

# Hadstock Magazine



*Bluebell Wood, Howe Wood Littlebury*



**MAY 2025**

11 ISSUES for £15.00  
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## Beginnings – Editors Page

Dear Readers,



Here are 2 of the lovely Easter flower decorations in St Botolph's created by Denise Wells Photographs by Isabel Fish

Sorry this Magazine has been a bit of a marathon but at least there is a lot for you to read. And I didn't even manage to put Lou's Lambs in! Next month I promise. The good news is that the Revd Romey Poston will be coming to Hadstock and Ashdon in September. A relief for those who have been keeping St Botolph's going since Paula left and thank you for all the work you have put in.

Best wishes **Sue**

### **Contacts for the magazine**

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**Please send items for the Mag to [hadstockmag@btinternet.com](mailto:hadstockmag@btinternet.com)**

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[t.k.boyden@btinternet.com](mailto:t.k.boyden@btinternet.com)

**THE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE 2025 MAGAZINE ,**

**IS: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025 -- Early because June is the Fete month!**

### **Disclaimer:**

The views expressed in this magazine are submitted by readers and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Hadstock Parochial Church Council (PCC), and they cannot accept responsibility for goods or services advertised in the magazine, although advertisements are accepted in good faith. The Editor reserves the right to edit or exclude letters and articles that are submitted for publication, and no liabilities are implied or accepted.

**++GOOD NEWS GOOD NEWS GOOD NEWS GOOD++**

We are delighted to announce that the Revd Romey Poston has been appointed to be our new priest at Ashdon and Hadstock.

Romey comes to us from Oxford Diocese where she has served as the curate in the Langtree Ministry Team. She will move in the summer and be licensed in early September (date to be announced soon). Romey comes with a huge passion for ministry and pastoral care as well as extensive international experience. She worked as a foreign correspondent in the Indian Subcontinent, before becoming Executive Director of an NGO establishing cross border aid programmes to Afghanistan. Romey later married a senior diplomat and has three grown children. She also has a keen interest in Art and history, and loves walking her dog. Please pray for Romey as she leaves her current post to be with us and we look forward to welcoming her.

All of us on Hadstock Parochial Church Council wish Romey every success in her new role.

Tim Boyden

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**The Friends of St Botolph's Church** is a registered charity so any donations are eligible for Gift Aid.

**Charity number 1096540.**

Lou Symes Thompson, Chair.

See AGM DETAILS LATER IN THE MAG

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## **Parish Church of St Botolph's May 2025**

### **Jeremy writes: -**

May is when the last of our annual meetings occur across the Team. More than the simple receiving of reports; this is when we reflect on the previous year; have the opportunity to look ahead with faith; and give thanks for, and appoint, people to roles of service within the Church. So, firstly; my thanks to all who make our churches live, both in roles that are public, and in those many roles which go on behind the scenes but are no less important. My thanks to you who are continuing in these roles; my thanks to you who are stepping down; and, my thanks to you who are stepping up. The Christian Church has always been a team of people in a variety of roles, together making Church happen. Secondly; I hope that all of us, whatever our role, can view such service as part of our worship of God. At a certain level, these acts of service may be just jobs or duties, but if we allow them, they can be so much more. It isn't just the Vicar who "does God", but all of us separately and together. This service bears witness to the greater work of God in this world, and can be part of our prayer, our offering. Thirdly; we can sometimes despair that we just don't have enough volunteers. It's certainly true that with more volunteers we could do more. It's also true that without volunteers in key roles the life of any particular Church can be somewhat limited, even threatened. Our annual meetings are not the only time that people can volunteer to serve. So, if you missed the opportunity, well, it's still there. Most importantly, we can remember that whatever we have to offer in service to God, it is more than matched by what God is willing, and is doing, amongst us and the communities we serve already. Could God use even me?

*continued on the next page*

The answer might be a surprising, “yes.” After all, God called me to be a Vicar, and equipped me to be so. If God can do that with me then let me assure you that you are no challenge for the Almighty whatsoever. Best wishes Jeremy

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**Jeremy Trew** is Team Rector for Saffron Walden and Villages Team Area Dean for Saffron Walden, part of the Diocese of Chelmsford His address is:-

The Rectory, 17 Borough Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4AG  
01799 500947

You can read more of Jeremy’s Trew’s past letters on the St Mary’s website [www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org) where there are other interesting items too.

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### March Book Club Report

The Book Club choice for March was **The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O’Farrell**. Although rather sad, it was generally well liked and prompted a very interesting discussion. It was great to catch up with so many of you last week and I look forward to the April meeting.

**Kirsty**

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**CANASTA**      There is a Canasta Group in Hadstock and they are in action now!    If you are interested in joining then please call Irene on 01223 891 385      .      Players and Beginners welcome.

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## SERVICES AT ST BOTOLPH'S

May 2025

Sunday services this month are at  
9.00am



Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Holy Communion  
Led by Andy Colebrooke

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May

No Service in St Botolph's

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Home Team Service

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May

No Service in St Botolph's

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Morning Prayer takes place in the church each Tuesday at 8.30 am.

The church is open every day between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm for private prayer.

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**Derek Bushell** has sent a list of the **Pub Night dates** for the rest of the year.

It is always on the last Friday of the month except in December.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May** 6.00-11.00pm (**Village Hall AGM 6.30 -7.30**-everyone welcome- bar open as usual. Garden available)

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June** 6.00-11.00pm

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July** 6.00-11.00

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August** 6.00-11.00

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September** 6.00-11.00

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October** 6.00-11.00

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November**.6.00-11.00

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**.6.00- 11.00 (Please note change of date for Christmas)

## **Hadstock - News, - Events, - Happenings, Reports**



### **Hadstock Village Hall 100 Club**

Here are the APRIL 100 CLUB Winners 2025-

No.22 Vincent Anandraj £25

No.90 Nigel Godfrey £25

Congratulations! to you both and....

A very 'Big Thank You' to all the Village Hall 100 Club members for their subscriptions for the coming year's Draw from the Village Hall Committee.

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**ASHDON PRIMARY SCHOOL** - Ashdon, Essex CB10 2HB - School Office - 01799 584219 - Website [www.ashdon.essex.sch.uk](http://www.ashdon.essex.sch.uk). Ashdon Primary School is the catchment school for Hadstock Village with Essex County Council, currently, providing free transport for those children living in Hadstock to attend the school.

**The school also has a before and after school childcare provision from 8am in the morning and until 5:30pm in the evening.**

**Visits to the school from Parents and prospective pupils are welcomed**  
**Ashdon School Head:Ms Reynecke-Reybould**

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**Hadstock Village Gets Together on Pub Nights on the last Friday each month 6.00-11.00pm at the Village Hall** with a bar, crisps, nibbles and sometimes a food truck (watch Hadstock info for details)

**Card machine available for payments (or cash)**

**It's a chance to meet up with your neighbours and friends!**

**Next one is on Friday 30 May ,6.00 'til 11.00pm.(Village Hall AGM 6.30to 7.30 everyone welcome- bar open as usual. Garden available)**

**See you there!**

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## EVENTS, ACTIVITIES and Fun in 2025

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**BIN COLLECTIONS** – Weds 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May for Black & Brown bins and Weds 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>st</sup> May for Green & Brown bins.

**Green Skip:-11.45 to 12.45** First 15mins at Bilberry End then Village Green 45 mins 'The Green Skip' collection will be on the Saturday after the Black/Brown bin collection, so 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> then 32<sup>st</sup> May

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### **Hadstock Parish Council**

**Next meeting in the village hall on Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup>** at 7.45pm

Contact the Parish Clerk Sara Beckett:-

[hadstockparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hadstockparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk) for agenda details which are also sent out on Hadstock Info and put on the Village notice board by the old shop. Details of the agenda are also published on the Parish Council section of the village website which is:-[www.hadstock.org.uk](http://www.hadstock.org.uk)

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**Hadstock Society** – Community, History and Heritage.

Secretary: Maggie Hartley at [hadstocksociety21@gmail.co.uk](mailto:hadstocksociety21@gmail.co.uk)

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**Hadstock Village Hall** see Ad in this magazine for how to hire it. And the video on the Hadstock Village website – [www.hadstock.org.uk](http://www.hadstock.org.uk) -Village Hall Hadstock

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**Hadstock Silver Band** meets on Tuesdays at the Village Hall for practice  
Contact Sorry I'm not sure who this is now

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**Bell Ringing** practice at St Botolph's is Thursdays. Contact: Gilbert Rowlandson 01223 892882 or Janice Snell 01223 892338 –**Listen out**

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## **CLOSE BY**

**Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA)** meets on Tuesday mornings in the Village Hall in Linton. Autumn and Spring terms. Contact Sue Mudge 01223 892737

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**Linton and District Historical Soc.** Meets Tuesday evenings Linton Village Hall. Monthly. Contact Margaret Creek 01223 893915 or email:ldhscamb@gmail.com

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## **Uttlesford Foodbank**

<https://uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk/>

Uttlesford Foodbank provides emergency food and care parcels to individuals and families during times of crisis. It operates out of a

warehouse in Shire Hill Saffron Walden. They are

always looking for donations of food or money and volunteers. Most of the Supermarkets in S.Walden and Haverhill have a food donations box If you need help look at <https://uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/> or

phone 07531 436335. Local contact Lynne Smith - 4 Moules Lane, [Tel:07707 766197](tel:07707766197)

**Haverhill food bank at Reach Community Projects**

Wisdom Facilities Centre, 42 Hollands Road, Haverhill CB9 8SA

Opening times: Monday to Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Tel: 01440 712950 or Email: [info@reachhaverhill.org.uk](mailto:info@reachhaverhill.org.uk)

Website: [reachhaverhill.org.uk](http://reachhaverhill.org.uk) – for more information

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**Art Classes in Hadstock** for adults on Tuesday mornings and Friday mornings and afternoons in termtime; Sundays once a month, and children's' after-school art during termtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact Sonia 07890 50916

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# Friends of St Botolph's Church, Hadstock



The objects of the Friends ("the Objects") shall be, for the benefit of the public, to restore, preserve, repair, maintain and improve the beauty of the Church of St. Botolph Hadstock in the Diocese of Chelmsford and the churchyard belonging to the Church, it's paths and boundary walls and the monuments, fittings, fixtures, stained glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in the Church

**This year's AGM  
will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
in  
St Botolph's Church, Hadstock  
at 7.00pm**

*Lou Symes-Thompson - Chair*

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## **Hadstock Holiday help**

I am back from Uni for the summer and am available for any cat/pet/house sitting, dog walking, garden watering any time **between late May and September.**

**Harry Fish**      07910066137

harrysfish2005@gmail.com

## **Hamish McIlwrick - Memorial Bench Seat**

At Hamish's Memorial Service after he died last year his brother Rod had suggested that he would like that any donations in his memory be used to fund something tangible in the churchyard where Hamish had spent so many hours working on improving the perimeter flint walls over the years.

An oak bench seat was agreed upon and the necessary permission was obtained from the church for this. Its position was to be next to the Memorial Garden for cremated remains facing the church.

The bench has now been acquired, wood preservative applied, inscription in place, security fittings manufactured and set into the ground. The bench seat is now securely in place – a fitting memorial to Hamish, someone who gave so much time and effort to the village whether it is the church grounds, the village Fête and much more.



Please take advantage of the opportunity to sit for a period of quiet reflection enjoying the uninterrupted view of the church and surrounding churchyard.

**Tim Boyden**

## **From the Hadstock Society**

### **Memories of WW2 and VE Day 1945, shared between Pat Croxton-Smith (Crocky) and Maggie Hartley.**

On 8th May 2025, it will be the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Crocky has kindly offered to share some of her memories of life during the war and VE Day.

**M:** Crocky can you tell me about what life was like for you and your family at the start of the war and how things changed during the course of the war?

**C:** In 1939 we were living in Clifton, Bristol. I attended Badminton Junior Public School aged 11, together with my sister who was 9. The Senior School was burnt out and had to be evacuated to Tors Hotel in Lynmouth. The Junior School moved to the ground floor of the Staff House. Upstairs the staff had lost everything. Downstairs desks had been damaged. The children helped to sort the water damaged books. They decided that the algebra books were not worth saving but chose to save the English Literature ones. I remember Sgt Joe Cooper coming to play the piano and talk about music while we had our 1/2 hour resting time on mats after lunch.

At school the curriculum carried out as normal except for Chemistry, which was theory only.

Mother continued to live in Clifton with Granny. She fire-watched from the front bedroom of our house at the top of the hill and had a hot line to the ARP posts to alert them if she saw any bombs or fire damage to families further down the hill. They were able to stay safely in reinforced cellars. During a great fire raid, there was huge damage as the houses were 1/2 timber built. I remember taking Mother a cuppa from our cellar.

Father was called up very early on in 1939 and joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He had undertaken Officer Cadet training in WW1. He received 3 weeks reminder training by RSM Britten, whose voice of authority was renowned and much feared. He was sent to France before the end of 1939. Father and his fellow soldiers were evacuated from Dunkirk on small boats. He was then posted to the Middle East to Egypt,

Sudan, Persia and Iraq (PAI Force) Father wrote 4 letters a week. One to his mother, one to his wife and one to each of his daughters. These arrived in bundles in dispatches'.

As an officer's pay did not cover the cost of two children at Public boarding school, my sister and I moved to St. Gabriel's School, near Newton Abbott. The standard of Education was excellent and I remember being able to ride Dartmoor ponies. I also remember riding Judy the elephant, who lived at the zoo in Clifton.

The local grocer displayed a sign that said 'More Open Than Usual'. This was after the front window had been destroyed and local residents rallied around and helped to pick shards of glass out of the produce. Mother was very good at managing but it was hard to clothe two children relying on coupons. There was food rationing with 2oz of butter per person per week. Granny had been brought up to eat bread and butter at teatime before eating any jam or cakes. She quickly used up all the butter ration. There was a 12oz allowance for margarine. The allowance of 1 chop and 1 slice of corned beef cost 1/6d. There was one egg allowance per fortnight. It is still a treat to have a boiled egg. We had 6 hens, but they died from fatty liver, because Granny threw extra grain out of the upstairs window to them. People grew their own vegetables, if they had space and allotments started to be developed. Walking along the main street at sunset you learnt to identify the sound of German aircraft and bombers. The shopkeepers kept their doors open and if you heard the rat-a tat sound you ran inside to the back into a windowless storeroom. Most of the people in the street were mothers and children.

**M:** Crocky can you tell me about the lead up to VE Day. How did you hear about it? What celebrations did you have? How did life change?

**C:** In Oxford Road Newbury, we had seen non-stop lorries carrying soldiers and tanks. With all these conveyances we were not surprised by the D-Day landings. We listened to the news on the BBC broadcasts each evening on the wireless. There was such a sense of optimism. However, there were some misgivings about what was perceived as the late support from the USA and the attitude of the white US soldiers towards their fellow non-white comrades. Pubs in Newbury displayed signs saying "Black Soldiers Only" as they were deemed to be better behaved.

When VE Day was announced, when I was 15, the school cancelled all lessons and we had Sports and Games and a party. There were pictures in the newspapers of the celebrations in London and people went to the cinema to watch Pathé News to watch all the celebrations. When VE Day was announced we were on holiday in the Quantock Hills. We walked to the highest point and watched all the beacons being lit all around the Mendip Hills and South Wales Coast. The best news was a letter from my father to say he was being de-mobbed. My mother went to Southampton to meet him and they both came to have lunch with my sister and I. We were so excited to see him after 4 years! He then returned to work in the family accountancy firm in Bristol and never talked about his war experience.

WW2 had not yet finished. Following VE Day, rationing continued and bread rationing was introduced. There was a shortage of building materials so restoration of bombed cities took a very long time. I met a soldier who had been at the liberation of Belsen and heard his account of the horrors they saw. Philip Swann came back to Hadstock, a much changed man, having been a prisoner of war in Japan. There were no prior warnings of the atomic bombs that fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which resulted in VJ Day on 15th August 1945 and the end of WW2.

**M:** Thank you for sharing your memories, Crocky

Maggie Hartley  
Hadstock Society

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*Thank you Crocky for your very interesting and poignant memories and Maggie for recording them for us all to read. Sue-Ed*

## Hadstock Performing & Creative Arts Society – A Stage for Our Community!

Exciting news! I am launching a **Hadstock Performing & Creative Arts Society (HPCAS)**—a community-driven group dedicated to bringing music, theatre, the arts and community events to life right here in our village.

But HPCAS is more than just performances—it's a **pathway to securing funding** for audiovisual upgrades to our Village Hall, starting with a **professional multi-purpose lighting and curtains installation**.

By supporting and participating in HPCAS, you'll be helping to improve our community space for events, shows, and gatherings.

We are looking for as many members as possible to support an initial £20,000 funding bid. So, whether you want to perform, help behind the scenes, or simply support the cause and add credibility to the funding bid, we'd love you to get involved! No membership fee—just enthusiasm.



**Interested? Contact Nigel Godfrey [ngod@me.com](mailto:ngod@me.com) or 07899 266531**

Join us to make Hadstock a hub of creativity while enhancing our village hall for everyone!

Best wishes,    Nigel

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# Hadstock Village Hall AGM

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 6.30 to 7.30pm

(alongside the village Pub night)

Anyone living in Hadstock or who uses the village hall and is aged 18 and over is entitled to attend the meeting and ask questions of the committee.

You can see the accounts for 2024-5 and you will hear about our improvements to the hall this year and our plans for the future.

We would welcome your support and ideas

Thank you

The Village Hall Trustees/Committee

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# Sustainable Hadstock News

May 25

**A busy April - and plans for May.**

## May Events

**Surveys:** we have now started the Spring Surveys supported by EWT. Please come along and let me know so we know the numbers (cllrjohnlockton@gmail.com)

- Wildflower Survey of Hadstock Woods (Weds. 21 May; 5.30pm at the Village Hall). A second survey of the Recreation Ground in July
- Bird Survey (Tues. 13 May; 7am at the Village Hall); there will be a second in June

**Talks:** we have been asked to talk on historical Hadstock Village and Sustainable Hadstock at the monthly Saffron Walden Museum talk. By Tony Morton, EWT, and John Lockton. Mon 12 May; 8pm at the Church rooms.

## April Activities

### Recreation Ground clearance by the Green Team

Two Saturday sessions were held to clear overgrowth and brambles from the copse by the picnic area. Around 10 volunteers came to each session and kitted out with thick gloves, trimmers, rakes and hedge cutters did a great job in generating around 30 large bags for the Green Skip.

This area will need further attention until the brambles 'give up' and then we expect to see the growth of wildflowers and plants. We will consider planting additional trees and hedges.

## OWL BOX on the Recreation Ground

As part of Wilding the Recreation Ground a Tawney Owl Box has been installed in one of the mature trees by the Hawk and Owl Trust. We don't expect any nesting activity until next Winter- Fingers crossed!.

## Hadstock Wood – ancient wood survey

Supported by Essex Wildlife Trust Volunteers, we carried out a first survey of Hadstock Wood to assess it against indicators for an ancient wood.

The positive news is that there are many veteran trees (oak, ash and elm) but the negative news is that there is very little undergrowth due to devastation by deer.

We are carrying out further Surveys of the Wood and then will produce a report with recommendations for the current owners. We will also summarise the main points for the village later in the summer.

## First Moth Survey – Harrison Sayer nature reserve

Our first moth survey was carried out by Ben Sale in our nature reserve this month. We hope to do more during the summer.

Ben set up at 7.00pm and, I am told left at 1.am! He identified over 20 different 'macros and micro' moth species during his stay.



## Talks in April

We supported the launch of Sustainable Uttlesford with a short presentation on the approach and activities of our Home & Energy activities in Sustainable Hadstock. Attended by Ian Jennings, Peter Jarritt and John Lockton.

As part of the Parish Council Annual Report on the 25 April, a review of the year for SH was presented. This will be posted on the Web Site during May. It was great to see over 35 villagers at the event and to thank everyone that has been involved in the initiative over the last year.

### This coming year

There is plenty to do on Sustainable Hadstock in the coming year.

We all hope you can get involved in some activities. You can always contact the Team to learn more.

Thanks      John Lockton

**For The Sustainable Hadstock Team**

[www.hadstock.org.uk/sustainablehadstock/](http://www.hadstock.org.uk/sustainablehadstock/)

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**REQUESTS FOR THE HADSTOCK FETE**  
**THE CAKE AND PRODUCE STALL AT**  
**HADSTOCK FETE ON SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
**ON THE VILLAGE GREEN**

Again, this year we hope to be able to sell local produce as well as cakes, biscuits and sweet treats on the stall. This could include honey, jam, vegetables, fruit.... Please try to help

**THANK YOU.** Kirsty Hutchinson



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Calling all Hadstock Bakers - please  
bake your favourite cakes for the  
Village Hall Tea room on Fete day,  
Saturday June 14th - all flavours  
welcome, traditional and new!



**Sonia**

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printed by

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Thank You

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## **HADSTOCK VILLAGE HALL**

Large Hall with garden,  
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[www.hadstock.org.uk](http://www.hadstock.org.uk)

and follow link to Village Hall

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# HADSTOCK FETE

SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

2.00-5.00pm

**Plenty to do for all the family**

## **PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?**

We are still looking for people to help set up and take down the fete. /Help with the car park, **or** Can you spare some time to help run a stall?

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS ALREADY OFFERED TO HELP.

**Do you have anything you'd like to donate to**

**the fete? Such as BOOKS, OFFERS FOR THE**

**AUCTION**

**CHILDREN'S TOYS AND TEDDIES**

**PLANTS FOR THE PLANT STALL (on the day please)**

**BOTTLES AND TOMBOLA PRIZES**

**BRIC-A BRAC (no furniture or electrical items please)**

All these things can be left in Hadstock Hall Barn from Sat 31<sup>st</sup> May. The barn will be open between 5-7pm on weekday evenings and on Saturday mornings 9am -1.00pm.

If you would like to get involved., please contact LOU (07806 557654) Lynne (07707 766197) or Sarah (07553 884303)

You can also follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/hadstockvillagefete>



# HADSTOCK FETE

is on

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025**

**2pm – 5pm**

with

Wellie Wanging

Stalls and games

Tea and cake

Beer and Pimms

Hadstock Silver Band

Sheep shearing

Tug of War

The Auction and loads more

The Fete Team have been busy making plans for this year's Fete.

PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANYWAY

contact Lou on 07806 557654

Lou, Lynne, Sarah, Nick and Victoria