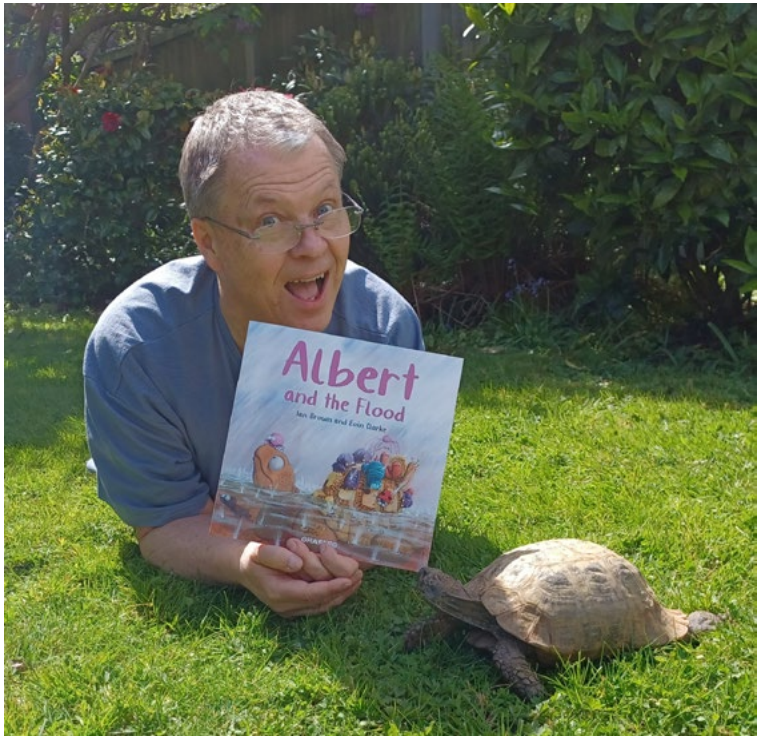

The Gardens have been looking lovely this year, despite the difficulties caused by the weird weather. Our new wildflower spiral in the walled kitchen garden has been gorgeously colourful and the roses very fragrant. But, we have been missing the usual butterflies and bees. We had brimstone butterflies early, in the unusually mild February, before the rains came. But we had very few butterflies thereafter and bumblebees definitely suffered in the cold in April/May. Dragonflies have been flitting around and with the warmer weather and hopefully the right winds from the continent, with luck there will be some resurgence so that visitors can enjoy the delight of butterflies and bees on the dahlias in August.

The Gardens are a great place for family time, on a Thursday or on the Sunday Open Day on 18 August. Children love the treehouse and our stories of the Countess of Warwick and her animals. There are garden games to play with and dogs on leads are welcome. Our volunteers provide refreshments and visitors to the Gardens can snap up our fresh vegetables to take home for dinner!

On **Sunday 18 August** we will have local author Ian Brown with us to tell children his tales of Albert the tortoise; and music from Woodwind of Stortford. There will be stalls and a trail and craft activities for children.

For more information about our opening hours and discounted advance tickets for the Sunday Open Day go to www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on

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Rural Ramblings

Cherry Mardell

I'm on my high horse again! This month it is about the demise of the local banks.

Why should they keep closing branches...? Barclays in Bishop's Stortford is a fine example. My husband has banked with them for around 70+ years. And for most of that time he has been into the branch weekly! He remembers the years, long gone, when the manager would come out and greet him. When he wanted an overdraft, (farmers are known to need overdrafts more than most!) it would be the manager who would see him, chat it through and, hopefully ok it.

I was persuaded to have an account there and found the staff helpful, especially when they changed the 'old' way of banking and made us bank via computers instead of people. Little did we realise this was a means to an end!

And then, suddenly, they decided to close. They gave us notice and told us that there would be an 'outpost' at Triad. We ventured there, only to find a queue of other customers lined up waiting to see the sole bank clerk. After half an hour – and no movement in the queue - we gave up.

And so our new life without the bank commenced. This meant we, like many of you, have to go the Post Office at Much Hadham to put in – or take out-money, or travel to town and use one of the automated machines.

OK, everything is on line but not all customers go on line and many don't have the know-how anyway.

It's yet another blow for the more mature among us, another indirect, unspoken jab at the oldies which we don't need and should not tolerate.

On a lighter note, who else, other than me, enjoys the Wednesday morning chair yoga sessions at the village hall? We are a very mixed bunch of locals, young and old, some wheelchair-bound, others old age bound! And some in the prime of life! We are tutored by the amazingly mobile Mark who arrives each week wearing lovely colourful clothes and, with an unfailing cheerfulness, tutors us into the complex world of yoga.

Because I was one of the first to enrol I am, unfortunately, towards the front of the class so I can't see how good the other are... but we're a friendly lot and, talented or otherwise, we all seem to enjoy and learn from the lessons. What started as a small group has blossomed into a much larger one, thanks to Mark's tutorship. And, even if your Mudras get muddled, there is always the thought of the tea, coffee and biscuits awaiting us on the other side of the door.

What better way of starting a Wednesday morning!!

Parish Services August 2024

Benefice of: Little Hadham | Much Hadham | Albury

	Trinity 10 **4th Aug**	Trinity 11 **11th Aug**	Trinity 12 **18th Aug**	Trinity 13 **25th Aug**
St Andrew's Much Hadham	9:15am **Benefice Holy Communion** *Tayo*			9:15am **Benefice Holy Communion** *Tayo*
St Cecilia's Little Hadham		9:15am **Benefice Holy Communion** *Tayo*		
St Mary's Albury			9:15am **Benefice Holy Communion** *Tayo*	

OTHER SERVICES:

Sat 17th	**4:30pm**	**NO Messy Church Today**
Thur 22nd	**10am**	Little Hadham Communion (Tayo)

***please note that service times changed in May**

All are welcome to join our services