



Little Baddow Newsletter

ISSUED BY LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

March 2012



Little Baddow Parish Assembly

Wednesday 14 March 2012

Arrive for 7.30pm start

Guest Speaker: Dr John Guy

who will talk on "The NHS—What Now?"

Historic Houses in Little Baddow A portrait of Cottage in the Bush

For the third in the series of "Historic Houses in Little Baddow" we come to the Cottage in the Bush, which is either the first or last house in the village, depending on your travels.

The house, originally part of Major Spencer-Phillips' Riffhams estate, was built in the 18th century and has a weather-boarded front, a style typical of traditional cottages in this part of the country. Another distinguishing feature of the cottage is its French roof. Its extensions were designed by Edward Percy Archer, a noted London architect.



During the mid-years of the last century, it was the home of Armstrong Gibbs, a prolific English composer and conductor.

Armstrong Gibbs, the son of an East London toiletries manufacturer, was born in Great Baddow and went on to read History at Trinity College, Cambridge. Later, he became a student at the Royal College of Music, funded for a year by his former composition teacher, and then took up a teaching post at the RCM. During his musical career, he was best known for composing solo songs but his versatility as a musician meant that he also wrote an opera, music for several plays, a concertino for string orchestra and many more.

In November 1943, Gibbs' son David, a captain in the Essex Regiment, died on Italy's Adriatic coast and is buried at the Sangro River War Cemetery, a British and Commonwealth war cemetery. He was defending the shoreline against the retreating German army on the Winter Line, a series of German fortifications south of Rome.

After his son's death, Armstrong Gibbs and his wife Honor came back to Essex in 1945 to live in Cottage in the Bush. They had left another Little Baddow house, Crossings, several years earlier as it had been requisitioned as a cottage hospital.

Today, Cottage in the Bush is the home of Dr Brian and Jennifer Luscombe. Brian is a well-known botanist who is prominent in the village's Conservation Society, whilst Jennifer is the secretary of the local horticultural society. During the early spring, the front lawns are alive with a spectacular display of daffodils, which are certainly a sight to behold.

Laurence Jones

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN LITTLE BADDOW

With the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend only a few short months away, a committee under the energetic chairmanship of Simon Johnson has been arranging events and encouraging residents to do the same. Already announced for the period over the Jubilee dates are the following:

Saturday 2 June: A quiz/treasure hunt to kick off the celebrations. This will be around the village and surrounding countryside. Solve the clues and find the hidden images of the Queen as you walk the route. Prizes for families and groups. A Jubilee Ball to be held in the evening in the Memorial Hall.

Sunday 3 June: It is suggested that everyone joins in the Nation's "Big Jubilee Lunch". Street parties can be arranged locally and if there is not one in your road, why not invite your neighbours to lunch or picnic.

Tuesday 5 June: Jubilee Quiz in the Memorial Hall with the

theme of the Queen and sixty, the years of her reign. Brush up your knowledge of 60's music and everything else relating to sixty.

Saturday 16 June: Barn dance and hog-roast at Little Baddow Fruit Farm followed by a ceilidh to the music of "Metric Foot". Time to let your hair down!

Sunday 17 June: Ending the Jubilee Celebrations will be a "fun day" of events on the Sports Field for all the family.

For further information, contact Simon Johnson on 227338 and puddocksjohnson@yahoo.co.uk

The Parish Council is keen to facilitate these events and is willing to advise and guide all those who wish to hold street parties or similar functions especially where road closures might be required.

Peter Willington

A year as High Sheriff of Essex 2010—2011



role of High Sheriff was a very powerful one with full responsibility for the upkeep of law and order in the county. This included the organisation of the Assize Courts and the protection of judges during their visits to Essex. Today the High Sheriff is still the Queen's representative for law and order in the county and supports not only the judges and magistrates here but all the associated services including the Police Force. The High Sheriff in each county organises the annual Justice Service which marks the start of the Judicial Year.

the Wilkins, Tiptree Jam Factory. I was privileged to meet Her Majesty and to lunch with her in Maldon Town Hall. Maldon gave her a splendid welcome and it was wonderful to see the delight on the childrens' faces as she managed to collect almost every posy of flowers offered to her.

As many of the powers of the High Sheriff have changed over the years, the emphasis is now less on time spent in the courts and the Office is used to raise money for worthy causes in the county. During my year, we raised some £80,000 which was distributed to 30 voluntary organisations in Essex at an Awards Ceremony; and donations were made to our parish churches of Danbury and Little Baddow.

It was a great honour to be appointed by Her Majesty The Queen as the 830th High Sheriff of Essex for the year 2010—2011.

The Office of High Sheriff is an historic Office dating back 1000 years and is the oldest Office in the country after the Monarchy. Years ago, the

During my year, I attended some 200 engagements and hosted a garden party at Riffhams for those involved in civic duties and those who work to improve the lives of others in Essex including the many volunteers. The highlight of the year was the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Maldon to visit the Maldon Salt Company and

Michael Hindmarch

Mayor of Chelmsford 2011—2012

I became Mayor of Chelmsford on 25 May 2011 at our Annual General Meeting, my wife Doreen becoming the Mayoress. We are immensely proud of our achievement in attaining the Mayoralty and being the first citizens of the Borough.

We have been extremely busy and the run up to Christmas did not leave us much time at home. The switching on of the Christmas lights at Moulsham Street, and the High Street the following day, were very happy events. Some sad moments were Memorial Services at the Crematorium coupled with the joy of attending Cathedral Services to celebrate Christmas with so many people.

The Mayoress planted a tree in the churchyard extension at St Mary the Virgin to commemorate my year in office (how quickly time flies) and my personal thanks go to the PCC and, of course, to my Chaplain the Rev. Clive Ashley who has been such a valuable support to me.

There are many wonderful people in the Borough giving their time and energy to help their fellow citizens and age is no barrier to their efforts. They work hard with little or no reward just to help their neighbours and those less fortunate than themselves.

I know that in Little Baddow so many of you give



your time to support our residents and to maintain our excellent parish. May I take this opportunity to thank you for everything that you do.

2012 promises to be an exciting year with the Jubilee, the Olympic Torch coming to Chelmsford and the Olympics taking place. I'm looking forward to a "once in a lifetime" year - please visit our website which will be updated with the proposed Jubilee events.

Bob Shepherd MBE

Chairman's Report 2011/12

This has been another year of changes with two of our councillors deciding not to stand again. My sincere thanks go to Jo Roberts and Simon Johnson who have both contributed time and effort in carrying out their duties during their term of office. In January, 2012, Claire Hodgson resigned due to family commitments. She will be greatly missed.

Election.

A great deal of effort went into ensuring that we had a record number of candidates who were keen to serve on the Little Baddow Parish Council. There were nine posts to be filled and 13 candidates standing. The successful new additions were Dr Nic Cooper, Peter Willington and Peter Irvine. All have settled in well to their duties on the council.

UK Power Networks.

Following the disruptions to power supplies that have occurred during the last few years we were able to bring the company who are now responsible for local electricity networks to a public meeting in the Memorial Hall on 6th July 2011 to discuss the problems with the network. We were given assurances that the level of work in cutting back trees would be undertaken during the summer and autumn and would address many of the problems of supply failure. To ensure that improvements would be made a follow up meeting was arranged for December 7th 2011 when the progress would be outlined. As promised much of the work has been completed, with some still to be carried out in the new year. We now look forward to a better supply network and less breakdowns in the future.

Planning.

There have been 44 planning applications during the year, of which 19 have been objected to by the Parish Council, 3 were refused by the CBC. There were 4 that were withdrawn and 1 appeal refused.

Memorial Hall.

Much has happened during the year with the hall floor being completely re-treated and the stage floor repaired and re-retreated. Thanks to the generosity of Drs Michael & Mary Klaiber, a new screen has been mounted on the back wall enabling films to be screened with projection to be mounted on the stage thereby creating more space for those wishing to attend the showings. The storage of hall chairs and tables has been a problem for some years now and many of the users have felt that the problem should be addressed. The council have now taken the initiative and decided to create an extension at the rear of the hall to store all the chairs and tables. Council are in the process of preparing plans for the new extension and they will be submitting plans for approval in the new year. The application for funding is already being planned and fund raising activities have already commenced which has raised over £2300 towards the project.

Notice Boards

The notice boards around the village have been very popular in advertising activities that are of interest to residents, which meant that the Parish Council had severe difficulty, on many occasions, in getting their notices on the boards. To remedy this, the council have erected hardwood notice boards, in most of the locations, to take all the official notices. The only exception to this was at the entrance to Wayside, where an adequate site could not be found.

Affordable housing

You will recall the survey sent out with the Parish Newsletter in 2011 which sought to identify a need for affordable housing for the families of village residents. As a result it was identified that there was a need for 5 Affordable houses to be provided for the families of residents within the village. This is now being pursued with housing associations but will be a long term project.

Strategic Plan

The Parish Council has set out its strategic plan for the future and is fully committed to protecting, maintaining and enhancing the community within the parish.

We will maintain and improve the council owned land, buildings and parish amenities and continue to build up financial reserves to achieve these objectives.

Our aim is to maintain our Quality Council Status and to work closely with the Borough Council consulting with residents and organisations, to enhance the life of our community. We will consult when necessary with the Essex Wildlife Trust, The National Trust, The Forestry Commission, and the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation, to protect the very special nature of the landscape in and surrounding Little Baddow.

Public attendance

The regular monthly Parish Council meetings are open to the public and we warmly invite comments from residents during public question time. Copies of the agenda are made available to all attending; these are also provided in advance of the meeting on the village notice boards and our website.

John Robinson

Finance Report for the Year 2011-12

In last year's report, my predecessor projected a good financial outcome for 2010-11. The forecast was accurate and we were able to add to our reserves at the end of the year.

However, 2011-12 is proving to be a more difficult year. Insurance costs have significantly increased and utility bills for the Memorial Hall have seen a dramatic rise. The Hall stage and floor required some repair work over and above the budgeted amount. Income from Hall lettings has dropped slightly from the previous year, which we think is due to the recession. The elections in May cost nearly 50% more than we expected and we have more work planned to improve the existing notice boards.

On a more positive note, we have been able to commit to a contribution towards a very important project to build a storage facility to the rear of the Hall. It is hoped that this storage room will significantly improve the Hall for all users and aid in securing larger one-off events such as wedding parties etc.

All in all, this year has not been easy and I believe we are all aware of the effects of the recession; therefore we have decided not to increase the precept for 2012-13.

If we continue to monitor our expenditure and plan carefully, whilst maintaining our duty as a council, our financial position during 2012-13

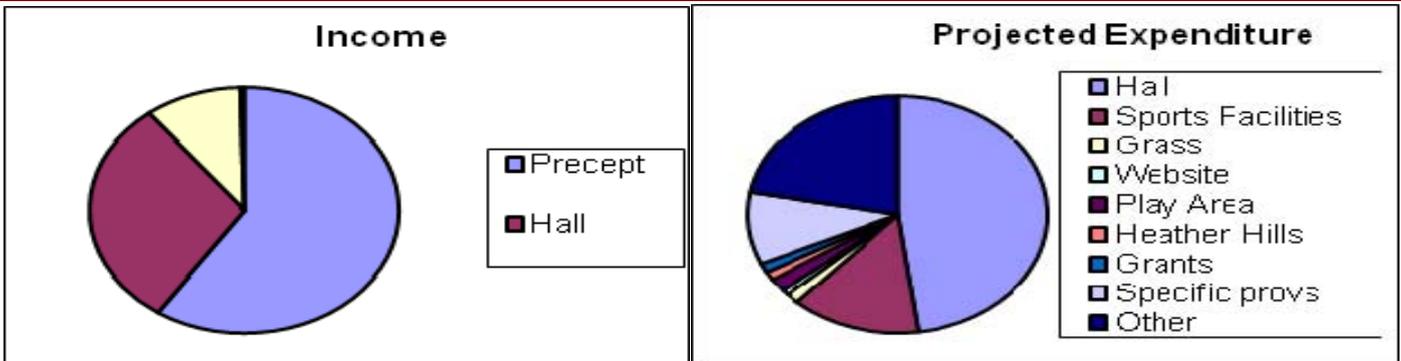


should be in line with the budget.

Below is a graphical representation of income and expenditure and a small chart showing Hall income and expenditure for the last three years.

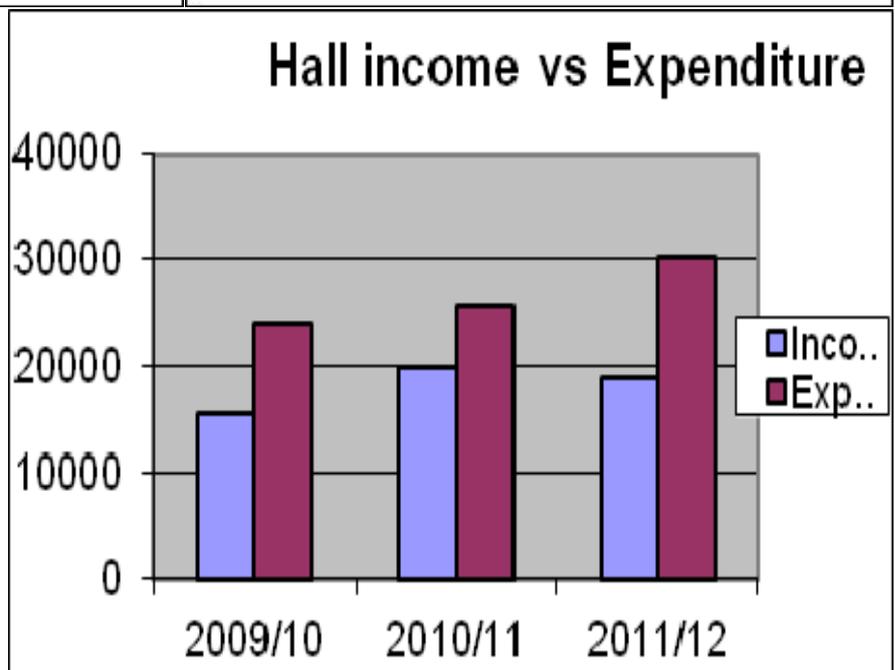
Claire Hodgson

Where our money comes from and our best projection for expenditure in the financial year ending in March 2012.



Income (Total £63210)	
Precept	£37555
Hall	£19000
Sports Facilities	£6400
Other	£255

Expenditure (Total £62978)	
Hall	£30135
Sports Facilities	£8727
Grass	£916
Website	£495
Play Area	£1170
Heather Hills	£750
Grants	£780
Specific provisions & reserves	£6141
Other	£13864



A profile of Dr Nic Cooper—Parish Councillor



was Head Boy, a member of the “stag” rugby XV, captain of cricket and a member of the golf team. An all-round sportsman and interests in sport which he still holds.

After school and before university, Nic honed his retailing skills with a stint at Harrods and also his teaching ability with two terms at a Hampshire prep school. But the medical profession beckoned and after qualifying at the London Hospital Medical College, he became a House Officer at St Margaret’s Hospital in Epping. Thence to GP training at Harold Wood and Doddinghurst before coming to Danbury.

Nic has a particular interest in palliative and terminal care; as Medical Officer to the Les Evans Fund, he was responsible for taking terminally ill children to Florida and Spain. From 1989 to 2006, he was Director and Medical Assistant at Farleigh Hospice.

Many residents will know Dr Cooper from being patients at his practice in Danbury. He assures everyone that he is keen to retire in 2013 after some 30 years in Danbury.

Nic has served on many local committees; indeed, he is President of the Horticultural Society. He was elected to the Parish Council in May 2011 and sits on the subcommittees for the sports club, Hall and planning applications.

Born in Buckinghamshire, Nic attended Eastbourne College where he

Married to Lesley for nearly 30 years, he has three daughters and two grandchildren. Also two dogs which need exercise—Nic’s time is almost fully occupied before he thinks of full retirement.

Hurrell’s Ford



A complaint was received by Councillor Peter Irvine from a member of the public regarding the use of Hurrell’s Ford for nefarious and inappropriate purposes. This was reported to the police through the Parish Council. The police response is that if sufficient numbers of complaints are made regarding the activities there, they will investigate. They advise that complaints should be directed to the South Woodham Ferrers Police Station, telephone no: 0300 333 444

Peter Irvine

Parish, Borough and County Councillors

Mary Buckley 07818 296957	mary.buckley@btinternet.com	Parish Clerk Roger Upward 226740	littlebaddow@yahoo.co.uk
Nic Cooper 224436	redholmenicooper@aol.com	Borough Councillors	
Keith Ferguson 07941 181992	keith.ferguson@kferg.co.uk	Chris Kingsley 223744	Christopher.kingsley@chelmsford.gov.uk
Peter Irvine 07850 610929	peterirvine264@btinternet.com	Bob Shepherd MBE 223709	b.shepherd@chelmsford.gov.uk
John Robinson (Chair) 224858	johnnhollywood@talktalk.net	Ian Wright 226289	i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk
Bob Shepherd MBE 223709	chasecottages@tiscali.co.uk	County Councillor	
Tim Thorogood 471123	t.thorogood@btclick.com	Peter Martin MBE 223624	Cllr.Peter.Martin@essex.gov.uk
Peter Willington 224060	pkwillington@hotmail.com	Memorial Hall Caretaker	
		Mrs Jackie Rymill 227816	

Village film shows

Since 2009, Elizabeth Willington and Michael Klaber of Anglia Film Touring have been putting on monthly film shows at the Memorial Hall. The aim is to enable residents of Little Baddow and the neighbourhood to enjoy recently released films without the need to travel to Chelmsford or elsewhere.

Over 25 showings have been made with titles ranging from historical Jane Eyre, The Duchess and Young Victoria to adventurous Edge of Darkness, Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, The Hurt Locker and The Way Back. Both An Education and Made in Dagenham produced sell-out audiences and comedies such as Its Complicated produced hilarity in the Hall.

Tickets are priced at a modest £5 each; there is a licensed bar and an interval during the show. With prior notice, nibble boxes can be ordered. These contain freshly cooked finger food and a glass of wine at only £5 each.

The programme for 2012 is already underway. Details from Elizabeth Willington on 224060 and Michael Klaber on 224539.

Little Baddow Conservation Society

The Society's aims include "...to protect the scenic beauty of the area.." and to "...organise interesting talks and walks with experts.."

Activities during the past year included a nightingale walk in Lingwood Common where more than 40 members and friends listened to bird song at dusk and identified nightingales amongst them. Our thanks to Brian Luscombe and John McCrindle for leading the visit.

Following an earlier talk given by the owner and curator of Stow Maries Aerodrome, a visit to this historic site and conservation area attracted 25 members. A guided tour of the unique aerodrome was led by Russell Savory who has spent his considerable energies to renovating and recreating the airfield to show its importance in the first World War.

The interesting talk on "Bats, the most successful mammals in the world" given by Roger and Sylvia Jiggins of the Essex Bat Group is leading to a bat walk around Little Baddow.

Similarly, Neil Frost's description of the Chelmer Canal Trust activities has led to interest there.

The 2012/3 programme is being issued. Further details from Susan Gaubert on 226432

SNIPPETS

A warm welcome to **Ryan Sirmons** and his wife, Irish. Ryan is taking over from the recently retired Rev Michael Powell at the URC. We wish them both well.

Under the chairmanship of **Chris Rigler**, a small but dedicated team have been revising the Village Design Statement in order to qualify as a Supplementary Planning Document for Chelmsford Borough Council. The VDS was approved by the Borough Council in 2005 but subsequent Government planning regulation changes have led to a revision being required. The new document will have more force when the Planning Officers consider developments in Little Baddow.

The **Speedwatch team** is seeking more volunteers to monitor traffic speeds through the village. Developed after complaints about speeding vehicles, the team hopes to have calmed the more intolerant drivers. Full training in the use of the speed gun is given by the police who also record the results of each session. More information from **Peter Willington** on 224060.

A **village cricket tournament** is being planned for Whit Sunday in aid of the Mayor's charity, Farleigh Hospice. On a 20/20 basis, four teams will play on the sportsfield.

Congratulations to **John McCrindle** for producing and selling his book showing the results of the wildlife survey carried out in 2009. Funding for the printing of the book was shared between the Little Baddow Conservation Society, the Historical Society and a grant from the Parish Council. It is understood that John may be thinking of a second, small, run for those people on his waiting list.

Peter Willington

Little Baddow Cricket Club

2011 was a momentous year for the Cricket Club. Late in 2010, information had come to light which confirmed that Little Baddow had fielded a cricket team as early as 1790. No doubt, those pioneers of the game would be proud to learn that, 221 years later, the Club would be flourishing and able to field 3 Saturday league sides for the first time in its history. With 2 Sunday teams and 3 junior sides, no fewer than 8 teams now represent the village in local competitions. The Saturday first team had a chance of winning the Mid-Essex Premier League for the first time since the 1980s finishing in a creditable 3rd place.

The Club is particularly proud of its successful junior programme operated over the last decade or so, and will continue the investment in youth cricket. The former Essex player, Chris Gladwin is the 2012 junior coach. New players are welcome, of all ages and standards. See the Club website www.ltbaddow.hitscricket.com. *Paul Jackson*



Little Baddow Directory & News

Almshouses

Clerk to the Trust
Margaret Martin - 223624

Baby & Toddler

Jacky Bannerman - 222595
Tuesdays 10:00-11:30am

Bell Ringers

Wendy Godden - 223873

Bridge Clubs

Heather Hills
Monday evening
Colin Williamson - 226045
Tuesday pm
Gill Catterall—225939
Memorial Hall

Brownies

Deb Hill - 226808
Kathryn Wilkinson - 227845

Butler Educational Trust

Margaret Martin - 223624

Churches

St Mary the Virgin
Malcolm Breeze - 225089
Lynda Ferguson - 222575
Roman Catholic Church
Fr Robert Mortimer-
Anderson - 324138
United Reform Church
Ryan Sirmons - 227723
Brenda Hooson - 222836

Community Bus

Colin Budgey - 225434
Eddie Wright - 225509

Community Care

Joan Atkinson - 226241
Lunch for the Elderly
Tuesday 12:15pm
St Andrews Rooms

Conservation Society

Susan Gaubert - 226432

Cricket Club

Martin Higgins - 222933

Drama Club

Sally Lowe—223733

Edward Bear Club & Eden Cafe

Ann Poulard - 224221
2nd Friday 10:00am
St Andrews Room

Essex Wildlife Trust

Geoff Ford - 222328

Historical Society

Ann Greenslade - 224261

History Centre

Andy Coppell - 224896
Mary Klaber - 222910

Holybred Wood - Warden

Peter Hodgson - 226085

Horticultural Society

Jenny Shaw - 01621
843459

Kick Boxing

Julie Nisbett - 226315
Thursdays
Memorial Hall

Memorial Hall Caretaker

Jackie Rymill - 227816

Monday Club

Doreen Shepherd 223709

National Trust - Warden

Richard Wallace - 222669

Neighbourhood Watch

Simon Johnson—227338

Open Gardens

Peter Martin-223624

Open Group

Julie Nisbett—226315

Parish Clerk

Roger Upward - 226740

Prayer Fellowship Ecumenical

Elizabeth Bourn - 223183
Ann Poulard - 224221
Wednesdays 2pm
St Andrew's Rooms

Ridge Runners

Andrew Ritchings
-01621 828056

St Andrew's Rooms

Sally Lowe - 223733

Scottish Country Dancing

Jan Yule - 222117

Scouts, Cubs, Beavers

Clive Pretty - 225209

Slimming World

Emma Chapman
-01621 853889
Wednesdays 10am
Memorial Hall

Sunday Lunch Club

Jan Yule - 222117
2nd Sunday
Memorial Hall

WEA

Audrey Saunders - 223053

WI

Susan Sparrow - 226892

Walkers

John McCrindle - 225270
Robin Kerridge - 224208

Historical Society
holds meetings and visits on a regular basis. All welcome. Contact Ann Greenslade 224261

**Little Baddow
Open Gardens
12th May 2012**

Jubilee Celebrations in the village during June. See page 2 for details. Contact Simon Johnson 227338

Conservation Society
Presentations and outings are organised throughout the year. Please see the parish website for details.

History Centre

With building work being undertaken at the URC, the History Centre is closed. It aims to re-open in time for Open Gardens on the 12 May. Details from Mary Klaber on 224539

Butler Educational Foundation

Small grants available for educational purposes.

Application forms are available from Pat Breeze 225089, Wendy Godden 223873, Margaret Martin 223624, Fiona Walker 224580 or The Clerk, Duffields, Duke Street, Chelmsford.



Little Baddow Memorial Hall

The perfect venue for parties, clubs and societies on your doorstep with favourable rates for residents. For more information and availability visit the website, www.littlebaddow.org.uk, or ring Jackie Rymill 01245 227816 between 10.00am and 7.00pm Monday to Friday.