

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

# Buntingford Journal



**The organisers of The Overtures fundraiser gig at Freman College handing over their proceeds to the Air Ambulance.**

***Inside this month:* A look back at Nevetts Care Home, one year on from closure; Reginald Cotterell Butler, acclaimed sculptor and Buntingford's forgotten son; a report on the Film Club's 3rd annual Short Film Competition; and the local fallout from Coronavirus.**

**70p**

**April 2020  
Volume 45, No.3**



**9 772056 721000**

# APRIL 2020

Attend2Health – Tips to help your back when gardening .....	34
BALA – Cancellation Notice .....	44
BALFF – Christmas in Bournemouth .....	5
Battle of the Bands .....	31
Bishop Seth Ward Almshouse Trust .....	11
British Red Cross – 150 years old this year! .....	44
Buntingford Bowls Club .....	47
Buntingford Civic Society – Chairman’s Letter / Buntingford In Bloom / A.G.M. ....	8-9
Buntingford Community Choir .....	11
Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society .....	10
Buntingford Film Club – Short Film Competition / GOSH Fundraiser .....	28-29
Buntingford Gardeners’ Club .....	33
Buntingford Local History Group – Reginald Cotterell Butler / Street Names .....	16-20
Buntingford School of Dance .....	27
Buntingford Town Council & Statement on Coronavirus .....	21 & 22
Buntingford Town FC .....	46
Buntingford Twinning Association .....	47
Buntingford W.I. ....	45
Cambridge Gliding Centre Open Day .....	37
Church Services with Note from the Editor .....	14-15
Coronavirus – Community Support .....	22
COVER STORY – Essex & Herts Air Ambulance .....	6-7
CPRE Hertfordshire Awards 2020 .....	47
Down at Hyde Hall Farm .....	12-13
East Herts Citizens Advice – Small Business Problems .....	35
Editor’s Letter .....	3
Edwinstree Middle School .....	41-42
Essex & Herts Air Ambulance .....	6-7
Freman College .....	42-43
Friends of the Rib & Quin .....	13
Home-Start .....	10
Hormead Rogation Walk .....	47
Layston C of E First School .....	39-40
Letters & Emails to the Editor – Farewell and Thank You to Orchard Surgery .....	4-5
Millfield First & Nursery Shool .....	38-39
Nevetts Care Home, April 1975 to April 2019 .....	24-26
News from Your District & County Councillor Jeff Jones .....	23
Reginald Cotterell Butler, Sculptor .....	16-18
Royston & District Ramblers – Walks for April .....	48
Short Story – ‘Chameleon House’ .....	32-33
Street Names in Buntingford / Part 2 .....	19-20
Summer Arts in Buntingford 2020 .....	30-31
U3A .....	36-37
Useful Local Information .....	2
‘Vision Matters’ – Canvases now available for Charity Open Exhibition .....	48
Voluntary Charity Trustee Position .....	11
Ware & District Photographic Society & Standon Hand Emrboidery Group .....	45

# USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

<b>POLICE STATION:</b> Baldock Road, Buntingford	Non-emergency telephone: 101 In emergencies dial 999
<b>GAS:</b>	Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838
<b>WATER (Veolia):</b>	Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325
<b>SEWERAGE (Thames Water):</b>	Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800
<b>FLOODLINE:</b>	Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188 Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60
<b>DOCTORS:</b>	<b>Buntingford Medical Centre</b> – White Hart Close Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)
<b>B A S H (Buntingford Action For Social Help):</b>	Providing transport for hospital and doctors appointments. Tel: Colin Horgan 07733 091731
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RAPE, RACE or HATE CRIME:</b>	Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554440 (in emergency, dial 999)
<b>LOCAL COUNCILS:</b>	<b>Buntingford Town Council</b> – 01763 272222 <b>East Herts District Council</b> – 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 <b>Hertfordshire Highways</b> – 0300 123 4047, or report faults online: <a href="http://www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults">www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults</a>
<b>BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:</b> High Street, Buntingford	<b>Opening times:</b> Mon, Tues, Thurs 10:00 – 17:30 Friday 14:00 – 17:30 Saturday 09:00 – 13:00 <b>Telephone enquiries</b> – 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
<b>CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:</b> The Manor House Market Hill, Buntingford	<b>Opening times:</b> Monday 10:00 – 16:00 Tues & Wed 10:00 – 13:00 <b>Telephone advice:</b> Mon to Fri 10:00 – 16:00 Call 03444 111 444
<b>HOUSEHOLD WASTE &amp; RECYCLING SITE:</b> Watermill Industrial Estate Aspenden Road	<b>Opening times:</b> Mon to Fri 17:00 – 20:00 Sat & Sun 10:00 – 13:00

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

## EDITOR'S LETTER

I've had a very strange time doing the Journal this month. I've had so many late changes, cancellations and additions due to Coronavirus, I've been taking things out and putting them in till I'm not sure if I'm coming or going! I realised a couple of days ago that the 'Dates for Your Diary' page would have to go, but then this morning, with the file due to the printer, I decided I had to take out the whole What's On section because I have no idea if any of the things listed will be taking place. Given that we are being encouraged to limit our social interaction, I have to assume that most will be cancelled. If you attend a regular class, I would suggest you contact the instructor or organiser to check if it's still going ahead. However, I certainly can't claim to be consistent because there are other things listed in these pages, such as Church services and Royston Ramblers, that are most likely cancelled too! Whatever the event, I suggest you check first.

So, after that health warning on the accuracy of much of this month's contents, I hope at least you'll find there is plenty of interest to read. Our 'Cover Story', sent in by Ashley Cantor, celebrates our local Air Ambulance. In March, Ashley and several others from Buntingford visited the North Weald Airbase to deliver an impressive cheque, the result of The Overtures fundraising event last October.

The Local History Group article tells the story of Reg Butler, an internationally renowned sculptor who was born and grew up in Buntingford. In a curious coincidence, I used to work with his daughter, Cortina, and always meant to get her to write an article about her father for the Journal, but Brian Thompson has beaten me to it.

My favourite article this month comes from Pam Roberts, who worked at Nevetts Care Home. It is already a year since the Home was unceremoniously closed at short notice. The anniversary seems an appropriate time to look back and remember the happy times that were enjoyed there by staff and most of all by its residents and their families.

In another curious coincidence, the short story this month is also about a care home – and a conman! There's no shortage of conmen (and women) at the moment and they have already latched on to Coronavirus as an opportunity. If you or someone you know needs help in the current situation, get it from someone you can trust, not a stranger who knocks on the door or phones up out of the blue. Together with local volunteers, Buntingford Town Council has set up a community support group to offer help and support to anyone in Buntingford and the local villages who needs it. More details are on page 22 – don't be shy of asking for help if you need it.

**Christine Noble**

**Many thanks to John Makin for proofreading**

**Editorial copy deadline for the May 2020 Journal is  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

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

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

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

# Letters & emails to the Editor

Hi Christine

Are we so vain – the human race, that is – that we think we can build things anywhere we like and things are going to stay there forever? We build on floodplains, we overbuild in towns and cities, we chop down trees and build on open green space, and we expect everything to stay the same.

The blame for the flooding that has been occurring recently lies with governments forcing local councils to build more and more houses and local planning departments allowing the houses to be built in the wrong places. It is not only the footprint of the houses that causes the problem, it is the infrastructure that goes with it – the garages, driveways, roads and pavements, and the added shops and commercial businesses. On top of that you have people concreting over their front gardens for parking, while builders are squeezing in more and more houses to the acre, cramming us in like sardines. Sorry, but where is the water to go when the ground it needs to soak into is gone?

Don't complain. Stop and rethink what we are building – do we need it and is it in the right place. If we don't things will just get worse.

**Ashley Cantor**

**P.S.** Is it just me or has anybody else noticed the increased number of vehicles using London Road/Station Road/Baldock Road and the increase in speed of these vehicles? I hope Buntingford Town Council and the local police are monitoring it and planning to do something about it before there are accidents and fatalities.

## Orchard Surgery – Farewell and Thank You

We cannot let Orchard Surgery disappear without thanking a number of people for all the long-term service given to patients throughout the years that Orchard Surgery has served the community of Buntingford and the surrounding area.

Firstly, thanks to the current practice manager Karnika and her reception team of Sara, Jill and Charlotte, who have worked hard to meet the needs of patients and the surgery team. We wish them happiness and joy with their future roles, wherever that may be.

Thank you to all the nurses and doctors who have provided the healthcare services and looked after Orchard patients for 30+ years. Thank you to all the current and recent practitioners, including Dr Emmanuel Orebiyi and Dr Natasha Larmie, practice nurses Naomi Douglas and Clare Rintoul, and a number of other support staff including District Nurse Julie Styles, Health Visitor Jill Allbrook, Midwife Debra Macpherson, Medical Secretary Laura Dilley, Summariser & Coder Sally Greenwood, and Administrator Michelle Joubert. Together the whole team have been dedicated to meeting the needs of all patients and a big thank you goes to each of them.

A great big thank you to the Friends of Orchard Surgery, represented by Eric, June and Pat, who over the years have raised in excess of £25,000 to support the surgery and its patients. Thank you to everyone who supported the efforts to keep Orchard Surgery going over the past few years. Finally thank you to all our patients and to the other surgeries, in the main Buntingford Medical Centre, who are taking on the provision of healthcare services to our patients from the end of March 2020.

**Justin Jewitt**

Dear Christine

May I, through your letters page, express my thanks to all the patients of Orchard Surgery, who it has been a pleasure to serve over the years.

As you are all aware, we failed in our attempt to stop the closure of Orchard Surgery and we will, regrettably, close our doors on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Our patients have been wonderful and it has been so sad to see many of you go. We shall miss you all. Thank you for all your lovely cards and gifts and I wish you all the best always.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Friends of Orchard Surgery for supporting us over the years and raising money to buy medical equipment for the use of all our patients. The Friends have very kindly donated all this medical equipment to Extended Access so even more patients may benefit from it. Eric and his team of lovely ladies have been invaluable to us.

I would also like to thank Justin and all our PPG members, who again have been so supportive, especially in the last few months when everyone has rallied round to help. We would not have had a PPG if it wasn't for Justin!

Another massive shout out to David and GHC for looking after us for the last 3 years. Thank you for being there for us and being helpful and reassuring. We would not have got this far without you, David! Thank you for being our rock.

Last but not least, a huge thanks to a group of brilliant individuals, without whom I could not have done anything, and you, as patients, would not have received the services you did. I have had the opportunity to work with an outstanding team of GPs, nurses and administration staff. They have been the backbone of Orchard Surgery and I'm sure you will all second that. If I had one wish, it would be to carry on working with my perfect team. I shall miss them a lot and I know I will never find a similar team elsewhere. I am grateful that I was lucky to have such an excellent team.

As practice manager at Orchard for almost 10 years, I am sad to leave but pleased I have come across so many wonderful people, staff and patients, with whom, I hope, I can cherish a lifelong friendship. Take care everyone and may you and yours stay safe and well.

**Karnika Baluja Edwards**, Orchard Surgery

## **BALFF – Buntingford Adult Learning For Fun CHRISTMAS IN BOURNEMOUTH**

**I am organising a Christmas break in Bournemouth, leaving Buntingford by coach on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and returning on 27<sup>th</sup> December.**

We will be staying at Bournemouth's **Royale Hotel**, which has: Free WIFI; Golf nearby; Indoor pool; Lift to all floors; Restaurants; 24-Hour Service.

Highlights of the trip will be: Christmas Hotel Festivities and Entertainment; Christmas Tree Wonderland; Christmas Market; Beaulieu Motor Museum and Abbey; Visit to Salisbury.

If you are interested please contact me, **Julia Peacock**, on **01763 272584** or email **Julia@goldenmaggot.com** for a brochure.

# COVER STORY



In aid of



## Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

Your local life-saving charity

Charity Number: 1108989

We would just like to say again a big thank you to all the people who attended The Overtures event in Buntingford last October 2019. As a result of that event we were pleased to be able to donate to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT) the sum of £4000. The cheque was presented to them on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at North Weald Airbase where one of the Air Ambulances is stationed. Taking part from Buntingford were organisers Ashley and Marilyn Cantor, along with helpers Ken and Jackie Durrant, Bill and Sue Hooper, and Jean and Martin Devenish. Unable to attend the presentation but who should also be mentioned are organiser Karen Buckley and helpers Helen Baker and Anne Creswell. Our thanks go out to all of them. Also in the cover photograph are Air Ambulance staff and crew, far left to far right: Sam Tomkins – Pilot; Scott McIlmaine – Operations Manager/Critical Care Paramedic; Dr Dom Rayment – Pre Hospital Care Consultant; Natasha Robertson – Fundraising Manager (Herts); Oliver David – Co-Pilot; and Dr Adam Czaprán – Pre Hospital Care Consultant.



We all had a great day there and spent a lot of time being shown around the helicopter and talking to all of the staff. What a great crew they are! We were also there when they were called out on a 'shout', so we watched the helicopter being loaded with crew and taking off, just as it started to rain (photos left, below & right). The calm with which the crew loaded up and took off was amazing.

They have had over 25,000 shouts since 1998. Each one costs a minimum of about £2000 to respond to and they need to raise a staggering £9 million each year to keep their helicopters flying. And those costs are set to rise as they go 24/7. A helicopter itself costs about £7-8 million. If you've ever wondered what it costs to equip a crew member, see the illustration top right.

Three quarters of EHAAT's income now comes from their own lottery – so if you don't play it already, join now! Also if you see EHAAT merchandise, or events in aid of EHAAT, please





give them your support. And do pop into their shop in Buntingford and buy something! It all helps save lives. As the crew told us several times, the helicopters belong to us all as we paid for them.

For more information look on the EHAAT website at [www.ehaat.org](http://www.ehaat.org), or if you have a query about fundraising for them you can call 0345 504 0055.

If all goes well, we will be holding another Overtures event in 2021. Watch this space.

**Buntingford Friends of EHAAT –  
Ashley, Marilyn and Karen**



# Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

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

Member of



Covid-19, aka Coronavirus, seems to be dominating the news and social media – probably with very good reason. It seems almost churlish to report on any other news when this virus seems to be having an increasing effect on the lives of virtually everybody. There would certainly seem to be fewer people out and about and the High Street is noticeably quiet. Let us hope that all of our shopkeepers and businesses can see out these current issues without too much damage to their long-term businesses.

Forgive me for preaching but I feel it worthwhile re-iterating NHS advice:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water – for at least 20 seconds.
- Always wash your hands when you get home or arrive at work.
- Use hand sanitizer gel if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in a bin and wash your hands straightaway.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

As a result of the current situation the Society's AGM, planned for 21<sup>st</sup> April, has been postponed and will be rescheduled when we have a better idea of the Covid-19 status.

At the moment we are still planning to run Buntingford in Bloom again this year (see right). Judging day will be Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, with the cut-off date for entries Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Competition entry forms will be available shortly. There will be 3 categories:

- Best Front Garden
- Best Rear Garden
- Best Containers – these can be pots, troughs or hanging baskets.

Entry numbers were disappointing last year – we would certainly hope for bigger numbers this year to keep the competition going.

I hope we can all stay safe and well in Buntingford and the surrounding villages. I wish you all well for the future and trust that I can report in a more normal manner in the very near future.

**Graham Bonner**, Chairman Buntingford Civic Society  
[graham\\_bonner123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:graham_bonner123@yahoo.co.uk)

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



All residents of Buntingford are invited to take part in Buntingford Civic Society's

## **BUNTINGFORD IN BLOOM COMPETITION – 2020**

The competition is open to all gardens in Buntingford, with prizes for **Best Front Garden, Best Rear Garden and Best Containers (including Hanging Baskets)**.

### **How to enter**

BCS members will have received an entry form with April's copy of the Journal. Entry forms for non-members are available to collect from the Manor House or are downloadable from the Civic Society website at [www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk](http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk).

Simply complete the form – you may enter one, two or all three categories – and return it to Graham Waite, c/o The Manor House, 21 High Street, Buntingford. **Entry forms must be received no later than Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.**

Judging will take place on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020** and the judges will be looking for:

- Overall design and appearance
- Choice and quality of plants
- Health of plants
- Cleanliness and tidiness of garden
- Lack of weeds
- Plants that attract birds and insects
- Evidence of water conservation
- Evidence of environmentally friendly gardening techniques

Winners will be notified by the end of June and Buntingford Gardeners' Club will host the prize-giving at their meeting in early September. The judging panel's decision will be final.



## **Buntingford Civic Society**

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

Member of

**CIVIC  
VOICE**  
making civic sense

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**DUE TO THE CURRENT SITUATION WITH COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS), THE CIVIC SOCIETY A.G.M. HAS BEEN POSTPONED. IT WILL BE RE-SCHEDULED FOR A LATER DATE. APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.**

## BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

**Our Society will only have two monthly meetings in 2020 on:**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June & Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

These will be held at the United Reformed Church Hall,  
Baldock Road, at 8pm .

**Enquiries to Mr Tim Robinson on 01763 243143**

Unfortunately we have had to cancel our Literary Lunch in April, and the London Marathon, another important fundraiser at this time of year, has been postponed until Autumn. But here are two ways you can help your local Home-Start without even leaving your home.

First, do you shop with Amazon? Did you know you can help raise funds for Home-Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire at no extra cost to yourself?



Next time you shop, instead of using the usual Amazon homepage, just head to: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1105385-0>. When you use our link, Amazon will ask if you'd like to make us your designated charity and once you've clicked 'yes' they will make a donation to us every time you shop with them. Just remember to bookmark the [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) homepage and use it every time you shop with Amazon.

The second way to raise money for us also gives you a chance of winning £25,000 for yourself! Just buy a ticket for the East Herts Lottery and choose Home-Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire as your charity and 50p from every £1 you spend will come directly to us, with another 10p going to other good causes. The East Herts Lottery is open to everyone, even people who don't live in East Herts. Use the following link to buy a ticket for the next draw and your ticket donation will come to us: <https://www.easthertslottery.co.uk/.../home-start-.../buytickets> Good luck and thank you for your support!



Support local good causes

**Win up to £25,000!**

**Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire**  
Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, Royston, Herts. SG8 6JP.  
t: 01763 262 262 e: [admin@hsrsc.org.uk](mailto:admin@hsrsc.org.uk) [www.hsrsc.org.uk](http://www.hsrsc.org.uk)

## Voluntary Charity Trustee Position

An opportunity has arisen for a local person to join the Bishop Seth Ward Almshouse Trust board of trustees.

The Trust is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the 300+ year-old Almshouse building and garden, situated close to St Peter's Church in Buntingford, which houses eight residents. The Trust further owns and operates rented property, financially contributing to the support of this historic listed building.



If you are seeking to contribute to the local community, you have some spare time and have gained some of life's invaluable skills, working knowledge

with property or possibly legislative compliance, and feel you would like to join this worthwhile and enjoyable enterprise, please contact our secretary by email at: [prhibberd@gmail.com](mailto:prhibberd@gmail.com)

**Chris Dobner, Chairman**



When we tell someone that we sing in a Community Choir, the first question is normally "what sort of music do you sing?" The usual answer is "a wide variety of different music from Rock to Musicals". So this month I thought I would share with you a sample of the actual songs that we have been rehearsing over the last few weeks.

Currently we are planning for the VE Day Celebration and obviously choosing songs from, but not exclusively, the 1940s. So far we have tried: 'Peg of My Heart', 'Whispering Grass', 'Happy Days Are Here Again' and a medley of Military Music. We are also looking at the Summer Arts Festival where we are trying out more modern tunes: 'The Rose', 'A Million Dreams', 'Sit Down' and 'Titanium' (honestly!).

Hopefully the current health scare will abate and these events will take place. We are still rehearsing, but if we feel that people are in anyway at risk we will have to cancel our Monday night meetings. Please check the website beforehand just in case.

We meet at 7:30 on Monday evenings in Millfield School, Monks Walk, SG9 9DT. Starting with a gentle warm up, we have a tea break at about 8:30 and finish at 9:30. Just come along with a bottle of water, a pencil and plenty of enthusiasm. There are no auditions, you do not have to read music, and anyone over 16 years of age with any singing ability is welcome. It's only £4 a week and the first week is a free try-out.

For more information go to our website: [www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk)  
Or email: [info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk](mailto:info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk)

## Down at Hyde Hall Farm

So in what peculiar circumstances I find myself writing this article. Firstly, for the record, I am not Ben but in fact his wife Fiona as Ben is busy in the fields. We finally have a small break in the weather allowing some field work to happen. Ben has dictated some notes as a farming update for the Journal as everyone on the farm is now flat out at a very important time trying to establish spring crops, of which we grow spring barley for the brewing industry, oats for horse feed and spring beans for either human consumption or animal feed.

Conditions are far from easy (sorry, it's that weather moan again) as the soil is still very saturated from our wet winter, but we are managing to get on and drill the crops. Just as importantly, we are also busy feeding the crops that were sown in the autumn – wheat and oilseed rape. As you may have noticed with your own lawns and gardens, everything has suddenly sprung into action and growth. It is vitally important that we get some feed into these crops in the form of nitrogen that we spin onto the fields, which then dissolves for the crops to take up through their root system.

I guess with everything that is going on of far greater importance within our lives and the coronavirus this all seems slightly inconsequential, but it also reinforces in my mind the need for us as a nation to be self-sufficient as far as possible in food. A recent “worthy” professor, whilst advising Dominic Cummings of the Tory party, advocated effectively finishing crop production on all of our UK land and letting it “rewild” to a woodland/scrub state, then importing all of our food from abroad. Whilst you would hardly expect me as a farmer to agree with this, I do genuinely feel that it is times like this, when we see supermarket shelves and butchers shops empty and imports restricted if not banned, how ludicrous a proposal this is. This next harvest will be vitally important to make sure stocks of crops such as wheat for flour, bread and pasta production and oats for cereals are grown with maximum efficiency to ensure our country cupboards are full. And of course we mustn't forget the barley for beer, which many of us feel is equally as important!

But the world goes on and as I am driving my tractor up and down the field whilst dictating this I have two hares boxing each other – a sure sign that spring has sprung – kites and buzzards are circling above me and a large herd of deer is just on the edge of the field. I count my lucky stars that at least my social distancing comes with a fine view.



So what's happening elsewhere at Hyde Hall Farm? We are underway with our latest barn conversion to an office. This barn dating from, we believe, circa 1540, differs from the others on the farm in that it is a large brick barn. We have reroofed the entire length which, given the winter we have just had, has not been an easy job for the guys working on it. We have opened up the historic ventilation slits which will be windows and are currently repointing the entire building – a thankless task but necessary, and hopefully the barn will be magnificent when it's done.

We have also rehomed a few chickens (left) – and a mighty fine cockerel called Peter, so named by his previous owners – so we now have our own eggs. We took delivery

of four fabulous piggies yesterday (right) which are Saddleback X Large Whites and originate from Stand-alone Farm, so in a few months all being well we will have pork (shameless marketing here but boxes of pork will be available to buy around end of June, contact Ben for more information).



So as we continue to look forward to the future, I am readying myself for home schooling – the vegetable garden may never look so good! Wishing you all the best of health and hope by the next time we write an article for the Journal things may have calmed down just a little.

**Ben & Fiona Cannon / [ben@hydehall.com](mailto:ben@hydehall.com) / [www.hydehall.com](http://www.hydehall.com)**



The FORQ executive have kept busy in the last month. It isn't easy doing field work at this time of year but a walk was completed of the Rib in the Buckland and Reed area, just north of Buntingford. Our aim is to complete a number of these types of walks of various stretches of the Rib and Quin.

The reports and photographs taken will form part of our benchmarking database.

What has been very exciting in the last month or so is that we are now in contact with a growing number of like-minded groups in the wider area. With all these groups working together, momentum regarding the necessity to protect our valuable rivers is growing fast. To that end the Chalk Aquifer Alliance has been formed with its first meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March. One or more of the FORQ executive members will also attend a meeting of the Friends of the River Shep in April. It is fantastic to see that there are so many groups out there similar to FORQ. We are sure that by working together we will not only learn from each other's experiences but really apply pressure where needed to protect all the rivers.

FORQ was also represented at a meeting held between Buntingford Town Council (BTC), Thames Water, the Environment Agency, Affinity Water and the H&M Wildlife Trust. The meeting covered a wide range of topics that affect the rivers. It is hoped that regular meetings can be held between these parties so that we can work together to improve the rivers while also providing the water that we all need through our taps.

We are starting to get things ready for some events that we are planning to hold or attend this year. The first of these is our Spring Meeting, planned for 20<sup>th</sup> April. The FORQ executive is very aware of the Coronavirus situation and will review whether to hold this meeting nearer to the date. The last thing we want to do is put anybody at risk. Please check the FORQ website – <https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com/> – for updates. We will of course send out information on the meeting to our newsletter subscribers. To join our mailing list please sign up via the website.

**Pauline Ayres, Communications FORQ**

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

At the time of going to press, of the contributors who send me information on Church services only Robin Southgate of URC had phoned to inform me of the cancellation of services and events at Christ Church and the URC Hall. However, given the announcement by the Archbishop of Canterbury, I suspect that services at all other local churches are also cancelled. I'm sure regular church-goers will already know more than I do, but I would suggest that you check before attending any service listed here.

Christine Noble



# Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

**Minister:** Vacant

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

**All Services and Regular Events at Christ Church have been CANCELLED until the end of April due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Most clubs and activities in the Church Hall have also been cancelled - one exception is the Buntingford School of Dance, but please check with your club or activity provider.**

**Website:** [www.buntingfordurc.org.uk](http://www.buntingfordurc.org.uk)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/URCBuntingford](http://www.facebook.com/URCBuntingford)

## ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER

### Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

**Parish Priest:** Reverend Father Cyril Chiaha

**Sunday Mass:** 9:15am (with term-time Children's Liturgy on 2nd & 4th Sun only); **Holy Day Mass:** 7pm;

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

**Confessions:** Sat 10:30-11am



## ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY & ENGLISH MARTYRS

### Catholic Church

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

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

**Confessions:** Sat 5.15-5.45pm (Puckeridge)



## United Benefice of

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



Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072

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

### Services for April 2020?

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
<b>Palm</b>	10:00am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
<b>Sunday</b>	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
	3:00pm	St Peter's, Buntingford	Crafty Easter & Fun Activities
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00pm	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Stripping of the Altar
<b>Good</b>	Mid-day	St Peter's, Buntingford	Act of Witness
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	7:45pm	St Mary's, Aspenden	Crucifixion Narrative (Tenebrae) Service
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
<b>Easter</b>	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Easter Family Communion
<b>Sunday</b>	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Easter Family Communion
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	All Age Interactive Service

### Services for April 2020?

#### St Mary's, Braughing

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship with Palm Procession
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	HC and Stripping of the Altar
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	An hour before the Cross – Reflective Service
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All Age HC Easter Celebration
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	No Holy Communion
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	All Age Holy Communion with Baptism
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)

#### St Mary's, Furneux Pelham

Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Compline
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Good Friday Readings and Music
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	All Age HC Easter Celebration
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Café Church
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	Morning Worship

#### St Mary's, Stocking Pelham

Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Compline
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Good Friday Service

## The Ash and Quin Valleys Group

Rev'd Julie Gawthroppe

01920 823531

St Mary the Virgin



ST. MARY'S  
FURNEUX PELHAM

St. Mary's  
Stocking Pelham



Reg Butler, photographed by  
Lord Snowden

## Reginald Cotterell Butler Sculptor, 1913–1981

Buntingford has acknowledged several of its prominent residents from the past by naming buildings or the school after them, or by applying a blue plaque to a relevant address. But a sculptor, draughtsman, print-maker and artist of international renown who was born and lived in the town for some 20 years seems to have been completely forgotten.

Reg Butler was born on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1913 in Bridgefoot House where his parents, Frederick William and Edith Butler, were the master and mistress of the Buntingford Union Workhouse. Perhaps the reason for this omission was that once he started work he lived away from the town and once his talent was recognised he was

elsewhere in the county. He also complicated matters by changing his name: when he started out, as an architect, he thought the name Cotterell Butler was more suitable.

His early life was described by Rosemary Butler, his second wife, in an interview for 'National Life Stories: Artists' Lives', a series sponsored by the British Library. Reg's father Frederick, who was born in 1880, had been apprenticed to Joseph Paxton and had been an under-gardener at Chatsworth, then became head gardener at Takeley Manor. It was here that he met Edith who was the daughter of William Bartrop, the blacksmith at The Forge in Takeley, which might be felt to be significant for Reg's future. Frederick also claimed to be distantly related to the poet William Butler Yeats; whether or not there was such a connection, in future life Reg used to suggest he was part Irish. It seems Frederick served for a while in a Guards regiment but was invalided out, which may explain how he came to be the master of Buntingford Union Workhouse.

As an only child and late arrival, Reg was indulged and treated like a sort of prince; as the master's son, he enjoyed a very superior position. Initially he was educated privately and did not go away to school until the age of 14, when he attended Hertford Grammar where he became head boy. In Buntingford he was taught woodwork by Tom Brody, the local coffin maker, and Reg would make his own furniture throughout his life. His father had definite views on education: you don't send your child away to boarding school, you send your child to school to learn and then they come home to be taught everything else in life by their parents. But Frederick also believed in the benefits of travel and in 1934 Reg was sent to Germany, where he attended a Nuremberg rally and saw Hitler perform.

His early artistic talent was nurtured through walks to Layston Church where he would paint the scenery in watercolours. He made a pin-hole camera and is also believed to have made the first television in Hertfordshire and to have got the first TV licence. All through his life his natural aptitude with his hands enabled him to make the tools he needed to a very high mathematical standard. At school he was particularly interested in science, chemistry and maths, and the headmaster and head of maths were very influential. It was suggested he go to Oxford but in the event he decided to study architecture. He enrolled on a seven-year course at Regent Street Polytechnic but only completed two years and became apprenticed to a firm of architects. He was obviously talented – he designed the clock tower for Slough Town Hall in 1936, aged just 23, as

well as several houses in Munden, Munden Bury and Bushey – and was accepted to study and subsequently lecture at the School of Architecture of the Royal Institute of British Architects in London from 1937 to 1939.

The workhouse closed in 1935 and Reg's parents left Buntingford, finding a house in Brookman's Park. Reg lived with them for a while, then in September 1938 he married Jo Child who lived on a farm at Munden Bury. Her youngest brother had been Reg's fag at Hertford Grammar School, which may be how they met. They married in the local church at 8am – it seems Reg was not very religious, but perhaps the timing was also influenced by international events. Reg could see that war was coming, not just from his experience in Germany: he had been a member of the Officers' Training Corp at school. He was offered a scholarship to Sandhurst but did not accept it. His father had died the year before he married and his mother was devastated, so he had to look after her and settled her in a flat in Cockfosters. By this time his architectural practice had become more prosperous: he was now more interested in building research and less in actual building. He had acquired consultancies with Poole Potteries and London Brick, but he also used a barn at Munden Bury as a workshop, set up a lathe and started to mend farm machinery. He made a hand press that he and Jo used to print curtains.

When war was declared Reg was called up and selected for the Parachute Regiment. However, advised by the solicitor Ambrose Pelly, he was accepted as a pacifist and he and Jo moved to Midhurst, West Sussex, where they lived in a caravan and he advised local farmers. It was here, having to repair and make farm machinery, that he developed his blacksmith iron-forging skills and lead casting. He also utilised his carpentry to start carving pieces in wood. After the war he and Jo returned to Munden Bury where he was still involved with the Architectural Association as a technical editor. In fact he did not relinquish his status as an architect until 1950, although by then he had gone in a completely different direction. Deciding to concentrate on sculpture, he felt it necessary to change his name and that was when he became known as Reg Butler.

Largely self-taught, his career as a sculptor began in 1947 when he rented a barn near Hatfield House as a studio. He had got to know Henry Moore as a neighbour and in 1948 worked for him as an assistant. This association opened doors and in 1949 held the first of five solo exhibitions at the Hanover Gallery in London. Initially his figures were in forged iron, then he moved to welded iron. Subsequently he devised his own bronze shell casting method by which tin, lead and copper were cast into sticks, which with a hot metal tool and oxyacetylene could be pasted into a mould instead of hot-poured. Throughout his life his main preoccupation and focus of his work was the figure, increasingly female.

In 1950, on the recommendation of Henry Moore, Reg became the Gregory Fellow in Sculpture at Leeds University, a position he held until 1953. His career blossomed. In 1951 he was commissioned by the Arts Council and the LCC to create a work for the Festival of Britain which is now housed in the Festival Hall. In the same year he was invited to join the Slade School of Art in London as a lecturer and he stayed there until 1980. In 1952 his work was exhibited in the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

It was probably through architecture that he got to know Howard Robertson, the architect of Hatfield Technical College, who gave him, also in 1952, a

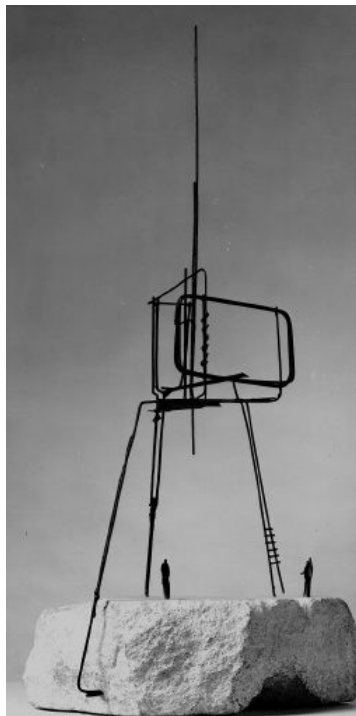


The 'Bird Cage', created for the Festival of Britain.



commission for the college. It was entitled 'The Oracle' (left) and can still be seen there today. He bought a shop in Park Street, Hatfield, which he converted to a studio. He remarked in later life that looking up at the planes coming over from the airfield at De Havilland encouraged him to pose his female figures with their faces turned upwards.

The following year Reg won a prestigious international competition for a monument to the unknown political prisoner which was to be sited in Berlin, beating established artists including Calder, Gabo and Hepworth. In the event the monument was never built but the maquette (right) is in the Tate Gallery. Reg commented that to many it looked like just a collection of wires. but he saw it as a tower with three women looking up at it, recalling political prisoners in concentration camps. He was now internationally famous and in 1955 had his first exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, followed in 1957 with his first exhibition in Berlin. In 1959 he was filmed by John Read for BBC television. Further exhibitions followed in the US in 1963 and again in New York in 1973. In 1983, after his death, a retrospective exhibition was held at the Tate Gallery.



For much of his work Reg had the assistance of Rosemary Young. Initially she was his student at the Slade, then became his assistant at Hatfield until she was recognised as a sculptor in her own right. When the studio at Hatfield became too cramped for the two of them, she acquired her own studio in Harrow and they commuted between the two. Eventually their association became rather more intimate, she adopted the Butler surname and they had two children, a boy and a girl. Rosemary commented that Jo was not really maternal but was an excellent cook and hostess. With five now in the household they needed larger premises and found a suitable house at Berkhamsted. And it was here that Reg continued to work until he suffered a heart attack in 1981 and died at the age of 68.

The question has been asked why such an influential figure is not commemorated in Buntingford? Perhaps now his story has been told that might be rectified.

**Brian Thompson, Buntingford Local History Group**

Meetings of the Local History Group are cancelled until further notice.

Buntingford Local History Group's Guide to  
**Street Names in Buntingford / Part 2 – Di to M**

- Dixon Place** – Named after Doctor Henry Edward Dixon who was Buntingford's doctor during the 1900s. He was the last doctor in the area to do his rounds on horseback.
- Downhall Ley** – Named after the Manor of Downhall which in 1605 was owned by John Crouch and was merged with the Manor of Alswick in about 1720. Originally the road here was called Gas House Lane as it led to the gas works by the river. Presumably the developers who bought the land when the gas works was disbanded wanted a more pleasant name for the road in the new estate, hence Downhall Ley.
- Dray Gardens** – William James Dray was a private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment. He died aged 24 and is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres, Belgium, and on the Buntingford War Memorial.
- Ermine Court** – Presumably named after Ermine Street, now the High Street.
- Ermine Street** – This is the original Roman Road which ran through Buntingford on its way from London up through Lincoln and on to York.
- Fairfield** – This was originally part of Buntingford's Railway Station yard which was demolished in the 1960s. Prior to the building of the railway it was the site for the annual fair that used to visit the town, hence the Fair Field.
- Fairweather Court** – Leslie Fairweather served as a Private but rose to the rank of Lieutenant in the Lincolnshire Regiment. He died aged 20 and is buried in Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery at Armentieres in France. He is commemorated on the Buntingford War Memorial.
- Freman Drive** – Named after Elizabeth Freman (nee Crouch) who lived with her family at Aspenden Hall. She left money in her will to finance the Grammar School to educate local children.
- Garden Road** – This was possibly part of the garden of Layston Cottage.
- Gate House Mews** – Named after the gate house that stands at the front of these mews, now 22 High Street. Once the site of a malting business, demolished in 1910.
- Greenways** – Named after the green way (footpath) that was at the northern end of the road. The footpath is still there and crosses over the A10 by a footbridge.
- Gunstock Court** – At one time a joiners called Gunstock Joinery, owned by the North family, had their workshops here.
- Hagger Close** – Harry Hagger was a driver in the 4<sup>th</sup> Reserve Brigade Royal Field Artillery. He died aged 20 on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1916. He is buried in Greenwich Cemetery and is commemorated on the Aspenden War Memorial.
- Hare Street Road** – This was originally called Turnpike Hill as there was a subsidiary turnpike gate placed across it to stop travellers heading north on Ermine St from nipping up here and going round to the east of the town to avoid the main turnpike gate on the town bridge. It later became Hare Street Lane and now is known as Hare Street Road, leading to the hamlet of Hare Street.
- Hensby Drive** – Hensby fought in the First World War and was from Buckland.
- High Street** – The main street containing most of the shops and services.
- Honey Lane** – This area originally housed a large apiary where they kept beehives, producing large quantities of honey.
- Howard Lane** – Ernest Alfred Howard was a private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment. He died aged 18 on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1918. He is buried in Metz-En-Couture Cemetery in France and commemorated on Buntingford War Memorial.

**Hummerstone Close** – Frederick Hummerstone was a Private in the Hertfordshire Regiment. He died aged 20 and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres. George Percy Hummerstone was a Private in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He died aged 23 and is buried in Heilly Station Cemetery. Both are commemorated on the Great Hornead War Memorial.

**Jackson Court** – Mr Jackson was the butcher whose shop was to the left of Jackson Court, now 49 High Street.

**Keen Avenue** – Albert Edward Keen was a private in the first Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He died aged 21 on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He is buried in Boulogne Cemetery and commemorated on Buntingford War Memorial.

**Knights Close** – The Knights family ran a dairy from land near to the Watermill.

**Layston Meadow** – Named after Layston House and its grounds, which originally occupied this site and Snells Mead.

**Little Court** – This refers to the large house which stands behind the gates on Wydiall Road. A house was originally built here in the early 1600s, which was replaced in the early 1800s by the present house.

**Little Lane** – A small lane, not accessible to vehicles, which runs from the High Street to Wydiall Road and presumably called Little Lane to distinguish it from Great Lane, which is now called Church Street.

**London Road** – Part of the historic main road which runs up from London and passes through Buntingford on its way to Cambridge and Kings Lynn.

**Longmead** – Named after Longmead House which once stood in this area. Like several large houses that once existed in Buntingford, it was demolished to make room to build new properties on the site of the house and its grounds.

**Luynes Rise** – Named after the French Town of Luynes with which Buntingford has been twinned since 1978.

**Market Hill** – So named because a market has been held here since medieval days. In 1360 Elizabeth De Burgh moved her market from Chipping to Buntingford and it has remained there pretty much since. There used to be cattle markets on Mondays, but nowadays the Monday market only has a few stalls.

**Mayes Drive** – Leonard Walter Mayes was a private in the 2nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He died aged 24 on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 1918. He is buried at Combles Communal Cemetery, Somme, and commemorated on Buntingford War Memorial.

**Meadow View** – Originally a meadow.

**Meeting House Lane** – At one time this was called Meeting Alley. There was a Quaker meeting house here from about 1715 to around 1930, and the Salvation Army citadel was also in this Lane. A building that sat between the church and the houses to the left of the Lane was demolished to widen the alley and allow vehicular access.

**Miles Way** – Arthur Miles was a Lance Corporal in the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment attached to the Trench Mortar Battery. He died aged 23 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1918 and is buried in Combles Cemetery, Somme, and commemorated on Buntingford War Memorial.

**Mill Close** – Named after the Water Mill on the opposite side of Luynes Rise.

**Monks Walk** – Named after James Henry Monk who was born in Buntingford in 1784 and became the Bishop of Gloucester. In his later life Monk started to lose his sight and returned to live in Buntingford where he could walk the well-remembered paths of his childhood. One such path took him from his home along Baldock Road and then along a path roughly following the current Monks Walk. He died in Buntingford in 1856 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

## A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

I am happy to be able to report that our ex Police Sergeant Duncan Wallace has agreed to be co-opted to the Town Council. Duncan has served Buntingford for many years in his role as a Police Officer and will now continue to serve the town as a Town Councillor. It will be no surprise to learn that this was a unanimous decision of the Council.

We look forward to working with Duncan over the coming years.

Work to the new cemetery has ground to a halt due to the very wet ground conditions. It's still hoped that we can open mid-year but as yet no date has been confirmed.

Councillors Graham Bonner and Graham Waite are working really hard to arrange the forthcoming VE Day celebrations. This will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May on the Seth Ward Community Centre field. There will be live music, fair rides, food and a paying bar, along with many other planned activities. The event starts at 2pm and goes on until late evening. Come along to some or all of it, food can be purchased or bring a picnic. Further details to be announced nearer the time.

At the time of writing the spread of Coronavirus is increasing, bringing some worrying times. Hopefully we will be able to deal with this as it progresses. Details of a new local volunteer help group are on the following page.

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

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

The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AB

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

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

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

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

### Town Council meetings for April 2020

Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> April	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> April	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Full Council

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

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

## Buntingford Town Council Statement on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Buntingford Town Council is aware that many residents of the town and surrounding villages are concerned about the present situation regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the affect it is having on daily life.

We would encourage all members of the public to follow Government guidelines and take all sensible precautions to avoid contracting the virus. These guidelines can be found on the Hertfordshire County Council website [www.hertordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertordshire.gov.uk)

We are aware that there are some residents of the town who are elderly and vulnerable, especially those with underlying health problems, and we would encourage those residents to take extra care.

There are some residents of the town who have offered to help those in need and working with them we have formed the 'Buntingford and surrounding villages community support against Coronavirus' group.

If you are in a position to help those who are self-isolating, elderly or vulnerable, or you are in need of help yourself, we would ask that you contact us using either of the methods detailed below, leaving your name and contact details (telephone number, address and email). For safeguarding purposes, we are only able to register volunteers who are listed on the Electoral Role OR who are police / security checked.

If you are aware of someone who you regard as being in need of help but are unable to give assistance yourself, please contact the Council on 01763 877 545 or by email to [heretohelp.buntingford@gmail.com](mailto:heretohelp.buntingford@gmail.com) and we will try to match help with requirement.

By registering with us as a volunteer or someone in need of help, it will be presumed that you agree to us using your information under the GDPR regulations.

# Hello

If you are self-isolating,  
we are here to help.

We are the Buntingford and surrounding villages community support against coronavirus team

### *Our volunteers can help you with:*

- Doing your **grocery shopping** and delivering it to your doorstep
- Helping you get in touch with other **relevant services**
- Calling for a **chat** if you are feeling lonely
- Running certain errands, such as **collecting prescriptions** and **posting letters** for you

THIS IS A FREE SERVICE PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEERS FROM YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

**Please call**      **01763 877 545**

**Or email**        **[heretohelp.buntingford@gmail.com](mailto:heretohelp.buntingford@gmail.com)**

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on doorsteps.

**Please also get in touch if you are able to help others and would like to join our team of volunteers.**

**#ViralKindness**

## News from Your District and County Councillor, Jeff Jones



### Covid 19 Update

I am somewhat reluctant to give an update on the Coronavirus pandemic as the news changes daily, and by the time you are reading this the situation will have changed again. However, the County Council's Director of Public Health, Jim McManus, has been working tirelessly to keep councillors and staff updated on the latest situation. Measures are in place to address the health crisis with various degrees of priority. The PCC Elections scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> May have been cancelled.

We all have a role to play in prevention. If we all play our part, we help to protect everyone. Here are some simple things you can do to help stop germs including coronavirus from spreading:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- DO NOT touch your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

### Summer Arts 2020

I am pleased to see that a weekend Summer Arts Festival is being planned for June, with Layston Court Gardens as the main venue. This is a very suitable event to be held during Hertfordshire Year of Culture 2020. I was also pleased to be able to use some of my Locality Budget as a contribution towards the cost of the event. I do hope that health measures do not cause the event to be cancelled.

### Buntingford Health Centre

I have been meeting with our NHS Clinical Commissioning Group officers to discuss expansion of the Health Centre. They are looking at two potential schemes:

- 1) Expansion of the current Health Centre by 50% into a section of the Nevetts site.
- 2) A new health/residential scheme on the Nevetts site to include a new Health Centre.

My personal preference would be option 2. This would allow for a new Health Centre with additional facilities including a Health Hub on the ground floor with apartments above that would help fund the new facilities. A purpose built new Health Centre would also be able to accommodate convenient car parking for residents, staff and patients. I am working with the County Council, who own the site, to ensure that all options are fully considered.

### Community Litter Pick

I am arranging for a Buntingford Spring Clean Litter Pick on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Meet at The Manor House at 10am and following refreshments we will spend a couple of hours collecting litter, returning to the Manor House at noon. All equipment, gloves, pickers and refuse sacks will be provided. If you have a couple of hours to spare on the day, this is a good opportunity to contribute to cleaning up our town and keeping it litter free.

### Councillor Advice

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

**Cllr Jeff Jones, District and County Councillor, Buntingford Ward**  
**07836 232963 / [Jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk)**

# Looking Back At NEVETTS CARE HOME April 1975 – April 2019

Nevetts Care Home was built and run by Herts County Council. The Home was named after Thomas Nevett, a master builder well thought of in the town due to his kind and generous nature. He built the Tudor-style house in Bowling Green Lane as a family house for himself. The Care Home was built to accommodate 48 residents, mostly in twin-bedded rooms. On the first floor there were three flats for senior staff. The detached house next door was occupied by the Home's manager and family. The first manager was a Mrs Betty Pearson, who had to be called by her full name. She also insisted on the beds being made with hospital corners: God help you if they weren't!



Bronwen wearing a party hat.

Nevetts was never an attractive building, but it made up for this by being very homely inside and as it wasn't a large home, everyone knew everyone else – staff, residents and relatives. After the sudden closure of the Home, I wanted people to know what a good place it had been for hundreds of people, how all the different staff over the years did a superb job treating residents as family and making them feel happy and useful.

Over the years Nevetts has been home to many people who all benefitted in some way from the love and care they received there. The staff also benefitted from becoming part of their lives, listening to their life stories and being there for them. Such a variety of people! One lady had trekked across South Africa as a young girl in a cart pulled by oxen, looking after the children of the family. One lady had cooked for the Queen at Buckingham Palace, another had been housekeeper for Princess Margaret, and we had an ex-butler for Lord Louis Mountbatten. Another lady escorted evacuees to America in World War II, while one gentleman had been a Japanese prisoner-of-war. Another had been at The Somme in World War I.

I've lost count of how many 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays we've celebrated, with one gentleman reaching 105. We used to warm his pyjamas on his radiator every night for him, he didn't like cold ones! One lady who turned 100 just before Christmas switched the lights on – half the residents watched her do it – then tucked into sherry and mince pies from the Manor House. This same lady's daughter sometimes brought her pet donkey when she came to visit and, as her mother was on the first floor, the donkey went up in the lift. The residents loved it! Luckily for us the donkey was house trained.

We also had a wedding. Alice and Fred got engaged, then got married at St Peter's Church, followed by a reception for about 100 people at Nevetts. On their wedding night Alice got upset as it was single beds so Jackie Hammond and I, we were both working that night, tied the beds together assuring one happy pair of newly-weds.

Ouida had a background in show business. She had photographs of her mother on stage as a Gaiety Girl and herself as Principal Boy in pantomime. She used to say that Marie Lloyd was her sister-in-law. Our Norah, as we called her, was well known in the town – she was forever running errands for the staff.

The activities have been too many to mention them all. In the beginning we would take the residents on holiday, but this had to change as more of them became too frail or found the travelling too much. Instead we did day trips to the coast, river trips, Christmas lights in London, theatre trips, pub outings. We held tea dances and fetes.



A vintage fashion show in Nevetts garden.

Children came in from the local schools and did Nativity plays, sang, danced and played instruments. A man used to come in dressed as Crocodile Dundee with a variety of wildlife – snakes, spiders etc. – which the residents liked to stroke and handle. Loads of entertainers have visited over the years – singers, bands, Elvis always went down well.

All this cost money and this is where the amazing staff came in. They held raffles, jumble sales, did walks, made and sold cakes at auctions. Curry nights for friends and family were always sold out. All of this was done by the staff in their own time. Nevetts was lucky to have had some lovely staff over the years. Some stayed a long while, some not so long, but all made a difference. Working in a care home is not an easy job. It's stressful, heart-breaking at times, and underpaid, but it's also very rewarding. You meet people who enrich your life and there's great job satisfaction in



Above: Perhaps enjoying the entertainer a little too much? Left: Christmas cheer!



helping others who depend on you. It helps if you don't mind making a fool of yourself. The staff put on shows and pantomimes. At 6ft 4in, Grahame dressed as Cinderella was a sight to behold, and Debbie Watling and Dawn Smith as the ugly sisters gave us all nightmares for a week in 2017!

Nevetts was taken over by a non-profit-making company when Herts County Council couldn't afford to run the county's



All dressed up as Pearly Kings & Queens (above), ready for the Carnival Parade (right).

Not everything turned out better, but Quantum Care's training was very good and their standards were very high. They hold an award ceremony every year for staff nominated for achieving high standards. On their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary they ran a 'silver wish' competition. Every resident in every home was asked what they wished to do and if possible it was granted. One of Nevetts' residents, who used to own horses, wanted to groom one again and got to groom some of the Queen's Royal Horse Guards' horses. Another lady had a private tour of Alswick Hall gardens, followed by a cream tea courtesy of Annie and Mike Johnson. This lady was nearly blind and wanted to smell all the flowers. Debbie Worby, a regular visitor to the home, organised a party for a resident with over 30 of her relatives attending.



care homes any more. This firm ran a competition in the homes it took over to find a name to call itself. The competition was won by Carol Pilkington of Nevetts who came up with Quantum Care and Nevetts was given £100. After Quantum Care took over, the changes were many. The staff flats were made into bedrooms and another lounge was added. Downstairs rooms and the dining room were altered, and a new entrance added.

Unfortunately, in March last year we were told that Quantum Care was shutting us down because the home was too small. We were out and the home empty in just 6 weeks. Everyone was very upset, staff, residents, relatives. All the residents went to other homes and I hope they are happy. Some of us hoped with a few alterations we could stay open, but it was not to be. Being a smaller home was an advantage as we knew every resident. OK, we didn't have en-suites and the other extras that larger homes had, we didn't have a fancy garden, but we were one big happy family. We loved our residents (still do), made friends of their families, and did our best to make life easier for them all. I hope the staff are happy in their new homes and keeping up the good work.

Thank you to all the local shopkeepers who donated raffle prizes every year, to Julia Johnson at Sainsbury's for the flowers regularly given – the residents loved them. Thanks also to Jan in the Isabel Hospice shop for all the things she gave. The closure truly was the end of an era in Buntingford. Nevetts, you are missed.

**Pam Roberts** – 44 years at Nevetts



BUNTINGFORD  
SCHOOL of DANCE

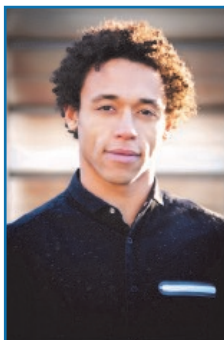
## STD Graded classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern and recreational classes in Street, Commercial, Musical Theatre, Baby Boppers and Adult Tap

This term we have even more pupils working towards graded exams. We also welcomed some new really young dancers as we started our new Monday class for

### Baby Boppers

**Baby Boppers** Mondays 9.15–9.45am, URC Hall

This is a fun class for children aged 3 years and under and introduces them to music, movement, rhythm and dance with a variety of music styles such as TV Theme tunes, Musical Theatre songs and pop music. Children are welcome from when they can walk confidently up to the age of 3. The class is a great stepping stone to our other classes that pupils can join aged 3 or 4. Contact us to book a place.



## Reiss Hinds Commercial Dance Workshop

Sunday 14th June

### NOT TO BE MISSED!

Urdang Academy graduate, Reiss Hinds has performed on TV, film and stage; credits including dancing on 'Streetdance 3D', Disney's live action 'Cinderella' and 4x Olivier Award winning West End musical 'In the Heights'. Reiss has performed in numerous pantomimes across the UK and was a **Semi-finalist on 'Britain's Got Talent' in 2012 with dance group, Four Corners Dance Company**. Reiss has recently started training with renowned Hip Hop dance company, 'BirdGang Dance Company'. Reiss currently tours the UK as a guest teacher and is also Dance Lecturer in Urban and Jazz at Westminster Kingsway College, London.



We are delighted that we have been able to book Reiss to come to teach our pupils in Buntingford - a **FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY!** Packed with **ENERGY, FUN & SURE TO INSPIRE!** These workshops are a must for all students whether you are an aspiring dancer or whether you are dancing as a hobby. For our older students—a great way to take a break from revision and relieve any exam stresses!

### ALL WELCOME!

Junior Workshop 7-11 Yrs	1 hour	£10.00	1.30 - 2.30pm
Senior Workshop 12 Yrs +	2 hours	£20.00	2.30—4.30pm

Venue: Freman College, Gym

For booking details and more information please email

[buntingforddance@btinternet.com](mailto:buntingforddance@btinternet.com)

Or call 01763 271010

We are also hugely excited to announce a Commercial Dance Workshop coming up in June with professional dancer, Reiss Hinds (left).

The Workshop is open to our current pupils as well as any new pupils who wish to register.

New pupils are always welcome. Contact us for a **NO OBLIGATION TRIAL IN ANY DANCE GENRE!** We offer Baby Boppers, Ballet, Tap, Modern & Jazz, Street, Commercial and Musical Theatre classes. We also have **ADULT TAP!**

Have a look at our website:

[www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk)

Or find us on Facebook or Instagram



# BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Our last Community Centre screening, 'Joker', with Oscar-winner Joaquin Phoenix playing the lead, attracted a good audience to our cinema evening despite being a controversial and sobering choice for our film club. So perhaps there will be more adventurous decisions made about our films in the future. Please let us know what you think, and watch this space!

**Unfortunately, due to the current crisis caused by the Coronavirus, our next two screenings at Seth Ward – 'Knives Out' and '1917' – are now cancelled. Likewise the films scheduled at Furneux Pelham and Braughing.**

We very much hope that it won't be too long before we can resume this very much appreciated community cinema in our town and surrounding villages.

## Short Film Competition

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February, an excited audience gathered at the Manor House for the 3rd Buntingford Short Film Competition. Sponsored by Chris Dellar, this event is attracting more and more entrants – a total of 12 eclectic short films were submitted this year. They were reviewed by three film industry professionals, Miranda Hamilton, Justin Doherty and Paul McEvoy, to whom we are very grateful for giving up their valuable time. Huge thanks also to all our talented entrants for having the courage to share their work with us – we know it was an exciting but nail-biting moment for them. Our film-makers ranged in age from 10, studying at Edwinstree School, to 21, studying at the University of Falmouth. The format ranged from music video, to documentary, through to Film Noir inspired pieces. With such a variety, our judges had some difficult decisions to make.



For First Prize, they chose 'Critic' by Harry Orsborn. They loved his humorous exposé of how quick we can be to judge the work of others, even when that work may be far greater than anything we might be able to produce. Harry is currently studying at university in London, and continues to indulge his love of film-making whenever he can.

Second Prize went to Tom Lawson for his piece entitled 'All Time Joe', a documentary about a professional wrestler in South Shields, whose charismatic personality and uncensored sense of humour formed the focus of a warm and funny short film.



Third Prize was awarded to 10-year-old Adam Klosinski (right) for 'Morph's Camping'. Adam loves to draw pictures of his favourite characters from the movies, and he also loves Lego, so it's not a surprise that his entry was an animated short film – in fact the only one this year. It was an endearing, funny piece that had the audience in fits of laughter.



As Harry Orsborn suggests in 'Critic', we can be harsh when reviewing the efforts of others, but that wasn't the case with our judges. Their open and inclusive manner, their constructive but practical criticism, along with their praise for all the films they reviewed made for a fun, creative and nurturing atmosphere – which was appreciated by all the entrants whether present in the room or watching via live link through Facebook.

It was a most successful evening. We hope the event inspires even more entrants next year. And when all three winners are honoured at the BAFTAS in years to come, remember you saw Harry, Tom and Adam here first!

Once again we are extremely grateful to Chris Dellar Properties for their generous sponsorship of this event.

### Great Ormond Street Charity Fundraiser, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

The Keris Brock



FUND

We are delighted to report that our film screenings in aid of GOSH, organised by Kelly & Chris Brock in appreciation for the successful treatment and care of their daughter Keris, raised an amazing £709.50! Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the films, as well as everyone contributing to and buying tickets for the raffle.

Kelly would love to reach her target of raising £1000 for this wonderful children's hospital. If you go to her [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com) page you can help her to achieve this aim. It has already reached £854.50, so there's not too far to go...

In the meantime, please take care of each other through this challenging time, and let's hope life will be restored to normal before too long.

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

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

**Online Booking via Billetto: [www.buntingfordfilmclub.org](http://www.buntingfordfilmclub.org)**

If you would like to contribute to the *Buntingford Journal*, please contact **Christine Noble** on **01763 273095** or email **[Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)**

Layston  
Gardens



In The Heart  
Of  
Buntingford

# THE FESTIVAL

**Friday  
19<sup>th</sup> June**

2.30 to 11.00pm

**Free Admission**

**All Day !!**

**Introducing**

**Live on Stage**

**BATTLE OF THE  
BANDS**

**?? WINNER ??**

**PLUS!!**

**TJ And The  
Underlings  
&  
Indigo Star**

**Saturday  
20<sup>th</sup> June**

10.00am to 11.00pm

**Free Admission  
to 4.30pm**

**Stretch Start With Jacqui  
Mustard Seed Singers**

**Edwinstree Talent**

**Third Age Likes**

**Community Choir**

**School of Dance**

**IT'S PARTY  
NIGHT**

**Entry by Ticket Only  
From 6.30pm**

**Rhys Messenger**

**Miami**

**Royals**

**The Essential**

**Jersey**

**Boys**

**Sunday  
21<sup>st</sup> June**

10.00 am to 11.00pm

**Free Admission  
to 4.30pm**

**Tai Chi with Steve  
Freman Band**

**Dixie Mix**

**The A-Train**

**Ollly Martin**

**Summer Solstice  
Folk Night**

**Entry by Ticket Only  
From 6.30pm**

*Local Acoustic Session*

**Hannah Sanders  
&  
Ben Savage**

**Art & Crafts  
And  
Demonstrations**

**Get your tickets NOW!!\***

**Early Bird Offer! Buy before May 31\* £10 (from June 1st \*£15)**

**Tickets Available Online at  
[Summerartsinbuntingford.com](http://Summerartsinbuntingford.com)**

**Or Chris Dollar Properties, High Street, Buntingford**

**Or The Black Bull, High Street, Buntingford**

**\* For terms and conditions see website**

**Tasty  
food from  
around the  
world**



**Four Acres Estate  
English  
Sparkling Wine  
& Cider**





## Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage

We are very lucky to have Hannah & Ben performing at our first full Summer Arts Event here in Buntingford. This duo, from Cambridge, have toured the UK, North America and mainland Europe, enrapturing audiences with the beauty of their acoustic style. They also appeared at the West Java World Music Festival in Indonesia in 2019.

Hannah has a voice of sparkling clarity that soars above and dips around Ben's dobro and their harmonies are divine. Their material is as joyful and fun as it is intense, but the duo's warmth and confidence in each other, their natural ease and connection is clearly evident and is a genuine pleasure to witness on stage. This is folk music for everyone. Their performance is spellbinding as they create an exquisite soundscape.

Hannah and Ben were born to play and sing together. Don't miss the chance to hear them in a magical evening concert in Layston Court Gardens in celebration of the Summer Solstice on 21<sup>st</sup> June.



## Battle of the Bands

This competition is open to bands whose members are aged from 9 to 19 years! To apply go to our website:

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

where you will find an application form and more information. Then send us your recording to be judged. The 10 best bands will be invited to attend a live audition on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May. From this five finalists will be chosen to perform and be judged at our Summer Arts launch event in Layston Court Gardens from 2.30pm on the first day of the Festival, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June. The winning band will then perform on stage again to start off the evening's entertainment.

All finalists will be awarded £100 and the overall winner will take the coveted prize of a full day's recording session at The Music Bunker studio in Braughing. The recorded tracks will then be professionally mixed and mastered for each member of the winning band. So don't miss this terrific opportunity!



## Chameleon House – A Short Story

“I don’t know why my father thought it a good idea to give me a chameleon as a pet. But he did. A ‘veiled’ one – you know the ones with the hoods behind their ears. Anyway, I reckon that’s where my love of deceit started.”

Chief Inspector Andrews looked at the charge sheet in front of him. “You’ve been charged with fraud and false accounting – in the social care sector, of all places. Are you seriously telling me that your criminal behaviour is all down to a chameleon?”

Geoff Berlinger attempted a relaxed smile. “I know Inspector. But hear me out. Did you ever have a pet you were deeply attached to?” He paused long enough to get a nod. “Well, you can’t do much with a chameleon except watch it. They don’t even like being picked up. But when they are stressed they change colour and, guess what, they have eyes that work independently of each other and swivel 360 degrees. Can you imagine that? Fascinating.”

Peter Andrews sighed and sat back in his black leather swivel chair. He was inclined to swivel it 180 degrees and show the offender his back, but he resisted. “I am not interested in your chameleon, Mr. Berlinger. I am interested in why you thought it a good idea to take money from old ladies. Old ladies who trusted you, with relatives who trusted you. Despicable, if you ask me.”

“OK, I know that’s how it looks. But think of it this way. Those relatives were only too happy to hand over their ageing relatives to my care. That’s the first betrayal, don’t you think? And then only too happy to believe that I and my staff were doing an excellent job of caring for their unfortunate relatives at Chameleon House. A lot of the families only visited at Christmas and birthdays. Gross neglect, if you ask me. They were only too pleased when I took their relatives away from them. And if a few thousand pounds of their fees ended up in my personal investment fund, did they care? I think not.”

The Chief Inspector, who was looking forward to his own retirement but worried about his feckless grown-up children looking after him, inwardly grimaced. What were his chances of being looked after in old age? He had thought, more than once, that he had better put aside a fair amount of money to get the best care home possible when it was needed. The trouble was Chameleon House had been just such a care home. All chandeliers and thick carpets; an ‘Outstanding’ rating from the CQC; and a price tag of £1,400 a week.

“Unfortunately for you, Mr Berlinger, someone did care. A Miss Clarke, I see. Looked a bit more closely at her mother’s bank account and decided she’d better act on her Power of Attorney. Noticed the extra amounts going into the Home’s accounts and that those were getting larger by the month. Admittedly, it was probably because she didn’t like to see her own inheritance seeping away, rather than giving a fig about her old mother. But that’s no excuse for your behaviour. Pure and simple theft from a vulnerable old person.”

“Ahh, you see, that’s where the chameleon comes in. It can look two ways at once, so you’re never quite sure where its attention is. It gets you having to look different ways, do you see? Very clever animals. They’ve got tongues that flick out at 60 miles per hour to catch prey. I learned everything important in life from them. Get people to look in one direction, and they don’t see what you’re doing in another. I used to say: “Your mother is the pride of my establishment. She’s a gem. I’m so delighted you chose Chameleon House.” And they’d simper away, glad not to be feeling guilty for half-an-hour whilst I chatted them up. I’d explain that there were sometimes ‘extras’ that might be needed for their mother to feel extra-special, and they’d say, “Go ahead, Mr Berlinger, we want our mother to have the very best in her last years.” I’d become this magical, bright-coloured pet for them – the one who could make everything all right. And if that cost them a bit

more, that was their atonement. I just got a bit carried away....” Geoff Berlinger’s voice trailed off as he pictured his yacht moored off an island in the Caribbean.

“At least you’ve pleaded Guilty. That says something for you, I suppose. You’re due in Crown Court for sentencing next month. You’ll probably get two years, you know that.”

“Yes, a bit ironic don’t you think? I’m going to be housed at Her Majesty’s expense for about £800 per week. No plush carpets there I don’t suppose.” Geoff Berlinger pitched a smile at the Chief Inspector. He saw the inspector shuffle in his chair and wondered if he was feeling his age. *“Not too long before you’ll be within my grasp, or the grasp of someone like me”*, Geoff thought.

“That’ll be all.” Peter Andrews levered himself up out of his chair and looked down at Berlinger. He couldn’t help liking the man. You had to hand it to some of these conmen. They sussed out other people’s motives and played on them. Isn’t that what a lot of people do in life? All those people who sell us things, market us things? Just the same.

“Thank you, Sir”, said Geoffrey Berlinger, and leaned forward to shake the Inspector’s hand – a gesture that was avoided. Yes, he’d be still playing some sort of game in HMP Bristol, or wherever they were going to send him. You just had to observe closely and wait. There was always someone not looking in both directions; always the chance to change colour when stressed; always a quick tongue to flick out for available prey. *“Thank you Cammy”*, he said to himself. *“Thank you very much indeed.”* And he smiled.

**Chris Kell, Buntingford Writers’ Group**

## BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS’ CLUB



At the club’s AGM the committee were pleased to see so many members present. Brian Austin, standing in for the Chair, reported that the club has had a successful year with visits to Peter Beales Rose Garden in Norfolk and to Easton Lodge, Great Dunmow. The Annual Show, held in September, was an open meeting to coincide with the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Reformed Church. We invited the Bowling Green Lane Allotment holders to join the show and they had their own stall selling produce, as well as entering in several classes. The Civic Society presented certificates to the three winners of the “Buntingford in Bloom 2019”. In November we had our annual inter-club quiz against Reed Gardening Club and were thrilled to be the winners. The committee were thanked for all their hard work, as well as other club members who have helped by providing the raffle prizes, tea/coffee and quizzes. Rose Austin won the monthly competition and was presented with a garden voucher.

Club Treasurer, Sue Miller, reported that the club’s finances were robust despite increases in hall hire and the cost of speakers. The committee had decided to keep subscriptions at £15 for the year. Current club membership is around 40. The committee for 2020/21 was elected and will be as follows: Liz James (Chair); Brian Austin (Vice Chair); Sue Miller (Treasurer); Lesley Lowers (Secretary); Michael Brown, Linda Clark, Janet Murrells, Viv Savage and June Westwood.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus crisis it has been decided to cancel our meetings until further notice. For any enquiries please contact The Secretary on 01763 271885.

**Lesley Lowers, Club Secretary**

## 5 Tips to help your back when gardening



### 3. Avoid overstretching

When pruning especially get as close as you can to the bush and invest in some long handled secateurs.

### 4. Share the load

Avoid lifting heavy objects - get some help. Buy small bags of compost which are easier to carry.



### 1. Warm Up

Treat gardening like any other exercise and warm up first.

### 2. Wear the right clothes

Avoid tight clothes that restrict your movement.



### 5. Take regular breaks

Change what you are doing every 20 minutes and then take a break every 40 minutes. If you experience any pain stop and seek advice.

58 High St. Buntingford SG9 9AH

01763 87 80 87

## EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

### Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

### Telephone:

03444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



**citizens  
advice**

## Small Business Problems

**I run a small business. It's been a very difficult six months for us, we lost a contract with one of our major clients and I just haven't been able to replace it with new business. Now I've just received a huge energy bill. It feels like the last straw and I'm really stressed.**

I'm sorry to hear about your problems. The first thing to do is to call the Citizens Advice consumer service on 0808 223 1133. They can often help to resolve problems with energy suppliers.

It's particularly important to do this quickly if you're on a business contract and you've been told you're going to be disconnected. If this happens an extra fee can be added to your bill, and then there'll be another charge for being reconnected.

If you think the bill is wrong, get in touch with your energy company. If you are a microbusiness you can only be charged for gas or electricity that you've used in the last 12 months – they can't send you a new bill dating back longer than a year.

If the bill is correct but you just can't afford to pay it, your energy supplier might agree to a payment plan. Work out a realistic budget so you know you'll be able to afford the payments. Here at Citizens Advice we can help sole traders and individuals, but for other businesses there's the Business Debtline on 0800 197 6026.

Moving forward, if your bills are being estimated you might be paying more than you need to. Set up a reminder on your phone to send monthly meter readings to your supplier or see if you can get a smart meter installed.

You may find switching energy companies will save you money. You could also try energy efficiency measures such as switching off computers and other equipment overnight, using energy efficient light bulbs or making sure your premises are insulated.

For information about running a business, go to <https://www.gov.uk/browse/business>

You could also look at <https://www.hertsgrowthhub.com/> for information and support in Hertfordshire.

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

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

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

THE CO-OP • DELISSIMO • LOCKS, STOCK & MORE • MARK DOEL  
McCOLL'S (The Post Office) • PIGGOTTS

At our March meeting, David Pinder gave a very interesting and informative talk on Tax, Wills, Power of Attorney, Probate and even second marriages! There were many questions at the end of his talk and if members required specific information they were able to complete a form so they could be contacted by a specialist.

Our Church Crawlers group visited Haileybury, the private school in Hertford Heath originally set up for the East India Company. The group enjoyed a guided tour of the Chapel and the 'Harry Potter' dining room.

Members of our LETs group (below) visited the South of France for the Menton Lemon Festival and Nice Carnival. The theme of the Nice Carnival Parade of Lights was 'The King of Fashion'. The two-hour parade was interspersed with dancers, stilt walkers and jugglers. One of the floats was of our own Queen (bottom)!

In Menton the 87<sup>th</sup> Lemon (& Orange) Festival had two events – a static display in the gardens and in the afternoon the Golden Fruit Parade of floats, each one depicting a carnival from around the world (photos, right). Here again the floats were interspersed with dancers, walking papier-mâché figures and bands.



#### The Menton Festival in numbers:

- 20 days of Festival
- Up to 18 tonnes of fruit are used in the magnificent designs
- 10 tonnes of additional fruit ready to replace any damaged fruit
- 12 people in charge of changing any fruit that deteriorates each day
- 200 artists (dancers, musicians)
- 240,000 spectators on average each year
- Over 750,000 elastic bands are used for attaching the fruit





Images from the Menton Lemon Festival: The Giant Lizard (right) was part of the static display, while the Eastern lady and the Lion (above) were two of the floats in the Fruit Parade.

How long might it be before any of us can travel to visit something like this again?



Sadly, due to the Coronavirus health crisis our next general U3A meeting, scheduled for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April, has been cancelled.

**Jean Cook**

Please visit our website for information on our groups:

[www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford)

## Cambridge Gliding Centre Open Day

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 10am–4pm**

Come and visit Gransden Lodge Airfield and discover the sport of gliding. Discounted trial gliding lessons with our qualified instructors will be available using a choice of winch launch, aerotow or motor glider. Call the office on **01767 677 077** to book your flight in advance or just turn up on the day. Refreshments available. Free admission. Free talks about gliding and static displays. All welcome.

The airfield entrance is off the B1046 between Little Gransden and Longstowe, opposite Gransden Lodge Farm (satnavs SG19 3EB). You can find more information online at <http://www.camgliding.uk/> or via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeGlidingCentre/>



# MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL



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

We have had a very busy and productive Spring Term which has celebrated many events, from the excitement of World Book Day to getting moving in a Dance-a-thon for Sports Relief.

## Renaming our Pre-School

Many exciting changes have happened to our Pre-School recently. This includes developing our environment with interesting and changeable learning zones and auditing our resources to ensure we provide engaging activities for our children.

The Pre-School is currently known as Little Stars and although this name has served us well for a long time, we feel that we need to be clear that the Pre-School is very much part of Millfield School. As a result, having gathered thoughts and ideas regarding the name, our Pre-School will now be known as Millfield Pre-School.

## Millfield School Governors

We are pleased to welcome a new Parent-Governor to our Governing Body. They have already attended their first meeting and we look forward to working with them.

We recently held our annual Governor Open Morning. It was an opportunity for the Governors to spend time with children whilst they were engaged in their learning, as well as seeing the developing sites of our school. During the morning the Governors also had the opportunity to attend a Celebration Assembly.

## PTA Activities – Easter Egg Hunt

Each year the PTA organise an Easter Egg Hunt for the children which takes place during the school day. There is always great excitement as the children search for their 'egg' and are rewarded with an Easter treat. Our thanks again to the Millfield PTA, and to the whole school community, for the commitment shown.



## Key Stage 2 Spring Performance

On 1<sup>st</sup> April all pupils in Years 3 and 4 will be giving two performances of their Spring production, 'Wiz Wham Alakazam'. The children have been busy rehearsing their acting, singing and dancing roles. The story is about wizards performing a sun spell and working together as a team.

## Friendship Ladders

The theme of this year's Spring Term Friendship Ladders is 'Spring Arts and Crafts'. Children across Years 1 to 4 are working together in groups of mixed ages to create pieces of Spring related art or craft.



## Special Assemblies

Two special assemblies took place at the end of the Spring Term, one for Reception children and one for children in Years 1 to 4. As part of the celebration, selected children were given awards in five different areas of learning: Maths, English, PE, Topic and School Values. Many thanks to the parents and carers who attended the special assemblies to celebrate with us.

## Holiday Club

Our Easter Holiday Club for Millfield pupils is always popular. It is run at school by school staff offering various sessions to choose from. An exciting programme of activities is planned for each day which the children are sure to enjoy.

**Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher**

If you would like to know more about our School (or Millfield Pre-School) please visit our website [www.millfield.herts.sch.uk](http://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!*

We start the second half of the Spring term exploring the value of Reverence. The nature of God, as revealed in the Bible, presents all people with a choice. Those whose response is one of respect are acknowledging God's greatness, authority and involvement in the world. This will extend to respect for the created order, including humanity made in the image of God. Reverence takes this response a step further and will include aspects of worship such as awe and wonder, surrender and sacrifice.

*"Reverence for God gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of refuge and security."*

Proverbs 14:26



Let parents bequeath to their children not riches, but the spirit of reverence.

- Plato



Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

**2 Corinthians 7:1**

We have had an exciting start to the second half of the spring term with the children exploring our value of Reverence and considering their opportunities to experience feelings of awe and wonder. They have been exploring objects and spaces around the school that are considered 'sacred or holy'. And they have been thinking about how they show respect for each other and their belongings and how we can respect all members of our school community.



We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. The children came to school dressed as a character from their favourite book, or they created and brought in a prop or picture from their favourite story. Throughout the day they shared stories they had brought into school with their classes. As I hope you can see from the group photo (above), there were some amazing costumes and children and staff had a fantastic day!

As part of our RE learning, the children from Years 3 & 4 went on a faith tour visit to Queen's Park in Bedford. This encompassed Christian (right), Muslim (below) and Sikh faiths. The tour



provided an opportunity to experience community cohesion at work in a rich and diverse neighbourhood. All the staff and children who attended learned a lot and had a great experience.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Adele McMurrough**  
Acting Headteacher



# Edwinstree Middle School



A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

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



## World Book Day

Once again World Book Day offered us the opportunity to celebrate our favourite books and characters in costume, but due to our Year 6 students taking their Mock SATS, this year Edwinstree made the decision to celebrate 'WBD plus 1' on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. This gave everyone the opportunity to take part. Very well done to everyone who dressed up as their favourite book character – as you can see from the



photographs, the staff seem as keen to dress up as the children! Several students from the Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry joined us on the day, as well as the Tellytubbies, to name but a few,

and as usual it's always difficult to find 'Where's Wally! It was interesting to hear what the students are enjoying reading and they had the opportunity to bring their favourite books into school and to take time out to read and relax.



## The Archdeacon of Hertford visits Edwinstree

We normally explore a particular 'value' each half term during our Collective Worship sessions, but this half term, during the period of Lent, the schools in our Diocese have been thinking about '*God in this place*' and exploring the story of Jacob and how God travelled with him on his journey. We learnt how even when Jacob made awful mistakes, God was by his side. To support us in this exploration we were really lucky to receive a visit from Archdeacon Janet ('left).

The Archdeacon led a special morning Collective Worship and we all marvelled at her ability to create a spiritual and peaceful atmosphere amongst us. She also held a Q & A session, giving students the

opportunity to ask her a variety of questions about her life, how she changed her career from teaching to the clergy and how her life's journey has altered.

### **How many students applying for places at Edwinstree in September?**

We are delighted to confirm that we have our highest number of parents and students selecting Edwinstree as their first choice of school for Year 5 in September 2020. We have 135 first choices for 120 places. This secures a full year group, which is testament to the hard work of the staff, students, and our parent and carer community.

### **Spring Concert**

A Spring concert was held at Freman College in which Edwinstree, Ralph Sadleir and Freman students showcased their musical talents. It's a great opportunity for our schools to work together and we are privileged to have so many young musicians. We always enjoy giving parents the opportunity to find out how their child is progressing musically.

### **Working together as schools**

Our staff had the opportunity to join the Rib Valley Schools for a special Continuous Professional Development (CPD) event called '*Making Learning Sticky*'. This focussed on how we can support students to remember key information. The new Ofsted framework makes it quite clear that we need students to remember certain things in our subjects, in order for them to progress. This was a great opportunity to work together and we thank Freman College for hosting the event.

**Jo Gant, Headteacher**

---

# Freman

---

## COLLEGE

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 42 students from Freman College (below) took part in a concert at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Schools Gala organised by Hertfordshire Music Service. Members of the Freman Choir sang alongside performers from other schools in a programme that included the world premiere of 'I Am Alban' by Anne Dudley and Ian McMillan. A group from Freman (top right) performed 'Pack Up' by Eliza Doolittle as a solo feature in the concert, showcasing the excellent work of the music department at Freman. Led by singers Keely McGarrigan, Niamh Willmott and Reuben Shorey, the band included a standard rock line up plus wind, brass and strings and was very well received by the large audience. It was a wonderful evening and an amazing opportunity for the students, one that will live on in the memory for a long time to come.





Below left: Freman students outside the Royal Albert Hall, waiting to go in.  
Above: Inside, waiting to go on! Below: Soaking up the atmosphere.



# B A L A

## Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

### **Coronavirus and Covid-19 Important Notice** **CANCELLATION OF ALL BALA EVENTS AND BUS TRIPS**

It is with regret that the committee have taken the difficult decision to suspend all BALA events and minibus trips for the foreseeable future, due to the ongoing risk posed by the new coronavirus.

The charity has a duty of care both to our passengers and our volunteers and drivers. While we very much appreciate the importance of the service we offer to many of our regular passengers (and we are very grateful for your continued support), we feel that due to the increased risk to individuals over the age of 60, it would not be advisable to continue at present.

All trips currently planned (including the theatre trip on 7<sup>th</sup> May) have been cancelled and we will not be planning any further trips until the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May at the earliest. Please check the May issue of the Journal for information.

BALA was set up to assist the "less able" in our community. If anyone is experiencing difficulty getting to the shops or obtaining grocery items locally, please feel free to call us on the usual numbers below and we will be happy to help where we can.

**For more information: 01763 271909 or 07870 638480**

**COFFEE MORNING at Benson Hall – CANCELLED**

**150** years **the power of kindness**

**The British Red Cross**  
**is 150 this year!**  
***Help us celebrate***

**Events in Hertfordshire scheduled for April and May:**

**21<sup>st</sup> April** A Decent Bit of Shopping @ Cottered Village Hall, SG9 9QR,  
10am–1.30pm £3.50 – quality stalls selling ladies fashions

**3<sup>rd</sup> May** Open Garden – Fanhams Hall, SG12 7PZ, 1–5pm £5

**24<sup>th</sup> May** Open Gardens – Datchworth Village, 12noon–5pm £8

If you're unable to attend, or if the events are cancelled, but you still wish to support us in this special year, please visit our just giving page online at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hertfordshiredcross>. Or you can send a cheque made payable to 'British Red Cross' to Cathy Curtis, British Red Cross, Baker Street, Hertford SG13 7HT. If you would like to do a fundraiser for us, that would be amazing! Please contact Cathy at [ccurtis@redcross.org.uk](mailto:ccurtis@redcross.org.uk) or ring her on 01992 585969 for more information. Thank you.

## BUNTINGFORD W.I.

With all the doom and gloom going on at the moment it was a treat to be transported to Japan when Joy Hall visited Buntingford W.I. in March. Her talk was entitled 'Land of Contrasts' and we saw lots and lots of slides illustrating this. Japan is a modern, high-tech country but retains old traditions; the high-rise flats in the cities and the high-speed bullet train were in contrast to thatched buildings and rickshaws.

Japanese buildings have very minimalistic interiors with low furniture, and who would not want to use toilets with warm seats and music! We also saw a building being re-thatched over just 2 days by 200 people and it looked as if most of them were on the roof at the same time! The gardens and outdoor spaces had few flowers but there were manicured bushes and of course lots of sakura trees (cherry blossom).

The Japanese believe it is best that food should be made up of five colours, white, black, red, green and yellow, and a meal can comprise lots of little dishes. And what could be nicer after your meal than enjoying an *onsen* experience – the famous Japanese hot springs! Joy's talk was so interesting and she asked that her fee be donated to the British Schools Museum.

In view of the present coronavirus situation, our President asked members at our March meeting whether they wished to continue with our monthly meetings and it was unanimously agreed that for now it would be 'business as usual'. However, since that decision the National Federation of W.I.s has cancelled the Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> June and is strongly encouraging all local W.I. groups to follow Government advice and reduce social contact as far as possible, particularly for the vulnerable. In the light of this, and in line with advice from our own Hertfordshire Federation, we are cancelling our meetings until further notice.

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

**Val Hume**

## Ware & District Photographic Society

Ware & District Photographic Society has done it again for the second year running, coming second out of 25 clubs that entered the East Anglian Federation's Print Competition Championship held on 8<sup>th</sup> March. All being well, the Society will now, along with the winning Club, represent the East Anglian Federation at the national championships in Blackburn scheduled for October.

The Society meets weekly on Wednesdays from September to May at Thundridge Village Hall, from 8pm to 10pm. A warm welcome awaits anyone interested in photography. Contact Barbara on 01920 822 104 or email [secretary@wareps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wareps.org.uk) for more information or to check if meetings have been suspended.

## Standon Hand Embroidery Group

Standon Hand Embroidery Group, which meets from January to November in Standon Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month, 7.30 to 9.30pm, is still looking for new members. They have an experienced tutor, Julie Walsby, who can offer help and encouragement at all levels, including beginners and the left-handed. If interested, contact Barbara on 01920 822 104 or by email at [robertnorris591@btinternet.com](mailto:robertnorris591@btinternet.com) for further information and to check when the group is next meeting.



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

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

As I sit in my office writing this month's article, I can't help but think that this year's football season has to be one of the most disrupted I have ever known! Not only has the weather forced us to postpone game after game but now, in the light of the coronavirus outbreak, the league have suspended all competitive fixtures and the likelihood of the fixture list being completed before the end of the season is looking increasingly remote.

The First Team have managed to play two games since last month, both losses, away to New Salamis and Hinton. They stand half a chance of being able to complete their remaining five fixtures.

The Reserves managed to play two home fixtures this month, the first a defeat by Hinton Reserves followed by a storming 5-2 win against high-flying Harpenden Rovers (who beat us 6-1 in the reverse fixture). With nine games left to play in the league, everything now hangs on whether or not league fixtures are reinstated!

The Ladies league continues to operate as normal, although that decision remains under constant review, but as with the men's teams only two fixtures were possible this month. The home fixture against Flitwick had to be reversed due to both The Bury and Freman pitches being unplayable. Fortunately, Flitwick have access to a 3G astroturf pitch and our ladies took full advantage of the surface to run out 5-2 winners, wreaking their revenge against a side that had comprehensively beaten them just a couple of weeks earlier. Unfortunately, the curse of being unable to field a consistent side meant that we couldn't maintain that momentum in the next game, losing 3-0 to Stotfold Ladies.

The Vets have fared slightly better in that they have managed three fixtures, albeit that two were friendlies. Comprehensive victories over Whitewebbs (league) and Goldings (friendly) were preceded by a narrow loss in a friendly fixture away at Histon Vets.

I am aware that there have been a number of posts on social media criticising us, the Cougars, Buntingford Cricket Club and other societies for being overly cautious in cancelling events and matches. Whilst I cannot speak for those other clubs, I am satisfied that we are taking a pragmatic approach to the current situation. The Herts Senior County League have suspended all men's fixtures, a decision on which we were not consulted, whilst all other leagues continue for now.

As a club we continue to monitor the situation regarding Coronavirus and will follow the advice of both the Herts FA and, of course, national guidance but, at present, it is our intention to continue to fulfil our scheduled fixtures in both the Ladies and the Vets League whilst training and, hopefully, friendly fixtures will continue for the Men's sides.

## **Players, Sponsors and Volunteers wanted!!!**

Regardless of the disruption that is being wrought on the current season, we have turned our thoughts towards next season and beyond.

As I mentioned last month, as a Club we want to improve every year and have started to plan for a vision of offering high quality, exciting football at a higher level, but we can only do so much and go so far without the support of the local community whom we serve.

We are blessed with a small but dedicated group of volunteers and enthusiastic players within the club without whom there would be no Buntingford Town FC, but we would love to see that dedicated group increase in size so, If you would like to join us on the next

stage of our adventure, either as a player, sponsor or supporter, please contact me on [chair@buntingfordtownfc.com](mailto:chair@buntingfordtownfc.com) or 07976 869 532. You can also follow us on facebook (@BuntingfordTownFC), Twitter (@BuntTownFC) or Instagram (@buntingford\_town\_fc) for details of upcoming games.

**Mark Cotton, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC**

## Buntingford Bowls Club, Wyddial Road



Two **OPEN MORNINGS** were planned for:  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 10am to 1pm**  
**FREE LESSONS** were also planned in May, from 6.30pm  
on: **Tues 5<sup>th</sup>, Mon 11<sup>th</sup>, Mon 18<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 28<sup>th</sup>**  
*Everyone is welcome, but please check before attending.*  
For more details contact Greg or Ellen on **01763 271959**

This year's **Hormead Rogation Walk** is planned for  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May**, starting at Little Hormead Church at  
9.15am and finishing at Great Hormead Church at 5pm

Walkers bring their own packed lunch.

**For more details ring Stephen Ruff on 01763 289516**



The countryside charity  
Hertfordshire

**CPRE Hertfordshire Awards 2020**  
For those who care about their  
Community and/or the Environment

To recognise and celebrate the efforts of those who work hard to protect, promote and enhance our towns, villages and surrounding countryside, we need you, the public, to send us your nominations or to spread the word by telling others about them. Nominations could be for charities, informal groups, events, businesses, or individuals of all ages. We are happy to have self-nominations. Our judges review all the nominations over the summer and the Awards are presented at an evening event in October. To make a nomination download a form from our website [www.cpreherts.org.uk/awards](http://www.cpreherts.org.uk/awards) and return it to us by **31<sup>st</sup> May 2020**. Or for more information contact [gill@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:gill@cpreherts.org.uk).

## BUNTINGFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION

We do not believe that our Spring visit to Luynes, planned for April, will be able to go ahead because of the Coronavirus problem. If it is possible we will re-schedule the visit for later in the year. We hope that the problem will have subsided in time for our Spanish guests to come to Buntingford in July, but although plans are being made nothing is yet certain. We will try to update you in the next issue of the Journal.

**Steve and Mary Deeks**

## Royston and District Ramblers Group

### Walks for April 2020

- Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup>** Orwell, 6 miles, led by Steve 01223 207053 / 07748 928826
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup>** Haultwick to Burns Green. 11 miles, led by Paul 01763 244038 / 07544 232330
- Tues 7<sup>th</sup>** Hinxton, 5½ miles, led by Peter 07951 362501
- Thurs 9<sup>th</sup>** Lode, 5½ miles, led by Rita & Salli 01763 208755 / 07977 573003
- Sun 12<sup>th</sup>** Woodland & Coastal Walk, Sheringham, 7 miles, led by Brian 01223 243996 / 07500 546244
- Tues 14<sup>th</sup>** Green Tye, 5 miles, led by Jane 01763 261565 / 07989 616583
- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup>** Weston, 3 & 6 miles, led by David & Roger 01763 247572 / 01763 281368 / 07716 141758
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup>** Fleam Dyke, 13 miles, led by Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715
- Tues 21<sup>st</sup>** Magog Down & Wandlebury, 5 miles, led by Alan 01223 840963 / 07933 713840
- Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup>** Therfield Heath, 7 miles, led by Ken 01763 246700 / 07913 814588
- Sun 26<sup>th</sup>** Langford, 12 miles, led by Roy 01462 812591 / 07713 464510
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup>** *Evening walk:* Bassingbourn, 3 miles, led by Sue Barlow 07507 286932
- Tues 28<sup>th</sup>** Horseheath, 7 miles, led by Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715
- Thurs 30<sup>th</sup>** Much Hadham, 6 miles, Viv & Jackie 07912 567378 / 07502 121852

**Tues and Thurs are morning walks, Sunday walks are all day.**

For more details about the walks, meeting times and places, go to:

[www.ramblers.org.uk/hertfordshire-north-middlesex](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/hertfordshire-north-middlesex)

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

## Vision Matters

A 12-inch canvas for charity

An open exhibition for famous and aspiring artists

July 3-12

The latest in a series of fantastically popular art exhibitions at Gravelly Barn, Braughing. Entry is open to aspiring artists – lapsed, budding or established. All you have to do is buy a blank canvas for £10, create your masterpiece and see it hung at an exhibition at Gravelly Barn from July 3-12.

All the work will be for sale at £45 each and all the money raised will go to charity.

Our last exhibition, Choice Matters, raised a staggering £12,000.

### Canvases now on sale

If you would like one, or know of friends and family who would like to take part, please contact us. **Jane Davalle:** [jdavalle@aol.com](mailto:jdavalle@aol.com) or 07905 184619

For more information and a closer look at what we do at Gravelly Barn, please go to [www.gravellybarn.com](http://www.gravellybarn.com)