

# DECEMBER CONTENTS

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# DIARY OF EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2013

## MONDAYS

- 10:30am – 12 noon **Iyengar Yoga Classes** at URC Hall – term time only. Contact Jen Harris on 01920 821288.
- 10:45am – 11:30am **Stretch'n'Grow** for children who are walking. At Seth Ward Community Centre. £2 per family. 01763 273008.
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm **Stay & Play** at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per family. 01763 273008
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm **Senior Citizens Club** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Bingo and an afternoon of socialising. For more information contact Jeanne Clark on 01763 274631.
- 4:30pm – 7:30pm **NEW: Rib Valley Trampoline Club** at Freman College (term time only). Tel: Andrea Allen 07989 980038; email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Cougars U9s** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm **Shotokan Karate** at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Peter Deacon on 01462 642922.
- 7:00pm **Play Bridge** for experienced players at Buntingford Bowls Club. £2.50 per session. Contact Eddie on 01763 273640 or 07976 896718.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Pilates** at Benson Hall. Contact Jacqui on 01763 273815 or 07956 647806.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Abs (body toning)** session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm **Buntingford Community Choir** at Edwinstree School, Bowling Green Lane. No need to read music, no auditions, just bring your enthusiasm! For info see [www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk) or email [info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk](mailto:info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk)
- 7:30pm – 9:45pm **Buntingford & District Youth Club** for young people aged 13–19 years, held at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Danny Band on 07879 853849 or email [danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk).
- 8:15pm **Circuit Training** at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01920 823677.

## TUESDAYS

- 9:15am – 10:15am **Badminton** at Seth Ward CC, £2.50 per session. 01763 273712.
- 9:30am – 11:00am **Tuesday Toddlers** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. £1.50 includes drink and snack. Term time.
- 10:00am – 11:30am **Under 1s Group** at Buntingford Bowls Club. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 10:45am – 11:30am **Cheeky Chimps** (2 separate sessions) at Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 11:45am – 12:30pm £2 per family. 01763 273008
- 3:30pm – 9:00pm **Dance classes** with Buntingford Dancing School, at Freman College. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U15s Whites** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.
- 6:15pm – 7:15pm **Cougars U10s** training, St Edmunds School Floodlit Astro Turf.
- 6:15pm – 7:15pm **Cougars U12s Blues** training, St Edmunds School Floodlit Astro Turf.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm **Cougars U13s** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area.
- 8:30pm – 9:30pm **Cougars U16s** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information on all Cougars training sessions, email: secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk

# WHAT'S ON

- 7:00pm – 8:15pm **Grade 5 Ballet Lessons**, Layston School. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 7.30pm **Buntingford Karate Club**, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- WEDNESDAYS**
- 9:30 – 11:15am **Hormead Baby and Toddler Group** at Hormead Village Hall. Term time only. From birth to 4 years. Lots of toys, activities, arts and crafts and singing. £1.50 per child, includes a drink and snack; 50p for additional children. Contact Liz Pickup on 01763 289446, or just turn up.
- 10:00am – 11:00am **Story Sacks** at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per child 01763 273008.
- 10:30am BALFF 10-week course **'The History of Clothes'** (started 2nd Oct). For details contact Julia Peacock 01763 272584.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Cougars U14s** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Circuit Training for 50+** at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 6:00pm – 8:00pm **Shinto Judo Club**. Two 1-hour sessions for Juniors: 6:00–7:00pm & 7:00–8:00pm. Now at the Howard Carter Centre, Freman College. Contact Mark Teal 07974 458127 or Gavin Shand 07958 797005. Email: shintojudoclub@gmail.com. Or visit www.shintojudo.co.uk.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Cougars U15s Blues** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm **Body Circuit classes** at Seth Ward CC. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Boxercise/Tae Bo** session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm **Slimming World Group** at Millfield School, Monks Walk. Tel: Gill Hickson on 01279 778055 or 07810 383739, or email stuart.hickson@ymail.com
- 8:00pm **Horizon Divers** at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.
- THURSDAYS**
- 9:30am – 11:00am **Anstey Toddlers** at the Old School House, Anstey. Activities for toddlers and babies with their carers. Arts and crafts, free play and singing. £1 per family. Term time only. 01763 273008.
- 9:45am – 11:00am **Jumping Jacks Stay & Play**, Herts County Guide Headquarters, Cottered. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 12:00pm **Fitness for 50+** at Seth Ward Community Centre. £4 per person per class. Contact Eileen Dixon 01763 257474 or 07966 222272, or email: eileensaerobics@hotmail.com
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm **Baby classes** run by the **Best Start Club** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane. **Magical Musical Playdays**, for 1 to 3 years olds, start at 1:00pm; followed by **Baby Signing classes**, for 0 to 16 months, at 2:00pm. Contact Laura Sheriff on 07801 796334. Email: laura@thebeststartclub.com.
- 4:30pm – 6:30pm **Drama workshops** for 15 to 18 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Dave on 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U7s** training at Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email: secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk

# DIARY OF EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2013

## THURS (cont.)

- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U8s** training at Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email: [secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk](mailto:secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk)
- 5:30pm – 10:00pm **Buntingford Swimming Club** at Ward Freman Pool. Contact Adelaide Boon on 07710 550050.
- 6:15pm – 7:00pm **Jazzercise Class** at Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 7.30pm **Buntingford Karate Club**, Edwinstree School Gym. Contact Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 7:45pm – 9:45pm **Badminton Club** at Seth Ward CC. Contact Liz James on 01763 274010.
- 8:00–10:00pm **Buntingford Dramatic Society**, Benson Hall.

## FRIDAYS

- 9:15am **WeightWatchers** at Benson Hall
- 9:30am – 10:30am **Badminton** at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.
- 10:00am & 11:00am **Baby & toddler 'Rhyme Time'** at Seth Ward. £1 first child, 50p for additional children to include tea & coffee. Contact Bramble Hill 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 12:00 **Drop-in Breastfeeding Support Group** at Bramble Hill Children's Centre, Mill Close. Led by the health visiting team. 01763 273008.
- 3.30pm – 8:00pm **Dance classes** with Buntingford Dancing School, at Freman College. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U11s** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email [secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk](mailto:secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk).
- 5:30pm – 8:00pm **Friday Project, Buntingford & District Youth Club** for young people aged 13–19. A range of activities at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Danny Band on 07879 853849 or email [danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk).
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Cougars U12s Whites** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email [secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk](mailto:secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk).

## SATURDAYS

- 8:30am – 2:45pm **Dance classes** with Buntingford Dancing School, at Freman College and URC Hall, Buntingford. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 9:15am – 2:00pm **Musical Theatre School** for 4–14 year olds at Seth Ward Community Centre. New students needed. Call Anna 07545 788433 or email [stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk](mailto:stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk).
- 10:00am – 11:30am **Dad's/Male Carers Group**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat in the month at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford. £1 per child. 01763 273008.
- 10:30am – 11:30am **Cougars U6s** training, Buntingford Community Centre (on grass). For more information email [secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk](mailto:secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk).
- 2:15pm – 4:15pm **Drama workshops** 6–15 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Dave 01438 232181 or email [stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk).
- 2:00pm – 4:00pm **Police Surgery** at Buntingford Police Station, Baldock Road.

If you would like to have your event in the Diary of Events pages, please contact **Christine Noble** 01763 273095  
email: [Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## Nov

- Fri 29<sup>th</sup> **Late Night Christmas Shopping Evening** in Buntingford High Street  
5:50pm **Lights of Love Ceremony** at the Manor House
- Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 7pm **Buntingford Community Choir Winter Concert** (see page 14).
- Fri 29<sup>th</sup> to Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 10:30am–4:30pm **Christmastime @ Gravelly Barn** & 11am–4pm Sun  
only **Braughing Crafts Market / Food Market** (see page 31)

## DEC

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 10am–4pm **Antiques & Vintage Fair**, Barkway Village Hall, SG8 8BS.  
£1 entry. Homemade cakes & refreshments. All enquiries Rosei Frost  
01763 289748 or email [info@flapperfortunes.co.uk](mailto:info@flapperfortunes.co.uk)
- Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> 8pm **Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society** at Benson Hall.
- Wed 4<sup>th</sup> 7:45 for 8pm **Buntingford Gardeners Club** at URC Hall (see page 41).
- Fri 6<sup>th</sup> 4–7pm **Christmas Fair** at Anstey Village Hall (see page 40).
- Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 2–4pm **Christmas Fair** at Layston School (see page 35).
- Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm **Cambridge Chorale** at St Mary's, Braughing (see page 14).
- Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm Friends of Reed Church **Christmas Party** (see page 14).
- Sun 8<sup>th</sup> 10am–4pm **Antiques & Vintage Fair**, Cottered Village Hall, SG9 9QW.  
£1 entry. Homemade cakes & refreshments. All enquiries, see above.
- Tues 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00am **Public Inquiry** into proposed developments by Taylor-Wimpey &  
Wheatley Homes starts at EHC Offices in Herford (see page 12).
- Wed 11<sup>th</sup> 10:30am–12noon **BALA Coffee Morning** at Benson Hall (see page 44).
- Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> 7:45pm **Buntingford W.I.** at URC Hall (see page 45).
- Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30 for 7:45pm **Carols by Candlelight** in Aspenden (see page 13).
- 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> From 6:00pm Buntingford Scouts **Santa Run** (see page 15).
- Fri 20<sup>th</sup> 8pm **Buntingford Railway & Local History Society** at the Crown PH.  
Robin Webb – DeHavilland Aircraft You've Never Heard Of.
- Wed 30<sup>th</sup> 1:30 for 2:00pm start, **St Richard's Bingo** at Benson Hall.

## JAN 2014

- Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> 7:45pm **Buntingford W.I. New Year Party** at URC Hall.
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> 10:30am–12noon **BALA Coffee Morning** at Benson Hall (see page 44).
- Sat 25<sup>th</sup> 8pm **Burns Night!** In Reed Village Hall (see page 41).
- Wed 29<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm (doors open 7pm) **Buntingford & District Flower Club** at Benson  
Hall, Buntingford. Members workshop led by Ione Woodger-Smith (of  
Crazy Daisy) to create an arrangement in a cup and saucer – please  
bring your own, plus some greenery. Flowers will be provided.
- Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> 12noon–1:30pm **W.I. Soup Lunch** at Benson Hall (see page 45).

# USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>POLICE STATION:</b>                               | Baldock Road, Buntingford<br>Non-emergency telephone: 101   |
| <b>Saturday Police surgeries:</b>                    | Every Saturday, 2:00pm – 4:00pm at Buntingford Police Station   |
| <b>GAS:</b>  | Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999  |
| <b>ELECTRICITY:</b>                                  | Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838  |
| <b>WATER (Veolia):</b>                               | Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325   |
| <b>SEWERAGE (Thames Water):</b>                      | Emergency – Telephone 0845 920 0800   |
| <b>DOCTORS:</b>                                      | <b>The Medical Centre</b> – White Hart Close<br>Telephone 01763 271362 (24 hours)<br><b>Orchard Surgery</b> – Baldock Road<br>Telephone 01763 272410 & 272411 (after hours)   |
| <b>B A S H (Buntingford Action For Social Help):</b> | Providing transport for hospital/doctors appointments, telephone Jane Winter 01763 271484   |
| <b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RACE, HATE or RAPE CRIME:</b>  | Confidential Information Help-line: 01992 554440 (in an emergency, dial 999)  |
| <b>LOCAL COUNCIL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>              | <b>East Herts District Council</b> – 01279 655261<br>Housing – 01279 714714<br>Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852<br><b>Buntingford Town Council</b> – 01763 272222<br><b>Hertfordshire Highways</b> – 0300 123 4047, or report faults online at <a href="http://www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults">www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults</a>                       |
| <b>BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:</b>                          | All enquiries including renewals call 0300 123 4049<br>Select option 1 (renewals) 03:00–23:45 every day<br>Select option 2 (all other enquiries) Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00, Sat 09:00–6:00<br><br>Mondays: 09:00 – 18:00<br>Tuesdays: 14:00 – 18:00<br>Wednesdays: CLOSED ALL DAY<br>Thursdays: 09:00 – 18:00<br>Fridays: 14:00 – 18:00<br>Saturdays: 09:00 – 13:00 |
| <b>CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:</b>                       | The Manor House, Market Hill, Buntingford<br>Mondays: 10:00am – 4:00pm<br>Tuesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm<br>Wednesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm<br><br>Telephone advice available Monday to Friday<br>10:00am – 4:00pm on 08444 111 444  |
| <b>HOUSEHOLD WASTE &amp; RECYCLING SITE:</b>         | Watermill Industrial Estate, Aspenden Road<br>Open: Mondays – Fridays 5:00pm – 8:00pm<br>Saturday & Sunday 10:00am – 1:00pm   |

## EDITOR'S LETTER

Well what an eventful month we have just had. The Car Show was as big a success as ever, despite the weather being less kind than last year. My only problem that day was I forgot to take my camera along with me, so the report on page 14 has no pictures of the main event. Fortunately, NUTS sent in a report of their day in the grounds of the Old Grammar School, along with photos of their prize winners which you can see on page 15.

**Christine Noble**

*The Local Interview* is open to all. If you think you would like to be interviewed about your life in and around Buntingford, either contact the editor Christine Noble (details on page 7) or Chris Kell at [chriskell37@gmail.com](mailto:chriskell37@gmail.com)

**Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading**

**Editorial copy deadline for the February 2014 Journal  
is 12.00 noon on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014**

**Copy and diary entries:** Christine Noble – 01763 273095  
68 Hare Street Road, Buntingford SG9 9HN  
**email: [Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)**

**Advertising enquiries:** Keith Edwards – 01763 272032  
**email: [Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)**

**The Buntingford Journal is published by, but is editorially  
independent of, the Buntingford Civic Society.**

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Christine

I hope you might be able to include the attached little story in your Christmas number. I am Liz MacNamara's brother, a retired priest.

## BETHLEHEM

I have seen many a school Nativity Play when Mary and Joseph have knocked on the door of the inn at Bethlehem and been told by the inn-keeper that there was no room. But I have never seen a school presentation of them signing on at the tax-office which, St. Luke tells us, was why they went to Bethlehem in the first place. Perhaps the encounter went something like this ...

Enter Joseph and Mary, with Mary holding her new-born son. Taxman sitting behind his desk with a large book.

"Yes?" says the taxman rudely.

"We've come to give our names, like the Emperor told us to" says Joseph.

"You're late!" says the taxman. "The rest of your family came ages ago."

"We've come a long way" says Joseph "and we had to come slowly as my wife was expecting a baby. He was born last week."

"Where have you come from?" the taxman asks.

"Nazareth" replies Joseph.

"Ugh, Nazareth," says the taxman, "what a tip! What's your name?"

"Joseph Davidson."

"Your job?"

"Carpenter"

"Joseph Davidson – Carpenter" the taxman wrote in his book.

"And your wife's name?" he asked.

"Mary" replied Joseph.

"Wife – Mary Davidson" wrote the taxman.

"And is this your son?" he asked, pointing to the baby.

"Er ... well ... er ... not exactly." Joseph was hesitant.

"What do you mean 'not exactly'? Either he is or he isn't." The taxman was getting angry and Joseph was getting embarrassed. Mary came to his rescue.

"His name is Jesus" she said. "He is the Son of God, and the angel said that one day he will be King."

"ANGEL! SON OF GOD! KING! from NAZARETH!" shouted the taxman. You must be joking! Be off with you! I wouldn't let Herod's men hear you, or you will be in trouble."

So Joseph and Mary left the tax office in Bethlehem, and the taxman watched them go and he wondered ...

And so, in a very old, very dusty, filing cabinet, somewhere in Rome, you may find, even now, the names of David's family who were in Bethlehem that year, in the reign of the Emperor Augustus. You may see the names of Joseph and Mary Davidson, and below theirs the name 'Jesus'. Beside his name there is a question mark, because, the writer thought, that it was possible, just possible, that what his mother said about him was true.

Mgr Peter Wilson

Dear Christine

Just a brief note to thank everyone who came along to the Royal British Legion Quiz last month. It was a great evening and after paying £426 for the Fish/Chicken supper for all 78 people we made a profit of £502 for the Poppy Appeal. Benson Hall has a lovely atmosphere. Many thanks again for all you do and have a lovely Christmas.

Di Bamford

Dear Christine

If I am not too late, could you please include a big thank you to all the people who supported our annual Craft Fair on Saturday 16th November. We had a hugely successful day raising money for the Friends of Orchard Surgery and for East Herts Children's Hospice (EACH). Although I don't yet have the final totals, it looks like our best year ever. Thanks again to everyone for their help and support.

June Fairbrother, Friends of Orchard Surgery

## BUNTINGFORD MEMORIAL CHARITY

The Buntingford Memorial Charity has certain funds available to it for distribution to suitable bodies and organisations within the town of Buntingford. It is a term of the Charity that: "the Trustees shall apply the income of the Charity in, or towards, such charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Buntingford as the Trustees, from time to time, think fit."

Applications for grants are now invited by the Trustees from any interested body or organisation who would qualify within the terms and definitions given. It would be appreciated if all applications set out, as fully as possible, the nature and background of the body or organisation applying, its objectives and activities, and the purpose for which the grant is sought, together with an indication as to the degree of financial support that is hoped for. The acceptance of any application and/or the amount of grant that might be made by the Charity is entirely at the discretion of the Trustees.

The closing date for grant applications is **31<sup>st</sup> January 2014**. Anyone interested in applying should ensure that their application is received by me, at the following address, by that date.

**Val Reedman**  
**Chairman, Buntingford Memorial Charity**  
**16 Mill Close, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9SZ**

## Friday 29th November

The annual **Lights of Love Ceremony** in aid of **Isabel Hospice**, with the singing of traditional carols, **starts at 5.50pm** outside The Manor House.

The High Street will be closed to traffic from 4pm to allow visiting stalls to set up for the **Late Night Christmas Shopping Evening**.

***Don't miss this traditional curtain-raiser to the Christmas festivities.***



# Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

[www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk](http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk)



## Have a Voice – Are You the Future?

To our many members and Journal readers, we wish you a Happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year.

At the time of going to press the Taylor Wimpey and Wheatley Homes appeals are due to commence on 10th December. The case against high-volume eastward development and the protection of the Rib Valley has been professionally developed and widely consulted and should receive agreement by the planning inspector. We shall see.

Many who have worked so hard over recent months are bitterly disappointed that our District Council has withdrawn from the appeal hearing. East Herts District Council barrister's advice is that the inspector may find in favour of the developers and that costs could be required from EHDC.

This episode undermines the manner in which the National Planning Policy Framework was promoted and poses the question – does the policy have real substance? Where is 'Localism' and 'Consultation'?

A Neighbourhood Plan led by Buntingford Town Council is under development in the format and content which should inform the District Plan. This is an important step with regard to the future of Buntingford and surrounding villages.

As you may know, there are outline planning applications by Fairview for the brownfield Sainsbury site on the southern edge of town and by Pigeon for land off Ermine Street to the north. In the absence of a District Plan both must be considered premature.

We have tried to capture key aspects of our community's situation to make it clear that Buntingford Civic Society must grow from its current strong position with increased membership and active involvement on a range of issues.

In an effort to increase membership, BCS is embarking on a targeted recruitment drive and seeks support from current members to this end, so get your friends and neighbours to join you in Buntingford Civic Society.

I have been Chairman for about 10 years now and will be stepping aside in 2014.

**Derek K Cooper, Chairman**

***If you would like to join Buntingford Civic Society contact the membership secretary, Chris Eagle, by email at: [membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)***

**The views expressed in the letters and articles in the Buntingford Journal are not necessarily those of the editor.**

## A 'Civic Day' for Buntingford's Clubs, Societies and Local Charities

Buntingford Civic Society is considering hosting a public open day in Spring 2014 at which all the clubs and societies in and around the town will have the opportunity, free of charge, to promote their activities.

Before going further with our plans, it would be helpful to have some idea of how many clubs and societies would be interested in such an event. If the level of interest is high, we might consider holding more than one.

If you are involved with a club, society or local charity and would like to raise the profile of your organisation, increase your membership, or simply have the chance to meet and talk to others who face the challenges of running a voluntary organisation, please contact Janet Murrell by email at:

**janet@towers-thompson.co.uk**

Although responses by email are preferred, if this is not possible then you can write to Janet Murrell at 18 Oak End, Buntingford SG9 9BU, or you can phone either Janet on 01763 274371 or Carol Noble on 01763 272508.

It would be helpful to BCS in organising the event to know what age group your club or society is aimed at and is looking to attract – for example, under 17; 18–39; over 40; another age band; or no particular age group.



***We hope that this proposed event is of interest and look forward to hearing from you.***

## Time Bank in Buntingford

Time Bank is a community skills exchange programme, giving its members the opportunity to use their skills, knowledge and experience to help people in their neighbourhood and to earn time credits in return. Members can then use those credits to get help with something that they need themselves. All skills are valued equally, but some of the most popular are cooking, DIY, computers, crafts, writing, befriending, housework and language skills.

As well as traditional Time-banking, with person-to-person exchanges, we offer Fellowship Membership for people who are unable to give skills back due to health reasons, but could still use some help from the Time Bank. This help could range from tuning a television or assistance with how to use a new phone, to walking a dog, changing a light bulb or helping with shopping.

Time Bank also has a dedicated **garden team** which helps people who, for various reasons, have been unable to look after their gardens. The team provides one-off help to get the garden back into a manageable state. This runs from March to late October.

To find out more about Time Bank, visit: <http://www.mytimebank.org.uk>

Or call: **01462 689405** Or email: [Timebank@nhcvs.org.uk](mailto:Timebank@nhcvs.org.uk)

# **Buntingford Action for Responsible Development**

## **District Council leave Buntingford to fight Taylor Wimpey and Wheatley Homes alone**

**In November, East Herts District Council decided not to offer evidence at the forthcoming Public Inquiry, on the back of legal advice. In other words, they decided not to fight the case!**

At BARD we were shocked and frustrated by this last-minute decision by the District Council. BARD has joined the Town Council and many other stakeholders in submitting evidence to the Inquiry, all indicating that the proposed developments under appeal have no place in Buntingford. We have a case to put to the Inspector which will be presented by our Planning solicitor and both professional Planning and local witnesses on our behalf.

### **What is the background to this inquiry?**

For readers who are just coming to this ... Taylor Wimpey's plans for 160 Houses on Land to the North of Hare Street Road in Buntingford have been rejected twice by East Herts District Council, in December 2012 and this September. Wheatley Homes' outline planning application for 100 houses South of Hare Street Road and to the East of London Road was also rejected in May this year.

But the developers are exercising their right to appeal against the District Council's decision, and an independent Planning Inspector, appointed by the Government, will host a Public Inquiry, starting at 10am on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, at the Council Chamber of East Herts Council at the Wallfields Offices, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8EQ.

If the Planning Inspectorate decides in favour of the developers, the previous success we had in resisting the planning applications will be overturned and the floodgates could open for hundreds more houses to be built around Buntingford. Further information on the Public Inquiry process, our Statement of Case, and our Evidence to the Inquiry, can be found on our website.

### **So what now ...?**

We invite you to be there at the Inquiry, to show the strength of the town's support for the people who are fighting your corner. And once again, we want to thank all those who have spent time gathering evidence, helped us prepare our case, and submitted their own evidence or opinions to the Inspector.

### **District Plan delayed again!**

In November, East Herts Council revised its programme again for deciding on the number of houses to be built in Buntingford and the rest of East Herts and consultation on this in the long awaited draft East Herts District Plan. This is another disaster for Buntingford because the Plan is expected to vindicate and support our evidence to the Hare Street Road Inquiry, but will now come too late for the Inspector to take it into account.

Getting involved in the District Plan remains important, however, because it will influence how our housing, local employment, roads, public transport system, shops, services education and leisure facilities will be planned and the environment protected.

Draft 'topic based policy' elements of the District Plan, from housing to community facilities, have already been announced at a meeting of the District Planning Executive Panel on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Further elements will be agreed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, with the big proposals on housing numbers and locations in January, followed by a 12-week public consultation starting in February.

You can follow the progress of the Draft District Plan by visiting the planning section of the East Herts Council website.

### **How will Buntingford respond to the draft District Plan?**

As some readers will recall, in preparation for the District Plan, earlier this year BARD joined forces with Buntingford's Town Council, Civic Society and Chamber of Commerce to prepare a response to the Draft Plan which could also become the basis for our Neighbourhood Plan. There were a number of public consultation events on the draft document in September this year, with broad support for the approach of the four local organisations, with some valuable feedback that will help us set out a sustainable, considered plan for Buntingford when the time comes. If you missed the events and want to find out more about our draft local response, please see the Town Council's website or get in touch with us.

**We wish the community of our wonderful town and all readers of *The Buntingford Journal* a very Happy Christmas and a successful start to 2014!**

#### **What is BARD?**

BARD is a grassroots organization that gives the people of the Buntingford a voice in response to the rapid rate of building development that will affect all of us in some way. Working together, we can challenge companies that may be putting commercial interests above the best interests of the town. Further information on BARD and its action on local developments is posted on our website at [www.bard-group.org.uk](http://www.bard-group.org.uk). Or you can contact us at [info@bard-group.org.uk](mailto:info@bard-group.org.uk) or phone 07969 835 877.

## **St. Mary's Church Aspenden Carols by Candlelight**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**7:30PM for 7:45PM**



**To limit numbers, tickets available from Mrs Jean Pitts 01763 272109.**

**If you ask for tickets then cannot use them, please return them.**

**If you would like to sing in the choir, please contact Pat Murray 272045.**

## Buntingford Community Choir – *Be Brave and Join In!*

Around three years ago my mum and I saw an article in the Journal which really excited us! The Wilsons wanted to set up a local choir and were wondering if anyone was interested. Both mum and I love to sing so we definitely were. However, if there hadn't been the reassurance that we wouldn't have to audition then it would have been a different story altogether. I have never had any interest in performing and got extremely nervous at even the thought of having to speak in public, let alone sing!

Being in the Choir has boosted my confidence enormously. The first time we sang in the High Street was terrifying and I could barely hold a note my lips were quivering so much! Now I actually enjoy performances and have even been persuaded to sing small solo parts. If, like myself, you love to sing but are a little shy then please don't let it stop you from joining the Choir. The members are kind and supportive and you will never be forced to sing alone. A few years from now you may surprise yourself.

If you would like to join us then come along to **Choir practice on Monday evenings 7:30pm at Edwinstree School**. And you still have a couple of days to buy tickets for our **Christmas Concert on Saturday 30th November at Freman College**. Tickets are available from The Cellar for just £2 – all money raised goes to B.A.L.A.

*Braughing Music Society* -

## Cambridge Chorale

A prize-winning choir directed by Julian Wilkins

**Saturday 7th December at 7:30 pm**

St Mary's Church, Braughing

**TICKETS: £15 Premium; £12 Standard; £10 restricted view**

**Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073**

**[www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk](http://www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk)**

## *Friends of Reed Church* **Christmas Party**

**7<sup>th</sup> December, 2013** from 7:30pm In Reed Village Hall

Royston Town Band will be playing Carols followed by a Quick Quiz

Hot Supper & Puddings \* Licensed Bar & Raffle

**Tickets £12 from Di Bamford on 01763 848481**

# Santa Claus is coming to town!



**12th to 20th  
December**

**Santa will  
hopefully set off  
from 6.00pm**



Raising money for the  
Buntingford Scout Group

**FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

Bovis estate  
Nutslip

**MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

Market Hill  
Rib Way  
Snells Mead  
Hare Street Road  
The Tannery  
Sunny Hill

**THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

Bowling Green  
Lane  
Bowlers Mead  
White Hart Close  
Tylers Close  
Greenways  
The Pyghtle

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup>  
(STARTS 5PM)**

Freman Drive  
Chequers Close  
Vicarage Road  
Honey Lane  
Bridge End  
Porters Close  
Wood Close

**TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

Baldock Road  
North  
Monks Walk  
Longmeads  
The Folly

**FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Fairfield  
Downhall Ley  
Station Road

**THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

Paddock Road  
The Causeway  
Church Street  
Archers  
Dell Spring  
Riverside  
Bridewell Close  
Wyddial Road  
Norfolk Road  
High Street

**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

London Road  
Layston Meadow  
Owles Lane  
High Street  
St Francis Court  
Olvega Drive  
Crouch Gardens

**Saturday 14th  
Santa is resting**



## ***The local interview:***

# **MOLLY IRIS CHARLES**

I know Molly from the Over-50s Exercise Class in Buntingford. She's tall, slim, blonde and incredibly agile and lively. When I visited her in her dehouse in Cottered, I might have imagined this was a woman whose life had been easy. I'd have been wrong.

Molly Hall was born in Buntingford in 1933 at No. 66 High Street (next to Hall & Glory). She still has a photo of her mother standing in the doorway holding her sister Freda. When Molly was a baby, the family moved to 11 Norfolk Road and there she stayed until she was 14. The family of 6 children weren't well off, and Freda died of pneumonia before Molly knew her.

Molly was 6 when the war came, and life got harder. As children, she and her brothers and sisters accepted things the way they were but, listening to her, I thought that those of us lucky enough to be born a bit later have no idea what 'austerity' means.

Molly reflects on those days: "We had to go to the woods to collect wood for fires, and mother would make jam and wine from crab apples and blackberries. She was very clever, very self-sufficient. She didn't buy anything. She used to keep chickens in the garden to feed us. And there was an air-raid shelter that she'd line with blankets for us. This was Norfolk Road – very small. My father was hopeless: he didn't work unless he had to."

I looked at the photo of her father and saw a good-looking man. "Yes, he was handsome all right", said Molly.



Molly's grandfather was in Buntingford Fire Brigade – he is [which one in pic?]. Below: Molly, aged 12, with the Norfolk Road Sunday School; she is seated on the far right and her future husband, Derek Charles, is kneeling in front of her in the second row.



Molly went to Layston School then Edwinstree, and attended Norfolk Road Sunday School. She left school at 14 and although she wanted to be a nurse, her mother didn't want her leaving home. So instead she went to the local factory in Buntingford to make condensers. "I hated it!" said Molly. (I had to look up what a condenser was – it's something to do with engines.)



The pupils of Layston School with Headmaster Mr Dennis.  
Molly's brother Eric is holding the shield.

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Next she tried shop work for Mr. Neville, the High Street ironmonger, "but I didn't really know what a hammer was", and then – still a teenager – she got a job at Moor Place in Much Hadham looking after two boys and two girls who were the children of Lord Montagu Norman, then the Governor of the Bank of England. This was more like it, but real job satisfaction came when a new dentist, Mr Stokes, came to Buntingford. He advertised for a dental nurse and Molly got the job.

"We were next to the butchers with just a thin partition between us", recalls Molly. "I was forever going round there to ask them to be quiet: my brother, Peter, worked there. We could hear them chopping and banging through the wall when we were trying to keep a patient calm." She was on her feet all day, but loved the work and was good at it. "We did anaesthetics. I didn't do any written exam, but I learnt to think ahead – you wouldn't just give him the forceps for an extraction, you'd have everything ready that he might need." In fact, she was so good at the work that she eventually defied her mother and took off for dental work in London along with the dental receptionist, Brenda Bruce. She thinks Mr Stokes's dental practice was where Piggotts the butcher is now, and the butcher at that time was next door at the current Games Shop.

Molly was 29 when she got married in St Peter's Church. Derek had been living with his father on a farm, and he and Molly had to find somewhere of their own. "There were cottages in Cottered that hadn't got any roofs on, so we looked there. We found these two cottages together and they had roofs. There was one room in the front and one in the back of each of them, and a tap out in the garden for a tin bath, and frogs everywhere. I hate frogs! The cottages were owned by two old ladies who lived abroad and they sold them to us for £2,400." This was a huge sum in 1962, but you can imagine how much these cottages, now joined together to make one house, would cost today.

Molly and her husband have run a haulage business and Derek still works on the farm. I asked Molly what advice she would give to a young person. "Just be happy. Don't do a job because it's high-powered or makes you lots of money. This is your life and you're going to be working a long time. Don't ever do anything that makes you unhappy." As I leave, she's answering the phone for the third time during our hour together. A woman who's still living her life, living it the way she wants to, and still happy.

**Chris Kell**



# Christ Church

United Reformed Church, Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

**Minister:** Rev Duncan Goldie      **Secretary:** Peter Godbert  
The Manse, Meeting Lane,      buntingford.urc@virginmedia.com  
Melbourn, Cambs SG8 6AN      Tel: 01763 281359

**Services**      **At 11:00am every Sunday** (unless otherwise stated)

|          |    |                                       |   |
|----------|----|---------------------------------------|---|
| December | 1  | Morning Worship                       | Dr Jeffrey Barham                                       |
|          | 8  | Holy Communion                        | Rev Duncan Goldie                                       |
|          | 15 | Children's Service                    | Junior Church   |
|          | 15 | <b>Christmas Carol Service at 6pm</b> | Rev Duncan Goldie                                       |
|          | 22 | Christingle Service                   | Rev Duncan Goldie                                       |
|          | 25 | <b>Christmas Day Service at 10am</b>  | Rev Duncan Goldie                                       |
|          | 29 | Morning Worship                       | Rev Paul Whittle, <i>Moderator of the Eastern Synod</i> |
| January  | 5  | Morning Worship                       | Mrs Wendy Roe   |
|          | 12 | Holy Communion                        | Rev Duncan Goldie                                       |
|          | 19 | Morning Worship                       | Dr Jeffrey Barham                                       |
|          | 26 | Morning Worship                       | Rev Duncan Goldie                                       |

**Junior Church** – Sunday at 11:00am during term time, all young people and children are welcome.

**The Bright Hour** – Next meeting 10th December at 2:30pm. A time for fellowship with prayers, hymns, activities and occasional speakers.

**Coffee & Company** – Every Thursday from 10:30am, for anyone wanting fellowship and time for a chat.

**Lunches organised by Christian Aid** – First Friday of the month from 12:30 to 2:00pm.

**Bible Study** – Second Wednesday of each month. Lunch from 12.30pm (*bring your own – tea & coffee provided*). Bible Study 1.00 to 2.00pm on 'The Bible in the News'. Bring a recent newspaper for discussion on how an article relates to the Bible.

[www.buntingfordurc.freeseve.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordurc.freeseve.co.uk)



## ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford Telephone 01763 271471

**Parish Priest:** Father John White

**HOLY MASS** is celebrated each Sunday at 9:15am  
Holy Days at 10am and 8pm; Weekdays at 9:15pm  
Saturdays at 6pm at Puckeridge

**CONFESSIONS** are each Saturday from 10:30 to 11am



**United Benefice of**  
**St. Mary's – Aspenden**  
**St. Peter's – Buntingford**  
**St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill**  
 Church of England



**Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072**

There is a full and varied pattern of worship across the three churches: St. Peter's in Buntingford has a more contemporary style; St. Mary's in Aspenden has a more traditional style; St. Mary the Virgin in Westmill has a more liturgical style.

*Everyone is welcome at any of our churches.*

**Services for December 2013**

|   |         |                          |                       |
|---|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>                       | 10:00am | St. Mary's, Aspenden     | Family Service        |
|   | 11:00am | St. Peter's, Buntingford | Holy Communion        |
| Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>                       | 9:30am  | St. Mary's, Aspenden     | Holy Communion        |
|   | 11:00am | St. Peter's, Buntingford | Family Worship        |
| Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>                      | 11:00am | St. Peter's, Buntingford | Holy Communion        |
| Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>                    | 7:30pm  | St. Mary's, Aspenden     | Carols by Candlelight |
| Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>                      | 9:30am  | St. Mary's, Aspenden     | Holy Communion        |
|   | 11:00am | St. Peter's, Buntingford | Family Worship        |
|   | 6:30pm  | St. Peter's, Buntingford | Carol Service         |
| Tues 24 <sup>th</sup><br>CHRISTMAS<br>EVE | 2:30pm  | St. Peter's, Buntingford | Carols round the Crib |
|   | 4:00pm  | St. Peter's, Buntingford | Carols round the Crib |
|   | 11:00pm | St. Peter's, Buntingford | Midnight Communion    |
| Wed 25 <sup>th</sup><br>CHRISTMAS DAY     | 10:00am | St. Mary's, Aspenden     | Family Communion      |
|   |         |                          |                       |
| Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>                      | 11:00am | St. Peter's, Buntingford | Family Worship        |

**Services at St Mary the Virgin Westmill to be confirmed**

**ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church**

**Christmas Eve**

6pm Buntingford – Children's Mass

8pm Puckeridge – Christmas Mass

**Christmas Day**

10am Buntingford – Christmas Day Mass

12noon Old Hall Green – Christmas Day Mass





# **BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR SOCIAL HELP**

## **Volunteer Hospital Driver Service**

**Buntingford Action for Social Help (BASH)** is a local organisation which provides hospital transport for people who use Buntingford doctors and who have no other way of getting to their appointments. It relies on volunteer drivers using their own vehicles.

BASH was formed in the 1970s by the then Ward Freman School's PTA and has gone from strength to strength. In a town so poorly served by public transport, many of our users find BASH invaluable. In 2012 we completed over 700 journeys and this year journey numbers are likely to increase by 10%. With an aging population and an expanding town we expect the demand on our service to keep on growing.

Thanks to generous donations from the Buntingford Social Club and the local charity football match organised by the emergency services, we have a financially sound base. But – and it's a big 'BUT' – we do rely on our volunteer drivers to deliver the service.

Unfortunately our driver pool is dwindling and we are currently looking for volunteer drivers who may have time to take a person to a hospital appointment, to the surgery or to visit a sick relative. We cover the cost of petrol and are grateful for any help, even if you can only do the occasional trip.

**CAN YOU HELP? Perhaps you are semi-retired, or between jobs with a bit of time to spare? If you think you can help us please contact:**

**JANE WINTER on 01763 271484 (between 9am and 7pm) for more details.**

### **BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY**

The club held its Annual Bird Show event at Benson Hall in October. A wide selection of birds were exhibited. Many thanks to club members and to the visiting public for making this such a successful day. The prizewinners were:

- ◇ BEST FOREIGN BIRD – Star Finch, D. Lugo
- ◇ BEST BRITISH BIRD – Yellow Bunting, N. Loker
- ◇ BEST CANARY – Border, R. Wallace
- ◇ BEST BUDGERIGAR – Green Spangle, C, Pegrum

The presentations were made by John Bull, who joined as a Junior Member back in the late 1960s.

The club meets regularly on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:00pm in Benson Hall. New members welcome. **Enquiries phone 07834 816456**

**Public consultation from 21st  
October to 31st December 2013**

## The future of Hertfordshire Library Service Have your say



Libraries aren't just about borrowing books any more. We need your help to devise a new 10-year strategy for Hertfordshire Libraries to ensure that our services reflect the changing needs and priorities of local communities.

### **You can have your say by:**

- Completing our questionnaire online at [www.hertsdirect.org/libraries](http://www.hertsdirect.org/libraries)
- Completing a questionnaire at a local or mobile library
- Visit one of our 10 public meetings or one of our library drop-ins

For more information ask a member of staff in your local or mobile library. If you need any help to complete our questionnaire, please call us on **0300 123 4049**.

## **News from Your District Councillor**

At a meeting of the Development Management Committee (DMC) on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, members were asked to approve a proposal by the planning department to 'offer no evidence' at the public inquiry in December for the Taylor Wimpey and Wheatley Homes applications for North & South of Hare Street Road, Buntingford. I am deeply disappointed that East Herts Planning have thrown in the towel over these applications. Buntingford residents, the Town Council, Civic Society and BARD are unanimously against these applications which have previously been firmly rejected by the DMC.



My confidence in our planning department's ability to protect our town is shaken. The department appears to have put a lot of energy into convincing the DMC to give in rather than concentrate on producing evidence to prove that these two sites are among the least favourable for Buntingford and that other applications in the pipeline are preferable. It is a comfort to see that our own Town Council, Civic Society and BARD are continuing to offer their own defence at the inquiry. They have spent a massive amount of time in obtaining evidence and producing a case that clearly demonstrates that these two sites are among the most unsuitable for Buntingford. Let us hope that localism wins the day in December.

### **District Plan**

Your two District Councillors have now had sight of the draft District Plan for East Herts. The details remain confidential until late December, but I can say that the development proposals for Buntingford are 'favourable'.

I would like to wish all residents of Buntingford and surrounding villages a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

**Cllr Jeff Jones**, tel: 01763 274800, email: [jeff.jones@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.jones@eastherts.gov.uk)



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

*A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL*

By the time this article is published we shall be close to the opening of the Public Inquiry into developments North and South of Hare Street Road. Readers will know that East Herts Council has decided not to offer evidence at the inquiry. Hopefully the inquiry will still go ahead with BARD and the Town Council offering evidence against the two developments. This is huge undertaking and considerable work has been undertaken by many people to make our case as strong as possible. December will prove to be an interesting month for the town.

We have received complaints that people are allowing their dogs to run free in Layston Court Gardens. Our bylaw states that dogs must be kept on a lead in the gardens and we would appreciate people observing this law.

We have received requests for a dog bin on the field at the top of London Road. This field is privately owned and it's not possible for the Council to site bins etc. on private land. The recreation fields owned by the Council at Norfolk Road, Hare Street Road and the Community Centre have several dog bins for use when dogs are being exercised.

Once again the Royal British Legion organised a well attended, moving ceremony on Remembrance Sunday. Our thanks go to those who helped with this event. As in previous years it is gratifying to see so many towns' people in attendance.

We have a number of offices in the Manor House available for rent, including a small suite of rooms on the second floor. If you are interested, please call in to the Clerk's Office during office hours and we will be happy to show you around.

**Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE**, Town Clerk

**Office hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00am–5:00pm; closed Fridays**

**Tel: 01763 272222**

**Email: [btc.manorhouse@btclick.com](mailto:btc.manorhouse@btclick.com)**

**Website: [www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk) Twitter: [@buntingfordtc](https://twitter.com/buntingfordtc)**

## **Town Council meetings for December 2013 / January 2014**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | 7:30pm – Amenities Committee                                |
| Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec | 7:00pm – Planning Committee<br>8:00pm – Resources Committee |
| Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan  | 7:30pm – Amenities Committee                                |
| Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan | 7:00pm – Planning Committee<br>8:00pm – Resources Committee |
| Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan | 7:00pm – Planning Committee<br>8:00pm – Full Council        |

All meetings at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The start time for Planning meetings has been changed to 7pm until further notice. Please check the website for updates.

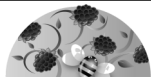
## Buntingford Community Neighbourhood Plan

Under the Localism Act, communities can produce a Neighbourhood Plan, which if adopted by the Local Authority (East Herts) will influence their decision process in respect of development in that community. Buntingford Town Council has linked up with adjoining parishes to consider the production of a Plan for this area. A management team has been formed of a councillor representative from each parish together with a project manager. In addition there is a Forum comprising three representatives from each parish.

There are a number of processes to be gone through and it is envisaged that the Plan will be published in the first quarter of 2015. Residents will be given the opportunity of contributing to the Plan in a number of ways. We have already held an Open Day at which over 200 people came along to look at progress so far. This primarily has concentrated on the analysis of the Call for Sites.

We are now in the process of information gathering about the various services in and supporting the Community. We would like to thank those who have so far completed our forms and urge those who have yet to do so to provide this vital information. Over the next few months we will be producing questionnaires for individual households, local businesses and service providers. If you receive one of these, it will be well worthwhile completing it – names of all those who have completed a questionnaire will be put in a draw for any one of the significant cash prizes. Members of the Forum will attend a meeting on Thursday 23rd January at which the draft questionnaires will be finalised for distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office on **01763 272222**. More information is available on the website: **[www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk)**



**Bramble Hill**  
Children's Centre

**Bramble Hill Children's Centre is based in Mill Close in Buntingford and our main purpose is to offer access to services for children under 5 and their families.**

After Christmas we're starting a new session every Thursday afternoon during term time. **Disco Duck** is aimed at children who are walking and helps them to develop vital skills such as rhythm and timing, balance, coordination and motor skills. The first session will be on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014, 1:45–2:45pm**, at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre in Puckeridge. Sessions cost £2 per family per week and there's no need to book. To find out more, give us a call or email and we'll send you one of our What's On guides. Our **normal sessions** will run up to and including **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**. We **re-start** the groups on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014**.

Search for Bramble Hill Children's Centre on Facebook and 'like' the page to receive updates and information from the centre. If you would like to be included on our mailing list and receive regular updates from the Children's Centre please call us on **01763 273008** or email us at **[bramblehill@ymcacentralherts.org.uk](mailto:bramblehill@ymcacentralherts.org.uk)**

We look forward to seeing you. **[www.bramblehillchildrenscentre.org.uk](http://www.bramblehillchildrenscentre.org.uk)**

# Two Things Uncovered

## Martin & Mandy – Part 45

This month we decided to do something about the threshold at the west door – it looks like separate lumps of concrete and possibly stone have been put there but they are the wrong size to actually fit in the doorway, and were part of works done some years ago so we need to do a bit of cosmetic repair work.

When we were sorting out the floor in the Nave there was a really big stone which marked the place where Edward Saunders of Little Court was buried. There's a lovely memorial to him on the wall in the tower, so he must have been reasonably powerful or important. He died in January 1800 at the ripe old age of 55, you can see all the words on the slate memorial in the tower but the massive floor-stone is really worn, you can only just make out some of the writing on it, but with that information and a little digging through various archives more history comes to light.

He was employed by the East India Company from 1762 and served on the council of Madras for many years, which was one down from being the Governor of Madras; he also married in Madras and raised a family there. In the late 1700s he returned to England, sadly to die a short time later in 1800. While in India he married Helen Turing in August 1773; she was the daughter of Robert Turing, the surgeon at Fort St George, Madras, and they had at least three children – Edward, Robert and Helen. Young Helen married a John Wade in Devon and had twelve (!) children, including three who settled in Standon just up the road.

In 1782 an English East Indiaman called the *Grosvenor* was wrecked just off the South African port of St John's. This wreck is connected with our Edward in a number of ways. His second son Robert was on board and lost his life in the tragedy, his older brother Edward having previously returned to England. The previous Captain of the *Grosvenor* was a relative of Edward's, being Captain David Saunders, and best of all David had a brother called Erasmus which is a great name for a person and I think a fab name for a cat, although Mandy's not keen on shouting that down the garden ...

Anyway, I'm not about to throw out Edward's floor-plate now I know all this, especially as he has a relative called Erasmus, and the plan is to use it as the threshold stone in the west doorway with the remaining writing left intact so he still gets to see the light of



William Godfrey's gravestone

day. Trouble here is that it's VERY heavy and Simon the stonemason scratches his head. We make a template from ply so he can cut the stone down to size where it is rather than move it. Once it's cut to size and ready to move into place we start work on removing the bits of concrete and stone that's already in the west doorway. The largest piece of stone turns out to be a really nice carved gravestone which has been set face down. It is in memory of William Godfrey who died 9<sup>th</sup> May 1727 – or is it 1723? A discussion ensues between me and Steve about 3s and 7s but after bit of a hunt the parish records prove me right and Steve cleans the gravestone and is obliged to admit that it's a 3. William was an innkeeper and was buried on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, two days after he died. Disappointingly we cannot rustle up any more details than that at the moment, but he must have had a bob or two as the gravestone is very nicely carved, including an open book at the top and two skulls facing outwards at the bottom.



Almost no scaffold here

The second thing we uncovered this month was St Bartholomew's itself. Vince from Hertfordshire Scaffolding has been really great over the past few years and has helped out in pretty much any way I've asked him to, and what's more he's not taken me to the cleaners pricewise. It's another example of a small firm from just round the corner doing a great job. So his chaps turn up and start to remove all the outside scaffold; I've had to move some of the cctv cameras that were fixed to it so these are now fixed to the building.

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the removal of scaffold – it's odd how each big stage of the build process either makes the place look a lot smaller than it was (erecting block work walls does that) or makes it look much bigger, and no scaffold makes the place look MASSIVE. The windows really work and now they can be seen from the outside it's even more amazing how the double glazing just disappears. I was hoping that it would not be that noticeable, and I'm pleased to say that you really have to be up against the glass to figure out just what's going on.

The building seems to have changed again with

Now I have Vince's chaps and a massive pile of scaffold inside the hoarding and so the next stage is to build a lightweight deck inside the Nave so we can get cracking on the ceiling of the Nave and all the services that feed the upper floor. This they duly do over the next few days and the next thing you know all the scaffold from the outside is now on the inside. Onwards and forwards.

For more history and information related to St Bartholomew's, visit:

**[www.layston-church.org.uk](http://www.layston-church.org.uk)** or follow us on **Twitter@layston\_herts**



# Edwinstree Middle School



Edwinstree's P.E. Department has had a busy few weeks, starting with Year 8 competing in the district hockey tournament at Leventhorpe, where they fought off competition to take first place. Years 5 and 6 attended the Sainsburys school games tag rugby event at Royston Heath where both teams got through to the semi-finals.



The Year 8 girls' hockey team who were victorious at Leventhorpe (above) and girls and boys from Years 5 & 6 who reached the tag rugby semi-finals at Royston Heath (below).

Edwinstree also hosted a Year 3 and 4 tag rugby tournament for surrounding primary schools, with 20 sports leaders from Year 8 helping to run the festival. Our Year 8 rugby team took part in district rugby at Jobbers Wood. They played seven games and came a well-deserved 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. Year 7 and 8 travelled to Hockerill for the district championships and several pupils finished in the top 15 of their category. Congratulations to all the students who have represented Edwinstree so well in these events.



Year 7 held their annual fundraising fete for Action Aid. Stalls included face and nail painting, beat the goalie, stocks, splat the man, lemon bobbing, chubby bunny (below left) and bean bags in a bucket. Together with a non-uniform day, cake sales (below right) and collections, a fantastic total of £1556.73 was raised. Cheques have been sent off to Action Aid and Kandelight.



Tutor group 6C led a collective worship celebrating Black History Month. Madam C.J. Walker (first black female self-made millionaire), Rosa Parkes, Nelson Mandela, Usain Bolt, Sislen Allen (first black woman police officer) and Bob Marley were all featured. Ian Dunne visited the school to perform an enjoyable Science Show in which he included many fascinating experiments with added humour. Economic Well Being Day was also held over two days with the whole school taking part in money related subjects.

Our music department showcased the talents of their pianists, guitarists and singers and we welcomed the Year 9 Freman College ukulele group. The session finished with Year 5 playing xylophones and xlockenspeils and singing 'Stars Hide Your Fires'. Looking ahead, our annual **Christmas concert** is being held on **17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December**.

**Diane George**



### **Sports Hall update**

Work on the new Sports Hall is now nearing completion. The four classrooms upstairs have been painted, carpeted and fitted out with desks, chairs and whiteboards. The viewing gallery has a fabulous amount of light from five big windows overlooking the hall. Downstairs in the changing rooms the plumbers have worked hard installing

showers and toilets. The fitness suite will be a great space – although it is likely that it will take a while longer to fully kit this room out.

The PE Department are ready to move in to their new PE Office and are busy creating new lesson plans for the additional opportunities the enormous new sports hall will provide for Freman students. The old gym is



as long as the new sports hall is wide! The floor of the hall is now down, dry, painted and ready for action. Fundraising for equipment continues – many thanks to all who supported our recent fantastic evening of rock and roll with The Overtures.

We are delighted that the wider community appears to be as excited as we are that Buntingford will at long last have a sports hall. Barley Cricket Club, Buntingford Cougars (who have sponsored new 5-a-side goals and balls), Buntingford Cricket Club, Buntingford 6-a-side league, Hormead Hares, Reed Cricket Club, Standon & Puckeridge Football Club and a new U12s-U16s Futsal club all express interest in using the facilities from 7<sup>th</sup> January. For details of evening and weekend availability, please contact Sam Allan via the College Office.

**Thinking of others** – In time-honoured tradition, Freman students will turn their thoughts to others in the creation of 'Christmas Hampers' which are distributed to elderly folk in the local community. Tutor groups compete to make the most magical creation to win the title of 'best hamper'. It's certainly a highlight of the year! May I take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Helen Loughran, Headteacher, and all the staff at Freman College**

Hello Journal Readers – We hope you get to read this before the Buntingford late night Christmas shopping event on 29th November so that you can come

and visit us on our stall on the High Street. We will offer you a warm welcome and the opportunity to find out a little of what we do at the attend2health clinic. Alongside all our usual treatments we have now welcomed a new therapist, Maureen Clark, who offers **CranioSacral Therapy** on Fridays between 3pm and 8pm. The treatment is very gentle and can have great benefits for those who suffer frequent headaches or migraines. For a limited period we are offering half-hour taster sessions for just **£15 for 30 minutes**.

If you have someone on your Christmas shopping list who is difficult to buy for why not treat them to an attend2health Gift Voucher which they can exchange for a relaxing massage, some reflexology, an Alexander Technique session, or another of our popular therapies? Call in to **58 High Street** to find out more or call us on **01763 878087**.

***We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year***

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY CURWENS, A LOCAL FIRM OF SOLICITORS WITH OFFICES IN ROYSTON, HODDESDON AND ENFIELD

## **Is marriage becoming a thing of the past?**

**Cohabitation**, where couples live together without being married or in a civil partnership, is the fastest-growing family type in the UK today. In 2012, there were 5.9 million people cohabiting – double the 1996 figure.

Many people believe, incorrectly, that cohabitants have the same rights as married couples, but this is not the case. Upon separation one party could find themselves in a difficult financial position and even forced to leave the property they considered to be their home. It is possible to live together with someone for decades and even to have children together, and then simply walk away without taking any responsibility for a former partner's welfare. Most people agree that is simply wrong.

**Resolution**, the national body representing family lawyers and advisers, has been campaigning for a change in the law to reflect this increasing demographic group. At the recent Lib Dem Party conference Resolution carried out a survey which revealed that 69% of the MPs agree there is a mistaken belief in the existence of '**common law marriage**' and over half believe the law needs to be changed to provide greater protection for unmarried couples upon separation.

Government change is likely to take many years, but in the meantime there is a way to protect your position. Cohabiting couples can enter into a cohabitation agreement – simply confirming an agreed and fair approach to be taken if they ever separate.

*At Curwens LLP, we are always happy to have an initial chat on the telephone to run through what help individuals might need. So if you have any questions or concerns on the issues raised here, or on another legal matter, give us a ring on **01992 463727** or have a look at our website: **www.curwens.co.uk***

Curwens will be at the Hoddesdon Christmas Shopping Event, Sat 30th November, 1–5pm. There will be stalls, music, reindeer and the Christmas lights will be turned on. So if you would like to meet Curwens in a less formal atmosphere, why not go along.

# EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

## Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

## Telephone:

08444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



## Child Contact with Fathers

**My relationship with my partner has broken down and we have two small children. I'm really worried that if this goes to court the judge will favour the children's mother over me as their father for residence decisions, and that I won't be able to afford a lawyer who can make sure that I keep my children living with me.**

**What should I do?**

It is not always possible, but the best option is for you to come to an agreement with your partner about the care of your children. Where this doesn't resolve the issue, the next step is to get the help of a local family mediation service. Decisions made with this service are not automatically legally binding but it can be very helpful if you can use the opportunity to avoid the costly and sometimes acrimonious court system. It is also necessary to attempt mediation before taking the dispute to court.

As an unmarried father, you won't automatically have a right to a say in your child's future, even though you may be financially supporting them. This will depend on whether you have parental responsibility for your child. If you were named on your child's birth certificate since 2003, you'll automatically have parental responsibility. But don't worry if you haven't got it this way – there are other ways you can get it, including asking to the court for an order.

If you are still can't agree about arrangements for your children, you may have to consider going to court as a last resort. But remember, this will cost you a lot of money and may take a long time. If you want the children to live with you, you'll need to apply for a residence order. If the children will be living with their mother, you'll need to apply for a contact order. This will set out the kind of contact you'll have with your children, for example how often you can see them or take them away on holiday. It can be a good idea to apply to the court for both a contact order and a parental responsibility order at the same time, if you haven't already got parental responsibility.

Legal aid is not available for the court proceedings of private family law cases. However you may be able to get legal aid to pay for help solving your dispute out of court, through a family mediation service, so this can be the ideal way to make arrangements for your children. Family mediation is an alternative to solicitors negotiating for you but not a substitute for legal advice. You will be encouraged to consult a solicitor during the mediation process to advise you on the personal consequences of your decisions. At the end of mediation, the decisions you have reached can be used as the basis for a divorce settlement, or a legal separation agreement. You can find out more about the availability of legal aid for family mediation at [www.familymediationhelpline.co.uk](http://www.familymediationhelpline.co.uk), or on the National Family Mediation website at [www.nfm.org.uk](http://www.nfm.org.uk).

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## BUNTINGFORD ADULT LEARNING FOR FUN (BALFF)

New ten-week course starts 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014

### ON WITH THE SHOW: The Story of Musical Theatre

Musical theatre has been described as one of the few all-American art forms – which conveniently forgets that its origins were as much in European opera and operetta as vaudeville and the minstrel show. In this course, we'll trace the development of the musical from those beginnings through the heyday of the Ziegfeld revues, the advent of the integrated musical play with Rodgers and Hammerstein, and the sharp, sophisticated offerings of Broadway's golden decade – the 1950s – which brought such classic shows as 'Guys and Dolls', 'The Music Man' and 'Bye Bye Birdie'.

We'll look at the slow death of the musical in the 1970s and its resurrection in the hands of British upstarts led by Andrew Lloyd Webber, as well as the rise and fall of the Hollywood musical, which reached a far wider audience than Broadway could ever claim. With extracts on tape and video, we will pay tribute to the creative forces of musical theatre – directors, choreographers, librettists and above all songwriters – and consider what's next for this curiously hybrid yet enduring theatrical form.

We meet on Wednesday morning at the Community Centre, Luynes Rise, Buntingford, starting at 10.30am, but serve coffee before the lectures start. If anyone is interested in joining us do just come along, you will be made very welcome.

**For further information please phone  
Julia Peacock on 01763 272584 or Joan on 273341**

**ih Isabel Hospice**  
Local Care for Local People since 1982

*For listings of all events, visit the website  
[www.isabelhospice.org.uk](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk)*

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Nov – LIGHTS OF LOVE, BUNTINGFORD, 5.50pm at the Manor House**

Join us in remembering loved ones and friends who will not be with us this Christmas. Names will be entered in a Book of Love, which following the ceremony will be at the Isabel Hospice shop. [maria.alexander@isabelhospice.org.uk](mailto:maria.alexander@isabelhospice.org.uk)

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – HOLLY FAIR, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, 10.00am–12.00noon**

Get in the festive mood at St Michael's Church, Windhill.

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec – THE SANTA RUN, WELWYN GARDEN CITY, 11.00am**

A festive 2km family fun run (or walk) at Stanborough Lake. Tickets £15 adults, £10 for 9-14 year old, £5 under-9s, which includes a Santa suit for adults and teens and a Rudolph suit for children. You can sign up online at: [www.hatfieldrotary.org.uk](http://www.hatfieldrotary.org.uk)

**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec – CAROLS IN THE CHAPEL, HAILEYBURY, 7.00pm**

An enchanting evening of carols by candlelight followed by festive refreshments. Contact [katie.robertson@isabelhospice.org.uk](mailto:katie.robertson@isabelhospice.org.uk)

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014 – AN EVENING OF LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT, 7.30–10.30pm**

At Haileybury College. Tickets £25, to include a light buffet supper. Music will include Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue'. Contact [katie.robertson@isabelhospice.org.uk](mailto:katie.robertson@isabelhospice.org.uk)

# Christmastime in Braughing

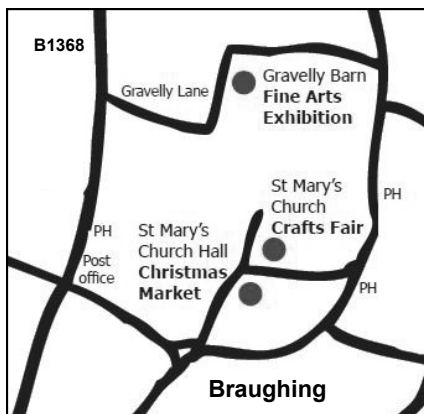
## Christmastime @ Gravelly Barn

SG11 2RD

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**  
**10.30am–4.30pm**

Exhibition of fine arts  
by local artists

All profits to Breakthrough Breast Cancer  
& traffic calming signs for Braughing



## Food Market

**St Mary's Church Hall: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 11am–4pm**

Quality foods & Christmas gifts made in the village from local produce. Free tasters to help you choose. Tea & mince pies.

All proceeds to the Friends of St Mary's

## Braughing Crafts Fair

**St Mary's Church: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 11am–4pm**

Hand-made gifts, crafts & home wares by local people.

All proceeds to St Mary's Church and the Friends of St Mary's

## Monthly Gift & Produce Fair in Buntingford

On the first Saturday of each month, from 11am to 2pm, you will find a range of goods on sale in Benson Hall, including cupcakes, jewellery, cards, jams & pickles, children's hand-made clothes, sweets and more - you can even try decorating pottery. Pick up a bargain and support your local traders. Try your luck in our charity raffle raising money each month for a different local charity. Hope to see you there.

Check it out on Facebook at **Buntingford Gift & Produce Fair**

Or email [buntsgift-producefair@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:buntsgift-producefair@hotmail.co.uk)



# Millfield First and Nursery School



[www.millfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk)

All the children in KS1 and KS2 are working on their topics of Fairy Tales and enjoying a range of activities including role play and story writing. The Eco-Action Team have once more held a Bag 2 School collection and we were pleased that so many filled bags were brought into school. Our mixed age 'Friendship Ladder' groups met for the first time this academic year and had a great time creating framed pictures of their group. These are now on display around the school.

This week a group from Glaxo Smith Kline spent the day in school undertaking a series of Maths and Science activities with all the KS2 children. It was a fun and informative day for all the children and we appreciate the staff of GSK giving up their time in this way.



The GSK Science Day

We have once more taken part in the 'Operation Christmas Child' Christmas appeal. Our pile of filled shoeboxes is waiting to be collected and taken to some of the neediest areas of the world. We are also taking part in the annual BBC 'Children in Need' Day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, with the School Council selling key rings and wristbands to raise money.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November we are holding our annual non-uniform day when we ask the children to bring a filled Christmas Stocking or Cracker to school for the stall at the PTA Christmas Fair the following day, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, alongside the usual good range of local craft stalls and favourites such as the raffle, tombola and a visit from Santa! By the time you read this, the Fair will have already taken place.

Planning for Christmas is well underway. Foundation Stage is performing 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel', whilst KS1 and KS2 are staging 'Puss In Boots'. We feel sure that all our

parents will enjoy seeing their children on stage! In addition we will be holding our annual Carol Service and Year 4 will be visiting Nevetts Residential Home, the Day Care Centre and Dixon Place to sing carols.

If you would like to know more about our school please visit our website or contact the school on 01763 271717.



Millfield pupils enjoying the friendship ladder activity

**Kathy Willett,  
Headteacher**



# Buntingford Swimming Club



The Swimming Club held its **37th Annual General Meeting and Presentation Evening** on Friday 22nd November.

The Club's hotly contested Club Championships were in September/October and Richard Moody presented the winners with their awards following the AGM.

**The Age Group Champions Trophy** winners were: *Girls under-10*: Jessica Barker; *Boys under-10*: Adam Hazelwood/Thomas Ryman (joint 1st); *Girls under-12*: Katie Egerton; *Boys under-12*: Finn Leuzzi; *Girls under-14*: Katie Foster; *Boys under-14*: Isaac Perry; *Girls under-16*: Kimberley Gibb; *Boys under-16*: Ben Moody; *Girls Open*: Aimee Norman; *Boys Open*: Matt Coote. **The Mayors Trophy** was awarded to Beverley Dickens for her outstanding commitment to the club in 2013. **The Global Travel Award** for good attitude and effort by a female swimmer was awarded to Fran Negus. **The Harpenden Kitchens Award** for good attitude and effort by a male swimmer was awarded to Parth Nakum. **The Beverley Carr Cups** for most improved girl and boy swimmers were awarded to Abigail Godbert and Andrew Dickens. The **Girls Junior Team Captain** for 2013 is Abigail Godbert and the **Senior Team Captain** is Kimberly Gibb. The **Boys Junior Team Captain** is James Barker and the **Senior Team Captain** is Matt Cooke.

If you would like information about how to join the Club, please e-mail the Team Manager David Carr at [davidacarr58@gmail.com](mailto:davidacarr58@gmail.com)

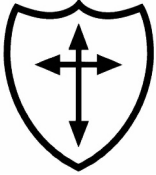
## It's Raining Tears

It's raining cats and dogs, so they say,  
the raindrops are tears shed when cats and dogs slip away.  
As anyone knows when your pet has died,  
the loss is so painful it doesn't go when you've cried.  
The tears flow freely, just like the rain,  
and you feel you will never be happy again.  
Let's enjoy, love and care for our pets while they're living.  
Give them food, warmth and hugs, they'll be so giving.  
If you know someone whose pet has just died,  
show kindness and help dry the 'rain' that they've cried.

## Please read this ... Thank You!

What ever happened to 'thank you' and 'please'?  
We still say 'Bless You' to answer a sneeze.  
We still say 'Excuse Me' to catch someone's eye,  
or if we knock someone's arm as we pass by.  
Please and Thank You are becoming unspoken.  
We may get a nod, or a wave, just a token.  
Please remember that children hear it all.  
And thank you for hearing my polite call.

Teresa Bonner Poems



# Layston C of E First School

[www.layston.herts.sch.uk](http://www.layston.herts.sch.uk)

*Loving to Learn, Learning to Love  
For every child a chance to shine*

We have a packed schedule this term with many things achieved and many things to come. At Layston we have an established Wildwood area at the top of the school field with a wildflower meadow, paths through the trees and a fenced off wildlife pond. In the coming months the site will be enhanced with a log circle and a place for a camp fire.

This half term we introduced 'Forest School' and our PTA bought class sets of waterproof jackets and trousers to support this learning. From the very first session, Forest School aims to increase each child's confidence, self-esteem and independence. The children learn by doing, talking and taking on challenges, enabling each child to reach their full potential. The learning happens not in the confines of four walls but in the open natural forest, giving each child a chance to express themselves in a way they might not be able to within a classroom setting. "If you close your eyes it sounds like the sea with the wind rustling through the trees" (Year 2 child).

Enabling the children to share their learning within the community is important to us and with this in mind we have made our own Christmas CD recording, with each class and our

choir contributing. The completed CD for sale features a striking design by a child in Year 3. The children's artistic talents have been further utilised in designing a poster to promote St Peter's Church Christmas services. By way of a thank you, the Rev. Ian Hill and church wardens have provided a book for each child in recognition of the care and thoughtfulness that went into the project, as well as specific book prizes for the winning entries.



Recording the Layston School Christmas CD

To celebrate anti-bullying week, which we call 'Friendship Week',

all the children participated in a performing arts presentation called 'Outside the Circle'. This explored the nature of friendship and that if you really want to be a friend you need to know the things you have in common but also need to enjoy the things that makes each one of us special. Some of the children's reflection included: "It is special that we live in God's world." "Friendship is about community and not being pushed away." "It's about friends and not being left out by them."

Indeed we have plenty to be inclusive about. Our Christmas production of 'The Black Shadow', with performances scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December, is being enthusiastically practised, meticulously planned and eagerly awaited by the whole community. A new interschool sports league began competitive fixtures between local schools in November. And we have our Christmas fete, Christmas class parties, the school Christmas dinner,

plus some excellent in-school workshops from 'History off the Page' and 'Science Boffins' all to look forward to. As a Year 4 child put it, the final part of the Autumn term will be "fun, fantastic and fulsome".

In January we will be benefitting from an extension of the provision offered through our partnership with the two external Early Years providers who share our site – Layston pre-school and Buntings. A **grand opening day** is planned for **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014**; details are on our website or ring 01763 271235 for any information about our school.

Another new venture for us early in 2014 is a two-day **school-and-community arts project on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January**. We will be creating giant 3D murals to celebrate our English countryside providing opportunities for reflection and wonder on the nature of Creation and Stewardship in the context of sustainability. In a world where self-interest is rife, that children can foster compassion for one another and their world is both important and timely. Through participating in national fundraising and disaster relief appeals we empower our children to understand that their actions can make a positive difference.



Embracing Pudsey Bear and fundraising to help others

Our Christian value this half term is 'Humility'. As we look forward to advent and the birth of Christ we are reminded that Jesus chose the way of humility and poverty and embraced the sick, lonely, poor and dispossessed. As a school community we look forward to celebrating Christmas at Church on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December in a child-centred version of the 'nine lessons and carols' service, sharing the wonder and simplicity of that First Christmas with our parent community. All that remains is for me to wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

**Myra Bloomfield, Headteacher**

LAYSTON SCHOOL PTA  
**CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

At LAYSTON SCHOOL 2pm–4pm

FATHER CHRISTMAS \* HOOPLA \* TOMBOLA  
GRAND DRAW \* LUCKY DIP \* TOYS & BOOKS  
REFRESHMENTS \* CARDS \* LUCKY LOLLIES  
and lots more stalls! *All profits to the PTA*



Season's greetings to you all. Membership fees for 2014 are due in January. They remain at £12.50 per year, £9 if you belong to another U3A and

already pay an affiliation fee. At our 9<sup>th</sup> December meeting Mark Davis will be speaking on 'The Story of Two Warrior Queens' and there will also be wine, nibbles and mince pies. On 13<sup>th</sup> January, Susan Brunskill will give a talk on 'Educating Children in Nepal' and on 10<sup>th</sup> February there will be an 'Enactment of a Mock Court & Jury'. All at Seth Ward Community Centre, SG9 9SG, starting at 2pm; visitors £2.

Contact Val Reedman on **01763 272135** or go to our website:

**[www.buntingfordu3a.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordu3a.co.uk)**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 10 Dec, 21 Jan<br>Contact Carol McKimmie    | Walking Group (2 hours plus)<br>01763 271054   | 9:50am –12:00noon                                    |
| Individual sessions Weds<br>Contact Colin Gibbons                    | Family History<br>01763 271398   | In Buntingford                                       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 16 Dec, 18 Jan<br>Contact Alan Rumble      | Computers (all levels) £3<br>01920 823608  | 2:00–4:00pm<br>Seth Ward Community Centre            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday, 10 Jan, 8 Feb<br>Contact Roy Ellard          | Digital photography £3<br>01763 271578   | 2:00–4:00pm in URCH<br>buntingfordphoto@gmail.com    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues<br>Contact Christine Jeffries | Singing for Pleasure<br>01763 273466   | 2:00–4:00pm<br>Wyddial                               |
| Varies<br>Contact Evelyn Smith                                       | Social Outings<br>01763 272241   | Varies   |
| Mondays<br>Contact Dave Austin                                       | Keep Fit £2<br>01763 272066  | 10:00–11:30am<br>Seth Ward Community Centre          |
| Friday (not school hols)<br>Contact Rosemary Poulton                 | Pilates: £33 for 6 sessions<br>01763 271598  | 1:30–2:30pm<br>Seth Ward Community Centre            |
| Every Wednesday<br>Contact Dave Austin                               | Table Tennis £2<br>01763 272066  | 2:00–3:00pm<br>Seth Ward Community Centre            |
| Contact Ron Brighten   | Quizzes<br>01763 273175  | Teams for local quizzes, as they are advertised      |
| Contact Jean Cook  | Discovering London coach trips<br>01763 271495   | About every 3 months.<br>Please phone to go on list  |
| Contact John Cook  | Cycling<br>01920 821755  | Social cycling & meal;<br>phone for details          |
| Mondays<br>Contact Colin Meehan                                      | Ukulele Group: £12 for 6 weeks.<br>Need to buy ukulele but can try first. 01763 274216 | 4:00–5:00pm<br>Seth Ward Community Centre            |
| Tuesdays 1<br>Contact Alan Smith                                     | Bridge £2<br>01763 287657  | 10:00am<br>Benson Hall, Buntingford                  |
| Usually last Thursday<br>Contact Dave Austin (Dec 5)                 | Wine Appreciation; price varies,<br>approx. £6; 01763 272066                           | 8:00–10:00pm<br>Seth Ward Community Centre           |
| 3rd Friday, 2–3:30pm (not Dec); Jean Devenish                        | Psychology of Life<br>01763 271783   | Edwinstree School<br>Parents' Room; 50p              |
| FRENCH FOR BEGINNERS   | THIS GROUP HOPES TO<br>START IN 2014   | Phone 01763 271783, or check for updates on website. |

## Royston and District Ramblers Group

### Walks for DECEMBER 2013

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** Weston, 9 miles, David 01763 247572  
**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup>** Howlett End, 6 miles, Martin 01763 838190 / 07565 578074  
**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup>** Litlington, 6 miles, Margaret 01763 256788 / 07939 233697  
**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>** Colliers End & Standon, 10 miles, Paul 01763 244038 / 07960 957432  
**Tues 10<sup>th</sup>** Langley Lower Green, 5 miles, Eric 01763 848576 / 07504 562785  
**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>** Great Chishill, 6 miles, Jackie 01763 260809 / 07817 044385  
**Sat 14<sup>th</sup>** Bring & Share lunch, 3 miles, morning walk led by Eric.  
Contact Tricia 01438 880553 / 07983 814315  
**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>** High Cross, 12 miles, George 01763 242281 / 07974 026348  
**Tues 17<sup>th</sup>** Croydon, 6 miles, John & Hilary 01223 871244 / 07875 629713  
**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup>** Barkway, 6 miles, Jenny 01763 245969 / 07815 942225  
**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>** Royston, Barley, 10 miles, David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026  
**Wed 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day – Welwyn, 6 miles, Edward 01438 226590  
**Sun 29<sup>th</sup>** Dassels & Hare Street, 8 miles, David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026  
**Tues 31<sup>st</sup>** Rushden to Therfield, 6 miles, David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026

### Walks for JANUARY 2014

- Wed 1<sup>st</sup>** New Year's Lunch following morning walk led by Tricia – max 20.  
01438 880553 / 07983 814315  
**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup>** Nuthampstead, 5 miles, Lesley 07734 111225  
**Sun 5<sup>th</sup>** Baldock, Watlington, 9 miles, David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026  
**Tues 7<sup>th</sup>** Great Chishill, 6 miles, Graham 01763 838300 / 07940 545729  
**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup>** Halls Green, 6 miles, Paul 01763 271896 / 07785 310117  
**Sun 12<sup>th</sup>** Whaddon, 12 miles, Vince 01763 241092  
**Tues 14<sup>th</sup>** Radwinter, 6 miles, Martin 01763 838190 / 07565 578074  
**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup>** Much Hadham, 5 miles, Paul 01763 271896 / 07785 310117  
**Sat 18<sup>th</sup>** Area AGM, Woolmer Green, 6 miles, Mike 01763 271896 / 07952 495585  
**Sun 19<sup>th</sup>** Wrestlingworth, 10 miles, Lorraine 01763 242054 / 07890 325735  
**Tues 21<sup>st</sup>** Meldreth, 6 miles, Rama 01763 260565 / 07549 155396  
**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup>** Whittlesford & Pampisford, 6 miles, Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715  
**Sun 26<sup>th</sup>** Gosmore, Preston, Ley Green, Great Offley, Charlton, 10 miles,  
Christine 01462 734298 / 07986 597271  
**Tues 28<sup>th</sup>** Elsworth, 6 miles, John & Hilary 01223 871244 / 07875 629713  
**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup>** Shepreth Frog End, 6 miles, Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715

**Unless otherwise stated, Tuesday & Thursday are morning walks,  
Sunday walks are all day.**

For meeting points and starting times, contact the walk leader or visit the website:

**[www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk](http://www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk)**

Click on 'Groups' and then on 'Royston' to find full details

# A New Chimney Sweep in Town

When Ross Craddock was made redundant from his job as a recruitment consultant a couple of months ago, he didn't mope around. The idea came to him to retrain as a chimney sweep – well, to be more precise, it came to his 'better half' Vicky who had been struggling to find a chimney sweep to clean their own chimney at home.

Ross set about searching the internet for suitable courses and came across the Institute of Chimney Sweeps (ICS) based in Maidenhead in Kent. (No, I didn't know such an organisation existed either until I talked to Ross for this article!) The training covered the history of chimney sweeps as well as the hands-on practical side of things and he emerged a fully qualified member of the ICS. This is particularly important for his future customers because it means his work is certified and signed off for insurance purposes.

Ross offers a chimney sweeping service not just for open fires but also for woodburning and multi-fuel stoves, Aga and Rayburn cooking ranges, gas fires and oil flues. In addition he can carry out CCTV inspections of chimneys and report on possible faults. He has invested in the latest 'power sweeping' technology which is far more efficient than the traditional rod method, removing blockages and the thick 'clink' to leave the chimney 70 per cent cleaner. Other essential equipment he had to buy includes his van and, most important, his 'man hoover', aka a Kerstar.

As far as possible Ross has used local traders to supply himself with gear and intends to build on these relationships as his business grows – for example, by calling on local roofers and builders when new chimney stacks or other repairs are needed. For now, he would like in particular to thank local creative designer Louis Dyke for designing the 'Blue Frog' logo, promotional fliers and website for the business.



## BUNTINGFORD CHIMNEY SERVICES

he will be taking another training course, this time at Capel Manor gardening school, a centre of excellence just down the A10. As you might expect, the course includes thorough training on felling trees and the safe use and maintenance of chainsaws, but even more time – 8 full days – will be spent on the techniques of safely climbing trees. Ross hopes to build on the tree surgery side of the business to source and sell logs – once people have burnt his logs to keep warm over winter he'll go back in spring and clean their chimneys. I think that's what might be called an all-round business plan.

The name 'Blue Frog' is not, perhaps, the first that would spring to mind for a chimney sweep, so I asked where it came from. It turns out that a friend who is a keen photographer had taken a picture of a blue frog on holiday and Ross and Vicky loved it. Their first idea was that it would make a great name for a barbecue beach bar, but there's not much call for that in Buntingford. The chimney sweep business came along and they thought – why not?

Ross's ambitions do not stop there. For many years he has dreamed of being a tree surgeon so in December



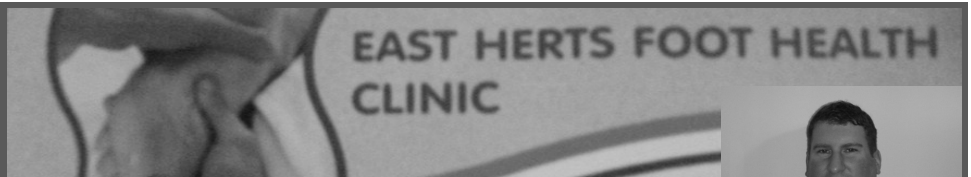
Ross is already a familiar face to many people in Buntingford as he has lived here almost all his life – his parents moved here from Harlow when he was just 6 years old. It seems fitting, then, that he should spot a gap in the services available and start up a much-needed local business. And he has one last trick up his sleeve that could appeal even to those who don't have a real fire in their home – he'll be available for hire, at special rates, as a 'lucky chimney sweep' at weddings. So whatever you need a chimney sweep for, look no further – check out the Blue Frog website for more information or ring Ross on the number below.

Christine Noble

**Ross Craddock 07443 610987 / Buntingford Chimney Services**

**The Buntingford Journal is delivered FREE to members of the Civic Society or it can be purchased from:**

**A CUT ABOVE • BASRA'S SUPERMARKET • THE CO-OP  
COUNTRY FLOWERS • DELISSIMO • FLUTTERBY'S  
MARK DOEL • PIGGOTTS • THE FOX AT ASPENDEN**



## **HOME VISITING FOOT HEALTHCARE STEPS INTO BUNTINGFORD**

Foot healthcare can often involve a painful walk to the nearest chiropodist or foot health clinic, but now East Herts Foot Health Clinic, a company originating in Ware, has expanded its service to Buntingford and surrounding villages, offering diagnosis and treatment in your own home. A home foot-care service is not just a convenience – for the less mobile, the elderly, or people in rural areas who lack transport, it's a necessity.

Barry Saggars SAC (dipl), the clinic's proprietor (pictured), quotes Leonardo da Vinci who described the human foot as 'a masterpiece of engineering and a work of art'. "But", says Barry, "like most engineering, feet require maintenance... I really enjoy the work – as well as treating and helping people, the visits actually become very social because people are relaxed in the comfort of their own homes. I try to offer good value ... and am more than happy to give over-60 and group discounts."

For more information on the home visiting foot care service and what it costs, contact Barry on **07733 233044** or by email at: [easthertsfoothealthclinic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:easthertsfoothealthclinic@yahoo.co.uk)

# ANSTEY FIRST SCHOOL

[www.anstey.herts.sch.uk](http://www.anstey.herts.sch.uk)

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of Autumn term we are looking at bridges – from the tiny one over the River Bone in Braughing to the spectacular San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge. We are planning a trip to the New River in Enfield (did you know it was designed during the reign of James I?) which has many bridges for us to consider. As a preamble, we spent a very wet afternoon in Royston following the trail of blue plaques showing us where King James held his court and regularly indulged his love of outdoor pursuits on the Heath.

Following on from the success of our Country Fun Day when many of us brought our pets into school, one of our Y3 pupils brought his pets for a visit: two Shetland ponies and a rescue donkey made quite an impression.

A new pupil has joined us from Hungary and has been entered into The Happy Book for his amazing ability to settle in so well whilst learning our language so quickly.

Arising from recent world events, the children of our School Council feel the need to help with the Philippines' Typhoon Appeal and are looking at ways to do this, starting with a non-uniform day. If any local residents wish to add to this, please feel free to send/drop donations into the office – a receipt will be provided.

To round off our Anstey Village Study, Wise Owl class took time out to sit at 'the bench' overlooking the local fields where they made sketches of the view. Imagine our delight when a herd of deer strolled into view to complete the rural scene. Perhaps they were getting ready to pull Santa's sleigh to our **Christmas Fair**?

Please come along and see Santa at our **Christmas Fair in Anstey Village Hall, 4–7pm on Friday 6 December**. It is always a lovely evening with seasonal refreshments,



Wise Owl pupils sketching the view from the bench in Anstey village



Some very special visitors to Anstey School!



treats, shopping and decorations

to enjoy. There will be gift stalls, sweetie and traditional tombolas, a raffle, mulled wine, turkey rolls, hot chocolate and much more.

Anstey First School is a very small school in a wonderful rural setting with our own pre-school, nursery, holiday play scheme, community centre and wrap-around care. If you would like to find out more about us, or offer to help as a volunteer, please call **01763 848 346** or email [admin@anstey.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@anstey.herts.sch.uk).

**Paul Larkey, Headteacher**

## BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS CLUB



We were all set for our monthly meeting when up pops an email telling us that our speaker was unable to come due to ill health. Should the committee members take half a dozen name and phone numbers and cancel this month's meeting? No, can't do that as there's money to collect for the Christmas market trip at St Albans. We also needed to remind everyone what to bring for the December meeting. Then along comes Myra with a good suggestion: why not ask Roy and Marian to present a talk on their trip to Kenya?

Immediately we were transported to the other side of the world to a most marvellous place. Imagine being surrounded by lush greenery, which at times looked like the Hertfordshire countryside but then there were incredible photographic pictures of all the wild animals that most people only see at a zoo or on television. No, they did not show us their holiday slides but took us along an incredible journey that most will only dream of taking. Lions and cheetahs so close that you can almost stroke the beautiful fur. Elephants roaming the terrain and the baby elephants so small they can walk underneath the grown-ups in the herd. Birds so beautifully coloured that it looks like someone has just got a paint brush and daubed the feathers with the colours of the rainbow. Even the vultures have a beauty all of their own. Hundreds of bison and buffalo roaming across the countryside, all on the lookout for the animals that see them as 'lunch'. Zebras sniffing the water for the smell of predators, not venturing into the water until they are as sure as they can be that there are no crocodiles waiting to pounce. Even so, our intrepid two witnessed a kill of a zebra at the river's edge. It makes the weekly trip to your local supermarket seem most tame, but then that's another kind of wolf in sheep clothing. The guides on this safari were the Maasai, a race of people who only kill when necessary and are great conservationists too. What a smashing evening we had. Thanks Marian and Roy.

Next month's meeting is our Christmas Party. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

**Heather Pope**

**Club enquiries to Janet Murrells, Chairwoman, 01763 274341**

If you would like your event in the Buntingford Journal  
contact **Christine Noble** on 01763 273095  
email: [Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

## **BURNS NIGHT!** in Reed Village Hall **Saturday 25th January 2014 from 8pm**

Haggis or Sausage supper with the usual veg and typical Scottish dessert.

**BAR, RAFFLE, MUSIC AND PICTURE QUIZ**

If you have some tartan, even if only a tie or ribbon, please wear it.

**Tickets £12.00, children half price, from Hazel on 01763 848349**

# Is There Gold Top?

There is something comforting about waking in the early hours on a cold winter's morning and hearing the silent crunch of wheels on snow. So you snuggle down and wait to hear the plod of boots on the soft frost and the anticipated moment when the double tinkle of two bottles clinking together. Then the retreating measured tread and the slowly increasing whine as the milk float makes its way to the end of the road. So you drift back to sleep for another couple of hours in the certain knowledge that when you open the door the snow will have covered the footprints and there on the step are two pristine white bottles of fresh milk. Magic!

We have always enjoyed the service of home-delivered milk and our milkman, whilst we never see him, provides fresh milk on a daily basis no matter what the weather and appears to do it all without the razzmatazz of the home delivery services that the large supermarkets provide and you don't have to pay a standing delivery charge. Of course the product might cost a little extra but it's worth every penny, especially as it is the original green recyclable product! No messy wasteful packaging, just rinse the bottle under the tap and put it on the step. It's a mystery to me why all households don't use this service, perhaps it's the way they advertise – or maybe it's a sign of changing times. We order foreign products – takeaway Chinese, Pizzas, Kebabs etc. – on a daily basis, yet not our home-grown milk.

Way back when, my grandfather milked cows on the local farm in the village where I grew up, not far from here, and the milk was delivered by Dixie Dean the milkman. The creamy fresh liquid was poured into churns which were loaded onto his cart and taken round the village; at each house he decanted the milk into small white enamel cans. Later it was delivered in bottles with cardboard lids. The clip-clopping of his horse was a sound from my childhood and everybody enjoyed the punctual service he provided.

Later somebody else took over the round and the milk was delivered by float with metal crates holding the bottles with various coloured tops, gold, red, blue and silver, each denoting the cream value within the bottle. The service was expanded to deliver bread (my first cut loaf was supplied by the milkman) butter, eggs and wonderful orange juice and occasionally lemonade. Along with most of the village we didn't own a refrigerator, so a daily delivery was welcome to ease the chore of shopping for our mothers.

Mind you, there were small downsides. Some mornings the bottletops were punctured where blue tits had got there first, but this was a small price to pay and you could always leave a little cover to inhibit the birds breakfast. Health and Safety Alert!!!

The milkman also provided a useful and free social service as he or she (there were milk ladies as well) would notice if the milk wasn't taken in, especially by the elderly people on their round, and report it to a relative or neighbour. They didn't get paid for doing this, but neither did they have some jobsworth telling them their work/time schedule was off message and time is money! See Dave, you didn't invent a Big Society, Localism or any of the ideas your PR people trot out on a daily basis. We got there 70 years ago. Try and keep up mate, there's a good chap.

Each day, milk was delivered to our school in small third-of-a-pint bottles and if you were the teacher's pet you got to be Milk Monitor. The power of this post got to some and they sometimes missed a child out, but a dead leg behind the air-raid shelter soon reminded them that power can be an irksome process at times. However, on hot sunny days when the milk crate was left in the yard it soured and in the 1940s we had not yet

embraced the efficacious properties of yogurt, sour cream or biotic digestive drinks. That stuff Johnny Foreigner was to bring us, along with garlic (ughh!!) and wine, which we experimented with during forays into distant climes, where only a year or two earlier our fathers were sitting them on their backsides, telling them to play nicely and introducing them to cricket.

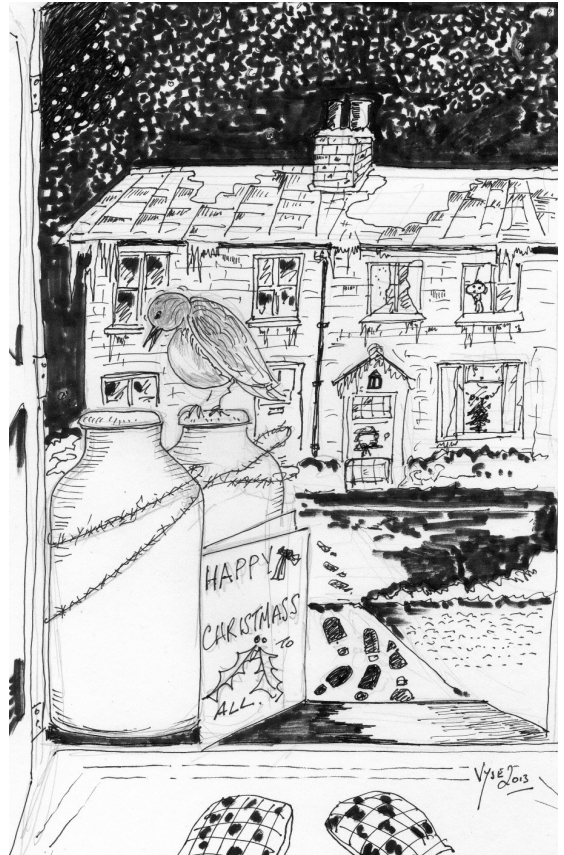
Then the so-called experts came along and told us that, along with everything else we loved, full-fat creamy milk was bad for us! So that dreadful, tasteless white water under the doubtful heading of 'skimmed milk' infiltrated our homes. I am pleased to say that my family, many of whom lived into their 90s, played a dangerous game of Russian Roulette by avoiding such healthy options and they also feasted on butter, eggs, cheese, cream, fat bacon (not that stuff full of water), caring not a jot for the damage it was doing to their systems. Statins were something posh ladies had their dresses made from and high blood pressure was only seen evident in my granddad when some idiot announced on the radio that beer was going up a penny and baccy was a shilling an ounce! It took biological warfare to bring them down finally with MRSA, while doctors, nurses and the like had to be shown how to wash their hands and clean wards. Anybody seen the Lifebuoy? Progress sometimes comes at a price.

Incidentally, I heard the other day that, after a long and expensive research process, the 'experts' have concluded that all those good things may have been better for us after all and it's the processed food all covered in wasteful packaging that's been the culprit all along. As for diets and BMI, apparently billions have been made luring the vain and terminally stupid into spending their hard-earned trying to look like a clone of some airbrushed bimbo in a magazine full of yet more claims to give you the body beautiful whfor en you spend two weeks on the Costa Lot each year!

So now I will pour my red-top milk, delivered to my door at 4.15 this morning, over my healthy fruit and fibre cereal (well you have to hedge your bets don't you?) and write a Christmas card to my invisible friend the Milk Man. I recommend you do too. Happy Christmas all.

**Wyse**

***This is not an advertisement, but it should be.***



Readers who enjoy the regular Journal articles by Wyse may be interested to know that he has just published his latest book, *The Free and the Bound*.

# B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

## Minibus trips for December 2013

|                        |            |   |          |
|------------------------|------------|---|----------|
| Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>    | 9:30–12ish | Bishop's Stortford Town Centre  | £4       |
| Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>    | 10:30–2:30 | Stevenage – Market, BHS, M&S, Boots, Tesco  | £4       |
| Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>    | 10am–3pm   | Scotsdales – Garden Centre & much more  | £7       |
| Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>  | 10:30–2:30 | Letchworth – drop off at Morrissons   | £5       |
| Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> | 9:30–12ish | Tesco at Bishop's Stortford   | £4       |
| Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>   | 10:30–3pm  | Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots, Waitrose etc.  | £6       |
| Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>  | 10:30–2:30 | Country Homes & Gardens and Bury Lane Farm Shop, Melbourn – Cotton Traders, Shoes, Edinburgh Woollen Mills, Plants, Deli etc. | £4.50    |
| Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> | 9:30–12ish | Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day   | £4       |
| Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>   | 9:30–12ish | Tesco at Bishop's Stortford   | £4       |
| Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>   | 10:30–3pm  | Welwyn Garden City – as above – Winter Sales!   | £6       |
| <b>2014</b>            |            |   |          |
| <b>JANUARY</b>         |            |   |          |
| Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 9:30–12ish | Tesco at Bishop's Stortford   | £4       |
| Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>   | 1pm        | 'Cinderella' at Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage<br>Tickets: £17.50  | + Bus £4 |
| Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>   | 2:30pm     | Old Time Music Hall, Lytton Players, Stevenage  |          |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b>        |            |   |          |
| Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>    | 2:30pm     | 'Absent Friends' at Gordon Craig, Tckts: £17.50   | + Bus £4 |

To book a seat or for information phone: 01763 273623 or 01763 271708

## **COFFEE MORNINGS**

at Benson Hall, Buntingford

**10:30am–12:00noon on Wednesday**

**11<sup>th</sup> December & 15th January**

Cakes / Bric-a-Brac / Books / Raffle / Marmalade

Proceeds for the B.A.L.A. MINIBUS

# BUNTINGFORD W.I.



Buntingford W.I. has now been going continuously for 95 years – I bet there's not another group in the town who can say that! We celebrated at our November meeting with a glass of Bucks Fizz and some home-made cake.

Our speaker for the evening was Len Little who was a Police dog handler for 17 years and a dog trainer for a further 9 years. We could not have wished for a more entertaining and humorous speaker for our birthday meeting – I don't think I've ever heard so much laughter at a W.I. gathering (apart from at the rehearsals for our Carnival entry last year!).

Len dreamed of becoming a dog handler when he was a young boy and happened to see a policeman in action with his dog. When he left school he joined the Army but his dream was still there and when he was 24 he applied to become a Police Officer. He was accepted but it was another six years before his dream was realised and he trained to be a dog handler.

Len said the standard police dog is the German shepherd, although in recent years the gun-dog breeds have been introduced and used as sniffer dogs for drugs, money, guns and human remains. The dogs start their training from a year old and they live with their handler. They are fed on fresh meat, tripe and wholemeal biscuits and a freezer is provided for the dog's meat.

Len's first dog was a German shepherd called Sabre and his patch included Buntingford. Contrary to popular belief, the dog does not need to smell something belonging to the person he needs to find, he simply finds the freshest scent. The furthest Len has tracked with his dog was 7 miles but it led to an arrest.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December when Toby from The Cheese Plate will be coming to talk to us. Visitors are always welcome. Our New Year Party will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January. We meet at the United Reformed Church Hall at 7:45pm.

If you would like further information about Buntingford W.I., please telephone Pat Webb on 01763 271305. We are planning a SOUP LUNCH on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at The Benson Hall, 12:00noon–1:30pm and hope to see you there. In the meantime, Happy Christmas from us all at BUNTINGFORD W.I.

**Val Hume**

*Please come and join the ladies of BUNTINGFORD W.I. for a*

## **SOUP LUNCH**

**on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**at The Benson Hall, Buntingford 12:00noon–1:30pm**

**SOUP AND A ROLL £2**

**Tea or Coffee available, Home-made Cakes & Raffle**



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

[www.buntingfordtownfc.com](http://www.buntingfordtownfc.com)



Before I bring you up to date with the latest footballing news I would like to express our thanks to everyone who turned out for our recent annual firework display at The Bury. As usual we were nervously awaiting the weather forecast – November can be notoriously unpredictable – but fortunately the weather was fine on the night, although the heavens opened some 30 minutes after the end of the display. A stroke of good fortune there!

I missed the display this year but I have received good feedback on the event and would like to thank Fox Fireworks for helping us again. I was in fact in Abu Dhabi at the F1 Grand Prix; the firework display after the race was indeed spectacular, and they had absolutely no worries about the weather. One noticeable absence though was a bar, so I guess you could argue that our event was better ...

The news on the pitch has been good with all three teams performing well. We even managed three wins on the same weekend for the first time this season – you guessed it, on the same weekend as the firework display when I was away. C'est la vie!

The First Team beat Tansley 4-3 in the league and a week later put in a creditable performance against league-leaders Bushey Rangers, only to go down 3-1. They bounced back with a 5-2 win over bottom club Old Parmiterians. In the Bingham-Cox Cup, which is Hertfordshire's oldest football cup competition, we suffered an early exit against Hatfield Social, conceding the only goal of the game 20 minutes from time. You may remember that it was also Hatfield Social who eliminated us from the Aubrey Cup in September. We have yet to play them in the League and are planning our revenge. The side progressed in the Herts FA Intermediate Cup with a comfortable 3-0 win over Old Parmiterians, and are now looking forward with relish to a trip to Royston Town in December to face their Reserves.

Our Reserves continue their great run in the League, going nine matches without defeat at the time of writing. Wins at St Ippolyts (4-1) Letchworth Garden City Eagles (4-0) and Baldock Town 'A' (2-1) were supplemented by a no-score draw with Bush Hill Rangers. This run of good form saw the side move to third place in the League and in the middle of November they had a chance to move into second when they faced Wormley YFC who were one point ahead of us. The match finished with each side scoring 2 goals and the resulting single point saw both teams slipping down a place thanks to a win by FC Broxbourne Borough U23s. We have yet to face Broxbourne so will have our chance to climb above them later in the season.

Up until recently the Veterans were undefeated in all matches except the FA Veterans' Cup; this terrific run ended when Enfield Vets beat us 3-2 on 17<sup>th</sup> November, despite our lads being 1-0 up at the half-time break. Nevertheless the Vets continue to have a great season with a draw over Tolmers which was followed by a 3-1 victory in the match against Therfield. Two milestones were reached on 3<sup>rd</sup> November (you guessed it, I was away). The Vets beat local rivals Standon & Puckeridge for the first time ever, quite comfortably by all accounts, with a 4-1 victory on the opposition's turf. The second milestone came in that same match when James Neill bagged his 100<sup>th</sup> goal for the club. So, well done to James and well done to the side for a great season so far.

As we near the end of the year all three teams are reaching their potential and performances bode well for the rest of the campaign. The next Journal article will not be

until February, so if you wish to see how we are doing during the next 2 months take a trip to our website, [www.buntingfordtownfc.com](http://www.buntingfordtownfc.com). All that remains is for me to thank everyone who has supported the club during 2013, and to wish you all a great Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

**Chris Thurgill, Chairman**



## Buntingford Cougars Update

We are nearly half way through the football season and you will all be delighted to know that the young men and ladies of the Cougars are representing Buntingford really well in both our mini soccer section (4 to 10 year olds) and our youth section (11 to 16 year olds). Here is an update of our mini soccer section; a progress report on our youth section will be in a future edition of the *Journal*.

### **Cougars Cubs**

We have now seen over 20 reception year children attend the Cubs' sessions led by Phil Allen and Emma Hawthorne on Sundays. The little'uns always have a beaming smile so they must be having fun.

### **Under 6s**

Led by Luke Fone and Ricky Crace, the Under 6s enjoy training every week and will start playing matches in the next few months – if you are interested in joining give me a call.

### **Under 7s**

Our coaches Wes Cook and Spencer Pugh are doing a great job with the Under 7s who have started their first season of organised matches in the new 5v5 format where the kids are improving every week. **We are looking for a few more Under 7s** (school year 2) so give me a shout if you have a child who is interested.

### **Under 8s**

This group of school year 3 boys and girls has grown into two teams that always make the club proud. Darren Fitzgerald, Danny Skipp and Paul Eveleigh are doing a great job.

### **Under 9s**

Led by Darren Wennington and Barry Tokely, our Under 9s enjoy a lot of success on the pitch and are tipped to bring some silverware to the town in years to come – so watch this space.

### **Under 10s**

This group have improved tremendously with some great performances this season. The squad will step up to the 9v9 format next season **so will need a few more players**. If your child is in school year 5 and interested in playing football please contact us asap.

If you are interested in Buntingford Cougars either as a player, committee member, coach, sponsor or parent, please give me a call on **07944 237400** or email me at: [rich@rddaly.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:rich@rddaly.wanadoo.co.uk)

Richard Daly, Chairman



Hello there, I'm Geoffrey Cheeseman

A termite walks into a bar and says "Is the bar tender here?" Take a moment to ponder that one, dear reader ...

## **Last orders, ladies and gentlemen, please!**

Well, dear readers, my run as your Drama Correspondent comes to an end. With a tear in the eye and a lump in my throat (primarily derived from a cheap and rather brutish Southern Hemisphere merlot), I must bid you a fond adieu. Gladys Aman will be back with you in the New Year. It has been a pleasure to bring you a refined glimpse into activities down at Benson Hall.

At BDS, attention is now drawn to the next production. When they said that the title was 'as yet to be decided' I rather thought it might be a new avant-garde, critically acclaimed offering, but upon further enquiry it just seems that they haven't made their minds up yet! What they have decided is to take a much-needed break so there will not be a pantomime in the New Year. Their next show will be later in 2014 – details will, of course, be announced in good time in the Journal.

In the meantime, if you are down at the late night Xmas shopping event look out for the BDS stall. If you are interested in getting involved why not join the group on a Thursday evening (between 8 and 10 pm) at Benson Hall, Buntingford. Further details, as always, can be found at [www.buntingforddrama.org](http://www.buntingforddrama.org).

Seasons greetings to you all!

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