Hadstock Magazine



July **2026**

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Editors Page

Dear readers

Here is your July HadMag, full of interesting info and news about your thriving village. After my appeal for articles, they came fast and furious! So we have a packed Mag this month. Please keep sending your magazine contributions, interesting stories and news - and photos! Please also submit cover images, we have many talented artists and photographers in the village, don't be shy. If you can, pdf files preferred.

Contacts for the magazine

Editor and Distribution: Sonia Villiers Tel 07890509160

Please send items for the Mag to soniavilliers@icloud.com

Accounts and Advertising Tim Boyden Tel 892746

t.k.boyden@btinternet.com

THE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE August MAGAZINE IS:

FRIDAY 19th July 2026

-- Disclaimer:

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Romey Poston is our vicar for Saffron Walden and Villages Team, part of the Diocese of Chelmsford

Her email address is rev.romeyposton@gmail.com and phone no. 07565 171582

Summer Ease

This morning, walking through a meadow surrounded by fluttering butterflies and the sound of grasshoppers, my heart skipped a beat as, suddenly, swallows swept in and skimmed great circuits across the surface of the grass. Their beauty, speed and grace took my breath away, and yet I was left feeling still and peaceful inside. That moment seemed to capture the ease of an English Summer.

There is so much to look forward to in the month of July; this year the World Cup will keep us enthralled, and Wimbledon fortnight is always a treat. If the weather co-operates, it's an idyllic time to enjoy, not just a feast of sport, but picnics and barbeques, the end of the school year and time to relax with family and friends.

New to this area, I'm eager to discover local Summer delights (beyond our own wonderful Fete that is!) if you have any recommendations, do let me know. Just as we live south of Cambridge, I lived just south of Oxford before and, very late in the day, discovered there was an annual celebration of 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'. Apparently, Oxford fills with puppets of smoking caterpillars, Jabberwockies and other jolly 'Alice' events. You can even learn croquet at Christ Church. The whole town goes Hatter mad. I'm sure Cambridge will have something just as wonderful.

If I recall, Alice's game of croquet involved rose trees and playing-card participants, in fact all the colour and ceremony of our traditional Summer 'Season', with lots of dressing up and specific ways of doing things. But for Alice there is a dissonance, the rules are so confusing. Everything is confusing. The book may start with an idle doze up a tree on a Summer's day, but life becomes unpredictable, not to say strangely alarming.

This summer has an air of Alice's game of croquet. We've been playing, 'Let's-swap-our Prime-Minister' again, and there's all the uncertainty of what's happening with Israel, Lebanon, Trump and Iran, set against the dark backdrop of the ongoing war in Ukraine. It reminds us that Summer is not a time of ease for many in the world, and even in this country. We might be tempted to close our eyes to all the worrying dangers in our world and turn up the volume of our festivities, but won't that mean we are even more unprepared if hard times do come?

One of the most frequent phrases in the Bible tells us not to be afraid. We can't be sure what the future will bring us, nationally or internationally and, in the latter at least, some of the predictions are deeply frightening. But amidst the fear, God promises never to leave us, nor forsake us, however bad things get. We tend to focus on worldly events to the exclusion of all else, but the creator of the swallow can fill us with stillness and peace whatever comes.

May God bless you with peace and joy this Summer. Revd. Romey Poston

SERVICES AT ST BOTOLPH'S JULY 2026

Sunday services this month at 9.00am .

Sunday 5th July 9.00am	Communion Led by Romey Poston
Sunday 12th July	No Service in St Botolph's
Sunday 19th July 9.00am	Home Team Service Led by Janice and Rob
Sunday 26th July	No Service in St Botolph's

Morning Prayer takes place in the church each Tuesday at 8.30 am. The church is open every day between 9.00am and 4.00pm for private prayer.



ASHDON PRIMARY SCHOOL - Ashdon, Essex CB10 2HB - School Office - 01799 584219 - Website 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

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES and Fun in 2026

BIN COLLECTIONS – Weds 1st, 15th, 29th July for Green &Brown bins and Weds 8th and 22nd of June for Black & Brown bins.

Hadstock Parish Council

Contact the Parish Clerk Sara Beckett:- Tel:07841343413 **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. **Annual Parish Meeting Friday 24th April** 18.30, ordinary meeting **Thursday 30th April** 19.45 , both in the village hall. Details of the agenda are also published on the Parish Council section of the village website which is:- www.hadstock.org.uk

Hadstock Village 'Gets Together' at Pub Nights, 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 31st July 6.00 'til 11.00pm bar open as usual. Garden available, to use and we Welcome dogs on leads into the garden. (Please bring your own bags to clear up after your dog and remember to take any bags home with you to dispose of - as there are no refuse collections from the hall). Look forward to seeing you with your poochy friends. See you there! Woof Woof

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Art Classes in Hadstock for adults on Tuesday mornings and Friday mornings and afternoons in term time; Sundays once a month, and children's' after-school art during term time on Tuesdays and Thursdays; summer holiday children's art camp July 23rd - 31st, spaces left on 31st. Contact soniavilliers@icloud.com

Hadstock Silver Band meets on Tuesday evenings at the Village Hall for practice. Contact: John Organ (Chairman) on 07801 072836 **HadstockSilverBand@gmail.com**

Hadstock Society – Community, History and Heritage.
Secretary: Maggie Hartley at **hadstocksociety21@gmail.co.uk**

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** -Village Hall Hadstock

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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**

Canasta There is a Canasta Group in Hadstock and they are playing now, Monday afternoons! If you are interested in joining then

please call Irene on 01223 891 385 . Players and Beginners welcome

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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

HADSTOCK DOES IT AGAIN!

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Fete such a special day. It couldn't have happened without you all. From the setting up team first thing, to the final Tug of War. For all the stalls and games from Quack Attack to Tin Can Alley. The burgers, Ice creams and cakes, and then supper in the Village Hall. The Gruffalo came to call, and there were convoys of Morris Minors and elderly tractors. There are too many activities to mention them all, but our visitors enjoyed them all. The silent auction was a success and many thanks to our donors and Fete sponsors.

If anyone would like to join our small team, please get in touch. We do have fun organising the Fete.

Lou, Nick, Lynne and Tor
The Fete Team.

I thought you might enjoy to read this reflection from Jonathan of the Uttlesford Morris Minor Owners Club, who was at the fete this year.

Uttlesford Morris Minor Owner's Club visit the Fete

We took our Morris Minors off to a small local fête in Hadstock today. If you do not know the village, it is quite beautiful, full of really interesting buildings and a rather gorgeous and very old church - St Botolph's. Reputed to have been instituted by King Cnut, its history is tied up with Ely cathedral.

Although small, the village fête punches well above its weight, with stalls, games, apiculture, plants, bric-à-brac, a nice pint of beer and Saffron Ice cream. Oh, and a donkey.

Additionally next to us there were some really interesting tractors and a stationary engine joined onto a belt saw which was making short work of some pallets.

The Morris Minors attracted huge attention parked behind the church in a lovely peaceful spot and despite the threat of rain, none really fell.
People talked to us about their memories of the Morris Minor and the much younger visitors got really interested - after all, they are the future of the interest in the Minor - in the trafficators, starting handles and split screens.

These small shows may not have the glamour and heft of the major car gatherings, but they are local and a focal point of community. In many ways it is a privilege to take our cars to them. If you do not attend them, please consider doing so as you are really missing out.

For instance, Carole spotted this interesting gravestone -
'It is the grave of Michael Ayrton RA ((20 February 1921 – 16 November 1975) and the maze is one of his bronzes. He also made the figure outside the Guildhall in Cambridge. He was interested in the Minotaur myths and the wider Greek myths in general.



I asked John and the lady vicar what the story was behind the gravestone and they not know. However, another woman at the very fine tea we had in the Village Hall told me to talk to a woman called Crocky , and she told me this…Ayrton lived in Hadstock, as did his married daughter. She then ran away with a lion tamer and they eventually set up Linton Zoo “which was a slum in those days and the animals kept escaping.” Apparently a woman in Linton was riding her horse one day and the horse bolted when an escaped bear appeared in the lane!

Ayrton’s wayward daughter also had a son who was killed, aged 8, by a speeding car as he crossed the main Hadstock to Linton road. The Vicar of Linton said the death was her fault as she was living in sin and refused to bury the boy in Linton. The Hadstock villagers were up in arms when they heard this and hence the boy is buried in Hadstock near his grandfather, Michael Ayrton.'

History and culture are all around us. The Minors we own are a real part of this.



Children's Tug of War, photo Lou Symes-Thompson

THE FETE AUCTION

The live Auction has been part of the Fete for many years. So it was with some trepidation that we decided to try going online. Thank you to everyone who donated to the auction, and also to those who joined in with the bidding. The last half an hour was busy and I am very pleased to say that the Fete Auction raised £1,728 this year. We hope to have raised a similar amount as last year, which will be split between the Church maintenance fund and the Village Hall, as usual.



Ashdon School Maypole Dancers, photo by Derek Bushell

The Hadstock 100 Club winners in June are

29. Malcolm Seward £25

42. Kirsty Hutchinson £25 rugby mum

08. Sarah Lockton £75 oops!

19. Jane Jennings £75



Hadstock supporting Uttlesford Big Green Festival

Looking Back & Legacy: Uttlesford Zero Carbon and Community Action



Our launch event on Friday (5 June) brought together community groups and partners to celebrate and reflect on the incredible impact of local climate and nature recovery projects happening across our communities.

We enjoyed listening to some thought-provoking speakers and an inspiring panel session during an evening of shared stories, ideas and ambition.











The Uttlesford Big Green Festival ran from the 5 – 14 June with over 40 events across the District.
The Hadstock Team supported the launch event (Ian Jennings), a Home Energy Event (Peter Jarritt) and helped organise a Family Nature Fun Day at West Wood, Thaxted, with EWT (John Lockton / Russell Hollinshead).

Green Team – preparing for the Fete and this Summer's Nature Surveys

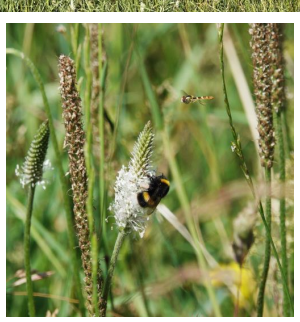


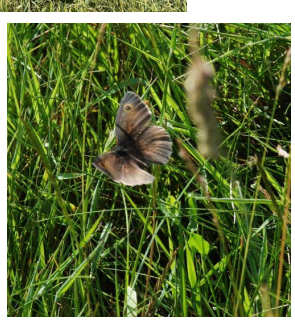


Clearing the path and fixing St. Botolph's Well









Bird and butterfly surveys now complete (more in next month magazine). Wildflower survey of the Rec. in our 'wild' area – first orchid, 46 different wildflowers and lots of butterflies and insects. Why not have a look?

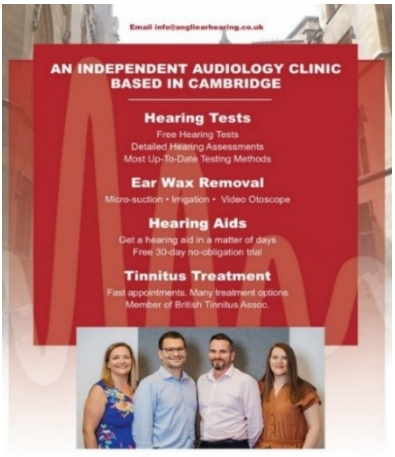
CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to Lou and the fete team - Lynn, Nick and Tor - on another fantastic fete.

It was a great day. Awesome to see the entire community turn out to play their part, so many people working incredibly hard to create an event which, it seemed to me, ran without a hitch. Even the sun performed perfectly!

Well done everyone. Well done especially the fete team who dedicated huge amounts of time and effort throughout the year to planning every detail. Well done Lou, mastermind of this complex operation, who worked tirelessly before, during and after and who, on the day, amazed me with her ability to appear in many places at once, calmly and skilfully overseeing, troubleshooting, bringing it all to fruition.

Hadstock is a great village with a wonderful community spirit, full of amazing, talented people. All coming together to make Fete Day a massive success.
Laura Corob





Audiology Hse (Cambridge)15 Woolards Lane Gt Shelford, Cambs CB22 5LZ
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Have you considered hiring The Village Hall?

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For further details and a video of the facilities visit our website:

www.hadstock.org.uk

To book the hall email: Bookings@hadstockvh.org

Hadstock Pub and Social Evenings

Last Friday of the month (except December)

Hadstock, Village Hall, Church Path, Hadstock CB21 4PH 6.00 pm to 11.00



Nethergate Ales, non-alcoholic and soft drinks, food delivered, talks and presentations – see our regular adverts on Facebook and Hadstockinfo for details.



Catch up with friends and family or celebrate your special occasion.
Well behaved dogs allowed in the garden
All welcome
Contact Derek Bushell (07971 413355) for further information.

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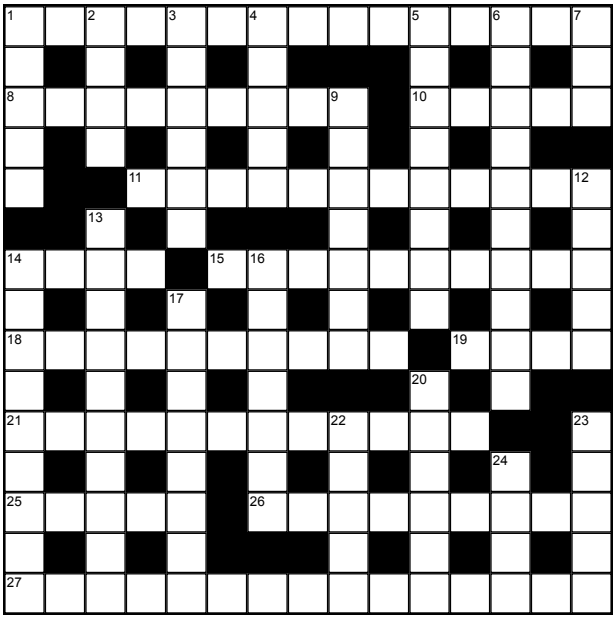
Northampton beat Exeter to win Prem Rugby title



> Northampton are English rugby union's domestic champions for the second time in three seasons

Rory Hutchinson, 30, who grew up in Hadstock, has won the Premiership Cup with Northampton Saints! He is on the left, holding the cup. 3 cheers for Rory

Sniggles Cryptic Crossword No.5



Across

1 In your face publication? (7,8)

8 The French and Britain entangled, becomes a nerve-wracking spectacle (9)

10 I hear a French resort has a family connection (5)

11 Swearing site, where accounts are examined (7.5)

14 Helps headless housekeepers (4)

15 Ambition from Asian port I revisited (10)

18 Fruit pastel colour of peach? (4,6)

19 Formerly, key to directing traffic disruption (4)

21 16, agreed? (3,2,7)

25 Alloy deal announced on radio (5)

26 Disparaged women, Trump sets out (9)

27 The final clue is not the worst (4,3,3,5)

Down

1 Rated location overlooking the start of street (5)

2 Upset storyteller describes den of iniquity (4)

3 Notwithstanding, tie with the beginning of blacking up (6)

4 Whipped top off, put away (5)

5 A cinema's confusing, forgetful character (8)

6 Repeats, not necessarily better on next showing (10)

7 The centre of vote verification, the day before (4)

9 Hastening, comprehensive defeat without a leader (7)

12 Twist and turn (5)

13 Charles and Camilla exemplify, elder, Queen twice, going South (10)

14 Papa goes crazy with liars' assessment (9)

16 Not straightforwardly, so small? (7)

17 Up sell - kind of sandwich, at Royal St. George, for example (4,4)

20 Laminate flooring cut then lifted up, to discover a mouse maybe? (6)

22 Services Company, at the centre of Apples corruption (5)

23 Restructured Foundation turn over (5)

24 Huge game replayed (4)



Following a wonderful sunny day at the fête, which was enjoyed by so many people, the day ended with the Fête Supper. It was a very happy event and people had a great time enjoying delicious food and good company. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

Many thanks

Maggie





Flower Rota



We have a gap in the church flower rota for the fortnight starting 25th July. If you are a non-flower arranger but fancy giving it a try or a hidden expert, please get in touch if you can help.

Isabel

thefishes94@gmail.com

HADSTOCK
PERFORMING
& CREATIVE
ARTS SOCIETY

Performance. Creativity. Community.

Four sell-out performances, and £2,772 raised for local charity.

That was last year's panto, and we haven't stopped since.

Dates for your diary.

31 Jul

HPCAS Annual General Meeting

6.30pm – 7.30 pm, at the Village Hall pop-up pub

Everyone welcome.

Come along, hear what we have planned and have a say in how we develop.

15 Aug

Macbeth by The Whole Pack Theatre Co.

7.30pm *"Shakespeare meets folk horror"* at St Botolph's Church

A professional all-female cast.

Tickets via Eventbrite.

31 Oct

Murder Mystery Evening

Village Hall.

To find out more, reserve tickets, get involved, or tell us what HPCAS should do next:

Scan the code below, or contact Nigel

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Thank You

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!
Dear villagers

I have been running Hadstock info for the last seven years and have decided it is time to pass it on to someone new. The job is not onerous and it is a much-appreciated village communication tool.

If you are able and willing to take it on, please get in touch and I can give you all the details.

Many thanks
Isabel Fish

Dear Hadstocians

I have been running the Bring and Share Harvest lunch/supper for maybe 18 years now. I have been carrying on a tradition from John Crawley, who used to provide a lunch for all the farmworkers and their families.

Numbers have been dwindling, so it is time for someone younger to take over.

When my children were young, all the young families used to come!

But now, only people of a certain age are joining in the fun.

It doesn't take much work, just co-ordinating what everyone brings and the food is always topnotch; it doesn't have to be Bring and Share, or religious; you could get takeaway or Cook! Or a barbecue!!

It would be a shame to lose this annual community event, which brings people together; we even plate up a portion to deliver to the elderly who can't get out.

We already have a date, Sunday 4th October 2026 so please Save The Date!

Sonia

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The Pear & Olive Restaurant

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Sportable

Jack Bates Gardening

Hadstock Community Pub