



LITTLE  
HADHAM  
PARISH  
NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025

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

## Father Simon Our Assistant Area Dean writes:



Near the start of the musical 'Rent', the song 'Seasons of Love' asks the question 'How do you measure a year?'

The song initially answers that question with a fact - 525,600 minutes. But the song then goes on to suggest other ways we might measure a year: in the number of daylights, of sunsets, of midnights, in the number of cups of coffee. Or perhaps in inches, in miles, in laughter, or in strife.

So how do you measure a year?



After all, time's a strange thing. Sometimes it seems to rush on but at other times it crawls by slowly. We often want more time, or we regret its passing. But then sometimes the importance of a moment - for instance a birth, a proposal, a death - has some value beyond time, no matter how long it lasts. The moment has a depth of meaning that stays with us, even though the minutes pass. In those moments, are we being offered some insight into what it is to live in eternity?

Of course, our perceptions of time aren't always modified by good things; I'm sure you'll remember how many people's experiences of time changed during the long days of the pandemic lockdowns. It's something which is picked up in the song 'Seasons of Love', which suggests that a year in a life can also be measured by the difficult and even the worst of times - 'In truth that she learned or in times that he cried, in bridges he burned or the way that she died'.

Yet the love often expressed and the care often shown at such times can transcend the simple minutes, hours and days of such pain, creating the unthinkable possibility of new beginnings, new relationships, or new life - even from the worst of all situations or experiences.

The suggestion that a life can be measured, not in the number of minutes or years survived, but in terms of the characteristics or qualities of a life echoes the Bible's gospel of St John. John argues that life can be more than just an existence: it can be experienced - even when things are bleak - in all its fullness in the company of Jesus, the source of all life. It's a sentiment perhaps picked up in the last lines from that song from 'Rent' which encourage us to 'remember the love' and that 'love is a gift from up above'.



In this month when we mark St Valentine's Day, let's look for love in our lives. Let's look to share love with others. Not just the red-hearted love celebrated on St Valentine's Day by lovers, but the pure, sacrificial, unconditional love Jesus displayed in his earthly life, which God now calls us to share with everybody we meet.

With God's love to you all, *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 commend to God's care Malcolm ROSBOROUGH (84) of The Alms house Much Hadham formally of Farm Cottages, Church End whose funeral service took place on Wednesday 18th December.

## 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.

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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.



# 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>4th February</b>	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.

### Andrew Wilkinson - Practice Manager at Much Hadham Health Centre

Andrew will be presenting at the Parish Council meeting on the **4th February**. Come along and hear what is happening at our local doctors surgery and ask him any questions.

The Ash, Church End / Hadham Hall, and Bury Green. There will also be one installed beside the Puddingstone in the Ford.

New seating has been ordered and will be placed at Bury Green, Cradle End and near Westland Green (///.purely.scary.brink)



### Community Hub for Facebook

The Parish Council in conjunction with the Village Hall are creating a Facebook page for residents to be advised of any news of what is happening in the village. Can be used to ask questions, let people know of events planned or simply as a way of staying in touch with our community. This will be live very soon, so please look out for it. Will simply be called Little Hadham Community.

### Update on Community Projects

Information boards are now complete and will be installed at: The Ford,

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# Down at the Doctors

Andrew Wilkinson, Practice Manager

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



A Belated Happy New Year to You All.

A very big thank you from all the staff for the wonderful gifts, bottles, and treats you delivered to us at Christmas. Your generosity was greatly appreciated and brought a lot of cheer to the team.

This time of year is particularly busy for us as we manage winter pressures like coughs & colds, chest infections, and flu, while also gearing up for the NHS financial year-end in March. Modern primary care demands that we meet numerous key performance targets to secure full funding. These targets are essential for ensuring excellent patient care, safe and cost-effective prescribing, and benchmarking practices against national standards. Long gone are the days when practices received funding simply based on patient numbers.

Over the next couple of months, you may receive a text or phone call from us, asking you to attend a medication review, provide a blood pressure reading, confirm your smoking status, or come in for a chronic conditions review, among other requests. Your help and cooperation with these will be greatly appreciated, as they contribute to the overall care and well-being of all our patients.

I have asked all our clinicians to make every contact count during this period. If you attend for a new medical issue, you may be asked

additional questions or requested to provide a blood pressure reading. This proactive approach helps us stay ahead of health issues and meet our care targets efficiently.

## A Heart-Warming Story

I wanted to share an inspiring example of the dedication of our team here at Much Hadham. Recently, a patient who regularly attended the practice for treatment missed their usual appointment. Concerned, as this was totally out of character, our nursing team tried contacting them multiple times without success. Their worry grew, and they asked if they could check on the patient at home. Upon arrival, they found the patient had fallen and been on the floor for 24 hours. The patient was very cold and confused, and an ambulance was immediately called. Thankfully, they are now recovering in hospital. This story highlights the strong relationships we have with our patients and the commitment of our team to go above and beyond – something we pride ourselves on.

## Stay Warm and Look Out for Others

As I write this, it is the coldest day of the year. Please make sure you wrap up warm and check in on neighbours or friends who may be alone during this chilly season. A small gesture can make a big difference.



### Yoga Classes

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**Mondays 11am-12pm**  
Markwell Studio, Bishop's Stortford  
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**Wednesdays 10am-11am**  
Rose Yoga Studio, Standon  
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Nikki & Louise  
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Woodland Rangers have kicked off the year with an action-packed January, filled with creativity, learning, and outdoor fun. The New Year celebrations began with edible sparklers made from breadsticks, sprinkles, and chocolate melted over the campfire.


This month, our young Rangers eagerly prepared for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. They've been enthralled by the variety of birds sharing our woods, embarking on bird-listening walks, building birdwatching hideouts, and crafting pinecone bird feeders from lard and seeds to help our feathered friends during the cold snap. We even transformed a recycled Christmas tree into a bird buffet by hanging feeders and garlands made from popcorn, fruit, and cereal.

January was also marked by other celebrations such as Squirrel Appreciation Day, Chinese New Year, and National Popcorn Day, which our Home Ed group celebrated by making popcorn over the campfire.

Finally, our afterschool club at Little Hadham Primary School requested their all time favourite cold weather activity - making rainbow toast on the campfire. The warmth of the fire and the colourful toast brought smiles and warmth to all.









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Rebecca: Ruby's Mum

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This charming story invites children into the world of Bobby the Police Dog, showcasing the valuable assistance he provides to other animals who adore him.

Accompanied by delightful illustrations, the book radiates a warm-hearted charm that will captivate young readers and leave them enchanted with Bobby's adventures and heroics.



Melanie J Cotte was born in Essex. She fell in love with writing and poetry from a young age. She currently lives here in Little Hadham.

Melanie worked in the airline industry from 1986 to 1997, then realised a dream in becoming a Police Officer. In 2000 Melanie was accepted on to the Police Dog section being the only female in the department at that time. Her Police dog "Billy" is the inspiration behind her first published work, Bobby on the Beat: The Rescue. In this book she lulls readers with a "delightful rhythmic beat" and "an attractive and educational story"

The book is available online.





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Happy New Year to all! As we kick off the new term, the frosty weather hasn't dampened our spirits – it's been a joy to see the children return with enthusiasm and curiosity for the exciting topics and activities that lie ahead. A term full of possibilities and learning awaits!



New topics such as Frozen Kingdoms have commenced. Children explored the thrilling race to the North Pole, investigating the controversial claims of Robert Peary and Frederick Cook, who both insisted they were the first to reach this icy frontier. Lively debates and thought-provoking discussions have made this a fascinating start to the topic.

Another class has tuned their focus to the timeless brilliance of William Shakespeare, reading Macbeth and diving into Shakespeare's life and legacy. The eerie setting and enigmatic witches captured imaginations!

Elsewhere in the school, children have been immersing themselves in the cultures of Italy and France while mastering multiplication, yoga and creating vivid artwork. Paint, poetry, light, and sound have brought vibrant energy to the classrooms, making January a month of creativity and discovery for all.

This term, we're looking to replenish our 'loose parts' play resources. Loose parts are versatile items like tyres, crates, wooden planks, and tarpaulins that spark creativity and allow children to play in endless ways—from building pirate ships to creating obstacle courses or dens.

If you have any of the following items cluttering up your home or garden shed, we'd love to give them a new lease of life! Donations can be dropped off at the school office.

We're looking for:

- Tarpaulins (various sizes, types, and colours)
- Milk and bread crates
- Wooden pallets (tough and in good condition)
- Tough buckets
- Cable drums or reels
- Tubes, guttering, funnels, hosepipes, bore pipes
- Ramps and lengths of plastic or corrugated transparent plastic




- Nets
- Tyres (bicycle, motorbike, go-kart, or car tyres)
- Large shallow trays
- Trolleys for tidying up
- Wheelbarrows
- Old suitcases or wheeled shopping bags
- Baskets for transporting items
- Steering wheels
- Portable seating, camping mats, or gardening mats

Thank you for helping us enhance our children's play experiences!

We look forward to sharing more updates as the school year progresses. Until then, we wish everyone in the community a happy and fulfilling start to the year!

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# Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 18th February** when we will have a Ploughman's Lunch at Little Hadham Village Hall at 12.30pm followed by a talk from George Lockwood on 'Pruning and taking cuttings'. The cost is £7 per person for members and £10 for non members, and the choice is either pate or cheese. Please book your place by contacting Anne Willett on 07904 150595 or 01279 771564 with your preference of lunch.



Eranthus hyemalis or Winter Aconite

just above a node, as this prevents 'die back' and therefore disease. Also you can manipulate new stems, leaves or flowers to form in a desired direction as nodes form on different sides of a stem. Do not cut too closely above a node as this can damage it, but avoid leaving more than 1cm above the node as you will leave an unsightly stump.

Pruning - Regular pruning of certain trees and shrubs can increase vigour, improve fruit or flower production and ward off disease. There is no one catch-all way to prune all plants. You will need to prune at different times of the year and in different ways, depending on what plants are growing, how they are grown and what you want from them. It is therefore important to research how to prune each plant before you start. Pruning at the wrong time of year, or in the wrong way, can lead to all sorts of problems, not least the plant putting on lots of extra leafy growth at the expense of fruit and flowers.

1. Pruning at the wrong time of year - most plants are pruned in winter when dormant, but there are exceptions eg Cherry and Plum trees. Likewise most spring flowering shrubs should be pruned immediately after flowering.

2. Pruning too much - pruning removes stems and leaves which are the two main sources of food for the plant. Removing too much material at once can result in die back of the roots and it may take several years for the tree to recover.

3. Pruning above a node- the node is where leaves, buds and shoots emerge from the stem. You should always cut

4. Cleaning secateurs - clean, sharp and well ordered pruning tools function better, last longer and are safer to use than those which are dirty and blunt. If you don't sharpen secateurs and loppers then you are less likely to make a clean cut and a messy cut will take longer to heal and could let in disease.

5. Pruning at an angle - when pruning branches it is important to cut at a downward angle so that when it rains, water runs quickly off the wound. By cutting flat you run the risk of fungal infections entering the plant, as water can pool in the wound to create the perfect conditioner for fungi to take hold.

6. Removing 'die back' - there are several causes of die back, including bad planting, bad pruning, frost damage and physical damage (where branches rub together). Sometimes fungi can invade these dead shoots and cause canker which spreads to other parts of the plant, potentially weakening it. It is therefore important to prune out die back to prevent disease.



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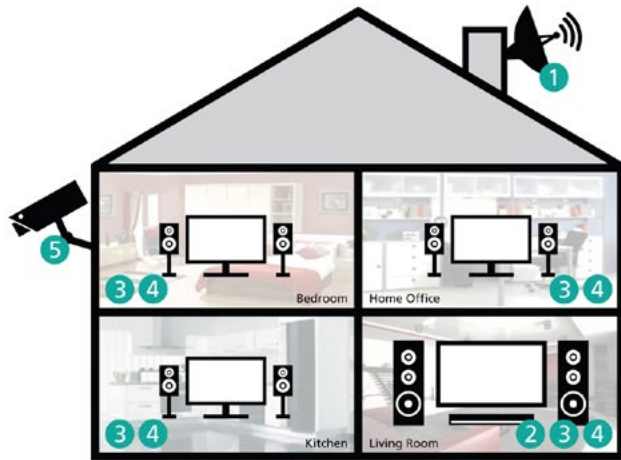
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**Damp and mould has built up in our home over the winter. It started around the windows but now it's spread. I've been chasing our letting agency, who say they'll speak to our landlord but there's been no action and I'm really worried about how this might affect our health. Our tenancy agreement isn't up for six months, what can I do?**

You've done the right thing by reporting the issue to your letting agency. It's not always easy to work out the cause of damp and mould, and your landlord might suggest that something you're doing is contributing to it. However, your landlord will be responsible for the issue if it's being caused by structural problems or disrepair such as a leaking roof or bad insulation.

Damp is when an area of your property doesn't dry out, often because it's cold. Damp can lead to mould, which is a fungus that grows in areas where warm damp air condenses on cold surfaces, like window frames. On our website you can find information which will help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do about it. You should also check your tenancy agreement for mentions of repairs and damp.

Your landlord is responsible for fixing a damp problem if it's making your home unsafe to live in. For example, this could be if it's affecting your health or the health of someone living in the property with you. Your landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, for example if the roof is damaged. They would also have to cover the cost of repairs to any items damaged by the damp, including carpets and furniture.

One of the things that can contribute to damp and mould is condensation. One of the best ways to prevent condensation is to keep homes well-heated and ventilated, but high heating costs and cold weather can make this difficult for lots of us. If you're finding it hard to insulate and heat your home, check our website to see if you're eligible for support.

There are steps you can take to make sure you're not contributing to a damp problem, and making it worse. Our website has advice on what to avoid, like drying clothes on heaters, blocking air vents, or using portable gas heaters. However, showering, cooking, and laundry are the kinds of things everyone expects to be able to do in their homes. If the property can't be heated and ventilated adequately to cope with normal day-to-day living activities, then it's the property that's the problem, not your behaviour.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your home but doesn't do anything about it, there are steps you can take, like reporting them to the local authority. And as a private renter, if you've got evidence from a health professional that damp is making you ill, you may be able to get free legal advice through Legal Aid.

As a last resort, you might decide you just want to leave the property but getting out of a tenancy agreement early can be difficult. There's information on our website about how to go about this but remember this can be hard and there might be things you haven't tried yet.

*If you need advice, the quickest way is to call our Message Line, Mon - Thurs or via our website, details above.*



# Little Hadham Village Hall News

Jan Williams

www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

With our AGM in April, it is with some urgency that we need to find a new Chairman. I have been Chair of Little Hadham Village Hall for eight years now and with the support and invaluable input from other members of the management committee, many improvements have been made to the village hall to help secure its future. It has always been my personal choice to be a regular volunteer to support groups such as Air Fryer, Community Breakfast, Red Chair Cinema, Welcome Café, Bereavement group, Basic Cooking Skills and Digital Workshop. It would be up to the person who is nominated and voted onto the management committee as Chair to decide with other management trustees what roles and responsibilities need to be reviewed to best suit the needs of the Village Hall and the level of commitment that a new Chair is able to offer.

The management committee is made up of five elected members: Chair, Vice-Chair, Bookings Secretary, Treasurer and Minutes Secretary. The other 9 positions available on the committee are usually filled by being nominated by the user group they represent, as outlined by the village hall's constitution.

Below is the current list of Roles and Responsibilities of the Chair. If you think that this is a role that you would be interested in taking on, please get in touch. Ideally, the person who takes over the role, will be someone who lives within the eight hamlets that make up the Parish of Little Hadham.

## CHAIR - Roles & Responsibilities

### Role of the Chair

- Good leadership skills and have experience of committee work

- Have tact and diplomacy and good 'people' skills
- Be impartial and respect confidentiality particularly with respect to matters that relate to individuals
- Represent the organisation at meetings and act as spokesperson as appropriate
- Monitor that decisions taken at meetings are implemented
- Make informed financial and strategic decisions to meet policies and priorities in the best interests of the charity
- Decisions are in accordance with agreed management committee plans.
- Consider the use of 'Best Value' and 'Best Practice' methods and techniques to gain good results

### Chair Key Responsibilities

- Plan and prepare the committee meetings and the AGM with others as appropriate.
- Chair committee meetings ensuring:
  - A balance is struck between timekeeping and space for discussions
  - Business is dealt with and decisions made
  - Decisions, actions and deliberations are adequately minuted
  - The implementation of decisions is clearly assigned and monitored
- With management trustees, keep policies and procedures under review

- Keep an overview of finances
- Research and apply for grant funding and support others that undertake this work
- Prepare and submit end of grant reports as required
- Oversee the organisation of fundraising events with others as appropriate
- Communicate activities and events via monthly Parish News
- Liaise with outside agencies in support of VH objectives
- Attend meetings of CDA and other influential bodies as appropriate
- Maintain a Business Plan with others as appropriate
- Maintain and recruit prospective committee members
- Ensure that a successor is found before the term of office finishes.

### Premises Update

The heating repairs are now complete, and the village hall is now warm and toasty, having had all the radiators and pipework replaced. Thank you to everyone for bearing with us while essential repairs were carried out. We are now looking into whether it would be possible to refurbish the main hall floor or if we are looking at a far more expensive project of taking up the old floor and replacing it with a completely new one.

### Upcoming Events

#### Tea and Bingo Event – Tuesday 4th February 2025

Tea and Bingo Event on **Tuesday 4th February**. Cost will be £5 per person. Spaces are limited to 30. If you would like to attend, please book online through our website.

**Little Hadham Ramblers Wednesday 5th February at 10am**. Turn up with your walking boots at the Welcome

Café by 10am to take part in a relaxing and friendly walk around the local area of Little Hadham. Entrance to café left hand side of the village hall. If you would like lunch after the walk, please book this before you leave. Contact - Carole Page M: 07825 011 975

### Community Breakfast – Thursday 13th February 2025

Community Breakfast is back on **Thursday 13th February**. Please book online to secure your place via our village hall website. Your generous donations fund this popular monthly event. Any queries, please email: [vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

### Afternoon Relaxed Cinema Screening – Monday 17th February

Our next film showing is Barbie (2023). Doors open: 2.30pm. Film starts at 3.00pm.

Entry £7 per person includes refreshments. (Pay on the Door - Carers free). Please support the afternoon cinema or evening membership film club. Without your support, films will not be able to continue to be shown after July 2025.

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

No need to book, just turn up with your digital device. Our knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to help.

### Donate to Us

If you would like to help support the village hall, please visit the village hall website and find 'Donate to Us'. Thank you in anticipation.

Our **Basic Cooking Classes** are now underway on selected Tuesday mornings. They are open to anyone who has a lack of confidence or experience in the kitchen in producing a simple nutritious meal. For more information please contact Jan mobile 07710 325 363

# What's On in February @ LH Village Hall

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

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### MONDAY'S

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

### TUESDAY'S

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

### WEDNESDAY'S

**Welcome Cafe** 10am – 2pm No need to book just drop in and enjoy!  
**Druman Chair Yoga** 11am – 11:45 Mark Cox 07368 293 062  
**Digital Improvers** 2 – 3:30pm Jan 01279 771 272  
**Fitsteps** 6 – 7pm Jacqui: 07731 454 228  
**Tai Chi & Qi Gong** 7:30 – 8:30pm Sarah Baker 07740 701 102

### THURSDAY'S

Mike's Bowls Club 2 – 4pm

### FRIDAY'S

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

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

## FORTNIGHTLY

Tuesday 11th & 25th 2 – 4pm Turn up & Play Scrabble (£3 per session) Annette: 07926 088 202

Wednesday 12th & 16th 1 – 2pm Virtual Cycle Studio to book your place contact Sarah Baker 07740 701 102

Wednesday 5th & 19th 1 – 2pm Tai Chi (Sarah Baker 07740 701 102)

## MONTHLY

4th 2 – 4:30pm Tea & Bingo booking essential on website under events £5  
 9th 9 – 4pm Antiques Fair  
 10th 7 – 9pm Air Fryer Demonstration - pay on entry £7  
 13th 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)

17th **Doors Open 2:30pm** Afternoon Cinema: Barbie (2023) Pay on entry £7 Film starts promptly at 3pm. No Booking Required

18th 12:30pm LH Garden Club Ploughmans lunch and talk 07800 764 414

29th 9am – 1pm Little City Kids role play

# NOTICEBOARD

## Ceilidh/ Barn Dance at Albury Village Hall

on

**Saturday 22nd March from 7pm**

Live Band with fun, experienced caller.

Tickets available by emailing [dstrouds@hotmail.com](mailto:dstrouds@hotmail.com).

£10 per adult, children 12+ £5, under 12 free.

Bring your own food and drinks



**Friday 14th February**  
7pm

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

## Christingle Service

Thanks to all who attended the service on Christmas Eve and for your generosity - we raised £261 for the Children's Society. Many thanks indeed!

## Little Hadham Village Hall



## Be part of our great volunteering team

Your support will help the village hall continue to thrive

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



### WE NEED HELP WITH:

- Community well-being projects
- Refurbishment and maintenance
- Administration and tech
- Fundraising and marketing
- Grant Applications
- Caretaking
- Cooking and baking
- Volunteers at events



For information on how you can help, contact Joan McKinlay [vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com) or M: 07789 098071



The next meeting of The Hadhams' History Society will be on Thursday 30th January, 2025 7.45 p.m. for 8 p.m. in the Green Room, Much Hadham Village Hall.

This meeting will be our Annual General Meeting so please do come along - find out what are all about and suggestions for future activities and meetings will be very welcome. You may wish to

join our Committee - if there are any nominations could you please let Kathy Hamilton know before the meeting with a proposer and seconder.

Do come along and support the Society - all new members are very welcome.

## Hadham Cross Congregational Church

### PREACHERS FOR FEBRUARY SERVICES AT 11am

2nd February	Tim Wel	Wormley Church
9th February	Mike Hillyer	Oakwood Chapel, Harlow
16th February	John Fosker	Therfield Congregational Church
23rd February	Roger Amos	Sawbridgeworth Congregational Church

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

Our next **AFTERNOON TEA MEETING** will be on **Thursday 27th February**, 2 - 4pm - All are welcome for tea/coffee cake and a chat.

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

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



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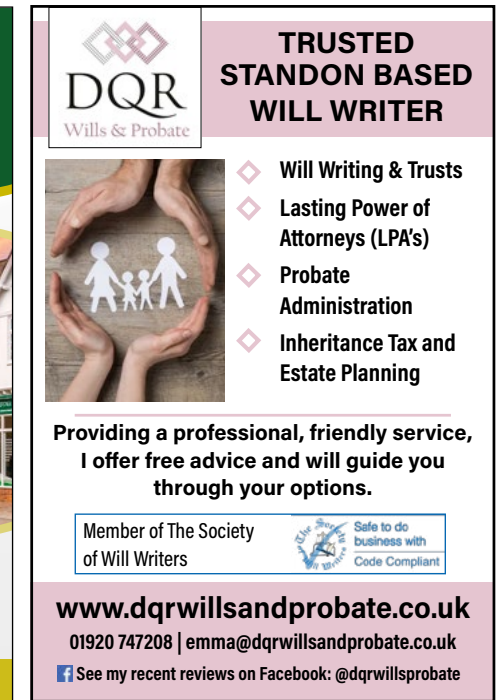
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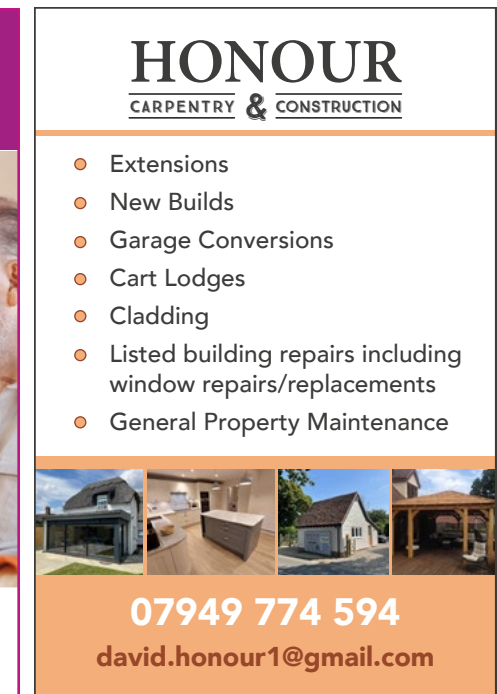
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# Millennium Wood

Jon Kemmish

[jk.landscapes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jk.landscapes@yahoo.co.uk)

Happy New Year to everyone and I trust you are all well? I hope you were able to get out to Millennium Woods for a walk over the festive period. I certainly did, along with my family and many friends as we spent News Years day there around the fire and under cover (weather was awful!) but we didn't let that dampen our spirits. We all enjoyed cooking sausages and bacon on the open fire and toasting marshmallows. While we were there we had a visit from River from The Nest Holistic Therapies (please see details below of the amazing services they provide) who saw the fire going through the trees and came over. There was also a lovely family who came for a walk in the rain. We all stood chatting and eating toasted marshmallows and for me this is what Millennium Wood is all about, Community! People coming together, meeting and making new connections/friends.

*But!!*

The sad part is that on News Year Eve when I went to the Wood to have a walk around there had been some vandalism. People had taken some wood and some benches, moved them to the other side of the pond (one that had been donated to the wood by Jono and Wendy) and smashed them up and tried to have a fire. This is really very upsetting and disrespectful, the Wood is for everyone to use but not in this way. (Please see photos)

We have a work party on the 26th January 10am-1pm if anyone would like to pop along and help out or come just down for a walk and chat then please do. My email is [jk.landscapes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jk.landscapes@yahoo.co.uk) or you can message me on **07812 085 847**

## A little about The Nest

Founded by River & Kimmie Taylor in 2018, The Nest CIC is a Voluntary Community Support Hub that delivers award winning emotional and well-being support to members of the local community. The Nest offers free to attend Talking Therapy circles for men and women every week on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and provides a space where people are able to feel 'Safe, Seen, Heard & Understood. The Nest offers a Vegan & Vegetarian Food Truck and Nest Holistic Therapies, also based in Little Hadham allow the voluntary and free to access support services to continue and expand at Silver Leys.

TheNest VCFSE & UK  
Registered C.I.C

Email: [riverkitaylor@gmail.com](mailto:riverkitaylor@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07525 719 993



The Woods before and after the vandalism.





# St Cecilia's Church Bells

## Quasi

As February is the month of love and the wedding season is nearly upon us, we should talk a little about church weddings, as I expect there will be people out there planning theirs. Traditionally people left the church to the sound of church bells ringing to celebrate their union, but more recently it has also been requested that they enter to the lovely melodic sound of the bells sounding out across the countryside. Hopefully local parish churches will now have lots of wedding bookings and we will have the opportunity to ring for people's memorable day.

Each and every wedding is personal and special to the lucky couple! This is usually for all the right reasons, however sometimes there can be a 'curve ball' on the day that makes it even more memorable. Here are just a few events that have made past weddings stand out, at least for the bellringers who are there to provide a service and who can appreciate such events!

1) A pony and trap was booked to bring the bride down the road to the church for the service. It was only when they were getting ready for the parade along the street that it was realised that the pony had 'put on a few pounds' and could no longer fit into the trap. What a delay - another pony had to be brought in!

2) Weddings have been delayed, sometimes for over an hour, with the bride being late arriving, normally due to some issue with the car not

arriving on time, or just not turning up at all. This might seem trivial to the Wedding Party and guests, but it is not so for the Vicar, who usually has other commitments, often involving another Wedding! And don't forget, it is certainly making the Groom very nervous.....!

3) Releasing doves is beautiful, but be aware, it comes with certain side effects for all those glamorous guests. Many a beautiful hat has had an additional 'feature' added on the special day.

Even our Quasi's wedding didn't escape. A dear old lady armed with a lovely shopping trolley 'photo bombed' a few of the official photographs. To this day, we are none the wiser as to who she was, but it still makes us smile.

Whatever happens, weddings will be talked about with love and smiles.

If you want to give bell ringing a go and join in with people's special day go to <https://riverashchurches.org.uk/river-ash-churches-bellringers/> for more information.



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## Farewell Notes

Wendy & Jono Forgham

As we go to print week commencing 20th January, Wendy and Jono are busy unpacking boxes in their new home in Norfolk.

Before they left, Wendy sent me some lovely photographs of some of their favourite memories of Little Hadham to share with you all; Listening to Christmas Carols in Millennium Wood, watching the children of the village hunt for Easter Eggs, and of course Wendy's wonderful Afternoon Teas in the Village hall.

We will miss you!





# The Hundred Parishes Society

Tricia Moxey



Enjoying a winter stroll along any of the described walks within the Hundred Parishes provides an opportunity to view the landscape features visible from various vantage points. Much of this countryside has been farmed by many successive generations as these custodians of the land have raised livestock and garnered variable harvests of grain. The spring of 2024 was rather wet, and this resulted in poor establishment of autumn-sown cereals. This, combined with the inclement conditions during harvesting, resulted in disappointingly low yields.

However, it seems that with dry weather in the autumn of 2024, the sown wheat, barley and oats have germinated well, with most fields now covered with fresh green shoots. Many farmers have decided to cut back on growing oil seed rape, and they may choose to plant alternative niche crops such as sunflowers or borage once the weather is warmer.

These farmed landscapes have traditionally supported assorted wildlife including skylarks, rooks, ladybirds, bumble bees, butterflies, badgers and foxes. In addition, well-maintained soils contain not just beneficial fungi, but a variety of earthworms and beetles which in turn provide food for many other creatures. Sadly, other less-welcome creatures such as slugs and root-eating beetle or fly larvae are also present. Seeing a sizeable flock of birds following a plough demonstrates this plethora of food!

Recent concerns about the loss of insect life, especially pollinators or those that eat aphids, is encouraging farmers to find ways of enhancing habitats for insects by leaving marginal strips round fields for wildflowers, planting new hedges or creating beetle banks within their fields. These features may be visible from footpaths during the winter months so make a note of where they are and plan return visits during the summer to observe them full of flowers and other wildlife.



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

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

Our entertainment initiatives are off to a flying start. Following on from two great evenings, first with Halloween and then a 4 course authentic Italian Dinner, our December and early January events have proved equally successful.

Saturday 7th December Cabaret Night - a 2 course dinner and Jill Oxborrow with her fine voice, entertained with songs from the 60's onwards.

Saturday, 11th January Cabaret - an Elvis revival evening with a meal of Elvis's favourites.

Both these evenings attracted maximum numbers and, from the applause, enjoyed by all.

Robbie Burns evening was next on 25th January (still to happen at the time of writing).

Some ceremony and tradition with the parading of the Haggis etc with a 3 course meal.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We endeavour to offer a wide selection of events that suit all tastes and arranged so far:

**Saturday 22nd February.** An evening of BINGO PLUS - the plus being jacket potato with trimmings and some entertainment. Entry by ticket £5

### Monday 17th March

St Patricks Day. Don some green and join us for a lively evening of Irish music provided by Wheelie on the piano and Mary on the violin. Sing-a-long, dance - have fun. 2 course Irish dinner included £15 pp

### Saturday 5th April

GRAND NATIONAL Details not yet finalised but keep the date open

Tables for 6 or more available for groups (gf or v options if requested in advance) The bar open for all events

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# THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Jill Goldsmith  
www.eastonlodge.co.uk



February is snowdrop season at the Gardens. It is so wonderful to see those first flowers of the year, massed under the trees, on the banks and in the grass. Children love finding them around the Gardens and climbing up into the treehouse; and dogs on leads enjoy the space too. In a changing climate we now have to keep our fingers and toes crossed that the snowdrops don't open early and that we don't have the extreme winter rains we had last year. So far, so good on the latter... only time will tell on the former. Last year, after the wash-out snowdrop season we planted out lots of bulbs we didn't sell, so the Gardens should be even more spectacular this year.

Our snowdrop days are Sunday 9, Thursday 13, Sunday 16 and Thursday

20 February, with advance tickets available and gates opening at 11.00. Our volunteers will be ready to serve hot drinks and other refreshments. And snowdrops in the green and other snowdrop merchandise will be available for sale. Full details are on our website: [www.Eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.Eastonlodge.co.uk)

For our garden volunteers there will be some really busy weeks in the run-up to the Snowdrop Open Days. They will be finishing up the new fencing; tidying fallen branches and using them to strengthen and top up the dead-hedges; and planting the last of this dormant season's new trees. And our cake and soup makers will also be prepping for the Open Days.

We look forward to welcoming readers to the Gardens again in 2025.

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## Rural Ramblings

### Cherry Mardell

The foul weather we are experiencing as I write this column could be the start of a bitter winter... only time will tell. But with a rain-proof coat, boots and wearing one of those horrendous woollen hats, I trudge off each morning with our eager cocker-poo pretending that I, too, happily relish the thought of early morning exercise... I'm good at lying!

As he rushes about, smelling every new scent, I plod on wondering why I ever thought having another dog was a good idea! If he sees other dogs – however large - he is ready to meet and greet with enthusiasm. It is not always a two-way friendship!

Small dogs and – dare I say it – small men, are often keen to show they may lack stature but are always game for anything... so watching our relatively small four legged friend go bounding up to something large enough to consume him for breakfast, is a worrying sight! So far, so good, but with the character of our dog being ridiculously self-important, things may change at any time!

You could say a dog's behaviour is only as good as the owner has made it, and you would be right!

Another nail in my coffin!

On the first Sunday of January, dozens and dozens of people walked the footpath on our farm... and I never found out who they were or what they were all hoping to achieve! If any of you were part of the trail that day,

please let me know what it was all about... I'm always game to give hot drinks and encouragement to passing walkers... But I need to have prior knowledge of what's happening!

P.S. I have been writing this column for more years than I care to admit... so I wonder if one of you would like to take over the reins. As you must have realised, our Editor gives me the chance to talk about pretty much anything and everything... so you have plenty of scope to make it your own – be it serious or sassy.

If you think this is something you might enjoy, I'm happy to have a chat. My number is 01279 771 283.

Equally, you could just write a sample piece and send it to her with your name and phone number. Why not have a go?

**Editor's Note:** *We will be very sad to lose Cherry as one of our writers after so many years of entertaining us all with her regular column.*

*We really would welcome any budding columnists out there who would like to write for us regularly, so please do contact me if you'd like to discuss this or send me a sample piece at: [littlehadhampn@gmail.com](mailto:littlehadhampn@gmail.com)*

*We are on the lookout for new content editors in general as we also had our last Nature Notes last month too. So if you have an idea for a new regular feature, let me know.*



# Parish Services February 2025

Benefice of: Little Hadham | Much Hadham | Albury

	The Presentation <b>2nd Feb</b>	4th Before Lent <b>9th Feb</b>	3rd Before Lent <b>16th Feb</b>	2nd Before Lent <b>23rd Feb</b>
<b>St Andrew's</b> Much Hadham	9:15am <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> <i>Tayo</i>			9:15am <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> <i>Ven Janet Mackenzie, Archdeacon of Hertford</i>
<b>St Cecilia's</b> Little Hadham		9:15am <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> <i>Tayo</i>		
<b>St Mary's</b> Albury			9:15am <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> <i>Tayo</i>	

## OTHER SERVICES:

Thursday 27th 10:00am

**NO** Midweek Communion Little Hadham

### Donating to St. Cecilia's

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

Thank you



All are welcome to join our services