

A small brown bird with streaked plumage is perched on a dark branch, facing right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The bird's feet are visible as it grips the branch.

LITTLE  
HADHAM  
PARISH  
NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT ST CECILIA'S**

**Christmas Carols Service 6pm - 8th December**

**Christingle 6pm - Christmas Eve**

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

## Father Simon Our Assistant Area Dean writes:



The phrase “putting ‘Christ’ back in ‘Christmas’” has been so overused over the years that, against the headwinds of our prevailing

culture, success might simply be seen as ensuring the family chocolate Advent calendar has a picture of the nativity behind the final door or window!

But for Christians, it should be a dominant thought as we enter this final month of the year. It means connecting how we celebrate with why we celebrate. This means finding ways to tell the Christmas story afresh for this time and for a new generation. And, with the COP29 climate-change conference still in our wing-mirrors, that should encompass an awareness of celebrating in a way that’s in keeping (no Christmas pun intended!) with God’s call for us to care for the planet and its peoples.

However, even those of us who are usually striving to live lives that are environmentally-friendly, generous, and ethical can find ourselves tempted to abandon these principles in the festive season, as we seek to make things special for ourselves and our loved ones. Lots of presents, food, drink, and glitzy decorations are all part of the traditional Christmas celebrations which, rather than for a few days towards the end of this month, have already started.

But, as Christians, does such indulgence really do justice to what we’re celebrating: a saviour born to a poor family who would become refugees and a God who loved the world so much that he was born here to save it?

So, do we really need those additional new decorations? What about getting somebody one really thoughtful gift, rather than giving them a shower of presents? And if you’re struggling to find that perfect gift, what about giving a donation to a charity on that person’s behalf? And then there’s that Santa hat or elf costume for that party: do you really need it? Try to resist buying clothes you’ll only wear once or twice because parts of the fashion industry are one of the biggest contributors to climate change and modern slavery. Meanwhile, recyclable wrapping paper without the sparkly bits is always better for the environment, as is, if at all possible, local and organic food, cooking only what you think you might actually eat, rather than over-catering and wasting food.

An eco-friendly, ethical Christmas doesn’t have to be more expensive. And simple can still be very special. So, this year, let’s try to be kinder to the planet, give to the poor, cherish our loved ones, spend time with the lonely, embrace those who are grieving, and pray for those we find it hard to get along with... because that’s where you’ll really find Christ in Christmas.

With seasons blessings,

*Fr Simon*



## LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

### Interim Minister:

**Revd Ibitayo (Tayo) Wale-Falope**

### Administrator to the Rector:

01279 842 609  
muchhadhamrectory@gmail.com

### Churchwarden:

**Karin Green**

01279 771 532  
churchwardenstcecilias@gmail.com

### Editor:

**Anne Wright**

littlehadhampn@gmail.com

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

We welcome into the Church Sophie Alexandra Lilian Lennox and Emily Elizabeth Marie Lennox, who were Baptised on Sunday 3rd November.

## 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.

So if you run a business or service and would like to invest in your local magazine and reach over 500 homes each month with your product or service, we'd love to hear from you.

We offer ads at 4 different sizes and prices from a full page to an eighth of a page, with discounts for taking a year at a time. We can also insert flyers for a small fee.

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.



# Church Roof Fund – Update

Helen Walker



As 2024 is nearing its end, we are pleased to report that our Roof Fund Appeal has now topped £7,000, with more than £250 added from our Cake Sale in October.

Thank you again to all who have supported our fund-raising effort one way or another during 2024, which has made it possible to have the necessary roof repairs carried out and to make our lovely church watertight again. The repairs to plasterwork inside the church have also now been completed and we are looking forward to seeing our fully restored church in its glorious Christmas splendour!

We could not have achieved this without the very generous help of

Connect Scaffolding Ltd and for that we are again hugely grateful.

As any property owner will appreciate, maintenance is a never-ending story. Maintaining a church is no exception and your continued support is always welcome. St Cecilians is open to all of us, whatever the occasion, and we do hope you will find some time to visit over the festive season.

And please remember, as a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid will boost any donation you make by 25%, so please contact Karin Green (Church Warden) for a declaration form [churchwardenstcecilians@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardenstcecilians@gmail.com) or tel: **01279 771 532**.

## ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH, Little Hadham

More than Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals,  
Harvests, Christingles, Nativity etc.

Our Church is a key part of our village's history.

*Support our Church!*



**TC TREE SURGERY**  
& GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

### AVAILABLE FOR :

- CROWN REDUCTION/ THINNING - TREE REMOVAL - POLLARDING - FELLING - SITE CLEARANCE - FENCING - DECKING - TURFING - GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING - CONTRACT MAINTENANCE



**CALL OR EMAIL FOR A FREE NO  
OBLIGATION QUOTE**

TEL : 07834 785716 / 01279 850257  
EMAIL : [TCTREESURGERY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TCTREESURGERY@GMAIL.COM)

[WWW.TCTREESURGERY.CO.UK](http://WWW.TCTREESURGERY.CO.UK)

# 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>3rd December</b>	4th February	4th March
1st April	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.

## Highways Update

### Speed and Traffic Surveys

A survey request has been sent to the survey team and the Speed and Volume survey has been ordered and will be carried out end of January beginning of February 2025. Phase 3 will commence once we have the speed and volume survey data.

- Outside the school
- Albury Road
- The Ford
- Standon Road

### Possible raised pedestrian crossing at the Smithy

- A road safety audit has been carried out. Drawings will be with the contractor in November. Works to commence February 2025. Will be a 2–3-week road closure for construction. We will be notified, once there is more information.
- Use 'one network' to see what road works are planned in the area.

## Traffic light phasing on the A120

Suggestion to move the traffic lights further south wards. Suggestion of either making the junction on a raised table or to have raised tables at each of the arms. Pinch points and chicanes were our preferred solution on the A120 by the school.

## Chevrons on the war memorial

Chevrons ordered and will be scheduled into a works programme. Hopefully these will light up the memorial and make it easier for motorists / HGV drivers to see and then avoid any damage.

## Cost Of Living Webpage

Cost of Living webpage - Hertfordshire County Council once again wants to make sure that advice and support is available to help every resident manage living costs and to stay safe and well as temperatures drop. To make sure everyone knows what help is available, we are highlighting the support and services Hertfordshire residents can access to help them manage. Visit the website: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/) see p.17 for more details.

## Christmas Wishes

On behalf of your Parish Council, we would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year, and our thanks go out to all volunteers and members of our community for their support, for the friendship and care they have provided, and we hope everyone is looking forward to 2025.

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](mailto:clerklittlehadham@gmail.com)

[clerklittlehadham@gmail.com](mailto:clerklittlehadham@gmail.com)  
**01920 870809**  
**07825 011975**

**STEPHEN CHAPMAN**  
 Boiler Man  
 OFTEC REGISTERED

---

Servicing, Repairing & Commissioning Oil Fire Boilers  
 Contact Julie in the office on – 07519 721643 or 01438 233612  
 Email [steveoilboilers@gmail.com](mailto:steveoilboilers@gmail.com)

**N & J Westwood**  
 BUILDING SERVICES  
[www.nandjwestwood.co.uk](http://www.nandjwestwood.co.uk)

- Barn & Garage Conversions
- Renovations & Extensions
- Brickwork & Plastering
- Fencing & Patios

For a free quote and advice please contact John 07886 509 722 | [info@nandjwestwood.co.uk](mailto:info@nandjwestwood.co.uk)



# Down at the Doctors

Andrew Wilkinson, Practice Manager

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



I am delighted to announce that the Health Centre has been awarded!



As the African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." This achievement truly reflects our team effort. A huge thank you to our dedicated staff, doctors, and, of course, you—our wonderful patients.

Enough back-slapping! Now, let's hand over to **Bonny Hall**, our Nurse Practitioner, for some wise words.

I'm Bonny, lead nurse/ANP at Much Hadham Health Centre. I joined in 2021 and quickly saw that teamwork is essential to our success.

My calling to nursing came in the early 80s, but not without a detour. After a brief, ill-fated career as a legal secretary—where I earned the dubious title "Tippex queen" for my overzealous use of correction fluid on posh, pale blue letterhead—I was politely nudged out of the legal profession.

I started nursing training in Enfield and qualified as an RN in 1984, working on a surgical and gynaecology ward. After a few years and starting my family,

I moved into general practice in 1996 at an innovative clinic with a minor operating theatre.

Fast forward, and I've been in general practice for 28 years now. And yes, I'm still learning every day, which I think is one of the best parts of this profession. I'm passionate about education and training. I work one day a week as a Nurse Education Lead, and our team at Much Hadham supports student nurse placements, helping them gain insight into primary care. My role involves diagnosing, managing, and treating long-term conditions and minor illnesses, which helps improve patient access and allows GPs to focus on more complex needs.

Practice nursing is incredibly rewarding, offering the chance to build relationships with patients and families, work autonomously, and be part of a multidisciplinary team.

Outside of work, I love spending time with my family and grandchildren. I'm a non-fiction bookworm, dabbling interior designer, enthusiastic gardener, and proud owner of a lively labradoodle named Lucy. A walk with Lucy is my favourite way to unwind, rain or shine.

Thank you, Bonny, for an insight into your world. As this is the last edition before Christmas, I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

BOOK YOUR 1ST CLASS FOR £5

## YOU TIME!

Come and join us for a Reformer Pilates, Yoga, or Barre class. At our beautiful studio at Wickham Hall, Bishop's Stortford.

Call/Book online  
[www.akashawellness.co.uk](http://www.akashawellness.co.uk)  
01279 757633

## The Clinic

### Leah Claydon

BSc, MRCoP, MRCoP, MFPM RCPS  
BSc (Hons) Lic Ac, MBAcC

#### Podiatrist & Acupuncturist

01763 772502  
[www.leahclaydon.com](http://www.leahclaydon.com)

30+ years experience  
HCPC Registered  
Two Twits Barns, Anstey SG9 0FD

## CHLOÉ BURROUGHS REFLEXOLOGY

Relaxing and Rebalancing Reflexology Treatments  
Advanced Facial Reflexology

[www.chloeburroughsreflexology.com](http://www.chloeburroughsreflexology.com)  
Phone: 07863346212  
Email: [Info@chloeburroughsreflexology.com](mailto:Info@chloeburroughsreflexology.com)

Treatment Room in Little Hadham  
*Come and experience the power of reflexology*

## attend2health

- Chiropractors
- Physiotherapy
- Osteopathy
- Chiropody & Podiatry
- Sports Massage
- Acupuncture
- Hypnotherapy
- Nutritional Therapy
- Yoga, Pilates & Tai Chi
- Counsellors
- EMDR Therapy
- GP Services:  
Botox, Skin Tag Removal & Hair Loss Treatments

**£20 OFF**  
YOUR FIRST APPOINTMENT WITH THIS ADVERT\*

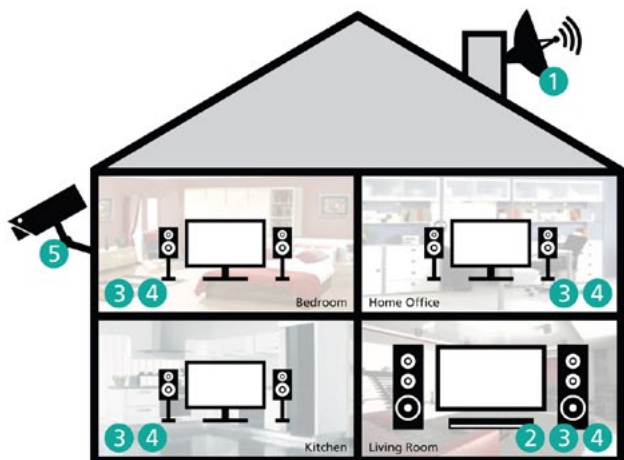
01763 87 80 87  
[www.attend2health.co.uk](http://www.attend2health.co.uk)  
27 High Street Buntingford SG9 9AB

\*Valid for Chiropractic, Osteopathy and Physiotherapy New Patients only.

Award-winning Clinic

## Connect your home

We're your local experts in cutting-edge home technology & bespoke installations. So you can truly connect your home thanks to our range of; satellite dishes, aerials, network solutions, sound systems and home cinema solutions.



- 1 Custom satellite dish installation
- 2 Bespoke home cinema set up
- 3 Watch Sky in any room
- 4 Whole Home Audio
- 5 CCTV & Alarm

### Visit Our New Store

Mediacoms: Unit i, Suite 1, Peek Business Centre,  
Woodside Industrial Estate, Bishops Stortford. CM23 5RG

Call us today or visit [www.mediacom.co.uk](http://www.mediacom.co.uk)

Essex & Herts: 01279 656983

London: 020 8524 6882



SONOS



Your Local Sky Expert



Nikki & Louise

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

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

The last month at Woodland Rangers has been a flurry of activities and events, making it one of our busiest and most memorable yet!

Our holiday club during half term was a roaring success, as children embarked on thrilling adventures in the woods. They made new friends, learned to light fires, and used tools for various creative projects. From hammer-and-nail artwork to crafting Diva lamps from clay, and drilling wooden disks for seasonal decorations, the children's creativity knew no bounds.

We celebrated Halloween with spooky potion-making and pumpkin fun.

Diwali brought an explosion of colour and light, with beautiful Rangoli patterns and colourful flames dancing on our campfire. Bonfire Night was another highlight, featuring firework-inspired colourful toast and sparklers, bringing lots of excitement to all.

This week, we honoured Remembrance Day with poppy-themed crafts, poppy seed bombs, and a serene remembrance walk through the woods.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to participate in the tree-planting project at Silver Leys Polo Club, where we will support 400 local children in planting trees next week.

December promises even more fun with a host of Christmas activities. We have spaces available, and new families are always welcome at our stay-and-play sessions. With our pay-as-you-go option, it's the perfect time to join in the festive fun!







# Little Hadham Primary School

Sinead Connolly, Head Teacher

Little Hadham  
Primary School

It's nearly December and Christmas is already sneaking in to Little Hadham Primary School. But before the holiday season fully arrives, here is a little snippet of what we've been up to this past month:

## Poetry by Heart Assembly – A Triumph of Talent!

A huge thank you to Mrs. T for organising our Poetry by Heart assembly. As part of celebrating our love of poetry across the school, every class chose a poem to learn by heart. It was an absolute triumph, with our talented children amazing us with their heartfelt performances. The room was alive with rhythm, emotion, and the power of words - what a treat!

## We Will Remember Them

Our School Captains played a key role at the Little Hadham Village Remembrance Service, laying a



poppy wreath on behalf of the school. It was incredibly moving to hear the names of those from our village who gave their lives during the Great War.

Then on Monday 11 November, we led a whole school Remembrance assembly. Our Captains had asked all children across the school to make a poppy to wear for this special assembly. In Willow Class (Year 6) we made pinwheel poppies. How wonderful to see a sea of poppies of remembrance!

Our Captains then shared information about the significance of the poppy and why people wear poppies. We held a two minute silence and watched a beautiful and evocative video that shows war as experienced by animals in a WWI battlefield.

## Celebrating Our Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby Stars!

A massive well done to our incredible Year 5 and 6 pupils who took part in a local schools' tag rugby competition. Not only did they play with heart, teamwork and skill, but they also didn't lose a single game! That's right—our team was unstoppable!

## Little Hadham Primary Reaches the Finals of Prestigious Maths Challenge!

We're proud to have secured a spot in the finals of the HFL Education Year 6 Mathematics Challenge for the second consecutive year! This inter-school competition provides Year 6 pupils with the chance to apply their math skills and teamwork to solve complex problems and tackle some truly demanding questions!.

## Tree Planting Adventure at Silver Ieys Polo Club

Our children recently braved the crisp 0-degree weather to take part in tree planting at Silver Ieys Polo Club! This special event allowed the children to contribute to the continued growth of the magnificent Millennium Woods, originally planted by former pupils of our school 24 years ago. The children also learned about the importance of woodland ecosystems and will have the chance to enjoy woodland activities in this thriving natural space as it continues to flourish. To top it off, they delighted in meeting the club's horses and ponies, sparking curiosity and wonder about these beautiful animals. A huge thank you to Martin Slade and his dedicated team for making the day not only educational but also engaging and memorable.

As you can see, these children keep us on our toes, and we look forward to sharing more with you all soon!



## STORTFORD PARK PHYSIOTHERAPY

Based at Wickham Hall CM23 1JG  
**Contact us for appointments or information**

**Tel:** Diana 07506 693 158  
**Email:** dianastortpark@gmail.com  
**Web:** stortfordpark.physio



## Little Hadham School Christmas Farmers Market

December 21<sup>st</sup> 2.00pm to 4.30pm

Note change of time

All our usual stalls will be there other than Foxholes Farm.

Our Christmas craft stalls will be together for your last minute gifts

The kitchen will be selling:  
Pulled pork and cranberry rolls  
Brie and cranberry rolls  
Beef burgers  
Mulled wine  
and tea and a variety of coffees

We look forward to seeing our regular and new visitors

# Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett

We do not meet in December but the committee would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Make a note in your diaries for 18th February 2025 for our Ploughman's Lunch. Details to follow next month.

## Plants to protect over winter:-

The damp and cold can take their toll on our gardens, so spare a thought for tender plants struggling to survive in sub-zero temperatures. Protecting tender plants takes little effort, and often all that is needed is a layer of horticultural fleece. This lets in light, air and water at the same time as providing vital insulation. Even plants that can withstand temperatures down to -5 degrees C will benefit from some protection.

1. Agapanthus - some species are hardier than others so if planted in pots, wrap in fleece for the winter until sure on their hardiness. If planted in borders mulch over the top.

2. Banana - in milder areas the hardier banana, *Musa basjoo*, can withstand winter, especially with a mulch spread over the roots and a thatch of straw to protect the crown. In colder regions, or for more tender species, lift and pot up the plants, then overwinter them under glass.

3. Canna - Cannas overwinter underground as rhizomes. A 10cm duvet of mulch helps to insulate against frost. In colder areas, lift plants up in Autumn, pot up and keep frost free and barely watered until Spring. Harden off before planting out in late May.



*Eucomis (Pineapple Lily)*

4. Cordyline - plain green leaves and those with cream variegations tend to be tougher than those with striped or red tinted leaves. Tie the leaves in an upright bunch and then protect with fleece or hessian.

5. Echim pirinana - these exotic natives of Madeira and the Canary Islands must reach a good size to flower. Your best bet is to plant Echimiums in a sheltered spot and wrap with a double layer of fleece for the winter, giving them a chance to bloom the following season .

6. Melianthus major - the honey bush is mainly grown for its exotic blue green foliage. Wrap the foliage securely with fleece until there is no danger of frost.

7. Pineapple lily - *Eucomis* produces a spike of flowers under a tuft of bracts in summer, then dies back. Move potted plants under glass for winter or wrap the pots in hessian and move to a sheltered spot. Mulch over the top of planted bulbs.

8. Tree fern - large tree ferns should be wrapped up, covering the crown by bending old fronds over it, fill it with straw or put a cap of fleece over it, or wrap entire plant up in hessian.

## DO YOU NEED A GRAPHIC DESIGNER?

Hello! I'm a local graphic designer. I specialise in helping small businesses reach their full potential and attract new audiences. I can help you with:

- Branding & Logo Design
- Brochures, Leaflets, Posters, Reports
- Packaging
- Adverts & Marketing
- Web Design & Social Media
- Copywriting & Typesetting



Contact me on [anne@thehumbleline.com](mailto:anne@thehumbleline.com) to talk about your project.

Take a look at my portfolio and follow me online.  
Website: [www.thehumbleline.com](http://www.thehumbleline.com)  
Instagram: @thehumbleline

thehumbleline  
graphic design



## CJ Gardening Services

For all your gardening requirements  
Call CJ Gardening 07713 790545

For a reliable, conscientious and trustworthy service. Choice of male or female gardeners.  
Customer recommendations available.

Pruning - Planting - Weeding - Fencing -  
Jet washing - Seasonal tidy ups

Call Johnny on 07713 790545 for a friendly chat about your requirements.

Supalawns  
Professional Lawn Care

Locally based lawn care services and bespoke treatment programmes

Specialists in:

- Aeration
- Scarification
- Top Dressing
- Weed & Moss Control
- Fertiliser Application
- Disease Diagnosis

Professional, safe and efficient pest solutions:

- Lawn Pests
- Moles
- Rats & Mice
- Bees & Wasps



+44 (0) 7725415826 [info@supalawns.com](mailto:info@supalawns.com) [supalawns.com](http://supalawns.com)



**My children love Christmas and they're already picking extra treats off the shelf when we go shopping, and telling me what presents they want. I really want to make it a special time for them, but times are tough and I can't help worrying about overspending and getting into debt. What can I do to manage my finances during the holiday season, and where can I turn if I find myself struggling?**

The festive season can be a financially challenging time, and often borrowing money or using a credit card to fund Christmas can seem like your only option. But there are steps you can take to keep your spending under control and avoid falling into debt.

The first thing to do is make a budget and stick to it.

Consider who you're buying gifts for, what other seasonal expenses you have, and how much you can realistically afford to spend. Always keep receipts, or ask for gift receipts, in case you overspend and need to return something. And remember that household bills may be higher during this period due to colder weather and spending more time indoors.

If you've built up debt, please don't ignore bills or letters. Speak to the organisation you owe money to, as they may let you pay smaller amounts.

Pay 'priority debts' first, like rent, mortgage arrears, council tax, and

energy bills. For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget, and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary, but it's an important first step.

If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, see what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website.

It's especially important to check if you're eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, which will now only be paid to those who receive Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits. If you make a claim for Pension Credit by 21 December, you might still receive the Winter Fuel Payment.

**If you do find yourself struggling financially during or after the holidays, don't panic. Support is out there, and Citizens Advice East Herts can help you understand what's available. We're here to help you find a way forward.**

*If you need advice, the quickest way is to call our Message Line 01920 459 944 Mon – Thurs or visit [www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk) for our advice options.*

*If you don't have phone or email or need extra support, Citizens Advice Contact Centre in Manor House, Buntingford, is open every Monday from 11am to 1pm, where our friendly staff will listen to what's happening and help you work out what to do next.*



**We are your helping hand**

There's lots of support, advice and services in Hertfordshire to help you manage the cost of living.

To find out more, scan the QR code, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044 or visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving)

**We are Hertfordshire County Council**



This winter, Hertfordshire County Council wants to make sure that advice and support is available to help every resident deal with the cost of living.

Practical help is available for those who need it most. To make sure everyone knows what financial and practical support is available, the council is highlighting advice and services Hertfordshire residents can access on the informational flashcard below:

All information can be accessed via Hertfordshire County Council's 'Cost of Living' webpage. Head to **[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving)**.

<p><b>HertsHelp</b></p> <p>Independent advisors offering free, confidential advice on local services and support.</p> <p>Call: 0300 123 4044 Email: <a href="mailto:info@hertshelp.net">info@hertshelp.net</a> <a href="http://www.hertshelp.net">www.hertshelp.net</a></p>	<p><b>Warm Spaces</b></p> <p>Find a Warm Space near you, locations all across Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Call: 0300 123 4044 <a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/warmspaces">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/warmspaces</a></p>	<p><b>Welfare Assistance Service</b></p> <p>Support scheme to help Hertfordshire residents facing an immediate financial crisis.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/was">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/was</a></p>
<p><b>Money and benefits advice</b></p> <p>Free guides on debt and benefits, disability, bereavement, housing, retirement, carer support.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/moneyadvice">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/moneyadvice</a></p>	<p><b>Citizens Advice</b></p> <p>Receive free, local, confidential advice on benefits, money and credit problems, employment, housing and family issues.</p> <p>Call: 0800 144 8848</p>	<p><b>Mental health</b></p> <p>Advice and support available for your happiness, wellbeing and mental health.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth</a></p>
<p><b>Age UK</b></p> <p>Supporting older people with advice, including financial support, and many other services to help maintain independence.</p> <p>Call: 0300 345 3446 <a href="http://www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire">www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire</a></p>	<p><b>Local food support</b></p> <p>Find information on food support available near you and to get a referral.</p> <p>Call: 0300 123 4044 <a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/foodsupport">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/foodsupport</a></p>	<p><b>Health and Independent Living Support (HILS)</b></p> <p>Meals on wheels and other independence-promoting services for older and disabled people.</p> <p>Call: 0330 2000 103 <a href="http://www.hils-uk.org">www.hils-uk.org</a></p>



PROTEA  
SKIN & BEAUTY

SKIN AND BEAUTY CLINIC  
BASED IN CHURCH END, LITTLE HADHAM

- Advanced Skin Treatments
- Medical Grade Skincare
- Beauty Treatments

Open Monday-Saturday By appointment only

07507 271 508 | info@proteaskinandbeauty.co.uk | @proteaskinandbeauty

**Pesteco**  
Fast, effective pest control

If you have a pest problem we have the solution!

Don't delay - Call us today

01279 842 881 | 07773 252 000



**TRACEY'S  
Travel**

Four-Seater Estate for all occasions  
Pre-Booked only

For a reliable, personal service

Office: 01279 843344 Mobile: 07966 392444

Much Hadham Based

Christopher  
THE LOCKSMITH

**ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?**

We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service  
A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors

No Call Out Charge

No Fix No Fee

All Work Fully Guaranteed

10% Senior Citizen Discount



For More Advice & Help Call Christopher:

**07772 111 222**

www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk

# Christmas Messages

To our friends and neighbours

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2025!

Hilary and Nick  
Ford Hill

We wish all our friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year  
Anne and Margaret  
Ford Hill

Karin and Frank Green would like to wish all their friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2025

To our friends and neighbours

We would like to wish you all a

Very Merry Christmas and A Happy, Healthy New Year

Love and Best Wishes  
Dave and Fran

XXXX





If you were using the village hall during November, you will know that the gas heating at the village hall was out of use due to leaks in the system. We had hoped that repairing the pipework would be a quick fix, but unfortunately it transpired that there were just too many leaks within the system to repair. With the gas heating out of use, we were fortunate to be able to borrow enough powerful electric heaters to heat the hall and remotely control using smart timers. Thank you to those who were able to lend the village hall their electric heaters and of course, to those who have coped with wearing an extra layer for warmth! Hopefully by the time you read this, an upgrade to radiators and pipework throughout the hall is well underway, if not complete.

Last month we reported an expensive repair to a section of the flat roof, costing over £8k. This month upgrading the heating system will be around £12k, a big dent in our resources. Replacing radiators in the main hall will lead to pipes being chased into our already rather tired looking and worn-out hall floor. Refurbishing the floor will be a further expense of up to £5k.

Securing new funding for capital projects is often very difficult with grantors preferring to support operational costs for community projects only. If you would like to help support the village hall,

please visit the village hall website and find 'Donate to Us'. We have various ways you can help; direct donation, Easy Fundraising which allows you to purchase online using many well-known retailers or support us through East Herts Lottery. Thank you in anticipation.

## Air Fryer Baking Workshop



## Welcome Café

If you would like to volunteer at our Welcome Café on a Wednesday, or at any of our other events or activities, please get in touch. Email: vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com

We would be delighted to hear from you. Please note the last café of the year is **18th December** and will resume on **8th January**



## Digital workshop

The last digital workshop of the year is **18th December 2024** and will resume again **8th January 2025**

Little Hadham Ramblers Wednesday 4th December at 10am. Turn up with your walking boots at the Welcome Café. Entrance to café left hand side of the village hall. If you would like lunch after the walk, please book in the café before you leave. Contact - Carole Page M: 07825 011 975.

## Christmas Community Breakfast

We had another busy community breakfast in November. Carole, with the help of Denise and Brenda cooked and served up 48 breakfasts. Our fabulous waiters, Peter, Dave and

Mark did a great job looking after all our guests. Please be aware that places are limited and filling up fast for our Community Breakfast on **Thursday 12th December**. Please use the village hall website [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com) choose What's On / Events from the menu bar to book online. Online bookings receive a confirmation email. Your generous donations fund this popular monthly event.

## Free Meet & Greet Event – Saturday 14th December 2024

Our joint meet and greet event with Little Hadham Parish Council, is on **Saturday 14th December**, from 3pm to 5:30pm. Please come along and support your active community. Don't forget to make your snowman and enter the competition. Details on p.25 or from judiwheler1@aol.com

- Free refreshments
- Snowman Competition
- Santa's Sleigh
- See Santa in his Grotto
- Family Fun Activities
- Chat to the Local Groups Represented
- Awarded Grant Funding

Our Welcome Café has been awarded a grant of £4k from Hertfordshire Community Foundation to support operational costs and to support

other food focussed events for the year ahead. We are also grateful to Clarion Futures who have awarded a grant of £1100 in support of our Bereavement group and the 1:1 bereavement support sessions offered to those most in need.

### Afternoon Relaxed Cinema Screening

**Monday 16th December**

Our next film showing is Dream Horse (2020). Doors open: 2.30pm. Film starts at 3.00pm.

Entry £7 per person includes refreshments. (Pay on the Door - Carers free)


### Finally

Village Hall Chair Jan Williamson has been out of action for a few weeks due to a hip operation. We continue to wish her well and look forward to having her back as soon as she is able.

Our Christmas celebrations at the village hall have been scaled back this year, but there will be lots more to enjoy in the new year. To receive the latest event information, please join up by sending your email address to: [vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

Thank you to our volunteers and all those who have supported the village hall by attending our events and activities throughout the past year.

The Management Committee wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**RoseYoga Studio**

## YOGA CLASSES

I am a Power Yoga Teacher. I incorporate poses that will bring strength and flexibility to your body along with a sense of inner peace and well-being to your mind. Start your journey today.

**To suit all levels – Offering:**

- Power • Vinyasa Flow • Slow Flow • Yin Workshops and Sanctuary Days
- Tailored 1-2-1 Option

*Please call to discuss your needs*

☎ **07860 929379**

✉ [jane@janeroseyoga.com](mailto:jane@janeroseyoga.com)

🌐 [janeroseyoga.com](http://janeroseyoga.com)

📘 [janeroseyoga](#) 📺

Visit me at my studio in Standon

## Sierra HomeCare

Personal • Caring • Responsive



*There's no place like home...*

Companionship

Home Help

Personal Care

*...to receive care and support to live your life, your way*

**Tel: 01279 501678**

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

CCC Registered

# Sargies

**Garden and Countryside Services**



- Mowing
- Hedge cutting
- Ponds & Ditches
- Field Maintenance
- Seasonal Maintenance

**All Jobs Considered!**

Contact Jack Sargent

Tel: 07500 970 212

@: [sargies@gmail.com](mailto:sargies@gmail.com)



## High quality creative education for children from 3-11

Emphasis on nurturing each child as an individual.

Care provision from 7.45am to 6.00pm including excellent all day nursery.


“ *A positive active ethos that strives for excellent personal and academic development.* ”




By far the best way to find out about a school is to visit it.

Please phone us on **01279 771285** to make an appointment.

Little Hadham Primary School



## TRUSTED STANDON BASED WILL WRITER



- ◇ Will Writing & Trusts
- ◇ Lasting Power of Attorneys (LPA's)
- ◇ Probate Administration
- ◇ Inheritance Tax and Estate Planning

**Providing a professional, friendly service, I offer free advice and will guide you through your options.**

Member of The Society of Will Writers

Safe to do business with Code Compliant

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

01920 747208 | [emma@dqrwillsandprobate.co.uk](mailto:emma@dqrwillsandprobate.co.uk)




📘 See my recent reviews on Facebook: @dqrwillsprobate

# REBOOT

IT SOLUTIONS

## Computer HELP

### In your Own Home

## Contact Tracy

# 07521 977 997

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



# What's On in December @ 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!  
*Please note last one of the year 18th Dec. Resumes 8th Jan 25.*  
**Druman Chair Yoga** 11am – 11:45 Mark Cox 07368 293 062  
**Digital Improvers drop in** 2 – 3:30pm Jan 01279 771 272  
*Please note last one of the year 18th Dec. Resumes 8th Jan 25.*  
**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** 6:45 -7:30pm Kirsty Smith 07903 035 180 | km.rabs@gmail.com

### FRIDAY'S

**Friday Fitness Group** 11 am -12noon contact Daisy Osborne 07585 309 933 or email: daisy.af.osborne@gmail.com  
**Indoor Bowls** 7:30 – 10pm **except 2nd Friday**  
**Fancy Feet Children's Dance** 4 -5:30pm **Term Time Only** Hannah 07538 262 835

## FORTNIGHTLY

**Tuesday 3rd & 17th** 2 – 4pm Turn up & Play Scrabble (£3 per session) Annette: 07926 088 202  
**Wednesday 4th & 18th** 1 – 2pm Virtual Cycle Studio to book your place contact Sarah Baker 07740 701 102  
**Wednesday 11th** 1 – 2pm Tai Chi (Sarah Baker 07740 701 102)

## MONTHLY & EXTRA EVENTS

**3rd** 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting  
**12th** 10 – 12 noon Community Breakfast morning  
**BOOKING ESSENTIAL** on website: [littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://littlehadhamvillagehall.com) or email [vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

# NOTICEBOARD

## FREE MEET & GREET EVENT - SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER

The Village Hall Committee joint meet and greet event with Little Hadham Parish Council, is on:

**Saturday 14th December,  
from 3.00pm to 5.30pm.**

Please come along and support your active community. *Don't forget to make your snowman and enter the competition. Details from [judiwheeler1@aol.com](mailto:judiwheeler1@aol.com)*

- Free refreshments
- Snowman Competition
- Santa's Sleigh
- See Santa in his Grotto
- Family Fun Activities
- Chat to Local Groups

## RED CHAIR CINEMA CLUB

**Friday 8th December  
7pm**

Membership Required. For information email: [redchaircinema@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:redchaircinema@littlehadhamvillagehall.com)



LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL  
MEET & GREET  
**SNOWMAN  
COMPETITION**  
Sat 14th Dec  
3.30pm

Get creative and make your own snowman. Bring your entry to be displayed around Santa's sleigh. Judging will take place at 4pm

**MAXIMUM 1  
METRE TALL**

THERE WILL BE AN UNDER 12 CATEGORY AND AN OVER 12 CATEGORY

# Millennium Wood

Jono Forgham

jonoforgham@gmail.com

Following my surgery this summer, I am now no longer able to wield heavy tools such as chainsaws and strimmers. Consequently, I have decided to pass on the running of Millennium Wood to others and am very happy to say that Rachel Seifert and Jonathon Kemmish have both expressed an interest in organising work parties, carrying out woodland management and maybe planning some community events.

I have passed on all my management plans, the tools bought from woodland funds, bank account details along with a selection of books about managing woodland to Jonathon.

I am confident that the wood will continue to flourish and remain an important part of the community. Over the last 14 years or so I have endeavoured to establish the wood, keep it accessible and to enhance the habitat for all forms of wildlife. I have a long list of creatures recorded within the wood and, as the wood matures, it is likely that more wildlife will take up residence. I am, for instance, still recording new moth species here, showing that certain plants and trees are now offering insect larvae the opportunity to feed upon them and for the adults to nectar upon them as well as feeding on the pollen. I include a few autumnal moth species taken recently in the wood.

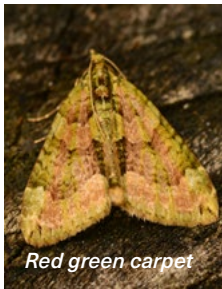
**My swansong will be Sunday 1st December when there will be a work party 10 – 1pm** to complete all the jobs I intended to by the end of the year. All are welcome. Please come along to meet Jonathon and Rachel and to help establish the butterfly glade I have been working on for a while.

It has been a real pleasure and privilege to have been able to work in such a

marvellous habitat and I have certainly enjoyed watching it grow and develop over the last 17 years. However, I shall not be deserting the wood and have promised Jonathon help with certain jobs next year.



December moth



Red green carpet



Merveille du Jour



Feathered Thorn

Hi I'm Jon Kemmish, I'm married and have 3 beautiful girls Daisy 15, Poppy 11 and Bluebelle 8 months.

I live in Bishops Stortford and have done most of my life.

I'm self employed, Have been for nearly 25 years and have 2 businesses in landscaping (Jon Kemmish Landscapes and paving manufacturing. (Stansted Paving)

When I heard Jono was stepping away from the management of Millennium Wood I had to get in contact and see what it entailed. I've visited the woods many times by myself and with my middle daughter poppy who loved when she was there, I will be taking my whole family's very soon and would love to see more families out in the woods as well. For me it's an honour to be able to carry on the amazing work that Jono has already done over the last 10 years or so to make it what it is now for the community, I



would just like to carry on his foot steps to continue maintaining the woods for years to come. With my landscaping background and love of wood working I hope to be able to practise traditional wood working techniques using the material woods and possibly invite people to down to get involved.

Hopefully I'll see you down there at some point in the near future.

Jon



I moved to the area a few years ago with my partner and three small kids in tow. After a long time living in London, it was a breath of fresh air to have all this countryside on our doorstep. We love getting out into the wild, going on local adventures as a family, and generally coming home covered in mud.

My main passion is my slightly obsessive love of birds. I got the birdwatching bug when I was a child as I used to go out with my dad and we'd very badly birdwatch together. I think I've improved since then somewhat, I hope anyway! We spend a lot of time in our garden trying to make it as nature friendly as possible, and much to our delight we have a remarkable list of creatures who also call it their home. I am also lucky enough to cover environmental issues through my work as a documentary filmmaker.

We have spent many hours with the kids in Millennium Wood - be it den building, bug hunting, hide and seeking, and collecting more sticks for our ever growing stick pile. We hope to try to keep it as a biodiverse haven for wildlife as well as a place of adventure for the local children.

Rachel





**UPHOLSTERY | CABINET | FABRIC | ACCESSORIES**

Come and visit our Ware showroom to see a huge range of our bestselling cabinet and upholstery

**Old Charm      Harris Tweed**

Choose from a wide selection of upholstery designs in tweeds, velvets, leathers and more...

**Online woodbros.co.uk      Showroom in Ware**

Marsh Lane, London Road, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG12 9QH  
01920 469241      Terms and Conditions see instore for details



Cristina Harrison  
hadham.museum@btinternet.com

You may have noticed the scaffolding at the forge buildings as we have extensive maintenance and restoration works carried out. The ongoing maintenance costs are paid by the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust, a Registered Charity (no. 232686). These costs often put the museum at an annual loss financially, so any donations are gratefully received to The Castle, Hertford SG14 1HR or by Paypal to hadham.museum@btinternet.com. Thank you.

We want to say a HUGE thank you to Lucas Gooch and friends who put on a spooktacular Halloween event at the museum, raising £450 before costs. Youth volunteering at its best!

We've still got some great events for you coming up, so please join us!



**MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS WREATH OR TABLE CENTRE OR BOTH!**

We supply all you need with a huge variety of greenery and extra decorations. Bring your own bottle and your friends for a fab evening at the museum!

£35 for one, £50 to make both.

Reserve your place on

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024 from 7.30pm**

[hadham.museum@btinternet.com](mailto:hadham.museum@btinternet.com)

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @HadhamMuseum

Call/Text 07483 113345

[hadham.museum@btinternet.com](mailto:hadham.museum@btinternet.com) | 01279 843 301 | 07483 113 345

[www.hadhammuseum.org.uk](http://www.hadhammuseum.org.uk) | @HadhamMuseum

# St Cecilia's Church Bells

## Quasi

We are very lucky in England as we have so many churches throughout the country where bell ringing takes place, and where the bells have been used and maintained by generations of bellringers for hundreds of years.

The sound of our bells is very different to the chiming / tolling of church bells in some European countries, or the call to prayer loudly broadcast over loudspeakers in Muslim countries.

Of course, it is not just the church bells that are needed, but the bellringers and those that care and maintain the bells. Bellringers are adept at controlling their bell, and perfecting the timing of the changes in co-ordination with the others in the band, to produce the sounds we hear on a Sunday morning, at Weddings and other significant occasions. The skills of the bell ringers are often taken for granted and not fully appreciated. The care and maintenance of the bells is a skill that is also passed down, usually though bellringers.

We often watch events on the TV in Cathedrals where the commentators give great praise to the musicians playing their musical instruments, or the vocalists singing. However, rarely does the sound of the bells at the beginning or end of the service get a mention. Bellringers are quite happy to shun the limelight as often the bellringing chamber is tucked away at the back of the church, sometimes there is sometimes even



a small door with a staircase leading up to the bell chamber so the ringers are 'invisible' to the congregation.

Ringers usually arrive early before a service to ring people into church and then either creep into the back of the church for the service, or leave silently by the back door (some often drive to another church to ring again). For special events like Weddings and Funerals we may ring at the start, then wait until the service finishes to ring again, and so never even get seen.

So, next time you hear the church bells ringing, give some thought to the hours of teaching and learning that have gone into producing the sounds you hear. We won't always be perfect but we are proud to be maintaining this English tradition which we hope will be around for many generations to come.

If you wish to give it a try, the bells are waiting for you. Go to <https://riverashchurches.org.uk/river-ash-churches-bellringers/> for more information.

### Bishop's Stortford Chimney Services



Office: 01279 771462  
Mobile: 07990 770883

- Chimney sweeping
- Stove installation
- Maintenance & repairs
- Pots & cowls fitted
- Certificates issued
- Free estimates

bishopstortfordchimneyservices.co.uk  
richard.mardell@yahoo.co.uk



M Perkins  
**Decorators**  
Interior & Exterior Decorating

Established 25yrs+  
Quality Workmanship  
References Available  
Competitive Prices

Tel: 01279-771192  
Mobile: 07932-928148

Email: [contact@imperkinsdecorators.com](mailto:contact@imperkinsdecorators.com)  
Website: [www.imperkinsdecorators.com](http://www.imperkinsdecorators.com)

## DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

Independent Family Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

Est 1892

Always here when you need us...

- Arrangements in the comfort of your own home, if preferred
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Prepaid funeral planning services
- Traditional & contemporary funerals to suit your wishes



79/81 South Street  
BISHOP'S STORTFORD  
01279 655477

3 Bullfields  
SAWBRIDGEWORTH  
01279 722476

[enquiries@drobinson.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@drobinson.co.uk) ~ [www.drobinson.co.uk](http://www.drobinson.co.uk)



# Nature Notes

Jono Forgham

jonoforgham@gmail.com

A weekend away in North Norfolk saw me recording 91 species of birds at a variety of habitats, including some rarer species such as: Pallid Harrier, Black winged stilt, Long billed dowitcher and Great northern diver.

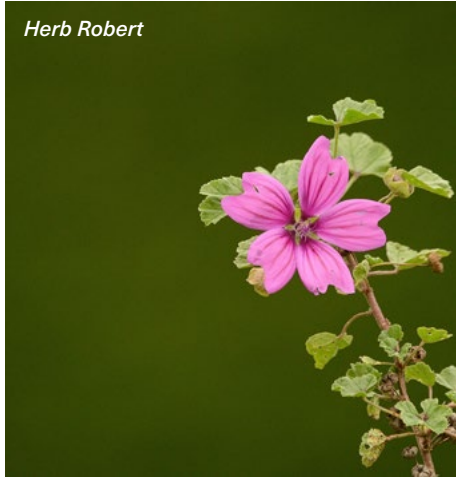
Closer to home, I continue to survey Stocking Wood. Another sighting of the kingfisher here in mid November was a pleasing report. I have been concentrating on the leaf mining moth species.

Many tiny moth species lay their eggs on specific tree species and the larvae live between the 2 layers of the leaf, munching their way around. By looking at the tree species, the pattern (or mine) left behind and a few other features, it is possible to identify the moth to species.

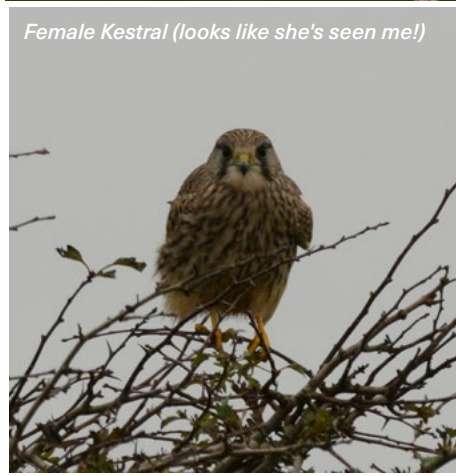
Traps have also been left out until about 11pm but with the nights becoming colder, the catch is much lower. However, on the 1st November, I took 78 moths of 19 species. Certainly, a good haul.

Local walks have recorded a few winter species now arriving, such as Fieldfare and Redwing.

A walk around the tracks west of Much Hadham gave great views of kestrels, red kites and common buzzards whilst a splendid little egret was seen on the River Stort near the sports centre.



*Herb Robert*



*Female Kestrel (looks like she's seen me!)*



*Cattle Egrets*



*Inquisitive Fox*



*Redshank*



*Turnstone*



*Phyllonorycter acerifoliella, a leafmine on Field maple*



*Stigmella tityrella on Beech a leafmine*



# The Hundred Parishes Society

Ken McDonald



Until the 19th century, education in England was mostly linked to religious institutions or funded by wealthy donors. The Education Act of 1870 made a commitment to the provision of education to all on a national scale.

The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of schools that were founded prior to this time and continue to educate young people today.

Felsted School was founded in 1564 by Richard Rich, the first Baron Rich. Under Henry VIII, he accumulated immense wealth whilst overseeing the dissolution of the monasteries, and he was later appointed Lord Chancellor of England under King Edward VI.

Dame Joyce Frankland, 1531-1588, lived at Rye House in Stanstead Abbots, the wife of the lord of the manor. Her son was killed by a fall from his horse. In her will, Dame Joyce remembered him

by providing funds for the education of boys at many locations including the "free grammar schole" in Newport, now The Joyce Frankland Academy.

St, Edmunds College in Standon parish is the oldest Catholic college in England. The main building dates from 1769. The school chapel is Grade I listed, built in the mid-19th century and designed by A.W.N. Pugin whose best-known work is Big Ben, the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament.

Some schools built after 1870 have adopted the names of notable locals. For example Leventhorpe Academy in Sawbridgeworth was established in 1965 and named after the Leventhorpe family. Sir John Leventhorpe died in 1625 and has one of the finest memorials in Sawbridgeworth parish church.

Ralph Sadleir School in Standon was founded in 1971 and named after Sir Ralph who was born in 1507 and knighted in 1543 by Henry VIII. When Queen Mary I came to the throne, Sir Ralph retired to live quietly in Standon.



Memorial to Sir Ralph Sadleir in Standon parish church



Gatehouse to Rye House, Stanstead Abbots, the home of Joyce Frankland



Memorial to Richard Rich, founder of Felsted School



Memorial to Sir John and Lady Leventhorpe in Sawbridgeworth parish church



St Edmund's College Chapel, Standon



Felsted School - part of the original 16th-century building



Stansted's  
Best Kept Secret

Gallery @  
**MOUNTFITCHET**

Paintings by  
Anne McCormack RI SWA

Viewing details & opening times visit:  
[annemccormack.com](http://annemccormack.com)



**QUALITY SERVICE  
OVER 25 YEARS**

OTHER PRODUCTS TOO! JUST ASK



OVER 25 YEARS OF QUALITY SERVICE

CONSULTATION \* INSTALLATION  
RENOVATION \* PERSONAL SERVICE

[andrewbanks.co.uk](http://andrewbanks.co.uk)  
01279 626389

**MASKALLS  
TREE SURGERY**

Small family business

Big expertise  
in trees

Call George  
M: 07982 601 570 | T: 01279 819 127  
email: [george@maskalls.co.uk](mailto:george@maskalls.co.uk)  
[www.maskalls.co.uk](http://www.maskalls.co.uk)

All types of tree care & hedge cutting undertaken.  
Call for a free estimate.




## Much Hadham Bowls Club

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

### BIG NEWS .... BOWLS & CROQUET CLUB HOUSE

We are transforming our Club house into a Venue Hub for the winter months with a wide-ranging programme of social events to which everyone is welcome.

We kicked - off with HALLOWEEN. "Fright Bite" fayre of tomato soup, pumpkin pie, devil's fingers, dead fly pasta and spider-web cupcakes set the scene. With most dressing the part and our accomplished MC/DJ attracting many on to the 'dance floor', the evening was a great success.

Next up ITALIAN DINING on Saturday 24 November with an authentic 4 course Italian meal. That is still to happen at the time of writing but is already a sell-out. Perhaps not surprising at just £17.50 per ticket.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:-

**Sat. 7th December**

#### CABARET NIGHT

Jill Oxborrow entertains with a selection of favourite songs. Jill's fine voice is well known to regulars of LH pantomime and other functions,

*2 course meal is included £15.*

**Sat. 14th December**

#### CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

An afternoon of fun including quiz, bingo and a spread of Christmas fayre. £5.

**Sat. 11th January**

#### CABARET NIGHT

Elvis Revival with look-a-like Foxy Music. For those who were around for the great man himself and for those who wish they had been, a chance to 'let your hair down' and have a great time.

*A selection of Elvis's favourite foods included. £15.*


Tables for 6 to 8 are also available for groups. gf or v option if requested in advance

For BOOKINGS please call:

01279 842 637

**HONOUR**  
CARPENTRY & CONSTRUCTION

- Extensions
- New Builds
- Garage Conversions
- Cart Lodges
- Cladding
- Listed building repairs including window repairs/replacements
- General Property Maintenance



**07949 774 594**  
[david.honour1@gmail.com](mailto:david.honour1@gmail.com)



# THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Jill Goldsmith  
www.eastonlodge.co.uk



We are hoping for a good cold December! Early December 2022 we had hard frosts for many days on end, the ground was frozen solid and mid-month there was snow. We lost perennials and shrubs because it was so exceptionally cold that winter. Whereas in December 2023 we didn't have any frost that I can recall, followed by mild temperatures in January and rain galore over the whole winter season, such that we had to cancel most of our snowdrop open days.

The early season was then blighted by the slugs and snails which had overwintered, multiplied and were voracious. So, although there are risks from frosts, we have our fingers crossed for a decent blast of freezing air!

Our winter works are progressing, with lots of effort put into leaf clearance to put into new bays to make leafmould. We never have enough, as we have so many trees, roses, dahlias, rhubarb and fruit bushes that benefit from it. We also put out a call for manure and have spent happy hours barrowing that around the Gardens! In December we will finish those jobs and take time to reflect on what visitors enjoyed this year, to build a good calendar of events for 2025.

To keep an eye on how we are getting on with our winter jobs, why not follow us through Facebook or Instagram or take a look at our Garden News on the front page of our website or sign up to an e-newsletter through [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk)

Visit our Bishop's Stortford showroom with a huge selection of sofas, chairs, sofasbeds and recliners

## Easy Chair & Sofa Co

*The South East's Largest Sofa and Chair Retailer*



Talk to the experts - our personal service, attention to detail and 40 years of experience set us apart from the rest

34 Twyford Business Centre, London Road, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3YT. T: 01279 465863

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

## VST PAINTING & DECORATING

Laurence Baldwin

[laurence@vstdecorating.co.uk](mailto:laurence@vstdecorating.co.uk)

07989 968 278

Your local decorator

Fully Insured

Find us on  
**Checkatrade.com**

## TPM

for your

**Total Property Maintenance**

**Painting & Decorating  
&  
General home repairs**

Call Tim Mearing  
for a free estimate



07970 599 204  
01279 771 288



E-mail: [timmearing@hotmail.com](mailto:timmearing@hotmail.com)

Highly respected local service based in Little Hadham.

Established in the area for 20 years.  
Fully insured.



## Luxury Toilet Hire (UK) Ltd



Whether you are arranging a wedding, private party or corporate event, let Luxury Toilet Hire (UK) Ltd provide you with the perfect toilet facility to make your occasion a memorable success.

Tel: 01279 504638 or 01371 873003

Web: [www.luxurytoilethireltd.co.uk](http://www.luxurytoilethireltd.co.uk)

Email: [info@luxurytoilethire.co.uk](mailto:info@luxurytoilethire.co.uk)

We also hire out mobile fridge and freezer trailers.

## S.Southgate Carpentry Services

Free Estimates with no obligation  
 Kitchen Fitting & Tiling  
 Door Hanging  
 Skirtings / Architraves  
 Wood Flooring  
 General DIY & Maintenance  
 22 Years' Carpentry experience

07971 228735

[s.southgatecarpentryservices@hotmail.co.uk](http://s.southgatecarpentryservices@hotmail.co.uk)



Kathy Hamilton

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

The meeting held in October was a very interesting meeting when Amanda Halliday - one of our Committee Members - came with maps from the past of the local surrounding localities. Everyone found this very interesting.

There will be no meeting in December - the next meeting of the Society will be on **Thursday 30th January, 2025** in the Green Room Much Hadham Village Hall 7:45pm for 8pm.

This will be our Annual General Meeting so please do come along - for people who are not members - see what we are all about and if anyone has any ideas for future talks or trips these can be discussed.

From all Committee Members of the Society may we wish everyone a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

## Hadham Cross Congregational Church

### PREACHERS FOR NOVEMBER SERVICES AT 11am

1st December	Tim Wells	Wormley Church
8th December	Mike Hillyer	Oakwood Chapel, Harlow
15th December	Roger Amos	Sawbridgeworth Congregational Church
22nd December	Sam Pakala	Oakwood Chapel, Harlow
24th December	Kathy Hamilton	Much Hadham Congregational Church
29th December	John Fosker	Therfield Congregational Church

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 11th December**, 10am- noon. Please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat.

There will be no **AFTERNOON TEA MEETING** in December as this falls on Boxing Day. The next Afternoon Tea will be on **Thursday 30th January**, 2 - 4pm - please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat. All are welcome - we will be very pleased to see you.

From everyone at the Congregational Church may we wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

**There will be a Christmas Eve Service**

at the Congregational Church starting at 2:30pm

All are welcome to come and join us for our carol service.

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



HERTFORDSHIRE AND ESSEX  
 FLOATATION CENTRE

BOOK NOW  
**01279 598593**  
[www.thefloatretreat.co.uk](http://www.thefloatretreat.co.uk)  
[thefloatretreat@gmail.com](mailto:thefloatretreat@gmail.com)

### BENEFITS OF FLOATATION

- MUSCLE REPAIR
- STRESS & ANXIETY RELIEF
- MEDITATION
- RELIEVE INSOMNIA
- PAIN MANAGEMENT
- PREGNANCY



**10% off**  
 YOUR FIRST FLOAT  
 USE CODE: FLOAT 10

Unit 13C Church End Estate, Church End, Little Hadam, Ware, Herts SG11 2DY



**D. SPARWELL ROOFING**

25-year guarantee to all new pitched roofs  
and a 15-year guarantee on all new flat roofs  
Free no obligation quotations

- Flat Roofing Repairs, Cement Work, Lead Work, Chimneys
- Facias, Gutters & Softs, VELUX installation, Emergency call out service
- Pitch Roofs, Tiling, Slating

Tel: 07852 576 194 Email: [sales@dsparwellroofing.co.uk](mailto:sales@dsparwellroofing.co.uk)

**JORDAN OIL BURNER SERVICES**  
ESTABLISHED 1968

An independent oil boiler commissioning, servicing & breakdown company  
OFTEC Registered

All our vans carry a range of genuine boiler spares  
81 Lingfield Road, Stevenage, Herts SG1 5SQ  
Tel: 01438 355583 / Mob: 07831 364607

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

**LTH Waste Removal**  
Effluent & Liquid Waste Removal



Your local service provider for all effluent and liquid waste removal including:

- Cesspits
- Septic tanks
- Klargesters and Bio disks

LTH provides a personal, professional and efficient service at a very competitive rate.

For a free quotation, and site visit if required, please call us on:  
**01279 504638**  
**01371 873003**

or email:  
[info@luxurytoilethire.co.uk](mailto:info@luxurytoilethire.co.uk)



**Oliver Minton**  
Sales & Lettings

With our Puckeridge Office, complemented by our other offices in Stanstead Abbots & Roydon, we are perfectly placed to attract buyers originating from areas such as Enfield & Cheshunt, who desire a more rural environment

Call 01920 822999  
[www.oliverminton.com](http://www.oliverminton.com)

**HERTFORD TV SERVICE**

Please call: 01992 552955

- AERIALS & SATELLITE INSTALLATIONS/REPAIRS
- TV REPAIRS (OLED, LCD, LED)
- TV WALL MOUNTING & SOUNDBARS
- WIFI SYSTEMS & DATA NETWORKING
- CCTV & WIRELESS BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS
- STARLINK INSTALLATIONS

[www.hertfordtvservice.co.uk](http://www.hertfordtvservice.co.uk)  
Unit 1B, Foxholes Avenue, Hertford SG13 7JG  
LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS EST 1979  
ALL WORK FULLY GUARANTEED

## Rural Ramblings

### Cherry Mardell

I'm writing this on the first day of really cold weather. It has been a beautiful autumn, dry and relatively warm. The dog and I have enjoyed weeks of pleasant 'walkies'. But today it was cold... that biting cold that makes you want to turn back and add another layer of clothes. Admittedly he doesn't seem to notice the weather much – he's game for a walk even in the pouring rain. Me, not so much. Not only do I have to find the right clothes and footwear, but tell myself repeatedly that it was ME that wanted the dog, ME that promised to walk him, ME who insisted he would be no trouble...(how do you stop and tell an off-lead excitable animal that he is no match for a horse which is in its field, doing nothing wrong, when invaded by a small, hysterically barking animal?)

Oh, yes, we have a multitude of problems with our small, lively cocker-poo. But would I be without him? Speaking solely for myself, the answer is a definite "no"!

I'll let you into a secret... I'm not a brave person. I write this today, two hours before I have to attend hospital to have a small cancer removed from just below my eye. And the awful truth is I am more scared of what it is going to do to my face than I am about the cancer.

Although old and grey, I have always tried to look my best. I enjoy make-up, especially if it helps to improve what God gave me! So the thought of going about with a slightly smashed face fills me with dread!

I had a Mum who loved make up too... at one time we both joined a cosmetic

company where we visited people's homes and gave the females a new, better looking face! I can hardly believe it myself, but the truth was that the improvements were so overwhelming.. that we sold loads of the products!

Many years have passed and I've tried and tested countless brands of cosmetics... at one time I was in public relations and part of my job was receiving, and testing a very up-market product. It was then that I decided that maybe the perks were not worth the life style... and I switched back into 'proper' journalism!!

So back to the here and now... with a face, for once, devoid of a scrap of make up, it is time to go to the hospital. Wish me luck!

PS One week later...

Other than the fact that I look as if I had gone ten rounds with Henry Cooper, things are going along OK. I go back to have my poorly eye area checked this week and, again, in three weeks to see the specialist.

I have since wondered if it was worth all this as I'm not exactly in the first flush of youth... but a cancer is a cancer and I think I'd rather know it was out rather than lurking around and getting worse!

So if you chance to see me around, with a face which is grossly unappealing, give us a smile. The surgeon told me mine was the most common cancer... so who knows who could be next!!

And a very happy, healthy Christmas to you all!



# Parish Services December 2024

Benefice of: Little Hadham | Much Hadham | Albury

	Advent Sunday <b>1st Dec</b>	Advent 2 <b>8th Dec</b>	Advent 3 <b>15th Dec</b>	Advent 4 <b>22nd Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Eve &amp; Day</b> <b>24/25th Dec</b>	Christmas 1 <b>29th Dec</b>
<b>St Andrew's Much Hadham</b>		9:15am Benefice Holy Communion with toy collection <i>Tayo</i>	6:00pm Shared Carol Service <i>Tayo / Fr Peter</i>		<b>Christmas Eve:</b> 4:30pm The Big Nativity - St Andrew's <i>Tayo</i> 6pm Christingle Service - St Cecilia's <i>June</i> <b>Christmas Day:</b> 9:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Tayo</i>	
<b>St Cecilia's Little Hadham</b>		6:00pm Carol Service <i>Tayo</i>	9:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Tayo</i>			9:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Tayo</i>
<b>St Mary's Albury</b>	9:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Tayo</i>			9:15am Family Carol Service <i>Tayo</i>		

## OTHER SERVICES:

<b>Saturday 14th</b>	<b>3pm</b>	A Journey to Jerusalem	Tayo
<b>Thursday 19th</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	St Andrew's School KS2 Carol Service	Tayo
<b>Thursday 26th</b>		<b>No Little Hadham Communion</b>	

### ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH, Little Hadham

More than Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals,  
Harvests, Christingles, Nativity etc.

Our Church is a key part of our village's history.

*Support our Church!*