

## Mothers Union

Our next MU meeting is Lunch at Van Hage's on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May from 12 noon.**

The following week there will be our annual Deanery Coffee Morning on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May** at 39 Fordwich Rise from 10:00 am to 12 noon. Proceeds will go to the Mothers' Union Disaster Relief Fund.

Hope to see you there.

*Rosemary Bolton*

## Nature Group

On a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon in early April, 10 members of the Nature Group were taken on a guided walk of King's Mead by Martin Ketcher. As previously reported, Martin has been working for the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust on the conservation of water vole habitats.

Although exploring these habitats was the original "selling point" of the afternoon, the wildlife we actually spotted turned out to be much more diverse. King's Mead is at first glance a rather daunting site to look for wildlife, intersected as it is by the Hertford-Ware railway line and the roar of the A10 from up on the viaduct.

Starting at the Ware end, we headed first across the railway to the ponds, which attract a fair variety of waterfowl; we saw mallard, gadwall, pochard, tufted ducks, coots, moorhens and swans, and nearby, a cormorant and a grey heron. The songbirds we came across (whose calls Martin was often able to identify with his expert ear) ranged from those typically found in our gardens (goldfinches, chaffinches) to some that most of us had never even heard of, let alone seen: the wheatear, normally a summer visitor to northern and western Britain; the linnet, a familiar name but never knowingly spotted by the author, and on the endangered Red List; and the reed bunting, which appropriately clung to a reed for long enough for all of us to get a good long look.

We had been "warned" in advance that we were unlikely to see a water vole in the flesh, so concentrated on looking for evidence of their presence. Martin showed us one stretch of a watercourse that would be an ideal habitat but explained how the still-dense undergrowth meant it was unlikely there were water voles using that particular stretch.

At another point, just to the east of the viaduct, we then found three telltale signs of our little furry friends: droppings on a raft, passageways cleared through the undergrowth at the water's edge, and stems of rushes and reeds gnawed at a 45-degree angle. The new raft constructed by Martin, incorporating a slab of moist clay, revealed some water vole prints but fortunately no sign of mink, which are the main cause of their decline.

Thanks in no small measure to the efforts of the Wildlife Trust, there are now brighter prospects for the survival of the water vole in Hertfordshire. A big thank you to Martin, who has now moved on from the Wildlife Trust to work for the RSPB in Cumbria.

*Nick Hoyle*

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May we shall be joining a guided walk of Balls Wood in Hertford Heath. The walk will start at 2.30pm and will last approximately 2 hours. If you would like to join us, or would like more information, please contact me on 01992 535805, oates13@virginmedia.com, or Fiona Earle on 01992 462467.

*Kath Oates*

## Plant Sale/Coffee Morning

On **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May** from **10am – 12 noon** there will be a Plant Sale and Coffee Morning in and around the Church. If you are beginning to think about planting seeds, taking cuttings etc please spare a few plants to bring along to the sale. There will also be the usual stalls – coffee, cakes, books, bric-a-brac, jigsaws



etc so any contributions towards these will be greatly appreciated.

We shall need lots of help on the day with setting up, manning stalls etc., so if you can spare an hour or two to lend a hand please speak to Denise Dilley or Renee Booker. Please support us in this venture – all proceeds to Send A Cow, the current Junior Church project.



## **Messy Church at All Saints**

Messy Church has been happening at All Saints for six months now and I'm happy to say it is going from strength to strength!

For those not familiar with the concept, Messy Church comes under the banner of "Fresh Expressions of Church" or, put another way, a new way of doing church. The aim is that new forms of fellowship will be able to reach out to people not yet connected with a church as well as appealing to existing church members.

We meet once a month on a Sunday afternoon for 2 hours to be creative and have fun. Our session is always themed and the crafts reflect that theme. So far these have included Creation, the story of Noah, Moving on with God, the Characters of Christmas and the Easter Story. The children make various things to take home and in most sessions we also try to make a larger work of art to place in Church. Hopefully you will have seen our Advent calendar figures, as well as our earth, our rainbow and our footsteps. We see these as

statements of our faith and hope that you find them meaningful as well as attractive.

After we have finished our craft session, we have a time of worship which brings together all that we have learned during the afternoon. We sing, play instruments, listen to a talk and pray. Finally we all sit down to have tea together.

We have 18 children who regularly attend, along with their parents. We all enjoy being together very much and the informal setting means that we have time and the opportunity to talk and to get to know each other.

Of course no activity like this could take place without a lot of commitment on the part of the organisers and helpers who are drawn from the adults and young people of All Saints. I am very grateful to them for all that they contribute to help make Messy Church such an enjoyable experience for all of us

Kath Oates.

## **Christian Aid Walk 2011**

On **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May** there will be the 44<sup>th</sup> annual sponsored walk to raise money that will help change the lives of people in some of the poorest communities in the world. Although they have many volunteer helpers, walker numbers have been declining and we would like to increase them again.

The walk starts at St John's Hall, Hertford, and the full length at 42 km (26 miles) is just under marathon distance, through attractive East Herts countryside in the spring.

The circuit, mainly on footpaths, is in five sections varying in length from 5 to 10km, with checkpoints in between. You can choose to walk one or more sections, or the complete route. Refreshments are available at checkpoints, as well as marshals stationed in between for safety, and St John's Ambulance staff will also be in attendance.

Please contact me if you can help (unless I have managed to see you first!) or would like a walkers card; either call me on 01992 589535 or 07889 589535 or email me on [rosemary@arfq.co.uk](mailto:rosemary@arfq.co.uk) Thank you!

Rosemary Bolton

## Hertford Art Society

The 59th Annual Open Exhibition takes place from the 1st of May to the 14th May 2011 at The Cowbridge Halls, Cowbridge, Hertford, SG14 1PG.

This prestigious exhibition attracts a large entry from both amateur and professional artists from the south-east. The exhibition features works in a wide range of media both 2D and 3D.

Entry to the exhibition is free and wheelchair access is provided.

Opening times are as follows:

Sunday May 1st 1.30pm - 4.30pm  
 All weekdays 11.00am - 8.00pm  
 Saturday May 7th 10.00am - 8.00pm  
 Sunday May 8th 11.00am - 4.30pm  
 Saturday May 14th 10.00am - 2.30pm

Further details may be obtained from the exhibition secretary: Annie Shone, 98 High Street, Walkern, Herts. SG2 7PG. Tel: 01438 861096. e: [annieshone@googlemail.com](mailto:annieshone@googlemail.com)

Information may also be obtained from our website: [www.hertfordartsociety.co.uk](http://www.hertfordartsociety.co.uk)

## "ICE " Your Phone

ICE - 'In Case of Emergency'

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of

numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell(mobile) phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored as 'ICE.'

This is a standard procedure paramedics follow at the scene of an accident when they come across your cell phone.

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. A great idea that will make a difference!

