



LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

Blooming Marvellous!

See what rose to the occasion at the Little
Hadham Gardening Club Autumn Show

Letter from the Rectory



Share Your Thoughts

revdtayoreplies@outlook.com

LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

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

www.riverashchurches.org.uk

EDITORIAL DEADLINE

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

(BACS preferred, email the editor for details.)

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

View the Parish News Online including back issues: www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/parish_news.html



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

The wedding of Adam Young and Natasha Ruparelia took place on Saturday 13th September. We send them our best wishes for the future.

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	7th October
4th November	2nd December

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

Bus Shelter Project

The Community Shelters project is a part of the wider Bus Services Improvement Plan being undertaken by Hertfordshire County Council. Through working with local communities, schools, colleges and businesses, the project aims to improve each shelter and the space around it, making it more aesthetically pleasing and more engaging. The project also aims to bring awareness to the bus network through highlighting shelters within their environment. The project has been running since 2022, and a number of sites have already been completed including the site at the Village Hall. More details on other locations can be found on the webpage Community Shelters - Intalink



Apple Pressing Day in Little Hadham Orchard

Councillor Westlake on behalf

of the Parish Council set up an apple pressing day in the community orchard. This was on Saturday 13th September, when she arranged for the loan of an apple press to enable people to bring their apples along to make juice. The day was hugely successful, with people



arriving from 11am onwards. When we were planning to finish a gentleman brought along several bags of apples, and all the people still at the event joined in, chopping apples, pressing and then helping clean the equipment and the area to ensure we left no trace.

Book Exchange/ Telephone boxes

Andy Jopling (a resident) has given the kiosk in The Ford a tidy and lick of paint and cleared out the eco system that had inhabited it. He has also offered to keep an eye on the telephone box at Bury Green and will touch up that kiosk when required. The Parish Council want to thank Andy for stepping forward to help maintain the village where he lives.

Allotments

The growing season is ending for most veg this year. If you'd like to try your hand at growing please email CouncillorCarolynWestlake@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk.

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.



Bollards at the Village Pump

After the refurbishment of the pump, village sign, and the installation of the new information boards at the Ford, bollards have been put in to protect the area from car parking damage.

Over time, this area will be re-seeded with grass, and more flower planters will be installed. The area is an asset to our village and needs to be protected.

Highways Issues

Albury Road – Resident have reported traffic issues to Herts Highways,

Speeding along the C15 and the old A120 continue to be an issue.

Parked cars from the Nags Head to the Village Hall continues to be an issue and is particularly bad first thing in the morning.

Fault Reporting in our village

When you notice anything in the village that needs attention, notify the Parish Clerk, who will follow these up with Highways during our regular meetings. Then:

- Log into Hertfordshire County Council website.
- Click on 'Fault Reporting'
- What type of fault are you reporting?

Little Hadham Ramblers

our walks are scheduled for:

- **Wednesday 1st October**
- **Wednesday 5th November**
- **Wednesday 3rd December**

We start from the Village Hall at 10am, with a return between 11.30-12. 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.

Live Streaming of Parish Council meetings

The Parish Council are trialling live streaming of the meetings. This will allow residents to view the meeting and hear the discussions. Any items for discussion at the meeting can be sent to the clerk a week prior to the meeting. Where they can be added to the agenda. There is a section under Public Issues where any topic can be discussed.

clerk@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk

clerk@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk | 01920 870 809 | 07825 011 975

Down at the Doctors

Andrew Wilkinson, Practice Manager

www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk



I would like to begin by reflecting on an important development that has worked exceptionally well even though there were initial concerns and a few early challenges.

Medical Examiner Role – One Year On (Since September 2024)

A year after the mandatory introduction of the Medical Examiner (ME) role, the process has proven to be both effective and efficient. From a GP practice perspective, there were understandable concerns that the new system might slow down death registration. However, our experience has been very positive.

The ME service has worked seamlessly with practices, ensuring clear communication, timely reviews, and sensitive support for families. As a result, deaths are being registered promptly, and families are receiving reassurance and guidance throughout the process. We are pleased and reassured that this important change has enhanced quality and safety without introducing delay or unnecessary complexity.

Process for an Expected Death at Home

- **Notification** – When a patient dies at home, a family member or health professional contacts the GP practice to report the death.
- **Referral to the ME** – The practice refers the case to the Medical Examiner, providing the likely cause of death and a summary of the patient's medical notes from the last 3 months.
- **ME Review** – The Medical Examiner reviews the referral form and medical notes to confirm the proposed cause of death.

- **Family Contact** – The ME contacts the family to confirm key details, such as their chosen funeral director, whether burial or cremation is planned, and to ask whether there are any concerns about the care their loved one received.
- **Confirmation to GP** – Once confirmed, the ME provides the cause of death to the GP, enabling the doctor to complete the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD).
- **Return of Certificate** – The completed MCCD is returned to the Medical Examiner, who then emails it to the Hertfordshire Registration Service.
- **Registration Appointment** – The ME office telephones the family once the certificate has been issued, enabling them to book an appointment to register the death.

This structured, collaborative approach ensures a smooth, dignified, and efficient process supporting both families and healthcare professionals during a very difficult time.

Staffing Update

Dr Tish Ganandran will be increasing his sessions to four days a week, and Simon, our long-standing paramedic, will now be working every Monday and Friday. This additional cover is in place to support the practice while Dr Sharif undergoes treatment, expected to continue until spring next year. Although there were some donor-related delays at the start, her treatment is now underway, and we all wish her the very best in her recovery.

Best wishes, Andrew



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This Month: **Easy Chair & Sofa Company**

Easy Chair and Sofa Company in Bishop's Stortford is one of the UK's largest independent, family-run sofa, chair, recliner and sofa bed retailers. Its large, easily accessible showroom has long been a magnet for customers seeking quality furniture from top brands, while the friendly expert service and competitive pricing sets the business apart from its competitors.

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Easy Chair and Sofa Company is also a Parker Knoll Centre of Excellence, stocking one of the widest ranges anywhere in the UK. Established for over 150 years, Parker Knoll is renowned for designing and developing the best of British sofas and chairs to the highest possible quality, through beautiful designs, luxury fabric ranges and exceptional attention to detail.

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staff are extremely knowledgeable about the products, with their services regularly employed by healthcare professionals as well as private customers, so you can rest assured they are best placed to assist in finding your perfect seating.

Find out more by visiting the Bishop's Stortford showroom. Opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 4pm with free parking directly outside.

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Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett



This year the Little Hadham Gardening Club Autumn Show was held on Sunday 31st August and there were approximately 220 entries, an increase on last year

We had some first time competitors who did amazingly well. One to mention was Poppy Kemmish. who did really well at her first show.

The domestic judge commended all Little Hadham bakers and jam makers for making her job so difficult.

Our Junior section showed how imaginative and skilled they are. The junior entries, from Hazel & Francis Groot, Grace Ratnage, Poppy Kemmish, Matthew Beecroft & Rose & Benji Burroughs were admired by all. The overall junior winner was Rose Burroughs.

Sam Day won the Flower section & also the best flower. Judi Wheeler

won the Vegetable section with Jane Jopling winning the best vegetable and also the Best in Show for her collection of herbs,

Judith Crimes won the Fruit section with Jon Farrell winning the best fruit.

Lisa Sunner won the Domestic Section with Carys Rees winning the best domestic entry for her Swiss Roll.

In the Men only class, David Willett won the best Bread Pudding.

The winner of the Gardening Club Shield for the most points overall in the show was won by Judi Wheeler.

Visitors, who came to view the exhibits and have coffee & cake, were treated to a very colorful array of baking and garden produce showcasing our talented residents.

Our next meeting is on **21st October 2025** when we will have a talk by John

Marshall called 'Caring for your lawn'. Doors open at 7.45pm for a start at 8pm. Refreshments included. Members are free - non members £5.

At the next meeting we will also have information about our Christmas Wreath Workshop on **25th November** and our Club Supper on **29th November**.



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Millennium Wood

Rachel Seifert

rachel.seifert@gmail.com

It feels like the seasons have definitely turned these past few weeks, and Millennium Wood has certainly started to turn autumnal. The wood feels cooler and damper after the long hot dry summer. The leaves have started to turn, acorns are littered across the forest floor, and fruits and berries are out in full force.

The stars of the show are the apples - I haven't really noticed the abundance of them in the woods until this year. The kids and I have snacked on a fair few since school has started back. It is a good year for them, though unfortunately in the recent winds a very large branch of the apple tree has broken off and crashed down. We will have a look at this in the coming weeks and how best to manage it. For the moment, the birds, and I'm sure others, are enjoying the fruit.

Other autumnal signs are the blackberries amongst the brambles, if the kids have left any! The bright jewels of the hawthorn berries shining red. And numerous species of fungi have appeared as if by magic. The pond has also now filled up again after becoming very low over the summer.

Unfortunately though, we had some mindless vandalism over the summer holidays - the padlocked sheds were broken into and many items broken and strewn across the wood, paths dug up, and various things smashed. It is a real shame to see this behaviour in the local community asset. We have put up cameras that have been installed in the woods - hopefully though the cameras will just capture wildlife in the future rather than vandals...





Autumn Adventures with Woodland Rangers

Autumn has arrived in our forest, and our Woodland Rangers have been embracing the seasonal changes.

At the beginning of September, we wrapped up our summer holiday camp after 19 days of adventure. A real highlight was campfire cooking, where children got adventurous making bread on a stick, campfire chocolate cake even forest fudge over the fire.

This term we have returned to our after-school club at Little Hadham Primary School. The children have been getting wonderfully creative, making creatures out of conkers, leaves and other seasonal treasures. They also enjoyed building 'marble runs' for conkers and acorns using ramps, pulleys and tubes - an inventive way to combine play and problem-solving.

Our Under 5s Stay-and-Play sessions also began with a Gruffalo-themed morning. Children went on a hunt to find where the fox, owl, snake and mouse live, before making their own Gruffalo crumble, using delicious blackberries as "purple prickles."

As the weather has turned windy and the leaves are falling, the children have been out searching for autumn

Nikki & Louise
www.woodlandrangers.co.uk
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treasures such as golden leaves, conkers and acorns. They have also made seasonal crowns and apple crumbles cooked over the campfire.

We are now looking forward to our upcoming Halloween sessions and the October half-term holiday club!



Back to School – A Brilliant Start to the Year!

Since returning in September, school life has been buzzing with energy and curiosity across all classes. Our youngest Ash and Saplings children have settled beautifully, diving into sandcastles, mud-kitchen feasts, and playdoh ice creams while learning routines and caring for their classroom. Beech Class have been busy imagining their “dream classroom,” dancing through Mondays, and enjoying their first PE and forest sessions. Lime Class jumped straight into learning with prehistoric adventures, skeleton science, and plenty of reading, showing great enthusiasm come rain or shine.

Maple Class have thrown themselves into tricky maths challenges, colourful music compositions, and autumn forest teamwork, while Willow Class are embracing their final year with gusto—tackling million-place value numbers, sparking static electricity in Science, and preparing for leadership roles. With hopes for the year ahead already shining in their letters, a trip to Bletchley Park on the horizon, it promises to be a year full of learning, discovery, and community spirit!

Our first fortnightly Empathy Assembly focused on the beautiful book *My Name is a Gift*: A heartfelt celebration of the names we’re given. Led by four children, the whole school reflected on the stories behind our names and answered thought-provoking questions like: Do you share a name with someone in your family? How does it feel when someone says your name kindly? Our Year 6 pupils even shared the book with



our youngest children, sparking lovely conversations about the ‘gifts’ their names might represent. As a Rights Respecting School, we linked this to Article 7 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that every child has the right to a name and identity. We’d love to extend this reflection into your homes too – what’s the story behind your name, and how does it make you feel when it’s spoken with kindness?

Well, you’d have thought it was treasure they were after, the way the Green Team were digging away at the allotment this week! With shouts of excitement, out popped carrots of all shapes and sizes – some long and bendy, some short and stubby – each one greeted like a little surprise. Then came the sweetcorn, peeled back to show its golden kernels, and the peas, hiding snugly in their pods until the children popped them open. And let’s not forget the pumpkins – round, heavy, and perfect for autumn and one for each class to decorate!

But the biggest “WOW!” of the day was saved for the giant sunflower head. Truly, it was so huge you’d nearly need two people to carry it. The children

declared it the “biggest ever” – and I’d be inclined to believe them!

The allotment has given us our most successful harvest yet, and the children’s laughter and muddy boots told the whole story. And here’s the exciting bit: next year we’ll have our very own polycrub. That means even more adventures – strawberries earlier, tomatoes for longer, and maybe even a few surprises we’ve never tried before.

So if this year was magic, just wait until you see what the Green Team will be pulling out of the ground next year!

We are reaching out to ask for your support with an exciting opportunity for our younger children! We are looking for donations of bicycles suitable for children in Year 1 or Year 2 (aged 6–7 years), along with helmets, to help our pupils develop an essential life skill in a fun and engaging way.

Can You Help Us Pedal Towards Learning?

Learning to ride a bike is not just a wonderful way to keep active; it also supports the National Curriculum in areas such as:

- Physical Development: building balance, coordination, and strength.
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE): promoting independence and confidence.
- Understanding the World: encouraging safe outdoor exploration and environmental awareness.

If you have a bicycle in good condition that your child has outgrown, we would love for it to have a new life helping another child learn to ride safely. Helmets are essential, so if you have one that fits a 6–7-year-old, please include it with the bike.

All donations can be dropped off at the school office during school hours. We will ensure every bike is checked for safety before being used.

Thank you so much for helping us give our children the joy of learning to ride a bike, building confidence, resilience, and a love for physical activity that can last a lifetime.



Little Hadham Village Hall News

Joan McKinlay

www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com



The first week of September saw our hall hirers return after the closure of the village hall during August. These hall users were the first to enjoy the new main hall floor which took three weeks to install at a cost of £23,616. Last month we reported that the difficult decision had been made to change our plan for a refurbishment of the floor to a complete replacement with commercial grade luxury vinyl tiles (LVT). We are delighted with the outcome and confident that the subfloor is now very secure and the new floor has been very well received. The hall looks cleaner, brighter and bigger! Well done to the volunteers who came in at the end of August to get the curtains back up and paint the new skirting boards before hall hirers returned.

The replacement of the hall floor was one of two big projects that as a management committee we identified for attention. The second project is to commission a survey of the main hall roof which we hope will

help us put a plan in place to identify where repairs may be needed and plan for costs. Earlier in the year we had to manage a leak in the flat roof of the side extension of the village hall, so work was undertaken at that time to get it replaced.



Bingo Evening: Monday 6th October - 7pm

Gather up your family and friends and have a fun night out at our Bingo Evening on Monday 6th October between 7pm and 9pm.

Cost is £8 per person to include a welcome drink, nibbles and prizes. (Please note that as a charity we are unable to issue cash prizes). Bar available for wine, beer and non-alcoholic drinks. Spaces available to book online via our website Select What's On from menu – then select Events) or email: judithwheeler1@aol.com

LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL - SG11 2BP

MONDAY | 6TH OCTOBER 2025

7.00pm to 9.00pm

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Red Chair Community (Afternoon) Cinema

Red Chair Community Cinema presents a programme of monthly afternoon screening of recent film releases. See website for further dates and titles.

Monday 20th October: Bridget Jones Mad About the Boy (2025) Cert 12A

Entry is £5 per person. Refreshments available to purchase.

Doors open: 2pm Film starts: 2.30pm. No need to book, just turn up.



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Bus stop for the village hall

Our thanks to Herts County Council, Little Hadham Parish Council and representatives from the village hall who all worked together to allow the bus stop to be installed. The bus stop is already benefitting those hall users who access the Welcome Café and Digital Inclusion Workshop held every Wednesday afternoon.

Keeping you busy and connected during the week

Don't forget to visit our Welcome Café for your lunch on a Wednesday, a great opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. Our Digital Inclusion Workshop on a Wednesday afternoon can help you with any issues you are experiencing with your mobile phone or laptop. We also have our popular Darts and Games Social on alternative Tuesday afternoons and our new programme of afternoon cinema screenings once a month. No need to book any of these activities, just turn up and enjoy!

Details of events are available to view on our website along with many more regular activities and fitness groups. www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

To find out about volunteering roles please ask us or select the 'News' tab from our website menu. www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

Contact: Joan McKinlay M: 07789 098071 - Email: vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com

If you would like to know more about anything in this article please contact Joan McKinlay on: 07789 098 071 or email: vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com

Little Hadham Village Hall - SG11 2BP

Join our Welcome Café team

We are looking for volunteer cooks to help in our kitchen

If you like to cook and can help on a regular basis please let us know

For details, please contact:
Joan McKinlay, Vice-Chair
M: 07789 098071

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Red Chair Community Cinema

Relaxed Afternoon Film Screenings
Little Hadham Village Hall - SG11 2BP



Refreshments available to purchase - Entry £5
Doors open: 2.00pm - Film starts promptly at 2.30pm

Monday 15th September 2025

Mr Burton (2025)

- Drama Biography. Cert 12A. Runtime: 2hrs 4 mins

Story of Richard Burton's rise to fame. It's 1942 and Richard Jenkins is at school in Port Talbot, caught between the pressures of an alcoholic father, a devastating war and his own ambitions



Monday 20th October 2025

Bridget Jones Mad About the Boy (2025)

- Comedy/Romance. Cert 15 - Runtime: 2hrs 4 mins

Bridget Jones navigates life as a widow and single mum with the help of her friends and family and former lover Daniel (Hugh Grant). Back to work and on the apps, she is pursued by a younger man and maybe - her son's science teacher



Monday 17th November 2025

The Salt Path (2025)

- Drama. Cert 12A. Runtime: 1hr 55mins

Based on controversial memoir by Raynor Winn, the film tells the story of how she and her ailing husband, after being evicted from their home set out on a 630-mile trek along the Cornish, Devon and Dorset coastline.



Monday 15th December 2025

The Penguin Lessons (2024)

- Drama. Cert 12A Runtime: 1hr 51mins

It's 1976 and teacher Tom Mitchell takes a job in Argentina which is under military dictatorship. During a trip to Uruguay he rescues an orphaned penguin and smuggles it back to school, not suspecting this is the beginning of a political and personal awakening



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What's On in October @ LH Village Hall

MONDAY'S

Mum's Matter	10am -11.30am	Drop in: Parents group supported by NHS Midwife.
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TUESDAY'S

Brownies	5.30pm to 7pm	Contact: Cassey	Email: littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com
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WEDNESDAY'S

Welcome Cafe	10am - 2pm	Drop in: Coffee & Chat. (Lunch Menu)	DONATIONS
Chair Yoga	11am - 11.45am	Contact: Mark Cox	Phone M: 07368 293062
Tai Chi & Qi Gong	1pm - 2pm	Contact: Sarah Baker	Phone M: 07740 701102
Digital Inclusion	2pm - 3.30pm	Drop in: Help with your digital device	FREE
Fit Steps	6pm - 7pm	Jacqui Howard	Phone M: 07731 454228
Tai Chi & Qi Gong	7.30 - 8.30pm	Sarah Baker	Phone M: 07740 701102

THURSDAY'S

Love to Sing	10am - 11am	Jenny Salmon	Phone M: 07823 884445
Afternoon Bowls Club	2pm - 4pm	Mike Bennett	Email: mikebennett12@aol.com
Hatha Yoga	7pm - 8pm	Kirsty Smith	Phone M: 07903 035180

FRIDAY'S

Forever Fit	11am - 12pm	Daisy Osborne	Phone M: 07585 309933
LH Bowls Club	7.30pm - 10pm	Annette Luedtke	Email: annetteluedtke@gmail.com

FORTNIGHTLY

Scrabble	2pm - 4.30pm	Drop in: Tuesday 7 th / 21 st October	COST: £3
Darts & Games Soc.	2pm - 4.30pm	Drop in: Tuesday 14 th / 28 th October	COST: £3

MONTHLY - Please see website for full details

LH Ramblers	10am at LHVH	Drop in: Weds 1 st October (allow 2hrs)	FREE
Community Breakfast	10am - 12pm	Book via website: Thursday 9 th October	DONATIONS

Bereavement Group every third Tuesday of the month and Bereavement session 1:1 every other Tuesday from 10am -12.15pm. **By appointment only** Jan H: 01279 771272 or Ron M: 07903 194991

OTHER - Please see website for full details

Bingo Evening	7pm - 9pm	Book via website: Monday 6 th Oct	Tickets £8
Red Chair Afternoon Cinema	Doors Open: 2pm	Drop in: Monday 20 th October	Entry £5
Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy			
Hands on Sourdough	To Book: Phone Ella M: 07970 249787 - Thursday 30 th October		

See website menu for full details of 'What's On': www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com
'Drop in' - just turn up - **When contact details are listed** - please phone / email before attending.

NOTICEBOARD

★ Quiz Night ★



SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2025

LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL

@7.30PM

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- ★ Teams/tables up to 8 people ★ Bring your own drink and glasses ★
- ★ Raffle prizes to be won ★

Please confirm numbers no later than **22nd October 2025** to
 lhbooths@gmail.com or 01279 771426

My sincere thanks to all who so very kindly sent messages and Cards of sympathy in memory of Les.

All very much appreciated, Binnie.

NO PARKING IN VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

SATURDAY 4th & 18th OCTOBER

Due to the vaccination clinics taking place at which over 2000 people will be visiting the hall we ask that residents refrain from parking in the car park on this day.

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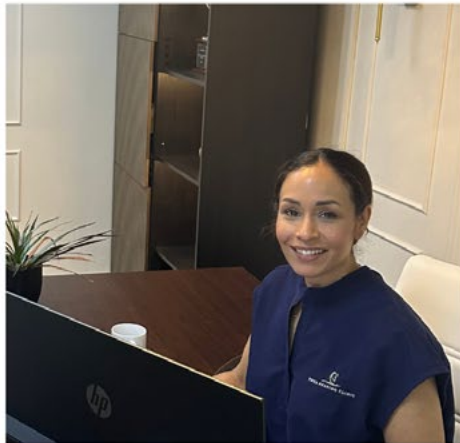
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St Cecilia's Church Bells

Quasi

Bell ringing etiquette:

During Ringing:

Focus on the task: Conversations and non-ringing related activities should be kept to a minimum or saved for after the ringing session.

Respect the silence: Avoid talking or making distracting noises (like mobile phones) while the bells are being rung.

Listen attentively: Pay close attention to the sounds of the bells to ensure proper rhythm and coordination.

Be mindful of others: Avoid actions that could be inconsiderate to other ringers, such as bringing food into the tower or raising your voice.

Follow instructions: Adhere to the instructions and guidance of the Tower Captain or Ringing Master.

Seek permission for photos/videos: Obtain permission from individuals and the Tower Captain before taking photos or videos of ringers or the tower.

Most bell ringers enjoy equal amounts of ringing and social so some of these suggestions are hard to manage. It also depends on the Tower Captain / Ringing Master as to how strict they want the tower to be, if you are in one that isn't compatible to you perhaps you should try another tower?

General Practices:

Bells should be left down: When not in use, bells are typically left in the "down" position to prevent corrosion and allow for practice of "ringing up" and "ringing down". This is the safe way to leave bells.

Safe handling of ropes: If bells are left "up," ropes should be secured properly to prevent accidents and a sign is generally left out to warn others.

Communication and safety: Use clear communication and prioritize safety in all aspects of bell ringing.

Community involvement: Bell ringing can be a valuable community activity, and ringers should be mindful of their role in representing the church and the community.

Respect for tradition: Bell ringing has a long history, and respecting the traditions associated with it is important.

Bellringers are a happy group of people who help and encourage each other.

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

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DO SAVE THE DATES and join us for the upcoming events and fundraisers at the museum.

Autumn Open Day and Conker Contest, Sun 12th October. Open from 11am, the competition leaderboards for Best Conker and Best Conqueror close at 3.30 pm with bags of our famous chocolate conkers and bragging rights up for grabs in a variety of categories. ANY player, any age can win a prize just by entering. Player entry £2.50. Try some fun craft activities and explore the museum (no charge, donations welcomed). Refreshments available.

Halloween, Friday 31st October, noon until 4pm Daytime trail for kids, with activities and refreshments £3 and prepare yourselves for the Haunted House, Ravenswood Manor, presented by Hadham Hauntz from 5.30 until 8.30pm, £3, includes squash with refills. Hot drinks available for purchase.

Much Hadham Christmas Market and Santa's Grotto, Sun 30th November from noon until 5pm. Join local artists, makers and traders for our festive annual market at the Village Hall and visit Santa in his Grotto at the Forge. (£10, includes a gift and selfie and craft activity).

Christmas Wreath / Table Centres Evening, Thurs 4th Dec, from 8pm. £30 each or £50 both (BYOB) Join our fabulous gardener Charlie Cox for her guidance in creating

your own masterpiece wreath or table centre with the huge array of greenery and accessories. All necessary materials provided.

To book your place or for other enquiries call or text Cristina on 07483 113345 or email hadhammuseum@gmail.com.



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Recently, I was privileged to watch two bats flying around my garden. They were so quick and acrobatic it was difficult to keep them in view. Bats and their roosts are legally protected so must not be disturbed. Bats are mammals, giving birth to live young. It reminded me of how lucky we are in The Hundred Parishes to have so many wild mammals in our mainly rural area.

There are several kinds of deer locally, mostly Fallow, Roe or Muntjac. Larger herds are usually Fallow deer which have "palmate" antlers, shaped like the palm of a hand. The smaller Roe deer may be seen in smaller groups – they have a white rump and no visible tail. Muntjac are smaller still and tend to be solitary; they have horns and "tusks" - downward-pointing canine teeth.

Out enjoying our latest walk, number 188, my wife and I surprised two hares who disappeared at great speed when they spotted us. They can run up to 45mph over short distances.

We regularly see foxes in our garden, usually courtesy of our inexpensive night vision camera. In the spring, we enjoyed watching the young cubs playing. Foxes seem to be a more common sight now, even during daylight, and regularly venture into built up areas. The camera occasionally spots a badger; he is usually looking for peanuts.

Anyone lucky enough to see hedgehogs in their garden should look after them as their numbers are in decline. They are nocturnal, so at dusk we should put out a shallow bowl of fresh water (not milk as it is bad for their digestion) and perhaps some dog or cat food. They may repay you by eating slugs and insects although our experience has been that they prefer commercial hedgehog food like Spike's Dinner. Enjoy them all.



Pipistrelle bat



Badger



Fallow deer



Fallow deer



Fox



Hare



Hedgehog



Muntjac deer



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I'm starting to book tickets for Christmas events, but I've seen lots of stories in the news about people being left out of pocket if these are cancelled at the last minute, which is making me nervous. How can I get a refund if this happens to me?

Keep an eye on the organiser's website and social media profiles for all the latest updates. You won't be entitled to a refund if you change your mind about going or realise you can't go anymore - but if an event is cancelled, your refund rights will depend on how you bought the ticket.

If you bought your ticket from an official seller and the organiser cancels, moves, or reschedules the event, you should get a refund. The official seller is the best point of contact to ask about how to get your money back.

If you're having no luck getting a refund, check to see if the seller is a member of the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR). If they are, you can use STAR's complaints procedure. STAR members should receive a refund at face value if the event is cancelled and the organiser has agreed to refunds.

You'll probably only get the face value of the ticket back - the amount printed on it. Some sellers might refund postage if, for example, the event is cancelled before the tickets are sent. If you had to pay any booking or card fees, you might not get those back.

If the official seller isn't a member of STAR, check how you can solve an ongoing consumer problem with a business seller. You may also be able to get your money back another way, such as through your credit card company.

If you bought your ticket from a ticket-reselling website, refunds will depend on the site's terms and conditions.

If you bought from a private seller and the event is cancelled or rescheduled then it is unlikely you will be able to recover your money. We still recommend you contact the seller.

Be aware of scams. Unfortunately, we've found that in these situations, scammers can prey on those who are affected.

If your event is cancelled and people or companies get in touch to offer their services to try to recover money on your behalf, be alert and make sure that you're looking out for the signs of a potential scam.

For more information on getting a refund, take a look at the Citizens Advice website.

What should I do if I have an urgent problem?

If you need advice, the quickest way is to call our Message Line 01920 459 944 anytime (we aim to return calls within 24 hours, except weekends) or visit **www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk** for our advice options.

What's on at the Venue Hub

at Much Hadham Bowls Club

Much Hadham Bowling Club:
Recreation Ground, Much
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Sat 18 Oct

Quiz and Bingo evening

£7.50 pp (incl baked potato
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Fri 31 Oct

Halloween Fun Evening

£12.50 pp

exciting hot food; fancy dress prize
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Sun 09 Nov

Afternoon Beetle Drive with Pete Reed

£7.50 pp (including food)

Sun 30 Nov

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Jill Goldsmith
www.eastonlodge.co.uk



And so we come to the last month of the season at the Gardens, with heavy morning dews and mists, lifting to glorious deeply intense blue skies (when the sun shines!!). Some leaves have already fallen due to the drought in the spring and summer - will the lovely autumn fungi have spread or retreated? The best colour in the Gardens is usually right at the end of October, but will it be early?

The Gardens remain open on Thursdays to the end of October, 11.00-3.00pm, and provide visitors with hot drinks and homemade cakes. The last Sunday Open Day of the year is on 19 October, and will be fun for all the family. Children will be encouraged to enjoy spooky corners of the woods, Halloween craft activity and garden games. Our Archivist is planning to focus on the history of the trees in the Gardens and the Archive Room will be open for visitors wishing to

learn more about the Gardens' design and people. Bishop's Stortford Ukelele Society will get visitors singing along, to their strumming of popular tunes. The gate opens at 11.00, with last entry at 4.00pm. For more information go to www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Our volunteers work in October to make the most of the last flowers, by deadheading and tidying around them. It is also a month for planning the winter season's work. We look for sites to plant a few additional ornamental trees, to add to our range, and we plan changes to beds and borders. We will be giving further thought to trees and plants for dry areas of course, but in wet weather we also have boggy areas. And there is always room for new bulbs. There is maintenance work to plan too. The Trust welcomes new volunteers throughout the year and those interested can drop us a line on enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk.

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The Hadhams' History Society had an extremely interesting talk at our meeting in August. Anne Rowe came along to give a talk on "Rabbit Warrens of Hertfordshire" - apparently warrens were a prized asset by the wealthy - and it is now surprising how many roads/streets and properties have the name "Warren". Again our meeting was very well attended and everyone enjoyed Anne's talk.

Our October Meeting still needs to be arranged and when details are known I will circulate them to you immediately.

I still have one or two books for sale written by Martin Adams - "The Names on Much Hadham War Memorial" - I will bring these along to the next meeting.

New members are always welcome to join us - you will be made very welcome.

If anyone would like further details of meetings/programme please do get in touch with me (Kathy Hamilton) katieh69@btinternet.com.

Hadham Cross Congregational Church

PREACHERS FOR SERVICES AT 11am

5th Oct	Kathy Hamilton	Hadham Cross Congregational Church
12th Oct	Mike Hillyer	Oakwood Chapel Harlow
19th Oct	Kathy Hamilton	Hadham Cross Congregational Church
26th Oct	John Fosker	Therfield Congregational Church

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 8th October** 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 30th October**, 2 - 4pm - All are welcome for tea/coffee cake and a chat.

All are welcome to join us on Sundays at 11am - you will be very welcome.

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Rural Ramblings: *Trinkets & Treasures*

Lucy Ventura

From the packed village hall car park, you might have thought Taylor Swift was in town. In fact, it was the penultimate Little Hadham Antiques Fair! A courteous young man in trendy specs tipped off my folks that he was vacating his space. I was intrigued. Clearly this was the place to be.

As we headed inside, I realised I might have misjudged what constitutes a local hotspot. This was clearly a more seasoned crowd, but I was happy to be the eager apprentice. At the entrance, a smiling woman collected our pound coins and immediately set the right tone for the day.

Inside I met Dawn, the organiser, who has kept the fair running four times a year for the past four years. Once a more active trader herself, she remains passionate about antique fairs, whether for the social opportunity, the nostalgia of an object that sparks a memory, or simply the good sense of "recycling".

The hall itself was a treasure trove of curiosities. My first find was a metal squirrel nutcracker. Lift its tail and the jaw snaps shut on the nut. A clever little contraption that made me smile.

Further along, I chatted with a seller from North London, her

accent betraying her French origins. Her collection focuses on antique perfume bottles, including a trio of small bottles by "Lanvin parfums" from the 1930s still nestled in their original display box. She works a day job during the week but happily travels on weekends to share her discoveries, sourced from abroad.

Beside her, a seller displayed pottery in bold colours, obviously from different makers but all chosen by the same discerning eye. "How do you choose what to buy?" I asked. "I just buy what I like and hope other people will too," he said. "Seems to be working!"

At another table stood two creatures made by Winstanley, the Surrey pottery famous for lifelike, slightly mischievous animal sculptures. A greyhound and an Arctic hare were poised and alert, their glass eyes bright with questions. Nearby sat a less aristocratic soul: a floppy eared, straw stuffed dog with a worn coat, big blue bow, and a label that simply read "Lovely dog".

The café provided welcome refuge for a quick sit down. £1 coffees and slabs of walnut coffee cake the size of bricks.

Around me, quiet purchases were made. A vase here, a



painting there. I nearly left with a moulded horse's head. A fellow admirer confided, "You could probably talk them down to £20." I hesitated. "But then I'd have to carry it home under one arm." He grinned knowingly. "You'd look like the mafia." We both laughed.

All told, it's a fun outing for pocket change. The traders seem less concerned with sales than with sharing their enthusiasm for the strange, the beautiful, and the rare. They know that one person's clutter is another's treasure, and that both can be true at once.

The fair returns on the **9th November**. Go with a curious mind and an empty stomach.

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Parish Services October 2025

Benefice of: Little Hadham | Much Hadham | Albury

Date	Day	Church	Service / Event	Clergy	Time
03-Oct	Friday	St Andrew's, Much Hadham	School Harvest	Revd Tayo	9.30am
05-Oct	Sunday	St Andrew's, Much Hadham	Benefice Harvest	Revd Tayo	9.15am
05-Oct	Sunday	St Andrew's, Much Hadham	Said Eucharist	Revd Tayo	5-5.30pm
12-Oct	Sunday	St Cecilia's, Little Hadham	Benefice Harvest	Revd Tayo	9.15am
19-Oct	Sunday	St Mary's, Albury	Benefice Harvest	Revd Tayo	9.15am
19-Oct	Sunday	St Andrew's, Much Hadham	Quiet Church	Revd Tayo	5-5.30pm
23-Oct	Thursday	St Cecilia's, Little Hadham	Midweek BCP	Revd Tayo	10am
26-Oct	Sunday	St Andrew's, Much Hadham	Last in Trinity	Revd Tayo	9.15am

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