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

Buntingford Journal



The Buntingford CAT arrives at last!

Inside this month: Latest news on the new community bus service; Notice of Buntingford Civic Society AGM; Former Freman headteacher honoured by the British Shakespeare Association; and all-girl Freman team wins the Dragons Apprentice Challenge.





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APRIL 2018

MONDAYS	
9:00am – 10:00am	Adult Ballet at URC Hall with Buntingford Dance, £5. 01763 271010.
9:00am – 10:00am	Cardio & Core for the Over 50s at Benson Hall, £3. Contact Irene on 07802 418755 or email: ig@irenegibson.couk.
9:30am & 10:30am	U3A Exercise Class. Contact Jacqui 01763 273815 / 07956 647806 for participation information.
10:00am – 10:45am	Stretch'n'Grow is a fun exercise & activity class for children who are confidently walking to age 5. Term time at Seth Ward CC. £2 per family. 01763 273008.
10:30am - 12 noon	lyengar Yoga at URC Hall (term time). Contact Jen Harris 01920 821288.
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Stay & Play at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per family. Term time only 01763 273008
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Positive Movement exercises at Seth Ward CC. £3. 01462 678804.
1:30pm – 3:30pm	Senior Citizens Club at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Bingo and an afternoon of socialising. For more information contact Jeanne Clark on 01763 274631.
4:00pm – 6:45pm	Ballet Classes at URC Hall, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
4:30pm – 7:30pm	Rib Valley Trampoline Club at Freman College (term time only). Contact Andrea Allen 07989 980038 or email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Cougars U8s training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road.
6:30pm - 8:00pm	Shotokan Karate at Seth Ward CC. Contact Peter Deacon 01462 642922.
7:00pm	Bridge for experienced players at Buntingford Bowls Club. £2.50 per session. Contact Eddie on 01763 273640 or 07976 896718.
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Cougars U9s training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road.
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Pilates (Intermediate) at Layston School. Contact Jacqui 01763 273815 / 07956 647806.
7:15pm – 8:15pm & 8:30pm – 9:30pm	Yoga Flow at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Contact Annie Knapman 07500 110876, email: info@annieknapmanyoga.co.uk
7:30pm - 8:15pm	Abs (body toning) at Fit Together Gym. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
7:30pm – 9:30pm	Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School, Monks Walk. For info see www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk or email: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk
7:30pm – 9:45pm	Buntingford & District Youth Club at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Call Danny on 07879 853849 or email: danny.band@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. £2 for first child, then 50p for each additional child of same family, includes drink and snack. Term time.
10:00am – 11:30am	Under 1s Group at Buntingford Bowls Club. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
11:00am – 11:45am	Tappy Toes at Seth Ward CC. Dance & movement for children who are confidently walking to age 5. £2 per family. Term time only. 01763 273008.
4:15pm – 9:00pm	Ballet, Modern & Tap Classes at Freman College, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
4:30pm - 5:30pm	Cougars U7s training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road.

WHAT'S ON

5:30pm - 6:30pm	Cougars U13s training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road.
7:30pm - 8:30pm	Cougars U14s training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road.
7:30pm	Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
7:30pm – 9:00pm	'Braughing Sing' Community Choir at Jenyns School, Braughing. Contact Elaine 07501 495940 / 01763 289738 / www.braughingsing.com.
8:10pm – 8:55pm	Adult Tap Dance Classes for Fun & Fitness at Freman College. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
WEDNESDAYS	Schlade Sahangioradanos@sahtomot.ssim/ 01700 277010
9:15 – 10:45am	Hormead Stay & Play at Great Hormead School. £1 per family. Term time only. 01763 273008.
9:30 – 11:30am	Barkway Parent and Toddler Group at Barkway Village Hall. Children 0–4 years. Singing, stories and activities; tea, coffee, juice and snack provided. Contact Kim Semple on 07964 151288.
12noon – 1:00pm	Pilates , suitable for all abilities, at Benson Hall. Contact Irene on 07802 418755 or email: ig@irenegibson.co.uk
2:00pm	U3A Seated Exercise Class. Contact Jacqui 01763 273815 / 07956 647806 for participation information.
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Circuit Training for 50+ at Seth Ward CC. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Cougars U10s training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road.
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Freestyle & Shotokan Karate at Freman College. Contact Sensei John Srinivassan, Mushin Academy of Karate, 07722 071408.
6:45pm – 7:15pm	Cardio Resistance Blast at Layston School. Contact Jacqui 01763 273815 / 07956 647806.
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Cougars U18s training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road.
7:30pm – 8:15pm	Pilates (Beginners) at Layston School. Contact Jacqui 01763 273815 / 07956 647806.
7:30pm - 8:15pm	Boxercise/Tae Bo session at Fit Together Gym. Contact Al 07739 131694.
7:30pm	Slimming World Group at Millfield School. Tel: Glenda McLellan on 01462 894351 / 07983 224121 or email glendakmclellan@gmail.com
8:00pm – 9:00pm	Buntingford Meditation ecumenical group for meditation and mindfulness. Contact Martin 07771 972444 or see www.buntingfordmeditation.com for venue and details.
8:00pm	Horizon Divers at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.
8:00pm	Ware & District Photographic Society at Arts Centre, Kibes Lane, Ware,
THURSDAYS	SG12 7ED. Sep–May. Barbara 01920 822104 or see www.wareps.org.uk
9:30am – 11:00am	Anstey Toddlers at Old School House, Anstey. Arts & crafts, free play and singing for toddlers & babies with their carers. £1 per family. Term time only.
11:00am – 12:00	Fitness for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. £4 per class. Eileen Dixon 01763 257474 / 07966 222272, email: eileensaerobics@hotmail.com
1:00pm – 3:00pm	Baby classes run by 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.
2:15pm - 2:45pm	Toddlers Tales, stories & rhymes for the under 5s, at Buntingford Library.
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Pilates (Beginners) at Benson Hall. Jacqui 01763 273815 / 07956 47806.

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4:30pm 6:30pm	Drama workshops 15–18 year olds, with Stagefrights Theatre at Seth Ward
4:30pm – 6:30pm	Comm Centre. Dave 01438 232181; email: stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk
4:30pm – 7:45pm	Street Dance Classes at URC Hall, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010.
5:30pm - 6:30pm	Buntingford Swimming Club at Freman Pool. Adelaide 07710 550050.
5:30pm – 6:30pm 6:30pm – 7:30pm	Cougars U11s training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road. Cougars U12s training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road.
6:30pm – 7:00pm	Body Conditioning Classes, suitable for all abilities, at Layston School. Contact Irene on 07802 418755 or email: ig@irenegibson.co.uk
7:15pm – 8:00pm	Pilates at Layston School. Irene 07802 418755 email: ig@irenegibson.co.uk
7:30pm - 8:30pm	Cougars U16s Blues training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road.
7.30pm	Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
8:00pm – 9:30pm	Badminton at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Contact Lisa on 07951 533395.
8:00-10:00pm	Buntingford Dramatic Society, Benson Hall.
FRIDAYS	
9:15am	WeightWatchers at Benson Hall.
9:30am - 10:30am	Badminton at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.
10:00am – 10:30am	Rhyme Time at Seth Ward CC. Singing group. £1 per child. Term time only. 01763 273008.
11:00am - 12:00	Drop-in Breastfeeding Support Group at Bramble Hill, 01763 273008.
11:00am – 12:00	MultiSports Exercise Class at Benson Hall. Contact Jacqui on 01763 273815 / 07956 647806.
4:00pm – 4:45pm	Lab-Tots Pre-School Science , fortnightly at the Library, to 23rd March. Call Sophia on 07720 292350 / sophia@labtots.com / or visit www.labtots.com.
4:15pm – 8:15pm	Ballet & Modern Dance Classes at Freman College, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
5:30pm – 8:00pm	Friday Project, Buntingford & District Youth Club 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.
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Cougars U16s Whites training at the MUGA all-weather pitch, Norfolk Road.
SATURDAYS	
9:00am – 1:00pm	Ballet, Modern & Tap Dance Classes at Freman College and at URC Hall (9am–12noon). Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
9:15am – 2:00pm	Musical Theatre School for 4–14 year olds at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Call Anna 07545 788433 or email stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk.
10:00am –11:00am	Walking Football at Norfolk Rd Multigames Area, Bowling Green Lane. £2 per session. For more info call Jeff Jones 01763 274800 / 07836 232963.
2:15pm – 4:15pm	Drama workshops 6–15 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Dave 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk.
SUNDAYS	
10:00am – 12:00	Tennis at Norfolk Road Multigames Area, 1 st April to end Oct. All ages & abilities. For more info go to www.facebook.com/buntingfordtennisclub/ or the website: www.buntingfordtennisclub.co.uk/

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL	
Sun 1 st	From 1:45pm Easter Egg Hunt at the Bury (see page 9).
Tues 3 rd	8pm Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society at Benson Hall.
Wed 4 th	7:45 for 8pm Gardeners' Club at URC Hall (see page 19).
Thurs 5 th	10am–12noon Free Advice Session at Buntingford Library with Fosters Legal LLP. For an appointment call at the Library or ring 0300 1234049.
Sun 8 th	10am-5pm Cambridge Gliding Club Open Day (see page 29)
Mon 9 th	1:30pm U3A Monthly Meeting at the Community Centre (see page 34).
Tues 10 th	2:15pm Buntingford History Society at Buntingford Library.
Wed 11 th	8pm Royal British Legion Branch Meeting at The Crown, Market Hill.
Thurs 12 th	7:15 for 7:30pm Buntingford W.I. at URC Hall (see page 45).
Sat 14 th	Buntingford Film Club at Benson Hall – 2:30pm matinee 'Ratatouille'; 7:30pm 'Lawrence of Arabia' (see page 25).
Sun 15 th	12noon-4pm Alswick Hall Garden Open for Charity (see page 9).
Mon 16 th	Unplugged Acoustic Night at The Crown, Market Hill.
Tues 17 th	10:30am–3pm Spring Sale in aid of the British Red Cross in Cottered Village Hall (see page 20)
Tues 17 th	7 for 7:30pm Buntingford Civic Society A.G.M. at Benson Hall (page 11).
Wed 18 th	10:15–11:30am B.A.L.A. Coffee Morning at Benson Hall (see page 44).
Thurs 19 th	7:45pm Annual Town Meeting at the Community Centre (see page 20).
Thurs 19 th	8pm Hare Street & Hormeads Gardening Club (see page 18).
Fri 20 th	8pm Buntingford Railway & Local History Society at The Crown; 'The Story of the Panama Canal' with Richard Thomas.
Sun 22 rd	Earth Day Litter-Picking Event (see page 23).
Mon 23 rd	12noon–2:30pm Jazz on the Heath at Therfield Heath Café, with Dave Rance's Rockin' Chair Band. £8 on the door. <i>Future date:</i> 21 st May.
Tues 24 th	10:30am–12:30pm Carers in Hertfordshire Support Group at the Library. Call 01992 586969 for details.
Sat 28 th	7:15pm, First Race 8pm, A Night at the Dogs at Seth Ward Community Centre, supporting the Royal British Legion (see page 15).
Sun 29 th	4pm Mustard Seed Singers Concert in Westmill (see page 17).
MAY	
Thurs 3 rd	12:15–2:15pm Literary Lunch in aid of Home-Start (see page 13)
Sat 5 th	Buntingford Twinning Association Saturday Night Hop (see page 22).
Sun 6 th & Mon 7 th	10am–12noon Buntingford Bowls Club Open Mornings . Also Free Lessons at 6pm on Thurs 10 th , 17 th , 24 th and 31 st May (see page 48).
Fri 11 th	5–6:30pm MP's Surgery with Sir Oliver Heald QC (see page 8).
11 th to 20 th	Ashwell Music Festival 2018 (see pages 44-45).
Wed 16 th	7pm Buntingford Film Club A.G.M at Benson Hall (see page 25).
Sat 19 th	7:30pm Reed Spring Quiz (see page 48).
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USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE STATION:

Baldock Road, Buntingford

Non-emergency telephone: 101

In emergencies dial 999

GAS:

ELECTRICITY: WATER (Veolia):

SEWERAGE (Thames Water):

FLOODLINE:

Emergency (gas leaks) - Freephone 0800 111 999 Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838

Emergency - Freephone 0800 376 5325 Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800 Emergency - 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188 Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60

DOCTORS: The Medical Centre – White Hart Close

Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours) Orchard Surgery - Baldock Road

Tel: 01763 272410 (After hours: 272411)

BASH (Buntingford Action

For Social Help):

Providing transport for hospital and doctors appointments. Tel: Jane Winter 01763 271484

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RAPE,

RACE or HATE CRIME:

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

LOCAL COUNCILS:

Buntingford Town Council - 01763 272222 East Herts District Council - 01279 655261

Housing - 01279 714714

Benefits - Freephone 0800 373852

For emergencies out of office hours: 01279 655261

Adult Care Services - 0300 123 4042 Children's Services - 0300 123 4043

Hertfordshire Highways – 0300 123 4047, or report faults online: www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:

High Street, Buntingford

Opening times: Mon, Tues, Thurs 10:00 – 17:30

Friday 14:00 - 17:30Saturday 09:00 - 13:00

Telephone enquiries - 0300 123 4049 Option 1 – Renewals 03:00–23:45 every day

Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00,

Sat 09:00-6:00

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:

The Manor House

Market Hill, Buntingford

Opening times: Monday 10:00 - 16:00Tues & Wed 10:00 - 13:00

Telephone advice: Mon to Fri 10:00 – 16:00

Call 03444 111 444

HOUSEHOLD WASTE & RECYCLING SITE:

Watermill Industrial Estate.

Aspenden Road

Opening times: Mon to Fri 17:00 - 20:00

Sat & Sun 10:00 - 13:00

EDITOR'S LETTER

Well the big news this month is that the Buntingford CAT should have started running by the time you get your Journal – only in Buntingford Town for now, but hopefully soon to be extended to include surrounding villages. More information on this in Jeff Jones's article on page 21, including an initial Guide to Timings which is also available on the Town Council's website and Twitter.

On page 9 we have news of Roger Harcourt, a former Freman headteacher, who has been distinguished by the British Shakespeare Association with an Honorary Fellowship for 2018, one of only two awarded each year. I'm sure many of you will remember him and join in congratulating him on his achievement.

Many congratulations also to the Dragons Apprentice team from Freman College who took three awards including most money raised and best example of cooperation with a charity. You can read more about this in the Freman College report on page 43 and in Jeff Jones's article on pages 21-22. And congratulations, too, to Zak Watson for winning first prize in the Shorts Film Competition organised by Buntingford Film Club (page 24).

Brian Thompson of the Local History Group gives us an account of the life of Dr John Addenbrooke, the founder of Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, whom Buntingford can claim as a former resident. I am delighted to have an article from the History Group and hopefully there will be more on various subjects in the months to come.

The season's tale of woe continues for Buntingford Town Football Club, but perhaps glimmers of hope are starting to appear in more positive performances. A change in the weather to dry out the pitch wouldn't hurt – and I'm sure many dog walkers like myself can't wait to see the back of all the mud.

Buntingford Cougars are staging an Easter Egg Hunt at the Bury on Sunday 1st April. There are also several charity fund-raisers coming up this month including an Open Garden afternoon at Alswick Hall, part of the National Gardens Scheme (page 9), and the Buntingford Branch of the Royal British Legion are hosting 'A Night at the Dogs' at the Community Centre at the end of the month (page 15). Finally, it's hard to believe but it's seven years since Buntingford Community Choir was formed – many happy returns!

Christine Noble

Many thanks to John Makin for proofreading

Editorial copy deadline for the May 2018 Journal is Saturday 14th April 2018

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 & emails to the Editor

Dear Christine

I would like to support Mike Flexmore's letter in last month's Journal. The speed of traffic in London Road is getting ridiculous. I am sure a lot of vehicles are doing 50mph or more as they reach the junction of Downhall Ley and the 30 limit sign. The zebra crossing and new mini-roundabout are only a few metres further on, an accident waiting to happen.

While I am sure the Speed Indication Signs help, it would need them every 100 metres before drivers realised their excessive speed. With all the new development feeding into London Road it would be more sensible for the Town Council to lobby Highways (or whoever) to have the 30mph signs moved up to the 'Sainsbury' roundabout. Then our police could more easily set speed cameras to enforce the limit.

My view is that the London Road situation has now become so serious that vigorous enforcement is the only way to protect other road users and pedestrians from lunatic drivers. Also prosecution and points on their licence will increase guilty drivers' insurance costs significantly!

Regards, Brian Lemay, Monks Walk

Buntingford Memorial Charity holds a small amount of funds for distribution to local organisations. If you would like to apply for a grant from these funds, please send a letter of application to the following address by the middle of April:

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

The trustees will meet towards the end of April to discuss the applications received.







SIR OLIVER HEALD QC MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH EAST HERTFORDSHIRE will be holding his next MP's surgery in Buntingford on

Friday 11th May 2018, 5-6.30pm

At The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AB For an appointment please ring: 01462 486074

Email: oliver.heald.mp@parliament.uk
Or look online at: www.oliverhealdmp.com

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

Roger Harcourt

Headteacher Freman College, Buntingford, 1975-2004

At a time when Secondary schools in the UK appear to be cutting back on Art, Drama and Music programmes, it is welcome to hear of an honour bestowed by the British Shakespeare Association on one headteacher, who will be remembered by many of you, who has done more than most for Shakespeare in schools.

For over 40 years Roger Harcourt, Headteacher of Freman College for three decades, did a wonderful job promoting a love of Shakespeare to all his pupils. Continuing into his retirement he has preached, directed and taught Shakespeare and run Summer camps at Stratford-upon-Avon for students of all ages. His belief is that pupils may never experience Shakespeare in their adult lives and therefore should have at least a chance to embrace the plays and poems within their formative years. Many students have returned time and again over the years to his Summer camps, bringing families with them.

The British Shakespeare Association confers two Honorary Fellowships each year on persons who have made a major contribution to the furtherance of our understanding of the plays and poems of Shakespeare through their work in academic research, theatre or education. Roger Harcourt was unanimously elected by the Board of Trustees for this year. His fellow recipient for 2018 is Dame Vanessa Redgrave.

Freman College and Hertfordshire Education Authority should be rightly proud of this award and join us in congratulating him on such an achievement.

Irene Hinshelwood, Chair of Governors 1980–1988 Kay Jones, Chair of Governors 1988–2000



Alswick Hall Garden Open for Charity

(as part of NGS)

Sunday 15th April 2018 12noon to 4pm

Admission £5, children free Dogs on leads welcome

Hog Roast / Bar Home-made Teas / Plant Stall & various Trade Stands

> Alswick Hall Hare Street Road Buntingford Herts SG9 0AA

www.alswickhall.com/gardens



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

CIVIC VOICE talking civic sense

Member of

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Some good news at last on the planning front. Bovis Homes have cancelled their appeal on application 3/17/1811/OUT for 400 homes on Land Off Luynes Rise. No reasons have been given but I suspect it is because their appeal case was predicated mainly on the argument that the Inspector would have to find in favour of sustainable development because of East Herts District Council's inability to demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply. Now that EHDC can actually demonstrate a 6.2 year housing land supply I would imagine that Bovis realised that their appeal was fatally flawed and have decided to capitulate. Whether they will regroup and put in a revised appeal remains to be seen. Let us just hope that they admit defeat and ride off into the sunset!

EHDC is undertaking a Community Governance Review of Buntingford Town Council, including the town/parish boundaries, and needs to know the views of local residents. To this end they have written to the Buntingford Civic Society to invite its members and other interested parties to have their say. A Community Governance Review is a formal process by which the District Council can review, and where appropriate make changes to, the boundaries and electoral arrangements for parish and town councils within the district. The current review is being conducted following a request from Buntingford Town Council. The Town Council asked East Herts District Council to consider whether changes should be made to the town/parish boundaries to include the following developments within the area of Buntingford Town Council:

- Parkside and new development north of the town boundary, currently in Cottered Parish: and
- ii) Buntingford Business Park, currently in Aspenden Parish.

Initial public consultation on the issues to be considered is now live on the District Council's website at www.eastherts.gov.uk/consultations, where you can find more details about the review. Responses are required by 6th April 2018. The Review will consider the above suggestions and any other relevant issues that may be raised during the initial consultation period.

The **Civic Society AGM** will take place this year on 17th April at 7.30pm at the Benson Hall. Our guest speaker will be local businessman Toby Archer, proprietor of the awardwinning Cheese Plate. Toby is a great raconteur and I am sure he will prove an interesting and amusing speaker.

It will be interesting to see the results of Buntingford Town Council's survey on residents' attitudes to parking within the Town – specifically parking on footways and grass verges. I for one would certainly like to see far less lazy and inconsiderate parking with more thought being given to both pedestrians and our verges.

The **Buntingford in Bloom** competition will run again this year but this time with a bigger remit covering three categories – front gardens, back gardens, and container gardens. Judging will be on Saturday 7th July and entry forms and further details will be available within the next few weeks.

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

Buntingford Civic Society was established in 1972 with the aim of improving the fabric of the Town. It has led or been involved in many restoration and enhancement projects, planning, communication and financial support to improve aspects of life in Buntingford. **Annual household membership costs just £10** and includes hand delivery of the Buntingford Journal (10 issues a year) to your door. If you would like to join us, please email the Membership Secretary, Peter Hay, at:

membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)



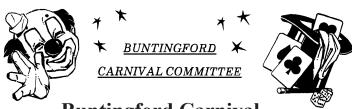
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the A.G.M. of the Buntingford Civic Society will take place on Tuesday, 17th April 2018, 7 for 7.30pm, in Benson Hall, Buntingford.

Following the business of the meeting, there will be a short talk by local businessman Toby Archer, proprietor of The Cheese Plate.

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

Non-Members welcome



Buntingford Carnival Saturday 16th June 2018

With only a couple of months to go, our preparations are all but complete — with music, dance and good weather all booked, we are good to go. Stall spaces are filling up nicely but if you would like a stall, or to take part in the procession, do not hesitate to contact **Helen Baker** on **01763 271176** or e-mail her at **helenlbaker10@gmail.com** and she will happy to oblige.

The theme of **AT THE MOVIES** should make it easy for you to dress up and make a fool of yourself, as a lot of the committee will be doing. Come on, let's all make fun of ourselves and have a great day. If you want more info about the day, please contact me on **01763 272177** and I will be glad to help.

Ashley Cantor - Chairman, Buntingford Carnival Committee

DR JOHN ADDENBROOKE A forgotten resident of Buntingford

We are all probably familiar with the Cambridge hospital, Addenbrooke's, but never think to question the origin of its name. With the name being in the possessive it suggests ownership. So who was Addenbrooke? And what is the connection with Buntingford?

The first question can be answered in outline quite easily: there is a Blue plaque on the building in Trumpington Street, Cambridge, opposite the Fitzwilliam Museum, which was formerly the hospital and is now the Judge Business School. This plaque discloses that the hospital opened in 1766 thanks to a generous bequest from a Dr John Addenbrooke. But it is difficult to learn more of the man since he took it upon himself to burn all his documents, and even pictures of himself, shortly before his death in 1719. We are forced to look to such official sources as still exist to gain any insight into him and as such there is not always consistency.

His birth is recorded in the parish records where we find that he was born in 1680 in Kingswinford, Staffordshire, the son of Samuel Addenbrooke, vicar of West Bromwich. The following year he was baptised. Of his education nothing is known until 13th December 1697 when he is recorded as being admitted to Catherine Hall, Cambridge (now St Catherine's College) as a pensioner, which meant he was a student who was not a scholar and so had to pay for his own tuition.

This is where the records of the college can fill out the picture. At Cambridge he would have joined a community of 40 scholars, comprised of the Master, Fellows and students. He would have shared a room with 3 or 4 other students. Coming from a clerical background it is probable that he intended to enter the Church and indeed most Fellows at this time would have been ordained. He obviously changed his mind at some point, although we are given no definite indication as to when or why. We can glean some clues from his academic achievements. He gained his Bachelor of Arts in 1701 and in 1704 he was admitted as a Master of Arts and elected a Fellow of the College. It was after this that he embarked on a medical degree, apparently assisted by a series of scholarships. Interestingly he did not proceed to the Bachelor of Medicine, it is thought that his standing as a Fellow was the reason, but in 1706 he was granted a licence to practice medicine by the College of Physicians. The records of the Royal College of Physicians show that on 3rd September 1707 he was entered as an extra-licentiate of the College of Physicians for West Bromwich, his native region.

In 1710 Addenbrooke was awarded his Medical Doctorate, which was quite an achievement on two grounds. Firstly, teaching at the University was not well organised. The Regius Professors of Physics did not lecture regularly and there were no professors of chemistry, botany or anatomy until the early years of the 18th century. Students were left to acquire knowledge from such sources as their discretion might uncover. Secondly, Addenbrooke became the Bursar of the College in 1709, a post he held until the following year. But it is known that he had a keen interest in *Materia Medica* and he, in fact, lectured on the subject from 1705. He had a huge collection of specimens, including a wide variety of drugs and medicines, which he presented to the college and which can still be seen there today. He also donated a number of his classical medical texts and more recent works, so it is possible he was already thinking of leaving academia. One factor that may have influenced him was that he got married, to Susan Fisher, in 1711.

At any rate he left Cambridge in 1712 and moved to London to practice as a doctor, exactly where is not known. There are no records of this period of his life, but it seems that after 6 years his health began to fail and it is at this time he moved to Buntingford and took up residence at Little Court. His health continued to deteriorate and he died on 7th June 1719, aged only 39.

For all his short life he must have been extremely successful as in his will he left a fortune of £4,500 (the equivalent of £13 million today) to his wife for the foundation of a hospital. Susan Addenbrooke died just six months after her husband and as they had no children the money then passed to the Master and Fellows of Catherine Hall, charged as trustees to direct the building of the hospital. Addenbrooke was taken to Cambridge and interred in the chapel of Catherine Hall, where his tomb and inscription can be seen today.

Although no picture of him exists, his servant Mary Collis described him as "tall and thin, of studious bearing. He wore a wig." It was Mary who, apparently, was instructed to burn all his papers before his death. Addenbrooke had a reputation as a necromancer and was said to have foretold the day and hour of his death. Whether or not this was true it is interesting that his will was dated 1st May 1719, just a month before he died. Probably he recognised that he did not have much longer to live and wanted to get his affairs in order.

Despite having such a large sum at their disposal, it seems the Master and Fellows of the college encountered serious difficulties in achieving Addenbrooke's wishes. The terms of the will required them "to hire, fit up, purchase or erect a building for a small physical hospital in the town of Cambridge for poor people of any parish or any county", which sounds fairly straightforward but the building eventually required an Act of Parliament. It was not until 47 years later, on 12th December 1766, that the hospital opened on Trumpington Street - not in the attractive building which stands on the site now but in a much smaller house. It provided 20 beds, 3 surgeons, 3 physicians, a matron and one resident apothecary. In its first week eleven patients were admitted.

One can only speculate what Addenbrooke would have thought of the huge modern hospital that bears his name today. But his place in history is assured: he was the first Englishman to bequeath his private wealth to found a voluntary hospital. Perhaps we should have a blue plaque to commemorate him on Little Court.

> **Brian Thompson Buntingford Local History Group**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th April at 2.15pm in the Magnolia Room at Buntingford Library. All welcome.



HOME-START ROYSTON & SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, Nr Royston, Herts SG8 6JP

www.hsrsc.org.uk



Literary Lunch - Thursday 3rd May

Local entertainer and Home-Start's Poet In Residence Jude Simpson hosts a chat with **Dame Fiona Reynolds** DBE (right), Master of Emmanual College and former Director-General of the National Trust.

Buffet Lunch: from 12:15pm. **Chat time** 1:00 to 2:15pm with time for questions. Venue: The Old Bull Inn. High Street, Royston SG8 9AW. Tickets: £15 from 01763 262



262, or admin@hsrsc.org.uk, or online at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/hsrsc.

All proceeds in aid of Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire.



Orchard Surgery News

Staff on duty during normal surgery hours in April:

Monday - Dr Corlett / Dr Larmie

Tuesday — Dr Manny Wednesday — Dr Larmie Thursday — Dr Manny Friday — Dr Larmie

The Nurse, Naomi, is available for appointments on Monday am & pm, Wednesday am, Thursday am.

Don't forget to let the surgery know if you can't attend your appointment time. We can then use the time for another patient.

Extra hours for patients

Everyone is invited to get involved in our future plans to extend opening hours for patients from the Buntingford area. Plans are afoot to set up some surgeries, this year, which will stay open later each day – through until 8pm – and also on Saturday and Sunday subject to patient demand. There is a consultation document which you can access via the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ULVExAccess. The consultation will finish on 20th April.

Attend or ask questions at Hospital board meetings

Did you know you have a right to attend the public board meetings of our local hospitals? And to put questions to them in writing? Check the website for each hospital trust to find details of meeting times, locations and the question process. The next meeting dates at some of our local hospitals are:

- Princess Alexander Hospital Trust 7th June
- At ENHERTS Trust 2nd May
- At Cambridge University Hospitals 9th May

Please get involved with the surgery to help develop even better services for patients. The Patient Participation Group meets at the surgery for 1 hour every two months. Everyone is welcome. The next meeting will be on 30th May, 6pm until 7 pm.

www.orchardsurgerybuntingford.co.uk / 01763 272410

Outside surgery hours dial 111 if you need urgent medical help – the call handlers will make sure you are directed to the right service. In a life-threatening situation dial 999.



Weight-Watchers Award

Julie-Anne Farman, who runs the Buntingford Weight Watchers group on Friday mornings at Benson Hall, has just received one of the highest awards that Weight Watchers give to their instructors – a Diamond Coach Award for 2017. Considered to be the BAFTAs of WW, the awards are presented annually. Julie-Anne, who comes from Biggleswade, was one of only four coaches in this area to receive one. Many congratulations to her on her success.



A NIGHT AT THE DOGS

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



SATURDAY 28TH APRIL

AT

THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE SG9 9SG

DOORS OPEN 7.15pm

FIRST RACE 8.00pm

INCLUDES PLOUGHMANS SUPPER

TICKETS £7.50 per person

AVAILABLE FROM THE CHEESE PLATE, THE BLACK BULL
OR CALL 07887484146



Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

Minister: Vacant Secretary: Peter Godbert

buntingford.urc@talktalk.net

Tel: 01763 281359

Services and Junior Church at 11.00am every Sunday

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

April	1	Easter Day* Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
•	8	Morning Worship	Mr Bob Parkin
	15	Morning Worship	Richard Genochio
	22	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
	29	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
May	6	Morning Worship	Maureen Kendal

^{*} This is the last service that the Rev Duncan Goldie will be taking in Buntingford before taking up his new post in Sherbourne, Dorset.

REGULAR EVENTS

Junior Church – For young people and children, Sunday at 11am in term time. **Bright Hour** – A time for fellowship with prayers, hymns and activities. The next meetings are on Tuesdays 3rd and 17th April at 2.30pm in the Church Hall.

Coffee & Company – Every Thursday from 10.30am for anyone wanting fellowship and time for a chat.

Lunches organised by Christian Aid – First Friday of the month, 12.30 to 2pm.

www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Father John White

HOLY MASS

Each Sunday at 9:15am Holy Days 10am & 8pm Mon & Thurs 9:30am

CONFESSIONS Saturday mornings 10.30-11.00



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



United Benefice of

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



Reverend Ian Hill - Telephone 01763 274072

There is a full and varied pattern of worship across the churches: **St. Peter's** has a more contemporary style, **St. Mary's** more traditional and **St. Mary the Virgin** more liturgical.

Everyone is welcome at any of our churches.

Services for April 2018

Sunday 1 st Apr Easter Day	il	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill St Mary's, Aspenden St Peter's, Buntingford	See Church notice board See Church notice board See Church notice board
Sunday 8 th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Morning Worship
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sunday 15 th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St Peter's Buntingford	Family Worship
Sunday 29 th	9:30am 11:00am	St Mary's, Aspenden St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion Family Worship



SUNDAY AFTERNOON @ 4 PM ON 29TH APRIL 2018

THE MUSTARD SEED SINGERS
CONCERT

At ST. MARY THE VIRGIN WESTMILL

TICKETS: £6.00 available from The Cheese Plate, High Street, Buntingford or call Jan on 01763 272 217

AN AFTERNOON CHORAL EXTRAVAGANZA TO ENTERTAIN YOU, WITH COMPLIMENTARY TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE DURING THE INTERVAL!

ALL PROFITS TOWARDS CHURCH REPAIRS.

MJ Warner - then and now





These two photos of M J Warner sales staff in 2000 (top) and 2018, show how little has changed over the years – it's still the same great service. The recent photo (bottom) shows Jack Wisby (foreground) and Miles Radwell.

MJ Warner was first established in Hare Street in 1965 as a bodyshop and general garage covering North Herts, Essex and Cambridgeshire. They became a Volkswagen main agent in the 1980s. They offer a huge range of services, from vehicle sales and repairs to annual servicing and Volkswagen warranty repairs. They also have their own parts shop and accident repair centre. As well as supplying new VW vehicles, they have a fantastic range of quality pre-owned vehicles in stock. And if they don't have the vehicle that a customer wants, they make it their mission to find it.

Rob Walker, operations manager, explains why MJ Warner has been, and continues to be, so successful: "We build our business around our customers' needs and the people that work within our business. The reason customers come back to MJ Warner is because of the great

service our staff offer to all of our customers, regardless of their budget." Whatever your needs as a motorist, MJ Warner are there to help – and nothing is ever too much trouble.

To find out more about M J Warner and their great range of cars, take a look at their website – www.mjwarner.co.uk – or give them a call on 01763 289472.

HARE STREET & HORMEADS GARDENING CLUB 'The Gardens of Easton Lodge'

The speaker at our meeting on 19th April will be Claire Matthews to tell us about these historic gardens. They date back more than 400 years, but their most renowned owner was the Countess of Warwick, mistress of Edward VII, who in 1902 commissioned designer Harold Peto to create the stunning formal gardens. Abandoned in 1950 after the demolition of the house, the gardens were forgotten for almost 45 years, then in 1993 an ambitious restoration was begun to reveal the splendour of a century ago. The gardens – at Little Easton, near Great Dunmow – are open to the public in April.

The club meets on the 3rd Thurs of the month at Gt Hormead Village Hall (SG9 0NR). Annual membership £15; visitors £3 a visit. For more information ring **01763 289417**.

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS' CLUB



Spring has finally arrived after the very cold weather at the beginning of the month. Birds will soon start to think about nesting and you can help. If you have a tumble drier, when you clean out the filter put the flock into a bird feeder, you'll be amazed how quickly it goes!

This month was the club's AGM and the committee were pleased to see so many members present. The Chair, Janet Murrells, reported that the club had had a good year with visits to the RHS Garden at Hyde Hall and the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth; both days were blessed with good weather. We also had some excellent speakers throughout the year. Janet thanked the committee for all their hard work and the other members who helped by providing the tea/coffees and competitions. The Treasurer reported that the club's finances were healthy enough to keep subscriptions the same for another year.

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the committee, which for 2018//19 will be as follows: Janet Murrells (Chair); June Westwood (Treasurer); Lesley Lowers (Secretary); Michael Brown, Linda Clark, Liz James; Viv Savage; and Jan Swaffer.

Current club membership is around 35 and we are always pleased to see new people. We offer the chance for gardening enthusiasts from all backgrounds to meet up, socialise and share their horticultural wisdom and experiences. With coach trips and days out in the annual programme, there really is something for everyone to enjoy. The club meets at the United Reformed Church, Baldock Road, on the 1st Wednesday of the month (no meetings in January or August) commencing at 8.00pm. The meetings comprise eight speakers, one social evening, an AGM, an inter-club quiz and an Annual Show. Cost of membership for the year is £15, or £3 per visit. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact either the Chair, Janet Murrells, on 01763 274341 / email: j.murrells@icloud.com, or me, Lesley Lowers, on 01763 271885 / email: lelowers@googlemail.com.

Next month's speaker is James Smallwood who will be talking about Auriculas, the alpine cousins of our wild primroses. Expect something fun and interesting.

Lesley Lowers

We will start playing again on Sunday mornings, 10am to 12noon, at the Norfolk Road Multigames Area, from 1st April until the end of October. Thursday evening sessions, 7pm to 8pm, will start again in May and run until September.



Buntingford Tennis Club is non-profit group – we are just people who like to play tennis, organised by local volunteers. Your subscription simply pays for court hire, tennis balls etc. For more information, see our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/buntingfordtennisclub/ or our website: https://www.buntingfordtennisclub.co.uk/ or you can call me – Gilly – on 07803 293969.

Can't wait to start another season of whacking that little yellow ball around the court!



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

At long last we have received the Permit for the BCAT (Buntingford Community Area Transport) bus. The service will be operational very soon. Details of the service will be circulated to all households in the next few weeks. At the moment the service will run on four different

routes around the town taking in the High Street, Community Centre and Doctors' surgeries. There will be designated stops, but if safe to do so the driver will stop when hailed. There will be a charge of £1 per journey; unfortunately, we are unable to accept concessionary passes.

The Town Council is in the process of instructing companies to undertake a survey of the town to ascertain the best places for CCTV cameras.

A final reminder that the **Annual Town Meeting** will take place on **Thursday 19th April**, 7:45pm at Seth Ward Community Centre. This is not a Council meeting but a meeting of the Electorate and an opportunity to find out the Town Council's plans for the future.

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE, Town Clerk

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm; closed Fridays
The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AB

Town Council meetings for April 2018

Thurs 5th April 7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 12th April 7:30pm – Planning Committee

7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee

Thurs 26th April 7:30pm – Planning Committee

8:00pm – Full Council

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

Coming events in aid of the:



17 April – Spring Sale at Cottered Village Hall, SG9 9QR. Quality stalls predominantly selling ladies' clothing, accessories & jewellery. 10:30am–3pm / £3.50 on the door (inc tea & biscuit) or prebook online for £3: www.redcross.org.uk/springsale

17 May – Charity Bridge Drive Please contact Cathy Curtis, Senior Community Fundraiser, for further information: **ccurtis@redcross.org.uk** / 01992 585969

27 May - Datchworth Open Gardens

News from Your District and County Councillor and Chairman of East Herts Council



ä	Depart	Depart	Depart
Luynes Rise / SWCC	08.30		
High St / Church St Junction		10.50	14.15
Fairview / Layston Grove	08.35	10.55	14.20
Olvega Drive / Crouch Gardens	08.40	11.00	14.25
Layston Meadow	08.45	11.05	14.30
Fairfield	08.50	11.10	14.35
Luynes Rise / SWCC	08.55	11.15	14.40
Orchard Surgery	09.00	11.20	14.45
Nevetts / Health Centre	09.05	11.25	14.50
High St / Church St Junction	09.10	11.30	14.55
Snells Mead / Dray Gardens	09.15	11.35	15.00
Station Road / Co-Op	09.20	11.40	15.05
Hare Street Road TW	09.25	11.45	15.10
Orchard Surgery	09.30	11.50	15.15
Nevetts / Health Centre	09.35	11.55	15.20
High St / Church St Junction	09.40	12.00	15.25
Baldock Road	09.45	12.05	15.30
Monks Walk	09.50	12.10	15.35
Skipps Meadow	09.55	12.15	15.40
Greenways	10.00	12.20	15.45
Orchard Surgery	10.05	12.25	15.50
Nevetts / Health Centre	10.10	12.30	15.55
High St / Church St Junction	10.15	12.35	16.00
Church Street	10.20	12.40	16.05
Wyddiai Road	10.25	12.45	16.10
Parkside	10.30	12.50	16.15
McCarthy & Stone / Redrow	10.35	12.55	16.20
Orchard Surgery	10.40	13.00	16.25
Nevetts / Health Centre	10.45	13.05	16.30
High St / Church St Junction	10.50	19	
Luynes Rise / SWCC	× 1	13.10	16.35

Finally the permit issued by the Traffic Commissioner has arrived! So we are now able to start the Community Bus service. The bus has been signwritten and we now have seven drivers available to operate the service. By the time you are reading this article you will have already seen the BCAT bus (below) around the town.



We are initially operating within the town only, but it is hoped to extend the service out to the surrounding villages very soon. The service is designed to bring passengers from the outer parts of town into the centre for shopping, medical, leisure and social needs. A nominal fee of £1 each way is charged (sorry, bus passes can't be used) and the bus can be hailed to stop at any safe place, at any time.

A Guide to Timings is printed here (left) and full details of the service are available on the Buntingford Town Council website at:

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk or on Twitter @bcatbus

Dragons Apprentice Challenge

Huge congratulations to Freman College's 'Muscle Warriors' team who won three awards in the final of the Dragons Apprentice Challenge organised by CVS Broxbourne & East Herts. The massive £1,808 they raised from an initial £100 seed capital won them the award for Most Money Raised. They were also winners of Best Poster and Best Example of Close Co-operation with Charity.

The funds will go to their chosen charity, the Buntingford-based Muscle Help Foundation. I am sure the experience from this competition will be a great benefit to the team of Clara, Ellie, Simone, Rachael, Zyra and Carys in their future career paths.

Friends of Conservatives The next meeting of the Buntingford Branch is our AGM on Monday 16th April at The Fox in Aspenden.

The aims of the branch are to be a social group with local events and trips, and to support Conservative

Brobert and had feel gragery A. Chart Char

Jeff Jones with the 'Muscle Warrior' team from Freman College as they display their awards at the Dragons Apprentice presentation evening in Hoddesdon.

candidates at election time. If you would like to join this group of like-minded people please contact me for further details of planned events.

Cllr Jeff Jones, Chairman East Herts Council District Councillor Buntingford Ward / County Councillor Buntingford Division 07836 232 963 Jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk



The Buntingford Twinning Association is pleased to invite everyone along to this year's SATURDAY NIGHT HOP on:

Saturday 5th May

At Seth Ward Community Centre, Luynes Rise

Tickets £7.50, to include free nibbles, Licensed Bar.

Available from:

The Cheese Plate, 26 High St

Or online at: brunthome1@gmail.com





BUNTINGFORD IN TRANSITION

Transition – what exactly is that?

Back in 2006 when Rob Hopkins and Ben Brangwyn started the 'Transition' movement in Totnes, Devon, they originally thought of it as communities 'transitioning' away from reliance on fossil fuels and building resilience against climate change and economic instability. This idea encompassed a whole host of actions from reducing energy consumption in the home to

adopting renewable energy either at home or buying electricity from renewable sources; from reducing food miles by growing what you can yourself to buying local food and keeping the economy within the community. The really successful projects now have their own currency where the local '£' moves around within their community, e.g. Bristol, Brixton, Exeter and Lewes all have their own local currency.

So, what about Buntingford in Transition? Buntingford in Transition, set up by David Woollcombe and myself, aimed to introduce to Buntingford some of the projects started in Totnes because we could see the real benefits to communities of the Transition Town movement. We have run two **Transition Street** projects where neighbours got together

to discuss and make changes to their lifestyles to reduce energy and water consumption, grow or buy food locally, reduce waste and think about ways to reduce fuel consumption by walking and cycling more or car sharing and using public transport. Apart from the practical benefits, the enjoyment and sense of community has been most rewarding. It is as a result of the High Street Transition Street project that people came together with Buntingford Town Council to create the **Buntingford Film Club**, which has been a huge success, enjoyed by many in the town. We are keen to see more Transition Streets in Buntingford, so if you think you could persuade a few neighbours to take part then it would be great to hear from you.

Last September we held our first **Apple Pressing** event and were delighted to see so many come along with their apples to be transformed into delicious juice. We hope this will now be an annual event.

Recently, we have volunteered to maintain the **Community Garden** in front of the Police Station in Baldock Road. We will be growing some fruit and vegetables as well as bee friendly flowers and hope that Buntingford residents will come and enjoy the garden and take home any produce as it ripens

Madela Baddock

If you want to find out more about Buntingford in Transition, please contact Madela at buntingfordintransition@gmail.com or on 07778 298605.



SAVE THE DATE LITTER-PICKING EVENT

We are hoping to have a joint litter-picking event with the Civic Society to celebrate Earth Day on Sunday 22nd April.

Please check social media or call me, Madela, nearer the time for details (left).

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

The months of February and early March have been – and still are, at the time of writing – an extremely busy time for the Film Club!

The Shorts Film Contest, brainchild of Jake Andrews and generously sponsored by Fingerprints Design of Hertford, launched our **Second Film Festival** and was a resounding achievement. Five aspiring young filmmakers showcased their pieces to a packed audience in the Manor House. An expert panel of judges – Ellie Rofe,



Shorts Film Contest organiser Jake Andrews (second from right), with winner Zak Watson (centre) and the three competition judges.

(organiser of the Watersprite Film Festival Cambridge), Jack Downs & Tom Fordham (both young filmmakers from Buntingford) – were very impressed by the quality and variety of the entries and found it difficult to pick the winner. In a very close result Zak Watson came first with 'In Memory', winning the prize of £100 and two tickets for the Graham Norton Show. Runner-up was Cameron Hoskins and third was awarded Saffron Weaver. These

three films were shown before the evening screenings over the Festival weekend. Everyone was delighted to see the birth of new talent from the local area and pleased to see a film contest taking place so close to home. Here's to another contest in 2019!

The **children's films** were another great success. Alex, Kelly and Jake had their work cut out making over 150 biscuits for the attendees: blue fish for 'Finding Dory', bone-shaped biscuits for 'The Lady and the Tramp', which the children decorated themselves, and gingerbread men for 'Shrek'. We were pleased to see some adults coming on their own because they "love the film"! Remember that ALL are welcome at our matinees, and parents, don't forget we have a drop-off option for children over 4. April's showing of 'Ratatouille' promises to be another success with Easter-themed fun and 'Splat the Rat' games in the interval. No animals will be harmed during the playing of this game!

The evening screenings were also very popular and offered a great choice over the Festival weekend, from the recently Oscar-nominated 'Lion' to the ever-popular 'Dirty

Dancing'. We ended with 'Life is Beautiful', a brilliant, moving, but unusual Italian film about the Holocaust. Everyone appreciated the themed nibbles, wine and bubbly.

Alswick Barn was the stunning setting for a screening of the cult classic 'Pulp Fiction'. This beautiful venue was dressed to create a 'lounge feel' (right). Guests were greeted with a glass of prosecco on arrival, then comfortably seated on sofas from where they were able to make use of the bar that



was open all evening. The atmosphere was fantastic. It was very well attended and everyone really enjoyed themselves. **We would like to thank Kay and Matt Hamilton-Crook for generously hosting such a wonderful event**. About a dozen people appreciated the use of the minibus service which was available for the evening to and from Alswick Barn from Market Hill.

Other Community Activities

Some 90 pupils from Quin House at Edwinstree School were rewarded with a Friday afternoon film on 9th March for winning most house points in the school's 'Service' competition. The film they chose to see on the BIG SCREEN at Benson Hall was 'Middle School, the Worst Years of my Life'. They loved it!!!

Films for April

Saturday 14th April at 2.30pm, Benson Hall

Children's matinee: Ratatouille

"Anyone can cook", or so says famous Parisian chef Gusteau. Gusteau is Remy the Rat's hero and when Remy finds himself washed from his family nest into the sewer below Gusteau's restaurant, he sneaks in. There he meets Linguini, who seems to be the exception to



Gusteau's rules: he REALLY CAN'T cook! Remy soon realises that he can save Linguini and gets to cook. However, with a visit from acclaimed critic Ego looming, and head Chef Skinner constantly watching over them, will they succeed and get a good review?

Dress: Little Chefs

Tickets: £5 / £10 including Easter-themed fun!

Saturday 14th April at 7.30pm, Benson Hall Evening screening: Lawrence of Arabia

David Lean's magnificent, sensual 1962 epic features the young Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif along with a host of other stars, including Alec Guinness. It tells the story of Britain's moment in the Middle East as the Ottoman Empire crumbles and new nations and monarchies emerge. Lawrence rebels against the orders of his superior officers and strikes out on a daring camel journey across the desert to attack a well-guarded Turkish port. This is a must-see British film with staggering photography and performances, as well as the most memorable and majestic musical score by the French composer Maurice Jarre.

Tickets: £7.50 to include a glass of wine and nibbles



Coming next month: Saturday 12th May – Children's matinee: 'A Bug's Life'; Evening screening: 'West Side Story'.

Another date for your diary: Wednesday 16th May – 7pm at Benson Hall, the AGM of the Buntingford Film Club, to which you are all invited.

Once again we look forward to welcoming you to all our events

Christine Stuart-Taylor, Event Co-ordinator / Tel: 01763 272990
Box Office: Chris Dellar Properties, 58a High Street / Tel: 01763 272605
Online Booking via Billetto / www.buntingfordfilmclub.org











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New Layston Grove care home flings open its doors!



CARE GROUP

Leading care home provider Oakdale Care Group flung open the doors of its latest luxury care home on Sunday 18th March to give potential residents and their families and friends a full preview day, with tours of the home and the chance to discuss care requirements and room reservations with management and the staff.

The Care Home Manager, Sam Campbell, was delighted to have the chance to present the facility and her staff team to visitors throughout

the open day. "We held a preview event in early December due to the levels of interest being shown and we have had a high level of enquiries ever since, with a number of families and prospective residents seeking to make reservations", said Miss Campbell, who is an experienced care home manager from the area. Since that preview, selecting

the right staff team has been one of her particular concerns: "We had over 350 applications for jobs at Layston Grove and conducted a values based selection process leading to the appointment of some 25 personnel to the initial care and well-being team."

Oakdale co-founders Andrew Long and Chris Babington were on hand to welcome visitors into the building, enthusiastically chaperoning guests around the home and assisting the staff team. Commenting on the day, Andrew Long said: "We are thrilled to have opened up in Buntingford. The scheme has been a long time in the design and planning and we have been really excited about this location. We fell in love with Buntingford when we first came to look at the site back in 2014." Chris Babington added: "We have been made so welcome in this community, with assistance from



Care Home Manager Sam Campbell (on left) with Sarah Gibbs, Service & Relationship Manager. Sarah's role is to guide potential residents through all aspects of the decision process and provide help and advice to all residents and their families.

a whole host of local people from the very helpful Bury Football Club, who provided a base for our two-week staff induction training, to the local Council team led by Jeff Jones. Everybody involved has been very pleased to see this beautiful facility and it has endorsed our decision to open a state-of-the-art care home in Buntingford."

The purpose-built care home has an excellent range of services and innovative features designed to support the active well-being and health of those in later years in need of personal care or assistance with a dementia condition. Facilities include a cinema room, English tea room, library and hair salon. Heating in the building is provided via Ground Source Heat Pumps so very little fossil fuel is used and the building has automatic lighting systems that sense movement. Underfloor heating means there are no radiators and each floor is equipped with sprinkler systems.

www.oakdalecaregroup.com

A Fairy Tale

Once upon a time in an unknown Kingdom, a beautiful girl was mistreated by her ugly Stepmother. She escaped by magic and was rescued by a handsome Prince, who married her. They lived happily ever after. The End.

Or, perhaps this... A young boy called Sam is badly treated by his ugly school friends for being beautiful. He is called 'gay', something he doesn't understand but knows is meant to be insulting. At home, he likes to dress up in his sister Lucy's fairy costume. His mother tells him she loves him. His sister giggles. His father frowns and goes to work.

One day on his way home from school, Sam hears a cuckoo. He listens to its call and remembers what he has been told about cuckoos: that a mother cuckoo lays her egg in the nest of another bird. The egg hatches and the young cuckoo takes over the nest and pushes the other young birds out.

Sam thinks to himself: "I am the cuckoo in the nest. I am not a girl but I behave like one. I do not want my family nest to be upset because of me. I must leave."

Sam is still very young and has no means to leave home. So he decides to leave inside himself. The only magic he has is his own free will, and he thinks: "I will be the boy that my father will not frown at, and the boy that my friends will not bully. My mother and sister love me anyway, so they will not mind if I change myself." And, as if by magic, he transformed himself from that day into a Proper Boy.

Sam read books about how to be a boy and learned that he must compete at sports, be good at maths and science, and laugh at the way girls do things. He will not do this last thing, but works hard at running and rugby and makes sure he is top of the maths class. He has always been good at art and this is all right now that he is less 'gay'. Sam learns to fight in the playground against other boys, and tries not to cry in front of them. Gradually he wins a fight or two and is accepted by his peers. "Good", he thinks, "I am just like the other boys. Everything at home will be all right now." The only problem was that he had lost the sparkle in his eyes and the lift in his shoulders, but no-one seemed to notice and Sam didn't mind.

When his sister reached teenage and gave up her ballet classes, she asked Sam if he would like her beautiful pink tutu – the one he had dressed up in as a young boy. Sam laughed and pretended he didn't really want it, but took it anyway. He put the pink tutu at the back of the wardrobe in his bedroom. But it wasn't very long before he took it out, and held it in front of himself in the mirror. He liked what he saw, even though the tutu was too small for him. He took a needle and some thread and elastic from his mother's sewing basket and made the waist of the tutu big enough to fit him.

In his room at night, Sam took out the tutu and put it on over his bare legs. He stared at himself in the mirror. Softly, so no-one would hear, he held his arms above his head, stood on one leg and tried a twirl and an arabesque. He loved the magical way it made him feel – light and dainty, like a fairy. He did this most nights and, when he was tired, he would take off the tutu and put it at the back of his wardrobe again. It helped him go to sleep at night, just knowing it was there.

The years went by until one day, when Sam was 16 years old, he decided to explore the world. He took a train to London and found his way to Piccadilly. He walked along streets full of colour and laughter, saw young men chatting to each other outside busy bars and girls walking hand in hand. He stared at the handsome men in their jeans, immaculate shirts and trainers, their hair slicked back from tanned faces or cropped short to match their stubble. He wondered at how beautiful they were and, more than anything, wanted to join them. He paced the streets of Soho for a whole afternoon, looking at the clothes,

the men's magazines, the toned bodies and he felt his resolve not to be a gay fall away. In its place, he could feel a different self emerging – stronger, confident, more relaxed – and on the train home, he wrote his parents a letter.

Dear Mum & Dad.

Today, I spent the afternoon on my own in Soho. I had a great time in Old Compton Street which, as you probably know, is the gay centre of London. Although I have tried to hide it from myself and from you, I know I am a gay man. I will be going to Uni in a couple of years and I want to start making my way back to the person I've always known I am. This will mean changing what I wear and seeking some gay friends. I think I can handle all the adverse comments I am going to get from friends and from strangers, and I hope you can too. I need your support in doing this but I will understand if you don't want me in your home any more. I will always love you.

Your son, Sam xx.

The next morning he left the letter on the kitchen table. His father had already left for work, but his mother and sister were still at home. He called out "Bye" and cycled down the road to school, half afraid, half exhilarated. All day long he checked his phone, but no message came. He returned home later and saw that the letter had gone. There was just a note saying:

Dear Sam

You are the handsome prince of this family. We are so proud of you. We would like to invite you to dinner for your Coming Out party. We are all at the pub and have booked a table. Wear your best clothes.

All our love, Mum, Dad and Lucy xxx

Sam sat down and wept. Relief and love flooded over him. He dashed up the stairs and changed into a leather jacket, white shirt and jeans, and brushed back his hair. Finally, he grabbed one of Lucy's scarves and tied it around his neck. He liked the way he looked.

Joining his family at the pub, he bent over and kissed each one of them. Mum and Dad both got up and hugged him. Lucy had tears in her eyes. "I knew, I knew!" she shouted.

Champagne was poured and Dad made a toast... "To my wonderful son who has found himself. If fairy tales can come true, this is one of those moments. We wish you all the love in the world." And from that day on, they all lived happily ever after.

CK – Buntingford Writers' Group

Cambridge Gliding Centre OPEN DAY Sunday 8th April, 10am-5pm

Come and visit Gransden Lodge Airfield to find out about the fantastic sport of gliding. All welcome. Trial flights with our qualified instructors available on a first-come, first-fly basis (subject to weather). Refreshments. Free admission, aircraft displays and talks about gliding. To fly in a glider you must be 13+ and weigh no more than 103kg.

The airfield entrance is on the B1046 between Little Gransden and Longstowe, opposite Gransden Lodge Farm (satnavs: SG19 3EB). More information online at: http://www.camgliding.uk/ or via Facebook: https://tinyurl.com/cgc-2018-openday

CURWENS

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WAS SUPPLIED BY CURWENS LLP, A LOCAL FIRM OF SOLICITORS WITH OFFICES IN ROYSTON, HODDESDON AND ENFIELD

GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation: Will it affect me?

The General Data Protection Regulation will apply in the UK from 25th May 2018. The Government has confirmed that the UK's decision to leave the EU will not affect the commencement of the GDPR.

Under the new regulations firms can be fined for failing to properly secure the personal data they hold. The average cost to a small organisation of a cyber breach is in excess of £3,000 (excluding potential GDPR penalties and significant reputational damage). The new law applies if your business is established in the EU, offers goods or services to EU residents, or monitors the behaviour of EU residents. As a breach could cost up to 20 million Euros or 4% of annual turnover, it is important to take action NOW.

10 steps to get you started with checking your GDPR responsibilities:

- 1. Make sure all key personnel in your organisation are aware of GDPR.
- Carry out a data audit or create a data map to understand what personal data is and where/how you hold it. You also need to know where it comes from and who you share it with.
- 3. Review your current privacy notices to ensure you are communicating the correct information to your customers and third parties.
- 4. Check you protect individuals' rights correctly and have procedures in place on how you hold their data, and how to delete it.
- Be aware of what you have to do to comply with an access request, as you will only have a month to respond.
- 6. Document the legal basis on which you are entitled to process personal data and maintain records of your activities.
- Ensure the system you have for obtaining consent to hold data complies with GDPR – if not it needs updating, and you need to consider updating existing consents. If you hold data on children you need a system of verifying ages and obtaining parental consent.
- 8. You need to have the correct procedures in place to identify and deal with a data breach. You may need a data breach register.
- 9. Be aware of the Privacy Impact Assessment and its effect on data and GDPR.
- 10. Check if you need to appoint a Data Protection Officer.

These are just some initial points to get you started. If you run a business, of any size, you really need to read the full ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) guidance and their detailed checklist to be sure you comply in time for the May deadline. Check out helpful links and documents on the ICO website www.ico.org.uk

If you want legal advice on your company's position in respect of GDPR please contact Jolyon Bland in our Hoddesdon office on 01992 463727.

www.curwens.co.uk

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EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm Telephone:

03444 111 444 Monday – Friday 10:00am – 4:00pm



Damp in rented property

I live in a privately rented two-bedroom house and the damp in the living room is aggravating my three-year-old daughter's asthma. I've told my landlord but she's not taking action. What can I do?

Resolving damp issues can be difficult – especially as the cause of the problem is not always obvious. Also, by raising any disrepair complaint to a private landlord it's important to realise that there is a risk of retaliatory eviction.

First, make sure you're not doing anything that could be contributing to the damp, such as drying clothes indoors or blocking vents. Once that's done, you have two potential routes available.

The first is to report the problem to the Environmental Health department at your local authority. This route is best if you're unsure what's causing the damp, but it's also an option if you think your landlord is responsible.

Tell your council the damp is causing your daughter's asthma to worsen and provide evidence, including letters from your GP, photos of the damp, and a copy of your tenancy agreement.

The local authority can issue an 'awareness notice', which tells your landlord there's a hazard in the home and what she needs to do to fix it, although it does not require her to take action. The authority can also serve the more serious 'improvement notice', which requires your landlord to carry out the work and also offers you some protection from retaliatory eviction.

Alternatively, you could take the landlord to court. Your landlord may be held responsible for repairing the damp but this will depend on the cause – such as a broken heater or window – and the terms of your tenancy agreement.

If she is responsible, the court can grant an injunction and possibly award compensation. Seek advice from us before going down this route because the legal process can be complex. You may be entitled to legal aid.

Lots more information about this can be found on our website. Click on Housing / Repairs in rented housing / Disrepair / Common problems / Dampness

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

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



The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Hedgerow trees – any elms out there?

Hedgerows are a significant feature of our agricultural landscape and were planted in the past as boundaries. Thorny blackthorn and hawthorn made a stock-proof barrier, with hazel, holly and spindle colonising later. Ash, elm, field maple, hornbeam and

oak trees were integrated into such hedges and these nurtured specimens were managed as pollards, being cut off at head height on a regular cycle. In 1778 it was recorded that 85 percent of the hedgerow trees in Barwick in the parish of Standon were pollards, so these would have stuck up at regular intervals above the hedges.

Some of the cut material was used as for winter leafv hav livestock feed. Once the nutritious leafy branches of ash or elm had been eaten twiggy leftovers became the excellent dry kindling. Larger poles were used for fencing, building repairs, handles or fuel. Timber trees in hedges were usually felled after about 50 years' growth. provided Oaks structural material: elms became floorboards. coffins and especially weatherboarding (where it can be identified by its distinctive wavy grain).

Historic surveys of the numbers, species and value of the trees on many estates are lodged in record offices. An analysis of these records is included in a new book, *Trees in England*, in which the authors comment that in the past oak, ash and elm trees were an essential part of the local economy.

Today, the situation is very different with the significant loss of many hedgerows and the trees within them. Most surviving trees are old oaks or ash, growing as uncut pollards with



Old pollarded elms in a hedgerow in Tilty. They are wonderful scarce survivors within the Hundred Parishes.

spreading crowns. Mature elms are extremely rare, but there is a small group in Tilty in Essex and another is recorded in Bartlow in Cambridgeshire. Do you know of any other surviving elms? If so we would like to hear about them.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

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



Royston & Buntingford Children's Centre Group is made up of Bramble Hill Children's Centre in Mill Close, Buntingford, and Royston & Villages Children's Centre in Royston. Both offer access to services for children under 5 and their families.

Our Outreach Workers can provide one to one advice and support on a range of subjects, including: • Domestic abuse • Accessing benefits • Housing • Returning to work • 2 year funding • Children's behaviour, and • Sleep. Call or email us if you need support with any of these issues.

The Children's Centres can also offer support to women who are, or have been, in difficult relationships and can help them recognise and address abuse within the home. Please call us confidentially for more information.

Our 'What's on Guide' includes details of all the sessions we run. Let us know if you would like one sent to you by email or post. We are currently looking for volunteers to help at our sessions. If this is something you may be interested in, give us a call.

There are loads of ways you can keep up to date with what's happening at our centres. You can call us on **01763 273008** (Bramble Hill) or **01763 243338** (Royston); search for us on Facebook and 'like' the pages; or email us at roystonbuntingford.cc @oneymca.org. There's information on our web pages too at www.oneymca.org.



THE THIRD AGE TRUST

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

To all the new people who have recently moved into Buntingford may we extend a very warm welcome.

It is still surprising that a lot of people have not heard of the U3A. The University of the Third Age (U3A) is a self-help learning organisation for people who are no longer in full employment. It is not age related.

The U3A is different from most other adult learning organisations in that rather than paying people to teach, it encourages members to share their knowledge and talents with other members and to this end all U3As are different.

U3As started in France in 1973 where they are still connected to their universities. The UK U3A movement (based loosely on the French model but not attached to universities) began in 1981 and aims to encourage groups of people in their 'third age' to come together and continue their enjoyment of learning in subjects of interest to them.

The ethos of the U3A is to help the older person to keep body and mind active and alert; to help them meet other people; to fight loneliness; and to enjoy their non-working years. There are currently over 1,000 U3As in the UK with a membership of 400,000 and rising.

Buntingford U3A was formed in 2009 and now has over 500 members and more than 30 Interest Groups. Annual membership is £11, with some indoor groups charging a nominal amount to cover costs.

There is a monthly meeting with a guest speaker at the Seth Ward Community Centre at 1.30pm on the second Monday of the month (no meeting in August). Sadly, our meeting for March had to be cancelled due to Luynes Rise, the road leading to the Seth Ward Community Centre, being closed for pothole repairs.

Some of our groups had to cancel their meetings during the last week of February because of the snow and the very cold spell which the media had labelled 'The Beast from the East.'

One of our success stories is our Sitting Exercise Group (below), held at the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road each Wednesday, 2pm–3pm. The programme is different each week and it's quite amazing the number of different exercises that can be done sitting down!





Our next monthly meeting is on Monday 9th April when our speaker is Revd John Merrill, Marathon Walker, on 'Walking around Hertfordshire'. We meet at the Seth Ward Community Centre – doors open 1.30pm. Please visit our website for information on our groups.

The Digital Photography Group also meet at the URC Hall, on the second Friday of the month, 2pm–4pm. They held another enjoyable workshop there at their monthly meeting in February (left and below).



www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford

Buntingford Community Choir

Happy 7th Birthday!

Buntingford Community Choir was established in February 2011 to give an opportunity to like-minded people to meet and enjoy a variety of music in a relaxed atmosphere. The decision was made very early that we would concentrate on popular music – whether it is Pop, Rock, Soul, music from the musicals, or anything else which takes our fancy!

As time has gone by, our rehearsals have become more targeted towards our next performance. During the past seven years the choir has held three gala concerts and performed at the Buntingford Carnival, the Classic Car Show and many other varied events locally. We are a not-for-profit organisation and we regularly make donations to local charities and groups. The Choir was the brain-child of local couple Mandy and Gareth Wilson and we are most fortunate that Mandy still brings her expertise and enthusiasm as our musical director. The Choir is also very proud of the considerable number of original members who still sing with us weekly.

New members are always welcome to come and join us on:

Monday evenings, 7:30-9.30 pm, At Millfield School

No auditions. You don't need to read music. All you need is enthusiasm! For more information, visit our website: www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk and/or check out our Facebook page: 'Buntingford Community Choir'



MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL



www.millfield.herts.sch.uk

It's been another busy month at Millfield as we celebrated World Book Day, Online Safety Day and Sports Relief Day. We would like to thank our school community for supporting the children so that they can take part in these special national events.

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) Events:

Friendship Ladders on World Book Day

On Thursday 1st March we celebrated World Book Day where the children dressed up as their favourite book character. The outfits were very impressive; both the children and adults looked wonderful. The children had the chance to meet in their





Friendship Ladder groups where they shared their favourite stories. It was lovely to see the children reading to one another and enjoying books together. Our Book Swap took place as part of our celebration of World Book Day.



Online Safety Day

We celebrated Safer Internet Day in school; this year the theme was 'Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you'. We talked about how and where we use the internet and how to use it safely. We then discussed our digital footprints and that every time you go online you leave a trail,

e.g. when playing games or watching films and TV online. The children then drew around their foot on a piece of paper, cut it out and stuck it on another piece of paper. They stuck images of logos and programmes that they have used around the edge as a symbol of their own digital footprints.



Children's Mental Health Week

As part of Children's Mental Health Week on the theme of 'Being Ourselves', we held an assembly focussing on how it is OK to be different and how we need to respect each other. We recorded our strengths, as well as what we would like to get better at. We then played a game to find out more about each other; we had to find people who matched the descriptions on our lists, e.g. someone who likes art more than maths, someone with no siblings, etc.

Rapid Fire

Some of our KS2 pupils have learnt to play a new game called 'Rapid Fire'. On Thursday 8th March we took two teams to take part in a competition at Freman College against other local schools. Both our teams achieved medals: Silver and Bronze. The children returned to school and shared their success with the rest of the school in our celebration assembly. Thanks to Mrs Wallis for arranging this event.

Movie Night

Movie Night took place on Friday 2nd March. It was lovely to see so many children coming along and enjoying themselves. Thanks to the PTA for arranging this event.

Staffing News

Congratulations to Mrs Sarah Brown, who is now our Acting Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Brown will be continuing her teaching role in Reception



with Miss Sarah Fuller, as well as her Team Leader role within Early Years. Millfield is very lucky to have such an experienced and committed Acting Deputy Headteacher. And welcome back to Miss Sarah Fuller, who has been developing her teaching within another school for a placement period – we are thrilled to have her return as planned.

Miss Sarah Collins is thoroughly enjoying her maternity leave; Cherry class will continue to be taught by Mr Lloyd Stary and Mrs Rebecca Gerring for the rest of the school year. Mrs Karen Wagstaff has returned as the school's SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator); we are very pleased to have her expertise and experience in the school. Unfortunately, Mrs Clare Thrower will no longer be working within the Pine class; we are very sad to lose her from our team but, of course, we wish her all the best.



Sport Relief

On Friday 23rd March we are looking forward to seeing the children coming to school dressed in sport kits ready for a school Danceathon!

Calculation Guidance

Millfield has

devised 'calculation guidance' information to share the methods taught in school with parents and carers. This will be posted on our website to provide detailed information to use at home.



Easter Party

Our wonderful PTA have already arranged their next event – an Easter Party to be held after school on Friday 23rd March. We're sure all the children will thoroughly enjoy themselves

enjoy themselves.

Laura Kennedy-Weeks Headteacher

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





Layston C of E First School

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

Sandwiched between Storm Emma and The Beast from the East, Layston School powered through and celebrated World Book Day with aplomb. The Queen of Hearts met King Kong in a spectacular display of book-themed costumes that brightened up our day.

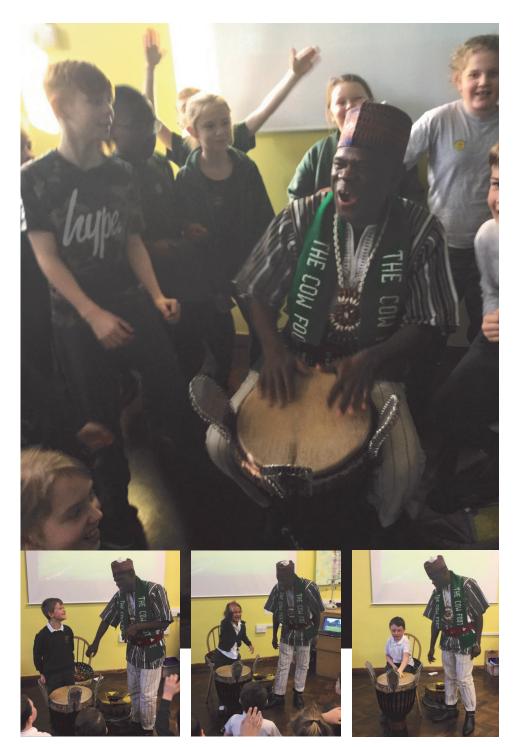




Unfortunately, our storyteller for the day, Usifu Jalloh, was trapped in his van on a Kentish motorway. Fortunately, we were able to reschedule for the following week when we unleashed our own whirlwind of storytelling, music and dance, led by Usifu over the course of a whole day. The sun shone and the sheer joy of words, music and dance filled the school. I hope the photographs (right) convey some sense of this joyful end to our World Book Day celebrations.

Mrs Bloomfield, Headteacher

Find out more about Layston School by checking out our website: www.layston.herts.sch.uk





Edwinstree Middle School



A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

Thank goodness for spring. After all the snowmen and snow play, I cannot wait for the first signs of spring and the arrival of the daffodils in the grounds of Edwinstree!

J K Rowling Day at Edwinstree

Our students are given significant and frequent opportunities to lead events within the school. We really believe that our students are capable of greatness, and we wish to capitalise on the independence and determination that they arrive with from their first school. With that in mind, our students were asked to consider which female British role model would they like to celebrate and why. Three of our Year 7 students — Sophie, Tabitha and Benji — proposed J K Rowling and the school agreed. So on the last day of half term, we celebrated the famous author in style. Our three intrepid students, with minimal guidance from the Head, created a day around the following questions:

- How did J K Rowling use her adversity and troubles to create the story of Harry Potter and explore the Christian value of 'endurance'?
- What makes a great 'character' in fiction? Can they become inspired enough to create their own?
- Why are her magical creatures so fascinating?
- What is the science of potions, bubbles and blasts? (Any excuse to explode things in Science is a must!)
- What is J K Rowling's 'Lumos' charity about and why is it so special to her?
- What is their own 'wonderful'? What makes them unique and special? What can they learn from J K?

The students were divided into the Hogwarts' houses of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin and worked in mixed year tutor groups for the day. We also took the opportunity to dress up in J K Rowling inspired themes. Below are two Dumbledores and a dementor (right) No, that is not the Headteacher!







We found out that J K Rowling is truly inspiring, and someone who could teach us about endurance, thankfulness, making the most from awful beginnings and fighting to support

the most vulnerable in society: a truly Christian message. If you have not had a chance to hear her Harvard speech, we recommend it – it can be found on YouTube. Next year we return to inspirational men in Britain – any ideas?

Thank you again to the Buntingford Film Society, who continue to support our reward afternoons for our House competition winners. Quin House took time out from school to visit the cinema on Friday 9th March, after winning our 'Service' competition. Having spent four weeks campaigning for a safer exit from school and helping students to leave appropriately and calmly, they deserved some fun! If you were out and about around 1pm that day, you may have seen or heard us coming – it is becoming a tradition to sing hymns when we are marching down to the cinema!

Year 5 September intake

We are really pleased to announce that our initial numbers for Year 5 in September have increased significantly with the school returning to a four class intake. This is positive news and testament to the growing confidence the local community has in the school. We are working hard to continue to improve; we look forward to our visit from Ofsted to confirm our Good status, then onwards and upwards to Outstanding.

World Book Day

We hope you forgive us, but Edwinstree celebrated World Book Day the day after everyone else, officially known to us as World Book Day plus one. Huge numbers of our students took the opportunity to celebrate their favourite characters by dressing up in costume. We were delighted to see such a wide variety of characters from a huge range of books. Despite the disruption caused by the 'Beast from the East'. everyone had a wonderful day!



The state of the s

Year 8 Show Racism the Red Card Day

Congratulations to our Year 8 students who worked alongside the 'Show Racism the Red Card' team (left). They explored what racism is, how it can appear in modern-day society and what we can do to reduce it. On leaving, the professionals stopped to remark on how delightful our students were to teach and how thoughtful their responses were to the day. Their growing maturity shone through during each session.

Volunteer Readers

We are always looking for volunteer readers to help support students with their reading. If you are willing to give up thirty minutes a week, we would love to hear from you. Please be aware that in line with our Safeguarding

Policy, all volunteers will be required to undergo a DBS check, prior to working at the school. For further information, please contact the school office on 01763 271446 or via email: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

We do hope you have a lovely spring and Easter. Don't forget if you are in the mood for a singalong, Friday hymns is well worth a visit at Edwinstree. Everyone who has joined us has had their spirits lifted in time for the weekend. If you would like to visit us, please just email the school office.

Jo Gant, Headteacher

Freman COLLEGE

Our choir and rock band were thrilled to perform at the Royal Albert Hall on 11th March as part of a gala concert organised by the Hertfordshire Music Service. The choir sang with students from other schools and a number of instrumentalists had the pleasure of playing with Kashmir on the stage.



Moore House took the crown at our 44th House Music event in February (below), followed by Mills, Hepworth, then Butler. This competitive evening involves each House performing a 30-minute session which is edited, directed, staged and performed by our talented students.



Trips

On Wednesday February 28th, as the south of England was being blanketed under snow by the 'Beast from the East', Freman College's intrepid Upper Sixth students went on a visit to the Houses of Parliament (left). As we were there at midday on a Wednesday, Prime Minister's Questions was in full swing, and all the buzz was about the debate of the EU Withdrawal Bill. Students got the chance to go into the House of Lords while it was not in session (taking care never to sit down on the red benches, which would have caused a scene) as well as Westminster Hall, where Barack Obama. Nelson Mandela and other world leaders have addressed Parliament in the past. Students hopefully gained a better understanding of the way our government functions, and were able to ask questions directly of Sir Oliver Heald, MP for Northeast Hertfordshire, who had kindly helped to arrange the tours for us.

As well as the Ski trip which departed in February (right) and a weekend netball tournament in Shropshire in March, students are looking forward to trips to Germany and Greece in the Easter holiday. These trips are always very popular and are a fantastic way for students to broaden their education; they always come home with new friends and life long memories.



I Year geographers are required to undertake a piece of practical physical geography fieldwork, so April will see trips to Walton-on-the-Naze to study the physical processes occurring there and the impacts of coastal management. Fingers crossed for dry weather for them.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

April heralds the start of Duke of Edinburah outdoor expeditions (right). This year the Silver Award practice expedition takes place in the local area, with the assessed expedition in June likely to be in the White Peak of the area Peak District. The Bronze Award practice takes place in May and again it will be in the local area.

Charity

Huge congratulations the Freman Dragons Apprentice (right) who team presented to the Super Dragons final of the the competition held at the Spotlight Theatre Hoddesdon Monday evening March. Over a period of 4 months the team carried out a range of enterprising activities to raise money for. and awareness of.

The Muscle Help Foundation, a Buntingford-based charity which makes dreams come true for young people with muscular dystrophy. The team — pictured above with Michael McGrath, founder of the Muscle Help charity — absolutely smashed it, winning 3 awards for:

- Most money raised £1,808.44
- Best poster
- Best example of close cooperation with a charity







To read more about it, go to https://www.facebook.com/TheMuscleHelpFoundation/

BALA

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips for April 2018

Wed 4 th	9:30–12:30pm	Biggleswade A1 Retail Park – M&S, Next, Laura Ashley, Boots, Wilko, Argos	£6
Tues 10 th	10:30–3pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, Waitrose, Debenhams, M&S etc.	£6
Thurs 12 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Mon 16 th	10:30–2pm	Letchworth – Morrisons etc.	£5
Thurs 19 th	9:15–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£4
Tues 24 th	11:30am	Pub Lunch	£4
Wed 25 th	9:30–3pm	Southend-on-Sea	£12
Thurs 26 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Sun 29 th	3:30–6pm	Mustard Seed Choir at Westmill Church Tickets £6, includes tea/coffee & cake – to book phone 01763 272217	(See left)
MAY Tues 1 st	10:30–2.30pm	Blake House Craft Centre, near Braintree – Shops, food and fun!	£8

All trips start from Benson Hall car park unless otherwise agreed. To book a seat or for more information: 01763 271708 or 07870 638480

COFFEE MORNING at Benson Hall Wednesday 18th April 2018 10:15 to 11:30am

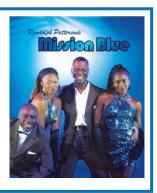
Tea, coffee, sausage rolls, cakes etc. Raffle

Ashwell Music Festival 2018

11th-20th May at St Mary's Church

Friday 11th May 6.00pm Widdershins Puppet Theatre - FREE event Saturday 12th May 8.00pm Motown Tribute Act – Mission Blue (right) Thursday 17th May 7.00pm Young Musicians' Concert

(Continued ▶)



BUNTINGFORD W.I.

We've had lots of really good speakers at our monthly meetings and our guest in March was no exception. Jeff Rozelaar arrived late as he had been held up on the M25, but he was well worth the wait! His talk, entitled 'Bagels and Bacon', was about growing up in a Jewish family in London's East End in the 1940s and 50s. His inspiration for the title was the smell of freshly baked bagels from a Deli on one side of his street and the sizzling aroma of bacon and eggs from Joe's Café on the other.

Jeff's early childhood just after the War included playing on bomb sites and, as they lived within 600 yards of the Tower of London, playing on its large guns and also in the river when the tide went out. They enjoyed going up and down Tower Bridge and Jeff recalled an incident in 1952 when a No.78 bus from Dulwich was approaching the bridge just as it started to rise. Unbelievably, the driver — with a busload of passengers — just put his foot down and the bus leapt over the gap and landed safely! There were no mobile phones at the time to record this feat but an artist's impression of the incident is in the Tower of London.

In the early 50s he went to the Robert Montefiore School in Stepney where the headmaster was Rhodes Boyson, who later became an MP. Jeff was terrified of the Teddy boys at the school but one day Mr Boyson caught them smoking in the toilets and he dealt with this by calling the Fire Brigade, who turned their hoses on to the toilet block with the Teddy boys inside. Can you imagine that happening today?

Apart from Mr Boyson, Jeff was also inspired by his French teacher, who taught in an unconventional way – by singing. We were treated to a word perfect rendition of the Marseillaise. Jeff's talk was so entertaining, funny and very nostalgic. We will most certainly be seeing him again at a future meeting.

Also at the March meeting we talked about our plans for the forthcoming Carnival as well as arrangements to celebrate our Centenary Year.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12th April when our speaker will be Naomi Wallen saying 'Let's Have Fun with Dance'. We meet at the United Reformed Church Hall, Baldock Road, at 7.15pm for 7.30. Visitors are always welcome.

Val Hume

For more information about Buntingford W.I. call **Jen Cresswell on 01763 273221** or **Jane Eagle on 01763 274710**

Friday 18th May 8.00pm
Darius Brubeck Quartet
Saturday 19th May 8.00pm
An Evening with Ben Goldscheider:
Horn & Piano recital (right)
Sunday 20th May 6.00pm
Festal Evensong



For more information, and to book tickets, visit www.ashwellmusicfestival.org or ring the booking office 01462 743289.



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com

Since my last update our First Team has played only 2 matches. The first, a home tie to Ware Sports, saw the team lose 7-2. Although a heavy defeat, it was made worse by the fact that a number of the goals

conceded were due to lack of concentration and defensive errors; fitness probably also played a part as had the match only been 40 minutes each way, the final score would have been just 4-2.

At the time, Ware Sports were 3rd in the league. The following week we welcomed Letchworth Garden City Eagles to The Bury, who themselves were in second position. Unsurprisingly, for a team rooted to the foot of the table, Buntingford lost, but by just 1 goal to no reply. Letchworth perhaps could have scored a couple more, but nevertheless this was a very encouraging performance from the home side against opposition which was full of quality.

With such a good performance behind us we were therefore looking forward to our next fixture with high hopes, the visit of Standon & Puckeridge; unfortunately the winter weather struck and the game was postponed due to the snow.

The following week, 10th March, we were allocated 2 fixtures by the league, a home match for the First Team to FC Lemsford, and a Greg Cup match for the Reserves, away at Knebworth Reserves. You may remember from my last Journal article that, due to our difficulty in putting out two sides, the County League had stopped scheduling Reserve matches for us until the end of February.

The heavy rain on the Friday night before the game resulted in standing water on the pitch at The Bury, enforcing a postponement. This was a shame as we were 100 percent ready to field two sides on the same day for the first time this year. Both Bruce Knapp and Mick Nolan have been working hard over the last couple of months to replenish our squad and had recruited a number of new signings, many of whom were ready for the Lemsford match.

However, the Greg Cup match at Knebworth went ahead. Buntingford Reserves were leading 3-1, but the game changed when the referee awarded 2 penalties to the opposition, and Town were subsequently denied a quarter final appearance, eventually going down by 4 goals to 3.

But at least it was a return to action for the Reserves, and hopefully we will be able to forge ahead for the rest of the campaign.

The Vets have seen some action, but again there have been postponements galore due to the weather. A disappointing 6-0 defeat at Standon & Puckeridge was followed by a 3-0 victory over Harbetts Old Boys. These were the side's final 2 league matches, and for the remainder of the season the Vets league will be running a Cup competition.

The Vets have played just 3 matches since the end of November which is extremely frustrating, but hopefully the weather will now start to improve, as will the pitches; good results will surely follow...

So, our season continues. This has been one of our toughest for many years. No-one has ever said that running a football club is easy!

Chris Thurgill, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

Best way to get out of bed in the morning...

First thing in the morning the back is the most prone to injury. Get out of bed slowly and easily by lying on your side and then dropping your legs over the edge of the bed. Place your hands palm to palm. Push your hands together and this will help you to sit up without bending your back or putting any pressure on it.











For an appointment, call in at: 58 High Street or call us on: 01763 878087



Royston and District Ramblers Group Walks for April 2018

Sun 1st Sandon Chipping, 9 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026

Tues 3rd Reed, 6 miles, led by Jackie 01763 260809 / 07817 044385

Thur 5th Therfield Heath, 6 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026

Sun 8th Paul's Chain Walk 3. Thaxted to Great Faston, 11½ miles, led by Pau

Sun 8th Paul's Chain Walk 3, Thaxted to Great Easton, 11½ miles, led by Paul 01763 244038 / 07544 232330

Tues 10th Croydon, 6 miles, led by Nick 01223 208172 / 07909 977994

Thur 12th Sawston, 6 miles, led by Margaret 01763 256788 / 07939 233697

Sun 15th The Stour Valley, 8 miles, led by Brian 01223 243996 / 07500 546244

Tues 17th Guilden Morden, 5½ miles, led by Phil 01763 853744 / 07716 992847

Thur 19th Much Hadham, 6 miles, led by Viv & Jackie 07912 567378 / 07502 121852

Sun 22nd Withersfield, 8½ miles, led by Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715

Tue 24th Rabley Heath, 6 miles, led by Michelle 01462 637874 / 07870 570138

Thur 26th Dane End, 6 miles, led by Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715

Sun 29th Cambourne, Bar Hill, 13 miles, led by Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715

Mon 30th Evening Walk: Bassingbourn, 3 miles, led by Sue 07507 286932

Tuesday & Thursday are morning walks, Sunday walks are all day. www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk

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

REED SPRING QUIZ in Reed Village Hall Saturday 19th May, starting promptly at 7.30pm

Supper of fish or chicken & chips, plus a licenced bar and raffle. **Tickets £12 per person**, available from **Hazel on 01763 848349**.



Buntingford Bowls Club Wyddial Road

We are holding two OPEN MORNINGS at the club on Sunday 6th and Monday 7th May, from 10am to 12 noon.

All ages are welcome. Equipment provided.

FREE LESSONS will be given on Thursdays 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st May, at 6pm.

Come along and give it a try!

For more details contact Greg or Ellen on 01763 271959.