

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

Buntingford Journal



It's not all about digging – Hare Street Road allotmenters get together for a Winter social.

***Inside this month:* Barclays abandons Buntingford; the Air Ambulance install a new defibrillator at the Community Centre; how much do you know about Buntingford Bowls Club? and the welcome return of Vyse.**

70p

**March 2019
Volume 44, No.2**



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MARCH 2019

MONDAYS

- 9:00am – 10:00am **Adult Ballet** at URC Hall with Buntingford Dance, £5. 01763 271010.
- 9:00am – 10:00am **Cardio & Core** at Benson Hall, £3 (subsidised). Suitable for all fitness levels. More info, call or text 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.
- 10:00am – 10:45am **Mummy & Me Cardio Class** at Benson Hall, £5 (term-time only). Children 0-5 years. Bring snacks/toys. Call or text 07802 418755 for more information.
- 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.
- 2:00pm – 2:45pm & 4:00pm – 4:45pm **Lab-Tots**, fortnightly at the Library. Pre-school session for 3-5 year olds; Afterschool session 4-8 year olds. Sophia 07720 292350 / www.labtots.com.
- 4:00pm – 6:45pm **Ballet** at URC Hall, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. 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
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Cougars U9s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
Cougars U10s 'Stripes & Royals' at Freman Sports Hall.
- 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.
- 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 Class (Interval Training)** at Benson Hall, £5 (£7 with Pilates, below). See www.irenegibson.co.uk or Facebook 'Irene Gibson PT'.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Cougars U10s** 'Blues & Whites' at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Pilates (Intermediate)** at Layston School. 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 AI on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm **Pilates** at Benson Hall, £5 (£7 with Body Blitz, above). Irene 07802 418755.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm **Pilates Improvers** at Seth Ward CC. Louise, 07867 675389.
- 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@hertfordshire.gov.uk.
- 7:45pm – 8:45pm **Trigger Point Pilates** at Benson Hall. £10 PAYG or £8 booked in advance. Suitable for all fitness levels. More info, call or text Irene on 07802 418755.
- 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.

WHAT'S ON

- 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.
- 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 – 5:30pm **Cougars U8s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U14s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 7:30pm **Buntingford Karate Club**, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm **'Braughing Sing' Community Choir** at Jenyns School, Braughing. Contact Elaine 07501 495940 / 01763 289738 / www.braughingsing.com.
- 7:45pm – 8:30pm **Pilates (Beginners)** at Layston School. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 8:10pm – 8:55pm **Adult Tap Dance Classes for Fun & Fitness** at Freman College. 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 **Intermediate Pilates** at Benson Hall, £5. See Facebook 'Irene Gibson PT' and look in 'services' to see all the classes we offer.
- 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 10-week course** at the Community Centre, 'The Shows of Rodgers & Hammerstein', started 23rd Jan. Coffee from 10am. Julia 01763 272584.
- 10:45 – 11:30am **Beginners Pilates** at Benson Hall, £5. Contact Irene on 07802 418755.
- 2:00pm **U3A Seated Exercise Class**. Jacqui 07956 647806 for participation info.
- 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 **Cougars U11s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Circuit Training for 50+** at Seth Ward CC. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 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 Blast** at Layston School. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Cougars U12s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Pilates (Beginners)** at Layston School. 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.
- 8:00pm – 10:00pm (till May) **Ware & District Photographic Society** at the Arts Centre, Kibes Lane, Ware SG12 7ED. Visitors and new members welcome. www.wareps.org.uk
- THURSDAYS**
- 9:30am – 11:00am **Anstey Toddlers** at Old School House, Anstey. Arts & crafts, free play and singing for toddlers & babies with their carers. £1 per family. Term time only.
- 9:45am – 10:45am **Pilates Improvers** at Seth Ward CC. Louise, 07867 675389.

MARCH 2019

- 10:30am – 11:30am **Mummy SOS Wellness Mornings**, group walk or social meet-up for all mums, with or without little ones. Contact Nanny Alex 07590 053512 / info@mummy-sos.com or visit www.mummy-sos.com/wellnessmornings.
- 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
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm **Baby classes** run by **Best Start Club** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane. 1pm **Magical Musical Playdays** (1 to 3 years); 2pm **Baby Signing classes** (0 to 16 months). Laura Sheriff 07801 796334 / laura@thebeststartclub.com.
- 2:00pm – 3:00pm **Pilates** at Benson Hall. Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 2:15pm – 2:45pm **Toddlers Tales**, stories & rhymes for preschoolers, at Buntingford Library.
- 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
- 4:30pm – 7:45pm **Street Dance Classes** at URC Hall, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Buntingford Swimming Club** at Freman Pool. Adelaide 07710 550050.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U7s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 6:30pm – 7:00pm **Cougars U13s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 6:30pm – 7:00pm **Body Conditioning** at Benson Hall, £5 (or £7 with Pilates, below).
- 7:00pm **Mustard Seed Singers**, St Peter's Church. Contact Jan 01763 272217.
- 7:00pm – 7:45pm **Intermediate Pilates** at Benson Hall, £5 (or £7 with Body Conditioning, above). Call or text Irene on 07802 418755 for more info.
- 7.30pm **Buntingford Karate Club**, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 8:00–10:00pm **Buntingford Dramatic Society**, Benson Hall.
- FRIDAYS**
- 9:15am **WeightWatchers** at Benson Hall.
- 9:30am – 10:30am **Badminton** at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.
- 10:00am – 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.
- 11:00am – 12:00 **Drop-in Breastfeeding Support Group** at Bramble Hill, 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 12:00 **Full Body Workout** at Benson Hall. Jacqui 07956 647806.
- 12:15pm – 1:15pm **Dance with Dani** at Benson Hall. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 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 – 8:15pm **Ballet & Modern Dance Classes** at Freman College, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- 5:30pm – 8:00pm **Friday Project, Buntingford & District Youth Club** at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Danny 07879 853849 / danny.band@herfordshire.gov.uk.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Cougars U18s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- SATURDAYS**
- 9:00am – 1:00pm **Ballet, Modern & Tap Dance Classes** 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.
- 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.
- SUNDAYS**
- 10:00am – 11:00am **Cougars Cubs** 11:00am – 12:00 **Cougars U6s** at Freman Sports Hall.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAR 2019

- To 3rd Mar 12noon–4pm **Snowdrops at Benington Lordship Gardens** (SG2 7BS).
- Sat 2nd 7 for 7:30pm **Home-Start ‘Celebrating Voices’ Concert** (see page 37).
- Mon 4th 11am **Story Sacks** for the under 5s at Buntingford Library, a story followed by themed crafts, with Bramble Hill Children’s Centre.
- Tues 5th 8pm **Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society A.G.M.** (see page 23).
- Wed 6th 7:45 for 8pm **Buntingford Gardeners’ Club** at URC Hall (see page 19).
- Thurs 7th 10am–12noon **Free Advice Session** at Buntingford Library with Fosters Legal LLP. For an appointment call at the Library or ring 0300 1234049.
- Sat 9th **Buntingford Film Club** at Benson Hall: 2:30pm ‘Paddington 2’;
7:30pm ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ (see page 26-7).
- Mon 11th 1:30pm **U3A Monthly Meeting** at the Community Centre (see page 36-7).
- Tues 12th 2:15pm **Buntingford Local History Group** at Buntingford Library.
- Wed 13th 8pm **Royal British Legion Meeting** at The Crown.
- Thurs 14th 7:15pm for 7:30 start **Buntingford Women’s Institute meeting** at the UCR Hall, Baldock Road. Stephen Ruff will be talking about the Buntingford Railway. Visitors are always welcome.
- Thurs 14th 8pm **Hare Street & Hormeads Gardening Club** in Gt Hormead Village Hall. ‘A year in the life of a garden lawn’ with Tom Cole. 01763 289417.
- Fri 15th 8pm **Buntingford Railway & Local History Society** at The Crown PH. ‘The East Family of Great Hormead’ with Janet Haworth.
- Mon 18th 12noon–2:30pm **Jazz on the Heath** at Therfield Heath Café, with Dave Rance’s Rockin’ Chair Band. £8 on the door.
- Mon 18th 8pm **Unplugged Acoustic Night** at The Crown, Market Hill.
- Thurs 21st 7:45pm **Annual Town Meeting** at the Community Centre (see page 20).
- Fri 22nd 7:30pm **Buntingford Film Club** ‘A Star is Born’, Braughing (see page 27).
- Sat 23rd 3pm **Tea Time Talk** at Sandon Village Hall (see page 19).
- Sat 23rd 7:15 for 8pm **A Night at the Dogs** with the Royal British Legion (page 11).
- Wed 20th 10:15–11:30am **B.A.L.A. Coffee Morning** at Benson Hall (see page 45).
- Wed 27th 7pm for 7:30 **Buntingford & District Flower Club** at Benson Hall (parking at rear, entrance from Rib Way). Vijay Bhatia presents ‘Out of Africa’.

APR 2019

- 5th & 6th Buntingford School of Dance **DanceFlashback!** at Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage (see page 9)
- Sat 6th 7:30pm **Royston Choral Society** ‘Bach’s St John Passion’, Ashwell Parish Church (see page 28).
- Sun 7th 2:30–4:30pm **Little Sparks Easter Crafts and Egg Hunt** at St Peter’s Church, Buntingford SG9 9AB (see page 41).

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**

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE STATION: Baldock Road, Buntingford	Non-emergency telephone: 101 In emergencies dial 999
GAS:	Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999
ELECTRICITY:	Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838
WATER (Veolia):	Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325
SEWERAGE (Thames Water):	Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800
FLOODLINE:	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 views expressed in the letters, emails and articles in the Buntingford Journal are not necessarily those of the editor.

EDITOR'S LETTER

The announcement by Barclays Bank that it is closing its branch in Buntingford has caused a considerable amount of consternation, which is reflected on our Letters page this month. The Civic Society, Town Council and local District Councillor also express their disappointment at the decision and a petition has been set up to protest to Barclays. Although many of us will manage perfectly well without the bank, there is no doubt that for others – local businesses, anyone who doesn't do internet banking, the elderly, disabled and less mobile – this will cause problems and serious inconvenience.

On a brighter note, I am delighted to welcome back Vyse (pages 16-18) with his wry view of our modern world and its follies. His vision might not always be PC, but I for one don't care. A topic often in his spotlight is 'Elf & Safety', a popular punchbag for commentators and comedians. But it's no joke to be on the wrong side of Health & Safety law if you're an employer. Mike Siggers offers his services to help companies avoid the pitfalls in Employment and Health & Safety law that can trap the unwary employer (page 47).

We have an amusingly dark short story from Buntingford Writers' Group member Elaine Gibson – at least it tickled me (page 31). Chris Kell, founder of the Writers' Group, would like to recruit more members and unearth more local literary talent, so if you feel there's a writer inside you waiting to get out see page 9 for more details. Jean Cook reveals what the U3A Wine Appreciation Group gets up to at its meetings. And in this month's instalment of her series on the Great Flood of Buntingford there is a definite sting in the tail, showing it wasn't all neighbourly goodwill on that dreadful day.

A long-standing tradition of running lunches for Christian Aid at the United Reformed Church is under threat for lack of volunteers to help cook the lunches. If you might have a few hours to spare to keep this sociable fund-raiser going, please see page 15. Until reading Dinah Geere's piece on Buntingford Bowls Club (page 23) I had no idea it was such a successful club, with a string of successes in county and national competitions, plus two members set to represent England overseas this year.

Finally, Councillor Jeff Jones has a lot to say this month, from plans for improvements to London Road and his 20's Plenty campaign, to advice on equine flu and advance news of a much-needed Town litter pick coming up in April – as ever, volunteers are needed.

Christine Noble

Many thanks to John Makin for proofreading

**Editorial copy deadline for the April 2019 Journal
is Saturday 16th March 2019**

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

Letters & emails to the Editor

Dear Christine

Re Barclays Bank Closure

I was very disappointed when I learnt Barclays Bank proposes to close our local branch in May. The reasons they give for closure seem to be excuses rather than reasons. They say they only have a small number of regular customers; so why is there nearly always a queue when I go into the bank? They say the new house building in the town has not increased their footfall. But only a proportion of the planned houses are complete and it could be another two years before they see the full impact of the town's growth.

It's all very well directing customers to use the Post Office but I don't suppose they have seen the normal queue there. Our local PO is small and the ladies behind the counter do a great job, but add the Barclays daily queue to the PO queue and you will have a long wait to be served.

Jan Shortt, the general secretary of the National Pensioners Convention, said:

"Many older people are understandably concerned about their financial security and would prefer to go into a branch to manage their affairs, but as we know over 700 bank branches closed last year alone and more have already been announced."

"Nearly four million older people have never used the internet and are being excluded by the banking industry's deliberate tactic of closing branches and only offering their best deals online."

I have no doubt the decision to close the Buntingford branch was taken by someone who has never visited Buntingford, sitting in a remote office somewhere, whose bonus depends on how many rural market town branches he/she can close per annum.

As with many service closures it is always the less mobile and the elderly who are impacted the most. So I would ask Barclays to think again and come up with a more imaginative and proactive proposal.

Regards, **Brian Lemay** Monks Walk

Hi Christine

The truth is now out – Barclays Bank in Buntingford is to close.

I have emails from Oliver Heald after they shut on a Wednesday stating that he had spoken to Barclays and they had no intention of closing our bank – LIARS.

I also have a letter from Akashdeep Singh Grewau, customer services manager for Barclays, stating that the bank is not to close – LIAR.

I also have had a phone call from the manager at Royston Barclays stating the same thing – LIAR.

They are all liars – they have no interest in Buntingford or their customers.

I urge ALL residents of Buntingford and surrounding villages to email Oliver Heald at **oliver.heald.mp@parliament.uk** and tell him he and his government have failed us by letting big business dictate to their customers to our detriment. He must stop this closure.

Buntingford is growing fast but our High Street is dying – it will not be long before we will not have a High Street at all.

Ashley Cantor, Fairfield

Dear Christine,

Please could you put a 'Thank You' in the Buntingford Journal from all the residents at Dixon Place to the children at Edwinstree School for the lovely gifts that they gave to the residents for Christmas. Many thanks,

Julie Brand, on behalf of the residents at Dixon Place

BUNTINGFORD WRITERS' GROUP

The group meets monthly. An opportunity to share your enthusiasm for writing and increase your skills with others. No need to have published. Fiction and non-fiction writers welcome.

Contact: Chris Kell – 07816 935396



DanceFlashback!

Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage

Friday 5th April @ 6pm

Saturday 6th April @ 1pm & 5.30pm

BSD is delighted to be back at the Gordon Craig Theatre in April performing ***DanceFlashback!*** Packed with Ballet, Modern, Tap, Contemporary, Commercial Dance and Musical Theatre numbers, this performance is sure to entertain! We will be glancing back at some of the fabulous choreography of the last 15 years, whilst adding plenty of original pieces. We do hope you can come and watch as our pupils of all ages show off their talents in colourful, creative and inspiring performances!

Tickets are now on sale direct from the Gordon Craig Theatre Box Office on 01438 363200 or at www.gordon-craig.co.uk. Price £16.50; Concessions £14.50.

BSD is a school of dance and performing arts for students aspiring to the highest professional standards. From the age of three up to adult, we aim for each member to be the very best they can be, whether dancing recreationally or aspiring to dance vocationally. Past and present pupil achievements include: The Royal Ballet School, Bodywork Co, Ballet West, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Rambert, Tring Park School for the Performing Arts, Tap Attack, ISTD Scholars & Associates, professional productions at Hertford and at Gordon Craig, and successes at prestigious competitions locally and nationally.

We will be welcoming new pupils to the school following the *DanceFlashback!* show, so get in touch if you want to trial any of our classes during the Summer Term.

You can contact us at:

email: buntingforddance@btinternet.com

website: www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

Or follow us on: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter





Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of



Very sad news that Barclays Bank will shortly be closing its doors for the last time. As a growing Town I think it only reasonable that we should have access to face-to-face banking services. Not everyone has the ability to avail themselves of online banking, especially the elderly, and I know that many small businesses will be seriously inconvenienced. Sadly I am sure that Barclays have made their decision and there will be little that we can do to change their minds. However, I still think that we should do all that we can to protest the decision, which could include closing down any accounts that may be held with Barclays. I have informed Sir Oliver Heald and asked that he make whatever representations he can on our behalf. He has written to Barclays protesting the decision but at the time of writing has received no reply. I do believe that there should be some initiative whereby the only bank in a Town cannot be allowed to close – even if this means a Government subsidy to keep it open.

I understand that Wardens have been patrolling the Town issuing £80 on the spot fines for littering. This is great news and I sincerely hope that it continues.

On this note there is a nationwide Great British Clean Up initiative running from 22nd March to 23rd April, with a special focus on plastic waste. I will work with the Town Council and Buntingford in Transition to see what we can do as a Town to be part of this.

There is a new Government initiative called 'The Future High Street Fund'. This is an essential part of the Government's plan for high streets, providing co-funding towards capital projects that bring transformative change. They want to see the regeneration of town centres through innovative proposals around transport, housing delivery and public services. This is something that Buntingford must try to get involved with and I have spoken to Cllr Jones to ensure that we are in at the 'expression of interest' stage.

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



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

Member of



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the A.G.M. of the Buntingford Civic Society will be held on **Tuesday, 23rd April 2019, 7.00 for 7.30pm, in Benson Hall, Buntingford.**

Following the business of the meeting, there will be a short talk by an invited speaker.

Light refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting.

Non-Members welcome



BUNTINGFORD BRANCH

JOIN US FOR

A NIGHT AT THE DOGS

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**LICENSED
BAR**



RAFFLE

SATURDAY 23rd MARCH

**AT THE SETH WARD
COMMUNITY CENTRE, SG9 9SG**

DOORS OPEN 7.15pm FIRST RACE 8.00pm

INCLUDES PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER

TICKETS £8.00 per person

AVAILABLE FROM

THE CHEESE PLATE OR CALL 07769 653974

British Red Cross Hertfordshire needs **YOUR** support

Everyone has heard of the British Red Cross and knows that it does good work, but many people believe that is only a national or international concern. What is widely unknown is the amazing work performed locally by the charity: 24/7, 365 days a year we have trained Emergency Response volunteers ready to go to any kind of emergency, such as house fires and floods. We support people returning home from hospital, helping them to regain their independence and confidence, and providing aids such as wheelchairs. We also teach First Aid and so much more. All of this requires funds. **Could you:**

- **Host** a fund-raising tea party / quiz / race night etc.
- **Help** with bucket collections during **Red Cross Week 5–11 May**. All you need is a bucket, a smile and be prepared to stand on the street for 1½ to 2hrs.
- **Attend** one of our fundraising events this year:
 - ◇ **12th April: A Decent Bit of Shopping** in Cotteder Village Hall, 10am–1:30pm. Entrance £3.50 (includes a cuppa with biscuit).
 - ◇ **Open Garden Programme** from May–Sept. For details visit www.redcross.org.uk/opengardens.
- **Send** a donation made payable to 'British Red Cross'. Please post to: Cathy Curtis, British Red Cross, Baker Street, Hertford SG13 7HT.

British Red Cross Hertfordshire does so much locally with trained Emergency Response Volunteers on call 24/7, 365 days a year!

“We will never forget the comfort of being taken into your van for tea and reassurance after having stood out in the cold watching our house burn down.”

That's just a snippet. There is so much more we do. **Interested?**

Please get in touch: Cathy Curtis **07921 941394** cathycurtis@redcross.org.uk

Isabel Hospice
Together we care

Fundraising Events in March

www.isabelhospice.org.uk

Wed 13th – Spring Celebration Lunch at Copley's Café, Hopleys, SG10 6BU
12noon for 12:30pm. Enjoy an afternoon with Louise Reed, actress and social historian, at Hopleys award-winning gardens. Tickets £22.50 to include a drink on arrival, two course lunch and coffee! Contact Renée on 01279 755320.

Fri 29th – An Evening with Sporting Legends! at The Tythe Barn, Tewinbury Farm, Tewin, Welwyn, AL6 0JB. 7:30–10:30pm. A two course dinner with speakers in a fabulous venue. For more details contact Barbara Doherty on 01279 842140.

Sat 30th – Jumble Sale at Thundridge Village Hall, Thundridge, SG12 0SU
2–5pm. Entry 50p. Come and grab a bargain!

CHURCHES TOGETHER LENT COURSE



Live Your Love ...

... with Generosity – 13th March

... with Joy – 20th March

... with Imagination – 27th March

... with Courage – 3rd April

... for the World – 10th April

How might our lives as individual Christians and God's Church demonstrate these qualities? What does that look like? How do these qualities reflect the Bible and Christian experience through the ages?

Come and join in the discussion at the United Reformed Church Hall on Baldock Road, Buntingford, at 12noon on the above dates.

Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

attend2health

This month's focus is on Sports Massage.

We are very lucky to have three sports massage therapists, all qualified to a very high level, and massage is available at the clinic from Wednesday through to Sunday. Although 'sport' is in the name, massage really is for everyone, not just sporty people. It can relieve tight muscles, or help with an injury, and it's a great way to relax after a busy week.

Our three therapists are: **Natalie Pettitt** (right) who works on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Natalie has a credit diploma in Sports massage and has been treating people since 2007. **Alison Trehearn**, who works on a Saturday. She has a level 3 VTCT in Sports massage and can also use acupuncture in her treatment. In the past Alison has worked with Hertford Rugby Club. Finally **Becky Harpin**, who works on a Sunday, has a degree in sports therapy as well as a number of qualifications in pregnancy massage, dry needling/medical acupuncture, strength and conditioning rehabilitation. She is APPI Pilates trained so can offer one-to-one Pilates sessions as well as massage.



As a **Mother's Day Special** we are offering a 30-minute massage gift voucher for just £19 – one per person while stocks last! Call **01763 87 80 87** for more information.

Louise Hampton



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.

March	3	Morning Worship	Rev David Tatem
	10	Holy Communion	Rev Paul Whittle
	17	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	24	Morning Worship	Bob Parkin
	31	Morning Worship	Rev Derek Newton
April	7	Morning Worship	Faith Paulding

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 5th and 19th March 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 (see appeal for volunteers, below right).

www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

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

Sunday Mass: Saturday 6pm (Puckeridge), 11:15am (Old Hall Green); **Holy Day Mass:** 10:30am (Puckeridge);

Weekday Mass: Wed 10:30am (Puckeridge);

Confessions: Sat 5.15-5.45pm (Puckeridge)





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 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 March 2019

Sun 3rd	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
Wed 6th Ash Wednesday	7:00pm	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Service of Ashing
Sun 10th	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 17th	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 24th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
	4:00pm	St Mary's, Aspenden	Tea & Cakes followed by ...
	5:00pm	St Mary's, Aspenden	Celebration Songs of Praise
Sun 31st Mothering Sunday	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St Peter's Buntingford	All-age Family Worship



The
United
Reformed
Church

Lunches for Christian Aid

**Can you spare a few hours to help prepare and
cook a simple lunch which we offer once a month
at the URC Hall to raise money for Christian Aid?**

We have been organising these fundraising lunches for many years now. They take place on the first Friday of each month and are well attended, usually by around 30 people, mainly elderly. So as well as raising many thousands of pounds over the years for Christian Aid, the lunches have become a valued social event for many of our local residents. Recently, however, we had to cancel a lunch because we did not have enough volunteers to cook it. Some of our regular volunteers have moved away, some have simply got too old. Quite simply, we need more people. Can you help?

No volunteer is ever asked to cook alone, there is always a team in the kitchen, and guests help out with clearing tables and washing up. Also, no-one is asked to commit to every month – once or twice a year would be a great help – so if you can spare a few hours to help keep these lunches, please ring: **Evelyn Smith on 01763 272241**

Return from Reichenbach

(by popular demand – allegedly)

“Would you look at that, Chicken Clegg?” My old pal and poultry aficionado and I were together taking Tiffin on the terrace of Clegg Towers, overlooking the Rib valley with its sylvan splendour and verdant pastures sweeping down towards the river where kingfishers dart like emerald jewels amongst the reeds. Well they did until the headlong rush to build so-called affordable housing (if £1 million is affordable) and all the attendant disruption put paid to that.

Clegg, in mid bite upon a piece of Mrs Clegg’s legendary lemon drizzle cake, followed my gaze whilst his Rhode Island Red pecked at the crumbs around his feet. “What do you make of that?” he enquired with a wry smile breaking his normal enigmatic countenance.

Tottering along the road came two characters of indeterminate gender. I use the current jargon for fear of being overheard by the thought police and beaten with an organic turnip. Arghh! It’s a fine line, especially as it was only recently I found that BLT was not only a Subway sandwich filling. Indeed I understand that there are some 79 gender types and that does not include Vegans and fellow travellers.

Both persons were dressed *de rigueur* in distressed jeans and Ug boots (a well-named product), with what was visible of their upper body covered in a mess of ink graffiti. Both faces were covered in assorted ironwork which gave one to wonder had they had been in close vicinity to an odds and sods box when it blew up? All this moving tableau was topped off with tonsorial displays. One was showing the now familiar Stevenage facelift with pony tail hair stretched back so tight that all facial expression had disappeared and the other gave the appearance of someone who had lain down on the lawn while a passing mower scalped one side of their hair down to the roots.

“Where did it all go wrong?” The involuntary rhetorical question blurted from my lips. “Is history once again repeating its inevitable status quo?”

“Probably”, quipped Chicken Clegg. “Think about it my tatty friend, you were affecting distressed trousers these many years since, and were known for your dedication to the style known hereabouts as ‘advanced scruffy’.”

Meanwhile our duo was engrossed in talking, not to one another but into that scourge of the 21st century, the mobile phone. Quite impervious to the world around them, especially the traffic, which has increased exponentially since the building frenzy began, they stepped into the road only to be chastised by a passing 4x4, the female driver’s hand pressing hard on the horn whilst the other held the inevitable cup of coffee. The momentary distraction prompted a string of expletives that echoed down the High Street.

“We never used to get that did we?”

“What, car horns? They didn’t have them on horse and carts – or foul language.”

“That all started with Blair and Cameron getting down in the hood with the young and trendy voters, then the Beeb made it worse by encouraging scriptwriters and so-called alternative comedians to interject every other word with an expletive!”

“No wonder we are in a mess, the whole country appears to be run by idiot wide boys and self-promoters whose only ambition is to get rich quick and leave the majority down in the mire with little hope of climbing out.”

“Look at that Brexit mess.”

“I’d rather not.”

“You can’t be off it now as it, in some form, is here to stay. Look around you.”

“All that could have been sorted the morning after the so-called referendum – you know, that bedrock of democracy.”

"Is that when you say what you want but do as you are told?"

"Ear!" said Cleggy in a sudden change of subject. "You see that Barclays is shutting? The town is now twice the size and they shut the bank. They say it's because their customers have gone over to electronic banking. Well this customer hasn't. And what about the poor devils who work there?"

"Talking of electronics, you got one of those so-called Smart meters? That's a con if ever I saw one. We've paid £11bn so far and they say it will save you money. Well, we have a switch on every electric device in our home and if you flick it up it saves money, every time. Now that's smart."

A black Leghorn had now perched on Cleggy's shoulder, giving him a piratical stance and me a piercing glare.

"Don't upset the chicken, mate!" he cried. "It must have been that mention of Brexit. It put her off laying for a week when she saw Laura Kuenssberg on the news talking about 'chicken feed' and the amount we owe Europe."

"But isn't most of the money we give used for wages, pensions and legal costs and stuff in Brussels?"

"Don't use the word Brussels in front of Chicken Licken – it reminds her of roast dinners!" With that the bird sat beside him and made a large deposit on the arm of her master's brocade smoking jacket.

"See what I mean? Gives her the runs."

"I think it gives everybody the runs"

At that moment the two characters in the middle distance met with some acquaintances of similar ilk and they all stood blocking the pavement with their trendy push chairs, glaring at any poor soul who had the timidity to try and get past them.

To lighten our mood Clegg attempted to change tack. "I see the Town Plan has been approved then?" The chicken made another deposit, no doubt sharing the feelings of most of the town's population with regard to the timing of the release of this document as if it were the Magna Carta.

"Clever move that, but only to be expected with the blue line direct from 10 Downing Street to the Manor House. Still it's an ill wind, if you get my drift. Just watch the people who gain from finally shutting the gate after the horse has fled."

By this time the high street was jammed with honking cars and enraged pedestrians, traffic wardens slapping tickets on anything that stopped momentarily but carefully overlooking some of the more upmarket vehicles.

"Is that Jeremy Clarkson's Lambo parked outside the barber's? I didn't think he had that much hair, he looks rather more Mediterranean in real life."

"Barber? Which one?"

"You know what Cleggy, if you didn't know differently you would think you were in a foreign land. Listen!" Wafting across the town one could catch the sound of voices from many nations all competing to be heard. No need to go abroad for holidays now; one walk through the town and it's like a guided tour east of Calais.

"Do you remember when our little market town was said to be the hidden jewel of the county?" I mused.

"I don't know about hidden mate, it looks about to disappear for good."

With that Cleggy gave the phonograph beside his chair a crank or two and carefully selecting a long-playing vinyl he gently lowered the needle arm down. Reassuring music flowed from the large trumpet horn on the device.

"Listen to that mate and just be glad we saw the best of it. More cake?"

With that the chicken jumped down from the seat beside Clegg where it had been sitting and I noticed it had laid a lovely brown egg. "That's tea sorted."

We toasted each other with the remains in our cups and returned to our quiet contemplation of the goings on in the town, whilst the strains of 'Wonderful Land' accompanied our reverie. "Ain't progress a wonderful thing?" I mused.

Vyse

Hare Street Road Gardeners' Association Winter Social

One chilly Saturday in December the Association held a winter social to celebrate two years of successful cultivation at our site next to the Taylor Wimpey Knights Walk estate. It was a good opportunity to swap stories and begin to plan for 2019. We have a good mix of beginners and experienced allotmentees, so there is always advice on hand when you need it. The mulled wine and mince pies were very welcome!



Visit by the Buntingford Beaver Group



On a cold, breezy and bright day in February the Hare Street Road Allotments had some visitors. A group of Buntingford Beavers were keen to find out what happens at an allotment as this forms part of their Gardening Badge which they are hoping to get. Our Chairman Roy Ellard along with other allotment holders

talked about what we grow and how we do it. This was followed by a demonstration of some of the tools we use and then the children had a go at hoeing and digging. Finally the group toured the whole site to view other allotments and talk to their holders. The children were incredibly well behaved and asked very sensible questions. We think the next generation of allotment holders are just around the corner!

Martin Tuck (committee member)

We are fortunate to have a new site including a car park and access to running water. With 41 plots we do sometimes have vacancies. For more information or to apply for a plot contact our membership secretary, Mick Ricketts, at:

hsrgamembership@gmail.com

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS' CLUB

The speaker at our February meeting was Andrew Sankey (right, with cartoon) talking about 'Funny Garden Features'. We were not sure what to expect, but were treated to an enjoyable talk about unusual features in gardens from the Romans to the Victorians, illustrated with his cartoons. The Romans brought gardens to Britain. They introduced topiary and imported one of the banes of many gardeners today: ground elder, which they grew to eat. Henry VIII introduced the 'Tudor Mound', a large mound of earth from which to view the parterre gardens. The mound at Hampton Court was 40 metres high with a large three-storey banqueting house built on the top. Most of these Tudor mounds have since disappeared. In Victorian times the rockery became a favourite garden feature and garden gnomes also became popular.



We have meetings in the United Reformed Church Hall on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and August) starting at 8pm. We have an invited speaker each month on a range of subjects. This year talks will include: Wimpole Hall; 'What to do with this space'; Garden Photography; Bees; Ornamental Grasses and Trees for Small Gardens. In the summer months we visit a well-known garden – this year we're going to the famous Peter Beales Rose Gardens and Garden Centre in Norfolk, and we will also be visiting the Gardens of Easton Lodge, Great Dunmow.

We are always happy to welcome new members (the subscription is great value at just £15 per year) and non-members are also welcome for a charge of £3 per meeting. For more information about the Gardeners' Club contact me, Lesley Lowers, the Club Secretary, on 01763 271885, or come along to the next meeting to become our newest member. This month is also our Annual General Meeting.

Lesley Lowers



Tea Time Talks

in Standon Village Hall

Saturday 23rd March

'The Maltings of Ware: A look at the history of a major malting town', with David Perman

Talk starts at 3pm, followed by tea and home-made cakes.

Entrance £5 payable at the door. We look forward very much to seeing you. For more information contact Trish 01920 821069 or Helena 01920 822177



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council was disheartened to hear that we will be losing our High Street bank. As you can imagine we have been inundated with people voicing their concerns. We realise that for many people in the town this is going to have an impact on their day to day lives. It's also going to be a huge problem for businesses in the town. We have made representation to Barclays and will continue to do so, but we fear that this will not be very effective; a decision has been made at high level and is unlikely to be changed. Many people have signed the petition that is available at The Manor House, Post Office and Cheese Shop. Barclays tell us that they are happy to meet with people individually to help them with their future banking arrangements, so please take advantage of this offer.

On a more positive note, we have registered the BCAT bus to be a recipient of East Herts Lottery funds. For every £1 lottery ticket that is sold where BCAT is nominated, BCAT will receive 50p. Tickets can be bought on line at easthertslottery.co.uk – please help us by choosing to support BCAT.

Apologies to anyone inconvenienced by the recent works at the Community Centre. A gas leak had to be dealt with immediately. Hopefully everything is back to normal now.

Because of the recent Community Governance Review, a new Register of Electors will be published to take into account residents on the Redrow Estate. The Register will be available for inspection from 1st March at the East Herts Council offices in Hertford.

Local Government elections will be held in May. If you're interested in standing to be a Town Councillor your nomination and eligibility forms must be submitted in person to East Herts Council between 21st March and the closing deadline of 4pm on 3rd April. If you require any information on the roles and responsibilities of a Town Councillor, please call in to the Manor House where we'll be happy to talk you through it.

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](https://twitter.com/buntingfordtc) Facebook.com/[BuntingfordTC](https://www.facebook.com/BuntingfordTC)

Website: www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

Town Council meetings for March

Thurs 7 th March	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 14 th March	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 21 st March	7:45pm – Annual Town Meeting at Seth Ward Community Centre
Thurs 28 th March	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.

News from Your District & County Councillor

London Road Improvements

I am working closely with Herts Highways to agree improvements to London Road funded by s106 developer contributions. The current plan looks at installing a gateway feature at the entrance to the town with a reduced speed limit of 30mph. I am requesting they look at 20mph. Further crossing points with speed tables and road narrowing will also help reduce speeding traffic. Other works include new and improved pavements, better cycle access, landscaping and provision of a number of parking bays with the half-on pavement parking removed. The final design will be put out to resident consultation to seek opinions.



Closure of Barclays Bank

I was very disappointed to receive the news from Barclays that they will be closing our only High Street bank on 24th May. Barclays claim this is due to a 22% drop in footfall in the last two years. However, I wonder if they have taken into consideration that they now close the branch on a Wednesday which results in a 20% footfall drop.

Your councillors are lobbying Barclays to reconsider, or at least give the branch a stay of execution for a couple of years. Once all new housing developments are occupied, the Town's population will have increased by 70% and we have ambitious proposals to improve the High Street. I don't believe Barclays have taken this into account. Maybe they should be looking at reducing the size of the branch, which is under-utilized, to create an opportunity to share with another business. Alternative banking arrangements will be available at the Post Office in McColls, but the queues we already see here will get worse. Deposits in cheques and cash will also take longer to clear into your account.

We have organized a petition against the closure – available at The Manor House, Post Office and The Cheese Plate. Please show your displeasure by signing the petition which will be presented to Barclays.

Baldock Road Emergency Closure

In February residents endured a lengthy road closure on Baldock Road to repair a water leak. This had been ongoing since last October when Affinity Water upgraded the water line from the reservoir at Buntingford Business Park to Monks Walk. Affinity denied the leak was their fault until Herts Highways contractor Ringway dug excavations that provided the evidence. Ringway also discovered that the leak had washed away the subsoil leaving the road surface in danger of collapse, so an emergency road closure was necessary until the works were completed. Herts Highways will be recovering the cost from Affinity so there will be no cost to the tax payer. Unfortunately the closure coincided with four-way traffic management at Ermine St/Vicarage Road for the installation of a new gas line to the Weston Homes development. Many thanks to residents and road users for their patience during all these disruptive works.

Buntingford Litter Pick

I am arranging a litter pick on **Sunday 28th April** with the 'Plastic Free Buntingford' group to clear the Town of unsightly litter. We will meet at **11am at The Manor House**. Equipment will be provided and filled sacks will be collected by East Herts Council. Please let me know by email (address overleaf) if you are able to come and help so I can ensure we have enough litter-picking equipment.

Equine Influenza

You may have seen in the news about the recent outbreak of Equine Influenza and the impact this has had on UK Horse Racing. Among pet and leisure horses the outbreak



has been ongoing for a few months with our nearest case being in Essex, I believe. The big worry is that even vaccinated horses are contracting the disease, as has been the case with race horses. **How you can help:** if you are out walking, running or cycling and pass any fields with horses in, please do not approach them. This strain of the virus is described as 'rogue'; it is airborne and highly contagious and can live for days on people's clothing, equipment and possibly dogs. Equine flu, like human flu, can kill the young, the elderly and the weak. **PLEASE HELP US TO CONTAIN THE OUTBREAK BY STAYING AWAY FROM HORSES AND PASS THIS ADVICE ON TO OTHER NON-HORSE-OWNING FRIENDS.** (Information supplied by Hertfordshire County Council, Countryside Rights of Way Officer.)

Tai Chi – a great way to get active

Come and try Tai Chi every Thursday 2pm or 3pm at the Seth Ward Community Centre. The classes are led by Tai Chi expert Kim Noyma. The first session is free, with further classes just £3 per session. Beginners are welcome – you just have to follow Kim's lead.

20's Plenty

I have had a great response to the campaign to make Buntingford a 20mph town and I'm in discussion with Herts Highways to look at ways to bring this project forward. Enforcement of a 20mph limit is one of the key issues, but I believe that with creative street design and physical speed reduction measures it could be self-enforcing. Please support the campaign by completing the form below and returning it by post or email.

Councillor Advice

I receive many requests for advice and help on District or County Council matters. If you have concerns you need help with, I am always available – contact details below.

Cllr Jeff Jones, District and County Councillor, Buntingford Ward
 07836 232 963 / Jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Join our "20's Plenty" campaign to make Buntingford a 20mph Town



We are campaigning to make the whole of Buntingford a "20mph Town".

Tell us what you think.

- I support the 20's Plenty campaign
- I do not support the 20's Plenty campaign
- Email me your comment:
jones4eastherts@gmail.com

Name

Address

Email

Tel/Mobile

Please only complete the Email and Phone boxes if you consent to being contacted by us this way.

CAN YOU HELP US?

- Display a poster
- Deliver leaflets
- Attend social events
- Join the local Party
- Vote by post
- Stand for Council

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Email me your comments to:
jones4eastherts@gmail.com
 or post to:
 Brook Cottage, Chipping, Herts, SG9 0PG

Your data will be used by Buntingford Conservatives as part of our democratic engagement with electors. Where necessary, your data will be shared with Conservative Party Headquarters, our candidates and elected representatives. It will not be given or sold to anyone else. For more information please see our privacy notice available at www.nehertsconservatives.org.uk.

BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

The Society is holding its **Annual General Meeting** this month on **Tuesday 5th March** from 8pm at the Benson Hall.

Bird-keepers come and join us. A warm welcome awaits you.

Enquiries: T Robinson 01763 243143 or C Pegrum 01223 833557

BUNTINGFORD BOWLS CLUB

Did you know that Buntingford has a very successful Bowls Club?

A club for all ages and abilities. Founded in 1922, the Bowls Club today is sited in Wyddial Road and currently has 110 members. In 2018 we enjoyed our most successful season on record with extraordinary results in District, County and National Competitions.

Our Men were represented in 8 of the 10 District Association competition finals, winning 4 of them. They were also Hertfordshire County League Champions, the East Area Champions and reached the final of the Bowls England National Two Fours Competition at the National Championships in Leamington Spa. Our Ladies were part of a Mixed Team that reached the latter stages of the Bowls England National Mixed Two Fours Competition, the furthest the club has ever gone in this competition. This year club members Mark Plume and Ross Murphy will represent England at competitions in Hong Kong and China. We wish them every success.

Although the club is extremely proud of these successes, what many of the members really enjoy is playing in our friendly games, midweek and at weekends. The social side to our game is second to none.

We have a very informative website – www.buntingfordbowlsclub.co.uk – which has all the membership details you need and much, much more.

Why not come along and try your hand at bowls at our free lessons and coaching sessions coming up in April and May? There'll be details of these in next month's Journal and, of course, on our website. You will be made to feel very welcome.

Dinah Geere

Buntingford Bowls Club President



If you are standing as a candidate for election to East Herts Council on 2nd May, you're encouraged to attend one of two briefing sessions being held at the Council's offices in Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8EQ, on:

Tues 5th March at 1pm & Wed 13th March at 5.30pm

The session of about two hours will go through the nomination process – completing the nomination paper, do's and don'ts of the campaign, legal duties – as well as count arrangements and other useful guidance.

For information on parking visit www.eastherts.gov.uk/parking

For updates about the elections, visit www.eastherts.gov.uk/LocalElections

Memories of the Great Flood of Buntingford – Part 5

Eighteen-year-old Jennie Aylott (now Jennie Keeling, below) was awoken early in the morning of 16th September 1968 by her Aunt Cis, who lived next door, concerned about the rapidly rising river. Her father Frank, who owned Aylott's Dairy, had already left the house to do his milk round. She went outside to have a look and together with Stan Wadge from the Tannery (behind the dairy) thought it was very unlikely to flood!!

Within a very short time, however, the Dairy yard and garden were covered with water and then suddenly it rose very rapidly. She ran back to the house and with her young brother Christopher – who had celebrated his 8th birthday just the day before – rather forlornly carried two small chairs and a coffee table upstairs before the house was engulfed in four foot of water. Christopher's birthday cake was floating on the water!

Jenny's mother Margaret had to break through a closed-off doorway upstairs to get into Aunt Cis's part of the house because Cis had become trapped in her hallway. Margaret got to her and they, together with Christopher, stood helplessly watching events from the bedroom window – you can see them in the photo below.

During this time someone had managed to get a phone call through to Jenny's dad on his milk round at Sandon. Frank came straight back, got as far as the north end of Market Hill where he left the milk float and ran across the road to his house.



FRANK AYLOTT WADING AT THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE

At first they didn't appreciate that so many properties had been flooded, including Jennie's sister Karen's house in Union Terrace that she and her husband Barry had just finished renovating but had not yet moved into. When Barry got to Union Terrace the water was pouring through the letter box into their home.

The water level dropped as quickly as it had risen, but the damage was done! In those days the insurance companies did not just allow you to throw everything out, as is seen on TV news reports of floods nowadays. All the downstairs house contents were filthy – soaked in water with sewage, diesel, oil, petrol, etc. – evil stuff to clean. Nevertheless the carpets had to be taken up and hosed and then hung in the barn to dry. They were then expected to try and re-lay them, but of course they were stretched and warped and still smelly! Furniture had to be dried and then stored until the house was dry enough to redecorate. The smell as the house dried out was appalling. In the end all the floorboards had to come up. As the house was so old – partly Tudor – some of the floors were mud under the boards. This had to be dug out and new flooring laid.

Of course the damage to the house was not the only concern. The milk floats and Frank's car had been submerged and also the shed with the fridges. Yet somehow, with the help of local tradesmen and friends, the clear-up allowed milk to be delivered from the very next day!

They had a lot of help from friends and family, including Karen and Barry who also had their own house to dry, clean and redecorate. But no help at all came from some quarters. Because the flood occurred early on a Monday there were a lot of takings from milk rounds that had been collected over the weekend still in the office. The bank notes were soaked and the paper bags containing the cash disintegrated. The local bank refused to take even the coinage until it had been dried and re-bagged. All the notes had to be carefully separated and dried by holding them over an electric fire. The task took Jennie many hours.

Frank (shown in later life with Margaret, below) had always collected sheets of First Day Cover stamps and these were all saturated and stuck together. The Post Office refused compensation. Furniture can be replaced, but family documents and photos were gone forever. Jenny says her mum Margaret never really got over the event. She was so house-proud and her world had been destroyed.

It took until the following late springtime before the house was almost back to normal. During all those months family and friends and the local community continued to help and support, but sadly a small section saw fit, on the day of the flood, to strip the milk float that Frank had left parked temporarily on Market Hill. Everything went – milk, eggs, cream and all the money from the cash bag. This left a sour taste which remains with Jennie to this day!



Jean Cook

If you have any memories of that day that you would like recorded please email me at Jean.M.Cook@btinternet.com

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

Our February evening screening of 'Cabaret' drew an appreciative capacity audience to the Benson Hall to be thrilled once again by Liza Minnelli, Joel Grey and Michael York's riveting performances. The 2nd episode of the 'Training Dragon' children's franchise also proved popular as our matinee event, acting as a prequel to the current release which is meeting with great success.

Ellie Crick's Charity Event screening of 'Ready Player One'

Ellie is very grateful to the Film Club for helping her to run this fantastic charity event raising money for the Azul Wasi Project in Peru. It was a very successful evening and the money raised from tickets and the bar will go towards the last instalment of the total cost of her trip. Ellie is really thrilled to be able to take part in such an exciting and worthwhile project. So many thanks to those who came along to give her support.



Films for March at Benson Hall

Saturday 9th March at 2.30pm

Matinee: *Paddington 2*

After a highly successful first film of Paddington's adventures, this delightful sequel has already proved to be a huge hit, and not only with children but with many adults too! The adorable bear is looking for the perfect present for his Aunt Lucy's birthday and finds, amongst a collection of things from a visiting circus, a pop-up book all about London. But he is not the only person with his eye on the book and he soon finds himself in trouble when it is stolen and he gets the blame! This is an animated film at its most appealing, with the central character voiced perfectly by Ben Whishaw and the rest of the cast, which includes Hugh Grant, all amazing.

We expect this is going to be a very popular choice for grown-ups as well as children – it's a perfect antidote for anyone who finds the madness of the modern world a bit wearing! So get your tickets a.s.a.p. to

avoid disappointment. Kelly and her team will be helping the children make a pop-up Mother's Day card before the film and, as ever, cookies and juices will be provided.

Saturday 9th March at 7.30pm

Evening Screening: *Bohemian Rhapsody*

We are showing this Oscar-nominated film by popular demand and at the time of writing tickets are already selling fast. Rami Malek, playing the lead, has already won the BAFTA Best Actor Award and by the time you read this the film may well have garnered a whole lot more glittering prizes. It is a foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their music and their extraordinary lead singer Freddie Mercury. Freddie defied stereotypes and shattered convention to become one of the most beloved entertainers on the planet. The film traces the meteoric rise of the band through their iconic songs



and revolutionary sound. They reach dizzying heights of success, but then Freddie, surrounded by darker influences, shuns the band in pursuit of a solo career. Eventually realising he is on the wrong track, Freddie manages to reunite with his bandmates just in time for Live Aid where they deliver a performance that won Queen a special place in the history of rock music.

Don't miss the chance to see this sensational film in your local cinema at Benson Hall.

Film in Braughing Village Hall

Friday 22nd March at 7.30pm

Evening Screening: **A Star is Born**

Another much-lauded and Oscar-nominated film that you can see locally! More information and tickets are available from Braughing Village Shop

News Update

Short Film Competition

It is pleasing to report that following the somewhat disappointing initial response to this competition, we received nine entries from a wide range of schools in the county. This has been shortlisted to six films which will be shown and judged at The Manor House on Thursday 21st February. By the time you are reading this we will have our winner who will be announced in the next edition of the Journal.

Free Film Reminder

If Cowboy Classics are your thing, hurry along to claim your free tickets for **The Good, The Bad and The Ugly**, being screened on **Saturday 13th April** thanks to the generosity of Simon Druce of Autofix. Tickets are disappearing fast, so get along to our box office at Chris Dellar in the High Street to secure your seat before it's too late.

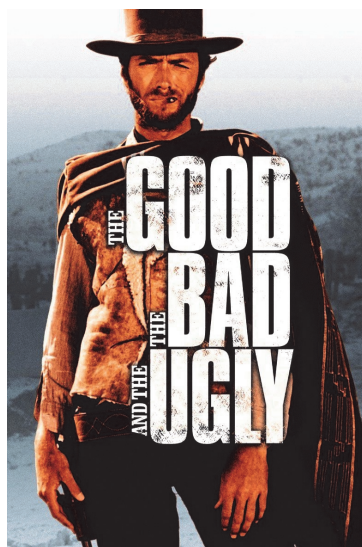
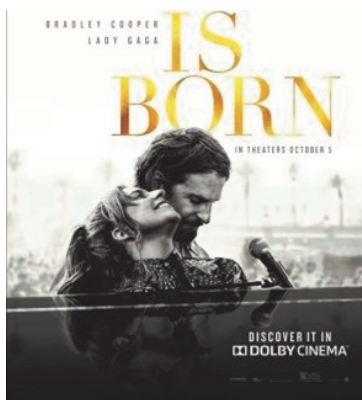
Christine Stuart-Taylor, Event Co-ordinator

Tel: 01763 272990

**Box Office: Chris Dellar Properties,
58 High Street Tel: 01763 272605**

Online Booking via Billetto:

www.buntingfordfilmclub.org



What's happened to Royston Choral Society since the Royston Parish Church fire?

Royston Choral Society has been based in the Parish Church in Royston since it started more than 40 years ago and most rehearsals and RCS concerts take place there. Back in early December members marvelled at the huge Christmas tree being decorated next to the pulpit while we practised Benjamin Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols' to be performed there on 22nd December. Little did we imagine the dreadful fire two weeks before our concert. The Old Bull and Royston Methodist Church very kindly helped out with Tuesday night rehearsal venues and the concert was successfully relocated to Meridian School with much appreciated co-operation from school staff.

Our chairman and committee breathed a sigh of relief, but then had to find rehearsal premises and a venue for our next concert scheduled to be in Royston Parish Church on 6th April – J.S. Bach's great St John Passion, a huge and exciting undertaking for the choir. Once again the Methodist Church came to our aid for rehearsals and we were pleased to welcome several new Choir members there this term. The Bach concert will now take place in the beautiful Parish Church in Ashwell. Our summer concert will be in Barkway Parish Church, as planned. Meanwhile we wish our Royston Parish Church hosts well and plan a fundraising event to support them.

J.S. Bach – St John Passion

Saturday 6th April, 7.30pm

Ashwell Parish Church

Evangelist – Daniel Joy; **Soprano** – Nina Bennet; **Mezzo** – Kate Symonds-Joy; **Bass** – Lukas Kargl; **Musical Director** – Andrew O'Brien
With Haileybury Choral Society & East Herts Sinfonia
Tickets £15 (concessions £12, school students £1)

For more information about RCS see our website www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk, call Caroline Franks on 01920 822723, or ask a choir member

Mustard Seed Singers



St Peter's Passion

**Easter Saturday,
20th April 2019, at 7pm**

**St Peter's Church,
Market Hill, Buntingford**

A concert that journeys through the Easter story with brand-new pieces by Chris Peirce, interspersed with familiar favourites. This is a 'must see' (and hear) for anyone wanting to engage with the Passion of Christ in a new and exciting way. Please join us to celebrate Christ's life, His death and resurrection in words and song.
No ticket necessary – just come along.

THE
Harmonaires

CHOIR

Wade in the Water
Saturday 23rd March, 7pm
St John's Church, Stansted

For their first local concert of the year The Harmonaires Choir, under the expert leadership of Josie Cowley, is performing a one-hour concert to raise funds for **Water Aid**. The evocative programme draws on Chilcott, American and British folk, musical theatre, spirituals and more and will transport you to rivers and seas, through storm and rain. **Tickets £10 Adults, £6 Students**, from www.theharmonaireschoir.com or call 07912 025777. Tickets will also be available on the door.

In support of
WaterAid

The Harmonaires Choir formed four years ago and is building a reputation as one of the most engaging choirs in the area. They sing an eclectic mix of music, from Thomas



Tallis to Coldplay, and their last concert before Christmas, at St Joseph's Church in Bishop's Stortford, was a sell-out raising over £400 for Shelter. The choir can also be seen performing a lunchtime concert at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral on 9th March.

**Buntingford
Community
Choir**

Millfield School
Monday nights, 7:30–9:30pm

We have now completed our winter programme of six performances to the senior citizens of Buntingford. This included Sunday afternoon concerts at Nevetts and Layston Grove Care Homes. All the performances proved to be very uplifting and popular with both the choir and the audiences. We will now be 'parking' Vera Lynn, Dean Martin, Marlene Dietrich et al. and moving on to newer material. We have recently tried out songs by Coldplay, Billy Joel and Green Day. We do not yet have a summer performance booked, but we will be looking at possible venues and locations (Emily Eavis has not yet been in touch).

We have had a number of new recruits over the last months and have welcomed back choristers who we had not seen for a while. But there is always room for you to turn up on a Monday and join in – we are a friendly crowd and will make you feel most welcome. Don't forget singing in a choir has been proven to be good for you!

All enquiries email: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk
www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk



The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The pond by the village green at Finchingfield (below) is a much photographed and much painted example of the idyllic view of the English countryside village pond where ducks swim and white clouds are reflected in its calm waters. The area of the Hundred



Parishes has a variety of such ponds. Those alongside roads were often formed from ancient extraction pits for clay or gravel; others appeared where earth was extracted for building work. Some are surviving medieval fish ponds, or the remnants of moats around isolated old farm houses. Ponds on farms provided water for livestock, but following the reduction in cattle and sheep-rearing in the area many have been filled in.

Fortunately, a number of private gardens have ponds where aquatic plants provide a haven for the wide variety of creatures that depend on such bodies of water for their survival. Dipping a net into a pond will reveal snails, the assorted larvae of dragonflies, water beetles and midges. Larger ponds may support fish.

Amphibians such as frogs, toads and newts need to lay their eggs in water but will spend much of their adult lives on land, eating a range of garden pests if there is some dense vegetation and a rockery nearby. These creatures have become quite scarce in the wider countryside due to the reduction in suitable habitats.



A pond on Patmore Heath at Albury.

During March, the croaking of male frogs hoping to attract a mate is one of the sounds of spring. Local records of any adult amphibians and locations of spawn provide valuable information about their distribution and behaviour. If you are fortunate enough to see frogs, toads or newts in your local ponds, then please pass this information to the Freshwater Habitats Organisation:

www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

and if the pond is in Essex, to the Essex Field Club at:

www.essexfieldclub.org.uk

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

Dolly doesn't pull it off

A Short Story

I didn't mean to go and drown myself. I didn't mean to end up dead. But here I am dead as a doornail. Cause of death: drowning.

It started with that basket I spotted in Heddwyn's – 'Everything £5'. I rummaged around and pulled out a lovely royal blue swimming costume – swimsuit I suppose you would call it these days. Size 16 – too big, but it would do and I liked the colour.

Nothing flashed up in my mind that it would be the cause of my untimely death. Well, I say untimely, I was 89. My 90th birthday party was all arranged and Blythe Blethyn had made the cake. It must still be sitting there, steeping in brandy waiting for the marzipan and icing. All I thought was that the blue would really become me. Well, they won't be singing 'Happy Birthday dear Dolly' now, because here I am on the mortuary slab reeking of chlorine.

Hare-brained scheme it was, and look at the trouble I've caused. Had a coach trip to Bangor booked for next Tuesday – hope someone can get a refund. It was that session at Bright Hour that tipped me over the edge. 'Show and Tell' – like nursery school for the old and toothless. If Blythe Blethyn mentioned her bara brith one more time I thought I would scream. Anyone can soak a few currants in tea, cariad bach.

No, it was finding that swimming costume that started it all. And me thinking that I could really make 'em sit up and take notice. Nine widths I had planned to do – one for every decade of my life – and get sponsored £1 per width to raise money for a new sofa for Bright Corner. That one we sit on must be 60 years old and most of its horse hair stuffing has rotted and evaporated out as dust. The leather crackles when you lower yourself onto it and bits of it get stuck in your woollies. So, not just a cut-price swimsuit but a bloody old sofa closed down 90 years of Dorothy (Dolly) Parry Llewellyn – nee Parry Jones – of Gwynedd, God's own country, Wales.

Now if I'd gone indoor I'd likely be alive to tell the tale. No doubt I'd have got my picture on the front page of The Tablet sitting on the new sofa I'd paid for. But no, I had to go outdoor. In May. Unwise as it turned out. Also, I forewent any training thinking I could dive right in – so to speak. I had no idea the water would be so cold. So very cold. My body shut down. Everything went into slow motion. Time stopped. I could not take a breath, not one. I could not move my arms or legs. I froze, froze, froze. And then I sank.

I am sure that young lifeguard shouldn't have had those earplugs jammed into his ears. But even so, I could not struggle to the surface. I could not make a sound as I froze to death in turquoise water – a pool of chlorine, its surface scattered with rotted apple blossom and small black flies and other particles which stuck to my lifeless body as they pulled me out.

I watched it all from above, flickering in slow motion with the sound of one of those old film projectors chugging and clattering in my ear. Not a film of my life, just the end of it played out for real below. Strangely the scene was in black and white. You couldn't see that the costume was royal blue but it certainly must have complemented my colouring now that I was all washed up and blue with cold.

So instead of being clapped on the back and fussed over and wrapped up warmly in a big fluffy towel, here I am cold and shrouded in a thin white cloth and everyone saying 'silly old fool'. I should have stuck to bara brith.

Elaine Gibson, Buntingford Writers' Group

The Myth of the Common Law Spouse

No legal myth or oft repeated 'bar-room legal terminology' is so habitually repeated and has persisted for so long as the 'common law' spouse. The main premise of this myth is that cohabiting couples who have lived together for a number of years will transform into common law husbands and common law wives with all of the same financial and legal rights as a married couple. This is not true.

Cohabiting couples do not have the same rights as married couples and any rights they may have will usually have been transferred to them by way of a will or equivalent. Upon the death of a cohabiting partner, the remaining partner will have no rights to pensions, they will be unable to claim benefits and they will likely be exposed to Inheritance Tax in the event that they are bequeathed something in a will.

Recently a coalition of legal organisations and family charities has urged the government to update legislation and to dispel once and for all the 'common law' myth. The Office for National Statistics recently revealed that the number of cohabiting families in England and Wales has increased from 1.5 million in 1996 to 3.3 million in 2017. Without either legislation being changed or the word being spread that cohabiting couples cannot expect to enjoy the same rights as married couples or those in a civil partnership, this could result in potentially millions of people struggling financially because of a misapprehension as to their rights and protections.

There is evidence of an increase in couples over the age of 50 marrying or engaging in civil partnerships and also a recent increase in the number of 'deathbed' marriages taking place. The Passport Office recorded an increase in applications for licences for urgent marriages and civil partnerships, 190 of which were issued in 2018 compared to 148 in 2015. This shows an awareness emerging and an increase in people seeking to ensure that their remaining partner is catered for in one of the only ways available at present.

Facing the death of a loved one is a tragic and emotionally draining experience without also having to face the reality that you could be left without legal or financial rights and protections if you are not married, which can only add further stress to an already fraught situation, particularly if you might not be minded to marry should this not be the case.

Surely the best resolution would be for legislative changes to be made to afford cohabiting couples the same rights as married couples in 2018 and beyond; rights which, incidentally, Scotland has afforded its citizens since 2006.

If you would like more information on this or any other area of family law,
please contact: amanda.thurston@curwens.co.uk

01763 241 261 – **Royston** 01992 463 727 – **Hoddesdon** 0208 363 4444 – **Enfield**

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

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**

From the EU and living in the UK – applying to stay after Brexit

You can apply now but will need things like an Android phone or tablet, and a passport with a biometric chip. Or you can wait until 30th March 2019 when there will be more ways to apply. You'll have until 30th June 2021 to apply; this deadline will change to 31st December 2020 if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

If your application is successful you'll get settled status, usually if you've lived in the UK for at least 5 years. You'll get pre-settled status if you've lived here for less time.

Your rights with settled status

If you have settled status you can stay in the UK as long as you like. You can also bring close family members to the UK after 31st December 2020 if both of the following apply:

- your relationship with them began before 31st December 2020;
- you are still in the relationship when they apply to join you.

If your relationship with them began after 31st December 2020, your family member will be able to come here on a family visa. Any children born in the UK while you're living here will automatically be British citizens.

You should be able to spend up to 5 years in a row outside the UK without losing your settled status. How long you can live outside the UK is still subject to approval by Parliament.

Pre-settled status

If you do not have 5 years' continuous residence in the UK, you'll usually get 'pre-settled status' instead. You can stay in the UK for a further 5 years from the date you get pre-settled status, but you must apply again and get settled status if you want to stay here for longer than that.

Your rights with pre-settled status

You can spend up to 2 years in a row outside the UK without losing your pre-settled status, but you will need to maintain your continuous residence if you want to qualify for settled status.

Any children born in the UK after you've got pre-settled status will be automatically eligible for pre-settled status. They will only be a British citizen if they qualify for it through their other parent.

You can find out more about staying in the UK after Brexit on GOV.UK

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

www.citizensadvice.org.uk



Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) has installed a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) in Buntingford as part of its commitment to communities in which the Charity has a shop. The device is fitted to the outside of the Community Centre in Luyne Rise. Town Clerk Jill Jones welcomed the installation saying: "The Town Council is pleased that this potentially life-saving piece of equipment is available to the people of Buntingford."



Town Mayor Graham Waite and EHAAT's Aderyn Gillett with the new defibrillator at the Seth Ward Community Centre.

Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) are designed to be safely used by untrained members of the public. A defibrillator is a computerised medical device used when a person experiences sudden cardiac arrest. The defibrillator delivers an electrical current through the chest which aims to shock the heart back into a normal rhythm, allowing it to pump again. The use of this, alongside cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), is crucial to the 'chain of survival'.

Putting this in context, Stuart Elms, Clinical Director for EHAAT, said: "Our Critical Care Teams treat many out-of-hospital cardiac arrests each year. Care and treatment has advanced, but those receiving bystander CPR and early defibrillation have a better chance of survival. PADs are a recognised, safe method of initiating care in this group of patients, for whom time is critical. Once 999 has been called, ensuring that further help is on the way, members of the public should

not be afraid to use the equipment and start CPR. The defibrillator provides clear and audible instructions and will not deliver a shock if the patient does not need it."

The defibrillator will be maintained by EHAAT, with daily visual checks carried out by Staff and Volunteers. The Charity wants to recruit more volunteers for this task and would be delighted to hear from anyone who can help. Aderyn Gillett, Trusts & Special Projects Officer at EHAAT, said: "We are asking people to give around 10 minutes of their time to do the check one or two mornings during the week. The procedure is very straightforward and we will provide full training and support."

Anyone who feels able to volunteer to help with the daily checks on the defibrillator please contact Aderyn Gillett on 0345 2417 690 or email Aderyn.gillett@ehaat.org

The Charity hopes that the defibrillator will encourage bystanders to get involved if they encounter a case of cardiac arrest, and that it will provide the people of Buntingford with additional assistance before trained medical help arrives.

Virtual Dementia Tour Bus at Layston Grove Care Home

Last month we invited members of the local community to come and experience what it is like to live with dementia by taking a trip in the Virtual Dementia Tour Bus, at Layston Grove for one day on 7th February. Those taking up the invitation included the Mayor of Buntingford (photo below) along with other councillors, care home staff, family members with relatives



suffering from dementia, healthcare professionals, police officers and many others from the community.



The specially designed mobile unit uses sensory tools and devices to give a glimpse of how the world feels and sounds to people with dementia. The photos show the dark glasses, headphones and clumsy gloves, but not the spiky shoe insoles that replicate painful nerve endings in the feet. This is the only scientifically proven method for someone with a healthy mind to experience something of what it is like to live with dementia. Visitors commented that it was a thoroughly interesting experience which really put them in the shoes of someone living with the disease.



If you would like to know about efforts to make Buntingford a Dementia Friendly Town contact Allison Purkiss at Layston Grove on **07835 772046**.



Dementia Friendly Film Screenings

Hertford Theatre have introduced monthly Dementia Friendly Film Screenings with no distracting adverts or trailers, and slightly raised background lighting during the film. The screenings are specifically designed for those living with dementia and memory loss, and their friends, families and carers. However, we welcome everyone.

The dementia friendly screening on 20th March is 'Sabrina' starring Humphrey Bogart and Audrey Hepburn. The film starts at 1.30pm but come early for a complimentary tea or coffee & biscuit before the film. **Tickets cost £5**, which includes free entry for one carer, available in person from the box office or call 01992 531500.

Last month we had an insight into Buckingham Palace courtesy of our speaker Sheila Edgar who, following her retirement from teaching, decided she would like to be a Royal tour guide, which she duly did in Clarence House, The Royal Mews and Buckingham Palace. In 2012, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the tour guides were asked to help at the Picnic held in the gardens. Just like the guests, the helpers were each given a wonderful picnic hamper. Deep in the hamper Sheila found an envelope,

opened it and discovered that all the helpers had been given a free ticket to the concert being held that night at the palace and a free programme. Luckily Sheila had her mobile phone with her so was able to ring and tell her husband she'd be home late!

For their first meeting of the year it was the members of the **Wine Appreciation Group** who provided the wine to be tasted. All the pairs were told how much to spend on the wine and the numbered bottles were lined up on the tables (below) whilst Group Leader Dave Austin read out the details of each wine so that members could choose which wine(s) to taste.

There was also a wrapped bottle of wine for members to blind-taste and try to identify a) the country of origin and b) the grape variety. The winner was Brian Tebbutt with Australia and Shiraz.



Members did not have to taste all the wines available (above), but clearly some did (left)! Below: Dave Austin displays his ambidexterity.



The **Church Crawlers** visited Kingdom Hall in Royston (next to the Bowls Club) where they were very warmly welcomed. They were given an interesting presentation about Jehovah's Witnesses enhanced with some

short videos. In the Q&A session that followed questions were raised on House Calling, Blood Transfusions and their attitude to being Gay. The Elder who gave the presentation had not heard of the U3A before the proposed visit, but had done his research and was very complimentary.

Our Speaker for Monday 11th March is Mike Beech on 'Occupations of Victorian Britain'.

Jean Cook

Please visit our website for information on our groups:

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford

HOME-START ROYSTON & SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, Nr Royston Herts
SG8 6JP. Tel: 01763 262 262 www.hsrsc.org.uk



'Celebrating Voices' Concert

With Linda Bance and several local choirs including Ad Hoc, Foxton Singers, Reed Church Choir and the pop-up WomenSing.

At Meridian School, Garden Walk, Royston SG8 7JH, **on Saturday 2nd March**. Doors open 7pm, concert starts 7.30pm. The evening compere is Jude Simpson. Raffle & licensed bar. **Tickets £10; under 13 £5**.

Charity No:
1105385

We are also hosting a '**Black Tie Ball**' in Fowlmere Village Hall on **Saturday 29th March**, with a champagne reception, three-course meal and live entertainment.

To book for either events, or for more information, please call Home-Start on **01763 262262**, email admin@hsrsc.org.uk or book online www.ticketsource.co.uk/hsrsc

Calling all Swimmers for the Home-Start Aquathon at Royston Leisure Centre – Sunday 19th May 2019

This year we are calling on local swimming clubs and organisations to help us make our annual Aquathon the biggest yet! The event, traditionally run in partnership with local schools, is being opened up to other local organisations to make an even bigger splash, with everyone from little nippers to grandparents welcome to take part!

Participants are invited to contribute sponsored teams of six for a fun 55-minute relay swim. The sponsorship money raised is then shared 50-50 between Home-Start and the individual clubs, schools and organisations. It's a 'win win' situation that brings much-needed funds to Home-Start for its vital work helping local families in crisis, while also raising money for clubs or charities close to their hearts of local people.

Team places in the Aquathon are limited, so if you would like to get involved please contact us now for an application form.

**Home-Start Royston and South
Cambridgeshire 01763 262262**
admin@hsrsc.org.uk





MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk



Visits into School

Our Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed a wonderful Roman Day Workshop in February delivered by 'History off the Page'. The children came to school dressed as Romans and the Workshop involved a quiz, games and a group investigation exploring Roman forts. In the afternoon, they celebrated Roman victory with a small feast, music, mimes, dances and plays. It was a fascinating day and a fantastic opportunity for the children to embed their learning about the Romans!

As part of their 'Into the Night' topic for this term, our Key Stage 1 pupils have been learning about owls. To get the subject underway we arranged a visit from The English School of Falconry who brought along selection of owls to talk about and introduce to the children.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) Number Day

We were delighted to be able to support the NSPCC by taking part in their Number Day on 1st February. Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards doing maths, while also raising important funds that will make an enormous difference to many children today and help to improve the lives of children tomorrow. Our children at Millfield were invited to come to school dressed in anything related to numbers – in return for a small donation for the NSPCC. Then throughout the day they participated in fun curriculum-based maths challenges organised by our Maths, Science and Computing Faculty.



Safer Internet Day

Once again we joined in Safer Internet Day, which this year was on 5th February. The theme was 'Our Internet Our Choice' and we talked about how and where we use the internet and how to use it safely. We also looked at understanding consent in the digital world.

The children really enjoy joining in with national events like this and we have a busy month ahead in March as we celebrate World Book Day, World Water Day and Red Nose Day – more details on all of these below. We would like to say a big thank you to our school community for supporting our children in taking part in these events.

Science Week

To mark British Science Week, which runs from 8th to 17th March, we will have a special focus on science at school and the children will be carrying out scientific investigations.

World Book Day

This year World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March and we plan to celebrate with a Book Swap arranged by our Reading Rockets Pupil Voice Group. It is always rewarding to see the children reading to one another and enjoying books together.



Red Nose Day

On Friday 15th March the children will be coming to school dressed in red to raise money for Red Nose Day. Then, at the end of the school day, the PTA will be holding another of their popular Movie Nights when the children can enjoy watching a film together on the 'big screen'.

World Water Day

We shall be taking part on 22nd March. The theme this year is 'leaving no-one behind' and the children will be learning that everyone should have the right to clean water.

50th Anniversary Year

Millfield School will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in September this year. We would be delighted to hear from any ex-pupils or parents or anyone connected with the school who has photos or memories that you can share with us to include in our anniversary celebrations. Please contact the School Office on 01763 271717 or email us at admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk.

Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher

If you would like to know more about our School (or Little Stars Nursery) please visit our website www.millfield.herts.sch.uk or contact the school on **01763 271717**.

FRIENDS OF MILLFIELD PTA

Invite you to a:



TAROT AND PAMPER NIGHT

29TH MARCH 2019

7:30PM

**MILLFIELD FIRST SCHOOL - MONKS
WALK**

E-mail millfieldpta@outlook.com for more information or follow us on Facebook -
Friends of Millfield PTA

For more details email: millfieldpta@outlook.com

Or follow us on Facebook: Friends of Millfield PTA



Layston C of E First School

We have had a very positive start to the spring term with plenty to be proud of. Following on from a training session for staff last term with Ryan Parker, RE and Christian Ethos Adviser for the St Albans Diocese, we have further developed our school vision.

Our School Vision

At Layston we believe in the reality of God in our lives and the Christian values that guide and inspire us. We are bold in our application of Christianity to transform relationships and we take the Gospel intent of **'Love one another'** as a blueprint for making choices in our day-to-day lives together. We foster awe and wonder through a creative curriculum that underpins and promotes our love for learning. We are **inclusive** and **nurture** each person as a child of God with every chance to shine.

Matthew 5:14-16

- 14 You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
- 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.
- 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

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



We have now adopted this enhanced school vision – illustrated by Hannah Dunnett’s fabulous ‘Light of the World’ artwork (left) – and it underpinned a whole-school RE day as part of our creative curriculum, promoting love of learning through fostering awe and wonder. During the day each class explored a part of the Bible. Reception children learnt about Adam and Eve and the story of Creation. Year 1 children investigated Noah and Abraham. Year 2 looked at Moses and Elijah. Year 3 explored birth, baptism and the miracles of Jesus. Year 4 explored the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Rev Ian Hill held a question and answer session in the afternoon with Years 3 and 4, while KS1 children exploring the stories in more detail through drama. At the end of the day each class shared their learning with the whole school in collective worship.

As a result of all this we are busy creating a fabulous wall display for the school hall (photos above right), celebrating the children’s greater understanding of stories from the Bible.



This will show the Bible stories in order and continue to develop the children's awareness of the Gospel.

Adele McMurrough & Debbie Penwill, Deputy Heads
www.layston.herts.sch.uk



St Peter's Little Sparks
Easter Crafts and Egg Hunt
FAMILY EVENT
 CRAFTS AIMED AT CHILDREN AGED
 4 - 10 YEARS, BUT ALL WELCOME
Sunday 7th April 2:30 - 4:30pm
 St Peter's Church, Chapel End, Buntingford, SG9 9AB
FREE
 Email info@mummy-sos.com to book or just turn up and join in!
 Limited places. First come, first served.
 Sponsored by **MUMMY SOS**



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.*

Full in Year 5

Following the increase of our PAN to 120 places per year group, I am pleased to inform you that Edwinstree Middle School is now full in Year 5.

Millennium Garden Project

During our exploration of the 'Value of Creation', a group of students volunteered to take part in our House competition to design the new Millennium Garden structure from sustainable materials. We are very fortunate to have secured the support of Mr Cockerton and the Conneely Group, who are willing to donate and participate in the design and completion of our new project. During the afternoon session, students worked in groups with the company to learn about the sustainable resources available to create the design and "what makes a good structure". They also had the opportunity to explore the different materials which can be used and created initial sketches of their ideas. Students then pitched their ideas to the Head of Design & Technology and the Conneely Company, explaining why they thought their design is the best to celebrate the 'Value of Creation', and a winning design was chosen.



Above & below: Millennium Garden House competition.

Author Andy Mulligan visits KS3 Students

KS3 students were fortunate to attend a workshop run by visiting author Andy Mulligan (photo below). They had the opportunity to discuss his book 'Trash' and to gain an insight into writing for stage and screen. It is hoped the experience will have a positive impact on their own writing.

www.andymulliganbooks.com/trash/com/



Year 6 Mock SATs

Year 6 students sat their Mock SATs in the last week of January. As it is known that mood and energy levels can drop by midmorning if students don't eat at least a small breakfast, they were provided with a 'power snack' of mini pizza, crumpets, sausages and a selection of fruit to keep their energy levels up. The Mocks were in preparation for the real SATs which take place in May.

Technology Tournament

We were delighted to be invited to take part in the annual Rotary Technology Tournament on 6th February at Meridian School in Royston. Three teams of four students competed against other schools from North Herts and South Cambs to design and construct a prototype unit to a design brief, all judged by individuals from the technology industry.

Young Voices at the O2

Once again, our Young Voices choir took part in the Young Voices event at the O2 Arena. Young Voices has staged the largest children's choir concerts in the world for the last 20 years. Over 2 million children have taken part in a Young Voices concert. Each night, between 5,000 and 8,000 children perform as a single choir to a sold-out audience of family and friends. The aim is to inspire a love of music and create memories for the children that will last a lifetime. Music is specially selected to create a diverse musical repertoire with the intention of introducing children to the widest possible spectrum of music and musical styles, so the children will learn, enjoy and gain a fuller understanding of music and what it means to sing together. The aspiration is also to connect families through music so they can share in the learning experience when children practice at home. This year 40 Edwinstree students attended (right) and sang a range of popular songs and folk tunes, performing with special guests Tony Hadley, Beau Dermott (a BGT finalist) and the lead singer from the Basement Jaxx. It was a super experience for all.



Jo Gant, Headteacher

A colorful poster for 'The 2019 Saturday Night Hop!'. The poster features a yellow speech bubble with the text 'A Date For Your Diary', a box with 'its back again!!', and a box with 'May 11th'. It also includes the text 'Get Your tickets NOW! £10 from The CHEESE PLATE 26, High Street, Buntingford' and 'or brunthome1@gmail.com'. There are several vinyl records scattered around the text. The event is held at the 'Seth Ward Community Centre'. At the bottom, there is a logo for the 'Buntingford Twinning Association' with a graphic of people running.

Freman

COLLEGE

Pupils at Roger de Clare First School in Puckeridge are taking part in the 'Take One Picture' initiative being run by The National Gallery. The school approached Freman College to ask if any Freman students would look at the focus painting and offer a creative response.

Five talented students from Freman took up the challenge and then shared their work, in three different media, in an assembly at Roger de Clare (right). Two chose to paint and discussed why they had used the materials they did and what they felt it represented. One express herself through a poem that she had written. And two composed a piece of music which they played on guitar.

The passion of all five shone out and genuinely seemed to inspire the children at Roger de Clare, who had the opportunity to ask questions and gain further information before going back to their classrooms with a new perspective. This was another fine example of the close collaboration on offer in the Rib Valley group of schools. Both the staff and pupils at Roger de Clare were truly inspired by the Freman College presentation and were amazed by the talent on display.



'Reach Out North Herts and Stevenage' is a new project aiming to support patients recently discharged from hospital who may need some extra help at home.

National data shows that the number of re-admissions to hospital amongst older people is increasing. A survey conducted by the Royal Voluntary Service found that 46% of people aged 75 and over, who had been in hospital at

some point in the last five years, are now living alone. Whilst some people are happy to return home after discharge, many feel anxious and frightened.

This is where Reach Out comes in. The project is seeking local people willing to give a bit of time to someone recently home from hospital. The kind of tasks that volunteers may take on include shopping, helping with paperwork and household jobs. Even just having a cup of tea and a chat is often enough.

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B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips for March 2019

MARCH			
Wed 6 th	10am–2:30pm	St Albans – Market Day, Abbey	£8
Tues 12 th	9:30–12:15pm	Harlow Garden Centre – Gifts, café, etc.	£7
Thurs 14 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
Mon 18 th	10:30–3pm	Welwyn Garden City	£7
Tues 19 th	11:30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Tues 26 th	10:30–12ish	Coles Park – Daffodil & Coffee Morning	£2
Thurs 28 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
APRIL			
Mon 1 st	9:30–3pm	Southend on Sea	£13
Thurs 4 th	9:15–12pm	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£5
Sun 28 th	10–3ish	Museum of London	£12

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

**To book a seat or for more information call:
01763 271708, 01763 271909 or 07870 638480**

B A L A COFFEE MORNING at Benson Hall

Wednesday 20th March 2019

10.15–11.30am

Tea, Coffee, Cakes etc. Raffle.

Reach Out allows people to volunteer flexibly, to fit in with their other commitments. Visits can be as flexible as they need to be. As long as you can commit to a couple of hours a week, it can really make someone's day.

So do you have a little spare time to help someone recently discharged from hospital? You could be the person who makes the difference for someone who is struggling!

If you think you could give some time to the Reach Out project please go to our website, www.reachout-project.org.uk, where you will be directed to a platform called Ami, which allows you to register your interest. The Reach Out team will then be in touch to take you through the next steps.



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com

In last month's column I commented on how fortunate we had been over the Christmas period not to lose games due to the weather conditions – unfortunately we haven't been quite so lucky with the weather over the last month or so with every one of our teams losing at least one game due to waterlogged pitches.

In the case of the First Team we may look back at the end of the season and recognise that the week off on the 2nd February may have been the point at which our fortunes changed. Good performances in the two weeks before hadn't been rewarded, with losses against both Oxhey Jets Reserves at home and Cockfosters Reserves away. The week after the enforced break saw us take on Wodson Park Reserves on their AstroTurf and, finally, we got a scoreline our performance deserved, running out 5-0 winners with Steve Lee bagging 4! The Firsts remain 13th in Division 1 of the Herts Senior County League but victories in the next few fixtures should see us shooting up a fairly congested table.

The Reserves ended January with two further defeats, one away to Wheathampsted Wanderers and then, at home, to Welham Albion Blues. The Welham Albion game was a fantastic game of football with the Reserves matching the opposition for much of the game but, at 2-1 down with 15 minutes to play, we chased the game a little too hard and conceded a further two goals in the final few minutes. Whilst the result was disappointing, the performance put in by the lads was superb and we hope that the loss of the next two games due to the weather won't have disrupted their momentum. The Reserves share bottom spot of Division 1 of the Reserve and Development Section of the County League with Knebworth Reserves with 5 games left to play in their season.

At this time of the year fixture congestion can become a very real issue. This is not, however, a problem for our Ladies Team at the moment as a combination of factors has meant that they haven't played a game since the start of January and are not scheduled to have a match until they face Woburn & Wavendon (Lionesses) Women on the last weekend in February.

The Vets also saw games postponed, one for weather related reasons and one because the team they were due to face had lost 10-2 when they visited the week before. Their League campaign saw a slight setback when local rivals Barkway out-battled us to take a 4-2 victory at Barkway, but normal service was soon resumed with a 5-0 victory in a friendly against Goldings.

Having lost the first game of February to the weather the Vets squad travelled to Waltham Abbey for a cup fixture fully expecting their game to be called off due to heavy overnight rain. But the pitch at Waltham Abbey benefits from excellent drainage and, whilst soft, held up remarkably well during a very competitive game. Either side could have won but, eventually, Waltham Abbey were more clinical with the few chances they had and ran out 2-1 victors.

As the nights grow less gloomy we start to look for the first signs of spring and the same is true for us as a football club. Much as I'm starting to sound like a broken record, our league positions really don't reflect the quality of the performances we have been putting in and I hope that next month's column will be full of more positive results.

As a Club we are already starting the process of preparing for next season, not least by continuing to develop our fundraising and sponsorship activities.

By popular demand we will be holding a **General Knowledge Quiz Night** on **30th March** at The Bury – everyone is welcome to come along and join us. If you'd like to book a table, please contact Chris Thurgill at sec@buntingfordtownfc.com

Mark Cotton, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC



Are you a local employer?

If so, here are some questions for you:

Have you ever had an independent review of your Health & Safety?

When was the last time you reviewed your contracts of employment / policy handbook?

Do you need help with HR / Employment Law / or Health & Safety?

Have you currently got any challenges or frustrations with an employee?

If you run a business and any of these questions ring a bell with you, Michael Sagers (above) and Peninsula can help. They understand that the majority of employers do not go into business to become a specialist in HR or Employment Law or Health & Safety. But these things are important – whether you have one employee or 100. Michael specialises in helping businesses grow by ensuring that their policies, procedures and documentation regarding Employment Law, HR and Health & Safety are in good shape. Peninsula offers bespoke software solutions, a 24/7 advice line, as well as representation and insurance against claims.

Two recent changes have brought Employment and Health & Safety into closer focus for employees. First, Employment Tribunal Fees, which were introduced as part of the Government's austerity measures, were abolished in 2017 after a 4-year legal battle by UNISON. Since then tribunal numbers, which fell dramatically after the introduction of fees, have more than doubled. To prevent claims, employment contracts must be tightly written and fair procedures must be followed. The second change is that Health & Safety authorities historically operated without charge to individual companies, but this too was a victim of austerity in 2012. Currently HSE must raise 43% of its operating costs – about £97 million. This comes largely from H&S inspector fees, with the current rate being £129 per hour and the average fee £700. But no inspection fees are due if an employer demonstrates compliance with statutory requirements and no significant shortcomings. This can be achieved with a robust safety management system, routine inspections of work processes and good health and safety records.

The Peninsula company is based in Manchester, but Michael returned to Buntingford to live just over a year ago. He has a long connection with the town having been born and bred here, so many readers may know him well. He attended Millfield, Edwinstree and Ward Freman (now Freman College) schools. His first house was on Baldock Road, where he lived from 1985 to 1991, and he then lived in Vicarage Road until 2001. He was always involved in the community, playing football for Buntingford Town and Westmill, and he is still keen to help people in this town he is so fond of. If you run a local business but could use some help with Employment Law or Health & Safety, why not give him a call?

Michael Sagers – 07970 973 374
michael.sagers@peninsula-uk.com



Royston and District Ramblers Group **Walks for March 2019**

- Sun 3rd** Coton, Dry Drayton, 10 miles, led by Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715
- Tues 5th** Haslingfield, 5½ miles, led by Marion 01223 871524 / 07790 668049
- Thurs 7th** Wimpole, 5½ miles, led by Ruth 01763 260746 / 07479 874787
- Sun 10th** Little Chesterford, 10 miles, led by Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715
- Tues 12th** Hayley Wood, Little Gransden, 6 miles, led by Nick 01223 208172 / 07909 977994
- Thurs 14th** Bassingbourn, 6 miles, led by Suie & Keith 01763 245955 / 07734 081014
- Sun 17th** Saffron Walden to Newport, 12 miles, led by Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715
- Tues 19th** Littlebury Green, 5½ miles, led by Martin 01763 838190 / 07565 578074
- Thurs 21st** Therfield Heath, 7 miles, led by Ken 01763 246700 / 07913 814588
- Sun 24th** Hitchin to Preston, 11 miles, led by Lesley 07734 111225
- Tues 26th** Gog Magog, 5½ miles, led by Viv & Jackie 07912 567378 / 07502 121852
- Thurs 28th** Thaxted, 6½ miles, led by Paul 01763 244038 / 07544 232330
- Sun 31st** Sandon, Chipping, 8 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026

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

www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk

Click on 'Groups' and then on 'Royston' for details, or ring the walk leader.

Hormead Rogation Walk **Saturday 25th May, 2019**

Walkers meet at 9.30am outside Little Hormead Church for a 9.45 start.

The route of the walk follows public footpaths to Wyddial where refreshments will be provided prior to a visit to the Church. On to Anstey where we will enjoy a 'bring your own' lunch in the Village Hall, drinks provided, followed by a visit to the Church. Across the fields to Meesden and Brent Pelham churches (water provided) then on to the finish at Great Hormead by about 4.30pm where again refreshments will be provided. A short prayer will be said at each church.

Everyone is welcome, including well-behaved dogs. The whole walk is about 13 miles, but walkers may join and leave wherever they wish. If transport is required please contact the Vicar, James Sawyer, on **01763 289258** prior to the day. If you wish to join at a particular church, or if the route passes your home, give your phone number to James and we will call you as we approach.

The finish will include a picnic for all ages whether or not they took part in the walk and those who wish may join a 'meet and greet' group.

Any enquiries please contact:

Stephen Ruff 01763 289516 or Trevor Hughes 07887 484018