

the
GADDESSEN DIARY
AUTUMN 2020



Online edition

www.littlegaddesden.org.uk

The Gaddesden Society

(Founded by the Home Guard)

When the Home Guard “Stood Down” in 1945 it found itself in possession of two assets: first, a sum of money which was due for distribution among its members; and second the habit of working together for the benefit of the whole community. With these funds and with this habit of co-operation, the Gaddesden Society was formed.

Its children are now grown up and flourishing independently. The Art Club, the Artisan Golf Club and the Drama Club were all of them floated off by the Gaddesden Society; and we have been able from time to time, to help other clubs and societies. There will always be demands upon the Society. And there will always be people who enjoy helping to meet them. Many of our early pipe-dreams have come true, but there are many more to be fulfilled.

It is for these reasons that the Society must continue to exist. Like the Home Guard, it has no political or religious associations – it needs everyone within its ranks.

VICARS BELL, 1961

President: Phil Heaphy

Honorary Secretary: Mandy Haynes

Subscriptions

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Editorial Team

Editors: Phil and Rachel Heaphy

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Advertising: (vacancy)

Calendar: Nan Newberry

For current contact information, please see the latest issue of The Gaddesden Diary or the relevant page on our website.

CLUB SECRETARIES / CONTACTS

Gaddesden Society

Art Club

Book Club

Bowls & Croquet Club

Bridge Group

Brownies

Colts

Cricket Club

Drama Club

Friends of Lt Gaddesden Sch.

Junior Football Club

Music Club

Parish Council

Parochial Parish Church

Royal British Legion

Rural Heritage Society

Scouts

Sports Club

Tennis Club

Village Produce Association

Women's Institute

Email addresses and phone numbers are normally published here, but as many in this 2020 edition are now out of date, they have been removed from this sample edition.

For current contact information, please see the latest issue of The Gaddesden Diary or the relevant page on our website.

USEFUL INFORMATION

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- Other emergencies only

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Friends of Ashridge

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Lt Gaddesden Pre-School

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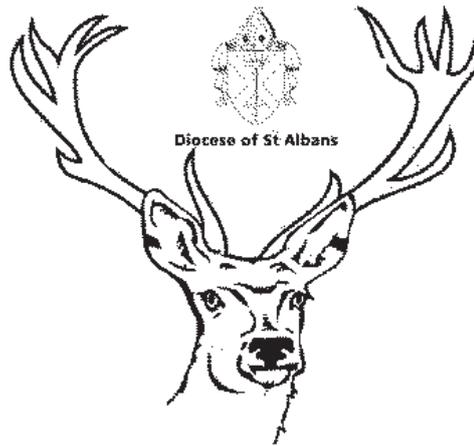
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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second 'virtual' *Gaddesden Diary*. We had hoped by now to be publishing and distributing the printed version of the *Diary* but decided that this was still the most appropriate method to maintain contact and give news of village activities and organisations. We hope to revert to the printed *Diary* from the December edition.

The gradual easing of lockdown has enabled some resumption of 'normal' life but, for so many of our usual activities, cancellation, postponement, or virtual alternatives have been the order of the day. We continue, however, to be grateful for so many aspects of our lives, in particular the community in which we live. You can read the article by the Mayor of Dacorum, Cllr Terry Douris, under the County Council heading towards the end of the *Diary*, detailing the 'Heroes of Hertfordshire' awards given to the Odedra family and their team at the village shop, and to Sarah Gall and Wendy Molloy, as Community First Responders. Our comments and thanks to them all in the previous edition of the *Diary* are no less appropriate and heartfelt now.

By the time you read this, the village school will have opened its doors for a new academic year, representing the fulfilment of a huge amount of work and planning by all the teachers and staff to welcome all pupils back to school. Well done to Lorna Elkes and her whole team for making this happen and we wish them, and all the pupils, the very best term.

The Editors

GADDESSEN SOCIETY

As with so many activities in the village, our programme of talks and films, along with the annual Village Sports Day, has been put on hold. I am grateful to our speakers, and to the Gaddesden Society committee, for their forbearance. We will aim to reschedule our talks as soon as possible, along with our postponed AGM.

Thanks also to Catriona Angel and Eleanor Mitchell, who organised last year's Sports Day, and were fully prepared to do so again this year. We are eager to stage the sports again next year, provided government guidelines allow, so to

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all trophy holders, enjoy a further year basking in your achievement, and get ready to defend your titles next year!

Finally, a reminder that, if you are not already signed up to emails giving regular village news, please contact Mandy Haynes at TheGaddesdenSociety@gmail.com.

Phil Heaphy
President

Community First Responders

We are very pleased to report that we have had only six call outs to the village since our last report and all have been non COVID. There have been other call outs to Berkhamsted and Tring, also non COVID. We remain a very lucky and healthy village and, if we continue to be sensible and cautious, we very much hope to continue to be so.

Please all remember your masks (with filters) when in shops etc., and limit public transport if you can. The autumn and winter period could be a challenge.

Medical Driving Service

Since lockdown, there have been no requests.

Sarah Gall

BOOK CLUB



'Akin' by Emma Donoghue

The novel was generally well received by Book Club members with most attendees stating they would be happy to recommend it. 'Akin' looks at family relationships, myths and assumptions about nearest and dearest in a humorous, yet serious manner.

The plot stretched credulity at times as Noah, a 79-year-old science professor from Manhattan, unexpectedly and suddenly takes custody of his 11-year-old great-nephew, Michael, from Brooklyn, a child whom he has never met. The

circumstances of their unlikely meeting coincide with a trip to Nice, a nostalgic visit to Noah's ancestral home, which was originally planned for one, but now must accommodate two.

The two main characters are dramatically different: Noah is analytical and cautious; Michael is foul-mouthed, impetuous. However, they share similarities which become apparent as the novel develops. Both are lonely and bereaved. A third main character is ever present in the novel, the voice of Noah's deceased wife which accompanies him everywhere, giving parenting advice, sharp quips and reassurance when needed.

The unlikely pair of great-uncle and great-nephew wander through Nice, its historic sites, bistros, the boardwalk and the gravesite of their shared grandparent, a famous street photographer, the enigmatic Pere Sonne. The exchanges between Michael and Noah, born of generational and cultural differences, can be poignant, funny and explosive. If the reader has ever had the pleasure of travelling with children, many of the incidents will seem all too familiar. Additionally, the pair are attempting to solve two family mysteries; one relating to Noah's mother's role in the resistance during WWII and the other, Michael's father's recent death from a drug overdose.

Emma Donoghue, also author of the book 'Room', deals with this serious subject matter in a manner that is sensitive, captivating and light enough to keep the reader engaged. Donoghue is a master of facts, of literary technique and also of language. She enlightens us with details of France during the German occupation, modern neuroscience, chemistry and art, then teases us with nuanced plays on words and language. She also manages to create composite characters loosely based on real life individuals and events that keep the reader interested and guessing as to their veracity.

Many of us will not be going to Nice this summer or perhaps not travelling there any time soon but 'Akin' captures the city - its history plus its sometimes unattractive modern tourist attractions - so read the book during staycation and enjoy a bit of the Med.

'The Immortalist' by Chloe Benjamin

This book starts with a premise - how would you live your life if you knew the date of your death. As a choice for book club during the COVID lockdown this

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was challenging! But suspending the immediate link with our own lives it was an interesting read.

Four young siblings in New York in 1969 are tempted to visit a mystic to learn of their individual fates. The book then gets going with a dramatic jump from an immigrant Jewish family of tailors in New York to the emerging San Francisco gay scene just at the time of the emergence of AIDS. And the first death is the youngest one, Simon.

Once you get the pattern of the chapters you realise who will be next. There are some interesting stories - a magician learning illusionist tricks, a disillusioned army medic through the Vietnam draft years and finally the longest lived actually researching ways to prolong the human life span through research on primates (and herself). All of this flavoured with a suggestion that knowing the date acts to predetermine the fact - is this another illusion?

The four siblings produced different and interesting stories with obvious cross-overs and links. The writing was fluid and varied with each sibling. But we did wonder if the four different stories could have each expanded to different but better individual tales without the premise of the story linking them together.

We had an interesting discussion - now regularly held by Zoom - but, ultimately, we felt the book was a little disjointed and the premise too contrived to be a really good read.

Terri Adams

'Educated' by Tara Westover is an autobiographical account of growing up in a dysfunctional, fundamentalist Mormon family in recent times – she was born in 1986. Her father was a weaponized survivalist, her mother a herbalist and unqualified midwife who rejected medical intervention. Tara and her siblings had some haphazard home schooling and were relied upon to work in their father's unregulated scrapyard to eke out a living. Somehow, against the odds, Tara studied to gain college entry, a subsistence grant and the encouragement to continue her education. She eventually gained a PhD from Trinity College, Cambridge and this book is in part the result of that.

The account Tara gives of her childhood and the increasing alienation she feels from her family as a young adult is upsetting and at times brutal but ultimately

redemptive. Some readers struggle to believe her recount which her family have branded a distortion of the truth but I feel that the compelling details are very likely true. Her educational progress is at times astounding: in an early lecture she was mistakenly branded a Holocaust denier: she had never heard of the Holocaust.

The reader shares Tara's pain as she struggles to negotiate not only a world which she is ill prepared for but emotions that have been locked down through years of neglect and abuse. 'Educated' has been recommended by Barack Obama, Bill Gates and Oprah Winfrey – and now me. The greatest shock for me was that in the land of the free there exist communities with such restricted freedom, entirely self-imposed, where children are growing up in ignorance and abuse to believe in lies.

Fiona Masters

BOWLS AND CROQUET CLUB



Bowls

What a strange COVID 19 summer...

Not being a contact sport, we were able to return to the green in mid-May following Bowls England's advice to the letter. Only pre-booked games were possible on alternate rinks with strict sanitising of persons and equipment required and social distancing observed (how I've come to hate that phrase). The clubhouse festooned with fierce notices remained out of bounds (except to use the loos if absolutely necessary) and, sadly, the bar had to remain closed. Even a post-game cup of tea was out of the question. Nevertheless, a resilient band of our bowlers enjoyed the social contact playing bowls allowed while observing these stringent conditions and (I'm reliably informed) the standard of play has been high.

The green has looked particularly good with less wear and tear, so hopefully the benefits will carry through into next year.

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Not surprisingly our membership has slumped this year, so we will be looking to recruit in 2021 when hopefully things might be back to normal.

Anne Isherwood

Croquet

Our doughty players have braved the cool wind, hot sun and occasional rain shower to pursue the delights of the smooth green croquet lawn, the resounding sound of mallet against ball, and ball knocking ball away from the hoop!

We have 17 players booking and playing in our four sessions each week, but we have space for more. Thursday and Sunday afternoons have vacant slots, so if you'd like to try your skill, why not come and join us. We operate a booking system, so please ask at the club when we're there (Sunday morning from 10.00am, Tuesday evening from 6.00pm, and Thursday and Friday afternoon from 2.00pm) and we'll show you the ropes.

Bill Newberry

DRAMA CLUB



In common with every other village society the activities of the Drama Club have been stopped in their tracks by COVID-19. We were planning to put on a play in autumn which would have meant casting over the summer and going into rehearsal in September. That went by the board in the early stages of the lockdown and, the way things are looking at the moment, it is probably unlikely that we will be able to put on an indoor production until the second half of next year, although we will keep our options open. There are other possibilities to consider and we will turn our collective minds to that in September.

As you will see from Nan Newberry's piece, the club has only been in semi-hibernation since the play readings have thrived via Zoom. Again, we await further relaxations in the regulations before it will be possible to resume live sessions.

One of the things I am personally keen to explore is the possibility of staging an outdoor production, possibly a murder mystery, next year. Obviously, we would be at the mercy of the weather and would not have the luxury of being able to switch the performance to the village hall in the event of rain, but sometimes you have to be bold. Hopefully, there will be more news of that in the next *Diary*. In the meantime, if you have not done so already, do go to our website <https://www.lgdramaclub.com/> and have a listen to the 'Extraordinary Women' series of radio plays and the Brexit satire 'WIXIT!'.

Patrick Isherwood

The fortnightly Zoom play readings continue to be a great success, so much so we didn't stop for the usual summer break in August. We read 'This May Hurt a Bit', a thought-provoking political play about the NHS, by Sheila Feehily, and three biographical plays charting the lives of Constance Spry, Nigel Slater and Peter Sobieski (inspiration for Peter Pan). Two bedroom farces by Ray Cooney in August gave us some welcome light relief after a run of very serious plays. Our autumn programme promises to be very interesting and diverse as members of the group are choosing the plays. Details of the programme will be on the website, and circulated to the Drama Club mailing List via email. Meanwhile do get in touch if you'd like more information. Nan - 01442 843155, playreadings@lgdramaclub.com.

Nan Newberry

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB



After the extended season break the new season starts Saturday September 5th. There will be a number of enforced changes at the moment due to the Coronavirus restrictions, and the club are adhering to the FA guidelines in place – full details of them can be found at <https://www.hertfordshirefa.com/news/2020/jul/18/guidelines-for-the-return-of-grassroots-football>.

At the moment we have some spaces available in most year groups (especially the younger ages) but we expect these to fill up fast so if there is a girl or boy

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you know who loves football and wants to learn how to play the Little Gaddesden way then please get in touch.

Training is at 9.30am on Saturday mornings with competitive matches in the West Herts Youth League each Sunday morning from U8 upwards.

Drop me a line if you want more information at enquiries@littlegaddesden.football.

Finally, don't forget that our clubhouse continues to serve great Nespresso coffee and bacon rolls on Saturday mornings (open to all the village, not just footballers and parents) from 9.30am to 10.30am.

Nick Leach
Chairman

LITTLE GADDESSEN SCHOOL



Having just finished what must have been the most unexpected summer term, I can reflect back on what the team has achieved in such a short time and plan for our full return in September.



Our temporary outdoor classroom, used by Class 1.

After our initial tentative reopening in April, followed by in-school provision for selected year groups, by mid-June all year groups were able to

participate in learning in school and take-up from our families was remarkable; far exceeding that of other local schools. All staff were delighted to see nearly all the children back in school. Reception Class were divided into two groups making use of a marquee as an outdoor Classroom. Other classes showed

exceptional engagement of our newly installed G-suite Google Classroom when they were not in school. Through Google Classroom, teachers not only provided personalised learning with dynamic feedback, they also continued to deliver live (and recorded) story times and teaching.



A range of interactive activities for Well-being week.

Recognising the need to take care of our mental health, our community thoroughly enjoyed our 'Well-being' week in June. With a wide range of activities, pupils at home and in school were able to consider their well-being, considering how to look after themselves and each other.

One of the most notable Kindness tasks involved writing to residents in a nearby care home, who were unable to see family during restrictions but friendly letters from our pupils were very welcome.



Flying personalised kites



'A city in a box'

As some restrictions eased, we were able to enjoy a range of 'end of term' activities including opportunities to explore our local area, socially distanced Teddy-Bear picnics and class sports days for the younger children. Year 6 were able to enjoy a simple celebration, receiving their bibles from Rev John Russell and formally mark the end of their primary education. We wish them well as they move on to their next phase of learning, departing for schools in Tring,

Berkhamsted, Aylesbury, St Albans and Hemel Hempstead. Although this was not the end of term we anticipated, it did enable pupils to enjoy some safe interaction and a return to learning in school with their friends.

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I could not complete this entry without mentioning the departure of Nerys Steeds. Fortunately, by the end of term we were able to hold a simple farewell marking her being part of Little Gaddesden school for many, many years. Having had the pleasure of working with her previously, I know how much she will be missed. She had an amazing ability to enable pupils to have fun whilst learning. With her guidance, the school has twice had work displayed in the National Gallery in London as part of 'Take One Picture'. She has also been the steady hand, directing our hugely successful Christmas productions - highlights being our Nativity film and more recently the production of 'Joseph's Technicolor Dreamcoat'.



Collections in a box

Of course as we look towards the autumn term, we know that there is much guidance that remains in place for our safety, yet following the successes of the summer term, we are confident that we will be providing the high standards of learning expected at Little Gaddesden School and look forward to welcoming back all our pupils as well as the new pupils in Class 1. As I write this, we expect to be providing before and after school clubs. Each club will be risk assessed and activities delivered with consideration of social distancing.



Yoga at home

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Izzi Wheeler back to the staff team, who will be a great asset to the school.

Lorna Elkes
Headteacher

MUSIC CLUB

As government restrictions have eased, it now seems that we will be able to put on a few concerts this year, although not in private houses. We will also run them as individual ticketed events, rather than ask for a subscription.

Social distancing measures will be in place, and there will be a maximum audience of c. 30. Concerts will be c. 60 minutes with no interval. Tickets will be £10, payable in advance; past members will be offered tickets first, with any spares offered to non-members.

Dates are yet to be completely finalised, but current plans are:

- Solo piano, Little Gaddesden Church 5:15pm on a Wednesday (probably October 7th or 14th)
- Solo harp, Nettleden Church, 5:15pm on a Sunday (probably November 8th or 15th)

These are both concerts that had been planned for April this year. All being well we hope to add further dates for 2021.

If you're interested, or would like details of the programme for these concerts, please contact Ian Hamilton on ianh72542@gmail.com or 01442 876660.

Ian Hamilton

NATIONAL TRUST



Ashridge Estate news

As these articles are offered to the magazines of parishes adjoining Ashridge, many readers will be lucky enough to live within walking distance of the Estate. Never have I been more grateful for that than in the early weeks of lockdown, when we weren't allowed to drive to our place of exercise. It certainly helped to keep me sane. Indeed, somewhat selfishly, I rather enjoyed the extra peacefulness, seemingly having the bluebells to myself, and being able to walk along the footpath through the golf course without having to be on high alert.

Ashridge has, though, missed its visitors terribly. Quite apart from the loss of income, it's there to be enjoyed in all its glory. The army of volunteers, however, was kept abreast of goings-on through wonderful, weekly, on-line newsletters.

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I thought I would rummage through them and pick out my top half dozen fascinating facts.

- 1) With Easter trails cancelled, 5,544 Cadbury's eggs were distributed to charities (see photo).



Easter egg mountain
(Photo: © National Trust Ashridge)

- 2) Meadleys Meadow (the huge expanse by the Visitor Centre) means 'meadow meadow meadow'. 'Mead' comes from the old-English for 'meadow'. 'Ley' is an agricultural term for a meadow. It has been a meadow since the 14th Century.

- 3) An Ashridge tree was 'vandalised' with the names and home states of American servicemen stationed there two weeks before D-day. It's now of historical interest (see photo).

- 4) A Grasshopper Warbler was singing in Monument Meadow, Little Gaddesden. These birds are very rarely recorded on the Estate.

- 5) The rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly was seen earlier than it's ever been seen before.

- 6) Colin Sturges sent in an amazing picture of Pitstone Windmill with the old cement works in the background. My, how the vista has changed (see photo)!



Tree engraved by American servicemen
(Photo: © National Trust/Hugh Mothersole)

So, what are the likely impacts of the lockdown on Ashridge? In the short-term, there are anecdotal reports of some flora and

fauna doing especially well with fewer people around, but the amazing weather is a more likely reason for such a bountiful spring. Sadly, some unscrupulous

individuals have taken advantage of there being fewer people, and fly-tipping has increased noticeably. In the medium term, several conservation projects have had to be put on hold because of staff being furloughed and volunteers having to isolate. A huge reduction in income to the National Trust will mean that projects will have to be



The Windmill and the Cement Works
(Photo: © Colin Sturges)

prioritised and some delayed or even cancelled. In the longer-term, the National Trust and Ashridge will bounce back and, quite possibly, emerge stronger. Many people have discovered anew the beauty and vital importance of the natural world, and that will surely feed through to increased support for the Trust and like-minded organisations.

It's the National Trust's 125th year and, sadly, many planned celebrations could not take place, but some ingenious alternatives did. Once the Visitor Centre reopens, there will be an exhibition called 'Ashridge through the ages', which will be very well worth a look and will continue until the end of the year.

Rikki Harrington

PARISH CHURCH



Like everyone else, the church has been finding new ways of managing during the Coronavirus pandemic.



The Thomas Field Hall starts to take shape

After a month of total lockdown in May, when all we could do was patrol round the outside of the church twice a day just to keep an eye on everything; when Vicar John made a near vertical ascent to learn the technicalities of live streaming, and when the vestry waited for the builders, permission came in June to open the church doors and for building works

to start. The church was opened twice a day during the week, and on Sunday afternoons. A team of stewards was recruited to guide people coming into the church for prayer and contemplation to ensure the safety measures were followed. Vicar John was allowed to live stream the Sunday service from church instead of his home, with the able assistance of Jonathon Kempster and Andrew Sheard, and has used both Great and Little Gaddesden churches.

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Then measures were relaxed again in July when people were allowed to come to the service. Although very welcome, it felt very strange to be sitting at more than the usual distances from each other, and muffled behind masks. For those not able to come, the service is still recorded and broadcast either live on Facebook or later on the website. A midweek service is also being recorded and made available on the website on a Wednesday.



Welcoming people in the first service for over three months

Although opening the building is a blessing it has also presented difficulties, as there are baptisms and weddings booked in over the next couple of months which mean shutting the church for 72 hours after each service for decontamination, so the venue for the Sunday morning service will vary between

Great and Little Gaddesden. Please look at the website to see which church will be being used.

Other activities are still being carried on through Zoom, in which everyone is suddenly getting very proficient. Tuesday morning coffee sessions and the Wednesday evening discussion group are flourishing, and we have held two PCC meetings this way as well.

Some good news is that we have been progressing the design of a new heating system for the church. A detailed specification has now been issued for an estimate of the cost to be made, and permission from the Diocese is being sought. We aim to have the church warm to welcome everyone in by Christmas.

Finally, work started on the Thomas Field Hall in early June - some 10 weeks late. The archaeological excavations took a week longer than anticipated, unfortunately, but since then the builders have made good progress. After knocking down quite a lot, they are now busy building the external walls and the extent of the new Hall is now becoming apparent. Watch progress on the website which has weekly updates. We are still a little short of our fundraising target so any assistance in that area would be welcomed by Allan Webster, our treasurer. However, a big thank you to everyone for their support for this very exciting project, which is now on its way to becoming a reality.

Barbara Sheard & Michael Carver
Churchwardens

Sunday services in church have now resumed to some extent but spaces will be limited to approximately 35. Recordings will be available around lunchtime on the day, via the church website: <https://www.facebook.com/berkhamstedteamworship>

Parish Council meetings usually take place in the Village Hall.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, meetings may be held by video conference.

Please see website for details. <https://littlegaddesdenpc.org.uk/agendas-minutes-2020/>

SEPTEMBER

Wed	2	Drama Club	Play Reading - <i>tba</i>	Via Zoom	7.45pm
Sun	6	Parish Church	Little Gaddesden	Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	6	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Sun	13	Parish Church	Little Gaddesden	Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Wed	16	Drama Club	Play Reading - <i>tba</i>	Via Zoom	7.45pm
Sun	13	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Sat	19	VPA	Garden Store Open 'Bubbles and Bulbs'	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Sun	20	Parish Church	Great Gaddesden	Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	20	VPA	Garden Store Open 'Bubbles and Bulbs'	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Mon	21	Parish Council	Meeting	Via video conference	8.00pm
Sun	27	Parish Church	Great Gaddesden	Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	27	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Wed	30	Drama Club	Play Reading - <i>tba</i>	Via Zoom	7.45pm

OCTOBER

Sun	4	Parish Church	Harvest Festival	Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	4	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Sun	11	Parish Church		Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	11	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon

The Gaddesden Diary

Wed	14	Drama Club	Play Reading - <i>tba</i>	Via Zoom	7.45pm
Sun	18	Parish Church		Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	18	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Mon	19	Parish Council	Meeting	Via video conference	8.00pm
Sun	25	Parish Church		Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	25	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Wed	28	Drama Club	Play Reading - <i>tba</i>	Via Zoom	7.45pm

NOVEMBER

Sun	1	Gaddesden Diary	Copy date		
Sun	1	Parish Church	All Souls	Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	1	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Sun	8	Parish Church	Remembrance Sunday	Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	8	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Wed	11	Drama Club	Play Reading - <i>tba</i>	Via Zoom	7.45pm
Sun	15	Parish Church		Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	15	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Mon	16	Parish Council	Meeting	Via video conference	8.15pm
Sun	22	Parish Church		Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	22	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
Wed	25	Drama Club	Play Reading - <i>tba</i>	Via Zoom	7.45pm
Sun	29	Parish Church		Limited spaces and via church website	9.30am
Sun	29	VPA	Garden Store Open	Next to Village Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon

PARISH COUNCIL



Conservation Area Character Appraisal – by Lyn Hyde

For some two years Villagers and members of the Parish Council have been engaged in compiling the Little Gaddesden Character Appraisal under the guidance of the Conservation Officers at Dacorum Borough Council. I am pleased to report that the draft is almost ready for public consultation.

Why have we spent so much time and energy on this project?

A Conservation Character Appraisal is important because it:

- Highlights key characteristics of the area and explains why it is designated as a Conservation Area – a large area of the Little Gaddesden and a separate area of Ringshall were designated in 1986.
- Expresses what the community particularly values
- Helps provide a robust policy framework for planning decisions
- Is a material consideration in planning appeals
- Is a tool to demonstrate the area's special interest
- Leads to a Management Plan for the area.

We have attempted to define what makes Little Gaddesden special to the community, for example: its history; the height and scale of buildings; the materials used, e.g. mellow brick, wooden framed buildings, clay tile and slate, wooden framed windows, preservation of leaded lights and small panes, decorative chimney stacks; the blue numbering tiles installed by the Brownlow Estate; the open spaces between the buildings; the open vistas and views into Ashridge Park and surrounding farm land; the Village Green, our trees, hedgerows and sympathetic boundary treatments; the light traffic with no lorries (except for delivery).

The Gaddesden Diary

We have also identified what villagers don't like: Intrusive security lighting; high solid gates; impermeable driveway treatment; erosion of traditional materials and architectural detailing and their replacement with inappropriate materials such as plastic windows, doors, fascias and guttering, concrete tiles and repointing; roofscapes sprouting aerials, satellite dishes, rooflights and solar panels; cluttered road signage and advertising signage.

It is an important document in Planning terms for the village and strengthens the protection afforded by the DBC Conservation Team, for example concerning the Church Farm fields.

The Village Green Maintenance – by Lyn Hyde

On the advice of the Environmental Department at Hertfordshire County Council we have followed a different cutting regime this year. All sections of the Green were cut in March; after that Malcolm Weaver cut the verges around each section of road, driveway and path. This ensured road safety, maintained the width of path for groups and left the grass and wild flowers to bloom.

The year started with a lovely sprinkle of yellow celandine; we were also rewarded with the wonderful show of pale pink Ladies Smock (Cuckoo Flower) throughout the green and especially at the Church Road end. There was a good clump of Cowslips near to the Adelaide Cross and white and dog violets throughout. The 'Pignut' (dainty cow parsley) red sorrel and buttercup followed. The increased numbers of walkers this year have commented upon the flowers, the butterflies and the insect life of the area.

The hay cut should have been taken at the end of June, however, as with so many farming jobs, this was one that was postponed several times and the cut, bale and removal did not take place until the end of July. The end of June cut should have been good timing for the Meadow Cranesbill (blue geranium type flower) to benefit from a 'Chelsea Chop' so we should have enjoyed a haze of blue around the Adelaide Cross. However, at time of writing they are just coming through blue – but that is meadow maintenance for you.

Last year LGPC employed an Arboreal Consultant to look at our trees and one of his recommendations was to leave a 4 metre circle around all the trees to

prevent root damage from cutting machinery; this also allows shade loving plants an opportunity to thrive. Works to trees will be taking place as advised.

Speed Awareness - Community DriveSafe Scheme Report - by Anthony Archer

Speeding continues to be a concern in Little Gaddesden, probably second only to planning. The community is rightly concerned that the village can be a 'rat run' and that Nettleden Road has some obvious pinch points, including the very narrow section from the junction with Church Road (with its access to the School) towards the Bridgewater Arms, and the unavoidable parking congestion adjacent to the Village Shop. The traffic environment is further complicated by the buffer zone of 40 mph leading into the village from Nettleden, and the 30 mph limit to Dagnall punctuated by the 40 mph section along The Green.

The Community DriveSafe scheme in Little Gaddesden has been in operation since March 2019. Sponsored and regulated by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Hertfordshire, the object of the campaign is to educate drivers and make local roads safer, using roadside speed monitoring, and promoting awareness.

There were nine speed monitoring sessions held during 2019 and two in 2020 before the pandemic. Only three sites are authorised as locations for the equipment to be set up, two on Nettleden Road, outside The Spinney on the straight stretch to Dagnall, and on the section between Deer Leap Horticulture and Home Farm, and with one site on Hudnall Lane.

The scheme currently has 10 volunteers, four of whom are designated Lead Volunteers, and who are thereby authorised to run a monitoring session. Usually a team of four volunteers is involved. Armed with the speed display equipment and a clipboard, the team records the total number of vehicles passing, and those travelling at 36 mph or above have their details recorded. Speeding motorists are sent an advisory letter and those who speed frequently receive a visit from a police officer.

The statistics for 2019 show that, of 1,824 vehicles passing, 424 (23%) were recorded as travelling at 36 mph or more. These resulted in 322 letters being issued. 13 drivers received a second letter, and one received a third letter and

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a police visit! However, applying strict GDPR regulations for the data, we do not know who these people are!

The average speed of those recorded remains fairly static at 39 mph, but 21 vehicles were clocked at over 45 mph and 13 at over 50 mph (all in a 30 mph area of course). The data for the sessions so far conducted in 2020 is broadly in line with 2019.

There is some evidence that driver speeds may be moderating slightly, with fewer in the upper speeding bands but, overall, the key statistic is that broadly 20 – 25% of drivers routinely ‘speed’ and do so at approximately 40 mph.

This is not the right place to discuss how the data (which is reported regularly to the Parish Council) should be interpreted and what additional steps might be taken to counter the problem and advocate for highway changes. The role of the volunteers is to capture the data and in so doing raise awareness of speed limits in the village. At the time of writing, Hertfordshire County Council is conducting a wider consultation entitled Speed Management Strategy 2020, the details of which are available on its website.

The Little Gaddesden team is always interested to hear from people who might be interested to join. The commitment is usually for one (two-hour) session every two months or so. If you would like to serve the community in this way, please contact us for further details.

Anthony Archer
07721 504125
anthony.archer@bridgewaterassociates.co.uk

Land at Church Road – by Sarah Lawson

LGPC have added an official statement to its website which sets out its current position on any future planning applications submitted to Dacorum Borough Council. We would direct third parties who wish to contact the Council for its views on the development of the land to this statement.

<https://littlegaddesdenpc.org.uk/planning-issues-at-church-road/>

We will continue, as a consultee body to such planning applications, to resist any applications that change the appearance and use of the land from its current grazing use.

Cllr Sarah Lawson

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



We know that Remembrance Sunday will be November 8th, and that at 11.00 there will be a National period of silence to remember those who ‘Gave their today for our tomorrow’. As for the detail of how that solemn event will be marked, both in the country at large and in Little Gaddesden, we don’t really know at the moment. Please keep an eye on announcements!

The one piece of news we can cover is that our President, Air Commodore John Mitchell CBE AFC will be leaving us, and if all went according to plan, has already left by the time you read this!

John and Wendy decided to move to Suffolk to be nearer family, and the deal was largely done in and around the lockdown period. They are no stranger to house moves; as a couple inextricably linked to being posted to all parts of the world, the act of moving itself won’t have caused them as much physical upheaval as many, but our branch of the RBL will be very much the worse off for their departure.

John’s RAF career included flying the very early fast jets; he was a ‘night fighter’ in Meteors and Javelins and then converted to the Lightning (as he has described it essentially a rocket with wings attached). He was the first pilot to gain 1,000 hours on the aircraft and was very much part of the UK’s ‘first defence’ during the Cold War. He spent considerable time in a cramped cockpit in a Lightning at the end of the runway at Leuchars waiting for the signal to take off immediately to intercept Russian bombers coming in from the North Sea, and also spent (top secret) time liaising with the US Air Force and (even more top secret!) the CIA on the U2 spy plane programme. During a varied and

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glittering career, he commanded a base in Germany, was promoted to Air Commodore, was awarded the Air Force Cross and a Queens' Commendation before being made a CBE. He and Wendy then decided to come to Little Gaddesden for some real excitement!

One of the most modest men you could ever meet, John joined our branch of the Royal British Legion in 1993 and has been our President since 2003. He has been the glue that holds us together and has never wavered in his quiet determination to see the LG branch 'punch above its weight' in the annual season of Remembrance and beyond it. A true leader, we shall sorely miss being led by him.

Shaun McCarthy

RURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY

The village hall was eerily quiet on the evening of July 1st. Tumbleweed rattled through dusty sunbeams, echoing and empty as it was during most of spring and summer 2020. What should have been happening was a jolly gathering for the RHS AGM. Refreshments would have been dispensed, there would have been a summary and the business, dealt with by our Leader, George Godar. Then, we were looking forward to hearing from Colin Blundel, the Chiltern Society's local planning officer, particularly given the threats to the agricultural land along Church Road from developers. If it is not possible to re-schedule this year there will be a bumper AGM in 2021!

There would have been opportunities to own copies of that magnificent publication, 'A Century Remembered', (there must be a household somewhere in need of this fount of all local knowledge!) also the Vicars Bell double; 'A History of Little Gaddesden' plus 'The Dodo', an autobiography of the village school's most innovative and charismatic head together in one edition. Plus, our most recent, 'Two Houses', by Frances Kernan, whose fascinating talk at the 2019 AGM was based on that well researched work of local history. Happily, though, these are always readily available from George Godar and from Lyn Hyde, along with the specially printed copies of the grandly entitled, 'Map of his Grace the Duke of Bridgewater's Estate in the Counties of Buckingham & Hartford'. Either the whole (much larger than now) Estate or that featuring Little Gaddesden.

Due to the lack of the live social interaction and the summer *Gaddesden Diary* being on line, subscriptions in many cases have not been renewed, you can still pay the £5 Individual/family membership by cheque (The Rural Heritage Society) or cash to Lyn Hyde at 22/23 Little Gaddesden. Our Newsletter this year was also as an email attachment (it's just not the same). If you would like to subscribe/renew, email George at fam.godar@hotmail.com. There should be hard copies for those lacking email.

Good news! Frances is planning an autumn walk during October. She has been prowling around the local countryside, exploring our locality during the summer and has found some paths, new to her, which are not on the maps. The walk will be three to four miles and as usual, all are welcome, including non-members and available dogs. Also, Tim will be our walk's leader for a trot around the area during November. Do look out for the usual posters on the village notice boards about a week beforehand, also via your email.

Josie Jeffrey

SCOUTING



Cubs

What do you do with a bunch of 8-10 year olds over zoom who had grown a bit weary of zoom chats and quizzes? Send them on a treasure hunt in their own homes of course...The challenge of "find something older than your mum" caused a few interesting responses. Things got even more interesting when they had to find a live bug but then a chicken ate the found worm...Is it time to return to the great outdoors yet?!

The Gaddesden Diary

During lock down the Cubs should have been attending their annual camp with this years plan to be in the vicinity of Willen Lake for some watery adventures. And of course the annual Soapbox Challenge should have taken place to the nautical theme ...fingers crossed for next year.



Cubs finding their badges

The Cubs have continued to earn their badges over Zoom. To round off the year the Leaders hid all their badges around Golden Valley, sent them a location each on What 3 Words (if you've not got it yet, we strongly advise you do!) and all were thrilled to find them...some proving harder to find than others.

We so hope that come September we will once again be running around Golden Valley and doing what we do best - celebrating life in the Great Outdoors.

Richard Brash
Cub Scout Leader

TENNIS CLUB



The members at LGTC have enjoyed several weeks of tennis since we opened our courts in May. Despite being affected by various restrictions imposed by the LTA due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had a successful season at the Club. Many new members have joined the club and, with the booking system for courts working well, we have seen everyone enjoying tennis in the

sunshine. Hopefully, we will see further restrictions being lifted over the coming months. Although the summer is drawing to a close, we hope that members will continue playing tennis throughout the autumn and winter.

The coaching with Hugo Allen has been a great success since resuming in May. Hugo offered reduced coaching fees for individuals, and this really encouraged juniors and adults to join the club and improve their game. When group coaching was allowed under the LTA rules, many of us enjoyed the sessions on offer from Hugo. Both the junior and adult coaching programmes will continue into the autumn with Friday coaching in the morning for adults and after-school coaching for the juniors. All details of the coaching programme offer by Hugo and booking information can be found on Hugo's website <https://hugoallentennis.co.uk/>.

Thank you to all our members who have supported the Club during these difficult times. If you are interested in finding out more about the club please visit our website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LittleGaddesdenTennisClub> or Facebook page www.facebook.com/littlegaddesdentennisclub.

We hope that you continue to enjoy your tennis!

Anne Gold

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION



We were delighted to be able to open the store again on Sunday mornings. As always, we are very fortunate to have volunteers who feel able to come along and support the store whilst following the appropriate socially distanced processes we put in place, so everyone feels safe and protected.

By contrast, after lots of discussion, it was disappointing to come to the conclusion that there would be no Summer Show this year. If there is no report/pictures included here about the longest weed or the Young Gardeners projects (released through the web site during the strict lockdown) that is because we did not receive any entries.

The Gaddesden Diary

On the plus side we have all been able to really appreciate the beautiful area we are fortunate to live in and continue to seek out many walks / right of ways that we might not have been aware of previously. Let's keep our eyes open for any litter discarded by inconsiderate people and carefully discard it which will also help protect the wildlife.

Many households have become the proud owners of new pets and I am delighted to have seen the start of a new chicken run going up next door to me which will bring back many happy memories (40 years - where has that time gone!) of when our garden was a thriving livestock and horticulture patch. Looking forward to hearing about the first eggs laid.

Do remember to save some vegetables for the Winter Show (February) which hopefully will be able to take place. Also, the Bubbles and Bulbs and Seed Potatoes events on September 19th and 20th. Information will be shared through the news items on our web site - LGVPA.org - so do keep checking in for updates and if you are not already a member we would love to add you to the database; just email Alastair - membership@lgvpa.org - pay £5 for the year and you will then officially be part of the VPA community.

In the meantime, keep up-to-date with the seasonal garden jobs and I hope you have lots of produce to enjoy. Do pop into the Store on a Sunday morning, we would love to see you. Card payments welcomed.

June Abraham

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Glenda Cooper has just stepped down after six years as our President. This is her annual report. We would all like to thank her for her energetic, good humoured and kind leadership.

As we all know we have had a difficult end to our year. We currently have 51 members. Other than our meetings, members also enjoy sewing, reading, outings, suppers, and gardens – definitely something for everyone.

We enjoyed several afternoons with our Craft Group, one time making cards to sell at our 'Tea Party with Frills', which unfortunately we had to cancel, as were so many events and outings.

In the last few months some members have also been sewing for the NHS with a local group 'Crafts for Causes', making sets of scrubs, hats, bags and masks. These went to hospitals, hospices, care homes, and local surgeries. The group completed 1,679 scrub sets, 746 scrub hats, 27 bespoke bum bags, 893 non-surgical face masks and 89 mask extender headbands. Amazing numbers by small groups from the Berkhamsted and Tring area.

Many thanks to Fiona for organising our small part of the Group. It did become a bit of a nightmare for her when all the trouser legs turned out to be left ones, however we completed around 220 sets of scrubs and many, many hats, bags and masks.

Up until March we were enjoying our outings and group activities. Thanks to all those ladies who arranged these for us, you are appreciated.

As usual we had many interesting outings planned but then cancelled, including a visit to The Artist's Village and Watts Gallery in Surrey: we were entertained and educated by their fantastic speaker at our last meeting in February before lockdown. Our Group Outing to visit Audley End House and Gardens in May also had to be cancelled due to the virus.

It has been a funny year. Back in July 2019 when we had our President's Tea Party at Bellows Mill no-one could have guessed that in 2020 meetings would be suspended. All our ladies wore their best frocks and hats and a good time was had by all celebrating our Centenary with a delicious tea.

Our Birthday Party in October was a great success with a 'Jane Austen' theme. Members dressed up and we were guided through Georgian country ball dance steps by Val and Ian McFarlane. A very enjoyable evening with a themed supper.

We celebrated our Christmas, having a meal at 'Stocks'. This was an excellent venue in a beautiful room with decorated tables, the food was

The Gaddesden Diary

splendid and the only thing that let us down was the weather; the rain absolutely fell down.

This is my last year as President and I have thoroughly enjoyed all six years. It has been great fun. I could not have done it without the support of my Committee, in particular Anne Wooster our longstanding Secretary who guided me through the first few years before Fiona took over. I'm sure the Committee and the group will continue to support our new President Sue Godar.

I must also thank Pat Seymour for our Needlework afternoons; Pat stepped in after we lost Jill. Thanks to Pam Howard for Supper Club, Chris who is or archivist, Mo for looking after our Bursaries (which will be on hold for the time being) and Jan for our Garden Group. Jan is stepping down, so extra thanks to her, which also means we are looking for a member to take on this enjoyable task. For my last thank you, though I'm sure I've missed out someone, I would like to thank Laura; after a hard day's work she dashes in to play Jerusalem for us at our meetings. No piano in the garden though where we held our AGM and plan to have our next meeting in September – fingers crossed!

Fiona Masters

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Heroes of Hertfordshire

In mid-July, in full Mayoral robe, I was delighted to present the Lord Lieutenant's Hero of Hertfordshire awards to Sarah Gall, Wendy Molloy and the Odedra family, especially Lilly in recognition of the support that they had all given to the village during COVID-19. In the really dark days between March and June their support was truly amazing as was everyone else who helped out.

The Lord Lieutenant wanted to recognise all the contributions, and this was a nice way to do so.

COVID-19 in Hertfordshire

The current situation was discussed at the Cabinet meeting in July and the full details are freely available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk. The County Council

had been running Operation Shield until the end of July. This was a project to support residents in Hertfordshire with serious underlying health conditions, placing them at the highest risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Since the start of Operation Shield there have been over 120,000 deliveries of



Heroes of Hertfordshire

food parcels and household essentials for those residents most in need and since this work began we have distributed some 37 tonnes of baked beans, 16 tonnes of tinned tuna, almost 44,000 litre of fruit juice, 22,500 metres of sausages and an unbelievable 378,144 meatballs.

Most of this had been managed from our Mundells warehouse with fantastic support of our 140-strong army of volunteers.

Household Waste recycling Centres HWRC (otherwise known as tips)

I am pleased to report that Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted HWRC are now open **for essential visits only** and operating at the normal hours. To save a frustrating wait after making the journey don't forget that you can check the waiting time live by going to the www.hertfordshire.gov.uk website but of course the information which is taken from the CCTV at the site is only accurate at that moment in time.

Back to School in September

We have heard from the Government that all schools will be expected to re-open for all pupils in September. We know that that this will create a challenge for many schools and of course things will depend on the state of the virus, but I am sure that schools will rise to the challenge.

Libraries

The Ready Reads service for Library customers went live for the first library in early July and I am pleased to report that all 10 of our initial group, which includes Hemel Hempstead, were operating this service by mid-July. By that time, these had processed over 1,600 requests for over 23,000 books. Please do

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look at the website for further details. It is a highly complex operation which does take time to deliver.

If you wish to raise any aspect of Hertfordshire County Council, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01442 402273 or by email at terry.douris@hertfordshire.gov.uk or for any Dacorum Borough Council issues please email terry.douris@dacorum.gov.uk

Please take care and stay safe

Whilst the Government has reduced the lockdown requirements, I do need to stress the obvious fact that COVID-19 is still very much with us and we all need to take care and observe precautions. There are spikes appearing in different places. They are not large but as we have found the spread can be rapid and devastating.

Cllr Terry Douris

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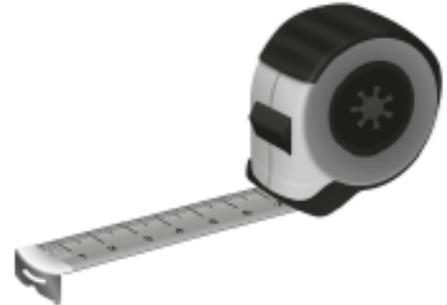
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