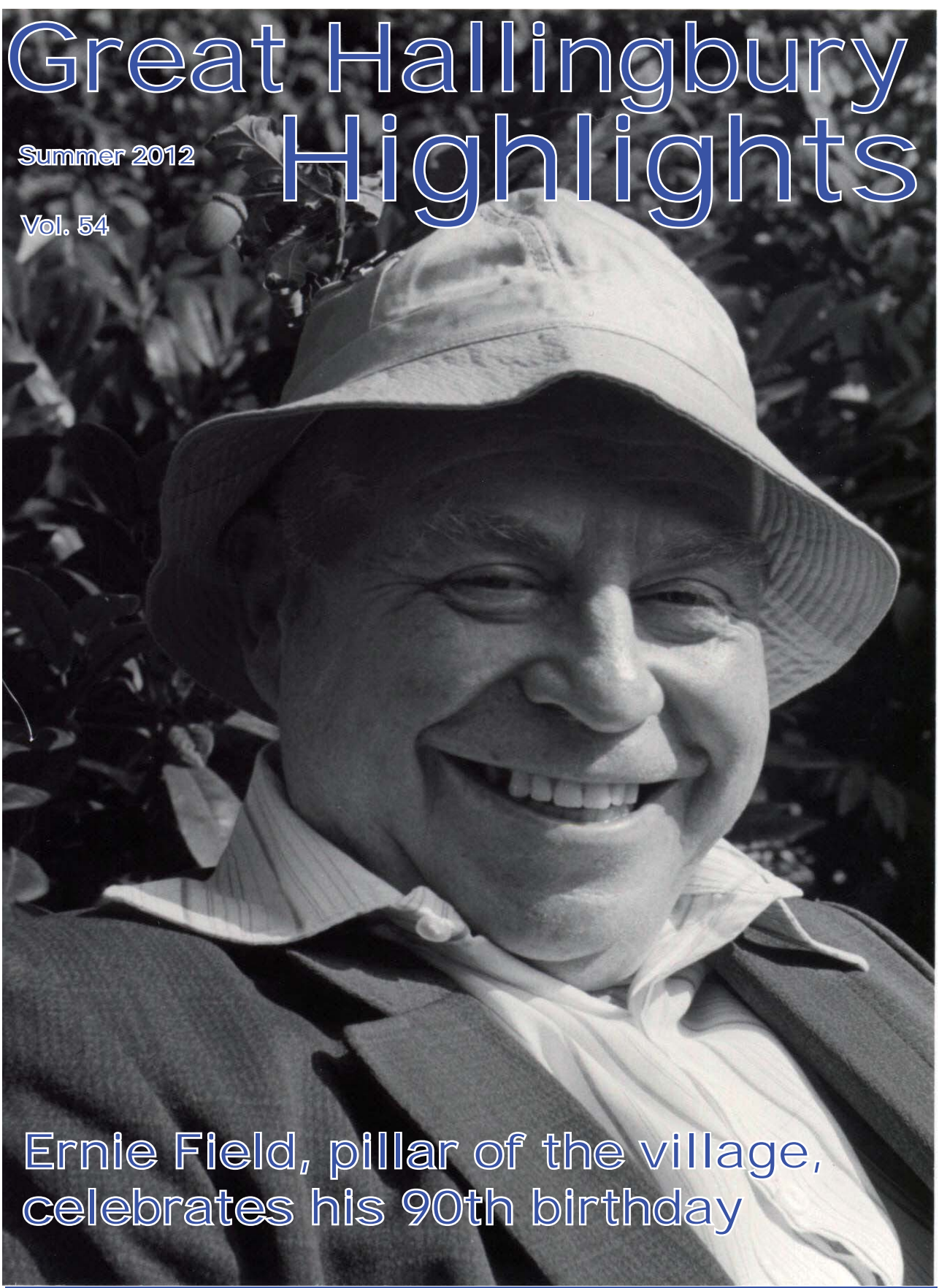


Great Hallingbury Highlights

Summer 2012

Vol. 54



Ernie Field, pillar of the village,
celebrates his 90th birthday

An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury

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Editorial

If You Like Where You Live – Be Part of It

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee is an occasion of considerable import and for celebration of her long reign. An old friend in West Sussex whom I visited in April was most enthusiastic in his praise of her. He also reminded me that he was the same age as Her Majesty. This made me ruminate that my brother, too, is the same age and, as it happens, I was born the same year as the Queen's younger sister, the late Princess Margaret. This led me on to reflect on the passing of time and what can be experienced in just one lifetime.



Of course, my life could not have been more different to the Royal Family. I was born in the East End of London where life was hard and the family had to be careful with every penny. No need then for brown bins then, there was never wasted food.

It was also a time when men were the 'breadwinners' and wives ran the homes and brought up children. The knife edge of living was being in work or being one of those who were desperate for a job.

My father was one who was of the stuff of great determination that resulted in him always having a job. So, although it was a very poor home, it was a happy home and not a needy home with no sense at all of

hardship. Contrary to the popular modern conception, being poor did not equate with being deprived or depressed. We felt a sense of good fortune for what we had. King Edward VIII came and went with little seeming impact on our lives. The only real shadow over us was the still acutely recalled horrors of the 1914-18 Great War (or WWI) and the anxiety caused by the signs of an impending WWII. But being a child, this also had a sense of excitement.

But more of all that later. Now the Village celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Saturday, 2nd June, with a Barbeque, children's games and much more. On Sunday, 3rd June, there is a Thanksgiving Service in St. Giles' with tea and cakes afterwards. See the enclosed leaflet and details in the calendar on page 32. I hope everyone will take part, it is for you. *If you like where you live - be a part of it.*

With so many stabilising traditions being eroded, I will personally feel thankful that the Queen is still very much with us, and, I am also delighted to say, so is my friend in West Sussex and my brother in Kent.

Editor

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Ann Fuller 01279 654046

Or any choir member or on the door

Please bring your own drink & glasses

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Parish Annual Meeting – March 2012 CHAIRMANS REPORT (Edited version)

Meetings - The Parish Council has met 6 times in the year. Councillors have also attended meetings at Uttlesford relating to Local Development in the area, Community Forum meetings, SSE meetings, the Uttlesford Association of Local Councils and Uttlesford's Highways Committee.

The Boundary Commission for England has proposed changes to reduce the number of MP's. At the next election it is proposed that the parishes of Hatfield Broad Oak, Great & Little Hallingbury and the Rodings will be part of the Harlow Constituency and our MP, if re-elected, will be Robert Halfon, MP.

Planning - The Parish Council has carefully considered and commented on 20 planning applications over the past year.

Housing Needs Survey - We have, through the Rural Community Council of Essex, carried out a Housing Needs Survey in both Great and Little Hallingbury.

Airport - SSE continues to work on our behalf monitoring all airport matters and supporting local villages' views in consultations. Flight paths are currently being reviewed.

Highways - We continue to inform and complain to Essex County Highways on various pot holes and other road defects. The Vehicle Activated Sign was finally up and working last September.

Footpaths - Our footpath representative has continued to walk and protect the public footpaths in our parish.

Village Sign - Our village sign has been erected and stands proudly outside the Village Hall. It was unveiled on 10th September 2011. This had been the work of the Parish Council and the History Society.

Bedlars Green Pond - The pond has been tidied and cleared by a team of volunteers, including councillors. We intend to put a bench style seat on the green by the pond. This is one of our commemorative items to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee - Plans for our celebrations for the Jubilee are now well under way. On Saturday, 2nd June, we will have a barbeque at the Village Hall, with games for the children in the afternoon. We intend to plant a commemorative Oak Tree, install a seat outside the village hall and a bench seat by the pond. They will all have a plaque to mark the event.

Recycling - Due to cutbacks, Uttlesford will no longer provide us with the usual rubbish skip. The bottle bank at Little Hallingbury car park is also to go but from April we will be able to recycle our bottles in our green bins.

Thank You - A big thank you goes to Christine and Ron Coultrup for continuing to produce *Great Hallingbury Highlights*. This goes to every house in the village.

Thanks to all involved in looking after our **Village Hall**.

Finally, thanks to all Councillors and villagers for their continued support during the past year. Special thanks to my Vice-Chairman, Ron Coultrup, and my Clerk, Freda Townsend, who work so well to lighten the Chairman's load.

Martin Mugele, Chairman of the Great Hallingbury Parish Council

Note: full report of the Official Notes of Meeting can be seen on the Village Notice boards.

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Texting for Seniors

Teens have theirs, now pensioners have their own texting codes ... After all, the kids have their little codes... like **OMG**, **LOL**, etc., so here are some codes for seniors:



- **ATD** - At the Doctor's
- **BFF** - Best Friends Funeral
- **BTW** - Bring the Wheelchair
- **BYOT** - Bring Your Own Teeth
- **CUATSC** - See You at the Senior Centre
- **DWI** - Driving While Incontinent
- **FWIW** - Forgot Where I Was
- **FYI** - Found Your Insulin
- **GGPBL** - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- **GHA** - Got Heartburn Again
- **HGBM** - Had Good Bowel Movement
- **IMHO** - Is My Hearing-Aid On?
- **LMDO** - Laughing My Dentures Out
- **OMG** - Oh My! Gas
- **ROFL..CGU** - Rolling on the Floor Laughing...Can't get Up!
- **TOT** - Texting on Toilet
- **TTYL** - Talk to You Louder
- **WAITT** - Who Am I Talking To?
- **WTFA** - Wet the Furniture Again
- **WTP** - Where're the Prunes

Olympic Quiz Questions



1. What are the names of the Olympic mascots?
2. How many people will carry the Olympic torch on its journey to the stadium?
3. What did the 1948 Olympic Games become known as?
4. In a track event who is the Anchor?
5. Which event will be held at Brands Hatch?
6. Which event is represented by this picture?



7. The marathon distance is 26.2 miles. This was set at the 1908 Olympic Games. Why was it set at this distance?
8. How many medals did Great Britain win at the 1948 Olympic Games?
9. What did Tommie Smith and John Carlos do at the 1968 Olympic Games which got them banned from competing any further?
10. Which Oscar winning director is creating the opening ceremony of the 2012 games?

----- Answers on page 25

Golf Joke

Police are called to a house and find a woman holding a bloody 5-iron standing over a lifeless man.

The detective asks, "Is that your husband?"

"Yes" says the woman.

"Did you hit him with that golf club?"

"Yes, yes, I did." The woman begins to sob, drops the club, and puts her hands on her face.

"How many times did you hit him?"

"I don't know -- five, six, maybe seven times.....just put me down for a five."



Highlights from the Great Hallingbury Parish Council meeting *5th March 2012*

Present: Cllr M. Mugele (Chairman), Cllrs D. Barlow, R. Coultrup, C. Goodlife, A. Noble, A. Russell and A. Townsend

Also present: District Councillor L. Wells, Mrs F. Townsend (Clerk) and two members of public.

Problems around the Village

A member of the public raised the dangers of young horse riders who may be using Martinside Stud which the Clerk will investigate.

The Clerk reported that Flitch Way Authority had been contacted re falling brickwork from Start Hill Bridge. Thames Water has also been informed the gate at the pumping station has been stolen. It was confirmed that Old Elm will purchase a new septic tank to resolve the problem of pollution in the ditch.

The Chairman reported there was a potential sewage problem behind Bedlars Green and the Clerk would contact the environmental Health Department.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Chairman also reported the plans for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The Clerk was asked to obtain prices of a bench and plaques.

Uttlesford District Council

District Councillor Lesley Wells reported that Uttlesford District Council had passed their balanced budget and that Council Taxes are frozen, with no further cutbacks. The Local Development Framework is ongoing. Cllr. Wells also reminded the Clerk to apply for our share of the New Homes Bonus.

Housing Survey

Cllr A. Noble reported that he had spoken to Moira at the RCCE on the results of the Housing Needs survey and, out of the 300 forms delivered in Great Hallingbury, there had been 89 replies, which is 30%. Of these, 71% were in favour and 19% against affordable housing. If a mixed development, 57% are in favour, 36% not, and 7% don't know. In Little Hallingbury, 580 forms had been delivered and 214 replies received, which is 36%. No conclusions have yet been reached.

Highways

Several pot holes have been reported to Essex Highways. The Clerk had also reported to Highways the problems of speeding on the B1256 and the uneven road surface at Start Hill.

Mr. Devoti of Howe Green has written concerning speed by Howe Green School. The Clerk continues to report all pot holes and road defects and will advise Mr. Devoti that we have in the past asked for speed measures at Howe Green but it does not meet with the necessary criteria. However, we will continue to monitor the area. Cllr A. Townsend will attend the UDC Highways panel on 14th March.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 26th March with the usual format.

UDC Development Policies

The Uttlesford Consultation on Development Management Policies and Site Allocations, a review of policies to produce a new Development Plan Document (Local Plan), had been examined by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Their view to support the proposed policies was agreed and our response will be forwarded to UDC. The only further comment of note was that increasing housing numbers in this area will add further to the problem of lack of water which will be emphasised in the further stages of the consultation. Cllr C. Goodlife also reported that the LDF had been discussed at the recent South Community Forum meeting.

Green Waste

Green Waste Skips will no longer be paid for by Uttlesford but Little Hallingbury Parish Council have agreed, at their expense, to continue with the provision of the Green Waste Skip. This will be situated in Little Hallingbury village car park each Sunday afternoon from 3.15 to 4.15pm, starting on 15th April until 2nd December.

Post Box

The Post Box at Bedlars Green was knocked crooked last year and, despite reporting this to Royal Mail, nothing had been done. Clerk will follow up.

Planning

10 planning applications and appeals have been dealt with by the council

C.M. Rowlands

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Jigsaw Puzzle

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbour and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbour asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a cockerel."



Her neighbour decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a cockerel."

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea and then," he said with a deep sigh.....

"Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."

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Great Hallingbury Carpet Bowls Club

The Great Hallingbury Carpet Bowls Club was formed in January 1988 by Nancy Woodley & Evelyn Notley. The purpose of the club was to provide a social evening for village people.

The club has now progressed to league game status, playing against other villages such as Hewons Bumpsted, Wimbish, Swards End, Finchingfield and Bardfield. We also play friendlies with surrounding village teams and matches to raise funds for various charities.

We have a membership of 19 and no age limit; our oldest member is 93 years old!

Club night is Friday, 7.30pm start.

New members and anyone who would like to learn the game are always welcome. Tea and biscuits provided.

Malcolm Field



Captain & Chairman Alex Russell 01279 656647

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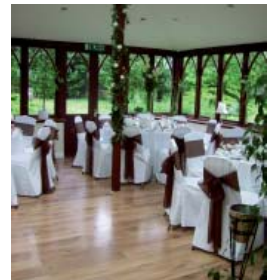
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French Thief

A thief in Paris planned to steal some paintings from the Louvre.

After careful planning, he got past security, stole the paintings, and made it safely to his van. However, he was captured only two blocks away when his van ran out of fuel.

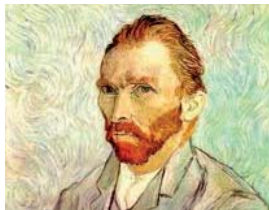
When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied, 'Monsieur, that is the reason I stole the paintings.'



I had no Monet



To buy Degas



To make the Van Gogh

I had nothing Toulouse!



Mobile Police Vehicle

Our once a month Mobile Police Vehicle has been a victim of the cutbacks and will no longer be operative.

However, there is still a 'Beat Surgery' being held once a month at Little Hallingbury Post Office where PCSO Joanna Trevail-Philips is available for help and information. She is at the Post Office from 10 to 11am on the following Thursdays:-

7th June, 5th July and 2nd August.

**NEW POLICE CONTACT NUMBER
07989 174801**

Great Hallingbury Friendship Club



The Friendship Club continues to meet on the second Tuesday of the month. It has 17 members whose ages range from early 70's to our oldest member who was 100 last September. As the average age has increased over the years we have found that our activities have become restricted because of mobility but, when some members have not seen someone to talk to from one week to another, it is a great opportunity to catch up on the news with friends. We also enjoy a light-hearted quiz or a game of bingo. We continue to have a bring and buy stall and a raffle to add to our funds.

We thank those villagers who are able to entertain the club for an afternoon but most times now our meetings are held in the Village Hall. For our January meeting we change from our usual 2pm start to an earlier time so that we can cook a lunch for the members and in the summer we venture out to a pub for lunch.

We are indebted to our helpers who give their time and provide transport, bringing members to meetings and taking them back home afterwards. They also provide the sandwiches and cakes for every meeting. Without their continued support the club would not be able to function.

We hope that as things are at the moment we will be able to continue to provide this very important club for the more elderly in the village.

Val Mugele, Chairman 01279 654270

Mobile Library

The Library Vehicle visits fortnightly on Wednesdays as follows:-

May 9th & 23rd, June 6th & 20th.

Bedlars Green 14.10 to 14.25 hours
Woodside Green 14.35 to 14.50 hours.

Great Hallingbury Womens Institute Annual Report 2012



The year began with the Roothings Group Carol Service at Sheering. Our first meeting was supper at the Bishop's Stortford Golf Club. During the evening £50 was raised for George Mill's annual appeal.

On other occasions the Institute has assisted at the County Annual meetings, Village Flower Show, Harvest Festival, the local dance school's charity performance, county Darts Final, the unveiling of our village sign and RBL Coffee Morning. Two members sit on our County sub committees and the President, Jan Baldwin, is Chief Steward for the County Federation. Our members have been out and about visiting Barnston, Bishop's Stortford, High Roding, Dunmow, Stansted and Sawbridgeworth W.I.s. They have also met for monthly lunches at 6 local hostelrys. Having had a speaker from the Remus Horse Sanctuary in 2010, an outing was organised to the stables at Ingatestone. In the spring three ladies enjoyed a walk around Hatfield Broad Oak.

Several Craft Classes at Denman College have been attended and competitions entered with varying degrees of success! For the second time the Darts team reached the quarter final but narrowly lost 3-2. Great Hallingbury W.I. entered the County Quiz but proved more successful in the Village Flower Show. The six ladies who entered their cushions in the co-operative class won 1st place and individually our members won trophies for their needlework, flower arranging and gardens.

The institute has had various talks including "A Nice Cup of Tea", The National Memorial Arboretum, Historic Post Cards and, closer to home, the warden from Hatfield Forest talked about its history and its role in the 21st century.

The Royal Wedding in April was celebrated in style. The hall was decorated in patriotic flags and bunting and tables set out for a street party. Members arrived decked in homemade wedding hats and supped on sandwiches, jelly and cream. A toast was drunk to the happy couple and the National Anthem sung with much gusto!



Members entertained their committee in June providing a meal and a 'magic' entertainer who fascinated with his tricks. In August the committee organised an Italian theme

evening which included hot food and an Italian speaker to add flavour to the occasion.

In September, 66 visitors joined us to watch three arrangers from the Little Hallingbury Flower Club produce three beautiful arrangements which were later raffled. There was a jewellery stall, a produce stall and a flower bits and bobs stall. This effort enabled us to raise over £300 to support our programme in 2012.



There are three new members this year and we always welcome new members.

And so far this year

In February, our speaker was Mr. Geoff Petts, well known to some of our members because of his involvement with Great & Little Hallingbury Flower Show, but Mr Petts did not come to talk about Flower Shows, his talk was entitled, "*I met Them on the Way*". What a journey we all enjoyed, hearing the many interesting aspects of his career and the famous people he had met over the years promoting Sport, music and shows in the UK and around the world and, in latter years, as field leaders for live satellite large screen CCTV events. A video slideshow of interview footage with artists included Paul McCartney, Freddie Mercury, Cliff Richard and Olivia Newton John, to name a few.

In early March members attended The Federation of Essex Women's Institutes 95th



Tessa Sanderson CBE

Annual Meeting at Cliffs Pavilion, Southend. What a great opportunity to catch up with friends from around the county. The Guest Speakers, Ruth Bond, WI National Chairman, George Courtauld, Vice Lord Lieutenant for Essex and Tessa Sanderson, CBE, all made for a most enjoyable day.

March bought another interesting speaker, Pauline Martindale, who came to share her 23 years experience as a Prison Officer working in various jails including Holloway women's prison. The media often depicts prison life as a very sombre place and, whilst Pauline was tough on discipline, she always treated inmates as people not prisoners. She told how on one occasion she had witnessed a marriage ceremony where the bride, in a wedding dress she had made in her cell, was given away by the Governor.

Our competition for the evening was a decorated egg and with the speaker as the judge it was not difficult to see why this design was given 1st place.



Beverley Moore

If you require any additional information please call

Our President Jan Baldwin 01279 653470 or our Secretary Judy Simmonds 01279 651089



Skip

We have no rubbish skip this year (cutbacks) but a Green Waste Skip visits Little Hallingbury Car Park every Sunday afternoon from 3.15 to 4.15pm.

Deeds Not Words

Sse Tells Aviation Regulator



Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has called on the aviation regulator to do much more to tackle the adverse environmental impacts of the industry, particularly for communities near to airports.

In its response to an environmental consultation by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the campaign group makes clear that fine words will not be enough without measurable targets and timescales to ensure progress towards meaningful goals.

Top of SSE's list for action is reduced aircraft noise during take offs and landing, coupled with a need to address night noise from both aircraft and airport operations. Noise nuisance arising from helicopters also needs to be dealt with say the campaign group.

The CAA is the main regulator for the UK aviation industry and at present its key roles relate to aircraft safety, flight paths, consumer protection and economic regulation. It is now aiming to develop an environmental strategy and responses to its "*CAA and the Environment*" consultation will help to shape this. "The CAA has at last accepted that it must play a greater role in addressing the adverse environmental impacts arising from the aviation industry and we welcome this," said SSE spokesman Brian Ross. "However, we now want to see the CAA's words translated into tangible actions. The regulator would do well to learn lessons from international best practice."

SSE notes that there is a lack of public confidence in the present system whereby airports mostly 'self report' their own environmental impacts, with little or no independent oversight. To this end, SSE wants the CAA to take on responsibility for airport consultative committees and introduce some much-needed independence. Under the present system, bodies such as the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee are directly financed and controlled by the airport owner.

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NOISE COMPLAINTS

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Little Hallingbury School - PINE CLASS

Pine class has been enjoying Forest Schools work.



Sawing wood to make badges



Fun on the rope swings



Investigating wildlife



News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

Our Snowdrop Sundays in February were a huge success with more than 1400 visitors over the two weekends. We were very lucky with the weather and the snowdrops looked fantastic.

Our main season opened on 15th April with guided tours being added as a regular feature. The tours, which are led by our trained volunteers, are free of charge with the opportunity to make a donation at the end. To start with there will be two per open day, though this could change depending on demand, and they will aim to be both informative and fun. We are adding children's crafts alongside nature activities for our younger visitors each month - April was springy caterpillars and flowers.

On May 20th, we were joined by the Saffron Walden Town Band performing on the croquet lawn, with younger visitors encouraged to join in and play along to some of the numbers. June 17th sees a visit from the Braintree Youth Orchestra and we will have special offers on tea and cake. We have a full programme of extras lined up for the 2012 season that are designed to add enjoyment without distracting from the wonderful atmosphere of the garden that draws visitors back time and again.

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers and anyone interested in joining our team for open days, or to help with our regular Thursday gardening sessions, should email enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk or leave a message on 01371 876979. Further information about openings is also available from these sources as well as on the website at www.eastonlodge.co.uk.

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Lest We Forget
4th February 2012
Photographs by Glen Salmon



The Lonely Oak



Doesn't look like the Harlow Rat Run



Grateful for their winter overcoats

1 man - 3 Beers

An Irishman moves into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry, walks into the pub and promptly orders three beers. The bartender raises his eyebrows but serves the man three beers, which he drinks quietly at a table, alone. An hour later, the man has finished the three beers and orders three more. This happens yet again.



The next evening the man again orders and drinks three beers at a time, several times. Soon the entire town is whispering about the **Man Who Orders Three Beers**. Finally, a week later, the bartender broaches the subject on behalf of the town. "I don't mean to pry, but folks around here are wondering why you always order three beers." 'Tis odd, isn't it?", the man replies, "You see, I have two brothers and one went to America and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond."

The bartender, and soon the whole town, was pleased with this answer and soon the **Man Who Orders Three Beers** became a local celebrity and source of pride to the hamlet, even to the extent that out-of-towners would come to watch him drink.

Then, one day, the man comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender pours them with a heavy heart. This continues for the rest of the evening – he orders only two beers. The word flies around town. Prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers. The next day, the bartender says to the man, "Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer condolences to you for the death of your brother. You know, the two beers and all..." The man ponders this for a moment, then replies, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well... It's just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."

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1st Great Hallingbury Brownies 2011 / 12

Another year. Another report. How time flies!



At present there are 9 Brownies on roll. Although we are a small pack, we continue to be a very active unit, where the Brownies appreciate the opportunity of having individual attention and understand the importance of showing respect for each other.

We continue to meet in the Village Hall on Monday evenings, where we do badge work and play games, which the Brownies really enjoy. We especially enjoy singing and activity games, such as the use of a parachute and playing rounders, cricket and croquet. The Peachey Room is used on a regular basis for craftwork and quieter activities. The Brownies took part in the District Craft Exhibition, making attractive button and bead bracelets. Every brownie in the pack received a certificate for either 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place or Highly Commended and the bracelets were later displayed at the Great and Little Hallingbury Flower Show and Country Fayre in July. The Brownies also made necklaces and wooden beads. The Brownies particularly enjoy baking their Annual Christmas Cake and making a wish. Pancake Day is another fun time, when the Brownies make their own pancakes and eat them at the Pack Meeting. During the year, different Brownies entertain guests to tea, home-made sandwiches and cake, as part of their Hostess Badge.

The Brownies continue to play a very active part in village life and therefore our meetings are not confined to the Village Hall or Monday evenings. Instead of church cleaning this year, the Brownies have concentrated on learning to clean the brass and are proving to be very efficient at this. The Brownies organised a stall at the Harvest Fayre and Flower Festival which involved "naming a teddy bear". They enjoyed parading their flag at the Remembrance Day Service in November, where they sang a song of remembrance and led the prayers. Our Annual Carols in Candlelight Service was very well attended this year. The Brownies were delighted to raise £400 which was shared between the Neo-Natal Unit, Princess Alexandra Hospital, and the Children's Intensive Care Unit at The Addenbrooke's Hospital. In January a Pizza-Party was held at Brown Owl's house. The Brownies made their own toppings for the pizzas followed by an "ice cream factory" where the Brownies decorated their own ice creams. In February, the Brownies took part in the District Thinking Day Celebrations held at Sheering Church, sharing their thoughts on the meaning of Thinking Day. In March the Brownies took part in the Mothering Sunday Service at St. Giles'. They read a poem and sang a song which included seven solos.

The highlight of the year was the District Pack Holiday and Camp Weekend held at Skreens Park, Chelmsford, in June. Several of the Brownies attended together with Brown Owl and Owlet, who had the dubious pleasure of cooking for 50 Brownies, Guides and Leaders. Cooking a "chicken roast" as a Sunday Lunch was no mean feat, especially as Brown Owl had to climb into the gas oven to switch it on! The leaders came back exhausted, but the Brownies had a wonderful time, go-karting, crafting and taking part in archery, along with the daily chores of a pack holiday. They also enjoyed the campfire celebration.

At present the Brownies are working towards gaining their Musician and Dancing Badges. They will soon be preparing to dance round the Maypole at the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alison Hutley, Philip and the Brownies' parents for their devoted support and all those in the village who have encouraged us during the past year.

Heather M. Hays, Brown Owl

Ernie Field Celebrates his 90th Birthday at the Village Hall



THE WAR YEARS

Part Fourteen: Bottesford - 1668 Conversion Unit.

Bottesford in Lincolnshire is not far from Grantham and, prior to my arrival, the unit had operated in similar fashion to Langar. When I arrived in April 1945, the unit was in the process of moving further south and I was virtually surplus to requirements. My vague memories of the place included early morning smoke trails when rockets were launched in Holland directed at London and helping an aspiring flyweight boxer by becoming his mobile punch bag as he trained for the ABA title. (After winning the title he turned professional and fought 'Rinty' Monahan, the world champion).

It was comparatively easy to get home by rail from Grantham and one day, on the station, I thought I saw an apparition in the form of a very wasted man resembling Capt. Lock who commanded the levy paratroops in Iraq, but he was reported killed before I left Habbaniya. The man on the platform was so similar but a skeleton. He was with a lady. I circled round him and eventually plucked up courage to speak to him. He was rather overwhelmed. Yes, he was reported dead in Italy but had survived, only to be captured, and had now been released and forced marched through Germany. (A month later I saw him at Kings Cross looking much better).

The war in Europe was rapidly drawing to a close and I was actually on leave with girlfriend Nora on May 6, 1945, when Victory in Europe was declared. While everyone was celebrating, we sat quietly at her home contemplating, for I felt the war was not over for me. At midnight, I cycled home to a big blaze of light. Father and others had set alight an unwanted stack of straw, kept by agreement for the purpose to celebrate the occasion.

On June 2, 1945, I was given fourteen days embarkation leave preparatory for the Far East and was inoculated to combat every disease known to man. Much subdued, I arrived home to find Nora was on leave prior to moving to Europe. She was not keen. A new order had been issued allowing a husband to claim his wife under these circumstances. If it could be arranged, a 'shot-gun' wedding was required.

We cycled to Harlow and obtained a Special Licence. Both families were in turmoil. We borrowed this and that. Everybody seemed to offer help and at 3pm, on June 12, at Sheering Church, the Rev. Williams tore himself from the garden and we knelt before his muddy boots. The Wedding Breakfast was everything one could expect at such short notice with rationing at its peak. Many a cupboard had been raided to help. Merriment however was short lived. Next morning we were cycling to my home and were pursued by the Village Constable bearing a telegram which read, 'return to your unit at once!' I left behind a tearful bride and with a heavy heart I travelled to Bottesford.

Morecambe - Awaiting orders -sailing with heavy heart

Returning to Bottesford after receiving a telegram, they were keen to get rid of me and I was sent to Morecambe in Lancashire, not to gather cockles but to report to No. 2 PDC, whatever that meant, arriving there on June 16, 1945. After avoiding a bevy of wheelchairs, I eventually found the said PDC who promptly placed me on Draft 876 (reserve) and I joined eleven other starving airmen herded in a small house where a landlady resided in the



depths below. She was well versed in feeding hungry men by means of a 'dumb waiter, a contraption on which food appeared from the depths below, accompanied by a voice, 'plenty more down here lads'. There was such a scramble for the two slices of toast which appeared each time, one soon retreated hoping a fish and chip shop would open early! Apart from that, I was treated like a tidal stone moving from No. 1 Wing Pool Flight to Draft 819. Finally, I left Morecambe on July 2 by train to an unknown destination.

Familiar landscapes began to appear; Scotland and the River Clyde came in view and finally the King George V dock in Glasgow. Next day, I boarded the S.S. Boissevain, a Dutch vessel of 14,500 tons designed initially to carry a few passengers and cargo. With a Dutch crew and only one passage between fore and aft nicknamed the 'Burma Road', we were herded into a very cramped space indeed.



S.S. Boissevain

On July 4, the ship left dock to cheering crowds. One set of factory girls gave a display dispensing the mystery of the kilt, all to a tune of 'will ye noo cum back agin?' By the time we reached Gurock these rivialities were over. Many airmen aboard were handpicked and hardened to tropical climes. My previous delayed movements in England made sense, for I was now attached to the advance party of the 1 Airborne Division who had been re-forming after commitments in Europe and needed to re-train. My role was also explained. I was to go with them by glider as they advanced through the Burma jungle and, when the glider crash landed in a clearing, recover as much material as possible for re-use as supplies of equipment were desperately short. You can imagine I viewed this with some trepidation!



Statue of Ferdinand de Lesseps, French developer of the Suez Canal, in Port Said, Egypt

Meanwhile we sailed to Port Said, arriving on July 13 for fuel and provisions. Although De Lesseps statue was imposing, it did not compare with the sight of deck toilets discharging their waste over tenders trying to supply us with melons. This combination was lowered by sling into the cold store ice boxes! Gradually, the ship negotiated the Suez Canal and I gazed on familiar sights for the third time.

Fate took a turn. It was not the melons but by the time we reached the Red Sea I was feeling ill. I had developed a very sore throat and knew I was in for a bout of quinsy, a family complaint, which I had experienced before. I reported sick.

*E. Field - Notes from the diary
President Great Hallingbury History Society*



Hatfield Forest Highlights

The start of spring highlights a very important time in Hatfield Forest's calendar; we have opened the gates full time to our visitors and supporters. It's eagerly awaited as both staff and volunteers love Hatfield and now have a chance to show you all the work we have achieved over the winter season and spread our passion and knowledge to ensure you have a fantastic time when you visit.

Forest Events

When you come and see us at the Forest pick up a copy of our events leaflet for all 2012 events. We are excited by this year's varied event programme and we would like to see as many of you as possible at our Diamond Jubilee events through-out June and your four legged friends at our Annual Dog Fun Day. This September, we must also remember the brilliantly successful Woodfest 2011!! Due to the dedication and support of our Conservation Warden, Ian Pease, Woodfest is as popular, if not more so, as last year. Camping tickets are now on limited numbers so please make sure you move quickly to secure a place on the campsite.



Discovery Room

The work on the new Discovery Room project has now started; it has been gutted and is well on its way to a fresh paint job. You will start to see educational and exciting installations arrive and you will soon see a re-interpretation of the Shell House to help visitors understand how the

aristocracy in the 1700's used picnic houses for entertaining. The Shell House will be host to our Midsummer Magic Picnic on the 22nd June; I am still collecting picnic blankets and cushions for this event if anyone is getting rid of them.

Those that have been to the forest over the winter will have seen we have recently reintroduced our second hand book sale in the Fisherman's Shelter, next to the Shell House. The books are an absolute bargain, are in brilliant condition and, most importantly, the money stays within the forest on projects that benefit you the visitors.

Important Do's at the Forest

1. Come and enjoy the Forest as Spring has sprung
2. Have a look at the second-hand book sale and, in return, donate your second hand books to the Visitor Experience Team in the Lake Area.
3. Be a responsible Dog owner. Keep your dogs on leads in the lake area and when you are near sheep grazing. Dogs can scare wildlife and sheep don't survive when they are attacked by dogs. Currently they are grazing along the Main Plain towards South Gate and Doodle Oak Gate. If dogs are deemed out of control, it could jeopardise your visits to the forest as you will be asked to leave.
4. Please ask us about buying Raffle Tickets at the property. Raffle Tickets this year are going to be funding a new non-slip surface on the existing boardwalk. The details of amazing prizes are available in the main Visitor Areas.
5. 'Let us Know' what you think. Complete one of the new Arkenford Visitor Experience Surveys, available from Staff and volunteers in the main Visitor Areas.
6. Look at the 2012 Events leaflet and book your favourite events
7. Book the Powered Mobility Vehicle as it's free and in demand

8. Sign up as a volunteer with the Shell House, Retail or Visitor Experience team.
9. Like us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter and join us on Pinterest.com



Some of the new projects we are looking at for this year are Boat Hire on the lake and Cycle Hire facilities, to encourage people to get outdoors and closer to nature.

As usual thank you for your amazing support and for making Simon and myself feel welcome within the Forest and local communities. Everyone within the team are ready for an amazing year at Hatfield. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let one of us know or drop me an email at hannah.morrice@nationaltrust.org.uk.

*Hannah Morrice
Visitor Experience Team Leader*

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Tommy Cooper Style

I went to the butchers the other day and I bet him 50 quid that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf.
He said, 'No, the steaks are too high.'

My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli.
A strong currant pulled him in.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. They lit a fire in the craft. It sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it.



Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.

'Doc I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home'.

'That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome.'

'Is it common?'

'It's not unusual.'

A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet.
'My dog is cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him?' 'Well,' said the vet, 'let's have a look at him'.

So he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, then he checks his teeth. Finally, he says, 'Im going to have to put him down.'

'What? Because he's cross-eyed?'

'No, because he's really heavy'

What do you call a fish with no eyes?
A fsh.

Police arrested two kids yesterday. One was drinking battery acid and the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.

HUTLEY ELECTRICAL

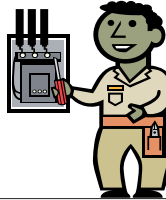
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Accipiter Gentillis

On a Sunday in March, I received a telephone call from Lorraine Stephens, who lives in Great Hallingbury, telling me a bird of prey had just killed a pigeon in her garden. She didn't recognise the bird so I told her, "If it's still there, take a photograph if you can but it sounds as though it is a sparrow hawk." One of Lorraine's sons, Lewis, is a keen photographer and he took some photographs through the window. When I saw them a couple of days later, I was amazed to see no photograph of a sparrow hawk but one of a male goshawk!



Photograph by Lewis Stephens

The goshawk is like a sparrow hawk in colouring of plumage but is considerably larger. A female sparrow hawk has a body length of just under 40cms whilst a female goshawk has a body length of 60+cms. The wingspan of a goshawk is approximately 100cms. Its curved wings and long tail enable it to be extremely manoeuvrable whilst hunting in woodland (its preferred habitat). They thread their way through trees and shrubs at high speed, silently, hitting their prey with large talons.

Goshawks prefer to breed in conifer forests such as those in the hills of Shropshire and the Welsh Borders and in Scotland. Goshawks prefer to nest in trees with soft foliage, such as larches, which does not damage their feathers. However, a pair does nest in Albury, though not in coniferous but deciduous woodland.

I've seen goshawk a couple of times this winter on Harps Farm. Since this photograph was taken I have seen both female and male goshawks. I was by Beggars Hall, talking to Shirley and Chris Goodlife, when a goshawk flew out of Hatfield Forest pursued by six or seven crows. The goshawk was flying fairly slowly but it got fed up with the attention of the crows, put the afterburners on and accelerated away from the crows at amazing speed! The following days, I was walking around Beggars Hall Lake when a goshawk flew out of a blackthorn thicket, turning about 5 metres in front of me and flying away from me at high speed along the bank of the lake! What a sight!

The estimated population of goshawks in Great Britain is between 400-500 pairs, but they are one of the worst persecuted birds of prey, their nests being robbed by egg collectors and illegal falconers. So to see a goshawk is a privilege, but to get a photograph of one is brilliant, all I can say is well done Lewis.

Dave Barlow

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Great & Little Hallingbury Flower Show 2012

A brief update to whet your appetite on some of what will be happening this year

at *Harps Farm*

on *Sunday, 15th July, 12 noon - 4pm*

by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Tom Streeter



Along with our regular appearance from Harlow Brass Band, we have secured the services of a group of Morris Clog Dancers, as well as static and flying birds of prey! You can watch a Flower Club demonstration, listen to a Harpist. The History Society will be there and Mel's Caravan.

The Children's Fancy Dress is creating a lot of interest this year, as well as the Inter Hallingburys Tug-of-War. Alongside the many regular stalls and sideshows, we will have Jarvis Nursery, Pampered Chef, the Model Railway Society, Gardener's Questions, and Andy Streeter's historic tractors.

There will be games, Ferrets, Donkey and baby, Caterpillars and Moths, Facepainting and a Bouncy Castle for the little ones.

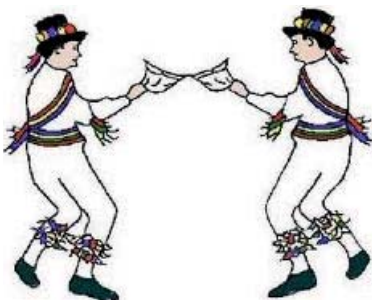
Don't forget the Pimms Tent, W.I. Tea Tent, and the Barbecue!



All the usual competition categories will be there:

Fruit Vegetables Flower Arrangements
Gardens Flowers
Cookery Photography Needlework Handicraft
and many more

**MEANWHILE, KEEP TENDING YOUR GARDEN PRODUCE AND
 DON'T LET THE HOSEPIPE BAN 'DAMPEN' YOUR ENTHUSIASM**



For further information regarding the show please contact Mrs Judy Evans, telephone 01279 725286

Any local businesses interested in helping sponsor the Schedule, please contact Diane Aitken on 01279 647346 or email her on aitken815@btinternet.com if she has not already contacted you.

Bishops Stortford Dog Training Club and Companion Dog Show

The Club meets in Great Hallingbury Village Hall every Tuesday (except those following a Bank Holiday) at 7.00pm and there is a spot for you and your dog.

We organise a Charity Companion Dog Show at the Village Hall each year. This year, it was on Sunday 1st April. All dogs were welcome: Pedigree, Cross-breed, Mongrel, young (as long as they are over 6 months) or old. Classes for Pedigree dogs, novelty and obedience.



You will recognise Val Walker and her poodle, they won the Puppy Class and were 4th in the Best in Show Class.

A Companion Dog Show licenced by The Kennel Club allows non-pedigree dogs to enter Show, Novelty and Obedience classes for Charity. We run this show annually in support of the Animal Rescue Charity (known as Foxdells) in Bishop's Stortford. We have not received all our expenses yet but expect to have raised about £600 this year.

We also organise an Open Obedience Show at Stansted School in July. This is a very competitive obedience show attracting up to 500 dogs.

For more information ring Ann 01279 654046 or Sue 01279 812785.

Richard Simmonds



Village Hall Quiz Night

Put in your diaries the date of our next very popular Great Hallingbury Village Hall Quiz

Saturday 15th September 2012



Bookshop

A man walked into a bookshop and said 'I'd like to buy a book by Shakespeare.'

'Yes sire,' replied the sales assistant, 'which one?'

'William, of course.' said the man.



Golf Joke

A husband and wife are on the 9th green when suddenly she collapses from a heart attack! "Help me dear," she groans to her husband.



The husband calls 999 on his mobile phone, talks for a few minutes, picks up his putter and lines up his putt. His wife raises her head off the green and stares at him.

"I'm dying here and you're putting?"
"Don't worry dear," says the husband calmly, "they found a doctor on the second hole and he's coming to help you."

"Well, how long will it take for him to get here?" she asks feebly. "No time at all," says her husband. "Everybody's already agreed to let him play through."

EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 50

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-kg potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-kg potato sacks. Then try 25-kg potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 50-kg potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each sack.



Help from your MP

Sir Alan Haselhurst, your M.P. for the Saffron Walden constituency holds regular surgeries for the benefit of the public whom he serves.



Anyone can come along and have time with Sir Alan to discuss issues on which they feel he may be able to help them.

Forthcoming surgeries are shown below. No appointment is necessary but it is advisable to phone (see page 2) to confirm times have not been altered.

Friday 11th May

BOREHAM 5.15 - 6.00pm

Village Hall, Main Road

DUNMOW 6.30 - 7.15pm

Foakes House, Town Council Office,
47 Stortford Road

Friday 8th June

THAXTED 5.45 - 6.30pm

Guildhall, Thaxted

SAFFRON WALDEN 7.00 - 7.45pm

The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street

Friday 6th July

WRITTLE 5.15 - 6.00 pm

Writtle Village Hall

18 The Green

DUNMOW 6.30 - 7.15pm

Foakes House, Town Council Office
47 Stortford Road

Olympic Quiz Answers



1. Wenlock and Mandeville
2. 8,000
3. The Austerity Games (because there was so little funding after WWII).
4. A team's final runner in a relay race
5. The Paralympic road cycling
6. Gymnastics Trampoline
7. 26.2 miles was the distance from Windsor Castle to the Royal Box in the Olympic Stadium
8. 23.
9. They did the Black Power Salute on the podium.
10. Danny Boyle.

The Olive Branch in the Hallingburys



The Jaipur Limb Project

On 6th March, Margaret Webb, who many of you will have heard sing, came to tell us about the Rotary Club Jaipur Limb Project, which has supplied two hundred and fifty thousand limbs for people in India and Africa. In Africa it is hands that are required, resulting from land-mine accidents. Some people who have received the limbs were amputees, some suffered from Polio with resulting deformed limbs or were born with congenital abnormalities (sometimes as a result of inbreeding). Limbs can be straightened and then callipers supplied, to the great joy of their recipients. All legs are made to individual measurements.



Thirty years ago in India, a prosthetic foot was made and someone else made a leg. The Rotary Club saw it and decided to support the cause.

For the last thirty years, a camp has been set up for people to come, from sometimes hundreds of miles around, to see if something can be done for them. It costs twenty-five pounds for a leg and foot and twenty-five pounds for callipers.

Marie Curie Cancer Care

On the third of April, Mr Peter Cranfield came to talk to us about Marie Curie Cancer Care. He began by explaining the different roles of Marie Curie nurses and the Macmillan nurses: Macmillan nurses provide care for cancer patients only and are involved at a very early stage just after diagnosis. They provide a vital co-ordinating function between the patient, GP, oncologist, District Nurses and any other care provider involved. They will typically visit the patient in their home for about an hour and provide advice and make sure the relevant care service is contacted. They have a direct line to the doctors and

nurses and can cut through the inevitable bureaucracy and get things moving. They do not provide hands-on nursing, that would be arranged with the District Nurse. For the carer, it is a great help to be able to pick up the phone and ask for their help.

Marie Curie nurses provide hands-on care in the patient's



home for cancer and other illnesses. Usually it is palliative care, in other words it allows patients to die in their own home when nothing more can be done. Research shows that 65% of people would want to die at home if terminally ill, but fewer than 20% have that opportunity. In fact more than 50% of people in the UK die in hospital, the place they least wish to be in. Terminally ill patients who are cared for in a 9-hour shift by a Marie Curie nurse cost the charity £180, whereas 24 hours in an NHS hospital costs around £400, similar to that of a Marie Curie hospice. So it is vitally important in terms of care and costs that we provide more Marie Curie nurses. Marie Curie is 50% funded by the NHS and 50% by charity donations.

Marie Curie was born Maria Skłodowska in Warsaw, Poland in 1867. She moved to Paris to study maths and physics at the Sorbonne and married the scientist Pierre Curie. They jointly isolated and discovered the radioactive element radium which enabled her to develop the use of x rays and radiotherapy which transformed the treatment of cancer. They were both awarded the Nobel prize for Physics in 1903 and Marie was awarded a second Nobel Prize in 1911 for Chemistry. She went to the battle front in



Marie Curie

1914 and developed the first portable x-ray machine to treat wounded soldiers. She died at the young age of 66 due to exposure to radiation.

Marie Curie Cancer Care can trace its origins to 1948, the same year the NHS was established. As the Marie Curie hospital in Hampstead was about to be transferred to the NHS, the senior staff and committee decided to preserve the name of Marie Curie as a mainly cancer-based charity. It formally became a charity in 1952. There is a small Marie Curie office in Ware which manages the fundraising activities in several counties, including Hertfordshire. The aim of the Ware office is to set up local groups of volunteers who take over the local job of fundraising.

The Olive Branch meets on the first Tuesday in the month at St. Mary's Church at 2.15pm and new members are always welcome.

Nita Sylvester

Correction

For the first time since we started publishing *HIGHLIGHTS* 15 years ago, we have to print a correction. Thanks to Peter Lemer in the village, I can revisit the piece on popular names in the winter 2010 issue.



Based on an article from a National newspaper, the item "Mohammed Now No.1" said that Mohammed had become the most popular boys' name in 2010 in England and Wales. This was based on 'including variant spellings' of Mohammed.

Peter Lemer points out that if the variants of Oliver are counted, such as Ollie and Ollis, Oliver was the commonest name. Therefore the headline should have read "Oliver is now No.1", or something like that.

The subject of popular boys' names has appeared a number of times in *HIGHLIGHTS*. I was originally attracted to the subject some time back when both my grandsons' names were right at the top.

With gratitude to Peter Lemer, whom I sincerely thank for his interest. We will look more carefully at the small print in other editions of *HIGHLIGHTS*.

Editor

St Giles' Services May 2012 – September 2012

May 20	8 am	Holy Communion
May 27	10 am	Family Communion (Pentecost)
June 3	8 am	Holy Communion
	3pm	Queen's Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service Followed by afternoon tea
June 10	10 am	Morning Prayer
June 17	8 am	Holy Communion
June 24	10 am	Family Service
July 1	8am	Holy Communion
July 8	10 am	Morning Prayer
July 15	8 am	Holy Communion
July 22	10 am	Family Service
July 29	10 am	Family Communion
Aug 5	8 am	Holy Communion
Aug 12	10 am	Morning Prayer
Aug 19	8 am	Holy Communion
Aug 26	10 am	Family Service
Sept 2	8 am	Holy Communion
Sept 9	10 am	Morning Prayer
Sept 16	8 am	Holy Communion
Sept 23	10 am	Family Communion at St. Mary's
Sept 30	10 am	Harvest Festival

There is a midweek service of Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m. every Wednesday at St Mary's, Little Hallingbury.

All services of Holy Communion are from the Book of Common Prayer unless otherwise indicated (CW = Common Worship)

Both St Giles' and St Mary's have a Children's Corner with activity packs for use by families at all 10 am services and there is a Junior Church held during the 10 a.m. Common Worship Holy Communion at St Mary's.

Please watch our website <http://www.unitedhallingbury.co.uk/index.htm> for events and any changes to this information.

Calendar

June 2012

- 2 **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**
Barbeque - Village Hall Field - 12 noon - 4 pm
- 3 **Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service and Afternoon Tea** - St Giles' Church - 3 pm
- 5 Olive Branch - St Mary's - 2.15 pm
- 6 Library Van - Bedlars Green 2.10pm - 2.25pm
Woodside Green 2.35 - 2.50 pm
- 7 Beat Surgery - Little Hallingbury Village Hall 10-11 am
- 12 Friendship Club
- 13 History Society - Social Evening and AGM - Village Hall - 8pm
- 27 Women's Institute - *Members Day* - Village Hall 7.45pm

July 2012

- 3 Olive Branch - 2.15pm in St Mary's Church
- 5 Beat Surgery - Little Hallingbury Village Hall 10-11 am
- 5 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 8 pm
- 10 Friendship Club
- 14 Library Van - Bedlars Green 2.10pm - 2.25pm
Woodside Green 2.35 - 2.50 pm
- 15 Great & Little Hallingbury Flower Show - Harps Farm 12 noon - 4pm
- 15 Public Open Day - Gardens of Easton Lodge 12pm
- 25 Women's Institute - *Frances Luck Hatched, Matched, Dispatched!* - Village Hall 7.45pm
- 28 Library Van - Bedlars Green 2.10pm - 2.25pm
Woodside Green 2.35 - 2.50 pm

August 2012

- 2 Beat Surgery - Little Hallingbury Village Hall 10-11 am
- 11 Library Van - Bedlars Green 2.10pm - 2.25pm
Woodside Green 2.35 - 2.50 pm
- 14 Friendship Club
- 22 Women's Institute - *Share A Talent with members* - Village Hall 7.45 pm
- 23 Family Bat Walk - Hatfield Forest 8pm - Booking Essential
- 25 Library Van - Bedlars Green 2.10pm - 2.25pm
Woodside Green 2.35 - 2.50 pm
- 25 Women's Institute - *Flog-It Auction* - Village Hall 7.45pm

September 2012

- 1 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 8 pm
- 4 Olive Branch - St Mary's - 2.15 pm
- 9 Library Van - Bedlars Green 2.10pm - 2.25pm
Woodside Green 2.35 - 2.50 pm
- 11 Friendship Club
- 12 History Society - Jennifer Ward *Religious Houses of Essex* - Village Hall - 8pm
- 15 Village Hall Quiz Night - 7.30pm
- 26 Women's Institute Jackie Marshall-Ward - Upstairs, Downstairs, Lucky Dip - Village Hall 7.45pm

Come to the next Parish Council meetings in the Village Hall - ask your questions - give your views. See how the Parish Council works for you.
Monday, 5th July, 1 September at 8 pm

History Society

Report to Annual Parish Meeting

The Great Hallingbury Local History Society continues to thrive. Our meetings regularly attract between 20 and 30 members with a few visitors as well.

We maintain our programme of speakers on a broad variety of topics. Neither do we limit our time frame. This year we have enjoyed topics from *1066 - Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask* through the *History of Copped Hall* and *History through Famous People in Essex* as well as the history of commercial activity which constitutes *The Stort Story*. Our most recent meeting proved popular when we moved into the twentieth century and had a speaker on the *History of Duxford*.

2011 was a landmark year for the History Society in that, with the support of the Parish Council, we finally brought to fruition our project to produce a village sign for Great Hallingbury. This was unveiled by our MP in September and attended by around 50 people who then enjoyed wine, coffee and refreshments in the Village Hall, by courtesy of the WI. I'm delighted to say that I have only heard good comments about it.



We plan to continue along a similar path in the coming year with speakers on the *History and Restoration of Hylands House*, the *Religious Houses of Essex*, large country houses or *Keepers, Cockneys and Kitchen Maids* and *Barges on the Blackwater* already in our schedule.

We are always delighted to welcome visitors and new members to enjoy not only our speakers, but our renowned refreshments as well.

Christine Coultrup, March 2012