

THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL



BUNTINGFORD CLASSIC CAR SHOW RETURNS THIS SEPTEMBER

See p.8 for details

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

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LOCAL COUNCILS

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY

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CITIZENS ADVICE EAST HERTS:

BUNTINGFORD FOOD SUPPORT

Non-emergency telephone: 101

In emergencies dial 999

Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999

Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838

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Emergency – 0345 357 2407

Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800

Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188

Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60

Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)

Bash volunteer drivers providing transport to medical
appointments Tel: 07787 183 288

Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554 440
(in emergency, dial 999)

Buntingford Town Council: 01763 272 222

East Herts District Council: 01279 655 261

Housing – 01279 714 714

Benefits – Freephone 0800 373 852

FOR EMERGENCIES out of office hours:
01279 655 261

Adult Care Services: 0300 123 4042

Children's Services: 0300 123 4043

Hertfordshire Highways: Report faults online:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults

Tel: 0300 123 4047

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Fri 14:00 – 17:30 **Sat** 9:00 – 13:00

Telephone enquiries – 0300 123 4049

Option 1 – Renewals 3:00 – 23:45 every day

Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 8:00 – 20:00,
Sat 9:00 – 18:00.

More info: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Call the CAB Message Line on 01920 459 944 at
anytime and they will call you back. They aim to return
calls within 24 hours (except at weekends).

www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk

Buntingfordfoodhub@gmail.com | 07842 889 772



LETTER FROM

The Editor

Here we are again at our Summer Double issue before we take a month off over the summer holidays to enjoy the sunshine which we seem to have in abundance as I write this in July. Let's hope I haven't jinxed it now saying that!

The Library has a wonderfully full calendar of events over the summer holidays to keep children entertained with noses in books for the Summer Reading Challenge and with regular art and craft events. Do check out what's happening on pages 10-11 and support your local library.

Lots to catch up on in this issue, including an update on the status of the pool on p.23, the 3rd and final instalment of our walk down memory lane on the pubs of Buntingford from the History Society on p.26, an update on the restoration at St. Peter's Church on p.36, and details of what's coming in the new Film Club season starting on September 12 with a lovely open air show at the Sword in Hand on p.43.

We are lucky to now have our own regular Men's Shed which has been added to our calendar of regular events on p.45, now that they have found a venue at the Manor House on a Tuesday afternoon. We also have our Repair Cafe opening on 27th September where you can take any broken items that are in need of fixing and have a nice chat over a cuppa and a slice of cake while they are being repaired, details on p.22.

I hope you all have a very happy and healthy summer and get a chance to put your feet up, rest, relax and recharge those batteries ready for whatever Autumn brings for you.

Anne

BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2025

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Buntingford, Herts, SG9 9AB

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

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01763 272 032
advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

EDITORIAL DEADLINE

Editorial copy deadline for the next Journal is: **14th September.**

Please send all contributions to the editor on the email address above.

The editor reserves the right to edit copy received, and add or omit pictures where necessary.

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

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 for free, please email: membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

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ON THE COVER

Ford GT40 at the Buntingford Classic Car Show 2024

Quite a busy month since my last article. The judging for the "Buntingford in Bloom 2025" competition took place over the weekend of 28th/29th of June and according to the judges it was very close, with the overall winner being Michael Chambers, well done Michael.

As it was so close it was decided to award four "runners – up" prizes to Victoria Fairey, Glynis Jaycock, Brian Austin and Neil Davey. The prizes were presented to Michael and Victoria by our Town Mayor, Cllr Duncan Wallace at the Buntingford Town Council Family Fun Day on the 12th July. Unfortunately, Glynis, Brian and Neil could not attend but they will have received their prizes by the time you read this. Our thanks go to the three judges, Chris Dobner - BCS Exec Committee Member, Alex (Town Gardener) and Justine Jones who all gave of their time willingly for the Society.

Talking about the Family Fun Day, wow, considering the heat, what a turn out and what a day. For those of you that couldn't come, you missed a great lineup of live music acts culminating in a stunning performance by Radio / Video. This was followed by a short fun sing along, led by the compare, Dave Austin and Mayor Duncan. The day was rounded off with a fantastic Lazer Show complete with Flamers and Sparkstars, all to a mixed music soundtrack, a phenomenal end to a truly wonderful day. Our grateful thanks to Buntingford Town Council - Members, Officers, Staff and Volunteers, for organising this event for all Buntingford Residents, and it was FREE, including the



Funfair rides. Also, the many and varied food outlets and of course the bar, run by Jeff Jones and Rob Walker and their many helpers, you all deserve and big pat on the back. I must also mention Rob Ginn and his crew. Rob supplied the tables and chairs for the bar and the barriers put in place for safety and the security staff, well done Rob and crew, you all kept us safe for day. From a personal point of view, it was pleasing to see so many new faces at the event in addition to many familiar faces. Also, there were four stands from local groups, RATS, Riverwatch- Buntingford, MNDA and of course our First Responders. There were also two other groups, the Army Cadets, with a mini assault course for children and the Buntingford Town Football Club who ran a "Beat the Goalkeeper" competition. An event like this takes a lot of organising and planning started in November 2024, again thanks to you all from the Civic Society.

I need to remind members that have not renewed their membership of the Society, that subscriptions for the year 2025/26 were due 1st May 2025. If you are reading this and you are a member then we

ALMHOUSE 1 BEDROOM PROPERTY VACANCY



Bishop Seth Ward Almshouse Trust is a charity administrating and managing a historical (1684) building of 8 residential Almshouses in Buntingford.

One of our properties, following extensive refurbishment will soon become available (late September/October), we are therefore seeking a local person or established couple of retirement age with limited financial means to live in their known locality.

The property with a private front door, consists of a lounge, kitchen, bathroom with shower/wc downstairs, with rear door access to a large communal garden. Stairs to a double bedroom with en suite of W.C and hand wash facilities.

Each resident, as a beneficiary of the charity, pays a modest monthly contribution inclusive for all household bills with the exception of council tax.

Potential applicants looking for comfortable secure living, within easy walking distance to the shops and amenities of Buntingford, who are fit and able to live independently, should provide full detailed evidence of their financial income, capital and savings.

Should you feel you fit the strict criteria required, applicants or family members should in the first instance, apply by email to buntingfordalmshouses@gmail.com requesting an application form.

hope you enjoy the Newsletter which is exclusive to members. It is intended that we issue a Newsletter bi-annually, this being the first, it is hoped the next one will be ready for the February 2026 issue. As previously mentioned, 2026 sees the 55th anniversary of the formation of the Society, and the 50th anniversary of the 1st issue of "The Buntingford Journal", and it was interesting to read the first issue as it brought back memories of when my family and I moved here in 1971, from north London via Hertford, especially the advertisers. Who remembers Buntingford Television (now J Oliver Radley Opticians), owned and operated by Hazel and Reg. Who amongst us, having to replace a broken item like a TV or Washing Machine would visit the shop on a Saturday morning, decide to buy at Hazels very generous "easy" payments scheme, the same price as Comet, only to find Reg knocking on your door about 5.30 that evening with your appliance to either "tune in" or "plumb in" and also take the old one away for FREE. Beat that Amazon or Currys.

Just time to wish you all a lovely summer and if you are going away, come back safe. Our next Buntingford Journal is the October 2025 issue.

Graham Waite

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society

BUNTINGFORD CAR SHOW 2025

Saturday 6th September will see the Car Show come to Buntingford once again.

Held along the High Street plus Church Street and Market Hill the show regularly attracts a range of rare and classic vehicles.

Shows from previous years have featured a Green Goddess fire engine, a £3.5m Ferrari, a 1904 Humber Swing Seat Tonneau – the last surviving car of its kind in existence, and even the famous Bluesmobile from the Blues Brothers film.

The main stage at the top of Church Street will feature 4 live bands and at the Tile shop to the North of the Town there will be further live entertainment.

The show runs from 11.00 to 16.00 and admission is free to spectators – to enter a vehicle is £5 and you can register online at buntingfordclassic.com Reserve the date in your diaries and come along to experience all the day has to offer.

With thanks to our major sponsors Norton Way Group of Letchworth and Buntingford Town Council.





BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

01763 272 222

clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk

The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AB

 @buntingfordtc  @BuntingfordTC

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm; closed Friday

At the time of writing, the planned Summer Event is just days away and has sparked concern over the predicted high temperatures. We have no control over the weather but are endeavouring to provide shade wherever possible and will be encouraging people to drink plenty of water and wear sun screen.

Recently the town has suffered from a spate of vandalism, the most noteworthy being the damage to the public toilets which had been recently refurbished. There has also been an increase in graffiti, which can be hard to remove, and cause damage to play equipment. The Police are doing all that they can to identify the perpetrators but if you witness any vandalism, please report it.

The Town Council has a small grant budget and has recently awarded grants to East Herts Diversionary Activities (who organise activities at Norfolk Road Playing Field during school holidays), The Repair Café, St Peter's Church, The First Responders and CAB East Herts. If your organisation wishes to apply for a grant, please download the form from our web site.

The Manor House is licensed for Civil Ceremonies and many local residents have held their marriage ceremonies in the Grade II Listed Building. Ideal for small ceremonies of up to approximately 30 guests. All enquiries to the Clerk's office where we will be happy to show you around and answer any questions.

The management of the Multi Games Area is now back with the Town Council. If you wish to hire the MUGA, please contact the Clerk's office and we will check availability. Layston Cemetery is owned and managed by the Town Council, please call us if you have an enquiry.

We hope all residents have a good summer and if you're travelling we wish you a safe journey.

Unless there is an emergency, there are no Council meetings in August.

Details of the September Council meetings below.

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

Jill Jones PSLCC Cert HE -Town Clerk

Town Council meetings for the month of September are:

Thursday 4th September	7pm	Amenities Committee.
Thursday 11th September	7pm	Planning & 7.15pm Resources Committee
Thursday 25th September	7pm	Planning Committee and 7.15pm Full Council.

All meetings held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise.

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY NEWS

Kathleen Beale, Library Manager

We are so excited to be almost halfway through the **Summer Reading Challenge: Story Garden: Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors!**

We spent July visiting all the amazing schools around Buntingford, letting everyone know how they can take part in the Summer Reading Challenge. For those who still wish to take part, but haven't signed up yet, there is still plenty of time to join in.

How children can take part:

1. Sign up for FREE in Buntingford Library.
2. Read any six library books. All reading counts including listening to e-audiobooks, and parents or carers reading to younger ones.
3. After every two books, come back and tell us something about the books to collect stickers.

Once they have read all six books and completed the challenge, children will receive a personalised certificate and a medal, (while stocks last).

They will also be entered into our prize draw to win a ticket to a creative, interactive workshop with award-winning author Sean Taylor.

The challenge finishes on Saturday 6th September.

Maker Stations

Our Maker Stations will run until Saturday 30 August and change each week. Maker Stations are open from 2.00pm-4.00pm every day. No need to book, drop in and donations welcomed.



Week commencing 4 August: Snail Art

Week commencing 11 August: Weaving

Week commencing 18 August: Garden Collage & Leaf Art

Tuesday 26 August: Book Chooser & Genre Quiz

Children's Events

As well as our free Maker Stations we will be running events that you can book for in the library and will be £4.40 per child.

An illustration of three teddy bears sitting on a purple and white checkered picnic blanket. They are surrounded by various picnic items like a teapot, cups, saucers, and a plate of food. The background is a solid purple color.

Teddy Bears' picnic

Bring your teddy or soft toy to the library for stories, rhymes and pretend play - for children aged 2-4

playing	sharing	chatting	imagination
---------	---------	----------	-------------

Buntingford Library
Thursday 28 August
2.00-3.00pm

Tickets **£4.40 per child** from: Buntingford Library

Further details 0300 123 4049
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

The 'All First' logo, featuring a colorful star and the text 'ALL FIRST' in a stylized font.The Hertfordshire logo, featuring a silhouette of a stag and the word 'Hertfordshire' below it.

Story Garden



Story Garden Illustrations by Dapo Adeola, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2025

Thursday 14 August: Wow said the Owl!

2.00pm-3.00pm

We will make a large Owl for display in the Library, as well as smaller Owls to take home.

Thursday 28 August: Teddy Bears Picnic

2.00pm-3.00pm

Children will enjoy stories and songs with their special Teddy Bear.

Centenary

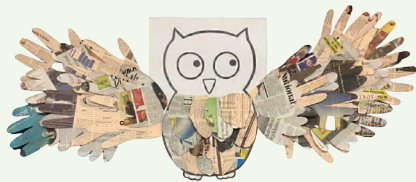
On **Tuesday August 12** at 10am we will be holding a special Centenary Morning

Tea. Come along to enjoy a lovely Morning Tea, share your memories of the Library in our scrapbook and meet new friends. We will have games and puzzles out for you to enjoy as well. This is a free event, donations welcomed.

Cool Space

We are very fortunate that our lovely Library is fully air conditioned. If you are feeling the heat and need a cool space during the day, pop in, have a browse and a chat.

WOW! said the owl



Enjoy 'WOW! said the owl' by Tim Hopgood, then help make an owl to display in the library using recycled newspapers

For ages 3-6. Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer

listening

discovering

working together

Buntingford Library
Thursday 28 August
2.00-3.00pm

Tickets **£4.40 per child** from: Buntingford Library

Further details 0300 123 4049
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY

77 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AE

Opening Times:

Mon, Tue, Thur 10 – 17:30

Fri 14:00 – 17:30

Sat 9:00 – 13:00

Telephone Enquiries:

0300 123 4049

Website:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/

Follow us on Facebook #BuntingfordLibrary

Regular events:

Baby Rhyme Time: Mondays: 10:30 & 11:30

Jigsaw and Cards: Tuesday at 10:30

Story Time: Thursday at 10:30

Parcel Delivery Scams

I got a text asking me to click on a link to reschedule a parcel delivery I'd missed. I was waiting for a parcel from Royal Mail at the time, so I clicked on the link and was asked to make a payment. Luckily, my daughter told me the text is a scam and to ignore it, but I almost gave away my personal details. How can I spot the signs of this type of scam for myself in the future?

Parcel delivery scams are becoming increasingly common. Ones involving texts and emails are known as phishing scams, and aim to trick you into giving away your personal information and financial details, so your bank account and money can be accessed.

One way scammers do this is by enticing people to click on links, which can lead to fake websites, in the hope that this information will be entered.

While scammers can pretend to be from any parcel delivery company, many of them choose Royal Mail because it's the largest delivery company in the UK. This means the chances of scammers contacting someone who receives parcels from Royal Mail, is higher.

These scams can be in the form of a text, like yours was, or an email or phone call. There are also reports of fake 'Something for You' cards, which

Royal Mail leave when a delivery is attempted, but no-one is home.

Here are some tips on how you can stay vigilant and spot the signs of a parcel delivery scam, and other scam messages:

- If you're waiting for a parcel, and get a message that asks you to pay to get it, or reschedule the delivery, it's usually a scam.
- Don't click any links or attachments in the text or email. Delivery companies won't ask you to pay them through a link in an email or text.
- Parcel delivery scammers often pretend to be from an organisation like Royal Mail, and can try to make you click on a fake version of the company's genuine website, which asks for personal information or login details - these can appear real.
- To check if a link is genuine, hover your mouse over the link without clicking on it, or press and hold on the link on a mobile device. You should be able to see the address the link goes to, and check it's the same as the company's official website address.
- Make sure you check the address carefully - fake link addresses can look similar to the genuine address.

- Other signs of a message that is a scam include bad spelling and grammar, and when it starts with a general greeting instead of your name. But, scam messages can sometimes be sophisticated - so don't rely on obvious mistakes only.
- If you get an email, check if the email address matches the sender's name or organisation - you might have to click on their name to see the email address.
- If there's something you're unsure about, don't feel pressured to act. You can find the official details for the company the person who has contacted you says they're from, and ask the company if they've contacted you.

Royal Mail has a helpful page on its website of examples of delivery scams, including text messages and emails people have received.

You can check if you think something you've seen online, or in a text or email you've received, might be a scam, using an online tool on the Citizens Advice website. If you have been scammed, you can report it

on the Citizens Advice website, and check what else you need to do - including protecting yourself from further risks.

Being targeted by a scammer or falling victim to a scam can make people feel anxious or embarrassed, but it's important to remember scammers are clever and scams can happen to anyone. Reporting them helps track down and stop scammers, and prevent other people from ending up in the same situation.

Help in Buntingford

If you need advice, the quickest way is to call our Message Line 01920 459 944 anytime (we aim to return calls within 24 hours, except weekends) or visit www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our advice options. If you don't have phone or email or need extra support, Citizens Advice Contact Centre in Manor House, Buntingford, is open every Monday from 10am to 12.30pm, where our friendly staff will listen to what's happening and help you work out what to do next. Simply drop in, we're here to help.

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

THE CO-OP , LOCKS, STOCK & MORE , MARK DOEL BUTCHERS, THE CHEESE PLATE, BUDGENS/POST OFFICE, KIM on the CARD STALL



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07956 647806

September seems to be the new January in the fitness world.

Traditionally, January has been the peak month for class attendance wellness resolutions, and fitness challenges. But data from recent years shows a shift toward September as a major reset point for health-conscious consumers.

We welcome anyone, anytime of the year to our classes and all our classes are pay as you go, no block booking, no cancellation fees, so please come along and have a go.

The charity I chair is going from strength to strength, with each project reaching

more people and making a greater difference which is why I took on the chair role.

During the summer we ran Move, Meditate & Relax on Saturday's and Wednesday Evenings all around East Herts.

Also the regular HAPPY Camps for school children aged 5-12 were a great success and we were given funding to run extra dates during 2025. We will be running camps during Christmas, more details to follow next month.

Please do refer to community initiative website below for more information and other workshops we are running FREE or heavily subsidised.



Want to come to an Exercise Class or fancy one of our FREE workshops then contact me on: 07956 647 806

Jacqui Smith Personal Trainer & Chair of Community Initiative Charity

www.communityinitiativecharity.com | www.jacqui-smith.net



Fifty members went to see ABBA the Voyage at the ABBA Arena, Olympic Park and ended up being locked out!

Their tickets wouldn't work and somehow their seats had been re-allocated.

The group had arrived early and fortunately a group of four decided to go into the Arena early (11.30am) and the error was discovered. This gave the Box Office staff time to try and find replacement seats and with just minutes to go before the 1pm show, they handed out new tickets to our very relieved members. The show started at 1.10pm.

The tickets had been purchased in June 2024 and replaced in June 2025 because of a new ticketing system to help with security; all existing bookings were migrated over to the new system but something went wrong with ours.

However, the hiccup did not affect what came next – the show was voted a fantastic hit!!

There is No meeting this month (August).

Our Speaker for Monday 8th September is Becky Moore, Zoo Educator: Hertfordshire Zoo (formerly Paradise Wildlife Park) - its history and recent developments.



Mamma Mia - Barbara Watkins, Jenny Newington, Sue Batchelor

Membership of the u3a is open to anyone not in full time occupation.

We meet at the Seth Ward Community Centre on the Second Monday of the month - 1.30pm

Please visit our website for news and details of all our groups.

**www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford
- New members always welcome.**

THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Brian Jones

Summer Time is Here. Time for a trip to the coast, the club has organise a trip for members to Clacton On Sea for the day.

To join us for tea coffee and Bingo every

Monday (except Bank Holidays) 1:30pm for 2pm in the Church Hall opposite The Post Office in Baldock Road.

For more information please call Val on: 01763 272 019.

Paul Webster

Summer is now with us, and we are approaching end of term at the choir.

As we have before, we will be taking our annual summer break. So there will be no choir practices in the month of August. The new term will begin on Monday 1st September where we will all return fully refreshed and raring to go. This will be a great time to check us out and see if you would enjoy singing with a fabulous community choir.

Being a community choir means that anyone (over 16 years old) with any musical ability will be welcomed.

If you do want to join with us please contact me using this email address.

info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk

Or for more information go to our website.

www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk

BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 3rd September
At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road
Doors open: 7:45pm for 8pm start



What a wonderful summer we have had, although rather too hot at times for us and the plants!

With autumn approaching, this is the time to raise the height of your lawn mower as growth starts to slow. Trim those hedges and collect seeds from your favourite flowers ready to sow in the spring.

If you enjoy spending time in the garden and want to learn more about gardening, then why not come and join us one evening?

In September we have a busy meeting with lots of going on; we have Kim Barker, a local artist providing a demonstration of her talents to garden related items, a short talk given by one of our members who is a fuchsia expert, and if time allows, a short quiz with wine and nibbles.

Don't forget to bring along your fuchsias that we have grown from the plugs as

this will be our monthly competition for September.

Our membership and number of visitors continue to grow. Our meetings are monthly and always on the 1st Wednesday of the month, apart from January and August when we don't have meetings.

We like to book interesting speakers throughout the year, giving talks on relevant subjects, as well as demonstrations, outings and socials with quizzes. Not forgetting our monthly competitions too.

Sound interesting? Please come along.

Annual membership costs just £20 and visitors also welcome currently at £3.00 per visit.

If you would like any more information, then please contact our secretary by telephone on: 07757 259 689. Hope to see you there.

Zoë Eaglesfield www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

 Buntingford School of Dance |  [buntingfordschoolofdance](https://www.instagram.com/buntingfordschoolofdance)

We are looking forward to our Summer Holiday 'Dance Fusion' course, and the introduction of some new and additional classes in September. To aid the progression of our budding ballerinas we are introducing additional ballet classes at Grade 1 and Grade 2 levels, plus the return of our Stretch & Strengthen classes which are beneficial to all dancers. September will see us welcoming new pupils and we still have some places available, so contact us to book your trial classes.

Places available for the Autumn Term

To register for our regular classes for the Autumn term, please do so via the QR code below or visit our website contact page. We take pupils from toddlers upwards and have classes for all ages. We offer a two-week trial period for £15. We offer Baby Boppers, Ballet, Contemporary, Commercial/Street, Modern/Jazz & Tap classes, with classes suitable for all ages from toddlers to adults.

Baby Boppers: Pay As You Go

Baby Boppers class for toddlers to 3-year-olds and their parents is available on a pay as you go basis, with payment by card/contactless made on the door each week.

Adult Classes: Whether you're a complete beginner or returning to dance after years away, our Adult

Dance Classes are designed to help you move, express, and feel amazing—no pressure, just pure enjoyment.

Why Join?

- **Get Fit, Stay Active:** Improve flexibility, strength, and stamina in a fun, low-pressure environment.
- **Boost Confidence:** Learn new skills and routines that make you feel empowered and accomplished.
- **Stress Relief:** Let go of the day's worries and lose yourself in the music and movement.
- **No Experience Needed:** Our classes are welcoming, supportive, and tailored to all levels.
- **Make New Friends:** Join a community of like-minded adults who love to move and have fun.

Summer Course 4th – 7th August – BOOK BY 1ST AUGUST

We have an exciting summer course planned to focus on a variety of dance styles, technique, strength, flexibility and performance. Our 4-day course runs 4th – 7th August at the Buntingford Scout Hut and culminates in a workshop with Charlie Bruce winner of the BBC's 'So You Think You Can Dance' in 2010.





Despite the heat, lots of our members turned up for our July meeting and we were joined by Stuart Chambers, a retired policeman who now gives first aid and life support training. He talked us through what we can do if someone has a cardiac arrest (apart from calling 999 or 112) – how to perform CPR and how to use a defibrillator. There are eight defibrillators dotted around Buntingford (you can Google the location of these). The machine quite clearly gives verbal instructions on what to do but it doesn't tell you that before you use it you have to make sure the skin is not wet, not too hairy (in the case of a man) or that there are no metal objects on the chest (e.g. metal piercings). He also told us about a useful app called 'What Three Words' which will enable you to give your precise location to

the emergency services.

Our August meeting will be an afternoon garden party for our members in the beautiful gardens of Pigs Nose Cottage. We will be back in the URC Hall on Thursday September 11th and our speaker is Alison Wall talking about 'Plague Houses and Pandemics'.

Our meetings are held at the URC Hall in Baldock Road (opposite Budgens) at 7:15 for 7:30. Visitors are welcome so if you are new to Buntingford (and even if you're not!) just turn up on the night and come to see what Buntingford W.I. is all about.

If you would like further information about us please contact our Secretary Pat on 01763 271 305.

WARE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Barbara Norris

www.wareps.org.uk

The Society was established over 60 years ago. It meets every Wednesday evening at Thundridge Village Hall from September to May 8pm – 10pm. The programme appears on the website but printed copies will be available fairly soon. The programme includes regular lectures, competitions and practical evenings. The Annual Exhibition of prints and PDIs is being held at Thundridge Village Hall on Saturday 11 October from 10am – 4pm.

Whether you are an avid hobbyist or just curious you are invited to explore the world of photography with us. Our vibrant community of like-minded photographers spans various ages and abilities, united by a shared passion for the art of photography. Whether you are a seasonal pro or just starting out, you will find a warm welcome awaits you. The new season commences on 3rd September and the first 3 evenings are free!



Royston, Buntingford
& South Cambridgeshire

HOME-START NEEDS YOU!!!

*"We are there for parents when they need us
the most because childhood can't wait."*

Are you a mum, dad, grandparent or carer wondering what to do with your free time? We need local people with your experience to become a Family Support Volunteer for our charity.



We are looking for volunteers to help out at one of our Family Support Groups, helping parents and children under 5 to socialise, learn through play and navigate the highs and lows of parenthood.

Our next Family Group training session will take place at the beginning of September 2025.

This training will provide you with all the knowledge you'll need to help at one of our Family Support Groups and you will become part of the fantastic Home-Start team.

- ♥ In 2024/25, our volunteers supported a total of 246 children
- ♥ Our volunteers say helping others helps to reduce their own stress
- ♥ Our volunteers give an average of 3 hours of their free time per week to support local families

You could be the vital support a family needs to help change their life, and while you're doing it, it might just change yours!

For more information, telephone 01763 262262,
visit www.hspsc.org.uk/become-home-start-volunteer or
email: admin@hspsc.org.uk.

HSRBSC: embedding diversity, equality and inclusion into everything we do in our community.

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire
Incorporated as Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire
Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, Royston, Herts SG8 6JP
Registered Charity No. 1105385 | Company Registration No. 5183873

NEW

BUNTINGFORD REPAIR CAFE

NEW

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

2.00pm to 5.00pm

**Seth Ward Community Centre
Buntingford SG9 9SG**

Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered their skills to enable us to launch our first Buntingford Repair Café.

The perfect opportunity to get your broken items fixed and keep them out of landfill. Whilst you wait, why not meet up with friends/family and enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of homemade cake.

So, dig out items that are no longer working or need some attention and bring them along to our dedicated team of repairers who will endeavour to fix them for you free of charge.*

*** BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL ***

Please contact repaircafebuntingford@gmail.com to book your items in.

Items we can accept for repair include:

Electrical & battery items
(hairdryers, toasters, toys etc)

General items
(small furniture, toys etc)

Upholstery & clothing

Bike repairs & maintenance

Computers & Laptops
(IT assistance & simple repairs)

Tool & blade sharpening

*Donations towards running costs gratefully accepted.

We cannot guarantee to fix all items on the day.

part of

The Buntingford Community Project



WARD FREMAN

COMMUNITY POOL
GROUP

Joanne Willett, Trustee

jwillett@wardfremanpool.org

www.wardfremanpool.org

 WardFremanPool

Regular readers of the Journal will know that we were hoping for Hertfordshire County Council to grant our charity the lease of the pool at panel and cabinet meetings on 17th and 21st July respectively. At the time of writing this the Ward Freman pool is not on the agenda for these meetings, but we are working to try and rectify this. The next scheduled meeting of the Resources and Performance panel is not until the 2nd October which even if discussed then, will inevitably result in another winter of the pool sitting empty.

Pool tanks (the hole in the ground) are designed to be full of water and this provides not only a positive force to keep the shape of the tank, but also helps to stabilise the temperature. Another winter with the pool empty increases the risk of damage to the pool tank. A wet winter can increase the groundwater pressure acting to collapse the pool inwards. If there was to be damage to the pool tank (on the last inspection, no such damage was found) then the ability for our charity to reopen the pool would become untenable.

We are therefore pressing County Councillors and officers to either discuss the pool on the 17th July or convene an extraordinary meeting as soon as possible.

Meanwhile fundraising continues. We were very grateful for an anonymous donation of £500 via Crowdfunder on the 9th June.

It was quite a blustery day and not as hot as expected for Cottered Village Day on 22nd June where we raised £140.

On July 12th the team of trustees and volunteers were split between Braughing Wheelbarrow Race and Buntingford Family Day when it was hot hot hot! The Braughing team got the gazebo and preloved books to sell raising a total of £234.20, whilst the Buntingford team had the mock swimming pool and made a modest £51.40 from donations and a few bag sales. The pool looked inviting but many passers by were disappointed it wasn't a slip and slide! Our very own lifesaver Frazer was beaten in the rope throwing contest by Scott with a time of 11.6 seconds whilst the 'swimming races' kept several kids entertained.

Fingers crossed by the next issue of the Journal we will have some positive news about the lease, in the meantime enjoy your summer and stay safe in the water wherever you may be.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Ken McDonald, Secretary



Before the “dissolution of the monasteries”, instigated in 1536 by King Henry VIII, the Hundred Parishes area had its fair share of religious houses – monasteries, convents, abbeys and priories. The remains of some can still be seen today. Tilty Abbey is one. It was founded for Cistercian monks in 1153 and prospered mainly due to the wool trade before being dissolved. In 1220 a chapel was built outside the abbey gates for use by visitors. The chapel survives and today functions as Tilty’s parish church. Little remains of the other abbey buildings but the site can be visited; interpretation boards inform the visitor and give an artist’s impression of what the site would have looked like.

Little Dunmow Priory was founded in 1104 and was home to Augustinian monks until the Dissolution. Most of the priory church was demolished but the southern aisle survived. It is now used as the parish church.

Several of our larger hospitality venues were developed on sites of former religious houses: Hanbury Manor in Thundridge was once Poles Convent, Down Hall in Hatfield Heath evolved from a 14th-century monastery, while Leez Priory in Felsted became the home of Richard Rich through his leading role in dissolving the monasteries.

In Saffron Walden, Audley End House was built on the site of Walden Abbey, founded in the 12th century and whose lands were granted in 1538 to Sir

Thomas Audley, Henry VIII’s Lord Chancellor. The present house was built some 60 years later by his grandson Thomas Howard.

While we tend to think of religious houses as a bygone era, Pleshey has one that is relatively new and active: its House of Retreat was founded as a convent in the early 1900s and became the first Diocesan Retreat House in England in 1927.



Tilty Abbey remains



Tilty Church



Audley End House



Pleshey Retreat House



Little Dunmow parish church



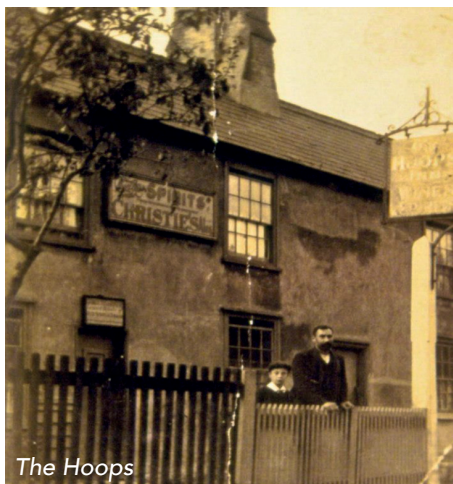
Down Hall

Pubs Part 3

This month's talk was the concluding part on the local pubs; when I started to research this subject, I wasn't aware quite how many pubs there were in the area. Buntingford and the local villages certainly knew how to consume alcohol.

Having covered the High Street this talk was on the remaining establishments around the town. The first one was The Hoops which lies in Chapel End at the rear of St Peters Church. Records show this pub existed in the 1700's and was owned by Christies Brewery of Hoddesdon. The first landlord shown on the 1851 census was William Saul who as well as his family living there had 13 lodgers staying there. By 1871 George Ansell had become the landlord and he had 19 lodgers staying in the premises. By 1881 the then landlord William Hill had no lodgers in on the night the census was taken and the next landlord Woodley Boddy listed 5 tramps as staying at the property. The last landlord was George Gardner who emigrated to Australia in 1918, although the pub was refused a licence in 1913. It converted to a private house, although it's now listed as an Airbnb.

Next on the list was The Adam and Eve. Records show this pub was there in 1735 when Maragret Hill left it to her son Thomas, a victualler. It was a partly thatched building and one of the first buildings when entering the town from the south. It boasted on a sign "In this parish here is sold the best beer." Seeing as the pub was actually in the parish of Throcking it had very little competition. In 1834 it was bought by Hawkes and Partners a Bishop Stortford brewery. In



The Hoops

1886 Henry Knight was the landlord, although the license was transferred in July 1889 to Charles Beale and then in October 1889 Randall Charles became the licensee. I thought this a bit strange and found an article in the Herts and Cambs Reporter dated 1st March 1889, in which Henry Knight was in court for stealing 4 bushels of sheep feed from Mr J C Porter. Mr Porter a farmer and maltster said that his sacks had his name on them and customers returned them to him. Mr Knight was not a customer of his so he had no right to be in possession of any of his sacks. During the trial it transpired the feed had been stolen by Mr Parker, who was Mr Porter's shepherd. He left the feed at the pub after Mr Knight had told him he needed some feed. Mr Parker had dropped them at the pub and he had received 3 pints of beer from Mr Knight which he presumed was payment for the feed. Mr Parker had already been found guilty of stealing the feed and had served 6 weeks in jail, whilst several people had given Mr Knight a



Adam & Eve

good character reference the jury found him guilty and the judge handed down a sentence of 3 months in jail with hard labour. At some time during the 1890's Benskin's brewery bought the pub, several other landlords ran the property until it finally closed its doors in May 1969. It was demolished and The Adam and Eve garage was built on the site. That too was later demolished and the site became housing known now as Rib Way.



The Jolly Sailors

Next is the Jolly Sailors or to give it its original name the Bridgefoot Sailor Beer House. Built about 1830 it was also a lodging house with a night's stay costing 4d, in when 1881 Sarah Winters was the landlady. It used to have very low beams so in about 1940 the floor was lowered to give more headroom.

This picture shows an old wooden building in front of the pub part of which can be seen on the right of the picture. It is believed the wooden building was possibly demolished in the mid 1930's. There used to be a notice in the bar which said:

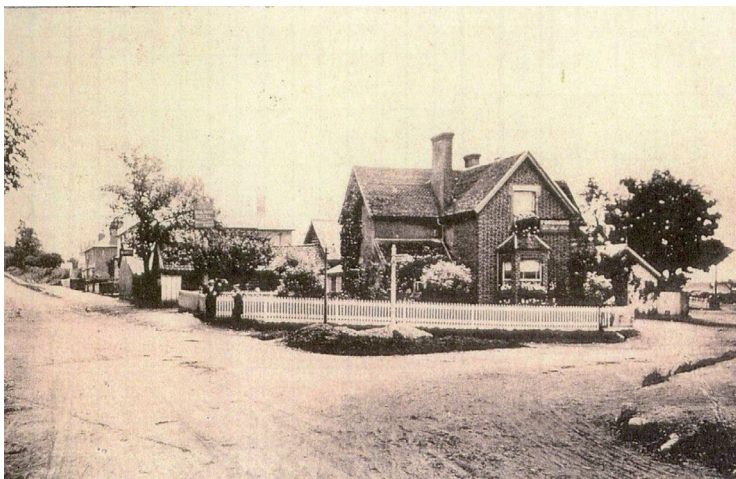
Chalk is good, say what you will,
But chalk won't pay the brewers bill,
Too much I've trusted to my sorrow,
So, pay today and trust tomorrow.

A story told by the son of a retired policeman, that his father was working a late shift and heard a commotion. He went to investigate and saw the upstairs window of the pub open and the landlord's wife jump from the window. Her nightdress caught on the window and saved her fall, but not her embarrassment as she had nothing on underneath and

BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP CONT...

the nightdress went up above her head. The pub closed about a year ago and is now a Turkish Restaurant.

The Railway Inn was built in 1865 by Fordham's Brewery of Ashwell to no doubt capitalise on the railway station. In the 1881



census Benjamin Ballard was shown as the landlord with his son running a coachbuilding business from a wooden barn at the side of the pub. I found an intriguing advert in a paper dated 1868. It advertised an auction to be held at the railway yard for Peruvian Guano. For those less well-informed Guano is bird droppings used as a fertilizer. Apparently, this was highly prized by farmers as it had a very high nitrogen content combined with phosphorus and ammonia and was very good for root crops such as turnips fed to cattle. It was imported into the UK after being shipped across the seas from Peru, although it was a dangerous cargo as not only did it explode quite frequently, it rotted the ships timbers and caused illness amongst the sailors due to the smell and gases given off by the ammonia.

In the 1960's the pub changed its name to The Shah, but it reverted to the Railway before it closed its doors some years later. It was demolished and was made into a small housing development.

The Fox and Duck in Church Street was an alehouse in 1711 but became the Fox and Duck in 1743 when it was acquired by

Joseph Pearce who ran it. Prior to that it had a different name but no records exist of what it was called. James Chamberlain took over the pub at some stage and he, his wife Elizabeth and 3 daughters, Martha, Sarah and Fanny ran the pub. James died in 1888 and his daughter Fanny and her husband William Brewington took over the licence. In 1911 William died so Fanny carried on as licensee. She left in 1935 and Walter Cole took over. He had a wooden leg and it is said when he died another local man with one leg; Bob Cawthorne asked if he could have the wooden leg. Several other people took the license over the years but during the flood in 1968 the water came up to the window sills, so the cellar was flooded.

Another pub that remains a bit of a mystery is the Two Brewers; in the 1851 census it shows as being in Great Lane (now called Church Street). It lists the landlady as Mary Gray a widow with her 5 children living with her. There seems to be no mention of this pub in later census so what happened to it, it was not the Fox and Duck as we know the landlord of that pub in 1851.

HERTS & ESSEX COUNTRY FAIR

**Brent Pelham
– 17th August
2025**

Herts & Essex Country Fair, Dog & Heavy Horse Show takes place in The Park, Brent Pelham, SG9 0AT on Sunday **17th August.**

This lovely, traditional and local Country Fair provides an entertaining and varied day out for all the family.

The beautiful Heavy Horses continue to be a highlight with a range of classes to recognise these incredible working horse breeds, which have played such an important role in agriculture over the centuries.

The Main Ring events will feature The Honourable Artillery Company Light Cavalry demonstration as well as a variety of displays including falconry, gun dogs, dog behaviour, foxhounds, bassets, beagles and a traditional parade of vintage tractors.

All dogs are most welcome at the show. Dogs and their owners will be able to enter the Family Dog Show - there is always a class for every dog and their owner. There will also be a working dog class for those traditional breeds.

In addition, your dogs' skills can be tested in the Gun Dog Scurry or in the dog obedience competition.



Local Countryman Steve Reynolds of Hamels Park, Buntingford will be the commentator as well as encouraging spectators to try their hand at traditional games such as egg throwing and the tug of war challenge.

There will be a great number of trade stands and displays, traditional games and a funfair for children. A range of refreshments will be available including village teas, bar and a food hall area.

Heavy Horse classes commence at 10.30am and the Main Ring displays at 11am.

Gates open at 10.30am.

This year we are proud to support St Mary the Virgin Church, Brent Pelham, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, Khandel Light and other local charities.

For further details The Herts and Essex Country Fair - Home | Facebook

SANDON GEARS UP FOR 1940'S REVIVAL AT ANNUAL SUMMER FETE SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

Get ready to step back in time – Sandon's much loved annual village fete returns on **Sunday 14 September** with a nostalgic twist. This year's theme is a 1940s revival promising a day full of vintage charm, wartime spirit and good old-fashioned fun for the whole family.

This annual social event which is opened by Sandon's recent bride will transport visitors back to the days of swing music, land girls and make-do-and-mend. Residents and visitors alike are encouraged to dress the part – whether it's in military uniforms, victory rolls and post-war pin up fashion.

Highlights of the day include:

- The display of military vehicles such as a Volkswagen Kubelwagen, classic cars, tractors motorbikes and a Dutch resistance bicycle.
- The parachute drop challenge – a crowd favourite where children launch their mini paratroopers (teddy bears)
- The teddy bear tombola – the cuddly favourite
- Vinted clothes rail – discover vintage and upcycled fashion pieces and accessories
- A charming 1940s tearoom with cream teas, homemade cakes and traditional recipes
- Live music
- The return of the popular dog show with 12 novelty classes to encourage dogs of all kinds to enter and compete for the fun awards such as waggiest tail and scruffiest dog alongside classic categories like handsomest dog, best puppy and



prettiest bitch. Entries on the day £2.00 per dog per class. Rosettes to the top three.

Along with the classic games, hopscotch, garden darts, marbles and tug of war there will be a range of stalls to test skills and try the luck such as at the tin can alley, tombola, bottle stall and the Grand Draw offers £100 cash as first prize as well as bountiful hampers to win.

With the abundance of summer and autumn produce, villagers make delicious homemade marmalade, chutneys, jellies and jams for the produce stall and also contribute plants, fruit and veg.

Throughout the afternoon visitors will be able to enjoy BBQ food, homemade lemonade and there's also a licensed bar for a pint or two or glass of wine. The church will also be decorated with stunning flower arrangements created by skilled arrangers from the village depicting the theme.

Entry is free with donations welcomed. All monies raised at the fete will go towards upgrading facilities at All Saints' Church, Sandon.

The fete is held on Sandon's village green and in the Village Hall, SG9 0QX, 1-4pm on Sunday 14 September 2025 and there is free parking.



The
United
Reformed
Church

CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA

www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

 URCbuntingford

Minister: Rev.Sue Fender
revsuefender@gmail.com | 01223 375 588

Secretary: Peter Godbert
buntingford.urc@talktalk.net | 01763 281 359

SERVICES at 11am / JUNIOR CHURCH IN THE HALL at 11am

August	3	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	10	Morning Worship	Richard Lewney
	17	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	24	Morning Worship	Rev Sue Fender
	31	Morning Worship	Rev David Cornick
September	7	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender

Regular Events

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

We are holding a new Ecumenical Bible Study on the first Wednesday of each month.

We will meet for lunch from 12.30 and our bible study will run from 1.00 – 2.00 pm.

Entitled Influential Women we will look at the stories of the women of the New Testament. Some only get a brief mention and we may not remember them, others have played a significant part in the life of the early church. All of them have story to tell us.

COFFEE & COMPANY

Meets every Thursday, 10:30am to 12:30pm, in the URC Church Hall. If you're elderly, living alone, new to the area, perhaps working from home, and would like some company, come along to share Coffee, Cake, Company and Chat. All are welcome. Just turn up and give a small donation for the refreshments.

Attend2Health Named Finalist in Prestigious Entrepreneur Awards. Buntingford's own Attend2Health has been named a finalist in the 2025 Allica Bank Great British Entrepreneur Awards, earning a coveted spot in the Service Industries Entrepreneur of the Year category for the East of England.

Often dubbed "The Grammy's of Entrepreneurship," the awards celebrate the UK's most innovative, resilient, and impactful business leaders. Attend2Health's shortlisting highlights not just business excellence, but a genuine commitment to patient care and community wellbeing.

"It's an incredible honour to be recognised for our mission to deliver the best possible care to our patients," says Louise Hampton, founder of Attend2Health. "This wouldn't be possible without our amazing team and supportive community—thank you!"

The awards ceremony will take place this November in London, where the national winners will be announced. In the meantime, the Attend2Health team is celebrating the recognition and continuing to do what they love: helping people feel their best.

Based on High Street in Buntingford, Attend2Health is a private medical clinic offering a wide range of services under one roof—from chiropractic and osteopathy to physiotherapy, acupuncture, reformer Pilates, massage therapy, hypnotherapy, and more. The clinic's team-based approach ensures that patients are matched with the right practitioner for their specific needs.

If you're struggling with aches and pains or simply want to explore your options for



better health, Attend2Health offers free consultations to help guide you in the right direction.

Call 01763 87 80 87 to book a free chat today or visit www.attend2health.co.uk to learn more.

We're Taking On the BCA Challenge 100!

As part of the British Chiropractic Association's 100-year anniversary, Attend2Health is proud to support the Darby Rimmer MND Foundation by joining the BCA Challenge 100.

Check in for Charity – All August!

Every time you check in to Attend2Health on Facebook during August, we'll donate £2 to the Darby Rimmer MND Foundation, up to a maximum of £1000.

As a thank you, you'll also be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 Attend2Health voucher!

Let's work together to raise money for this incredible cause — it only takes a second to check in and make a difference.

We are also looking forward to the Car Show at the beginning of September where we will have balloons for the children for a donation to the Ward Freman Community Pool Group and will have Homam Limam working in the morning providing Free Spinal Scans so he can advise on how your spine is feeling and moving. These appointments will go quickly so will need to be booked in advance.



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

UNITED BENEFICE OF ASPENDEN, BUNTINGFORD & WESTMILL

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright



OUR SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2025

Sunday 3rd	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 10th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	All Age Worship	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 17th		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 24th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
		No Service	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Morning Worship	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 31st	9:30am	Holy Communion Discussion Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11am	Morning Worship	*Edwinstree Middle School

OUR SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday 7th	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 14th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	All Age Worship	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 21st		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 27th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
		No Service	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Morning Worship	*Edwinstree Middle School

UPDATE ON REGULAR EVENTS DURING RESTORATION



Prayer for Buntingford Walk

A time of open, informal prayer for the town and local community. Held 8:15am – 8:45am weekly on Fridays.

Meeting at 8:15am outside St Peter's Church, join us for a Prayer Walk around Buntingford.



Morning Prayer

9am Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we pray together via Zoom using the Church of England Daily Prayer book, with bible readings, a reflection and a psalm. It is a quiet, gentle gathering to prepare for the day ahead. Please contact us for the link.



Monday Morning Coffee at The Crown Pub

10am – 12pm (except bank holidays). The Crown Pub has kindly offered us the space to continue offering Tea, Coffee and biscuits whilst our restoration works are being carried out. All welcome.

CONTACT DETAILS

website: www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-012BK/

email: unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com | 07484 345 027

C/O St Peter's Church, Chapel End, Buntingford, SG9 9AL

 [unitededbenefice](https://www.instagram.com/unitededbenefice)

 [UnitedBeneficeABW](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedBeneficeABW)

*Please note whilst St Peter's will be closed as restoration works are being carried out, our ministry and mission will continue. Our weekly Sunday services will relocate to **Edwinstree Middle School, Norfolk Road, SG9 9AW**. For further information about the restoration project please visit our website.



Summer Fete
Saturday 9th August
10am to 12:00pm
St Mary the Virgin Church
Westmill
Raffle * Stalls * Cake

Free Entry



Harvest Festival Services
Sunday 5th October 2025
9:30am St Mary the Virgin Westmill
9:30am St Mary's Aspenden
11:00am St Peter's Buntingford

This will be subject to Restoration Works taking place at St Peter's, please check our website for further update and our relocation



RESTORATION WORK AT ST PETER'S

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright

Work is well underway at St Peter's Church in Buntingford.

The parapet wall on the front of the church has been expertly restored. The wall needed to come down to replace the damp proof course. It has been rebuilt and looks great.

Internally, the concrete render has been removed from the walls. Concrete had commonly been used until it proved to be problematic for old buildings whose walls need to breathe. Concrete traps the moisture in the brickwork causing damp problems. The walls have now dried out and the first layer of plaster has now been applied inside. There will be two more to go before the whole church is redecorated.

In addition to the restoration work, the clock will be repaired once the church is fully dry. We believe the clock is failing due to water entering the clock casing via a redundant cable pipe. The rainwater is affecting the clock electronics.

As with all projects of this nature, there are elements that become apparent as the work progresses. One unknown was the rewiring to bring the electrics up to modern specifications. The ground floor electrics have added a significant amount to the initial planned cost. Another £9k to the initial cost of £37k.

We are very grateful to the church team and building team who are



The Brick Work



Welcome area with fresh screeding

enabling this vital work to progress. And our huge thanks to all who have supported the project to date with donations of cash and materials. We couldn't do this without you.



THE BUNTINGFORD CLASSIC



St Peter's, Buntingford

St Peter's Church

Open
for refreshments on
Saturday
6th September
10.00am to 4.00pm

Serving Coffee, Tea, Cake
and Sandwiches.

(See what's involved with St Peter's restoration)

Refreshments are free but donations would be gratefully received and go to support St Peter's Church Funds and Restoration.



St Peter's info.



This event will be subject to the Restoration Works at St Peter's, please check our website for the latest update.



What a wonderful two years we have had! The time has flown by and our school community has grown rapidly. We feel incredibly lucky to be able to work with so many fantastic families. We want to share a few events with you from our second year.



Eco School Award

We are thrilled to announce that our school has been awarded Eco-Schools Status - with merit! This fantastic achievement recognises

the dedication and hard work of our staff and pupils in making our school more sustainable. A huge well done to all the students involved, especially those who are part of our Eco Committee. We would also like to thank the many teachers and pupils who contribute through their Education for Social Responsibility (ESR) learning – your commitment to caring for our planet has made a real difference.



only for sparing the time to come and visit us, but for the incredible hard work they do every single day.



Royston Fire Service

The children were delighted to have a visit from the Royston Fire Service as part of their learning 'Help is at Hand'. They

had a fabulous afternoon learning about the equipment, the important role of the fire service and even had a turn using the hose! The whole school enjoyed seeing the fire engine parked on the playground! We are incredibly grateful to them, not



School Dog – Alfie!

This term we have had staff trained as dog mentors which has enabled our wonderful school dog Alfie to join our team.



Steel Pans Workshop

We had the wonderful 'Steel Pans In Motion' visit us and lead workshops with each class – what a brilliant musical opportunity for us all.

Road Safety

Our Year 2 pupils had some excellent training from HCC and were taught how to ride their scooters safely. Our Year 3 and 4 pupils completed their level one cycle training and EYFS were in charge of bike maintenance and repairs – what a busy time learning to keep ourselves safe!

If you want to see more about our school, our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram have regular updates which really reflect the breadth and depth of the learning at BFS.





Open Mornings

For Nursery (2 & 3 year olds) & Reception
Prospective Parents with children
starting in September 2026

- Tuesday 30th September at 9:15am
- Thursday 9th October at 9:15am
- Monday 13th October at 9:15am
- Tuesday 4th November at 9:15am
- Thursday 20th November at 9:15am
- Monday 1st December at 9:15am
- Thursday 8th January at 9:15am

Please book your place by
scanning the QR code, we
look forward to welcoming
you.



Working together to meet the needs of all our children

School Values:

- ⚙️ Respectful
- ⚙️ Determined
- ⚙️ Proud





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**Herts
Domestic
Abuse
Helpline**

08 088 088 088

hertsdomesticabusehelpline.org

Victims of domestic abuse in more rural areas are often unprotected and isolated from help. A 2019 report* into domestic abuse in Yorkshire highlighted a number of shocking facts, including that the more rural the setting, the higher the risk of harm to the victim.

If someone you know is causing you harm or distress – or if you are worried about a family member or friend – you can call or email us in confidence for help and advice on your options.

Call freephone 08 088 088 088

Monday to Friday: 9am–9pm Weekends: 9am–4pm

Or confidential email: kim@mailpurple.org

Follow us

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 [@HDA_Helpline](https://twitter.com/HDA_Helpline)

 [@hdahelp](https://www.instagram.com/hdahelp)

**Friday 8th August
Author Talk 7pm
Bunters Suite**

Free Entry but book your seat on Ticket Taylor.

As you can see from our featured poster 'Somebody's Child', this is an author talk plus.....Irish author Fiona Neary talks about growing up with 50 foster children, Suzanne Shearing shows her 20 minute film about adoption, Mary Godfrey discusses growing up in a Barnardo Home. Q & A , books on sale.

Licensed Bar.

More Dates for your diary

**Friday 19th
September 7:30pm**
Comedy Night in Bunters Suite

**Thursday 25th
September 7:30pm**
Haileybury Music Students, Westmill

Saturday 11th October 8pm
Seth Ward Hall, A Cabaret evening of Jazz with The Alex Jones Trio.

Friday 21st November
'A Christmas Carol 'with Guy Masterson!

Saturday 29th November 7:30pm
Blues & Booze Evening - details to follow

The next issue will have date of a Candlelit Carol event in December

Please use our website: buntingfordlive.org

The poster features the 'BUNTINGFORD LIVE!' logo at the top left. A red circle at the top right contains the event details: 'Friday 8th August 7pm' and 'Seth Ward Community Centre'. The main title 'SOMEBODY'S CHILD' is written in large, bold, black letters across a torn paper background. Below the title, a teal book cover for 'Parcels in the Post: Growing Up with Fifty Siblings' by Fiona Neary is shown. A small portrait of Fiona Neary is in the bottom left. Text on the poster describes the event as a look at extraordinary childhoods through film and books, featuring Fiona Neary discussing her book 'Parcels in the Post'. It also mentions a signed book sale and an interview with a former Barnardo's Child. A 'LICENSED BAR' notice states that entry is free but a QR code must be scanned for tickets. The QR code is located in the bottom right corner.



BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

David Woollcombe



WELCOME to the Buntingford Film Club 2025 / 26 SEASON



Friday September 12th at 7.30pm
Sword Inn Hand, Westmill

(Open Air Screening: doors open at 06.00 –meals, drinks and Barbecue food on sale)

Ariana Grande in **WICKED** is one of the most successful film musicals of recent years, nominated for 10 Oscars – and it won two: for Costume and Set design. These were richly deserved as the film looks spectacular!

Following the 1939 Judy Garland classic Wizard of Oz – to which it is the Prequel – into the cinemas. It now does so in two parts: what you are seeing here is an expansion of the first half of the Stage story; the second half comes out this autumn.

It is the perfect film for a late summer evening – so bring your coats, rugs and comfortable picnic chairs and relax with the Sword Inn Hand's excellent food and drink service - and enjoy a world class musical on our big open air screen.

All tickets: £8 (bring your own chairs & warm rugs: it may get wickedly cold later!)

At: www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub or at Sanctuary, 42 High St. Buntingford. Or at the Bar of the Sword Inn Hand, Westmill.



Saturday 4th October @ 7:30pm
Community Centre, Luynes Rise,
Buntingford SG9 9SG

Timothée Chalamet is Bob Dylan in:

A Complete Unknown

With 8 Oscar nominations and a Screen Actors Guild Award for Tim Chalamet, Everyone who has seen it says that Timothée Chalamet's performance as Bob Dylan along with Monica Barbaro as Joan Baez and Edward Norton as Pete Seeger are completely mesmerising. The movie goes from Bob getting out of a hitchhiked ride from Minnesota to Manhattan to where he famously "goes electric" at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965. One American critic wrote: "Every minute of A Complete Unknown is a total blast driven by dozens of his eternal songs performed, at Chalamet's insistence, live on set."

Tickets: £9.00 (to include a glass of wine or beer & snacks!)

at: www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub or in person at: SANCTUARY 42 High St. Buntingford.

Watch this space for many more WONDERFUL Films on the 1st Saturday of every month!

WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST 2025

- Friday 8th** **Bunts Live!** Author Talk p.42
- Saturday 9th** St Mary's Summer Fayre p.35
- Tuesday 12th** **Library Event:** Centenary Morning Tea p.10
- Thursday 14th** **Library Event:** Wow said the Owl p.10
- Sunday 17th** Herts & Essex Country Fair p.30
- Tuesday 26th** **Library Event:** Book Chooser and Genre Quiz p.10
- Thursday 28th** **Library Event:** Teddy Bear's Picnic p.10



SEPTEMBER 2025

- Wednesday 3rd** **Gardener's Club:** p.17
- Saturday 6th** Buntingford Car Show p.8
- Monday 8th** **U3A:** Zoo Education p.16
- Tuesday 9th** **History Society:** p.26
- Thursday 11th** **WI:** Plague houses and Pandemics p.20
- Friday 12th** **Film Club:** Wicked p.43
- Sunday 14th** Sandon Fete p.31
- Friday 19th** **Bunts Live!** Comedy Night p.42
- Thursday 25th** **Bunts Live!** Westmill Church Concert p.42
- Friday 19th** **BALA:** Coffee Morning p.46
- Saturday 27th** **Buntingford Repair Cafe:** 2-5pm at Seth Ward Community Centre p.22

LOOKING AHEAD

- 4th Oct** **Film Club:** A Complete Unknown p.43
- 11th Oct** **Bunts Live!** Jazz Evening p.42
- 21st Nov** **Bunts Live!** A Christmas Carol with Guy Masterson p.42
- 29th Nov** **Bunts Live!** Blues & Booze Evening p.42

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	WEEKENDS:
From 8.30am: Buntingford Market	7.30–9pm: Braughing Sing Community Choir in Jenyn's School Hall	Buntingford Meditation Online at 8 pm and once a month in Saint Peter's Church. To join the group the best way is to contact me via the website - www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation New meditators are welcome and guidance is given on how to meditate in the sessions.	10.30am–12.30: Coffee & Company in the URC Church Hall		Sun, 9am: Norfolk Road Playing Fields Junior Parkrun
10–11.45am: Chatter Table at the Manor House – 1st & 3rd Mondays	Buntingford Men's Shed 2 to 4pm at The Manor House contact: philricketts@btinternet.com		2–3pm: Mind & Music at Standon & Puckeridge CC		Sat, 10am: Walking Football at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields
Morning Coffee 10-12 St Peter's					
EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY:					
10.30–11am & 11:30 -12pm: Baby Rhyme Time (songs, rhymes, actions and puppets, for ages 6 weeks to 3 years)	10.30–12.30: Jigsaw & Chat club	11am: Chair Yoga with Kim	10.30 – 11am: Storytime (storytelling with props, for ages 2-5 years)	4-5pm: Lego Club for children	
11.45am–12.45pm: Forever Cycling at the Community Centre -1st & 3rd		10-11am Chatter & Natter, Buntingford Coffee Shop			
1.30 for 2pm: Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club at URC Hall		12- 4pm Braughing Shed Group, The Barn at Brook Cottage Farm Fernaux Pelham SG9 0LL contact: jacquithorne664@gmail.com or 07557 966 526			
7.30–9:30pm: Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School					

BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR THE LESS ABLE (BALA)

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MINIBUS TRIPS AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

DATE	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
AUGUST			
Thurs 7th	9.30-1.30	Biggleswade A1 Retail Park	£6.50
Wed 13th	10-2.30	St Alban's	£8
Tues 19th	9.30-1.30	Harlow (Harvey Centre/Water Gardens)	£7
Thurs 21st	11-1	Café Amigo, Fowlmere	£5
Wed 27th	10.30-2.30	Bury Lane/Dobbies	£5
SEPTEMBER			
Fri 5th	9.30-3	Southend (last seaside trip of the year)	£13
Tues 9th	9.30-12.30	Stevenage (Roaring Meg)	£5
Tues 16th	10.30-2	Saffron Walden	£6
Wed 24th	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 25th	10-3	Cambridge	£7.50
Tues 30th	10-2	Bickerdikes Garden Centre	£6
OCTOBER			
Fri 3rd	9.30-3	Bury St Edmunds	£12.50

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

To book a seat or for more information: 07870 638 480
(please be prepared to leave a message)

COFFEE MORNING

No Coffee in August

Friday 19th September, 10-11:30am

(sausage rolls, cakes, raffle)

at **URC Hall, Baldock Road**

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or call 01763 272 032

More information is available on page A26 or go to <https://buntingfordjournal.uk/>

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Parish Deacon: Paul O'Connor

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Mass - Tuesday 7.30pm
Holy Hour - Friday 5.00pm

Services at St Thomas's Puckeridge

Mass - Sunday 11.00am
Mass - Thursday 12.30pm



If you would like your child baptised, to get married, or to find out about the other sacramental programmes, please speak to the priest or deacon after one of the masses.

Further information is available on the parish website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/buntingford/

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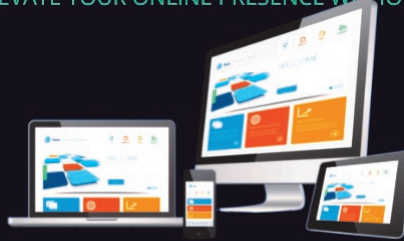
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Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service



Hertfordshire
Sensory Services Strategy
2020-2023

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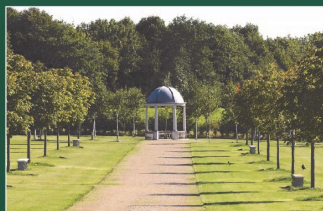
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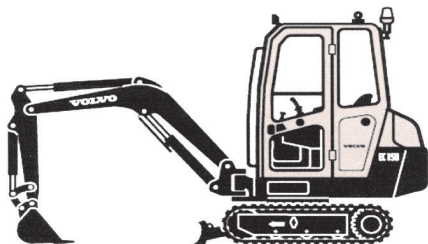


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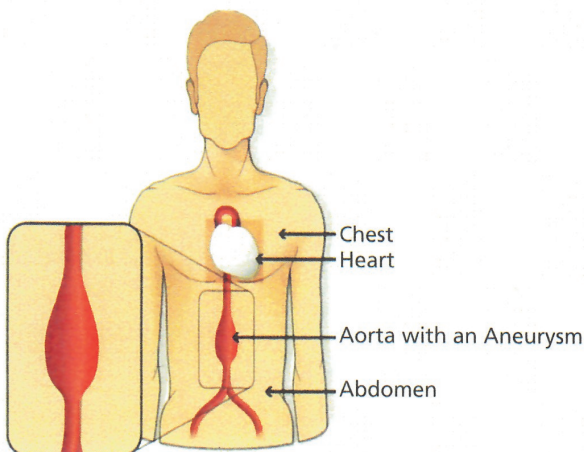
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WHO ARE WE?

We are your local amenity group, established in March 1971 initially as a conservation group covering the ancient parishes of Buntingford, Layston, Aspenden, Wyddial and Throcking.

We obtained charity status in 1993.

Our main aims are to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic and public interest within the locality and endeavour to promote high standards of planning and architecture while our archives are a source of reference on local geography and history.

Over the years, the Society has broadened its interests within the community. Whilst conservation issues will always be important to us, we now try to take a greater interest in many other local organisations and activities.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Publish the Buntingford Journal

Restored the town pump twice and Town Cage once

Initiated erection of Christmas lights in the High Street and Market Hill

Present an annual school civic award

Updated the set of Town Trails with the Discovering Buntingford booklet.

Erected a Town Sign and replaced it on a like for like basis in 2018

Installed a seat on the hill to Layston Cemetery and paid for works at the Layston Cemetery

Erected Town Gateway signs complete with Planters and currently pay for the plants

Contributed financially to the Fremam College sports hall, Buntingford Film Club, previous

Buntingford Carnivals, Summer Arts in Buntingford 2022 weekend, and gave a grant to the

Friends of the River Rib and Quin

Paid for the Local History Group competition prizes in 2023

Done River Rib and town cleans

Fitted a sign in the Police Station Community Garden and paid for new plants there in 2019.

Were actively involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan

Arranged Buntingford in Bloom competitions

Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017

In 2024 paid for roses and a plaque in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and for the Coronation of

King Charles III at the new cemetery

Hosted 2 annual Civic Day walks

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

Monitor future housing development and continue to work with local organisations for the benefit of Buntingford, including the River Rib Project. Are now sourcing a replacement plaque for The Cage. Are looking to host a third Civic Day Walk, arrange a fifth Buntingford in Bloom competition and be part of a D Day commemoration event in May

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Carers in Hertfordshire

Support Hub

Buntingford 2025

Where: Buntingford Town Council (The Manor House),
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When: Last Tuesday of each month,
10.30am-12.30pm

A community for unpaid carers

Come along and meet other family and friend carers, share your views, and find out what help is available locally.

28th Jan	25th Feb	25th Mar	29th Apr	27th May	24th Jun
29th Jul	26th Aug	30th Sept	28th Oct	25th Nov	No meeting in Dec

One of our Carer Support Advisors will provide 1:1 appointments at some meetings.

A programme of speakers will be planned as requested - find out about these on the Carer Support Hubs page on our website or contact us.

There are also monthly groups in Ware (last Friday of the month) and Royston (first Thursday of the month) contact us for details.

To contact us:

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For more information call Keith Edwards on 01763 272 032 or email advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

For one-off adverts or to advertise a specific event, contact the Journal editor, Anne Wright, email journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk. Adverts for charitable or community events are normally free of charge.

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NEW!

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Whilst we are looking for a suitable venue we are going to hold regular weekly meet ups.

Come and join us to hear about our plans, share ideas for projects and meet other 'shedders'.

A Men's Shed encourages people to come together to make, repair and repurpose, supporting projects in their local communities.

UK Men's Sheds Association

Contact Phil for more information:

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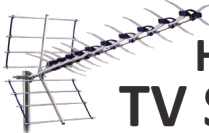
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Wednesday 7:15pm Layston School (£6 or with strength HIIT £10)
Friday 10am The Scout Hut (£6 or with Full Body Workout £10)

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