Hadstock Magazine



September **2026**

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Editors Page

Dear readers

Here is your September HadMag, full of interesting info and news about your thriving village. Our stunning cover photo of the Solar Eclipse on 12th August was taken by David Johnson. 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.

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THE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE October MAGAZINE IS:

WEDNESDAY 19th September 2026

-- 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.

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

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

Our Blue Planet

It doesn't matter how many times you've done it before, if you have school age children, the beginning of September always feels like a bit of a scrabble to get everything ready for 'Back to School'. Any new uniform or sports kit means you spend your evenings sewing on nametapes (well, or writing on names in indelible ink!). If you've left it a bit late, braving the rigours of the shoe department is a battle all its own. And the whole family has to re-educate their inner time clock for the early morning rush.

Our heads may still be full of summer ease, (there may even still be sand in the suitcases) but, ready or not, we must change gear as we launch ourselves into the new academic year or get back to the regular pattern of work. There's a different energy in the air, and a different focus to our lives. The start of September feels like a new beginning, and new beginnings are full of possibilities, even when there is a corner of us that feels nervous. Whatever our age, a new role, a change of job makes us worry about how we will do: whether people will like us, or we them, whether we will fit in and be seen as successful.

September is usually such a golden month: I love seeing the tree trunks blaze with that magical glowing light in the evening. Well, normally I do, but who knows what this September will bring? My radio tells me this year's 'El Nino' will be the strongest in living memory. And even though water starting to warm in a bit of the Pacific Ocean the other side of the world feels like it has nothing to do with me, we will feel the effects right here in Hadstock. The Met Office says we are likely to have a milder, wetter start to winter (that sounds good!) followed by a cold, dry late winter and then even higher temperatures next year. (Heaven only knows what that will mean for next year's harvest). Back in the 1960's a meteorologist, Lorenz, noticed how a tiny shift in one thing could have huge effects in the weather miles away (giving us our "butterfly flapping its wings in China" quote). It just goes to show how interconnected everything is, and now, rather too late perhaps, we are beginning to understand.

The reality is, everything is interconnected, not just the weather but our own efforts too. We place a lot of emphasis on individual effort these days, and often feel nervous as a result, especially when we start a new job or school year. But none of us really achieves on our own. How less stressful it is to realise that our successes, and indeed our failures, are not just our own, but the result of the efforts of so many people working together, our teachers, our workmates, our family and friends, the cleaners, the lollipop man and service engineers, as well as people we will never meet working in far off countries to provide the equipment we need. How rich life will be when, one day, we can really see ourselves as one planet, one creation, all connected, all intertwined and know that the little acts of kindness and support we do today, <u>really matter,</u> in so many ways.

Blessing to you all, Romey



SERVICES AT ST BOTOLPH'S SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday services this month at 9.00am .

Sunday 6th September	Communion
9.00am	Led by Romey Poston
Sunday 13th September	No Service in St Botolph's
Sunday 20th September	Home Team Service
9.00am	Led by Janice and Rob
Sunday 27th September	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.
Photo of St Boltolph's 1940s



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

Hadstock Parish Council

Contact the Parish Clerk Sara Beckett:- Tel:07841343413 clerk@hadstock.org.uk for agenda details which are also sent out on Hadstock Info and put on the Village notice board by the old shop. Next meeting Wednesday 30th September 7pm, 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 25th September 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

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; a few spaces available! Visit soniavilliers.co.uk for more info

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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Green bins Weds 9th & 23rd September; black bins 2nd, 16th & 30th
The Green Skip Sats 5th & 19th September 11.45 & 12-12.45

Hadstock Book Club

The book club met at Susan Wiles's house at the end of July to discuss 'Forbidden But Allowed' by Bizzie Frost.
The author gave a fascinating personal narrative of her time following her husband to live in the conservative theocracy of Saudi Arabia.
This was a fascinating story of life of Bizzie, who by law was not allowed to work and was restricted in many activities. She however managed to do a demanding job as a skilled photographer and brings to life descriptions of people she meets, local as well as foreign and places she was able to visit which otherwise were not allowed.
This booked encouraged a good discussion about my experience in Saudi Arabia as well as several others who had been in similar places for work or during childhood.
Susan had recently met the author which helped with her knowledge of the book.

.100 Club winners in August

43. Agnes Davison

88. Vicky Anandraj

"We had a fantastic Pub Night at the end of July, helped by the incredible weather but massively enhanced by the excellent BBQ arranged by Tim and Gill Boyden. They raised £170 for charity and there were many requests to hold another one next year.
If anyone would like to provide a food event for their favourite charity at Pub Night, please let me know. We may even let you keep the raffle proceeds!
Thank you to everyone who came along (including the dogs!) but most of all, can I thank all our brilliant helpers. From serving the drinks to collecting the pizzas (LOL's are back in September) they all work very hard. I have worked out that we have 15 people that help on a rota basis. Thank you to everybody and sorry I get a bit grumpy sometimes when we have the odd hiccup!
Looking forward to seeing you all on the 25th September when we'll be raising funds for MacMillan Cancer Relief. There will also be a short Hadstock Performing Arts AGM.
Please also note that our December Pub Night will be on Friday 18th December when we will be featuring the World Premiere of the Drama Society 2025 Pantomime video! Bring your fur and ermine (faux of course!) for the red carpet.
Kind regards
Derek"

Mind in West Essex – Befriending Support

Feeling lonely or isolated? Mind in West Essex offers a free Befriending Support Service for adults living in Uttlesford. We connect people with trained local volunteers for friendly chats and regular contact — by phone, online or in person.

We're also looking for new volunteer befrienders. If you can spare an hour or two a week, befriending is enjoyable, rewarding and a great way to support someone who may be feeling alone — as well as a lovely way to meet new people and make friends.

Find out more or get involved at www.mindinwestessex.org.uk/befriending-support, call 0800 755 5173 or email volunteering@mindinwestessex.org.uk

--

Karen Fulcher
07977807793
Volunteer Support Officer
Pronouns: She/Her
I work 12 hours per week, usually Wednesday and Thursday, but days and working times may vary. I will reply to your email as soon as possible.

mind in West Ess

I am sending you this email now as it works with my schedule - there is no expectation that you will read it and/ or respond to it until you are working.

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Thank you for your cooperation

Hildersham Music Series Starts its third year

Corelli and Company

With members of the Chaos String Quartet (ex BBC New Generation Artists) and Archlute player Sam Brown

Wednesday 30th September at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Hildersham

Tickets £20 including refreshments from Eventbrite or at the door

http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/corelli-and-company-tickets-1997558208374?aff=oddtdtcreator

Music by Corelli, Vivaldi, Albinoni, Scarlatti, and Tartini's The Devils Trill

Archangelo Corelli 1653-1713 shaped Italian baroque music, inspiring the next generation of violinists and composers whom he taught both in Italy and across Europe.

Contact Athene Hunt huntcam2015@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch – What is it? How does it work?

On Friday 30th October at 6:30pm at the Village Hall in association with the Community Pub there will be a talk by Derrick Giffin, Chair of Uttlesford Neighbourhood Watch.

This will be an opportunity to discover what the scheme does, how it operates and potentially influence what Hadstock does going forward.

Does Hadstock have a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme? Put the date in your diary.

Corelli and Company



Members of the Chaos String Quartet, former BBC New Generation Artists,
Eszter Kruchió - violin,
Bas Jongen - cello,
with Sam Brown - archlute.



Music by Archangelo Corelli and other Italian composers that he influenced.



At Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham CB21 6BZ
on
Wednesday 30th September at 7.30pm

Tickets £20 to include refreshments

Available from Eventbrite or at the door

Email: Athene Hunt - huntcam2015@gmail.com

In support of the Friends of Hildersham Church

The parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity, Hildersham, Registered Charity - 1153435

Twelfth Night

All Saints Church, Ashdon



The critically-acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company present their own brand of Shakespearean mayhem in the Bard's comedy of fools, duels and dual identities.

Family-friendly fun with live music and audience participation.

Indoor seating
Interval with refreshments available
Adult ticket £14, under 16yrs £10
All proceeds to support All Saints Church

https://buytickets.at/thepantaloons/2329477

Possible Development of 4,500 homes plus Warehousing next to A1307 at Little Abington – Action Group S.A.V.E

A presentation took place in the Church on the evening of the 24th by members of the action group opposing this, S.A.V.E. Every home in Hadstock received a notice of this meeting.

Whilst the presentation itself could have been more professionally put across, nevertheless the implications of the message are potentially stark for all living along the A1307 Haverhill to Cambridge corridor especially everyone living in Hadstock, particularly those who are one or two generations younger than me in my eightieth year.

I would urge you to visit and read the website created by the action group:

https://www.s-a-v-e.co.uk/

where you will then understand what is proposed and what stage the plans have reached and what impact each and every one of us can have if we take the action that is open to us during the Regulation 19 consultation period which closes at 5 pm on Friday 25th September 2026. Whether you are in favour of or oppose the proposals, this is your opportunity to make your views known.

Whatever are your views, you need to be aware of the massive impact there will be on the A1307 from Acorn Garage to Four Wentways roundabout where there would be two further roundabouts plus provision of some sort for a guided busway to cross the road. These will be the **only** means of access/egress for the whole site.

With the foregoing I have tried to be balanced. May I finish by asking each of us to consider the impact on the following areas:

- Traffic volumes;
- Loss of prime agricultural land;
- Water provision;
- Services provision, i.e. education, health, shopping,
- local topography i.e the visual landscape change with 3, 4 and 5 storey properties on rising land.

We all including S.A.V.E accept that growing communities are healthy and thus extra housing will be needed to accommodate this. Read the website and I think you will then understand why the Group's headline encapsulates their message ***The wrong scale, in the wrong place.***

Hadstock Pub and Social Evenings Last Friday of the month

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



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

Hadstock Village Hall Floor August 2026

Progress report

We are pleased to report that with the help of willing volunteers to-date the two layers of the main hall flooring have been removed and debris cleared from the floor void. We only found a live mouse and the skeleton of a rat, nothing more sinister.

We then started on the insulation of the central heating pipework, dampproof membrane and rockwool between the floor joists. Week two saw the laying in of the electrical cabling for future sound, lighting and communication systems when funds allow. Paul Meeks, our electrician, has connected the extra power sockets and mood lighting controls for the main hall and stage. Our carpenter Colin Brown has prepared all the floor levels and laid the treated chipboard subfloor.

At the end of week two we are pleased to find ourselves in a good position and on schedule.

A HUGE thanks to Ian Jennings, Colin Brown, John Lockton, Peter Jarritt, Peter Wiles, Tim Boyden, Alan Wells, Bill Richards and Johnathan Hutchinson


A1 NON-COMBUSTIBLE INSULATION


KronoBuild Fast Protect



Macbeth by The Whole Pack in Hadstock church on 15th August



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Thank You



Community Pub Unsung Hero – Derek Bushell

For some years now what was originally the Pop-Up Pub and has transformed into the Community Pub has been running at the Village Hall on the last Friday in most months of the year resourced by a group of volunteers. This has been a real opportunity for Hadstockians to meet together, catch up with friends on what is happening near and far and generally assist in embedding the community spirit. I know Gill and I enjoy going whenever we can.

I know my next-door neighbour and friend Derek leads this enterprising effort but it was not until in a moment of inattention a couple of months having agreed to work with Gill on running a BBQ at the end of July that we both came to realise just how much work and time Derek puts into this service enterprise. He orders, collects, takes to the VH and then sets out the refreshments after having set up the bar area. He is there on each occasion behind the bar with the team of bar staff overseeing proceedings. He also manages the pizza orders and deliveries.

After the event, he is there to close down, take back unsold stock and then the next day undertake his stock take, monitor the takings particularly through SumUp (and I know personally how much time that can take) to strike a “bottom line”.

This takes time and commitment and I would like on behalf of all of us who go to the Pub and enjoy our evenings there to thank the team but particularly Derek for all that is done here.

Tim Boyden







HADSTOCK
PERFORMING
& CREATIVE
ARTS SOCIETY

Performance. Creativity. Community.

Our well-attended first AGM took place on 31 July, when officers were re-elected, policies adopted, and a Designated Safeguarding Lead appointed. The EGM to formally adopt our constitutional amendments takes place at the pub night on 26 September.

Behind the scenes, the Village Hall Committee has taken advantage of the August floor renovation to carry out some forward-thinking cabling work—a practical step toward our vision of a fully lit, professional performance space. We are also preparing a lottery funding application to help make that vision a reality.

Watch this space.

In August, we were proud to contribute to the lighting for Macbeth at St Botolph's Church.

> ***This is Crocky's Review:***
>
> *"The [all-female] Whole Pack Theatre group gave a good performance, and the male parts were played very convincingly. I did Macbeth at school and recognised many of the speeches, even after some 80 years!! The acoustics in the Church are remarkably good at the Crossing. Given the awkwardness of coming off stage in the open spaces of the Church, the cast managed very well. All the players gave good performances and, even when one member was playing more than one role, I had no doubt which one they were playing at any particular moment...it was a performance well worth seeing."*

2026 Dates for your Diary.

26 Sept

HPCAS EGM and PUB NIGHT - Free

Village Hall, last Friday of the month. EGM at the start — approx 15 mins — then the evening as normal from 6.30pm to 11pm

28 Sept

Murder Mystery - Casting Session

Hadstock Village Hall.
Come along if you want to perform, help backstage or get involved in any way.
Performances planned for Spring 2027

31 Oct

Halloween Party

6pm-8pm at the Village Hall.
Children, accompanied by adults are invited to a party, with spooky fun, music, games, food and drink.
Costumes and dancing very much encouraged.

18 Dec

Rapunzel Panto - Video Screening

at the Village Hall Xmas Pub night

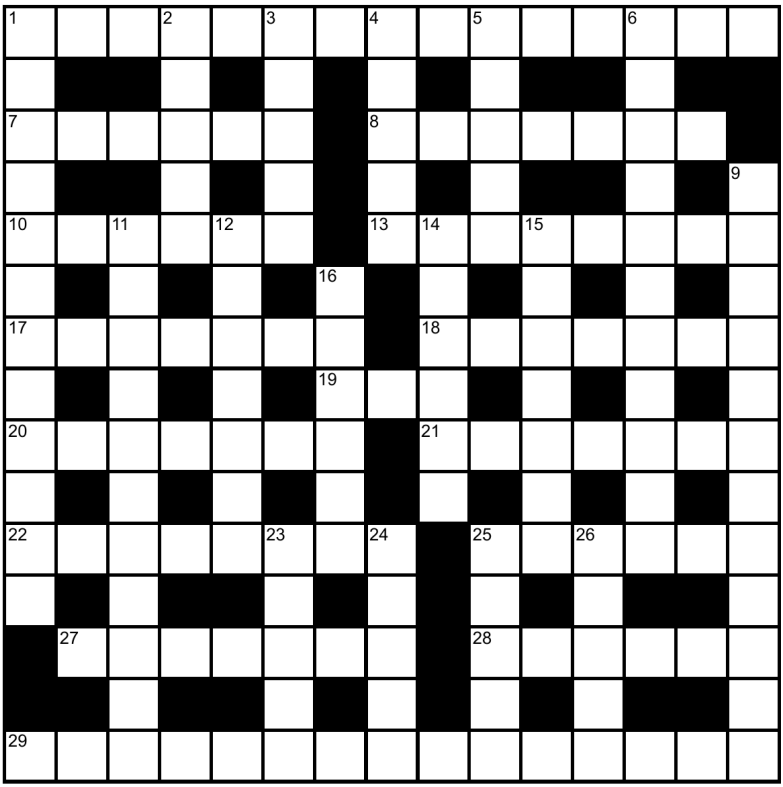
To find out more, get involved, or tell us what HPCAS should do next:
Scan the code below, or contact Nigel

hpcasinfo@gmail.com

07899 266531

Our membership is free, and everyone is welcome.

Sniggles Cryptic Crossword No.6



ACROSS

1. Pi and Pythagoras, perhaps, unwelcome in school assessment? (7,8)
7. Intermittently into hipsters' sounds (6)
8. Humiliating kicks stung me rotten (7)
10. Dialect featured in French Hôtel (6)
13. Witty comeback phone company ends concerning part (8)
17. Reduced car check within legal document (7)
18. Defensive line from French Politician (7)
19. Playboy, on radio tone (3)
20. Tirades about Christine's seating position (7)
21. Form of DIY disaster? (5,2)
22. Energy, prevalent in pop (8)
25. Desolate, WW1 ace on airwaves (6)
27. Stew, that is a song mash up (7)
28. Nationwide status, give and take? (6)
29. Changing of stance, that's what its all about! (2,3,5,5)

DOWN

1. To make a fuss about the Twist, perhaps (4,3,5)
2. Not entirely ecstatic about social status (5)
3. A small group providing credit (5)
4. 60 seconds or less (5)
5. Put Canada up for show of insolence (3,2)
6. Wish granter extraordinarily correct (5,6)
9. Sentence tortured at the end play (5,7)
11. It appeared, moths instinctively did this (4,2,5)
12. Screwball category gets more ludicrous (7)
14. Men she troubled to trap (6)
15. New-fangled regalia, found in North Africa (7)
16. Cement promotion before attending (6)
23. Reshuffled past PM makes coffee, perhaps? (5)
24. Announce ending of Market's peak (5)
25. Procurement surrounding MP is jarring (5)
26. Look in flare trousers (5)



Audiology Hse (Cambridge)15 Woolards Lane Gt Shelford, Cambs CB22 5LZ
Tel 01223 661399 Mob 07734 411433
sarah@ angliahearing.co.uk
www.angliahearing.co.uk



Have you considered hiring The Village Hall?

- Large main hall with stage
- Seating for 80 people
- Committee Room
- Large well-equipped kitchen
- Large partly covered patio area with outdoor furniture for 40 people
- Pretty enclosed garden
- Ample parking

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

www.hadstock.org.uk

To book the hall email: Bookings@hadstockvh.org

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September Fair

SATURDAY 12TH SEPT
11AM – 3PM

FREE ENTRY

Fun for all the family

Food & Drink Stalls
Donkeys Live Music
Hoop La & Hook a Duck
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Cakes & Bottle Tombola
Face Painting



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