

LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

JULY 2025



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Letter from the Rectory

Oh My God, Oh My Word!

The phrases above are widely used worldwide; in pain, joy, football and generally. These are expressions from the heart. It is often used interchangeably, especially as media censors or mutes the word "God", prompting people to use the alternative "oh my word". Amazingly, the bible says in the Gospel of John "in the beginning was the Word and the word was God". That Word is Jesus. Oh, my Jesus!

I sometimes wonder why in our bid to be 'politically correct', phrases that relate to God are muted or censored. Did God offend us? Why is God being blocked in our part of the world, but encouraged in other parts of the world, where for example "by God's grace" is a free everyday expression and nothing to be ashamed of. Do you recall back then when the phrase Deo volente (DV) was used freely?

Why is there now, a systematic attempt at erasing of the use of God's name?

Why is God blamed for the world's wrongs but not credited for its progress and beauty? There is frequent discussion about not judging others, but this raises a question about how we view God. We often assign blame to Him but may not express gratitude and give Him credit for what we receive.

As we engage in gardening this season, it is important to reflect on the factors that cause a seed to sprout and bear fruit. How does the earth facilitate this transformation, and from where does it derive its capabilities? While "Mother Earth" is often credited with life and beauty, it is essential to consider her as part of God's creation. Can the earth independently produce food and beauty without divine influence? This notion seems improbable.



In the book of Genesis in the Bible, God did say: Let there be plants, including the seas and water bodies and the skies!

We are a remarkable creation. Our uniqueness suggests a distinguished origin, highlighting your significance as a gift to the world. Take a moment to appreciate the beauty of nature around you.

Everything is indeed bright and beautiful, with all creations attributable to their source – God Almighty. It is essential to acknowledge this in our daily interactions and ensure that recognition is given where it is due. Just as we protect our copyrights and innovations to prevent others from taking credit for our efforts, we should also ensure that God receives the appropriate acknowledgment for His creations, thereby respecting His rightful recognition.

Let us articulate this appreciation with respect and admiration in our conversations.

Which came first, the hen or the egg? God made the hen, and the hen started to lay eggs.

God is the source and should not be relegated.

Revd T.

LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

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

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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



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

Nothing from the registers this month.

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

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

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

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

Little Hadham Parish Council

Carole Page

www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk

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

Meeting dates – all meetings commence at 7.30pm

	1st July	2nd Sept
7th October	4th November	2nd December

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



We have one final Information Board

Hoping to place at Hadham Hall or at the beginning of Nut Walk at Church End. Have approached the owners of both properties to gain permission to install the Hadham Hall /

Church End information board.

Friends of the River Ash

Now we have two people qualified to undertake river monitoring and 2 further volunteers. We are now waiting to meet with the area coordinator from Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to find out more about where the best locations are to monitor. We are gathering a list of people interested in joining in. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk on clerk@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk

Little Hadham Parish Council Website - <https://littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/> We now have a new PC website and would ask for any ideas as to content.



4 new benches installed across the Hamlets

The last 4 benches have been installed at Westland Green, Cradle End, Bury Green and the Playground at the village hall.



Little Hadham Ramblers – our walks are scheduled for:

Wednesday 2nd July

Wednesday 3rd September

Wednesday 1st October

Wednesday 5th November

Wednesday 3rd December

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

The walks will be loaded onto the Parish Council website through Komoot.

Little Hadham Community Group – Facebook Page

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

BBQ in the Orchard on July 20th

From 12 noon in the Community Orchard and Allotments.

Everyone is invited to bring a picnic and food to cook on the BBQ (there are 2 BBQs available).

At 2.20 pm the Chiltern Quire will be playing music and singing. They entertained us at the Orchard Wassailing event last year, which was very enjoyable.

If anyone would like to play some acoustic instruments (or sing) afterwards, please get in touch. This is a chilled out afternoon and a chance to see a part of the village you may not have visited before.

The event is organised by the Parish Council with help from the Village Hall committee.

Please support our community. Check out our Village Facebook Group – Little Hadham Community Group.

Support Our Parish Council

– a personal view

Dave Willett

I support our Parish Council. I have done so since I moved to Little Hadham just over 12 years ago. I regularly attend Parish Council meetings. I regularly attend the annual Parish Assembly. I have been involved in two Parish Council projects, the Neighbourhood Plan from 2015-2018, and the Drive Safe Scheme 2016-2018. I have also attended the two Parish Council 'Meet & Greets' in December 2023 and December 2024.

I like to think that I do my bit for the village in other ways. I have been a Governor at our 'outstanding' primary school for 7 years. I have also been a volunteer at the Village Hall for the past 5 years, and on the Committee for 4 years. I also raise money for the Village Hall.

Since I have lived in Little Hadham, interest in our village from residents has declined. Attendance at Parish Council meetings has gone from nearly 50 at my first meeting in February 2013 to a regular average of sometimes less than 10 over the past couple of years. The annual Parish Assembly used to be attended by around 80 people, sometimes more, until COVID. In 2022 there were 25 in attendance, in 2023 - 18, and in 2024 - 9. A few weeks ago there were just 13 people present.

We need a Parish Council, and we need to support them. Over the past couple of years or so, they have achieved a lot on our behalf -

- Working with Highways to try and resolve speeding issues in the village
- Working on plans to improve the safety, and the turning of vehicles at the traffic lights
- Repairs to the war memorial
- Development of the allotments
- New information boards and benches around the hamlets
- Having regular updates from our local EH District Councillor. Our recently newly elected MP was invited to a meeting which he attended, as did our new Herts County Councillor

- A new zebra crossing and bus stop near The Smithy, and resurfacing of the C15 road close to it.

And let us not forget that the Parish Council responds to serious issues. In April 2019 when travellers set up homes at Westland Green, the issues were aired with District Councillors, who promised support for Westland Green residents who complained at the Parish Assembly. Even though appeals failed, the Parish Council listened.

The recent music festivals at Bury Green and Church End highlighted safety issues, and how licences were granted. Angry residents complained and the Parish Council listened to concerns and responded. Representatives at County level were invited to a meeting to be questioned about the problems caused by these music festivals. This pressure has led to the cancellation of the music festival to be held this summer.

The recent idea of building homes on the field opposite the school drew a bigger attendance of 41 at the Parish Council meeting in February. And, to put all this into context, for the past two years there have been two vacancies on the Parish Council. One has recently been filled, and there should be another 2 or 3 more to increase the numbers to what they were a few years ago.

I am not surprised that the Parish Council wrote in their Parish News article in May, 'Shame there is not more interest in our village.' If there was no longer a Parish Council, we would have no voice in what happens in our village'. I agree with this. At the meeting in May, three people, including myself, said a few words in support of the Parish Council.

Of course, the Parish Council should not be immune from criticism. If you belong to any Committee, you may have to answer awkward questions at times, or justify why you made a decision. It does go with the territory. I have been on three committees recently, and I still serve on one. Every Parish Council meeting has an item called 'Public

Issues' where residents can have their say. I have often expressed my opinion as other residents have done, and still do. This is what should happen in a village where residents want to see the Parish Council succeed on their behalf. It is always better to raise issues personally, complain about something, and promote some discussion about what to do about it. It is even better to 'step up' and get involved as I have done.

However, the Post Office closure two years in April 2023 led one resident to write a short article in the Parish News criticising both the Parish Council and the Village Hall for not doing enough to stop this from happening. The author also wrote that 'there was no consultation'. This was untrue as it had been discussed at many Parish Council meetings over several months before this decision was finally made. From late 2022 when the Doctor's Surgery decided to end its lease, this issue was discussed. Residents who attended all of these Parish Council meetings asked questions and expressed their opinions about this. It was only in April 2023 that the decision to close the Post Office was then made. Over the previous few months, many residents were aware of this situation and what was likely to happen. Many more could have attended these Parish Council meetings.

I spoke to the author of this article. I learned that he has not attended Parish Council meetings for many years. He has not attended Parish Assemblies either. He also did not attend any Parish Council meetings when this issue was discussed. He did not speak to the Chair of the Parish Council about this either. Equally as bad, had he done a small amount of research he would have discovered that Charity Commission rules on insurance, especially Employers Liability Insurance, are very clear.

The Village Hall is a Registered Charity, and must comply with these rules. This was the main reason the Post Office had to close. I was not happy about the closure either because the Post Office was a focal point in the village. But, I attended Parish Council meetings with others, and listened to the discussions about this.

The Parish Council chose not to respond

to this article, which I believe was a shame. Many residents will have believed what he said as there was no other story in the Parish News about this. In my opinion, this article damaged the reputation of the Parish Council. I believe that it led to more people deciding not to attend meetings, and it may have discouraged others from becoming Parish Councillors. Twice over the last few months, two Parish Council meetings have come close to being inquorate due to the lack of councillors in attendance. It is also sad that an individual chose to take out his anger about a decision in this way, instead of attending Parish Council meetings, and joining in with the discussions about this issue. Three councillors were unable to attend the meeting in June, and so once again, this meeting was close to being inquorate.

I accept that we all have the right to express our opinions. But this is not the way to do it. The Parish Council does consult residents. It always has done. There are no secret decisions. There is a lot to discuss about the future. A new Neighbourhood Plan Group has been set up. I wish them well, and I look forward to regular updates about their progress at Parish Council meetings. I also look forward to reading the finished plan, and casting my vote in favour of it in the near future. I am sure there will be open, honest and transparent discussions led by the Parish Council about how many, and where, new homes may be built. There will also be other projects to discuss which may come out of the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be an opportunity for residents of all ages to become more involved in our village. I hope that many more do so.

So, my message is this - support the Parish Council, show an interest in the future of our village, and turn up to Parish Council meetings. Step up and get involved as well, not just with our Parish Council but with the Village Hall which also needs more volunteers.

Please don't write inaccurate articles about the Parish Council and the Village Hall. This is unfair, unhelpful, and serves no purpose at all.

Dave Willett

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The Harmonaires Choir, formed 10 years ago by Musical Director Josie Cowley, is a tight-knit ensemble renowned for its exceptional performances and dedication to community enrichment. Based locally, this group of talented vocalists has garnered acclaim for their ability to capture hearts with their harmonious renditions of classic and contemporary choral pieces and is going from strength to strength, singing in cathedrals as well as performing fund-raising concerts locally. For more information about the choir visit their website.

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Millennium Wood

Rachel Seifert

rachel.seifert@gmail.com

Summer is now fully upon us, and the wood is looking very lush and green this month and is now bursting full of life. I've been going in the early mornings, sitting with the dappled sunlight shining through the leaves, listening to the birds out in force. Most noticeably, family of wrens singing their hearts out throughout the wood. There are also baby robins, blue tits, and great tits all chirping and flitting around. Blackbirds scuttling through the undergrowth. Treecreepers scurrying up and down the trunks. And the odd voice of the song thrush, trill of the blackcaps, and the chiffchaffs calling out their names.

The butterflies are started to emerge too. I've seen a number of speckled wood and also some meadow browns. Lots of ladybirds out this year it seems as well.

Given all the recent hot and dry weather, the pond had started to dry up, but we've filled it back up and it is now a much needed cool water spot in the middle of the wood. There are still some yellow flag irises out in flower. And buttercups are providing a lovely carpet of colour around the pond.

The wood pretty much looks after itself at this time of year. Apart from any necessities, we leave it alone for all the wildlife, providing shelter, food, water, and a home to many of them. It is also a much needed shady spot for us humans given the heat at the moment!



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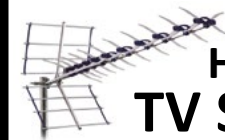
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I thought this month I would give you an update on numbers, so here's a quick summary of our vaccination uptake.

For the Covid Spring Booster

- 53% uptake, with 478 vaccinated out of 896 eligible.

The Flu vaccine has had a stronger response with

- 66% uptake — 1,610 vaccinated out of 2,427 eligible.
- 1,219 of those were over 65s (which is an impressive 80% uptake)
- 391 were under 64s in at-risk groups, giving us 43% in that category.

The RSV vaccine has had the highest uptake at

- 69%, with 270 vaccinated out of 391 eligible.

The Government has expressed particular satisfaction with the success of this programme. A recent UKHSA study found that it has led to a 30% reduction in hospital admissions among adults aged 75 to 79, highlighting how effective the vaccine is at protecting vulnerable groups. It's worth noting that, contrary to common belief, the RSV vaccine is a one-off, year-round offer for those aged 75 to 79. It is not restricted to autumn or the typical respiratory season.

Looking ahead, we will be holding our flu clinic at Little Hadham

Village Hall on **Saturday 4th**

October 2025. The autumn Covid clinic will follow at the same venue, probably two weeks later, and I will confirm the date nearer the time.

In other news, the Jack May Trust met in May and have kindly agreed to fund additional equipment and a new air conditioning unit for the practice. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support and the generosity of the donations we receive.

One of the long-standing Trustees, Peter Brighton, has decided to step down after many years of dedicated service since the Trust's inception. His wisdom and guidance, along with the incredible generosity of his time, dedication, and the good humour he always brought to our meetings, will be deeply missed. His leadership, particularly in the early days as de facto chairman, played a key role in shaping the Fund into what it is today — and we are all the better for it.

Enjoy the summer and fingers crossed we get lots of sunshine to replenish our Vit D levels.

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Summer has arrived, and we're soaking up the sunshine while enjoying the cool shade of the tree canopy in the woods!

We kicked off the season with our Half-Term Holiday Club, where 5 to 11 year olds embraced outdoor adventures in the heavy rain. Despite the downpours, spirits were high as children enjoyed experiencing nature crafts, teamwork, using tools and making campfire stew! Now with the school summer holidays approaching soon, we are excited about planning our next adventures. Bookings are open for our Summer Holiday Club!

This term we have been delighted to welcome back the Mini Muntjacs sessions, our baby group. As babies enjoy the wonders of the woods, mums have been relaxing with a well earned cuppa and a chat, while taking in the peaceful surroundings.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined our Teddy Bear Picnic charity event! We raised nearly £100 for the NSPCC, with



Nikki & Louise
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children making jam sandwiches and icing biscuits to share. This was a wonderful way to support a great cause while having fun together.

Our Home Education Group ventured into the woods to forage nettles to make nettle tea. They also burned sticks to create charcoal pencils.

In celebration of Global Wind Day, children crafted vibrant windsocks and had fun using them to observe the wind speed and direction,

With sunshine, laughter, and adventure filling the air, we are loving this time of year in the woods. Join us for a summer of exploration! We always love welcoming new faces!



Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett



We do not meet in July but would like to remind you all about our **Autumn Show on 31st August**. There is a Junior Section which is split between two age groups, up to 8 years and 9-14 years. This year the classes are a miniature garden in a standard seed box, a character made from vegetables and/or fruit, a leaf collage and 6 Chocolate S'mores. If you have young children or grandchildren encourage them to have a go. It's great fun.

Gravel Gardens

Gravel gardens are an attractive way to transform part, or all of the garden, into a drought tolerant, low-maintenance display. The planting style is soft and informal, often with no barrier between planting and paths. They are ideal for

Mediterranean plants that thrive in free draining, sandy soil, such as lavender, cistus, eryngiums and phlomis, as well as bulbs and grasses, which complement these sun-loving shrubs and perennials.

Gravel gardens are low maintenance because a thick layer of gravel helps to suppress weeds. Plants that are suited to the growing conditions of a gravel garden also tend to be drought tolerant, which saves time on watering, while the gravel itself conserves soil moisture. The best place for a gravel garden is in a sunny area with sandy, free draining soil. It's hard to create a gravel garden on heavy clay soil, as gravel garden plants don't grow well in these conditions. For heavier soils, dig in organic matter and grit to improve drainage.

Use contemporary planting - Use airy, see-through plants and differing heights to create a modern gravel garden. Planting in a gravel garden doesn't need to be dense and tends to have a more informal look. Gravel can also be used to complement features such as rockeries and water features.

Gravel Garden ideas with pots - Gravel acts as a foil for plants and also looks attractive beneath container displays. The neutral shades of gravel are an ideal backdrop for colourful seasonal displays. Pots can also act as focal points in gravel gardens. If you're limited on space and only have room for one container, try creating a miniature garden in a trough or container, with plants like sedums, cacti or alpines surrounded by gravel.

Create a gravel front garden - Incorporate a gravel garden into your front garden or driveway. It will have a softer look than hard landscaping, it provides more places to add plants and if you choose plants that attract pollinators it will also be good for wildlife. Choosing gravel over a stone driveway is also better for drainage.

Make a seating area - In a gravel garden, plants can be dotted around, in loose arrangements and planted in between path pavers. This can help to create a beautiful space for a seating area, surrounded by views of plants in all directions. Gravel can also be useful in tricky shapes where there isn't room for traditional flower beds as well as a seating area.

Gravel garden for wildlife - Add a pond to your gravel garden to help attract wildlife such as birds, frogs,

newts and dragonflies. Gravel is an attractive background for silver-leaved plants such as sage and the bright magenta flowers of rose campion.

Make a small gravel garden - Avoid buying gravel that is too big as it needs to be comfortable to walk on and small enough to blend into the background and let the plants stand out. 10-15mm is a good size for planting areas and paths. Choose a gravel colour that complements your hard landscaping or house. Look for ethically sourced gravel – some gravel is dredged from the sea. To ensure the gravel you use is sustainable, choose locally sourced gravel or recycled gravel.

What should be laid under gravel?

There are two options. It's fine to create a gravel garden on bare soil. You may get more weeds at first, but you will also get seedlings from self seeding plants such as eryngium. To help suppress weeds you can lay landscape fabric over your soil before laying the gravel. You can then cut a cross in the fabric and insert plants through it.

Bear in mind that most landscape fabric is made from plastic and some can disintegrate into the soil, increasing its microplastic load. What's more, landscape fabric can prevent water and air reaching the soil, and earthworms are not able to reach the soil surface. If you want plants to spread and self seed, don't lay landscape fabric. For an environmentally friendly option, try eco mats, which are made from organic material, bio-degradable and have the benefit of allowing more water and air through, as well as suppressing weeds.

Little Hadham Village Hall News

Joan McKinlay

www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

The village hall will be closed during August for its annual break and for refurbishment of the main hall floor which is expected to take around three weeks. If you attend an activity during August run by an external hall hirer, please check dates with your group organiser. Volunteers will be working throughout August on other projects including a tidy up of the storage containers and outside area. We are always looking for new volunteers to support our regular activities and fundraising events. If you would like to get involved from September, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you!



Afternoon Tea and Bishops Stortford Sinfonia Strings

A great time was had by all who attended our afternoon tea featuring the fabulous Bishops Stortford Sinfonia Strings on Saturday 31 May. With an audience of just over 70 people, our volunteers were kept busy serving tea and coffee, sandwiches, cakes and scones.

The Sinfonia delighted everyone throughout the afternoon with a programme of music including Gustav Holst – St Paul's Suite, Hanna

Havrylets – Choral for Strings, J.S Bach, Brandenburg Concerto no.3 in G major, Archangelo Corelli, Suite for Strings, Samuel Barber, Adagio for Strings and Edward Elgar, Serenade for Strings. Our sincere thanks to Rebecca their very talented conductor who kept the audience totally engaged and to the lovely Tanya, their artistic director, who worked tirelessly with us prior to the day, to ensure that the afternoon would be a resounding success. We hope it won't be too long before we will be able to welcome Bishops Stortford Sinfonia Strings back to Little Hadham. Just over £700 was raised for the village hall through tickets sales and raffle. A big thank you to all our attendees and of course to the volunteers, without whom, events like these would not be possible.

'Love to Sing' – Starting Thursday 25th September

Do you love to sing? around the house, in the shower... then this is the group for you! Starting on **Thursday 25th September**, we will be trialling a 'Love to Sing' group led by Jenny Salmon. Jenny is not a stranger to



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Ever wanted to sing
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A Brand new singing group
is starting at Little Hadham
Village Hall from September.
It will run for an hour from
10am on Thursday morning
(Excludes second
Thursday of the month)

The group chooses their own songs
and Jenny Salmon will help you bring
them to life... all while laughing and
enjoying yourself.
You do not need to be able to sing or
read music...
You just need to LOVE TO SING!!!

the village hall, she has been immensely supportive in the past year, bringing her singing groups to entertain us at Christmas Community Breakfast and then again at our VE Day Celebration in May.

To come along to the group, you do not need to be able to sing, the whole point is to enable anyone who just enjoys singing, to get involved. There is no age limit, and singing is great fun and very therapeutic too, so don't be shy!

As part of the 'Love to Sing' group you will be able to help choose the kind of songs you wish to learn. 'Love to Sing' will be held on the first, third and last Thursday of the month between 10am and 11am in the Elm Room. Cost is just £7 per session, pay as you go. To express your interest, please contact Jenny via email: jennysalmon123@yahoo.com or phone her on: 07823 884 445



Monthly Community Breakfast - Now Available to Book Online

Yet another busy food service for our volunteers at our June Community Breakfast, serving up to 60 attendees this month. Funded solely by cash donations, our Community Breakfast presents an opportunity for local people to have a place to meet with friends old and new, for a good old chat over a delicious breakfast cooked by Jan and Carole and ably supported by Brenda, Gina, Richard, Dave and Mark. We are always very appreciative of all your lovely comments and generous cash donations. Our next monthly Community Breakfast will on **Thursday 10th July**. Booking available via our village hall website, search: www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com – select 'What's On' tab from menu bar and then select 'Events' from the drop down menu.

FINAL Air Fryer Demonstration – Monday 14th July

Having been a successful event for nearly two years, Jan and Carole will be hosting a final Air Fryer Demonstration on **Monday 14th July from 7pm**. Please book early to join in the party atmosphere as they celebrate the many dishes, recipes and techniques they have been able to share. A taster session at the end of the demonstration comes with a glass of juice or wine. Suggested donation of £7 at the event. Booking available via our village hall website, search: www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com – select 'What's On' tab from menu bar and then select 'Events' from drop down menu.

Details of these and all other events are available to view on our website along with many more social, well-being and fitness activities. www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

Help Needed Please

Large events and children's parties are usually held on weekends and because of this we are looking for someone who lives locally to check that the building is left clean, tidy and secure ready for the next hall user to come in. This could be a paid, shared or volunteer role. If this is something you might be interested in doing, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Contact: Joan McKinlay M: 07789 098 071 - Email: vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com

Standon Embroidery Group

Barbara Norris

The monthly Standon Embroidery Group is seeking new members as it has several vacancies.

It meets the second Tuesday of the month in Standon Village Hall from 2pm - 4pm under the expert tutor Julie Walsby.

So why not come along and learn the art of hand embroidery. For further information call Barbara on **01920 - 822 104** or email her on **robertnorris591@btinternet.com**.

The cost is £7 per person per month which includes the cost of hiring the hall.



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NEW! Buntingford Men's Shed Group NEW!

Every Tuesday (from 24 June)
2.00pm-4.00pm
at The Manor House, Buntingford

We are starting a **Men's Shed** in Buntingford. Whilst we are looking for a suitable venue we are going to hold regular weekly meet ups. Come and join us to hear about our plans, share ideas for projects and meet other 'shedders'.

A Men's Shed encourages people to come together to make, repair and repurpose, supporting projects in their local communities.

UK Men's Sheds Association

Contact Phil for more information:

email: philricketts@btinternet.com

phone: 07896 860769

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What's On in July @ LH Village Hall

See website www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com for latest details

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY'S

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

TUESDAY'S

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

WEDNESDAY'S

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

THURSDAY'S

Mike's Bowls Club **2 – 4pm**

FRIDAY'S

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

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

FORTNIGHTLY

Tuesday 8th & 22nd **2 – 4pm** Darts, games and social (£3 per session)
Tuesday 1st, 15th & 29th **2 – 4pm** Turn up & Play Scrabble (£3 per session)
 Annette: 07926 088 202

MONTHLY

Tuesday 1st **7:30pm** Parish Council Meeting (main hall)
Thursday 10th **10 – 12 noon** Community Breakfast morning
BOOKING ESSENTIAL on website: littlehadhamvillagehall.com or email vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com
Monday 14th **7 – 9pm** Air Fryer Demonstration - pay on entry £7 **(change of date)**
Friday 25th **9am-1pm** Little City kids role play



NOTICEBOARD

If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us

We know that facing the end of life can leave you feeling isolated and alone. The Anne Robson Trust helpline volunteers are here to listen and support you.

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We're here for you, if you or a loved one are facing the end of life at home, in a hospital, care home or hospice.

To find out more, please visit
www.annerobsontrust.org.uk

AnneRobson Trust



Friday 11th July
7pm

Membership Required. For information email:
redchaircinema@littlehadhamvillagehall.com

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I'm Rolo

SCAN ME

FINDING A JOB

My son and I are both struggling to find work at the moment. He's just finished university and looking for his first job, and I'm retired but need to top up my income. We've both been sending out applications for a while now, could unpaid work help us find something?

Whether you're trying to get into work for the first time or after time off, finding a job can be really challenging.

It's always a good idea to think about what skills or experience you could be missing for the kind of work you want, especially when feeling stuck after weeks or months of sending out job applications.

If you can afford to take unpaid work, it can be a good way to plug gaps in your CV and get a taste for different types of jobs. These sorts of roles usually come in the form of volunteering, work experience, or internships.

If you receive welfare benefits, you should check the Citizens Advice website or speak to an adviser before taking unpaid work.

And because the rules around unpaid internships are complicated, you should get advice on being paid less than minimum wage before applying to this type of role.

Volunteer roles are often well-defined and can expose you to specific types of work, whether you're looking for experience in an office or something more practical, like supporting people in your local community. Charities, including Citizens Advice, usually have a range of opportunities available.

Being a volunteer doesn't just give you a chance to learn and improve skills that are transferable to paid work, it can also help you gain confidence and self-esteem in a professional setting, and provide structure to your day or week.

This can set you up well for job applications and interviews by showing employers you've got transferable skills, relevant experience, and are ready to enter paid work. Just like any job advert, you can find plenty of volunteering opportunities online, so it's well worth seeing what's out there if you're interested.

If you need advice, the quickest way is to call our Message Line 01920 459 944 Mon – Thurs or visit our website www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk.

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 10am to 12pm, where our friendly staff will listen to what's happening and help you work out what to do next.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you have any of the following repair skills?

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Toys

Would you be interested in donating your expertise & time as part of our Buntingford Repair Café, launching later this year?

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For more information contact [Madela](#)

email: madela1@hotmail.co.uk

phone: 07778 298605

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The Hundred Parishes Society

Ken McDonald

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



The topography, geology and fertile soils of the Hundred Parishes have combined to provide suitable conditions for farming. Currently, cereals cover about two-thirds of our arable fields with crops of winter or spring-sown barley, oats and wheat. 20% of fields have been planted with oil seed rape or vegetables. Grasslands make up the remainder of fields, providing forage for cattle, sheep or horses.

Inevitably the weather influences the success or otherwise of crops. This spring has been exceptionally warm, very dry and sunny so there are concerns about a possible drought, reduced crop growth and lower yields. Some farmers started earlier than usual to irrigate vulnerable crops, and all are hoping for some more rainy days ahead as plants need moisture to absorb the nutrients they require for growth.

Healthy soils will retain more moisture; some farmers are planting 'cover crops' beneath the main crop as this will help to reduce water run-off and leaching of nutrients. Leaving wildflower margins around fields encourages assorted predators that eat pests of crops.

Many farmers diversify their activities to spread the risk: planting different crops, creating fishing lakes for anglers or converting barns for holiday lets or wedding venues.

In recent years, some have been able to realise the potential of their south-facing fields, conveniently located over underlying chalk, to plant grape vines. Guided by the results of detailed soil analysis, coupled with careful selection of appropriate species of grape, these

winemakers are now producing first class sparkling English wines and also bottles of excellent red, white or rosé wine. Many offer tours of their vineyards as an added attraction.

Walkers following routes from www.hundredparishes.org.uk will appreciate the area's scenic beauty and rich agricultural heritage. Routes 127 and 161 pass vineyards and we should look out for other unusual crops.



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Sunflowers



Barley



Grapes



Grape Vines

Talking Bowls...or Something

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

Flipping between the Gods (last months' piece) did not meet with approval!

The only 2 days of rain so far in June fell - and heavily - on our Seniors matches against Quentin and Saffron Walden. Fortunately Zeus had no power over the results and we took all 8 points for the former and, a bit disappointedly, shared the points 4 each with the latter. So far we have accrued 28 points - last year just 20 against the same teams, so we are heading in the right direction.

In the Mens Evening League and due to a postponement, we have played just one match so far this month when we comfortably beat Ware Cavers by taking all 6 points. It is beginning to look as though there will be panic to get all the matches played later in the season.

A big event in our friendly weekend games will have taken place by the time you read this. It is the annual match against West Row Mildenhall - this year at their Green. A coach is booked for the journey and we are all looking forward to a great day out as they are excellent hosts.

Back at the ranch, we had another water scare with a leak underground between the water pump and the Green. Having spent a small fortune on the pump system last year and an even bigger fortune replacing the water tank this year, our hearts sank. The maintenance squad excavated

the site and to our relief, found a joint in the pipe had become loose and was relatively easy to repair.

We have welcomed some new members this year and all seem to be enjoying our sport and bonhomie of the Club. Our weekend friendlies are a great way to spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon and first time bowlers soon become part of the team. If you think you might like to have a try, call Ken 01279 842 637 and we will find a time suitable for you - no cost and no commitment but flat soled footwear is required. Make that call soon as we are nearing the halfway point of the season.

Jack



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Golf Croquet in Much Hadham

Bowls & Croquet Club, Recreation Ground, SG10 6DL

Another month has gone by with perfect weather for croquet.

Next month we have a return visit from local Club "She who Dares" who book the Green and Clubhouse for 4 hours, playing both croquet and bowls (with assistance if required) and bringing their own lunch.

If you are in a Group and would like to do something similar please do give us a ring to discuss. We could provide food if required.

As always, new members are welcome.

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THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Jill Goldsmith
www.eastonlodge.co.uk



In July the Gardens' volunteers have to work hard to keep the Gardens watered, deadheaded and trimmed. After an extremely dry spring, followed by some rain in early June, we are hoping our well and water butts will be able to keep the flowers coming if July isn't wet. Another big July job is picking vegetables to sell to visitors and fruit to jam - each year there is more of this to do as we fill up the kitchen garden.

The roses and the lavender hedges are at their best in July, with lovely fragrance enjoyed by visitors and hopefully attracting butterflies too. In recent years we have added to our collection of roses, so the borders in Peto's Italian Garden are punctuated by their bright colours and the walled kitchen garden beds are filled with softer hues, together with grasses. This year we have started the huge job of replacing the lavender hedge beside the Italian Garden. We like to use cuttings so that we know the

plants are all of the same variety. We have taken lots more cuttings in June, to make sure we can finish that job next year and maybe start replacing some of the hedges in the kitchen garden too.

Our **Sunday Open Day on 20 July** is the day when we help visitors remember the cost of war. Many men from the area lost their lives in World War I and many more from the Great Dunmow airbase, which was adjacent to the Gardens in World War II. We have memorial trees in the Glade in the Gardens and there are moving memorials in the church at Little Easton. On the Open Day there will be 1940s songs performed by the Lancashire Belle and a range of exhibits to tell the stories of those eras, as well as local craft and produce stalls. For more information go to www.eastonlodge.co.uk

The Gardens are also open every Thursday during July, with lots of games for families and of course homemade cakes and hot and cold drinks.

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The Hadhams History Society had a very interesting visit to Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies on the 29th May. They were met by Sarah Kerrison who had given a talk to the Society in February and were given a guided tour round all the Archives etc. I am sure that members who are interested in tracing their ancestors who have lived in Hertfordshire would have found this very interesting and useful.

Our July meeting will be on the **24th July**, when Cristina Harrison

will be coming to give a talk on "The History of Hadham Palace."

Our August Meeting will be on the **28th August**, Anne Rowe will be coming to give a talk on "Rabbit Warrens of Hertfordshire".

We always welcome new members to join us - you will be made very welcome. We do have an excellent programme arranged and if anyone would like further details of meetings and our programme please do not hesitate to get in touch with me (Kathy Hamilton) katieh69@btinternet.com.

Hadham Cross Congregational Church

PREACHERS FOR SERVICES AT 11am

6th July	Sam Pakala	Oakwood Chapel Harlow
13th July	Mike Hillyer	Oakwood Chapel Harlow
20th July	Roger Amos	Sawbridgeworth Congregational Church
27th July	John Fosker	Therfield Congregational Church

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 9th July**, 10am- 12 noon. Please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat.

Our next **AFTERNOON TEA MEETING** will be on **Thursday 31st July**, 2 - 4pm - All are welcome for tea/coffee cake and a chat.

Do come and join us on Sundays at 11am - you will be very welcome.

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



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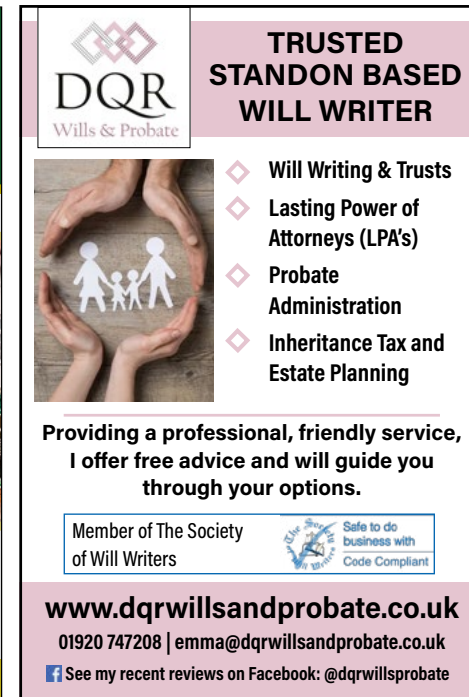
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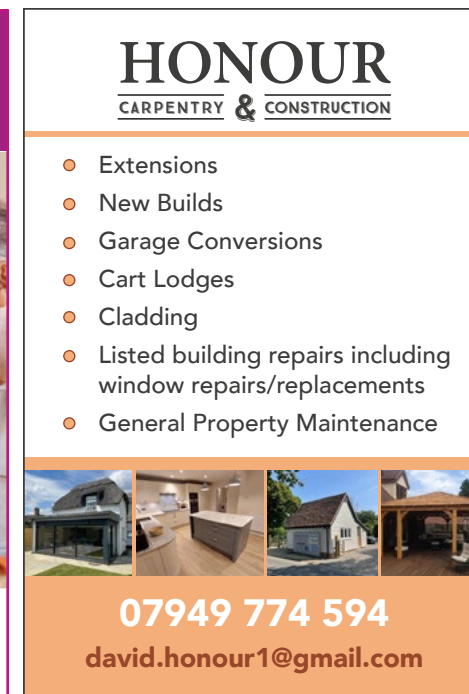
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Rural Ramblings

Cherry Mardell

I'm glad Father's Day is well behind us for another year. And the reason I feel like that is because my father was the kind of man you wouldn't willingly devote even one special day for!

He was a hard working, mean, un-loveable kind of person, who never showed my sister or myself any kindness or affection, and as far as I can remember, little love for our mother either! No, he didn't knock us around, for which I am truly grateful... but equally he didn't show us any love... far from it. When my sister failed her finals at Uni, he was horrible to her. When my mother, who as a young adult, had trained at RADA (to be an actress), achieved a degree of success, and often appeared on TV, he was disinterested.

I don't remember him being quite so cruel to me when I chose to be a journalist... maybe because I was instrumental in him being hired as a sports reporter to cover football matches!! And I do remember him laughing (not often seen!!) when I bought a very old car and painted it yellow... known from then onwards as the "yellow peril".

I well remember that day when I sloshed my new, very elderly transport with its coat of paint,

ably assisted by thousands of little flying creatures attracted to this lump of metal steaming quietly on the front yard on one of the hottest days of the year! My mode of transport raised many an eyebrow, especially when I used to drive it into London (one day grazing a double decker bus en-route!!) Perhaps he almost liked me when I showed "laddish" signs rather than feminine ones!!

Part, if not all, of this was because my Father had longed for sons, and he was not interested in us girls!

So you can probably understand my pleasure in finding that my now family consists of a husband whose sons love him and are not slow to show it. To be honest, it might not have been so successful had he become Dad to three girls.... and with a farm to manage, that could have been a whole different story!

Parish Services July 2025

Benefice of: Little Hadham | Much Hadham | Albury

	Trinity 3	Trinity 4	Trinity 5	Trinity 6
	6th July	13th July	20th July	27th July
St Andrew's Much Hadham	9:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Tayo</i> 5-5:30pm Benefice Said Eucharist <i>Tayo</i>		5-5:30pm Benefice Blessing the Pets <i>Tayo</i>	9:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Tayo</i>
St Cecilia's Little Hadham		9:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Tayo</i>		
St Mary's Albury			9:15am Benefice Holy Communion <i>Tayo</i>	

OTHER SERVICES:

Thursday 24th July

10am


Little Hadham Communion

Tayo

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