

*The independent journal for Buntingford & Villages
published by Buntingford Civic Society*

Buntingford Journal



St Mary's Church, Aspenden, the setting for Carols by Candlelight.
(Photo courtesy of Bob Jackson.)

Merry Christmas & Happy
New Year to All Our Readers

70p

Dec 2019 / Jan 2020
Volume 44, No.10



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MONDAYS

- 9:00am – 10:00am **Cardio & Core** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane, £4 payg. Suitable for all fitness levels. Contact Irene on 07802 418755.
- 9:30am & 10:30am **U3A Exercise Class.** Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 for participation info.
- 10:00am – 10:45am **Stretch'n'Grow**, a fun exercise & activity class for children confidently walking to age 5. Term time at Seth Ward CC. £2 per family. 01763 273008.
- 10:15am – 11:15am **Jump & Jiggle**, active rhymes for pre-school children, at Buntingford Library.
- 10:15am **Fitness Pilates** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane, £5. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net.
- 10:30am – 12 noon **Iyengar Yoga** at URC Hall (term time). Contact Jen Harris 01920 821288.
- 11:00am – 12noon **Stay & Play** at Jenyns School, Braughing, term time only.£1. 01763 273008
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm **Positive Movement** exercises at Seth Ward CC. £3. 01462 678804.
- 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.
- 4:00pm – 4:45pm **Lab-Tots**, fortnightly in term time at the Library. Science sessions for 3-8 year olds. For more info contact Sophia 07720 292350 / www.labtots.com.
- 4:15pm – 6:30pm **Ballet** at URC Hall, with Buntingford School of Dance. Contact buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010.
- 4:30pm – 8:30pm **Rib Valley Trampoline Club @** Freman College (term time). Adults 7:30–8:30. Contact Andrea Allen 07989 980038 or email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk
- 5:45pm – 6:45pm **Cougars U10s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 6:10pm – 6:40pm **NEW: Body Blitz, followed by Barre Strength** (6:45–7:30pm) starts 6th Jan at Cotteder Village Hall, £8 together or £5 each. Irene 07802 418755.
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Pilates Improvers/Intermediates** at Seth Ward CC. Louise, 07867 675389.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm **Shotokan Karate** at Seth Ward CC. Contact Peter Deacon 01462 642922.
- 6:45pm – 7:45pm **Cougars U11s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 7:00pm **Bridge** for experienced players at Buntingford Bowls Club. £2.50 per session. Contact Eddie on 01763 273640 or 07976 896718.
- 7:00pm – 7:30pm **Body Blitz (Interval Training)** at Cotteder Village Hall, £5 payg. Contact Irene 07802 418755. *See above for new class starting 6th Jan.*
- 7:00pm **Fitness Pilates** at Layston School, with 2 instructors, £5. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 7:15pm – 8:15pm & 8:30pm – 9:30pm **Yoga Flow** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Contact Annie Knapman 07500 110876, email: info@annieknapmanyoga.co.uk
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Abs (body toning)** at Fit Together Gym. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm – 9:30pm **Buntingford Community Choir** at Millfield School, Monks Walk. For info see www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk or email: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk
- 7:30pm – 9:45pm **Buntingford & District Youth Club** at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Call Danny on 07879 853849 or email: danny.band@herfordshire.gov.uk.
- 7:45pm – 8:45pm **Cougars U11s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 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. £2 for first child, then 50p for each additional child of same family, includes drink and snack. Term time.
- 9:30am **Nordic Walking** at Seth Ward CC. Equipment provided. First session Free. Call 07940 080 453 to book or see info@easthertsnordicwalking.org
- 10:00am – 11:30am **Under 1s Group** at Buntingford Bowls Club. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 11:45am **Tappy Toes** at Seth Ward CC. Dance & movement for children who are confidently walking to age 5. £2 per family. Term time only. 01763 273008.

WHAT'S ON

- 12:30pm – 1:30pm **NEW: Trigger Point Pilates** starts 7th Jan at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane, £5 payg. Contact Irene 07802 418755 / www.irenegibson.co.uk.
- 4:15pm – 9:00pm **Ballet, Modern & Tap Classes** at Freman College, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- 4:30pm – 6:00pm **Cougars U7s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 5:00pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U9s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 7:30pm **Karate Club**, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm **Cougars U15s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm **'Braughing Sing' Community Choir** at Jenyns School, Braughing. Contact Elaine 07501 495940 / 01763 289738 / www.braughingsing.com.
- 7:45pm **Fitness Pilates** at Layston School, £5. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 8:15pm – 9:00pm **Adult Tap for Fun & Fitness** at Freman College with Buntingford School of Dance. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- WEDNESDAYS**
- 9:15 – 10:45am **Hormead Stay & Play** at Hormead School. £1. Term time. 01763 273008.
- 9:30 – 10:30am **Matwork Pilates** at Cottored Village Hall, £5 payg. Irene 07802 418755.
- 9:30 – 11:30am **Barkway Parent and Toddler Group** at Barkway Village Hall. Children 0–4 years. Contact Kim Semple on 07964 151288.
- 10:30am **BALFF 'Plant Hunters'**, new 10-week course starts Wed 15th January at the Community Centre, Luynes Rise. Meet 10am for coffee.
- 2:00pm **U3A Seated Exercise Class**. Jacqui 07956 647806 for participation info.
- 4:00pm – 8:15pm **Commercial & Modern Dance** at URC Hall with Buntingford School of Dance. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- 4:15pm – 6:15pm **Rib Valley Gymnastics Club @ Edwinstree School** (term time). Contact Andrea Allen 07989 980038 or email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Circuit Training for 50+** at Seth Ward CC. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Cougars U12s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Freestyle & Shotokan Karate** at Freman College. Contact Sensei John Srinivassan, Mushin Academy of Karate, 07722 071408.
- 6:45pm – 7:15pm **Cardio Resistance HIIT Blast** at Layston School; £4 (or £7 with Pilates class). Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Cougars U13s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 7:30pm **Fitness Pilates** at Layston School, 2 instructors, £5 (or £7 with Cardio HIIT class). 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Boxercise/Tae Bo** session at Fit Together Gym. Contact Al 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm **Slimming World Group** at Millfield School. Angela Anderson 07708 444991.
- 8:00pm **Horizon Divers** at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.
- 8:00pm – 9:00pm **Buntingford Meditation Group**. Contact Martin on 07771 972444 or see www.buntingfordmeditation.com for details and venue.
- THURSDAYS**
- 9:30am – 10:30am **Dance Fit** at Seth Ward CC, £5. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 9:30am – 11:00am **Anstey Toddlers** at Old School House, Anstey. £1 per family. Term time only.
- 9:45am – 10:45am **Pilates Improvers** at Seth Ward CC. Louise, 07867 675389.
- 9:30am – 10:30am **Little Sparks Stay and Play** in St Peter's Church. Suggested donation £2 per family. Contact Nanny Alex 07595 053512
- 10:30am – 12:00 **Coffee & Company** at URC Hall (opposite the Post Office/McColls). A welcoming group for anyone in need of a coffee and a chat. Contact Martin 01763 272245
- 11:00am – 12:00 **Fitness for 50+** at Seth Ward Community Centre. £4 per class. Eileen Dixon 01763 257474 / 07966 222272, email: eileensaerobics@hotmail.com
- 11:00am **Fitness Pilates** at the Scout Hut, £5. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806.

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1:00pm – 3:00pm

Baby classes run by **Best Start Club** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane. Contact Laura Sheriff 07801 796334 / laura@thebeststartclub.com.

2:00pm – 3:00pm &
3:00pm – 4:00pm

Tai Chi at the Seth Ward Community Centre, with Tai Chi expert Kim Noyma. First session free, then £3 per session. Beginners welcome.

2:15pm – 2:45pm
4:00pm – 6:00pm

Toddlers Tales, stories & rhymes for preschoolers, at Buntingford Library.

Ballet at URC Hall, with Buntingford School of Dance. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010.

4:30pm – 6:30pm

Drama workshops 15–18 year olds, with Stagefrights Theatre at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Dave 01438 232181; email: stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Buntingford Swimming Club at Freman Pool. Adelaide 07710 550050.

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Cougars U8s at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Cougars U6s at Ward Freman (indoors).

6:30pm – 7:00pm

Body Conditioning at Seth Ward Community Centre, £5 payg (or £7 with Pilates, below). Contact Irene on 07802 418755 / www.irenegibson.co.uk.

6:30pm – 7:30pm

Cougars U14s at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.

7:00pm

Mustard Seed Singers, St Peter's Church. Contact Jan 01763 272217.

7:00pm – 7:45pm

Dance Fit at Layston School, £5. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net

7:15pm – 8:00pm

Matwork Pilates at Seth Ward Community Centre, £5 payg (or £8 with Trigger Point Pilates, below). Contact Irene on 07802 418755.

7:30pm

Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.

7:30pm – 8:30pm

Cougars U18s at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.

7:45pm

Fitness Pilates at Layston School, £5 (£8 with Dance Fit). Jacqui 07956 647806.

8:15pm – 9:00pm

Trigger Point Pilates at Seth Ward Community Centre, £5 payg. Or do all 3 Thursday evening classes for £10. Contact Irene on 07802 418755.

8:00–10:00pm

Buntingford Dramatic Society, Benson Hall.

FRIDAYS

9:00am

Fitness Pilates at FitSpace, Park Farm Ind Est, £5. Jacqui 07956 647806.

9:15am

WeightWatchers at Benson Hall.

9:15am

NEW: Friday FIT starts 10th Jan at URC Hall, £5. Call Irene 07802 418755.

9:30am – 10:30am

Badminton at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.

10:00am – 10:30am

Rhyme Time at Seth Ward CC. £1 per child. Term time only. 01763 273008.

10:00am – 1:00pm

Art in Sandon Village Hall, £10 per session. Call 07960 408635.

10:45am – 11:45am

Full Body Workout at The Scout Hut, £5. Jacqui 07956 647806.

11:00am – 12:00

Drop-in Breastfeeding Support Group at Bramble Hill, 01763 273008.

2:00pm – 3:15pm

Activity Session with Hertswise Dementia Support at Layston Grove Care Home. £3 per person, carers free. Call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044.

4:15pm – 8:45pm

Street, Ballet, Tap & Modern/Jazz at Freman College, with Buntingford School of Dance. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010

5:30pm – 8:00pm

Friday Project Youth Club at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Danny 07879 853849 / danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

SATURDAYS

9:00am – 1:00pm

Ballet & Modern Dance at Freman College and at URC Hall (9am–12noon). Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010

9:15am – 2:00pm

Musical Theatre School for 4–14 year olds at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Call Anna 07545 788433 or email stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk.

9:30am – 10:15am

Barre Pilates at Layston School, £5 payg. Contact Irene on 07802 418755.

9:30am – 10:15am

Cardio Resistance HIIT Blast at Braughing Community Centre, £5. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net

10:00am–11:00am

Walking Football, MUGA. £2. Jeff 01763 274800 / 07836 232963.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DEC 2019

- From Sun 1st **Buntingford Scouts Santa Run** (full details on page 19).
- Sun 1st 11am–3:30pm **Brent Pelham Christmas Fair** (see page 23).
- Mon 2nd 10–11:30am **Chatter Table** at the Manor House (see page 18).
- Tues 3rd 10:30am **Tea & Chat** at Buntingford Library.
- Tues 3rd 8pm **Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society** at Benson Hall (page 28).
- Wed 4th 12noon–2:30pm **Jazz on the Heath** at Therfield Heath Café, with Dave Rance's Rockin' Chair Band. £8 on the door.
- Wed 4th 7:45 for 8pm **Buntingford Gardeners' Club** at the URC Hall (see page 28).
- Sat 7th **Buntingford Film Club** in Benson Hall, 2:30pm Raymond Briggs' Christmas Trilogy and 7:30pm 'Rocketman' (see page 26).
- Sat 7th 7pm **Christmas Village Supper** in Reed (see page 23).
- Sun 8th 11:30–4pm **St Nicholas Festive Fair**, Great Hormead (see page 22).
- Sun 8th 2:30–4:30pm **Little Sparks Craft Christmas** (see page 37).
- Mon 9th 1:30pm **U3A Meeting** at the Seth Ward Community Centre (see page 35).
- Tues 10th 2:15pm **Buntingford Local History Group** at the Library (see page 13).
- Wed 11th 10:15–11:30am **B.A.L.A. Coffee Morning** at Benson Hall (see page 44).
- Wed 11th 8pm **Royal British Legion Meeting** at The Crown. No meeting in January.
- Thurs 12th 7:30–9:30pm **Christmas Celebration with Buntingford WI** (see page 23).
- Sat 14th 1pm **Buntingford Seniors Xmas Lunch** at the Community Centre.
- Sun 15th 4pm **Carols in a Victorian-Themed Setting** at St Peter's (see page 17).
- Mon 16th 10–11:30am **Chatter Table** at the Manor House (see page 18).
- Mon 16th 7:30pm **Buntingford Community Choir Open Evening** (see page 27).
- Mon 16th 8pm **Unplugged Acoustic Night** at The Crown, Market Hill.
- Tues 17th 7:30pm **Carols in the Chapel at Haileybury College** (see pages 11 & 24).
- Wed 18th 10am–12noon **Dementia Carers Support Group** at the Wine Bar (p.34).
- Fri 20th 7:30pm **Carols by Candlelight** at St Mary's, Aspenden (see page 14).
- Fri 20th 8pm **Buntingford Railway & Local History Society** at The Crown PH. Richard Thomas on 'Manchester Ship Canal'.
- Sat 21st 7:30pm **Family Carols** with Royston Choral Society (see page 22).
- Sat 21st 2:30 & 4pm **Carols round the Crib** at St Peter's (see page 17).

JAN 2020

- Mon 6th 10–11:30am **Chatter Table** at the Manor House (see page 18).
- Mon 6th 10:30–11:30am **Movement to Music** at Benson Hall (see page 45).
- Tues 14th 2:15pm **Buntingford Local History Group** at the Library (see page 13).
- Wed 15th 10:15–11:30am **B.A.L.A. Coffee Morning** at Benson Hall (see page 44).
- Fri 17th 8pm **Buntingford Railway & Local History Society A.G.M.** at The Crown.
- Sat 18th **Buntingford Film Club** in Benson Hall, 7:30pm 'Downton Abbey' (page 27).
- Mon 20th 10–11:30am **Chatter Table** at the Manor House (see page 18).
- Mon 20th 12noon–2:30pm **Jazz on the Heath** at Therfield Heath Café, with Dave Rance's Rockin' Chair Band. £8 on the door.
- Sat 25th 7pm **Burns Night** in Reed Village Hall (see page 11).

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE STATION:
Baldock Road, Buntingford

Non-emergency telephone: 101
In emergencies dial 999

GAS:
ELECTRICITY:
WATER (Veolia):
SEWERAGE (Thames Water):
FLOODLINE:

Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999
Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838
Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325
Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800
Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188
Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60

DOCTORS:

The Medical Centre – White Hart Close
Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)
Orchard Surgery – Baldock Road
Tel: 01763 272410 (After hours: 272411)

**B A S H (Buntingford Action
For Social Help):**

Providing transport for hospital and doctors
appointments. Tel: Colin Horgan 07733 091731

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RAPE,
RACE or HATE CRIME:**

Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554440
(in emergency, dial 999)

LOCAL COUNCILS:

Buntingford Town Council – 01763 272222
East Herts District Council – 01279 655261
Housing – 01279 714714
Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852
For emergencies out of office hours: 01279 655261
Adult Care Services – 0300 123 4042
Children’s Services – 0300 123 4043
Hertfordshire Highways – 0300 123 4047, or report
faults online: www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:
High Street, Buntingford

Opening times: Mon, Tues, Thurs 10:00 – 17:30
Friday 14:00 – 17:30
Saturday 09:00 – 13:00

Telephone enquiries – 0300 123 4049
Option 1 – Renewals 03:00–23:45 every day
Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00,
Sat 09:00– 6:00

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:
The Manor House
Market Hill, Buntingford

Opening times: Monday 10:00 – 16:00
Tues & Wed 10:00 – 13:00
Telephone advice: Mon to Fri 10:00 – 16:00
Call 03444 111 444

**HOUSEHOLD WASTE &
RECYCLING SITE:**
Watermill Industrial Estate
Aspenden Road

Opening times: Mon to Fri 17:00 – 20:00
Sat & Sun 10:00 – 13:00

The Buntingford Journal is published by, but is editorially independent of, the Buntingford Civic Society. For information on how to join the Society and have the Journal delivered to your door, please email: membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

EDITOR'S LETTER

This is the time of year when I like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helps in any way, great or small, to make the Journal what it is. First there are the editorial contributors and advertisers, without whom there would be no Journal; then there are the volunteers who organise the printing and distribution to homes and shops; and finally my thanks to you, the readers, for continuing to buy a printed Journal in these days of burgeoning social media. Thank you to you all and I hope the Journal will continue to play a welcome and useful role in local life for years to come.

The article from Buntingford Writers' Group this month, written by Katie James, promises a Christmas-free zone (page 30). However, that's not what you will find in the Journal overall, which has a wealth of notices about carol services, concerts and other Christmas events in and around Buntingford. What I can guarantee is an election-free zone. In fact, I think this might be the only mention of the coming election in the entire Journal. Even Vyse (page 42) steers clear of it, although he has plenty to say about what's gone wrong! It's funny, because I used to be interested in politics, but now I just want it all to go away. Which it won't, of course, so I'll be down there at the Manor House on the 12th.

By the time you read this we will know who has won the inaugural Unsung Hero awards, which are being presented at the Manor House at this year's Lights of Love Ceremony. The brainchild of Toby Archer, these awards are intended to honour local people whose voluntary actions help others in the community and enhance community spirit. I hope to bring you the inspirational stories of the winners in the first Journal of the new year.

In the wake of another very well attended Remembrance Sunday parade and service, Carol Emery of the Local History Group presents a brief history of the Home Guard (pages 12-13). A large contingent of the Cougars turned out for the parade (page 47) and like all the young people at the service they were a credit to the clubs and organisations they represent. It remains a deeply moving event.

Looking ahead, I would just like to mention Burns Night, being celebrated on 25th January in Reed (page 11), and the comedy double-bill offered by Buntingford Dramatic Society instead of the seasonal panto (page 31). Relatively unknown here, the very English 'Dinner for One' has become a legend in Germany and other countries in Europe, where it is shown on television every New Year. Here is your chance to discover comedy gold. Merry Christmas everyone and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Christine Noble

Many thanks to John Makin for proofreading

**Editorial copy deadline for the February 2020 Journal is
Saturday 18th January 2020**

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

Advertising enquiries: Keith Edwards – 01763 272032
email: Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

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

Letters & emails to the Editor

Dear Christine

I'm sure most residents are aware of the sudden shock decision to shut Orchard Surgery. There was no consultation with patients – we were granted a one-hour meeting to raise objections which were swept aside. If this closure goes ahead, everyone in the town will be affected as over 2,000 people will need to register with another surgery. To add insult to injury, one surgery suggested by the Trust was Newport! In another county! Baldock and Stevenage – other options – are half an hour away and all options involve transport. The Trust decided not to advertise the contract nationally – much easier to just shut the surgery and ignore the patients. We all need to fight this appalling decision.

Yours sincerely, **Naomi Olley, 4 Knights Close, SG9 9SE**

Hi Christine

I read with sadness the letter from Ashley Cantor about the Carnival. Over the years my family has always been part of the Carnival with various organisations, such as schools, cubs, youth groups, church and of course the W.I. I can only thank all those who have worked tirelessly for this event, which will be much missed. I think that 'Health and Safety' has played a part in discouraging the floats that used to be such a feature, but I don't remember any accidents or incidents of falling off a float! The Carnival has always encouraged community spirit and I am appalled that volunteers who give their time freely should be subjected to abuse. Shame on those guilty businesses!

By way of information, The Carnival happened in the late seventies and early eighties and I believe film footage of this exists. My own children were on floats with the Jack and Jill play school and Monks Walk Residents Association and paraded with the Cubs. Thank you to you and all contributors for such a brilliant and informative local magazine.

Jane Eagle

Dear Christine

I write this letter concerning farmers, one in particular, who recently harvested his maize crop to feed the anaerobic digester at Buttermilk Farm. In the aftermath of this process they have turned our footpaths into ploughed fields, and Owles Lane, which use to be beautiful, is now covered in mud slurry and huge potholes, and no doubt us taxpayers will be covering the cost to repair this. We have fewer and fewer paths to walk. To those responsible for creating this awful mess, some consideration for walkers would be great so we can all enjoy the countryside that we have left!

Kind regards, **Sue Piggott**

Congratulations are in order for The Cheese Plate in Buntingford's High Street. Owner Toby and his daughter Hope have been placed in the Top 5 cheese shops in the whole country.

The Guild of Fine Food have recently released their shortlist for the annual Shop of the Year award and Buntingford's Cheese Plate has reached the final round for 2020. Two more elements of judging are yet to come and the winner will be announced in March. To add to this, The Cheese Plate is also a finalist for Best Customer Service in the Hertfordshire Business Awards – the award night is on 21st November, so by the time you read this they will know if they have won. Let's keep our fingers crossed and wish Toby and Hope many congratulations for their successes so far!

Furneux Pelham Church Roof Appeal

A big thank you to

George Roberts & Gabriella Noble whose recital raised £1,795

Ron Martin and Jack the Lad whose gig raised £1,336

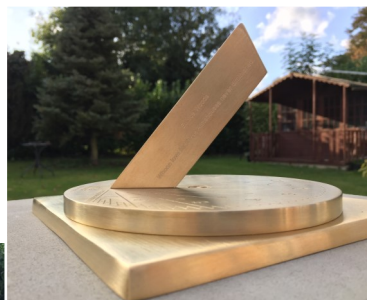
Our thanks to all those who attended and all who have donated

These successful events are helping us towards the challenging cost of replacing the lead that was stolen from St. Mary's Church in July. They follow on from the immediate efforts of the children and parents of Furneux Pelham School, who raised £400 with a non-uniform day, cake selling, and proceeds from photographs of the summer school production. In September our Buffet, Wine and Music evening contributed about £3,300. This was thanks to the catering efforts of Rose Norbury and her team, the generosity of Thibault Lavergne's wine, and the musicians whose spectacular efforts underpinned the evening. The solo effort of Mark Haverson has not gone unnoticed. He cycled to 30 Hertfordshire churches and donated his sponsorship money. Many others have donated money or time. The fund is now over £30,000, heading towards £40,000. However, replacing the roof will cost at least £150,000 and possibly as much as £200,000, depending on materials. Alternatives to lead are being evaluated.

We send greetings to all readers of the Buntingford Journal. Please look out for our future fundraising events. **To support our Appeal** using online banking (or by cheque) please pay **Furneux Pelham Church Restoration Fund**, sort code 20-36-98, account number 40815489, and include Gift Aid if possible. Cheques may be posted to Malcolm Ewen, Wash Farm, Furneux Pelham SG9 0JY. For more details you can ring Malcolm on **01279 777530** or Roger Phillips on **01279 771983**.

Memorial to Eunice Woods

The Bishop Seth Ward Almshouse Trust's memorial for Eunice Woods has now been positioned in the rear garden of the Almshouse building. The position of chair to the charity trustees was one of the many roles that Eunice undertook in pursuit of her interests in and commitments to Buntingford.



The inscription on the sundial reads:

Eunice Woods –
Whose love of
these Almshouses
never diminished

Should anybody wish to view the memorial in the Almshouse garden, this can be arranged by contacting one of the trustees.



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of



Well here we are again – Christmas is upon us and another year will soon be gone. My dear old Mum always said to me that the older you get the quicker time flies – how true this is.

The Lights of Love Ceremony will be taking place as usual on the last Friday of November in front of the Manor House (left). This year, in addition to the carol singing, readings and dedications, there will be an extra special element, because the winners of the inaugural Buntingford Unsung Hero will also be announced. They will be presented with their

trophies and prizes by our Town Mayor, Councillor Graham Waite.

Yet again it was a fantastic turn out for the Remembrance Sunday parade. It always gives me immense pride to be able to lay a wreath on behalf of the Civic Society and also to see how well the town of Buntingford supports the event. Let us hope that we all indeed never forget.

It is very sad to see the effect that the decision by the Catholic Church to double the hire charge for Benson Hall has had on many Buntingford groups. I believe that virtually every group that used to hire the hall has had to pull out as they simply could not afford the new hire rates. I am not sure what the Church was trying to achieve here but if it was to raise more money they would appear to have scored a spectacular own goal. I hope that all those groups affected manage to find suitable new venues or that perhaps the Church will reconsider its position.

No real update on the Orchard Surgery situation. It seems as if the NHS are still hell-bent on closing the surgery on 31st March next year, but we still have not heard any real concrete plans on how they will ensure that all Orchard patients will continue to have access to Buntingford-based doctors. Councillor Jones and myself are continuing to lobby Sir Oliver Heald to see if the closure could be delayed for 2 years to give all parties sensible timescales to properly plan this critical move.

Work on the new cemetery continues apace. Ground works are nearly complete and once the ground has settled a date for opening will be announced. It is likely that this will be sometime in the Spring, hopefully in May.

I would like to end by wishing all BCS members and readers of the Journal, and indeed all residents of Buntingford and the surrounding villages, a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Graham Bonner, Chairman Buntingford Civic Society
graham_bonner123@yahoo.co.uk

Buntingford Civic Society was established in 1972 with the aim of improving the fabric of the Town. It has led or been involved in many restoration and enhancement projects, planning, communication and financial support to improve aspects of life in Buntingford. **Annual household membership is just £10** and includes delivery of the Buntingford Journal (10 issues a year) to your door. If you would like to join the Civic Society, an application form is on the website at www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk Alternatively, you can pick up a paper copy of the form at the Manor House, or email the Membership Secretary, Peter Hay, at membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk.



Events in December 2019 & January 2020

See www.isabelhospice.org.uk for full details

13th Dec – Oaklands Ball, Colstfoot Country House, Datchworth, Knebworth SG3 6SB. From 6:30pm till midnight. Drinks on arrival, three-course meal including half-bottle wine, and a Disco to dance the night away! Tickets £65, with £25 of each ticket going to Isabel Hospice. See Oaklands events page or call 01438 715278.

17th Dec – Carols in the Chapel at Haileybury College, Hertford Heath
7.30–10pm. A wonderful evening of carols with Braughing Sing in a beautiful candlelit chapel. Come and sing along to your favourites – the perfect way to celebrate the festive season. Festive refreshments and a chance to win a luxury Christmas hamper. Tickets £20pp from 01707 382544 or see www.isabelhospice.org.uk/carols.

19th Jan – 5K & 10K runs at Essendon Country Club, Bedwell Park AL9 6HN
8am–1pm. Stretch yourself in the 10K race, or join in the friendly 5K family run/walk, in a totally traffic free environment. Suitable for all abilities. Refreshments available and a medal for every finisher. Free parking. Call 01707 260360 to enter.

25th Jan – Jumble Sale in Thundridge Village Hall, SG12 0TU
2–5pm. Come and find some treasures!. Entry 50p.

Isabel Hospice Thrill Seekers for 2020!

14th March – Abseil at the ArcelorMittal Orbit, with spectacular views of London.

15th March – Skydive for Isabel Hospice at the North London Skydiving Centre.

10th May – Wingwalk for Isabel Hospice. Experience the thrill of a lifetime!

Places are limited on all these adventures. See the Isabel Hospice website for details of fees, requirements etc. Or call 01707 382500 to sign up.

Burns Night at Reed Village Hall

Saturday 25th January 2020 at 7pm

Haggis or sausages with seasonal vegetables.

Home-made desserts with a Scottish theme. Bar and raffle.

Tickets £12pp & £6 per child. A popular evening so book early with Hazel 01763 848 349 to avoid disappointment.

Joint venture with Reed Village Hall and St Mary's Church

The Home Guard

At our November meeting we watched a short film on how Hertfordshire contributed to the First World War effort. We then had a talk on the Home Guard in Hertfordshire during the Second World War.

It was during 1940, following the fall of Holland, Luxembourg, Belgium and the imminent surrender of France, that the British Government began to worry that should the Germans decide to invade Britain there would be little resistance as most of the young men were already overseas fighting. Many men either too old to enlist or in reserved occupations had been asking what they could do towards the war effort and on the evening of 14th May 1940 they got an answer. Minister of Defence Anthony Eden made a radio broadcast to the nation requesting any males aged between 17 and 75 not already engaged in military service to enrol in a new unit to be called the Local Defence Volunteers. To register men had to attend their local police station and sign up.

Although special forms had been printed some stations hadn't received them and the police had to improvise using other books to sign men up. Within 6 days more than a quarter of a million had enrolled, and by August 1940 this had risen to 1.5 million men. The government were amazed by the numbers and quite unprepared to cope with the volume of men who had registered.

The problem now arose as to how to organise the men into an effective defence unit. Whilst the army didn't really want to be responsible, the government told the commanders-in-chief of the 19 military regions to sort things out. Keen to offload it they appointed area commanders, usually retired officers they knew. Eastern Region was under the command of Sir William Spens. He appointed another retired soldier who had distinguished himself in the First World War, Major General Sir Arthur Mills.

Due to the overwhelming response there was a lack of uniforms and weapons. Armbands were issued with LDV embroidered on them, but there weren't even enough of these. Men improvised weapons using shotguns, rifles, pitchforks or anything they could lay their hands on. Their primary role was to be observers, to defend road approaches into towns and villages, and to watch out for parachutists bailing out of enemy aircraft. Because of these passive roles they soon earned the nickname 'Look, Duck and Vanish'.

On the 23rd July Prime Minister Winston Churchill, much to the relief of the men, changed the name to the Home Guard. The men were to serve for the duration of the war and would not receive pay for their services. Women were excluded until 1943 when they were allowed to join as auxiliaries with an ID badge but no uniform.

The Lord Lieutenants of each county had been pre-warned that they should organise their county's Defence Force. Hertfordshire's Lord Lieutenant was Lord Hampden, aka Thomas Walter Brand, who had been a commanding officer in the Hertfordshire Regiment during the First World War. He appointed Sir William Acland as deputy and zone organiser for Hertfordshire. He was superseded by Colonel Eric Charles Malcom Philips. Hertfordshire was divided into 3 sectors, Eastern, Central and Western, and within these divisions battalions were formed. Buntingford was in the Eastern Sector and in A Company, the headquarters being in Much Hadham. Other platoons in A Company were Barkway, Anstey, Cottered, Throcking, Great Hornead, Barley, Reed and Sandon.

Uniforms started to filter through, although they were of varying quality and size and often old uniforms from redundant stock. Weapons also became available, a lot of them shipped in from Canada and the US as arms made in the UK were needed on the frontline. Eventually the battalions received serge battledress comprising blouse, trousers, boots, gaiters, field cap and steel helmets, plus extras such as haversacks and

belts. Each County had a badge for the County's regiment, so Buntingford's men wore the Hertfordshire regiment badge.

Transport was another problem. Most available military transport was needed abroad so battalions improvised with whatever was available to suit the terrain they covered. This included horses, boats, motorbikes, bicycles and vans. In London there was even a battalion that moved around on roller skates. Many of Hertfordshire's biggest businesses that were engaged in war work, such as Handley Page, De Havilland and John Dickinson to name but a few, had their own platoons ready to defend their workplaces if necessary.

Buntingford had one platoon (photo right) with Charles Tyrwhitt-Drake as the Captain. He lived at Little Court and was described as a land agent but came from a family with a long history of service in the army. Second-In-command was Limbury Roff, a Lieutenant, and Stan Smith was 2nd Lieutenant.



Buntingford platoon, Home Guard c. 1943. Back row from left: Sam Hall, Albert Coxall, George Crouch, George Warner, George Scott, Frank Aylott, David Rout, Wybert Miles, Alec Postle. Middle row: Ron Deards, Jack Arbon, Walter Reed, Harry Mayes, Stan Thody, Clem Moule, George Attwood, Horace Mayes, Cyril Saunders. Front row: Bill Game, Augustus Harris, Fred Seymour, Limbury Roff, Charles Tyrwhitt-Drake, Stan Smith, Len Ward, Artie Dray, Jim Plumb.

In addition the railway had a platoon (below right) to defend the branch line. Mervyn Corp, the booking clerk, was Captain – some of you may remember Mervyn's wife who was a local school teacher – and the station master Mr Harvey acted as his second-in-command.

Photos courtesy of Buntingford In Old Photographs on Facebook.



Railway Home Guard c. 1943. There was a special detachment for the railway commanded by the booking clerk with the station master as a private. Back row, from left: Bernard Ansell, Bernard Smith, Tom Sidney, Tom Gray. Sitting: Chris Bradley, Mr. Harvey Martin, Alf Manhood. In front: Mr Aldridge, on left, and Harry Dobbis.

From its beginnings as the 'Look Duck and Vanish' brigade, the Home Guard became a well-oiled defence unit ready for enemy invasion. At its peak in 1943 it had 1,793,000 men, the biggest regiment in the world. On demobilisation every serving man received a certificate from King George VI and a defence medal to honour their contribution in the war effort.

Carol Emery, Buntingford Local History Group

The Group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2:30pm in the Magnolia Room at Buntingford Library. Our next meetings are on 10th December and 14th January.



The
United
Reformed
Church

Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

Minister: Vacant

Secretary: Peter Godbert / Tel: 01763 281359
buntingford.urc@talktalk.net

Services and Junior Church at 11.00am every Sunday

Tea and coffee is served in the hall following the morning service.

December	1	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Robert Pope
	8	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
	15	Junior Church Service	Junior Church
	22	Carol Service	Rev Allen Morton
	25	Christmas Day (10am)	Elders & Members
	29	Morning Worship	Penny Flynn
January	5	Holy Communion	Rev Prof David Thompson
	12	Morning Worship	Faith Paulding
	19	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	26	Morning Worship	Richard Lewney

REGULAR EVENTS

Junior Church – Every Sunday at 11am, for all young people and children.

Bright Hour – A time for fellowship with prayers, hymns and activities. The next meetings are on Tuesdays 10th December and 7th & 21st January at 2:30pm in the Church Hall.

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

Lunches for Christian Aid – First Friday of the month, 12:30 to 2pm in the Hall.

Website: www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/URCBuntingford

St Mary's Church, Aspenden

Carols by Candlelight

Friday 20th December at 7.30pm

No tickets this year, but please be in place early.

And bring a torch, the road is very dark.



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 has a more contemporary style, **St. Mary's** more traditional,
and **St. Mary the Virgin** more liturgical.

Everyone is welcome at any of our churches.

Services for December 2019

Sun 1st	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	10:00am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 8th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Morning Worship
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sun 15th	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Fri 20th	7:30pm	St Mary's, Aspenden	Carols by Candlelight (see opposite page)
Sun 22nd	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	All Age Christmas Service
Tue 24th	5:30pm	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Nativity Service
Christmas Eve	2:30pm	St Peter's, Buntingford	Carols around the Crib
	4:30pm	St Peter's, Buntingford	Carols around the Crib
	11:00pm	St Peter's, Buntingford	Midnight Communion
Wed 25th	10:00am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Family Communion
Christmas Day			
Sun 29th	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion

Services for January 2020

Sun 5th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	10:00am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 12th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Morning Worship
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sun 19th	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 26th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	All Age Family Worship

Services for December 2019

St Mary's, Braughing

Sun 1 st	11.15am	All Age Holy Communion
Wed 4 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 8 th	10.00am	All Age Morning Worship
	5.45pm	Refresh Service (informal)
Wed 11 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 15 th	11.15am	Holy Communion
Wed 18 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 22 nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Nativity Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion

St Mary's, Furneux Pelham

Sun 1 st	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 8 th	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sun 15 th	9.30am	Café Church Christingle
Sun 22 nd	11.15am	Morning Worship
Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Carol Service

St Mary's, Stocking Pelham

Sun 22 nd	4.00pm	Carol Service
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Day Celebration
Sun 29 th	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion

Services for January 2020

St Mary's, Braughing

Sun 5 th	11.15am	All Age Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Twelfth Night Carols
Wed 8 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 12 th	10.00am	All Age Morning Worship
	5.45pm	Refresh Service (informal)
Wed 15 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 19 th	11.15am	Holy Communion
Wed 22 nd	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 26 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Wed 29 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)

St Mary's, Furneux Pelham

Sun 5 th	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 12 th	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sun 19 th	9.30am	Café Church
Sun 26 th	11.15am	Morning Worship

St Mary's, Stocking Pelham

No services in January

The Ash and Quin Valleys Group

Living God's Love

Rev'd Julie Gawthrope
01920 823531

St Mary the Virgin



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
FURNEUX PELHAM

St. Mary's Church
Stocking Pelham

ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Cyril Chiaha

Sunday Mass: 9:15am (with term-time Children's Liturgy on 2nd & 4th Sun only);

Holy Day Mass: 7pm;

Weekday Mass: Tues & Thurs 9:30am, Fri 10:30am (with Exposition and Benediction 11-11:30am), Sat 9:30am;

Confessions: Sat 10:30-11am

ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY & ENGLISH MARTYRS Catholic Church

Sunday Mass: Saturday 6pm (Puckeridge), 11:15am (Old Hall Green);

Holy Day Mass: 10:30am (Puck.); **Weekday Mass:** Wed 10:30am (Puck.);

Confessions: Sat 5.15-5.45pm (Puckeridge)



Christmas at St Peter's Dates for your Diary!



Come and Sing Carols in a
Victorian Themed Setting

15th December at 4pm

Join us afterwards for
seasonal refreshments

Christmas Eve – Start your Christmas with Carols Round the Crib

Especially for the children!
Come to see & hear the
Nativity retold!



24th December at 2:30pm & 4:00pm

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

Tuesday 24th December: 5.00pm Children's Vigil Mass

Tuesday 24th December: 11.15pm Christmas Carol followed by Christmas Vigil
Mass at 12.00 Midnight.

Wednesday 25th December: 9.15am Mass of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Wednesday 1st January 2020: 9.15am New Year Mass, Solemnity of Mary, The
Holy Mother of God

Sunday 5th January: 9.15am The Epiphany of the Lord

ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY & ENGLISH MARTYRS

Tuesday 24th December: 7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass (Puckeridge)

Wednesday 25th December: 11.30am Mass of the Nativity of the Lord (Old Hall
Green)

Wednesday 1st January 2020: 11.30am New Year Mass, Solemnity of Mary, The
Holy Mother of God (Puckeridge)

Saturday 4th January: 6pm (Puckeridge) Vigil Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday 5th January: 11.30am (Old Hall Green) The Epiphany of the Lord



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

The twice monthly Chatter Tables have proved to be very successful. They are held on the first and third Mondays in the month at the Manor House and are an opportunity to have a cup of coffee and a chat. Please come along and meet other residents of the town. The last Chatter Table of 2019 will be on 16th December and they will resume on Monday 6th January 2020.

The new playground at the Seth Ward Community Centre is now open. We have kept the tunnel fenced off to give the turf a chance to establish, but the fencing should be removed in a few weeks. We hope that the playground fulfils expectations – we are very pleased with the results. In the New Year, the Town Council will consider options for the playground at the Hare Street Road Playing Field.

Apologies to those of you who were too late to register for the Seniors' Christmas Lunch. We are restricted in numbers and can only accommodate 108 people. We are taking names for a reserve list and will let you know if you're successful.

In line with GDPR Regulations, the Town Council has published a number of Privacy Notices, these can be viewed on the Town Council website.

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE, Town Clerk

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

The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AB

Tel: **01763 272222** email: **clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk**

Twitter: **@buntingfordtc** Facebook.com/**BuntingfordTC**

Website: **www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk**

Town Council meetings for December 2019 & January 2020

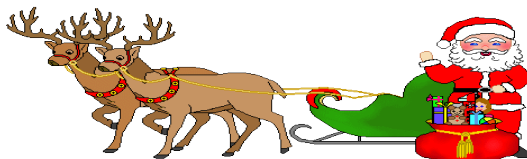
Thurs 5 th Dec	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 12 th Dec	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 9 th Jan	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 16 th Jan	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 30 th Jan	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Full Council

All meetings will be held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please check the BTC website for details.

The Buntingford Journal is delivered FREE to members of the Buntingford Civic Society, or it can be purchased from:
**THE CO-OP • DELISSIMO • LOCKS, STOCK & MORE • MARK DOEL
 McCOLL'S (The Post Office) • PIGGOTTS • THE FOX AT ASPENDEN**



Charity no: 275294



SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN!

Sunday 1st December from 4pm

Norfolk Road, Vicarage Road,
Honey Lane, Porters Close,
Woods Way, Ermine Street,
Freman Drive, Chequers Close

Wednesday 4th December from

5.30pm Station Road, Rib Way,
Downhall Ley, Snells Mead,
Dray Gardens, London Road,
Layston Meadow, Plashes Drive,
Owles Lane, St Francis Close,
Olvega Drive, Crouch Gardens

Saturday 7th December from

5pm Nutslip, Station Yard,
Fairfield, Luynes Rise, Mill
Close, Barleycroft, Knights
Close, Peasmead, Campbell
Close, Meadow View, Oak End

Monday 2nd December from

5.30pm Hare Street Road, Union
Terrace, Bridgefoot, Sunny Hill,
Pipkin Drive, Aldridge Way,
Spencer Close, Miles Way,
Warboys Close, Sunny Hill (2nd
Entrance), Riverside,
Paddock Road, The Causeway

Friday 6th December from 5.30pm

Bowling Green Lane, White Hart
Close, Bowlers Mead, Monks
Walk, Longmead

7pm onwards Greenways,

The Willows, Skipps Meadow,
The Folly, The Pygthle,
Baldock Road, High Street (south),
Church Street, Ermine Court,
Dell Spring, Bridewell Close,
Wyddial Road

Saturday 14th December from 5pm High Street (Keith Ian North)

5-6pm Redrow Estate – Norris Way, The Maples, Mayes Drive,
Seymour Road **6.15pm/6.30pm-8pm** The Village

Due to the growing size of Buntingford, we are unable to include every single street name in the lists above, but you should be able to tell the area of town we are visiting each evening. Please wrap up warm and come outside for Santa's arrival. Sometimes it is difficult to get down every street, but we are sure you will hear the Christmas music as Santa and his crew arrive.

Please remember, we are all volunteers taking time to make this special event happen. Children will have collection pots so you can make a donation to support Buntingford Scout Group.

**We thank you for your support during 2019 and wish you a
Happy New Year for 2020**



2019 Community Grants Programme

East Herts Council is pleased to announce the second funding round of its Community Grants Programme. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **Monday 16th December**. Capital grants of up to £8,000 are available for costs of:

- building improvement projects that lead to high quality and accessible places and spaces that benefit the wider community;
- large items of equipment that enable health and wellbeing outcomes to happen.

Find out more about our priorities / target outcomes and how to apply for funding at www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-wellbeing/funding-community-organisations. Potential applicants should contact grants officer Claire Pullen on claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk to discuss their ideas before submitting an application.

Everyone Active

East Herts Council has awarded a 15-year contract, due to start on Wednesday 1st January 2020, for the running of its pools and gyms to Everyone Active, a national leisure operator that currently manages 193 facilities in partnership with 60 councils. The contract includes management of Ward Freman pool in Buntingford as well as the council-owned pool, gym and outdoor facilities at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre in Bishop's Stortford and Hartham Leisure Centre in Hertford, with the potential to extend the contract for a further five years. It also includes a five year contract for Leventhorpe pool & gym in Sawbridgeworth and Fanshawe pool & gym in Ware. The decision was taken at the Executive meeting on 8th October following a procurement process that commenced a year ago in October 2018.

The council is also investing £33 million to improve the facilities at Grange Paddocks, Hartham and Ward Freman. These projects aim to support the Council's vision for leisure across East Herts, providing attractive facilities for the whole community and contributing to the health and wellbeing objectives of the Council. Eric Buckmaster, EHC's executive member for health and wellbeing, said: "We are looking forward to continuing to work with Everyone Active ... Our pools and gyms offer excellent facilities for everyone in East Herts and we are committed to seeing more people getting active to help improve their health and wellbeing."



Jingle All The Way!

*A Family Christmas Concert
in aid of Save the Children*

Saturday 14th December, 11am

At St. Joseph's Church, Bishop's Stortford

A sell-out last year so take an hour out of Christmas shopping in Stortford to pop into St Joseph's Church and enjoy a family friendly, whistle-stop tour of all your favourite carols and Christmas songs. With some audience singalongs, jingle bells and a treat for the kids, this will get you all into the real spirit of Christmas. Not to be missed!

TICKETS: Adults £5, Children £3 – available from 07916 153 898, at www.theharmonaireschoir.com and on the door



The East Herts Lottery

The East Herts Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in our district. Since it launched in February, it's already raised more than £23,000 in vital funds for local community groups. So far 78 good causes across the district have registered, ranging from local charities, sports clubs and school fundraising projects to village halls, brownies and scouts.

Tickets cost £1 per week and 60p goes straight to charity – 50p to the East Herts charity of your choice and 10p into a community fund. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win, with a top prize of £25,000. When you buy tickets you choose your favourite cause that you'd like your tickets to support.

It's easy and free for local groups to become one of the good causes, with no set-up costs or admin fees – to apply involves completing a simple online form and once the lottery organisers have checked everything they'll set the group up with a lottery page. All that's then required is for the group to tell its members and supporters and encourage them to buy tickets! We will even supply a range of customizable marketing material.

Home-Start Royston and South Cambridgeshire is one of the local charities benefiting from the Lottery. Sarah Mascall, scheme manager at HSRSC, said: "We are a charity providing support to local families in Buntingford and the surrounding villages. We do this through our weekly family support group, which provides families with opportunities for improved peer support and community networks, and also through our home visiting service, where a trained volunteer visits a family at home on a weekly basis, providing practical and emotional support ... [Our] organisation is entirely self-funding and as



such we have different mechanisms for raising the funds we need to continue delivery of our services. Being part of the East Herts Lottery is supporting us to raise our profile in the Buntingford area. It's also a brilliant way of enabling stakeholders, such as the families that we are working with, to get involved with helping to fundraise for our charity. Although there are many mechanisms for fundraising, some take time or are more costly while buying a ticket for the lottery is a quick, easy way to register fundraising support and to give something back." (If you would like to find out more about Home-Start RSC you can call them on **01763 262262**, email admin@hsrsc.org.uk or see their website www.hsrsc.org.uk or facebook page [@hsrsc.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/hsrsc.org.uk).)

If you're part of a local community or voluntary group, why not sign up and see how your organisation could benefit from the lottery? To find out more visit www.easthertslottery.co.uk, email support@easthertslottery.co.uk or call **01279 912777**.

If you'd like to buy tickets and see if your favourite local group has signed up to benefit from them, go to the website and look under 'Buy Tickets'. You can search the list without having to make any commitment or give any of your details. And if you can't find who you're looking for, you could drop them an email and encourage them to join up.

At the time of writing, we're yet to have a £25,000 winner – remember, that could change at any time – but there are lots of smaller wins every week. Good luck, everybody.

FAMILY CAROLS with ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 21st December 7.30 pm

King James Academy (Meridian school site SG8 7HJ)

Royston Choral Society is excited to be welcoming J50 Brass back to Royston to accompany their Christmas Carol concert. J50 Brass have wowed local audiences before with their accompaniment of choir and audience seasonal singing. The group



was founded in London in 2008 and their musical interests range from indigenous European folk to baroque and early music, to commissions for film and the video game industry and more. With the scent of mulled wine and mince pies in the air, this musical evening promises a merry and bright start to Christmas

Tickets cost £14, Concessions £10, School students £1 (programme included). To purchase tickets go to the RCS website: www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk, or call Caroline Franks on 01920 822723, or ask any choir member.

Meet the original 'Santa' at

SAINT NICHOLAS' FESTIVE FAIR

St Nicholas' Church
Horsehoe Lane, **Great Hormead**
Buntingford SG9 0NH

Sunday 8th December
11.30am - 4.00pm

*Festive Stalls, Christmas Gifts, Refreshments, Santa's Grotto,
Music, Raffle and lots more in aid of St Nicholas' Church*

www.quintetchurches.com



BUNTINGFORD W.I.
'CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION'



at the
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH & CHURCH HALL
Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9BL

On **THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER**, 7.30 till 9.30pm

**CAROLS IN THE CHURCH FOLLOWED BY
REFRESHMENTS IN THE HALL**

*ALL WELCOME. A small donation of £3 per person would be appreciated
to cover the costs of the evening.*

FRIENDS OF REED CHURCH

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE SUPPER

The Christmas Village supper with The Royston Town Band will be held on

Saturday 7th December 2019 at 7pm in Reed Village Hall

Admission: Adult £12.50; Child £6; Family Ticket £30

To book please contact either:

Liz Jakeman on 01763 848398 or Mike Howes on 01763 848029

Brent Pelham 
Christmas Fair

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2019

11AM TO 3:30PM

Traditional Christmas Fair in the Village Hall

Free entry • Christmas trees • Stalls

Seasonal food & drink

www.brentpelhamchristmas.com



SUMMER ARTS 2020



Above: Flamenco at the Cheese Shop.

Right: Story stroll – exercise for mind & body.



The photos show just two of the fantastic events that took place as part of Summer Arts this year and the feedback has been very favourable. So here we are, stepping up to the plate, to announce another Summer Arts in 2020, but bigger and even better! The main event will be **19th–21st June 2020**, plus there will be some special events in and around Buntingford over the summer. Follow us on Facebook [@buntingfordsummerarts](#), Twitter [@ArtsBuntingford](#) or Instagram [@buntingfordsummerarts](#) for more information.

A new Summer Arts Committee has been formed and exciting ideas have been flying around the planning table, spurred on by your lovely comments on the feedback forms. Here are just a few events that are being considered for next year: • More live music including a Jazz Concert and tribute bands; • Arts & Crafts workshops on a range of subjects from floristry to art journaling; • More dance shows and authors' talks.

If there is anything that you are particularly passionate about and would like to see as part of Summer Arts, or if you know someone who would like to contribute, or indeed if you would like to be a part of an event yourself, please let us know at:

fun@buntingfordsummerarts.com



Braughing Sing Community Choir

invites you to join us! The choir is open to everyone and there are no auditions. We welcome new members of all ages and abilities. We meet on **Tuesday evenings** (during term time) at **Jenyns School, Braughing SG11 2QJ, 7.30 to 9.00pm**. For more details contact **Elaine 01763 289738**

Forthcoming concerts:

Sat 30th November – St. Mary's Church, Braughing 7.30pm, free entry

Tuesday 17th December – Carols in the Chapel at Haileybury College

For more details and tickets see page 11 or go to the Isabel Hospice website.

www.braughingsing.com Facebook page: **"The Braughing Sing"**

Hertfordshire Sustainability Forum Conference

Climate Change: Working Together to a Zero Carbon Future

David and I were invited to attend this conference, held in Ware last month, which hosted a wealth of speakers on all kinds of subjects from household energy efficiency to transport and waste, including food waste, but not before we were enlightened as to the science of the current climate emergency by Professor Joanna Haigh, who put us firmly in the picture of the need to act sooner rather than later to reach net carbon zero as soon as possible.

East Herts District Council has committed itself, along with the rest of the district, to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and wants to work with communities to enable this to happen. Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environment Sustainability and Councillor for Bishop's Stortford South, is Chair of the Hertfordshire Sustainability Forum and is keen for environmental groups within Hertfordshire to join in discussion on how to achieve the net zero target.

The conference provided many ideas and now we to have put them into action. One possibility for Buntingford, which has such a poor transport service, is the provision of an electric car club – see <https://ecarclub.co.uk>

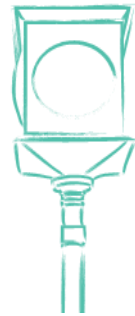
One of the activities that emits the most carbon is heating our homes – the majority of them by gas. It would make a huge difference if we were all to make sure that our homes are well insulated so we can turn down the heat. The installation of an air source heat pump would go a long way to reducing a household's emissions, and although there is an initial outlay, installation would soon pay for itself. You may also be eligible to apply for a government Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) grant. Find out more at: <https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/renewable-energy/heat/air-source-heat-pumps>

If anyone reading this has any burning issues they would like us to raise at the next Forum meeting, or a vision for Buntingford you would like to share, please let us know at buntingfordintransition@gmail.com

Madela and the BiT Team



WHAT DO YOU WANT BUNTINGFORD TO LOOK LIKE IN 2050?



Yew Tree Alpacas Christmas Shop

OPENING
Saturday 2nd November – Early bird shop
10% Off (this day only)
Monday 2nd – Saturday 7th December
Friday 13th & Saturday 14th December
Friday 20th & Saturday 21st December
10.30am - 4.30pm

A fabulous range of alpaca products and Christmas gifts including:

Luxury alpaca socks, super soft alpaca yarns from our own herd, hand knitted alpaca scarves, hats and gloves, alpaca pillows and cushions, alpaca Christmas and greetings cards, alpaca print gift items, handmade luxury chocolates, Christmas candles and more!



Refreshments available

Yew Tree Alpaca PRODUCTS
Yew Tree Cottage, Anstey, Herts SG9 0DA
(on the Anstey to Brent Pelham road)
Tel: 01763 848257
Email: info@yewtreealpacas.co.uk
www.yewtreealpacas.co.uk

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Many congratulations to the Children's Film Club for the wonderful atmosphere at the screening of *Secret Life of Pets 2*, warming the spirits of a big audience on a wet November afternoon. It's a great movie and it was lovely to witness an almost full-house of children enjoying it so much! Later on, the adults seemed to enjoy their evening too, with *Yesterday* providing tantalizing glimpses of our Suffolk coastline and allowing many of us to re-visit the Beatles' soundtrack of our young lives.

Films in Benson Hall, Buntingford, on Saturday 7th December

Matinee at 14.30 Raymond Briggs' Christmas Trilogy: *Father Christmas*, *The Snowman* and *The Snowdog*

Last year at Christmas we showed *It's a Wonderful Life* and these three short films are as touching and life-affirming as that perennial favourite. We hear the voice of Mel Smith as *Father Christmas*, a curmudgeonly old fellow taking a well-earned holiday before his annual Christmas duties.



The Snowman is an animated classic from the 1980s – wordless apart from the haunting song, 'Walking in the Air'. It is worth seeing again, and again, and again. Its sequel, *The Snowman and The Snowdog*, has another wonderful song, 'Light the Night'. This is a magical pre-Christmas treat for all the family.



Evening at 19.30 *Rocketman*

The makers of *Bohemian Rhapsody* bring us another flamboyant rock bio-pic – this time of Elton John. His life story is many things – rags to incredible riches, repressed sexual identity, serious addictions, the corrosive effect of celebrity, and the capacity for one of our greatest songwriters and performers to overcome it all and become his true self. Taron Egerton is stunning as Elton – a man who took rock stardom to crazy extremes and his own life to ridiculous excess, but his genius as a musician allows us to forgive him everything!

The 2020 Programme

We – and every other club and group that uses Benson Hall – are still reeling from the sudden decision by the owners to double the rent at the end of September. Having absorbed the increased costs for the last three showings of 2019, we realise that it is unsustainable to continue to do so. With extreme reluctance and immense sadness, we have been forced to cancel the Children's Film Club screenings because we simply cannot afford them. It is particularly heart-breaking as we had such a good audience in November – yet even that did not cover the increased rent of the hall. So in January 2020 we shall be showing an evening film only. We thank all the children and parents who have come along to our Children's Film Club over the years: we pray that the owners of Benson Hall will have a change of heart that will allow us to run a full programme of children's matinees in our 2020 Season.

**Benson Hall Saturday 18th January
Evening at 19.30 Downton Abbey**

Fans of the TV series will be thrilled to see the familiar characters on the big screen in a story of what happens when King George V and Queen Mary come to visit. Will the Downton staff have to surrender their kitchen to the Royal entourage? Or is there another way? Start the New Year with an intriguing and enjoyable trip back to the Abbey.



Charity Family Screening:

'The Lion King' in aid of **Great Ormond Street Hospital, 7.30pm Saturday 15th February** in **Seth Ward Community Centre**. This is being organized by Kelly (of the Children's Films) and Chris Brock as a thank you to GOSH for successfully treating the heart condition that their little daughter, Keris, suffered during the last year.

Another Charity Film, this one in aid of **The Furneaux Pelham Church Roof Fund**, is being planned for Saturday 28th March. Details will be in the February Journal.

Short Film Competition

This is receiving very positive feedback on social media. More information is available on the website at www.buntingfordshorts.com. This year the competition is generously sponsored by **Chris Dellar Properties**, which means we can offer terrific rewards – a Top Prize of £300, 2nd £200 and 3rd £100. The closing date for entries has been extended by two weeks to **Friday 31st January 2020** and the likely date for screening the short-listed entries and announcing the winners is Thursday 20th February. The venue and date will be confirmed in the new year and published in the February Journal.

Christine Stuart-Taylor, Event Co-ordinator – 01763 272990

Box Office: Chris Dellar Properties, 58 High Street, Buntingford – 01763 272605

Online Booking via Billetto: www.buntingfordfilmclub.org

**Buntingford
Community
Choir**



**OPEN
EVENING**

MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER @ 07:30

MILLFIELD SCHOOL SG9 9DT

An invitation to come along and experience how much fun singing with your local Community Choir can be. There is no charge and we will even have some refreshments. Anyone over 16, with any singing ability, is welcome.

For more information go to our website: www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk

Or email: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS' CLUB

In November the club welcomed Zsuzsanna Serer who came to talk to us about the land of her birth, Hungary, and its Christmas Traditions. Up until the 10th century Hungary was peopled by nomadic tribes who were pagans worshipping many different gods. In the conversion to Christianity the existing pagan winter traditions merged with those of Christmas. Hungarian children receive gifts twice during the Christmas season. The first time for gifts is on 6th December, the Day of St. Nicholas, when



children receive small presents like candy or small toys which are left in shoes placed on the windowsill the night before. The second opportunity for gift-giving comes on Christmas Eve when the Christmas tree is set up and decorated, and gifts are left underneath not by Father Christmas but by Baby Jesus.

Zsuzsanna told us of other traditions, too numerous to mention, and she also showed us how to create a traditional table decoration for the Christmas table. It was great fun as members helped to put it together – even a couple of our male club members had a go. The photo shows the excellent result.

Some of our club members visited Reed Garden Club for our annual interclub quiz. We were pleased to be victorious for once, claiming the honour of Quiz Winners 2019. In December we will be having our members' Christmas Party, so our next open meeting will be on 5th February 2020 when we will be hearing about Canons Ashby Gardens near Daventry in Northamptonshire, which are owned by the National Trust.

We meet in the URC Hall on the first Wednesday of the month (except January and August) starting 8pm. We regularly have an invited speaker talking on a range of subjects. In summer we visit a garden instead of an indoor meeting and organise a coach trip to a well-known garden. We are always happy to see new members (the subscription is great value at just £15 per year) and non-members are also always welcome to come along to meetings for a charge of £3. For more information about Buntingford Gardeners' Club, contact me, the Club Secretary, on 01763 271885.

Lesley Lowers, Club Secretary

BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

The Annual Show was held at the Benson Hall, Buntingford, on Saturday 26th October. Entries were slightly down on recent years in the Budgerigar and Canary categories, but British and Foreign entries remained strong. The awards were:

- **Best Budgerigar – Mr C Pegrum**
- **Best Canary – Mr M Waller**
- **Best British – Steve and Bill Wallis**
- **Best Foreign – Mr Steve Studd**
- **Best Junior – Eve Hurst**



Many thanks for your support. We meet at Benson Hall, 8pm on 1st Tuesday of the month. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mr T Robinson (Chairman) 01763 243143

BALFF Winter Course

Starting Wednesday 15th January 2020

'PLANT HUNTERS'

Come and find out about the men who forded vast rivers, faced danger, were continually ill and even died in their quest to discover wondrous plants and bring them back to Britain from the four corners of the world.

This course will introduce some of Britain's greatest plant hunters and their finds, including the Tradescants, Joseph Banks, David Douglas, Ernest 'Chinese' Wilson and Frank Kingdon-Ward. It will open your eyes to when plants we think of as common in our gardens today first arrived on our shores.

Anyone who would like to join us for our new 10-week course will be very welcome. We meet on Wednesday mornings at the Seth Ward Community Centre, Luynes Rise, starting 10.30am. We serve tea and coffee from 10am. If you are interested please phone: **Julia Peacock on 01763 272584 or Joan Jones on 01763 273341.**



Top tips to avoid back pain this Christmas

Did you know... We see an increase in patients coming into the clinic with backaches that appear during the Christmas period. You would be surprised how

many people hurt their back over the festive period.

In fact... There are many potential hazards at Christmas – bending and lifting heavy items like Christmas trees, furniture, or even the turkey can cause strains or exacerbate existing pains. Also we tend to sit a lot, catching up with family, watching telly... If you do hurt your back or neck during the holidays, your first thought might be to put your feet up and wait for the pain to go. **But remember...** this may seem like the obvious option, but it is far more beneficial to keep your muscles moving.



Our top tips to avoid back pain at Christmas:

- If you're lifting heavy objects, ask for help.
- When you're putting up decorations use a step or a ladder to avoid over-stretching or straining your back or neck.
- Get out for regular walks – keeping active helps to keep your spine healthy.
- Try to wrap presents over a few days rather than all at once. Spending too much time in one position can set off pain.
- Make time for yourself to relax. Christmas can be stressful and this can lead to muscle tension, so some time to relax could be just what you need.
- Why not book in for a relaxing massage to stop muscle tightness building up?

Attend2Health is also very proud to announce we recently won another National Award – Best Business-Woman in Health and Wellness!

Louise Hampton

The trouble with house guests!

You may be pleased to know that this article is a Christmas free zone! You've been bombarded with Christmas for weeks, and been seeing Christmas cards in the shops since August, so nothing Christmassy from me. You're welcome.

You join me as I sit in a tired heap after having had friends to stay for the weekend. Sounds simple enough when you plan it, doesn't it? Just a couple, coming to spend the weekend with you. Something to look forward to. No biggie, right?

So you put clean sheets on the bed, well new ones actually. The old ones won't do. Ditto pillow cases. And towels. Their room gets a spring clean from top to bottom, and so does their bathroom. You hope their loo doesn't block again. It does that. The shower is temperamental, forgot about that. Oops, the bedside lamp doesn't work. Must get a new bulb.

Actually the whole house has to get a spring clean. The cobwebs only become visible when guests are coming. The garden is a bit of a mess, better get the gardener round quick. It would help if we could see out of the windows ... where's the window cleaner's number when you want it?

Now, what shall I feed them? Any allergies, veggies or vegans? No, I think we're alright. I go shopping and spend £200 just for the weekend. They might want a full English, or they might want granola, yoghurt and fruit. Then there's lunches, a roast, or maybe I could get away with a spag bol? I buy all the ingredients just in case. And puddings, and drinks. And I get some fancy soap. And biscuits. And cheesecake.

They'll be alright with the puppy. They like dogs. Better wash his bed in case it's a bit smelly. Better wash him too, while I'm at it. They're just old friends, I tell myself, not royalty. But my alter ego says, their house is always pristine, with fluffy white towels and squeaky clean ... well, everything.

I'd better wash the glasses. They haven't been used in a while. The oven's a bit of an embarrassment. Just give that a once over, when I've washed the kitchen floor. My roots are showing, so must fit in a trip to the hairdressers.

They finally arrive to a house that's polished to within an inch of its life, and a suitably coiffed hostess who is almost on her knees. They've eaten, they say. Phew, no need to get dinner then.

The puppy is in the kitchen. We are in the sitting room. My guest Tom says, "Let the puppy in, we'd love to see him". "He'll jump all over you", I warn, but Tom insists. So Jasper bounds in and leaps straight over the coffee table onto Tom's head. Yes, his head. Tom jumps up, and is not amused.

I apologise and take Jasper back to the kitchen while Tom murmurs about how people should train their dogs. Jasper whines in protest, and Tom says that he can't stand hearing dogs whining, so he's going for a walk. So it's all going well then.

Luckily Gina is unfazed, and used to her husband's foibles. We chat and laugh, and catch up. When Tom returns I am so tired that I laugh nervously at everything he says in an effort to put him in a good mood, and Gina thinks I'm flirting with him. They opt to go to bed at 10pm. That suits me. I'm exhausted.

I have bought enough breakfast ingredients to feed an army, but they don't do breakfast. So I don't either. Tom goes walkabout again, "to let you two have a girly chat" he says, and by 11am Gina and I are hungry so we eat hot cross buns. Yeah, I know, don't ask.

I decide to take them out for lunch. My friends, not the hot cross buns. So much easier than cooking. When we meet up with Tom at the pub he is upset that we have eaten buns, saying he had deprived himself of a cake while he was out, and how could he enjoy a big lunch when we weren't hungry? He didn't know how we could be so selfish, and although he was starving, would only eat soup in protest. Gina and I ordered salad, and had to stuff down every last leaf to prove we were still hungry, despite our criminal scoffing behaviour earlier. I tried to insist on paying, but Gina ordered Tom to pay. So he did, just before going walkabout again because the place was too noisy.

When they finally left to go home there was a lot of waving and promises to keep in touch. Gina suggested I come and stay with them for a few days. That might not be for a little while. I'm a bit busy. I have bedding to wash. But hey, they're my friends, and I love them no matter what, and I hope they feel the same way about me. And the good thing is I have a sparkling house, and a groaning fridge, and a puppy that is climbing all over me as I write. He will learn, but for now he's enjoying being a puppy, and all he wants is a cuddle. Me too!

Happy Christmas! Oops, I mean, have a fun month, with absolutely no house guests, and I hope 2020 brings you everything you would wish for yourself.

Katie James, Buntingford Writers' Group

Buntingford Dramatic Society Presents



BENSON HALL, Buntingford **Buntingford Dramatic Society**
two comedies in one night

Cold supper buffet, licenced bar Tickets £15 (from 2nd Jan)
8.00pm Friday 7th & 14th February 2020
7.30pm Saturday 8th & 15th February 2020



visit www.buntingforddrama.uk tel 07526 748838

If you would like to advertise your event in the *Buntingford Journal*, please contact **Christine Noble** on **01763 273095** or email: **Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk**



The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

As Christmas approaches, we are more likely to hear the distinctive sound of church bells. Most of our church towers were erected with the specific purpose of housing bells high above the rooftops so their sound could be heard over a wide area, calling people to worship or, sometimes, to celebrate a special occasion. Church bells come in many sizes, the larger giving a deeper tone. Of

the Hundred Parishes churches, Saffron Walden has most bells with 12, the largest weighing over a ton. Some of our bells are very old: Great Waltham, Little Hallingbury, Little Hormead, Strethall and Westmill (below) each have one from the 14th century.

Each bell is rung by a different person, pulling gently but firmly on a bell rope from below. A practised team of bell-ringers can create a wonderful sound as the bells are rung in a predetermined sequence. The simplest sequence is to ring the lightest first and so on through to the heaviest, producing a round of descending notes. The round may be repeated many times, or the sequence may be changed by swapping two bells. There are many possible sequences

(Continued on page 33)

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTMILL.					
No.	Maker's Name	Date	Note	Width	Weight <small>Cwt</small> <small>qrs</small> <small>lbs</small>
1	John Warner	1870	F	26½"	3 2 0
2	Thomas Mears	1838	E	26½"	4 0 2
3	Lester & Pack	1759	D	27"	4 3 16
4	John Danyell	1460	C	31½"	8 1 3
5	Willelmus Rufford	1350	B	32"	6 1 3
6	Miles Gray	1616	A	34"	6 2 9



hyde hall
partnership



Please contact:

Nick Dawson: 07798 677732
or
Ben Cannon: 0780 159 3824

QUALITY, SUSTAINABLE

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LOCALLY DELIVERED







www.hydehalllogs.co.uk

for ringing a given number of bells: for eight bells the number of possible sequences is 40,320. An experienced bell-ringing team will sometimes attempt to ring a continuous set of changing sequences. Long ago it was decided that anything over 5,000 changes of sequence would be termed a 'peal'. Typically it takes around 3 hours to ring a full peal and it requires great concentration and stamina as well as organisation. Peals are rarely attempted, but when successfully achieved they may be recorded in the church on a 'peal board' giving the ringers' names and the title of the sequence or method used.

Ken McDonald, Secretary, The Hundred Parishes Society

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:

03444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



**citizens
advice**

Universal Credit – Help to Claim project

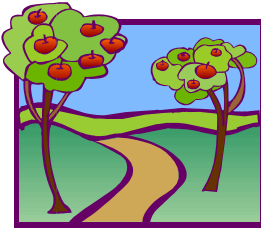
The Help to Claim project offers support for people in the early stages of their Universal Credit claim, from application through to first full payment. Help to Claim provides people with many different ways to get support, based on their circumstances and preferences.

Our 'no wrong door' approach, which provides multiple routes into the service, ensures those who need support can access it. Self-referral remains the most popular route, closely followed by referrals and signposting from Jobcentres. We also see a significant number of referrals from local authorities and other partners. People can also access our service through phone and webchat. These are still relatively new channels in the advice sector, which has a long tradition of face-to-face delivery. At Citizens Advice, we are proud of the coverage we can provide for face-to-face advice, as well as the reassurance it can bring to those who need it most. Yet we're also finding that newer channels can bring advice to people wherever they are. What might be a convenience to some is a necessity to others. Face-to-face remains the most common way for people to access our service, with over half of the support sessions delivered this way. However, that leaves almost half of the support we offer being provided by phone or online, showing that these channels are important in providing an accessible and convenient service.

For each person, we tailor support all the way to their first payment based on their needs. We check that Universal Credit is the right benefit, create accounts and give advice on supporting evidence. We also help with issues such as advance payments and alternative payment arrangements for people who need them.

Around half the people we have supported through Help to Claim have needed this more extensive support with completing their claim and preparing for their first payment and have required help with multiple issues within the claim process. And if a person no longer needs support with managing their claim, we make sure they know about the options for further support if they need it, both from us and from other local services. Information about Universal Credit can be found at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/> and <https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/universal-credit>

© Copyright Citizens Advice. For the most up-to-date information, visit their website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk



Orchard Surgery patients are heavily involved in finding out what is happening over the proposed closure of the surgery from 1st April 2020. A petition against the closure is available for signature during opening hours at the surgery and everyone is encouraged and welcome to come in and sign it. The petition is also available online, at Buntingford Pharmacy and even in your local pub! We already have more than 500 signatures so please make sure you put your name on it too. It will be sent to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), to our local MP and Councillors and to the Department of Health.

There have been a lot of questions raised by Orchard patients which the CCG has responded to. All the questions and responses have been posted on the websites of both the CCG and Orchard Surgery. In late October about 200 patients attended a meeting with Beverley Flowers, CEO of the CCG, held at the Buntingford Community Centre (thank you to the Community Centre for free use of the major meeting room). The aim of the meeting was to better understand the issues surrounding the proposed closure and a demand was made for a better explanation as to why the surgery has to close and what the alternatives are for Orchard patients. We await a further letter from the CCG specifying the future of primary care services for all our patients. Further Patient Participation Meetings are being planned to help communicate whatever is happening and all patients are encouraged to take part.

Meanwhile patients are being asked to stay with Orchard Surgery over the next few months while matters are sorted out. The Medical Centre will NOT be registering any more of our patients for now as they do not have staff in place yet to cope with the influx. If patients are to register there, this will be done in a controlled manner from February.

Flu vaccinations are available for over 65s, for children up to 5 years and for designated patients with specific diseases. Please call the surgery to book your vaccination.

Extended hours GP appointments are available 7 days a week, including Xmas Day and Boxing Day, at Hanscombe House Surgery in Hertford. These appointments, which are available up to 8pm on weekdays and on Saturday and Sunday mornings, must be booked in advance with Orchard Surgery. The GP you see will have access to your records online, with your consent. You can also book to see a nurse.

The patients and staff of Orchard Surgery wish everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and Happy New Year.



Hertswise
Dementia support in Herts

**Buntingford Dementia
Carers Support Group**

This free support group meets from **10am to 12noon** on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, to give carers the chance to share views and experiences, meet guest speakers, and find out what support is available. Our next informal meeting is on:

Wednesday 18th December 2019 (10am to 12noon)

We meet in the **Tea Room & Wine Bar on Buntingford High Street (SG9 9AQ)**. No need to book and no charge to attend – carers purchase their own refreshments.

For more information, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, Monday to Friday, 8am–6pm, or visit: www.hertswise.org.uk

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Kate Armstrong, the self-publisher of the book *'An Unexpected Journey: A Woman's Role'*, was our speaker in November. The book describes the life of a colonial officer's wife, actually the writer's own mother, in the dying days of Empire, often travelling and living in difficult and dangerous times in countries on the eve of independence. Margaret Readon and her husband Patrick were initially posted to the Italian colony of Eritrea, where she

gave birth to her son in Asmara Military Hospital. They then joined the ranks of the Colonial Service, initially in Tanganika (now Tanzania) where daughter Kate was born. Many other postings followed but sadly Patrick suffered a heart attack and died aged 57, shortly before he was due to take up the position of Governor of the British Virgin Islands. Margaret returned home to the UK, to a new way of life and new friends.

'The Girls and their Grapes' was the title of last month's Wine Appreciation meeting. One of the lady members had suggested that the ladies should take a meeting, so Group Leader Dave Austin gave them – working in pairs – a grape to research and then choose a bottle of wine for the tasting. As it happened to be Halloween, the room was suitably decorated and Dave produced a Power Point presentation of the chosen wines and the countries and regions they came from, and the ladies gave a report on them. It was a great hit and will definitely be repeated!

Church Crawlers visited the Coptic Cathedral at Stevenage (below). The building, hidden behind Shepalbury Sports Academy, was originally a Manor built in 1865. It has been used in a variety of ways over the years, including a number of boarding schools, one



of which was for Polish orphans during WW2. It was a school for boys from London up until 1988, when it was left abandoned. It was purchased by the Coptic Orthodox Church in 1991.

The Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria is an Oriental Orthodox Christian Church based in Egypt, Africa and the Middle East. It was founded in 42AD.

At our next meeting on Monday 9th December our speaker will be Damien O'Dell on 'Adventures of a Ghost Hunter'. On Monday 13th January, Bridget Keevil brings us 'The Fat Bird and the Boat', humorous tales of round-the-world-yachting. Doors open 1.30pm.

Jean Cook

Please visit our website for information on our groups:
www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford



Layston C of E First School

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

We started our second autumn half term exploring the values of Peace and Justice. The children have explored peace-making actions ranging from helping to resolve conflict to creating space for stillness. Peace in the sense of total well-being is God's intention for the whole of creation, and is a promise that awaits ultimate fulfilment.



In this edition we would like to share with you some of the first-hand experiences that learning at Layston incorporates.



The Y2 children have had an exciting time learning about the Great Fire of London. They had a visit from the Fire Brigade when they set fire to their replica Tudor houses! Our Y3 children had adventures at Celtic Harmony Camp where prehistory is brought to life within an Iron Age settlement.



Harvest Festival

It was great to see how well our Harvest Festival was attended and thank you for coming to show your support to the school, staff and children. We also wanted to thank everyone for their generous donations towards the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. We raised a total of £206.64. All of your harvest food contributions were gratefully received and later delivered to Buntingford Food Bank.

We also announced the winners of our 'Light up Tanzania' competition which raised funds for the Bishop's Harvest appeal. Well done to all those who entered. All of these have been on display in St Peter's Church.

Friendship week

During anti-bullying week the children were thinking about friendship and how to be a good friend. They took part in team-building activities with our RTFC sports coaches (right). It was a great experience – the children had a lot of fun! During the week they also had a visit from PCSO Mark Rippon (below).



With our Christmas production in rehearsal for early December and a Reception year Nativity at the end of term in St Peter's Church, we will be celebrating the Christmas message of joy, hope and unconditional love. We thank the wider Buntingford community for your continuing support and wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Mrs McMurrough, Acting Headteacher

To find out more about Layston School, visit our website www.layston.sch.hert.uk

Little Sparks
Crafty Christmas
FAMILY EVENT, ALL WELCOME
CRAFTS AIMED AT AGES 4 -11YRS
Sunday 8th December 2:30 – 4:30pm
St Peter's Church, Market Hill, Buntingford, SG9 9AB
FREE (donations to the church gratefully received)
Limited places. First come, first served.
Email info@mummy-sos.com to book, or just turn up and join in!
Sponsored by MUMMY SOS



MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk



Millfield School Yurt

A huge thank you to the Buntingford community following the damage caused to the school yurt when it was vandalised in the school summer holiday. Through the amazing help and support of the community, we have been able to afford to restore the yurt to its original condition. Without this help, our children would not be able to enjoy the valuable learning experiences we are now able to start offering again at Millfield. Thank you!

Visit and Tour for Prospective Parents and Carers

We are adding a further opportunity to visit and tour our school on Thursday 9th January 2020 at 9:15am. If you would like more information, please contact the School Office. We welcome you to come and join us for an

organised tour if your child will be starting in our Nursery or Reception Class in September 2020. Booking is not required.

Reception and Nursery Admissions to start in September 2020

Applications for Reception places can be made online using the Hertfordshire County Council website until 15th January 2020. Applications for Nursery places can now be made direct to Millfield School until 15th January 2020. This is for either morning or afternoon sessions, for children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017.

PTA Christmas Fair – Friday 6th December, 4pm to 6pm

We are all looking forward to our Christmas Fair (above right). We have a good range of local craft stalls booked to attend, as well as all the usual favourites – raffle, tombola, Christmas Grotto! Our Key Stage 1 and Stage 2 pupils are making things in class which they will be selling at the Fair. We hope lots of people are able to come along and enjoy the Fair with us.

Christmas Performances

The children are deep in preparations for the festive season, when Key Stage 1 will be performing their Christmas Play, our Nursery classes will perform the Nativity, and our Reception classes will take part in the annual Carol Service with a performance of the Tableau. We shall be collecting donations for our chosen charities at each performance. Our concerts are always very well attended and we hope everyone has a great time. Pupils in Key Stage 2 will be presenting a performance during the coming Spring Term.

Carol Singing in the Community

Our Key Stage 2 pupils always look forward to visiting local care homes at this time of year to sing Carols and Christmas songs. It is a tradition that everyone enjoys.

Spring Term Topics

After all the excitement at the end of this term and over Christmas, we will return to school in January ready to start some new learning. Pupils in both Key Stages will be starting new topics, with Key Stage 1 learning about 'Castles' and 'Our World' and Key Stage 2 studying 'Ancient Egypt' and 'The Lakes'. Our Nursery children will be looking at 'Stories' and 'Growing', whilst the children in Reception will have the topics 'Fairy Tales', 'Healthy Eating' and 'Jungle Animals'.



Games, Stalls, Refreshments, Storytime, Raffle prizes and lots of Christmas fun!

Millfield School would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher

School Office 01763 271717

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk



ISTD Graded classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern and recreational classes in Street, Commercial, Musical Theatre, Baby Boppers and Adult Tap

It's **PANTO** season and we have a number of pupils who, following auditions, have gained parts in various local Pantomimes and shows! **Olivia Dyson** has won a lead role in the Broxbourne Theatre Company's production of 'Puss in Boots'. She will be playing the part of 'Princess Coral'. Performances run 8th-12th January 2020 at The Spotlight, Broxbourne. **Caitie March** and

Chloe Hall have parts in the juvenile ensemble of Hertford Theatre's production of 'The Snow Queen', in one of three teams of young dancers that perform in rotation. Performances run 30th November 2019-1st January 2020 at Hertford Theatre. **Orla Swann** will be performing with The Chelmsford Ballet Company both in 'Music For Christmas' at the Brentwood Centre, Brentwood, as a Mustard Seed Fairy in an extract from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', and as a mouse in their production of Beatrix Potter™ Tales at The Civic Theatre, Chelmsford, 25th-28th March 2020. Orla will also be in the 'Wind in the Willows' in Barkway in February 2020.

If you would like to try something new, or if you already love to dance, do contact us for a **NO OBLIGATION TRIAL IN ANY DANCE GENRE!** We offer Ballet, Tap, Modern & Jazz, Street, Commercial and Musical Theatre classes. We also have **ADULT TAP!**

www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk





Edwinstree Middle School



A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

*As a Christian school, we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
As a community, we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

Year 5 and Year 6 Road Safety Presentation

The Gist Group kindly made their annual visit to Edwinstree to educate our younger students about the dangers on the road, and the importance of being visible at night. This was nicely timed before



the clocks went back at the end of October. The students were



really surprised to see how difficult it is to see someone in front of you, when sitting in the cab of a lorry or bus. It made our students think! It was also interesting to be reminded that it is this age group that are most at risk of an accident.

This term we have been reflecting on the value of Wisdom

Year 8 students were treated to a lesson in police wisdom and what it means to be of an age that is criminally responsible, courtesy of our lovely Buntingford Police Community Officers. They then gained further insight from The Alter Ego Theatre Group, who performed to educate our students about gangs and knife crime. It is important that students are aware of the dangers and understand the criminal offence.



Sharing lessons and Wisdom with our First Schools



Each half term the school raises money for an agreed charity and this term two of our students, one from Year 8 and one from Year 5, nominated 'Mummy's Star'. This particular cancer charity supports very young children in the first couple of years after the loss of a parent to cancer. The students held a Collective Worship to explain that they had lost an Aunty, and how the charity had supported their family. To help raise money while following our theme of wisdom, the students decided to share some of their own wisdom with the younger years.



The week after the half-term holiday, Millfield children came to Edwinstree to take part in



Technology lessons, whilst Layston arrived for Art lessons. On the Friday, students from Edwinstree visited Millfield School at lunchtime to share some of their talents and wisdom. We loved spending time with the younger year groups and, unsurprisingly, we learnt a lot from our younger members of the community. Thank you to our partner schools for getting involved.



Armistice Day – ‘We Will Remember Them’
On Monday 11th November at 11am, the whole school community held a minute’s silence in memory of those brave soldiers who lost their lives. A student from Freman College (left) kindly came down to Edwinstree to play ‘The Last Post’.



Arithmetic Workshop for Parents

We have also been spreading Year 6 Wisdom to our parents and during November Year 5 parents were invited to take part in an arithmetic workshop. Staff were on hand to offer support with various methods of arithmetic and to explain how the children are taught arithmetic and Maths in school, offering advice on long multiplication and division and answering questions relating to fractions. Many of our teachers are parents themselves and are fully aware of how confusing the new Maths methods can be. This was a great opportunity for parents to gain an insight into these new methods and give them the confidence to support their children in their learning. Attendance at these sessions has been a key factor in supporting students to succeed.

Jo Gant, Headteacher

What the Dickens is going on?

It is the best of times, it is the So the line goes more or less and as the year draws to a close it is perhaps appropriate to look back at the recent past and for those more cognisant even further back in time. Indeed it is worth comparing, especially at this time of year, how things have changed or not since the great writer and social observer Charles Dickens put pen to paper.

Of course recently we have been remembering those who fought and died to preserve our English way of life. Yet most fail to look at what caused those brave souls to do the bidding of those who lead us and control our lives even unto today. I feel that these thoughts that float in one's mind, especially on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, need real consideration, particularly at this time of political indecision and waffle.

Let us consider for a moment what has occurred in the few decades since the war which in typical style was given a number – the number Two. Apparently it failed to achieve being given a title, such as “The Great War” bestowed on WW1. On the plus side, following the war the sacrifices made by our parents and grandparents was recognised and a new approach was employed by government which prompted such initiatives as the National Health Service, a shorter working week, annual holidays and pensions along with decent housing. These benefited a great proportion of the population but those in power were not being totally altruistic, they had more long-term considerations if the class structure and hierarchy of this country were to be maintained.

The ‘powers that be’ recognised that the balance of power in the land had moved as a result of the global conflict, and just as the labour market had changed much of the old establishment after WW1, we were now heading farther in favour of the working classes and their aspirations. Demanding better wages and conditions was moving towards organised groups such as the unions and they had power as there was a much reduced workforce, in much the same way that the balance of power shifted after the privations of the Black Death centuries before.

On reflection the best way to have proceeded would be to implement some of the scientific, economic and personal attributes into our way of life and economy that we had learnt from necessity during the war. But that is not the way of our masters, as that way leads to equality. What they needed was to import labour at knock-down prices and a little inter-race conflict would not go amiss (whilst they are in-fighting we can divide and conquer!) The country already had a stock of peoples who had found sanctuary in England and had no wish to go back to their war-torn nations.

Things were then left to the efforts and ingenuity of a new social group, Baby Boomers, and The Teenager was born with inspired music from across the pond and a determination to change things for the better. Satire and social comment percolated up through the young educated classes and the upper classes saw what was coming and had to make some really astute adjustments to their thinking if they were to stay at the top of the pecking order.

In the 60s everything was happening. All at once old taboos were overturned and when all else failed there was the threat of WW3 and the mushroom cloud. Television (not just LSD!) played a large part in expanding our minds and worldview, even if some of it was obvious propaganda. Rebellion was in the air stirred up by fans of Uncle Joe and the Red Bear, but our masters need not have worried as they had a cunning plan: to turn them all into plastic capitalists.

Perhaps the thinking went something like this: “All these council houses that have been built in the last few decades need repair and maintenance. Let’s encourage tenants to

buy them, we will make a killing with the income and so will our mates in the finance sector with mortgages, insurance, etc. We can close down all our maintenance departments and save money as they will make repairs themselves. As they are now in debt they won't go on strike as they may lose their homes and if we kid the women that they are missing out they will strive to go out to work and increase home income which will at a stroke mean house prices and mortgages will rise and our tax income will double. Then 40 or so years down the line we can invent ways to get our money back, such as equity release, inheritance tax, care homes etc. It will all be self-funding folks."

By the time the average person realised what had happened the 40-hour week they fought for had been eroded, and tea breaks and overtime payments were becoming a thing of the past as the gig economy returned many to the hireling culture of the docks in the 1930s. Apprentices were in short supply as the ambitious favoured the service and financial sectors where loads of money could be made (and if you snorted enough Columbian marching powder you often didn't know what day it was!). The next trick was to wind women up to demand equal treatment (which was well overdue), but there was a catch down the line. Now we are all equal we can all work longer for less real take-home pay per hour once you take out costs, child care and taxes (that went well then).

The so-called Common Market was created so that a few European countries could trade without tariffs. What was not made clear was that that was just the taster. What was really in mind was a United States of Europe with guess who in charge. More and more edicts were affecting our lives and we were attracting all-comers to our shores who set up businesses and activities that had never been needed or even heard of two decades earlier. Public order and crime increased as rival gangs fight for control and our leaders only sit and come up with ridiculous schemes like Universal Credit where people who need financial support have to wait more than five weeks to get any and are encouraged by those same departments to take out loans they struggle to pay back to service their short-changed policies.

We pay to watch endless television repeats that would not have been tolerated a decade ago and because our young generation has no appreciation of money it is passed away in so many ways without a thought, getting us all further and further in debt. Some so-called charities are run by crooks and overpaid staff, and the money so readily given to save the desperate finds its way into the pockets of lawyers and so-called directors.

To put it all into focus and see how business and our masters view us the great unwashed, just look at one of the greatest scams of recent years – the Smart meter! If ever there was a bigger con I have yet to see it. How could anybody believe that having a small gadget in their home could save them money? (We have light switches in our home!) Each home will pay £400 to have one fitted and customers are being blackmailed into having these meters installed, but we should ask ourselves why would a utility company want us to use less of its product?

Over the past 70-plus years we have dragged ourselves out of a deep black hole, then sat back whilst we allowed ourselves to be conned into another deep hole which our grandchildren will be saddled with. With beggars on the streets, food banks, people trafficking, slavery, poverty, child exploitation and abuse, along with street crime on the rise, it would appear that we have begun to return to a scene like Dickens described: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

I am sure there will be those who disagree. Have another herbal ciggy, a vegan sandwich and a glass of wine, a dose of Zumba and all will be well. Promise! I am so glad I saw the best of times but I fear for my grandchildren as the worst is yet to come.

Vyse

B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips for December 2019 & January 2020

DEC			
Tues 3 rd	9:30–12ish	A1 Retail Park Biggleswade (M&S, Next, Wilkos, Laura Ashley etc.)	£6.60
Thurs 5 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
Tues 10 th	11:30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 12 th	9:30–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre (Market Day)	£5
Thurs 19 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
JAN 2020			
Thurs 2 nd	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
Tues 7 th	10:30–3pm	Welwyn Garden City (Sales – John Lewis, M&S etc.)	£7
Tues 14 th	10:30–2pm	Vanstone Park Garden Centre, Codicote	£6
Thurs 16 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
Wed 22 nd	11:30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 23 rd	1pm–5ish Matinee starts 2:30pm	Gordon Craig Theatre Stevenage Panto: 'Beauty and the Beast'. Tickets £15.50. Closing date for tickets 1st December	Bus £6
Mon 27 th	10:30–2pm	Saffron Walden	£6
Tues 28 th	11:30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 30 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
FEB 2020			
Thurs 6 th	9:15–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre (Market Day)	£5
Wed 12 th	11:30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 13 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5

All trips start from Benson Hall car park unless otherwise agreed.

To book a seat or for more information:

01763 271909, 07870 638480, 07423 746594

COFFEE MORNINGS at Benson Hall
Wednesday 11th December, 10:15–11:30am
Wednesday 15th January, 10:15–11:30am
Coffee/Tea, Cakes, Sausage Rolls, Raffle

BUNTINGFORD W.I.

We are now in the run up to Christmas and we held our Christmas Lunch for members in November at the Three Tuns in Great Hornead. It was certainly not too early to enjoy turkey, crackers and paper hats!

As mentioned in last month's Journal, the W.I. will be hosting a 'Christmas Celebration' on Thursday 12th December in the United Reformed Church Hall, Baldock Road (opposite McColls), and you are all invited to come along. There will be carols and readings in the Church at 7.30pm and this will be followed by refreshments in the adjacent Hall. Everyone is welcome. A small donation of £3 would be appreciated to cover the costs of the evening.

Some of our more talented members have been working for some time on this year's Christmas Project and the result will be displayed in Buntingford Library on Friday 29th November – Late Night Shopping. Our past Christmas projects have included Father Christmas, the Nativity and an Advent Calendar. This year's exhibit is also Christmas-themed so do go along to see what it is.

In January, instead of our usual meeting, we will be holding our traditional 'Bring and Share' Supper for members. We will be back in the URC Hall on Thursday 13th February 2020 when Jason Middleton will be giving us 'An Introduction to Gemstones'.

We meet at the United Reformed Church Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7.15pm for a 7.30 start. Visitors are very welcome to come to any of our meetings and we would love to see ladies who have recently moved to the area.

If you would like further information about Buntingford W.I. please contact our Secretary, Pat Webb, on 01763 271305.

Val Hume

P.S. Many thanks to Pat Currie for writing the excellent W.I. article in last month's Journal

Movement to Music

A fun and friendly dance class aimed at the Over 60s, but suitable for all 'mature movers'!



Free taster class - Monday 6th January!

- Benson Hall
Station Road, Buntingford, SG9 9HT
 - Mondays, 10.30 - 11.30am
 - £5 per class!
- Imagination Arts
info.imaginationarts@yahoo.com // 07714 378 887

Imagination Arts

provide dance for those who are rarely offered it. We work in care homes, dementia groups, day services and more, with the focus on participation rather than performance. We also provide 'Movement to Music' classes of light exercise and dance for the Over 60s. These are perfect for those who want to keep active and dancing without the intensity of a Zumba or Keep Fit class.

We are starting our first Buntingford class on **Monday 6th January, 10.30–11.30am**, at Benson Hall. All 'mature movers' are welcome. And the best bit about the class on 6th January? It's a FREE taster! Do contact us at **Imagination Arts** if you would like more information: call **07714 378 887** or email **info.imaginationarts@yahoo.com**



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com

The football season feels like it's well underway now, with most of our teams having played almost a third of their fixtures, and November has been a really important month for the club.

Off the pitch we survived the annual fireworks display for another year and hope that all of you who came along enjoyed the show. We are, as always, incredibly grateful to the Town Council for their financial support for the event, The Bury for allowing us to use their facilities, Fox Fireworks who gave us a fantastic display as always and, of course, those volunteer stewards who help everything pass off smoothly on the evening. For me the fireworks display is one of Buntingford's great traditions and, after the stress of the lead up to the event, it's lovely to see families and groups of friends making the annual pilgrimage up the hill on a chilly autumn evening.

Whilst organising the fireworks is a nice problem to have, this month gave us a slightly less pleasant problem as we said goodbye to our First Team Manager who resigned after 9 games in charge. We were extremely fortunate to be able to recruit a new manager within the space of a few weeks and welcomed Sav Fusco to the Buntingford Town FC family at the beginning of the month. Sav lives in Buntingford, is a UEFA B qualified coach, and wants to develop and improve the local talent we undoubtedly have within the town. We look forward to working alongside him.

Sav's appointment came on the back of four straight losses and his first game in charge was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch, but his influence on the players was noticeable as performances have improved culminating in a 7-6 win on penalties in the Aubrey Cup against premier division opponents Hatfield Town. I was unable to go to the game personally so was extremely pleased to discover that 'The Cold End' had videoed the penalty shootout and one or two contentious decisions which were then made available on Twitter – cue much banter on the squad's WhatsApp chat!

The Reserves continue to improve and bounced back from a league defeat to Sarratt Reserves and a 3-1 half-time deficit against Stanmore Jeffreys in the Cecil Hudson Cup to run out 7-4 victors. Again the opposition made footage of the game available online, but for some reason only uploaded the first half! A competitive game against Knebworth, who fielded one or two first team players, resulted in a 4-4 draw with the opposition linesman denying us a last minute winner for off-side (after the ball was in the back of the net), but the two subsequent away fixtures went against us. The reserves have now played their last four games away from home and it looks as if they are unlikely to have a home fixture much before the start of December!

The Vets continue to defy their age and insist that they can still play football. A blistering start to the season has, however, started to seize up a little (like Matt Smythe's ankles) and the recent victory against local rivals Barkway was the first since early October.

The Ladies team are improving but are still to secure their first points, although based on recent performances the second half of the season promises to bring a far better return than the first half. The Ladies are organising a **Charity Match** in support of Macmillan to be played against the Walking Football Team, kicking off at 2pm on **1st December** at The Bury. This is a cause close to their hearts as one of Ladies players has been having treatment for cancer for the past twelve months and one of the Walking Football Team has recently been diagnosed with bowel cancer. A small entrance fee will be collected with all proceeds going to MacMillan. Please come along and join us for what promises to be a fun and competitive match raising money for a very worthy cause!

As I have mentioned in previous Journal articles, running a local football club is an expensive proposition with our running costs being wholly funded by player subscriptions, sponsorship and fundraising efforts. Whilst this year's fundraising efforts are well underway, we are still looking for sponsors for each of our four teams, so if you are interested in supporting your local football club, please get in touch!

Mark Cotton, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

Buntingford Cougars

Merry Christmas everyone! It's the Dec/Jan Journal that marks the halfway point through our season and it's been another cracker so far. Cougars' membership and the number of teams has never been higher – at over 300 registered players the club just seems to grow and grow. As a club we feel very proud that we provide so many kids with the opportunity to keep active, fit and make friends.

The Cougars were really well represented in the Remembrance Sunday Parade this year. Representatives of the club laid a wreath and the players who made it along were a real credit to the club and their parents. The club tries hard to put their support behind Remembrance Sunday and to pass down respect to our players – our teams observed a 2-minute silence at the weekend as a mark of respect.

Other big news – we are one of three local causes selected for the Co-op's Community Fund. If you would like to help raise much-needed funds for the Cougars go to your Co-op Membership Online and choose us as your preferred local cause.

What's coming up in 2020? As soon as the year ticks over, full-scale planning kicks in for our renowned 5-a-side tournament. It is a real team effort across the Committee to organise and then run the Tournament, which in 2020 will take place over the first three weekends in June. For our coaches it is one of their favourite times of the year. So get those first three weekends of June marked in the diary!

As ever, we'll be running our Football Fun sessions in the school holidays – February half term, Easter, May half term. If you like our Facebook page you'll be among the first to find out the dates. We have been selling out weeks in advance, so don't delay.

Back to Christmas... We hope all our players enjoy their well-deserved little break over the holidays – try not to eat too many mince pies as the winter pitches tend to be on the heavy side and we need you at full fitness! We also hope all our parents, coaches and volunteers enjoy their equally well-deserved break – November through March are the tough months, when the rain, mud, cold, hail, snow and wind make watching even our great players tough going. So, here's wishing you all some festive spirit(s) to put you in fine fettle for resumption in January. Merry Christmas from everyone at the Cougars!

David Deane



Waiting to set off on a very well-attended Remembrance Day Parade.

Royston and District Ramblers Group Walks for December 2019

- Sun 1st** Great Offley to Pirton, 10½ miles, led by Paul 01763 244038 / 07544 232330
- Tues 3rd** Aspenden, 3 miles & 7 miles, led by Dick & Roger 01763 260534 / 07745 997244 / 07716 141758
- Thurs 5th** Rushden, 6 miles, led by John & Lesley 01763 241525 / 07989 278609
- Sat 7th** Reed, 5 miles, followed by Bring & Share Xmas Lunch. Walk led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026
- Sun 8th** Shepreth, 8 miles, led by Phil 01763 853744 / 07716 992847
- Tues 10th** Ashdon, 6 miles, led by Rita & Salli 01763 208755 / 07977 573003
- Thurs 12th** Comberton, 6 miles, led by Peter 07951 362501
- Sun 15th** Mardley Heath, 10 miles, led by Steve 07929 962647
- Tues 17th** Bourn, 5½ miles, led by Jane 01763 261565 / 07989 616583
- Thurs 19th** Newport, 6 miles, led by Viv & Jackie 07912 567378 / 07502 121852
- Sun 22nd** Sandon, Chipping, 9 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026
- Tues 24th** Festive Walk – Barkway, 6½ miles, led by Lesley 07734 111225
- Thurs 26th** Litlington, 5 miles, led by Phil 01763 853744 / 07716 992847
- Sun 29th** Anstey, Great Hornead, Brent Pelham, 9 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026
- Tues 31st** Thriplow, 4½ miles, led by Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715

Walks for January 2020

- Wed 1st** Aspenden, 4 miles + lunch, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026
- Thurs 2nd** Little Gransden, 5½ miles, led by Barry 07919 552082
- Sun 5th** Reed to Barley, 9½ miles, led by Paul 01763 244038 / 07544 232330
- Tues 7th** Weston, 6 miles, led by Alan 01462 895708 / 07432 312743
- Thurs 9th** Orwell, 6½ miles, led by Nick 01223 208172 / 07909 977994
- Sun 12th** Wallington, 10 miles, led by Lorraine 01763 242054 / 07890 325735
- Tues 14th** Orwell, 6 miles, led by Ruth 01763 260746 / 07479 874787
- Thurs 16th** Nuthampstead, 6 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026
- Sun 19th** Comberton, 9 miles, led by Margaret 01763 256788 / 07939 233697
- Tues 21st** Aspenden, 5½ miles, led by Mike 01763 274679 / 07597 371875
- Thurs 23rd** Hitchin, 6 miles, led by Alan 01462 895708 / 07432 312743
- Sun 26th** Buntingford, 10 miles, led by Mike 01763 274679 / 07597 371875
- Tues 28th** Therfield, 3 & 5½ miles, led by Mike & Roger 01763 274679 / 07597 371875 / 07716 141758
- Thurs 30th** Bassingbourn, 6 miles, led by Sue & Keith 01763 245955 / 07734 081014

**Unless otherwise stated, Tues & Thurs are morning walks,
Sunday walks are all day.**

www.ramblers.org.uk/hertfordshire-north-middlesex

Scroll down through 'Groups in this area' and click on 'Royston' for details.