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DIARY OF EVENTS – OCTOBER 2013

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WHAT'S ON

- 7:00pm – 8:15pm Grade 5 Ballet Lessons, Layston School. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 7.30pm Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- WEDNESDAYS**
- 9:30 – 11:15am Hornead Baby and Toddler Group at Hornead Village Hall. Term time only. From birth to 4 years. Lots of toys, activities, arts and crafts and singing. £1.50 per child, includes a drink and snack; 50p for additional children. Contact Liz Pickup on 01763 289446, or just turn up.
- 10:00am – 11:00am Story Sacks at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per child. 01763 273008.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Cougars U14s training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Circuit Training for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 6:00pm – 8:00pm Shinto Judo Club. Two 1-hour sessions for Juniors: 6:00–7:00pm & 7:00–8:00pm. Now at the Howard Carter Centre, Freman College. Contact Mark Teal 07974 458127 or Gavin Shand 07958 797005. Email: shintojudoclub@gmail.com. Or visit www.shintojudo.co.uk.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm Cougars U15s Blues training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm Body Circuit classes at Seth Ward CC. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Boxercise/Tae Bo session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm Slimming World Group at Millfield School, Monks Walk. Contact Gill Hickson on 01279 778055 or 07810 383739, or email at stuart.hickson@ymail.com
- 8:00pm Horizon Divers at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.
- THURSDAYS**
- 9:30am – 11:00am Anstey Toddlers at the Old School House, Anstey. Activities for toddlers and babies with their carers. Arts and crafts, free play and singing. £1 per family. Term time only. 01763 273008.
- 9:45am – 11:00am Jumping Jacks Stay & Play, Herts County Guide Headquarters, Cottered. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 12:00pm Fitness for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. £4 per person per class. Contact Eileen Dixon 01763 257474 or 07966 222272, or email: eileensaerobics@hotmail.com
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm Baby classes run by the Best Start Club at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane. Magical Musical Playdays, for 1 to 3 years olds, start at 1:00pm; followed by Baby Signing classes, for 0 to 16 months, at 2:00pm. Contact Laura Sheriff on 07801 796334. Email: laura@thebeststartclub.com.
- 4:30pm – 6:30pm Drama workshops for 15 to 18 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Dave on 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars U7s training at Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars U8s training at Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area.

DIARY OF EVENTS – OCTOBER 2013

THURS (cont.)

- 5:30pm – 10:00pm Buntingford Swimming Club at Ward Freman Pool. Contact Adelaide Boon on 07710 550050.
- 6:15pm – 7:00pm Jazzercise Class at Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 7.30pm Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree School Gym. Contact Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 7:45pm – 9:45pm Badminton Club at Seth Ward CC. Contact Liz James on 01763 274010.
- 8:00–10:00pm Buntingford Dramatic Society, Benson Hall.

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

MON–FRI

- 9:00am – 5:00pm Buntingford Heritage Centre in the Manor House.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPT

To 29th

Herts Open Studios 2013. More details online at hvaf.org.uk
Royston Arts Festival. More details at www.roystonartsfestival.org

OCT

Tues 1st

8pm **Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society** at Benson Hall.

Wed 2nd

7:45 for 8pm **Buntingford Gardeners Club** at URC Hall (see page 40).

Sat 5th

The Overtures at Freman College (see page 16).

Sun 6th

10am–4pm **Antiques & Vintage Fair**, Barkway Village Hall, SG8 8BS. £1 entry. Homemade cakes & refreshments. All enquiries Rosei Frost 01763289748 or email info@flapperfortunes.co.uk

Thurs 10th

7:45pm **Buntingford W.I.** at URC Hall (see page 45).

Sat 12th

7pm for 7:30 **Twinning Association Big Autumn Quiz** (see page 16).

Sun 13th

10am–4pm **Antiques & Vintage Fair**, Cottered Village Hall, SG9 9QW. £1 entry. Homemade cakes & refreshments. All enquiries Rosei Frost 01763289748 or email info@flapperfortunes.co.uk

Wed 16th

10.30–12 noon **BALA Coffee Morning**, Benson Hall (see page 44).

Fri 18th

7:30 for 8pm **Quiz Night for Paula Hine & the HAA** (see page 29).

Fri 18th

8pm **Buntingford Railway & Local History Society** at the Crown PH.
Bill Davies – On and Off the Footplate Part 2.

Sat 19th

7:30 for 8pm **Layston School PTA Quiz Night** (see page 37).

Sat 19th

7:30 for 8pm **Edwina Hayes** at Cottered Village Hall (see page 17)

Sat 26th

1–4pm Cage Bird Society **Annual Cage Bird Show** (see page 40)

Sat 26th

7:30pm British Legion **Quiz Night for Poppy Appeal** (see page 39).

Mon 28th

10am–3:30pm Red Cross **Christmas Fair** (see page 17).

Wed 30th

1:30 for 2:00pm start, **St Richard's Bingo** at Benson Hall.

Wed 30th

7:30pm (doors open 7pm) **Buntingford & District Flower Club** at Benson Hall, Buntingford. Jackie Watson presents 'Movies from The Mansion'. Parking is at the rear of the hall, entrance via Rib Way.

NOV

Sun 10th

11:00am **Service of Remembrance** (see page 19).

7:30pm **Concert of Remembrance** (see page 21).

Sat 16th

10am–3pm **Friends of Orchard Surgery Craft Fair** (see page 20).

Sat 16th

7:30pm **Reed Autumn Quiz Night** (see page 45).

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

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

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

EDITOR'S LETTER

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

Next came the meeting of the East Herts Development Committee at Wallfields to give yet another judgement on Taylor Wimpey's persistent efforts to build 160 houses up Hare Street Road. Once again the proceedings were very well attended by Buntingford residents – it was standing room only for latecomers. Our District Councillors, Stan Bull and Jeff Jones, and Steve Baker from BARD made a strong case for Buntingford's rejection of the scheme, but with planning officers supporting the Taylor Wimpey case, it was tense and the vote was close. You can read more about what happened in the BARD article on page 12 and in Jeff Jones's 'News from your District Councillor' on page 22.

Also in September, I went along to meet Paula Hine who is soon to go trekking in Nepal to raise money for the Herts Air Ambulance. You can read about Paula's coming adventure on pages 28-29, where you will also find details of her fundraising quiz. In fact, with autumn upon us we seem to be very much in quiz season with several advertised in the Journal this month, including the RBL Quiz for the Poppy Appeal on page 39.

I would like to end with a request. Earlier this month a reader, Frances, rang to tell me that the telephone number given in our What's On pages for the Monday evening Pilates session was not working. I checked it out myself and sure enough, the number was unavailable. We have now managed to get hold of the correct number, but it involved time and effort for three people – myself, Frances and Keith who does the Journal advertising section. If you advertise in these pages, whether for a commercial business or a voluntary activity, could I ask you please, please, to check the information that is printed and if there is an error LET US KNOW. We will correct any mistakes as soon as possible. After all, what is the point of advertising a service with the wrong contact details?

Christine Noble

Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading

**Editorial copy deadline for November 2013 Journal
is 12.00 noon on Tuesday 15th October 2013**

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

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

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Christine

Following my letter of 5th August, I have to tell you that I have 'egg on my face', or at least a smear. Well, I was right in that the gas and electricity companies opened and closed the road superbly, as I said, and I had assumed that provision had also been made in that trench for the water company. But oh no! While I was away for a few days the water company opened up the road and pavement again, alongside the original trench, and have made a pig's ear of the reinstatement, using inferior asphalt and paving slabs. The asphalt broke up almost immediately and left holes in the road for several days; it has had to be patched and the pavement will have to come up and be re-laid.

The reinstatement was carried out by a well-known firm of contractors who should have known better. So, on the one hand a cracking good job, speedily and well done, and on the other back to normal. Sad.

Yours sincerely

John Reynolds

91 High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AE

Dear Christine,

Just a short note to pass on my grateful thanks to the community for the unbelievable support they have shown to me on the loss of my Mother. It is at times like this that one fully appreciates the community spirit in Buntingford. I know that my Mum thoroughly enjoyed living here during the past few years. It is at times like this that I'm happy to be doing the job that I do and have the opportunity to give something back to the town.

Kind regards

Jill Jones

Buntingford Town Clerk

Dear Christine

art@gravellybarn – Summer Exhibition, August 2013

On behalf of the organising team at Gravelly Barn, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who visited, made cakes, helped throughout the exhibition, exhibited work and to everyone who gave so generously with their time and donations. The exhibition showcased work by 47 artists and raised £2,250 for our charities – The Norma Adams Tribute Fund at Breakthrough Breast Cancer and The Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Our next exhibition will run at Gravelly Barn, alongside the Christmas activities in Braughing, from Friday 29th November to December 2nd – a weekend not to miss.

Jane and Chris Davalle, www.gravellybarn.com

Dear Christine

Buntingford Dramatic Society would like to thank all those audience members who came to our Supper Theatre performances of 'God of Carnage'. We expect that those who braved the torrential rain on opening night are still drying out! We now turn our attention to the next production, so keep an eye on the website www.buntingforddrama.org for more details.

Regards

The 'God of Carnage' production team

THE MEDICAL CENTRE

WHITE HART CLOSE, BUNTINGFORD

We will be holding **Flu Vaccination Clinics** during October and November. You are eligible to have the vaccination if any of the following apply to you:

- You over 65 years of age
- You suffer from a chronic disease such as Asthma, COPD, Heart Disease, Diabetes, Chronic Kidney Disease, Liver Disease, Neurological Disease or Immunosuppression
- You are Pregnant
- You are a Carer
- You are a resident in a residential or nursing home

If you are aged either 70 years or 79 years you are also eligible to have a shingles vaccination. **Please ring the surgery on 01763 271362 and ask for an appointment.** Please tell the receptionist if you require flu and shingles.

Reed Village BBQ

The sun shone on Reed Green at the August Bank Holiday and we were delighted to see so many young families enjoying the games, food and music. Our MP Oliver Heald opened the new zip wire and started the afternoon off. Thanks to everyone for your efforts. This was the first joint event for the Cricket Club and the Village Hall Committee and proved to be very successful.



Are you a keen Hand Knitter or enjoy Crochet?



Yew Tree Alpacas are looking for experienced knitters and crocheters who would like to knit or crochet in alpaca yarn. We supply the alpaca yarn, you create the product and we pay you per weight of yarn used in each item, plus a gift voucher at the end of the year. Typical items are accessories, scarves, hats, gloves, waistcoats, cardigans.

If you're interested we would love to hear from you.

Please call **Penny** on **01763 849916**

Or email: penny@yewtreealpacas.co.uk



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk



56 New Houses Proposed on Land Off Aspenden Road

In early September, Buntingford Civic Society wrote to East Herts Council to object to the proposals to build 56 houses on land off Aspenden Road. The letter is reproduced here.

“On behalf of Buntingford Civic Society, we ask that East Herts Council rejects this planning application for the reasons set out below.

1. The proposed development is, to a large extent, on land that is designated by the Environment Agency as being in Flood Zone 2.
2. Aspenden Road is too narrow to be a suitable road from which to provide access to a development of 56 dwellings. This fact was recognised in the adopted Local Plan to 2011 in Policy BUN7 which states that ‘No further planning permission for significant traffic generating developments will be granted on the Watermill Industrial Estate until improvement works have been carried out on Aspenden Road’. In addition, recent new developments at the junction of Aspenden Road with London Road have made that junction more hazardous; this situation will only be made worse by the introduction of yet further traffic using Aspenden Road. There is also the possibility of even more London Road traffic, if either of the planning applications for Land North or South of Hare Street Road proves successful, and this will only further compound the dangers.
3. The proposed development removes a green buffer between Buntingford and Aspenden whose value was recognised by East Herts Council in their preparatory papers for the forthcoming Local Plan to 2031. Green space is an issue in Buntingford with more and more infill development having been approved and no or very limited green space being provided in recently approved developments.
4. In recent times, planning permission has been given for the building of approximately 200 houses in Buntingford over and above those planned for in the adopted Local Plan covering the period to 2011. Further large scale development in the Town should be the result of proper technical study and consultation regarding the nine development sites that have been proposed. Ill-considered piecemeal development, that serves only to partially satisfy the local authority’s requirement for a five year building land supply and purely commercial interests, will put Buntingford in danger of becoming a ‘planning disaster’ in which the overall effect of such development is neither socially or environmentally sustainable nor will such development be something of which the planning authority will be proud.”

It is also worth bearing in mind that there may well be a planning application put in by the same people for the land between the Bovis Estate/Monks Walk and the by-pass; this will also result in more traffic using the junction between Aspenden and London Roads.

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

Time Bank lands in Buntingford

North Herts CVS Time Bank, an exciting new **community skills share project**, officially launched in Buntingford in July 2013.

We are now looking for Full and Fellowship Members

Time Bank is a community skills exchange programme, giving members the opportunity to use their skills, knowledge and experience to help people in their neighbourhood and earn time credits. Members then have the chance to use those credits to get help with something they need. Some of our most popular skills are cooking, DIY, computers, crafts, writing, befriending, housework and language skills, but Time Bank values all skills equally and the possibilities are endless.

As well as traditional time banking, with person to person exchanges, we offer 'Fellowship Membership' which is for people who are unable to give back due to health reasons, but could still use support from the Time Bank for many different reasons from tuning a television to help in learning how to work use a new phone.

We are always in need of new members or referrals of people who could benefit from the service. Please get in touch if you can help.



If you would like to find out more about Time Bank or how to become a member, please visit:

<http://www.mytimebank.org.uk>

Or call **01462 689405**

Or email Timebank@nhcvs.org.uk

Oliver Heald QC MP Surgery

Friday 22nd November 2013 5:00–6:30pm

The Manor House, Buntingford SG9 9AB

The surgery now operates on an appointment system.

To make an appointment, please ring **01763 247670**.

Email: oliver.heald.mp@parliament.uk

Telephone: **01763 247640** Website: oliverhealdmp.com

Buntingford Action for Responsible Development

Taylor Wimpey rebuffed again! But it's not over yet ...

Two 'home' wins – but now we must defeat the appeal

The District Council's Development Management Committee meeting on 11th September saw another vote to reject a modified application from Taylor Wimpey to build 160 houses on land North of Hare St Road. Thanks to everyone who played their part in raising awareness of or attending the meeting!

This was a critical win for Buntingford, but now all eyes are on the appeal hearing set in motion after the first rebuttal. A joint appeal – bundling the rejected plans from Taylor Wimpey and Wheatley Homes together – will be heard at a Public Inquiry hosted by the National Planning Inspectorate, starting on 10th December and lasting up to two weeks.

This is a different setting to the District Council's Committee, requiring us to hire professional representation and build a very robust case, so please keep an eye out for events or calls for whatever support you may be able to give. And if you want to put yourself forward right now but don't quite know how to contribute, please contact us at info@bard-group.org.uk or on **07969 835 877**.

Laying the foundations for your Neighbourhood Plan

September's result has also protected Buntingford for a little longer, while we await the delayed East Herts District Plan.

In preparation for the District Plan, BARD has joined forces with Buntingford's Town Council, the Civic Society and the Chamber of Commerce, to prepare a response which could become the basis for our Neighbourhood Plan.

There were a number of public consultations on the draft document in September, with broad support for the approach of this coalition, with some valuable feedback that will help us set out a sustainable, considered plan for Buntingford when the time comes. If you missed the events and want to find out more, please get in touch.

Other developments on the radar

Applications filed

Pigeon Land Ltd: ref 3/13/1375/OP: 180 houses on land north of the Park Farm Industrial Estate and the Freman College, Ermine Street, Buntingford.

Wattsdown Ltd: ref 3/13/1399/OP: 56 houses between the completed Barratt development and the Watermill Industrial Estate, off Aspenden Road.

Technically the submission deadlines for comments on both these applications passed in September, so if you have any comments you may wish to email the planning team at planning@eastherts.gov.uk or share them with BARD. At time of writing, there is no confirmation of when the Development Management Committee will be voting on them.

Applications expected

Fairview Homes are looking to turn the old Sainsbury's distribution centre site into residential housing for some 350 more houses. They held some public events in September, so could be filing their own application pretty soon.

BARD's position

There are already a variety of opinions on whether one development would be preferable to another. But whatever the merits of different applications, our overall position remains unchanged: a District Plan and Buntingford's considered response should shape the future landscape of the town, not the commercial gamesmanship of housing developers.

As always, please keep an eye out for updates on all the developments in the media and on our website.

What is BARD? Buntingford Action for Responsible Development is a grassroots response to rapid development in the town. BARD members are all residents of Buntingford. We accept that new developments are important to sustain every thriving town, but we encourage strict scrutiny on the impact of such developments on the existing residents and the infrastructure of Buntingford. Further information on BARD and its action on local developments is posted at:

www.bard-group.org.uk

Or you can contact us at info@bard-group.org.uk or phone 07969 835 877

BUNTINGFORD ADULT LEARNING FOR FUN (BALFF) AUTUMN COURSE

**Starting Wednesday 2nd October 2013 at 10.30am
10-week course – THE HISTORY OF CLOTHES**

Providing clothes has always been a major part of the social economy, employing a great many working people and hours, from producing raw materials to manufacture and distribution. Many have been provided as uniform or livery, while everyone has at sometime shopped for clothing, whether mass-produced or individually tailored. All such aspects are included in this course, which spans 1,000 years of clothes in England and the practical, technical, social and aesthetic factors that influenced them.

Changes in fashion form a thread through the course, the styles worn by the rich as well as the practical clothes of the majority. We'll use contemporary illustrations where possible – manuscripts, statues, paintings, fashion plates, cartoons – plus extracts from contemporary documents to illustrate the lives and work of the spinners, weavers, tailors and dressmakers. We will also assess influences on style, from the strictly practical such as availability of materials, to the personal lead of individuals. While taking an overview of ten centuries from the Norman Conquest, there will be slightly greater emphasis on the Tudor period and on the century from 1750 to 1850.

If you are interested in social history, this course places clothing in the commercial and cultural life of different eras, providing added interest to visits to galleries and stately homes. There will also be the chance to look at construction methods, useful for anyone making historical costume for events or amateur drama.

Julia Peacock (Chairman) Tel: 01763 272584

The 13th Buntingford Classic Event

Sponsored this year by MJ Warner of Hare Street and James Radley Opticians, the Classic Event took place on Saturday 7th September and once again the Townsfolk and visitors were treated to a fabulous display of cars, motorbikes, music and much, much more.

The weather was once again kind for a Buntingford event – a small shower early in the day the only blemish. Because of this the cars and bikes turned up in their droves – many familiar faces but also many new ones.

The NUTS (Nostalgic and Unusual Transport Society) were again ensconced in the grounds of the old Grammar School and there were indeed some beautiful examples of classic and vintage vehicles to be seen. They had a very busy and enjoyable day, of which you can read more opposite. Local enthusiast Patrick Blakeney-Edwards turned up with a 1965 racing Ford powered AC Cobra – aficionados will be aware of the rarity and value of such a beast!!

As the day went on more and more people arrived and it became, at times, difficult to move on the High Street. It took a very long time indeed to go all the way from one end of the street to the other taking in the full variety of cars and music on display. The Buntingford Choir gave their usual powerful and apt performance – their rendition of the Janis Joplin classic 'Mercedes Benz' going down particularly well.

As in previous years – even with the ever-increasing number of people present – the day passed off without a single unsavoury incident, a tremendous compliment to all concerned.

The day ended, as usual, with prize awards. This year they were presented by Deputy Mayor Councillor Jon Ling and went to:

- Autofix Best Car in Show – Jaguar D Type (David Fitch)
- Dickie Burrell Best Bike in Show – Vincent Black Shadow (Clive Smith)
- James Radley Vehicle to Drive Home In – Renault 5 Turbo (Tye Lane)
- Most Interesting Vehicle – Ford Thunderbird (James Tarper)
- MJ Warner Best Paintwork – Dax Cobra (Dan Smith)
- Chairman's Choice – Austin Healy 100/4 (Brian Murtagh)

As ever, thanks must go to all the volunteers who put in many hours of effort getting the show arranged and marshalled – the day just would not happen without them. Thanks also to the local businesses who contribute financially to ensure that we can continue to provide the entertainment on the day – The Crown, Black Bull, Mike at the Carpet Shop, Gary at the Tile Shop, and Kay at the Coffee Shop for providing the main stage.

See you all next year – Saturday 6th September.

Graham Bonner

“NUTS” – Nostalgic & Unusual Transport Society

On behalf of all the participating members of NUTS, I would like to congratulate Graham Bonner and his Committee for another truly memorable day at the Classic Car Show. I am aware of all the planning and preparation necessary for such an event, and for us every aspect or eventuality was well covered. Even the weather turned back into sunshine after a soggy start at 8.00am getting our NUTS display area ready in Layston Court.

Our era of vehicles (pre 1963) we feel was appreciated by the public and at times during the course of the day you couldn't see us for the throng! The public vote for the 'car they would most like to own' was again very popular with a total of 1,059 votes cast, and perhaps it is no surprise that local Bob Johnson won with his beautiful red Daimler. He went away a happy chap with the annual trophy.

A new venture for us was guess the mileage so far this year of an Austin 7 owned by a NUT. Wildly different figures were entered but the closest to the 1,318.5 miles recorded was Marcel Zakrzwski from Royston who went away with the £100 prize. Not a bad return for his £1 entry!

I would like to thank Karen and her family for the continued use by NUTS of their garden; without their support our contribution to the show would not be possible.

The Nostalgic & Unusual Transport Society has a comparatively small membership from about a 25-mile radius of Buntingford. However between them they own over 60 vehicles! Monthly lunchtime meets are interspersed with road runs, visits to local places of interest, summer picnics and a Christmas function. Wives and girlfriends are encouraged to join in and are now of sufficient regular numbers to be called BOLTS – Beautiful Older Ladies Travelling Sedately.

Iayn Thomas, NUTS Organiser.



The NUTS prize-winners at the Classic Car Show of 2013





Last chance for **TICKETS**

Buy them now from
Kirkhams, the Town
Clerk, or 01763-272177

**Saturday 5th October 2013
at Freman College**

Buntingford Twinning Association

LUYNES • BUNTINGFORD • OLVEGA

Presents:

THE BIG AUTUMN QUIZ

Saturday 12th October

Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

At Benson Hall, Buntingford (opposite The Coop)

Either bring a Team of Six or join a Table on the Night

Tickets £8 (including Ploughmans) • Licensed Bar

Tickets available from Ann Brunt on 01763 272961

Email: brunthome@onetel.com

Monthly Gift & Produce Fair in Buntingford

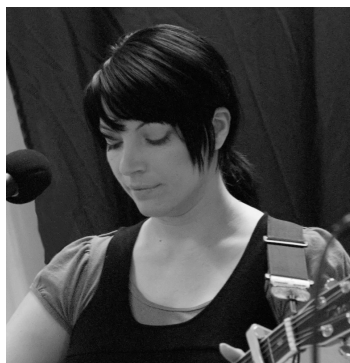
On the first Saturday of each month, from 11am to 2pm, you will find a range of goods on sale in Benson Hall, including cupcakes, jewellery, cards, jams & pickles, children's hand-made clothes, sweets and more - you can even try decorating pottery. Pick up a bargain and support your local traders. Check it out on Facebook at **Buntingford Gift & Produce Fair**.

Hope to see you there. louise.avon@live.co.uk

EDWINA HAYES

returns to
Cottered Village Hall
on

Saturday 19th October



in support of St Clare Hospice near Harlow
(www.stclarehospice.org.uk)

Tickets £10 / £8 concessions

Doors open 7:30pm; music begins at 8:00pm

Support acts are Cottered's own Rob Chamberlain
(www.facebook.com/pages/Rob-Chamberlain/66871746278)
and Roxy Searle (<http://www.roxysearle.co.uk/>)

There will be a bar. *Bring some pennies for the raffle.*

For tickets or information, call Alison on: 01763 281576
or 0777 350 4806, or email joeytickle02@yahoo.co.uk

PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT US

East Herts Red Cross Fundraising Committee

Christmas Fair

at Fanhams Hall Hotel, Ware, Herts, SG12 7PZ

Monday 28th October 2013

10am-3.30pm Entrance £4.50



Christ Church

United Reformed Church, Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

Minister: Rev Duncan Goldie
The Manse,
Meeting Lane, Melbourn,
Cambs SG8 6AN
Tel: 01763 260747

Secretary: Peter Godbert
buntingford.urc@virginmedia.com
Tel: 01763 281359

MORNING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM

October	6	Morning Worship	Mr John King
	13	Morning Worship	Mrs Penny Flynn
	20	Morning Worship	Mrs Wendy Roe
	27	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Rev Duncan Goldie
November	3	Morning Worship	Mr Richard Lewney

Junior Church, on Sunday at 11:00am during term time, welcomes all children and young people.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

The Bright Hour – a time for fellowship with prayers, hymns, readings, activities and occasional visiting speakers. Meets alternate Tuesdays in the Church Hall. Next meetings are on Tuesday 1st and 15th October at 2:30pm.

Coffee & Company – in the Church Hall every Thursday from 10:30am, for anyone wanting fellowship and time for a chat.

Lunches organised by Christian Aid – held in the Church Hall on the first Friday of the month from 12:30 to 2:00pm.

Bible Study – held in the Church Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. We have lunch at 12.30pm (*bring your own – tea & coffee is provided*) then Bible Study commences at 1.00pm and finishes at 2.00pm prompt. The subject is 'The Bible in the news' – bring a recent newspaper and we will discuss how an article relates to the Bible. ***Anybody is welcome so bring your friends.***

www.buntingfordurc.freeseve.co.uk

ST. RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford Telephone 01763 271471

HOLY MASS is celebrated each Sunday at 9:30am
Holy Days at 10am and 8pm; Weekdays at 9:15pm
Saturdays at 6pm at Furneux Pelham & 6pm at Puckeridge

CONFESSIONS are each Saturday from 11am–12noon





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



Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072

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

Everyone is welcome at any of our churches.

Services for October 2013

Sun 6 th	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	10:00am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service: Harvest Festival
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 13 th	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sun 20 th	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 27 th	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship

The Royal British Legion
Service of Remembrance

will be held at the War Memorial in Buntingford,
starting at 11.00am sharp on Sunday, 10th November

The following day, **Monday 11th**, there will be a 10-minute Remembrance Service at the War Memorial for all those who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. This service, started by Mrs Eunice Woods and her late husband Chris Woods, takes place at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, commemorating the precise anniversary of the armistice that ended the First World War. The RBL Standard will be present and the Exhortation, a prayer, and the Koheama Memorial will be said. Everyone is welcome to attend either service. Please come and join us if you can.

Friends of Orchard Surgery

CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 16th November, 2013

10:00am to 3:00pm

At Benson Hall, Buntingford

**Refreshments * Craft Stalls * Books * Bric-a-Brac
Cake Stall * Cards * Entrance FREE**

Braughing Music Society -

Cambridge Chorale

Directed by Julian Wilkins

This prize-winning choir presents a glorious evening of music:
songs, seasonal favourites, organ pieces and the chance to join in!

Saturday 7th December at 7:30 pm

St Mary's Church, Braughing

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

Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073

www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk

A Concert of Remembrance
Sunday 10th November, 7.30pm
At Wodson Park Sport & Leisure Centre



A choir of 150 singers and an orchestra of 60 will perform Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, Elgar's *Nimrod*, John Williams' *Hymn to the Fallen* (from *Saving Private Ryan*) and Parry's *I was glad*. The music will be linked with verses from First World War poems read by Crispin Bonham-Carter. **Tickets cost £20**: we would be grateful if this could be Gift Aided as all proceeds go to the Poppy Appeal. Contact **Heather Howard** on **01763 249058** or 07970739249 for further details.

Buntingford Community Choir

The view from a male Choir member

I first heard Buntingford Community choir at their inaugural concert at Freman College and was impressed not only by their singing, but the fun they were having! My daughter, Fiona, is a member of the choir, and she said to me on a number of occasions, "Dad, you should come along, you would enjoy it." The thought was planted and developed without my bidding to a point where I consciously recognised that "actually, this might be quite good fun".

And so I went to my first BCC meeting one Monday evening. I was struck by the warmth of the greeting and immediate acceptance by Mandy, the Musical Director, and by other choir members. As we sang, Mandy's infectious sense of humour frequently surfaced, which seemed to catalyse several humorous responses! I also dimly perceived a sense of belonging; of some sort of unity amongst the folk there, which was both attractive and appealing. I went back the next week, and the week after that ... and have been going ever since. I've learnt that it's fun to sing in a large group. Some of the songs I've known well, some are new to me.

The choir has a therapeutic quality about it. My days are spent at a computer, and the thought of rushing out to choir on Monday evening is a sobering one. The fact is, though, I nearly always feel better for going. Perhaps it's the exercise of singing, or meeting friends, or both, but I'm more alive. As I write this, we are just about to perform again at the Buntingford Classic Car show. These performances are the culmination of weeks of working through Mandy's musical variations and add an extra dimension to the choir. Judging by the public reaction, and that we keep getting requests, they seem to be appreciated and are great fun to do.

Finally, we are always looking for new members, particularly men – maybe that's why I was made so welcome! You may be reading this and thinking, "this sounds interesting". If that's you, I would just say this: risk it, do it and live!

Mike West

We rehearse every Monday from 7.30pm at Edwinstree Middle School



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

Many of you will know that Members of the East Herts Development Management Committee once again refused planning applications for land North of Hare Street Road. This now means that the matter will be decided by the Planning Inspector in December. We are doing our very best to fight this appeal and have appointed legal and professional representation to appear at the inquiry.

In the meantime applications for other development sites in the town are appearing. We are dealing with these in a similar way to the Taylor Wimpey application as it is felt very strongly that no development should be permitted until we have a District Plan and ideally also a Neighbourhood Plan.

As mentioned in last month's Journal, the rollout programme for High Speed Broadband would be decided early in September. We have just been informed that the good news is that both Buntingford and Puckeridge exchanges have made it into the plans at this stage (subject to survey etc). So they should be done using the government and HCC monies put aside for this programme. The not-so-good news is that this is currently programmed in for 2015 for a variety of reasons including BT resourcing pipeline and the need to light up whole new exchanges in these areas. We will continue to lobby to move this forward.

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE, Town Clerk

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

Tel: 01763 272222

Email: btc.manorhouse@btclick.com

Website: www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk

Twitter: @buntingfordtc

Town Council meetings for October 2013

Thurs 3 rd Oct	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 10 th Oct	7:00pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 31 st Oct	7:00pm – 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.
The start time for Planning meetings has been changed to 7:00pm until further notice. Please check the website for updates.

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

News From Your District Councillor

Buntingford

September was a good month for Buntingford. Early in the month the town played host to the Classic Car Show. The weather was kind and resulted in a good attendance, both with car enthusiasts and owners. Many local businesses once again prospered with people coming into the town for this popular event and contributing to the local economy.

Our next success was at the Development Management Committee Meeting (planning) in the Council Chamber at Wallfields on 11th September. First on the agenda was the hostile, revised Taylor Wimpey (TW) planning application for 160 homes North of Hare Street Road. Many Buntingford residents witnessed the debate, with credible presentations from your two District Councillors and BARD. We were instrumental in persuading the divided committee that this application is in the wrong location of the town, and in a very close vote of 6 votes to 5 the application was refused. The original TW application will still go to public inquiry in December, but I believe that more suitable development locations in the town will have been approved by then. This will surely add weight to our response at the inquiry that Buntingford has had its fair share of the housing quota and has made a good contribution to East Herts' five-year housing land supply.



I am currently pursuing with developers possible contributions to a “community pot” that will bring benefits to the residents of the town. I think it is not inconceivable that with the appropriate funding it's possible to deliver projects that could include:

- Leisure centre incorporated into Freman Pool
- Professional feasibility study on remodelling of our High Street
- A second free use Multi Games Area
- New cemetery
- Community “hoppla” bus service within the new developments
- High-speed broadband

District Plan

The long-awaited District Plan for East Herts is reaching its final stages. Councillors will have a draft to review on 26th October, which will include the identified development sites for the area. The plan will go before the Executive in December for approval, followed by a public consultation in the New Year, and if all goes well final adoption in early 2014.

Buckland & Chipping

In September we held a “Cheese & Wine” evening at St Andrew's Church in Buckland to launch the Neighbourhood Plan. It was a disappointingly low attendance and I can only assume that residents are not interested in the formulation of the plan, or maybe other factors were to blame. I would welcome feedback from residents. If we do not have your backing the plan will not go ahead and the parish will be very vulnerable in the future.

Cllr Jeff Jones

Tel: 01763 274800 / Email: jeff.jones@eastherts.gov.uk

From Then to Now

Martin & Mandy – Part 43



From this on 14^h July 2008 ...

If I dig deep enough in my email systems I can find emails dated as far back as 2007 relating to St Bartholomew's and actually a few other buildings we looked at in similar states of disrepair. It would have been great to be able to help them all but time only really allows for one.

The first picture here was taken from a cherry picker before we had even completed the purchase from the Diocese; we were deep in the throes of submitting plans and all sorts of other paperwork just to get to a stage where we could buy the building. We then had all the fun of planning submissions and local town council meetings and district council meetings to deal with, and at the time they were quite an experience – good experience as it happens for the comedy that is the present 'planning' being inflicted upon Buntingford.

Once we owned the building we had our own personal time team of archaeologists noodling for weeks and uncovering even more history for us, adding to all the secrets we had already discovered. We eventually ended up with a selection of craftsmen who have helped us stabilise and restore the fabric of the building and allow us to blend the new with the old in a way that not all might approve of, but that will certainly provide the building with another 300 years of life. The gable end wall does not look unstable here but you could have pushed it

over by leaning on it and not much more. Getting the north wall of the Nave into a situation where it was not full of holes was also a bit of a task that proved more than a challenge to achieve but we got there. We have managed to maintain just about every historical feature of the building that remained, and the items like the south windows that were past saving we have replaced in a sympathetic form that is visible as new work but yet still blends into the building.

On a number of occasions we have had to change our plans as we uncovered 'features', the rood screen staircase and archway is a case in point. We have been able to rid the building of concrete and accommodate the new finds – it would be insane to undertake this kind of project and not be flexible to things you find on the journey. The new build part of the project on the top of the Nave changed as it was built and on occasions looks far too big or completely the wrong colour, but with the help of Sarah, the conservation officer at the council, we ended up with the right materials and colours in place and whilst it's never going to disappear it does look right.

Weather has always been an issue and for some reason we ended up with the work of the crane to lift the roof into place being completed in early winter, but with careful planning and a spot of luck we even got away with this. A couple of weeks ago we managed to get the whole building watertight, and both of us really felt we had hit a major milestone. We have spent literally years getting to this stage and whilst we only have the bare fabric of a building, it is dry. Not a moment too soon!

Initially we looked far and wide to find the right people to work with us on the project; I remember going to Norfolk to visit steel fabricators who could build me a set of stairs. In reality all the people we have used have pretty much been from within 10 miles of the site and they have all produced stunning work – there really is little need to travel far and most of them advertise in this Journal.

Perhaps one of the nicest surprises of this project is that over the five years we have seen the changing seasons up the Causeway and how nature delivers gifts to anybody who cares to open their eyes and ears. In 2008 I had no idea what a tree creeper looked like let alone sounded like, and it's all here within 5 minutes' walk of the centre of Buntingford. I'd also never seen a bat before but after a bit of a false start with an ecologist we found Stuart and Matthew who actually explained what was going on, why the hedge line was so important to a bat and how we could help them. I grant you nuthatches like the bat boxes better than the bats do, but we have maintained and even improved the environment for all of these creatures, trees and plants during the project.



... to this on 7th April 2013.

Time moves on and we now see the government trying to rescue the economy with the house-building stick, the district planners demonstrating their inability to actually 'plan' any kind of development in Buntingford and the local people, despite vocal objections from all corners, are being left to suffer the circling vultures in the guise of an ever-growing number of developers with money to force their plans on the town for profit and nothing else. Still, life goes on all around us, the tree creeper will continue to creep until its tree is cut down to allow an access road to be built and the bats will continue to fly until their hedgerow is removed and they can't navigate by it any more. The last task we will need to undertake will be to complete the landscaping around the building and get back to a nature-filled small corner of England and remove the hoarding that's cloaked St Bartholomew's for the last few years. We still have a pile of work ahead of us and whenever people have asked when we will be moving in we have always said 18 months – in fact it's a standing joke – however it might just be the right answer now.

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

www.layston-church.org.uk or follow us on [@layston_herts](https://twitter.com/layston_herts)



Edwinstree Middle School



September saw the start of a new school year and the arrival of our new Year 5 pupils. Tutor group 5E found a brand-new classroom waiting for them after building work and re-decoration over the summer. Everyone quickly settled into life at Edwinstree with the help of older students and staff. We also welcomed new members of staff: Miss Company, Year 5 tutor; Miss Shipley, Head of PE; and Mrs LeSueur, Leader of pupil development.

Year 5 were treated to a 'Taste of Dahl' when actor Anthony Pedley came into school to give pupils an insight into the much-loved children's author. He read excerpts from 'Matilda', 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', 'George's Marvellous Medicine' and others.



Welcome to Edwinstree: Tutor group 5E in their brand-new classroom (above) and all smiles from three new Year 5 girls on their first day (below).



Edwinstree is looking to build upon last year's success as it begins the school year as a Silver Sainsburys Schools Games kitemark holder. This kitemark was awarded to the school last year in recognition of the wide range of opportunities that are provided for pupils to be involved in sports clubs, competitions and sports leadership. We will be kicking off this season by competing in the Schoolympics competition in Royston. Years 5 and 6 are also taking part in district football at Meridian School.

A Cheese and Wine evening organised by Edwinstree School Association was

well supported, particularly by new parents to the school. Finally, on Thursday 10th October we will be holding our prospective parents evening, from 6.15–8.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Diane George

Freman

COLLEGE

It certainly feels like a great time to be part of Freman College with fantastic exam results this summer and our new buildings taking shape. It was lovely to start the new academic year by congratulating students on their successes. On the first day of term it was a pleasure to congratulate our new Lower Sixth students on achieving some of the best GCSE results the college has ever had, with 89% of them

achieving five or more top grades and on average every student achieving the equivalent of ten B grades! I really felt for the students when, in the days before they collected their results, the news was full of how much harder GCSEs had become and dire warnings about fewer top grades being awarded. However, our students bucked the national trend and had no need to worry; a testament to their hard work and that of their teachers.

I was equally delighted by the fantastic A Level results achieved by our departing Upper Sixth who also matched some of the best results we have ever had. Almost without exception those who applied to university are off to take the courses of their choice in subjects ranging from Equine Breeding to Theoretical Physics! It is always great to see students in December, when they return for Prize-giving to collect their exam certificates and prizes, to hear all about what they have been up to in their first term away from us.

It was also exciting to see how the Sports Hall is progressing. The walls and roof have been in place for some time, but the progress inside is increasingly impressive, with the classrooms, changing rooms and viewing gallery all taking shape. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to start using it from January. Meanwhile, as the sports hall goes up, the Business mobile classrooms have been knocked down to make way for our extension to the Maths block, which will create an eight classroom Maths and Business area. Again, we are hoping this may be complete by January.

While we await our new buildings there is lots to be getting on with. Auditions have already taken place for this year's college play, 'The Crucible', which will take place in November and Sixth Formers in each House are busy planning their repertoires for House Music which is just before the half term break. Lots to report on in the next issue!

Helen Loughran, Headteacher



The wait is over: some of Freman's Sixth Form students receiving A Level results.



Paula Hine & the HAA Nepal Trek

In November Paula Hine of Campbell Close, Buntingford, will be stepping right out of her comfort zone and into the high mountain air of Nepal. Together with 24 other volunteers, she is setting off on a trek to raise at least £40,000 to help keep the Herts Air Ambulance flying.

Paula has been a supporter of the HAA from its very early days, in fact from even before the service was launched. She and her husband Daryl run their own company, Abundant Solutions, helping other small businesses with marketing and communications. About seven years ago they were looking for a local charity to benefit from all the £1 penalties collected in their 'fun fine' charity box at work – you know the sort of thing, every time you swear it costs you £1 – and the fledgling HAA seemed very worthwhile. This vital local emergency service receives no official funding, depending entirely on donations and the efforts of people like Paula to cover all its costs. Since then they have supported the HAA in many ways, but the Nepal Trek is a first. Paula has never done anything remotely like this before, but as soon as she saw the trek advertised, somehow she knew that she was going to volunteer. Perhaps it was approaching a milestone birthday, with the kids now grown up, that was the spark.

So is she super-fit, an exercise fanatic? Well no, frankly, but has been working on it, as you can see from the photograph which shows her tackling a stretch of the Pennine Way. She has also been busy trying to raise the £3,000 sponsorship required to justify a place on the trek. This has involved organising all sorts of events, from a dinner party at home instead of a meal out for her birthday, to a cocktail and canapé evening with friends donating £10 each, to a toddlers' sponsored toddle. Coming up she has a Swish Party planned and a Quiz Night (see opposite). Although her friends have helped enormously, she needs all the support she can get and invites everyone to please go along.

The trip lasts 11 days, with the journey being something of a marathon in itself, taking 2 days to get there. They fly from Heathrow to Bahrain, then on from there to Katmandu and finally an internal flight to Pakora in central Nepal. Only then do they start the 5 days of actual trekking, spending their nights in a tent – for Paula, not a fan of camping, this is yet another aspect of the adventure that takes her well beyond her comfort zone!

Many residents of Buntingford will know Paula already, especially on the Bovis Estate. She and Daryl moved there from Buckinghamshire 17 years ago and their three children, Kerri, Jake and Zach, all attended Buntingford schools. Paula was a founder member of the ABC committee of local residents which some years ago stepped in to rescue and run



Paula on the Pennine Way, practising for the challenge ahead

the Community Centre, helping to transform it from an underused building into the valued community facility it is today. Her latest venture takes her far from home, but shows the same community spirit and determination to make a difference.

If you would like to support Paula on her mission, you can donate online at:
www.justgiving.com/paulahine

Or you could send a cheque to her at 31 Campbell Close, Buntingford.

QUIZ NIGHT

In support of Paula Hine and the Herts Air Ambulance

FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER

at Benson Hall, 7.30 for 8pm start

£8 per person with teams of 6-8

TICKETS from Paula: phone 07710 164085

or email **paula@abundant-solutions.co.uk**



Bramble Hill
Children's Centre

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

We are starting a new session this month for children under 5 with their parents/carers. It's called **Disco Duck** and we are running a taster session on **Thursday 17th October**, from 1.45 to 2.45pm, at **Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre** in Puckeridge. Disco Duck is a music class which helps children to develop vital skills such as rhythm & timing, balance, coordination and motor skills. If this taster session is popular with our families we will run it every Thursday afternoon during term time. Booking is essential for the taster session so please call or email us to book a place.

Bramble Hill now has a Facebook page. Search for 'Bramble Hill' on Facebook and 'like' the page to receive updates and information from the centre. We also have a new **What's On Guide** which gives details of the sessions, workshops and courses we are running between now and Christmas, as well as useful local information for parents and carers. If you would like one sent to you by email or post, let us know.

If you would like to be included on our mailing list and receive regular updates from the Children's Centre please call us on **01763 273008** or email us at:

bramblehill@ymcacentralherts.org.uk
www.bramblehillchildrenscentre.org.uk

EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Telephone:

08444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



Legal Aid Cuts

My six year old son has been diagnosed with autism but, despite having Special Educational Needs, my local authority is refusing to accept our medical evidence and to provide the support he needs.

I want to appeal against the council's decision but don't think I can afford to pay for legal advice. However, I understand that changes to legal aid introduced in April 2013 mean I might not get financial support. What can I do?

Civil legal aid helps to pay for the costs of getting legal advice if you're on a low income. However, the government has made large cuts to the civil legal aid budget and, since April, civil legal aid is no longer available for many types of problems including divorce, as well as particular debt, housing and welfare benefit issues.

Legal aid is still available if there is a risk of domestic violence or child abuse, if your home is at risk, and in some other cases.

Fortunately, if you meet the financial conditions, legal aid is still available for people appealing against Special Educational Needs assessment decisions by councils. In some cases, legal aid is free. In others, you may have to pay towards the cost.

Unless you are on certain benefits, your income will have to be assessed to decide if you qualify for legal aid.

Whether or not you are eligible for legal aid, there are organisations you can contact for free advice about Special Educational Needs appeals. You can find a list of these organisations in the CAB **Adviceguide**.

If you need to apply for legal aid for a Special Educational Needs problem, you must apply through the telephone gateway service run by **Civil Legal Advice** on **0845 345 4345**. Calls cost no more than 4p a minute from a BT landline. Calls from mobiles are usually more.

If you're worried about the cost of the phone call, you can ask an adviser to call you back. You can also text 'legalaid' with your name to **80010** and an adviser will call you back within 24 hours.

You can get advice online from their website at **www.gov.uk**

It is important for people to be aware that although Legal Aid has been cut it is still available in certain circumstances. If you have a legal problem it is worth finding out if you qualify for Legal Aid.

© Copyright Citizens Advice. For the most up-to-date version of this article, please visit the CAB Adviceguide website at **www.adviceguide.org.uk**

FUND-RAISING EVENTS for OCTOBER 2013

For listings of all events, visit the Isabel Hospice website

Care4acuppa runs until Christmas. Put your daily cuppa to work in a fund-raising tea party or coffee morning with a bake sale, a raffle, or a bring & buy. Call Maria for ideas and information on 01707 382500.

8th Oct – COFFEE MORNING 10.30 to midday

At Markwell Pavilion, Bishop's Stortford, on the second Tuesday of each month. Enquiries 01279 755320.

12th Oct – VOICES FOR HOSPICES 7.00pm

Don't miss this opportunity to hear the famous Bax Choir, winners of the Songs of Praise Junior School Choir of the Year 2012. At Heath Mount School, Watton-at-Stone. Telephone 01707 382500 for tickets.

13th Oct – CHARITY HORSE RIDE 10.30am–3.30pm

At Hatfield House Park, organised by the Rotary Club of Hatfield in aid of Isabel Hospice and another charity. To enter contact the Rotary Club on 01707 325808.

17th Oct – ISABEL HOSPICE'S BIG PUB QUIZATHON

Eleven pubs in Hertfordshire will be joining in this quizathon in aid of Isabel Hospice. The pubs are: The Silver Fox in Hertford Heath, The Catherine Wheel in Albury, The White Horse in Burnham Green, The Bull in Watton-at-Stone, The Great Eastern Tavern in Hertford, The Brookmans in Brookmans Park, The Sun in Lemsford, The Fox in Aspenden, The Eight Bells in Hatfield, The Angel in Ware and The Greyhound in Bengeo, Hertford. Sign up and help us raise vital funds. Contact the pubs directly to take part. Call Katie Robertson on 01707 382500 for details.

19th Oct – HEADZ live for one night only! 7.30pm

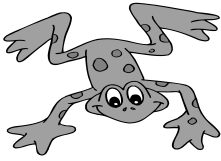
Come along to the Memorial Hall, Welham Green (AL9 7PG), and listen to this rock band made up of local head teachers! Tickets are £12.50 and include nibbles. Bring your own drinks and glasses. For tickets call 01707 265333.

31st Oct – BROCKET HALL CHARITY GOLF DAY 7.30am

Played on the prestigious Palmerston Course and sponsored by Athena, the day includes bacon rolls on arrival and a buffet meal and auction. £500 per team. Contact Emma Lippiatt on 01707 382500 to book.

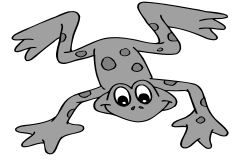
The Buntingford Journal is delivered FREE to members of the Civic Society or it can be purchased from:

**A CUT ABOVE • BASRA'S SUPERMARKET • THE CO-OP
COUNTRY FLOWERS • DELISSIMO • FLUTTERBY'S
HARE STREET SHOP & FILLING STATION
MARK DOEL • PIGGOTTS • THE FOX AT ASPENDEN**



Leapfrogs Pre-School

c/o Hornead School
Great Hornead, Herts SG9 0NR
leapfrog-preschool@btconnect.com



A new term and a nice new building!

For those of you who have not heard of Leapfrogs, we are an independent pre-school based in Great Hornead in the grounds of Hornead School. I have just taken over running the pre-school and thought this would be the perfect opportunity to introduce myself and share what a fantastic setting and staff team we have.

I discovered Leapfrogs as a parent, looking for a pre-school that would support my daughter and be flexible enough to meet my working pattern. Leapfrogs ticked all the boxes! Two years down the line I have now taken on the challenge of continuing to build on what Leapfrogs has to offer. I have 13 years' childcare experience and am joining a team with more than 30 years' combined experience. There are only 4 members of staff as we want to make sure the children are consistently greeted and cared for by staff who know each child and understand their likes and dislikes, as well as having good, strong relationships with parents and carers.

Leapfrogs has been running for over 18 years and was graded "Good with Outstanding aspects" by Ofsted. We offer a wonderful provision from age 2 years until children start school, and support a smooth transition into Nursery and Primary. I know by experience as Leapfrogs supported my daughter and I as she moved into Nursery School, returning in the afternoons until July this year when she successfully moved into Hornead School.

Our fees are only £3.95 per hour and we are open daily in term time from 9am to 3pm. We offer either full day or part sessions depending on the needs of the children and their families. We can offer shared funding if your child already attends another provision, including afternoon care if your child attends the nursery at Great Hornead or can be transported to us at the end of their morning nursery. **Funding for two-year-olds is now available for 15 hours per week. Check your eligibility at Herts Direct.**

Over the summer period we had a complete refurbishment and the classroom now provides numerous bright and stimulating learning areas where children can explore in their own time. These include a designated construction area, reading area, computer area, creative area, mark-making area and music area. We have a large secured outside area for play and we also venture into the school grounds for extended play opportunities, as well as using the school hall for our weekly football club.



We believe that every child should be treated as an individual and offer a spectrum of learning opportunities so they can explore and develop as unique individuals. Every child at Leapfrogs has a keyworker and we ensure children feel safe and secure in our care. We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage, a framework used to monitor your child's development up to the age of 5.

In the afternoons we run weekly clubs that are included within our fees. These include: *Monday* - Art and Craft; *Tuesday* - Cooking; *Wednesday* - Football (with a qualified coach); *Thursday* - Leapfrogs Leaping gym session; *Friday* - Rhyme Time.

This term we are looking at “the world around us” and within this will be covering subjects such as the children’s summer holidays, visiting the beach, autumn and harvest festival and this week we are starting with our camping trip. We will be out and about on an autumn trail, having a picnic in the park, pitching tents, cooking pumpkin pie and ensuring we have lots of messy play and singing.

Leapfrogs is run by a Committee so parents are involved in the continual running of the Pre-School, thus ensuring that children are kept at the centre of all planning.

If you would like to come for a visit or would like further details please contact us or just pop in to meet our staff and see what we do. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Jo McNamara, Pre-School Leader



NEW Massage sessions on Mondays, 3– 7pm

Introducing Jill Preston (right), a qualified Massage Therapist who has recently joined our team, offering Holistic Massage, Reflexology and Indian Head Massage on Mondays between 3 and 7pm. Jill joins Estelle Chopra, who along with these treatments also offers Sports Therapy Massage and Reiki. Estelle is available on Wednesday and Fridays, 9am–1.30pm and also on alternate Saturday mornings. Why not book in for a Monday Massage and let Jill relax you after a busy weekend and help ease you into the week?



Pilates – Kat Burton, our one-to-one Pilates instructor, will no longer be available on Friday evenings, but we are now offering sessions on a Saturday morning, 9am–1.30pm. To book in with Kat and take advantage of a half-hour taster session for just £10 (one taster session per client), please call us on 01763 878087. You can then find out for yourself how one-to-one Pilates can benefit your total well-being and also complement chiropractic treatments to help you get back into tip-top condition.

Chiropractic Treatments – we are now open until **7pm on Tuesdays** and **8pm on Fridays** to offer Chiropractic Treatments to those who are unable to attend appointments during usual office hours. New and current patients are welcome to call and make appointments during these new extended hours.

We also offer Osteopathy and Physiotherapy, The Alexander Technique and Acupuncture. We also have a Foot Healthcare Practitioner. Why not pop in and find out how we may be able to help you? We are always happy to catch up with previous patients and to welcome new faces. We look forward to seeing you soon and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.



Millfield First and Nursery School



www.millfield.herts.sch.uk

During the summer holidays there was huge amount of building activity as the central courtyard of the school was converted into a library. This has been a major project, as the photos below show, and we are delighted with the result. Once the library is carpeted and furnished we will hold an official opening ceremony. This new development also means we can extend our dining area to create more seating. Our Reception Classes are now enjoying a much larger outdoor canopy which was installed in the summer holidays. It will make outdoor learning even more fun! We are very grateful to our caretaker, Mr Alexander, who worked really hard over the summer supervising all this building work.



We welcome our new pupils into school. As last year, we have two Reception Classes and we also welcome a number of children into different classes throughout the school. This half term we welcome Miss Rodia as the new leader in Key Stage 2 and hope she will be very happy with us. In Key Stage 2 are looking at fantasy writing with a focus on 'Dragons'. They will be making model dragons and writing dragon poems amongst other activities. In Science they will be studying rocks and later in the term magnets. In PE the children have begun a course in Tag Rugby with a rugby coach.

Key Stage 1 are also focusing on 'Fantasy and Fairy Tales' looking at a number of stories, creating artwork around the theme and making puppets. In Science they will learn how to keep healthy and about their senses.

At the beginning of the school year we elect all the new representatives for our four pupil voice groups. The School Council will be meeting soon to arrange some charity events and decide how they can best help the school. Reading Rockets are a group of pupils who promote reading throughout the school. The Eco-Action Team promote awareness of environmental issues. Finally the six members of the Assembly Committee help organise our Friday Celebration Assembly each week. All the newly chosen pupils are delighted to have this opportunity to take a very active part in the life of the school.

We have arranged for the **Travelling Book Fair** to visit in October. The children and their parents will have the opportunity to buy books from a fantastic range at the end of the

school day. Our **Harvest Assembly** is taking place on Thursday 10th October at 9:00am in the School Hall and everyone is welcome to come along. We will be collecting for the Syrian refugees at the end of the assembly. Finally, as part of our Eco work we are having a **clothing collection** on Tuesday 5th November. If you have any clothing you no longer require please bring it to the school on this day in a plastic sack by 9:00am.

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

Kathy Willett, Head Teacher

ANSTEY FIRST SCHOOL

www.anstey.herts.sch.uk

We have had a great start to the new school year, welcoming four new pupils – Jude, Sonny, Poppy and Isabell – and a new teacher, Mrs Lawrance. We hope they all settle in as well as the six newcomers who arrived back in June: our new chickens, Betty, Marjory, Daphne, Pearl, Gertrude and Violet, now have a lovely home beautifully adapted for them by Norman Marston.

First of all, we heard about everyone's holiday adventures and events; one of us now has a donkey! Our topic this term is CHANGE. We will be looking at our bodies and how they change and will be comparing ourselves to other living things. To reinforce this we will be receiving a visit from a friend who will be showing us their reptiles and stick insects, which will help us to compare and contrast our differences.

Y34 will be making a visit to Forty Hall in Enfield to make a textile banner at their haberdasher's workshop. We will then have the opportunity of parading with the banner at the Rainton Pageant, which will include actors, fire-jugglers and music.

We are looking forward to opening our doors for our Country Fun Day of free activities and hospitality on Friday 27 September, 1–5pm. We will be singing, dancing, playing instruments, painting, cuddling pets, racing ferrets(!), playing games, running around the agility trail with our dogs, judging whose tail is the waggiest, toasting marshmallows, making fresh fruit cocktails and lots more! I do hope you have the opportunity to join us.

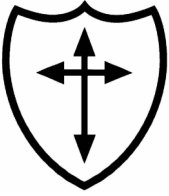
Although we are a very small school, we are pleased to note that our pupil progress is as good as ever with our average point score being 3 points above the national average. We are in a wonderful setting with our own pre-school, nursery, community centre and holiday play scheme. If you would like to find out more about us or offer to help as a volunteer, please call Lynne on **01763 848 346** or email admin@anstey.herts.sch.uk.

Paul Larkey, Headteacher



Anstey children celebrating a very creditable 2nd in the interschool cricket competition (above) and re-creating a Lowry painting in the Cabin, their outdoor classroom.





Layston C of E First School

*Loving to Learn,
Learning to Love.*

For every child a chance to shine.



Myra Bloomfield,
Layston's new
headteacher

As the new Headteacher of Layston C of E First School I am delighted that the autumn term has got off to an effervescent start. The depth and breadth of activity supported by our child focused creative curriculum, nestled and underpinned by our Christian ethos, allows each child a chance to shine.

Layston's distinctive Christian character is the starting point for all our loving and learning together. This half term we are exploring the Christian value of **Community**. Coming from the Greek word *Koinonia*, **Community** incorporates a rich variety of meanings including fellowship, union and partnership and expresses the *quality* of relationship based on the example of Christ. In this way we strive to develop relationships that support, love and nurture, and to turn outwards towards our local community and the wider world. We are inclusive and welcome those of all faiths or none.

With this in mind we are delighted to be celebrating Harvest at St Peter's Church on Friday 27th at 9.30am when our children will bring harvest gifts later to be distributed to those in need by our Year 4 class.

After just a few weeks in post I am realising that one of the tremendous pleasures of being Headteacher at Layston is to sample the diversity of activity and the enthusiasm of the children and staff in their learning together.

I love to see the wide range of visitors the school is fortunate to host and you are always warmly welcome to arrange a visit. You can phone us on **01763 271235** or contact us via email at admin@layston.herts.sch.uk. Alternatively please consult our website at www.layston.herts.sch.uk.

Finally I would like to extend my thanks to the whole Buntingford community for their warm, friendly welcome and for making me feel at home so quickly.

Myra Bloomfield



Safe in our hands: Layston children show how gentle they can be as they handle their pet African Land Snail.



LAYSTON SCHOOL PTA
QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER 2013

AT LAYSTON SCHOOL

7.30 FOR 8pm START

LICENSED BAR / PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER / RAFFLE

TICKETS £8 EACH - INCL. SUPPER

MAX 8 PEOPLE PER TEAM

FOR TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT JULIA NICHOLAS BY
EMAIL AT: laystonquiz@yahoo.co.uk

LAYSTON SCHOOL PTA

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER 2013

At LAYSTON SCHOOL 2pm-4pm

FATHER CHRISTMAS * HOOPLA * TOMBOLA
GRAND DRAW * LUCKY DIP * TOYS & BOOKS
REFRESHMENTS * CARDS * LUCKY LOLLIES

and lots more stalls!

All profits to the PTA



Buntingford Social Club

C I U affiliated

6 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS

Tel: 01763 271889 www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk



* EVERY MONDAY BIG CASH BINGO *

Guaranteed £150 snowball prize. ALL WELCOME. Eyes Down 8:00pm

ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS SHOWN (times permitting)

AND DON'T FORGET WE SELL THE CHEAPEST PINT IN BUNTINGFORD! HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 5:30 TO 6:30PM and ALL DAY FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS ARE

HAPPY DAYS

WITH DRINKS AT HAPPY HOUR PRICES!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY 2nd NOV HALLOWEEN FAMILY DISCO/FANCY

DRESS Join us for a fun-filled night with spooky cocktails and prizes for best dressed child, adult etc. ALL WELCOME (fancy dress optional).

SATURDAY 16th NOV SATURDAY SPECIAL with ALWAYS 4

performing tunes from your favourite Boy Bands supported by local singer Joe Scarrot.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR OCTOBER

5th Oct - RACHEL'S ROBOT ARMY

19th Oct - NYTE FLYTE

2nd Nov - HALLOWEEN SPECIAL (see above)

Entertainment on 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays in the month only.

MEMBERS FREE, GUESTS £1 or £4 on Special Nights.

New Members always welcome and any of you lapsed members come and rejoin at anytime. Membership just £12 per year.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR PAGE ON FACEBOOK.

The Buntingford Branch of The Royal British Legion

QUIZ NIGHT

at Benson Hall, Buntingford

Saturday, October 26th, at 7:30pm

Tickets £10, including Fish / Chicken & Chips supper

Licensed Bar and Raffle

All profits to the 2013 Poppy Appeal. Thank you for all your support over many years and we hope you can come along to support us this year.

Contact Di Bamford on 01763 848481

We need new members. Membership forms will be available on the night. You do not need to have served in the armed forces to join.

Royston and District Ramblers Group

Walks for OCTOBER 2013

- Tues 1st** Wimpole, 5 miles, leader Sandy 07553 344567
Thurs 3rd Weston, 6 miles, leader Alan 01462 895708
Sun 6th Therfield, figure of eight, 7 + 5 miles, leader Christine 01462 734298
Tues 8th Wallington, 6 miles, leader Bob 01463 250716
Thurs 10th Nuthampstead, 5 miles, leader David 01763 242677
Sun 13th Elmdon, figure of eight, 7 + 3 miles, leader Janet 01763 838300
Tues 15th Harlton, 6 miles, leader Jane 01763 261565
Thurs 17th Old Knebworth, 5 miles, leaders Linda and Roger 01462 453752
Sun 20th Much Hadham, 10 miles, leader Paul 01763 244038
Tues 22nd Wimpole, 6 miles, leader Gerry 01223 870403
Thurs 24th Hadstock, 6 miles, leader Alan 01223 840963
Sun 27th Brent Pelham, figure of eight, 6 + 3 miles, leader David 01763 242677

BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS

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

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

www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk

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

BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT
CAGE BIRD SOCIETY 1956-2013
ANNUAL CAGE BIRD SHOW

Saturday 26th October at Benson Hall, Buntingford

OPEN 1:00 to 4:30pm / FREE ENTRY / TEAS / RAFFLE

On behalf of Colin Pegrum (Show Secretary), Geoff Matthews (Show Manager),
we invite you all to come along and have an enjoyable afternoon with us all.

Secretary: Mr David Lugo 07834 816 456.

*The Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Benson Hall at 8:00pm.
New members welcome.*

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS CLUB

There was I happily working away on my computer when up pops an email ... I wonder what Marion/Roy need to know? Hope all is well with them. Anyway, I open the email and it's to let me know that the September speaker has had a fall and is unable to come. 'Don't panic, Mr Mainwaring!!!' Should I try and book another speaker?

It's only a month away, but not one to let things throw me I decide that a new speaker is the order of the day. So what subject do we want? Our original speaker was going to talk about roses, but can't find anyone for that subject, so decided that we will have another topic. Why not 'Growing Giant Vegetables'? It's different and for those who enjoy veg cultivation offers an insight into how they can be bigger and better. Yes, yes, I can hear the groans from here – what is she thinking? Anyway, after numerous phone calls to agree costs etc., Clive Bevan is booked to come to sunny Buntingford on 4th September. By the way, Clive was due to go to Malaysia but we got him first.

The evening arrived, not without a little anxiety on my part – some people might have been put off by the poster! – but as they say, 'Their loss is our gain'. Although Clive started off by admitting he gets nervous before a talk, he soon relaxed. He had brought along examples of his huge veggies and told us all about growing such 'Giants' – seed selection, soil enhancement and his secret to success. However, I'm not prepared to divulge what that is, as you should have been there. After lots of laughs and questions we adjourned for tea. A very good evening was had by all.

New members are always welcome to come along to our garden club meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 7.45 for 8.00pm, at the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road. Our next meeting is on 2nd October when our speaker, Margaret Styles, will be telling us about 'Gardening Styles'. The regular fun competition is an Autumn Flower. Hope to see you there.



Heather Pope

Club enquiries to Janet Murrells, Chairwoman, 01763 274341

Hello there, Cheeseman here – Do you know, the other day I saw six men kicking and punching the mother-in-law. My neighbour said, “Aren’t you going to help?” I said, “No, six should be enough.”

Silly old Geoffrey! Anyway, I’d better put my drink down long enough to get down to business ... it’s what they’re paying me for!

God of Carnage – A Review

‘God of Carnage’ by Yasmina Reza is a gem of a play. Following a successful run in the professional theatre, it has now been released for amateur productions; as a result it is the flavour of the month and I have seen a number of attempts to pull off what is a surprisingly complex show.

In my opinion the production staged by Buntingford Dramatic Society was a ‘tour de force’, doing full justice to a play that must be viewed as a modern classic.

From the imaginative outset, where the curtain was replaced by an artist’s painting ascending to the Gods, to the exquisite set and the immaculate eye for detail, I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed the evening. BDS seem to have got their ‘supper theatre’ evenings ‘nailed down’. Benson Hall is a great little theatre, with a nice atmosphere, and all topped off with a very warm welcome from Tricia Hill, the Front of House Manager.

The play is about two couples discussing a fight between their sons and develops into a show that perceptively yet subtly dissects adult insecurities, relationships and manners. The cast of four managed the ups and downs of intensity like a group of seasoned professionals. Andy Coxall played Alain, a truly detestable lawyer, with such ability that I grew to dislike him and his blessed mobile and was surprised when meeting him to find him to be in fact ‘a really cool guy’! His wife Annette, played by Sophia Mitchell, had the ability to cast looks to suit Medusa and handled beautifully a role that required her to combine a façade of dignity with real emotion.

Alain and Annette’s ‘opponents’, the Vallons, were portrayed with both poise and humour. Paul Russell played Michel with real depth and took his character along a rollercoaster of emotion. A ‘normal man’ with a loathing of his family’s hamster ... at times I did wonder, his children as well! He was well matched by his wife Veronique, played by Erica Jocelyn. Her determination to ensure that the matter was dealt with in a refined and proper manner was a joy to watch. From her initial calm restraint she descended into a frenzied frustration of expletives and violence.

All in all a great way to spend an evening and anyone choosing to stay in and watch television missed a real treat.



Your drama correspondent:
Geoffrey Cheeseman

Just a Has-Bin

“Hi Dusty.”

“Hi young Flip.”

“Why are you looking fed up Dusty?”

“I’ve been thinking about the latest edict from the council about the new wheelie bins.”

“How do you mean Dusty?”

“Well, when I was a lad we were all made of good British steel and we didn’t take up much room and we had a lot of functions. Not only did we get used for our original purpose, we doubled up as a children’s toy, I was a set of cricket stumps, a goal post, a good seat and imaginary airplane, bus or lorry, my lid was a Viking shield, and an alarm system when the kids beat like a drum on me to warn other gangs of kids were coming.

“Each week the dustmen came along from the council and emptied all the bins. We were so famous we were part of a Top 10 hit ‘My old man’s a dustman!’ Mind you, there wasn’t much rubbish, as any foodstuff we didn’t finish up (not much) was fed to the dog, cat or chickens. Paper was used to lay the fire, polish the windows or go in the outside lavvy (ouch!). Jars were re-used for homemade jams and of course milk bottles were delivered and collected each day. The kids earned pocket money by taking empty beer bottles back to the pub and pop bottles back to the shop. Any other stuff from the house went on the compost heap. Some got burnt and the ashes acted as a soil improver so not much finished up in me. Eventually, when my bottom got rusty, I was used as an incinerator. Thereafter, old bins just faded away into the ground where we came from.”

“Yes Dusty, I see what you mean but we have to move on mate – we are now ‘green’ to comply with EU regulations.”

“You mean that German and French lot?”

“Yes Dusty, after all, we signed up to the EU, it was a democratic process. You do believe in democracy, don’t you?”

“Ah! young Flip. Democracy? That’s a bus used by some to get to the destination they want and then they get off.”

“How do you mean Dusty?”

“Well, look at it lad. We have enough plastic bins in our gardens to accommodate a small car! They are made from plastic, which comes from oil, and they are made in China then shipped to us using more oil. Instead of one weekly collection by the council, now two trucks using thousands of gallons (sorry, litres) of fuel come once a fortnight. The trucks are made in Germany and the company that owns the service is French.”

“But we should be green, Dusty, shouldn’t we?”

“Of course, but we were until the EU got involved and we kicked all our old friends out. Then the rot set in – and I don’t mean my bottom. First we had black plastic bags, that was the councils first good idea.”

“Yes Dusty, they have lots of ideas!”

“Then they gave us big plastic garden waste recycling bins (in two sizes) so we could put all our grass cuttings and such in.”

“Wasn’t that a good idea?”

“Not really as most people had lost the will to put that compost back on their gardens. Instead they went to garden centres and bought compost in another plastic bag and put it in their car to take home and used yet more fuel.”

“You mean like the council initiative where they turn our garden waste into compost and sell it back to us?”

“Yes, that’s about the size of it young Flip.”



“But we had to have bigger bins for more rubbish?”

“Yes, the first one was the big black one – we call him **Where’s yu bin man?** At first we couldn’t get the hang of him but we did eventually, after all we are all bins aren’t we?”

“Of course we are, Dusty!”

“Next were those brown bins – we call ours **Osama Bin Larder** because they don’t like people to put the wrong stuff in them, they are a bit smelly and surrounded with flies.”

“Careful Dusty, the Bin inspector might hear you, they have spies every where”

“Next they sent us some boxes – a green one, **Low Eco Storage Bin**, that gets full of Guardian newspapers and empty wine bottles; they get a bit touchy and the lids often blow off when they are upset. Not content with that, they came with a chum, a box for plastic (the right sort, of course) and tins – we call her **Blue Rinse** and she wears a hair net, is incontinent when lifted, and she has a handbag we have to keep under the sink.”

“Well that’s about it then Dusty?”

“Fat chance, there’s a new one coming this month. Have you seen his picture?”

“Is that him? Seems like a nice bin, nice shape, I love the blue beret and it says here he comes with ‘optional extras’. Hello, Honky Tonk!”

“I am beginning to worry about you Flip.”

“So lets get this right Dusty. We now have seven plastic bins, all made from oil (we are suppose to be short of that aren’t we?) on the other side of the world and carried here on big oil-guzzling container ships. Then we pay a French firm to collect all the stuff in those bins, in German oil-burning trucks, and dump it at a depot where it is sorted, put onto more trucks then sent back across the world on yet more ships, where it is dumped in the sea or made into more cheap rubbish to send to us carried on yet more giant tankers!”

“That’s about it mate”

“But it is supposed to be green and helping us save the planet for our grandbins!”

“Well I suppose it is in a way, but somebody somewhere knows what they are doing.”

“You mean like all those solar panels made in China we are told will save the world that are made from plastic and dumped in Europe at low cost?”

“You’re learning Bin World, you are learning young Flip”

“Funny how Bin World is a lot like human world isn’t Dusty?”

“Got it in one!”

B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips for October 2013

OCTOBER			
Thurs 3 rd	9:30–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Tues 8 th	10am–3pm	Galleria Shopping Centre	£7
Thurs 10 th	9:30–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£4
Mon 14 th	10am–3pm	Imperial War Museum, Duxford. OAP £10.80	Bus £5.50
Tues 15 th	10:30–2:30	Letchworth – drop off at Morrisons	£5
Thurs 17 th	9:30–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Fri 18 th	10:30–2:30	Country Homes & Gardens and Bury Lane Farm Shop, Melbourn – Cotton Traders, Shoes, Edinburgh Woollen Mills, Plants, Bulbs, Deli etc.	£4.50
Tues 22 nd	10:30–3pm	Herts Action on Disability Exhibits / Shop, Welwyn, followed by Tea at Morrisons	£6
Thurs 24 th	9:30–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£4
Mon 28 th	10:30–3pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, etc.	£6
Tues 29 th	9:30–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford. NB Change of day	£4
NOVEMBER			
Thurs 7 th	9:30–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£4
Sat 9 th	2:30pm	Performance of "Oliver" at Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage. Tickets £13.	Bus £4

To book a seat or for more information:

Phone 01763 273623 or 01763 271708

COFFEE MORNING

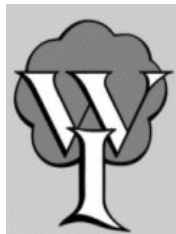
At Benson Hall, Buntingford

Wednesday 16th October 10:30–12:00noon

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

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

BUNTINGFORD W.I.



Brian Carline came to our September meeting and his talk entitled "Soil, Sweat and Tears" was, he said, advice for the reluctant gardener. This was right up my street because gardening is not at the top of my 'to do' list.

Brian's talk was so entertaining and the tips he gave (some of them tongue in cheek) were both informative and humorous. However, I wouldn't recommend the tip he gave to find out if the soil is ready for sewing seeds because you might get arrested as it involves bare bottoms! More useful were his tips for getting rid of slugs, greenfly and aphids. He also told us that garlic added to water makes an excellent garden insecticide.

He was not really impressed with some of the newer gardening tools which come on to the market and he brought along some of the tried-and-tested gardening tools which he uses. Even I instantly recognised the hoe, but one of our members also recognised the Chillington hoe, which Brian said is excellent for breaking up clay soil. Apparently this retails for around £30 but if you happen to be in France picking up some cheap booze, then you can buy the same tool for about a third cheaper.

Our other events in September were a Petanque day and a guided walk around Buntingford. We also held a Coffee Morning from which part of the proceeds went to Herts Air Ambulance. Thanks to everyone who supported us.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 10th October** when Damien O'Dell will be talking about Adventures of a Ghost Hunter in Herts. Hope we all sleep well after that! We meet at the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road at 7.45pm. Visitors are always welcome. Then, on the **23rd October**, we are hosting the Group Meeting when other W.I. members come to join us. The talk will be "Nature Photography through the Year".

If you would like to join us or would like any further information about Buntingford W.I., please telephone Pat Webb on 01763 271305.

Val Hume

AUTUMN QUIZ NIGHT

Reed Village Hall

Saturday 16th November at 7.30pm

Fish or chicken and chips £10

Bar and raffle

To book your supper ring Di on 01763848481

Booking is vital at this popular event



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



The start of the season saw a 1-1 draw at The Bury for our First Team against Panshanger; whilst we would have preferred all three points, we were satisfied enough, and in fact the side played very well. Little were we to know what the next few weeks would bring!

That draw was followed by four consecutive league defeats against Welwyn Garden City Reserves (2-1), Evergreen (3-2), Codicote Sports (2-1) and Tansley (1-0). Not the greatest start we have ever had – just 1 point from a possible 15. The disappointment was to some extent offset by the fact that in every game the side played some really attractive football, passed the ball well and were always in contention. With a goal difference of minus five, there we were at the foot of the table with, in terms of goals conceded, the second best defence in the league!

We have yet to find our goal-scoring legs, and subsequently crashed out of the Aubrey Cup in the First Round, going down 2-0 to Hatfield Social. Difficult as it is, we are doing our best to remain optimistic. As I have said, we are not playing badly, we just can't seem to find the net – perhaps next month I will have better news to report.

The Reserves, under new manager Andy Calvert, have also been playing very well, but lost their first 2 matches. The first, at Hertford Heath Reserves, saw the side lead 1-0 early on, only to trail 2-1 at half time. The score remained the same until one minute from time when the opposition scored their third. The following week saw the team lead 2-0 at half time against Standon & Puckeridge, totally bossing proceedings. Unfortunately this game turned out to be a 'game of two halves', with Standon scoring 3 in a 15-minute spell, and we were unable to get the one goal we needed to level the scores.

A week later though it was smiles all round as the team put 3 goals past visitors Hinton Reserves, to win 3-1. Yet again some great football was played, and for once, the gods of good fortune smiled down upon us!

If only our County League sides could consistently emulate the recent form of our Veterans, who came out of the blocks with all the athleticism and speed of Usain Bolt in their first outing of the campaign. Having had their match against Old Minchendonian called off due to waterlogging (surely a first for August), they were championing at the bit when they faced Goldings the following week, and put them soundly to bed with an 8-1 victory, with Chris Carter hitting a hat-trick.

The following week there was no let-up and a 2-1 victory over a strong Knebworth was well-deserved. With two wins under their belts it was off to Brighton for the annual tour, and despite the late nights and mandatory diet of kebabs and Subway's, a 2-2 draw against a strong Hassocks Vets ensured that their unbeaten run continued.

So, the start of the season has come with plenty of ups and downs; but, at Buntingford Town, we should be used to that by now! I am sure that over the coming months both First Team and Reserves will continue to improve further and start to move up their respective league tables. Were it on performances alone, we would be right up there with the leaders already. The Vets at the moment look destined to have their best season ever, and although it is still early days, they now have a big enough squad to be able to put out a good side every week.

Finally, please remember to make a note in your diary of our **Fireworks Evening** which will be at The Bury on Sunday 3rd November. Tickets will be made available during October, and the event will be advertised in the town, and on our website, where you can also find match reports for most of the games so far this season (www.buntingfordtownfc.com/pages/match_reports_all.php).

I wonder what thrills and spills the next month will hold – why not come up to The Bury on Saturday afternoons and give me some moral support as the season unfolds!

Chris Thurgill, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC



Cougars Cubs

A great fun way to introduce young children to the beautiful game.



At Cougars Cubs we welcome reception age boys and girls to enjoy fun football games and activities with our FA qualified Coaches



We play each Sunday (weather permitting) 10.30am–12noon at The Bury (ex Sainsburys Depot)

There's no need to book, simply bring your children along in weather-suitable clothing and footwear. The cost for non-Cougars members is just £2 payable at the session.

Any questions please call Richard on 07944 237400

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ STOP PRESS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**COUGARS UNDER 15s (SCHOOL YEAR 10)
ARE LOOKING FOR A GOALKEEPER**

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CALL JASON ON 07971 502868



BUNTINGFORD

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

It doesn't seem possible that this month will be our **5th AGM**, on **Monday 14th October**, at 2pm in the Seth Ward Community Centre. It's a great opportunity to socialise and give feedback to the committee. No need to worry about being co-opted, but we are always happy if you would like to volunteer. The business side of the meeting will be dealt with as quickly as possible, allowing plenty of time for members to chat and help themselves to wine, soft drinks, tea and biscuits. Group leaders will be on hand to answer questions and some members will be displaying items they have made.

French for Beginners will start at the Community Centre on Wednesday 13th November, 8–9pm, cost £5. **Philosophy/Psychology** should start in October, details to follow on the website. Another new group, **Bridge for Beginners**, filled up very quickly.

Following the AGM, our next 'Get Together' will be at the Community Centre on Monday 28th October, 2.15–4pm. This is another good time to find out more about what's on offer and chat to the members; £1 including refreshments.

It was looking as if the **Digital Photography** group might have to fold, as the temporary leaders both stood down. Luckily, two of the members have agreed to lead it and taking into account feedback from the group, they have come up with some very interesting ideas for the coming year. It is hoped that all members will be able to be a lot more hands on and really get to grips with both taking pictures and editing and saving them, buntingfordphoto@gmail.com.

Coming soon will be another of the very popular 'Discovering London' coach trips. These are very good value, picking up in Buntingford, and possibly also in Royston and Puckeridge. It's a great way of seeing London in a different light and discovering places you might not have found. September's trip was to the Mayor's Office as part of the Open Buildings weekend, offering great views of London and followed by lunch and shopping or a walk along the canal at Camden Market, all for £13.

For more information on any of the U3A courses and activities, look at our web page www.buntingfordu3a.co.uk or phone Dave on **01763 272066**.

And finally ... An Ode for Teresa

I'm sure that you all will miss her, she's been on hols you see,
where too much sun and too much wine stopped her ability to rhyme.
Her mind became a total blank when faced with this month's deadline.
'I can't think of what to write!' she said, eyes burning far too bright.
A month's respite will do her good, she'll come back fighting fit,
and her next attempt at rhyming gold will be a wonder to behold!

Graham Bonner