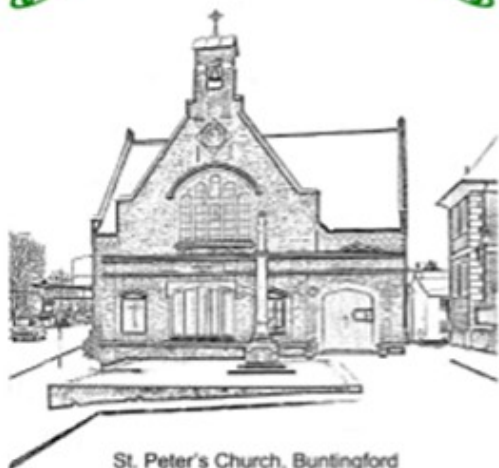


# BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

Dec. 2010 - Jan. 2011  
Volume 35, No. 10



St. Peter's Church, Buntingford

Season's Greetings & Best  
Wishes for the New Year



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# USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

<b>POLICE STATION:</b>	Baldock Road, Buntingford Non-emergency 0845 33 00 222
<b>Saturday Police surgeries:</b>	Every Saturday, 2:00pm – 4:00pm at Buntingford Police station
<b>GAS:</b>	Emergency (gas leaks) telephone 0800 111 999
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	Emergency (power loss) telephone 0800 7838 838
<b>WATER (Three Valleys):</b>	Emergency telephone 0800 376 5325
<b>DOCTORS:</b>	<b>The Medical Centre</b> – White Hart Close Telephone 01763 271362 (24 hours) <b>Orchard Surgery</b> – Baldock Road Telephone 01763 272410 & 272411 (after hours)
<b>FAMILY PLANNING:</b>	Clinic every Wednesday 6:30pm – 8:30pm at The Medical Centre. Telephone 01763 271763
<b>B A S H (Buntingford Action For Social Help):</b>	Providing transport for hospital/doctors appointments, telephone Jane Winter 01763 271484
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RACE, HATE or RAPE CRIME:</b>	Confidential Information Help-line, telephone 01992 554440 (in an emergency, dial 999)
<b>LOCAL COUNCILS:</b>	<b>East Herts District Council</b> – telephone 01279 655261 Housing – telephone 01279 714714 Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852 <b>Buntingford Town Council</b> – telephone 01763 272222 <b>Hertfordshire Highways</b> – telephone 01438 737320
<b>BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:</b>	Telephone: 01438 737333 (enquiries) 01438 737373 (renewals) Mondays: 09:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 18:00 Tuesdays: 09:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 18:00 Wednesdays: CLOSED ALL DAY Thursdays: 09:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 18:00 Fridays: 09:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 18:00 Saturdays: 09:00 – 13:00 CLOSED
<b>BUNTINGFORD CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:</b>	The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford Telephone 0844 848 9700 Mondays: 10:00am – 4:00pm Tuesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm Wednesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm  Telephone advice available Mon – Thurs, 10:00am – 4:00pm
<b>HOUSEHOLD WASTE SITE:</b>	Watermill Industrial Estate, Aspenden Road Open: Mondays – Fridays 5:00pm – 8:00pm Saturday & Sunday 10:00am – 1:00pm

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

# WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & JANUARY?

## MONDAYS

- 10:00am – 12:00am Buntings Tumble at Cotteder Village Hall. Contact 01763 272868.
- 10:00am – 12 noon Multi Activity Group at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Dave Austin on 01763 272066.
- 10:30am – 12 noon Iyengar Yoga Classes at URC Hall – term time only. Contact Jen Harris on 01920 821288.
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm Senior Citizens Club at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Bingo and an afternoon of socialising. For more information contact Jeanne Clark on 01763 274631
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 7s training, Norfolk Road. Andy on 07941 078069.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Shotokan Karate at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Peter Deacon on 01462 642922.
- 7:00pm Play Bridge for experienced players at Buntingford Bowls Club. £2.50 per session. Contact Gwen on 01763 272775 or Eddie on 07976 896718.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm Pilates at Benson Hall. Contact Jacqui on 01763 274681.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Abs (body toning) session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm – 9:45pm Buntingford & District Youth Club for young people aged 13 – 19 years, held at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Nick Howell on 07789 927 64 or email [nick.howell@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:nick.howell@hertscc.gov.uk).
- 8:15pm Circuit Training at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01920 823677.

## TUESDAYS

- 9:15am – 10:15am Badminton at Seth Ward Community Centre – £2.50 per session. Contact 01763 273712.
- 9:30am – 11:00am Tuesday Toddlers at URC Hall. £1.50 includes drink and snack. Term time.
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm Leapfrogs Pre-school (Gt Horstead). Cookery sessions for ages 2 to 5 years, £6.75 per session. It is not necessary to be attending the pre-school. Booking is required. Please call 01763 289942. Term time only.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 12s Blues training, Norfolk Road. Shaun on 07836 214129.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 14s training, Norfolk Road. Frank on 07768 078167.
- 7:00pm – 8:15pm Grade 5 Ballet Lessons, Layston School. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.

## WEDNESDAYS

- 10:30am BALFF (Starting 26/1/11) is Wartime Cinema and its Legacy and our tutor is the very popular Stephen Barnard. Phone 01763 72584. See page 19.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 10s training, Norfolk Road. Martin on 07834 318518.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Circuit Training for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01799 550190.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 11s training, Norfolk Road. Sean on 07860 365681.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm Body Circuit at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01799 550190.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Boxercise/Tae Bo session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.

# WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & JANUARY?

## WEDNESDAYS

8:00pm – 9:00pm Cougars Under 16s training, Norfolk Road. Mike 01763 271750.

8:00pm Horizon Divers at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.

## THURSDAYS

9:30am – 11:00am Little Ones Mother & Toddler Group at Scout Hut. Contact Jean on 01763 272081 or Clare on 01763 273019.

9:30am – 11:30am Mother & Toddler Group at Anstey Village Hall (next to the school). Range of activities including arts & crafts, music, outdoor activities, small world play, trikes & bikes & role play. All welcome. Term-time only. £2.50 per child (tea & coffee, snacks & juice included).

11:00am Keep fit for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01799 550190.

1:00pm – 3:00pm Leapfrogs Pre-school (Gt Hornead). Art sessions for ages 18 months to 5 years, £6.75 per session. Alternatively parents may stay with their child 1:30pm–2:30pm for £4 a session. (Under 2s must be accompanied by a parent/carer). It is not necessary to be attending the pre-school, booking required. Phone Kim Semple on 01763 289942.

2:15pm – 2:45pm 'Story-time' for under 5s at Buntingford Library. Singing, stories, a sweet or biscuit and a picture to colour.

4:30pm – 6:30pm 14 to 18 year olds drama workshops with Stagefrights Theatre (term-time only) at URC Hall, Baldock Road contact Dave on 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk

5:00pm – 6:00pm Cougars Under 9s training at Norfolk Road. Kevin 07930 192079.

5:30pm – 10:00pm Buntingford Swimming Club at Ward Freman Pool. Contact Alan Bowell on 01920 821722.

6:00pm – 7:00pm Cougars Under 8s training at Norfolk Road. Matt 07814 838460.

6:15pm – 7:00pm Jazzercise Class at Seth Ward Community Centre.

8:00pm – 10:00pm Badminton Club at Seth Ward Community Centre.

## FRIDAYS

9:30am – 10:30am Badminton at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.

10:00am – 11:00am Baby & toddler 'Rhyme Time' at Seth Ward Centre. £1 for first child, 50p for additional children & adults to include tea & coffee. Contact Mandy Sims at Bramble Hill Children's Centre 07904 955141 while the organisers of Rhyme Time are on maternity leave.

5:00pm – 6:00pm Cougars Under 15s training at Norfolk Road. Darren 07764 573696.

5:30pm – 8:00pm Friday Project, Buntingford & District Youth Club for young people aged 13 – 19 years. A range of activities, held at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Nick Howell on 07789 927 64 or email nick.howell@hertscc.gov.uk.

6:00pm – 7:00pm Cougars Under 10s Stripes training at Norfolk Rd. Dave 07836 231915.

6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 12s Whites training at Norfolk Rd. Dave 07786 933963.

# WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & JANUARY?

## SATURDAYS

9:00am – 12:30pm Ballet Classes at Layston School for children aged 3 – 18 years. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.

12:00pm – 2:00pm 14 to 18 year olds drama workshops with Stagefrights Theatre.

2:15pm – 4:15pm 6 – 15 year olds drama workshops with Stagefrights Theatre.

4:15pm – 6:15pm 6 – 16 year olds dance workshops with Stagefrights Theatre.

All Stagefrights workshops are term-time only, at United Reform Church Hall, Baldock Road. Contact Dave on 01438 232181 or email [stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk)

2:00pm – 4:00pm Police Surgery at Buntingford Police Station, Baldock Road.

## MONDAY – FRIDAY

Buntingford Heritage Centre in the foyer of the Manor House. A display of Buntingford's past, open 9:00am – 5:00pm.

# OUT AND ABOUT IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

## LOOKING AHEAD

### December

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Isabel Hospice Lights of Love and Buntingford Late Night Shopping.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 7pm for 7:30pm start, Buntingford Scout Group Christmas Quiz night. See page 14.

7:30pm Candlelit Concert, The Fairhaven Singers at St Mary's Church, See page 14.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> –  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Santa Claus is coming to town – see page 13 for full details.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm – 5:30pm Children's Christmas party at Cotteder Village Hall. See page 15 for details.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> –  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Buntings Out of School Club at Layston School. For more details, phone 07880 914 511.

## EDITORIAL

This is the final edition for 2010 as it covers both December 2010 and January 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every contributor who have sent in their articles which make up this publication. Forty-four or forty-eight pages are a lot to fill for each edition and without your efforts it would be very thin on the ground. It's also a lot to proof read so a big 'Thank you' goes to Debbie Lemay too, as she does a great job! Don't forget, if you would like to see something different in the Journal, or feel that you have something to contribute that would interest others, please let me know!

I have two apologies to make for errors in the November edition. Firstly I owe the Ramblers a huge apology as I put in last 2009 dates in the November issue by mistake. I'm so sorry and really don't know how that happened but just proves that I am only human after all. The second 'sorry' goes to BALFF (Buntingford Adult Learning for Fun) as I inserted their current course on a Monday instead of a Wednesday in the What's On page. I hope that these mistakes haven't caused too many problems and I'll endeavour to do better in future.

As the holiday season is nearly upon us, take five minutes to think about people who are in a worse situation than you are. It may be a very happy time for you but there are lots of people who will be missing loved ones, whether they have left this world or fighting for us somewhere else. For those people who are on their own over the festive period, especially the elderly, drop in to say hello or offer some company.

**Aliya Chowney**

**Deadline for the February Journal is  
12noon on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

# Seasons Greetings One and All

Thanks go to Debbie Lemay for proof reading

### **Copy and diary entries:**

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email: [aliyachowney@btinternet.com](mailto:aliyachowney@btinternet.com)

**Advertising enquiries:** Bob Jackson (01763 271463) email: [henryjack@msn.com](mailto:henryjack@msn.com)

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Aliya

by email

It was in 1907 that Lord Baden-Powell started the Boy Scout Movement and at a rally at Crystal Palace in 1909 the girls showed up and demanded the same, so in 1910 the Girl Guide Movement began.

This year, 2010, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, the Senior Section, their Leaders and the Trefoil Guild have been celebrating 100 years of Guiding.

At precisely ten minutes past eight on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> October this year – 2010, 2010, 2010 –members of the Guide Movement all over the world renewed their promise.

I was very fortunate to be invited to the Buntingford Promise Renewal at the Hertfordshire Guide HQ in Cottedred by Karen Wagstaff, the District Commissioner.

It was a lovely evening with a full moon, which was a great help to all the Brownies in their hunt to find the sweets that had been thrown around the edge of the field earlier that afternoon, while the Rainbows stayed inside playing games.

Everyone then gathered round the campfire for a traditional campfire singsong led by Brownie Guider Gill Walshe.

This was followed with the Guides serving hot sausages and rolls before we all stood round the campfire to renew our Promise on the dot of 20.10.

Karen was one of my Brownies, many moons ago, and I would like to thank her for inviting me to this very special event. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Here's to their next 100 years.

**Jean Cook**

Brownie Guider 1<sup>st</sup> Buntingford Brownies 1967 – 1982

Brownie Guider 3<sup>rd</sup> Buntingford Brownies 1977 – 1982



*St. Mary Aspenden*  
*Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December*  
*7.30pm for 7.45pm*

*A Celebration of Carols by Candlelight*  
*Nine Lessons and Carols*

*(Ticket only – available free from Clive Alexander Tel: 271012)*

**Late Night Shopping**  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Once again this year the first Friday of the month of December will mark the annual Lights of Love ceremony and Late Night Shopping evening.

The Lights of Love ceremony will take place in the grounds of The Manor House at 5:50pm with the lighting of the Lights of Love Tree in aid of the Isabel Hospice. Traditional Carols are sung in this special ceremony.

The High Street will be closed to traffic from 4:00pm to 8:00pm to enable the towns' people to enjoy visiting stalls selling Christmas gifts and Fayre. There will be a fun fair, Santa and his sleigh with Christmas music and lights. For those looking for sustenance there will be a hog roast and barbecue – mulled wine and mince pies will also be available.

Make sure that you don't miss this traditional curtain raiser to the Christmas festivities – come along with family and friends and enjoy what promises to be a great evening.

**To book a stall call 01954 253535**

**– but be quick**



**Buntingford Dramatic Society**

Presents

**HANSEL & GRETEL**

Our latest "Panto" for February 2011

Tickets will be on sale at Kirkham's the Newsagent early December. More details will be posted in the local press and on posters so keep your eyes open!

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[www.buntingforddrama.org](http://www.buntingforddrama.org)

## BUNTINGFORD W.I.

Our Annual Meeting in November was also our 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday and we celebrated with Bucks Fizz and cake. Twelve members make up our new Committee and Jackie Thomas will be our President again.

Over the past year we have enjoyed speakers on a variety of subjects including graphology, shoplifting, hospital chaplaincy, perfume, blindness and local history. We have attended county meetings on pharmacy, St George's Day, petanque and scrabble, and there have been outings to Houghton Hall, a London Tour, the Gordon Craig Theatre and a day trip to the WI Denman College, near Oxford. We also enjoyed a summer supper party and raised money for the Isabel Hospice with a Care4aCuppa coffee morning. During Community Pride week our members made sandwiches every day for the helpers' lunches and we also have a WI representative on the New Town Plan Committee.

The highlight of our year was our entry in the Buntingford Carnival as Welsh women, with stovepipe hats, red crochet shawls and checked aprons. We didn't win a cup but we made the front page of the local paper!

We don't usually have speakers at our Annual Meeting but this year was the exception and we were given an insight into the UK's biggest security challenge since the Second World War – the 2012 Olympic Games and Para Olympic Games. Security measures are already in place at what is described as the largest construction site in Europe and all construction workers have been checked. Some 9 million spectators are anticipated at various venues including the Olympic Park at Stratford and we were told that security must be good but low key.

Our next meeting is at 7:45pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December at the United Reformed Church Hall and Veronica Easley will be talking about "A Christmas Visit". Visitors are most welcome at all our meetings. With our membership now at 38, we look forward to another good year in 2011.

**Val Hume**

### Janet's Watercolour Painting Classes

**6-week courses**

**Mondays 16<sup>th</sup> Jan – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011**

**Tuesdays 17<sup>th</sup> Jan – 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2011**

**10:00am – 12:30pm**

**£65 for the course**

**All materials provided**



Japanese Garden  
Cottered  
Nr Buntingford, SG9 9PZ

**Places limited. Telephone Janet Westerman 01763 281316 (evenings)**



# **Buntingford Civic Society**

## **Have a voice**

### **EAST HERTS LDF CONSULTATION**



The cynic says "why bother – it's all set up already". In the belief that the cynic is wrong, your committee have worked hard to respond meaningfully to the consultation process. We will monitor what happens and report back. Below is our response to the search for a vision of Buntingford in 2031. It is built on that proposed by East Herts Council in their recent core strategy document.

*'Buntingford will function as a vibrant rural service centre and market town meeting the day to day needs of its residents and those living within the large rural hinterland of the northern part of East Herts. Accessibility to neighbouring towns and villages will have been improved.*

*The town centre will have been protected and enhanced, especially its range of small shops and the amount of open space increased. The former Sainsbury's Depot will have been redeveloped providing a mix of housing, employment and community uses.*

*Additional housing will be well connected to the town and encourage walking and cycling and have been provided to help meet the needs of local people and families wishing to move to the town. Growth will have been accommodated without compromising the setting of the town within the wider landscape.*

*New housing development will have been achieved that provides a mix of housing densities suiting the aspirations of a broad socio-economic group of people who will also be actively involved in determining the town's future development. Sufficient environmentally enhancing green space will have been allowed between new and established housing to avoid overcrowding and to help with the integration of new arrivals in-line with the above, a sports facility serving all ages within the town and the northern part of East Herts will have been developed on the Sainsbury site. Sufficient green space for allotments and burial ground will have been retained.*

*Planning for the area will be the responsibility of a district council that, on the basis of an agreed and approved local planning framework, upholds the vision against the pressure of developers.'*

In challenging times we wish all Civic Society members and Journal readers a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

**BCS Executive Committee**

Check out our website at <http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk>

**While every attempt is made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of information contained in the Buntingford Journal, the editor assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions in this publication.**

# Santa Claus is coming to town!



Santa will hopefully set off from 6pm onwards

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Monks Walk  
Longmead

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Freman Drive  
Chequers Close  
Vicarage Road  
Honey Lane  
Bridge End  
Porters Close  
Wyddial Road  
Bridewell Close

## Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Bovis estate  
Nutslip

## Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> – Santa is resting

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December (5pm start)

Station Road  
Rib Way  
Snells Mead  
Baldock Road  
Fairfield

## Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Greenways  
Tylers Close  
The Pyghtle  
The Folly  
Bowling Green Lane  
Bowlers Mead  
White Hart Close

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Norfolk Road	Paddock Road
High Street South	The Causeway
Church Street	Archers
Dell Spring	Sunny Hill
The Tannery	Riverside
Hare Street Road	

## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

London Road  
Layston Meadow  
Owles Lanes  
St Frances Court  
Downhall Ley

Raising money for the scout hut building fund



# Buntingford Scout Group Christmas Quiz night

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

**Benson Hall (Opposite the Co-op)**

**7pm for a prompt 7:30pm start**

**£6 per person including Ploughman's**



**Licensed Bar**



**Teams of up to 8 people**



**Tickets from Jo McNamara on 01763 273459**

## **Candlelit Concert**

**Music for Advent and Christmas**  
with carols for audience participation

**The Fairhaven Singers**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December – 7:30 pm**

**St Mary's Church, Standon**

**TICKET PRICES**

**£12 Premium; £10 Standard**

**Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073**

**[www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk](http://www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk)**

*Braughing Music Society*





# BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

*A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL*

The Youth Council held another successful "Mutual Respect" event, when over 30 Senior Citizens joined the Youth Councillors for a Tea and Quiz Afternoon.

You may have noticed that the fence surrounding the Multi Games Area is becoming decidedly dilapidated. We have held off replacing the fence because the football clubs have been lobbying the Town Council for a replacement surface. We are now in discussion with the clubs and have decided to make temporary repairs to the fence until a decision on the future of the area is made.

Town Councillors have been carefully studying the budget proposals for 2011/2012 and are doing their very best to maintain last year's levels, without compromising any of the Town Council owned facilities.

The New Year will bring the prospect of local elections and we will be passing on information on how to become a Town Councillor. I urge local people to consider standing in the forthcoming elections and help us to take the Town forward in these very difficult times.

All councillors and staff would like to wish the people of Buntingford a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

**Jill Jones MILCM**  
Town Clerk

<b>Town Council Meetings for December &amp; January</b>	
<b>December</b>	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Amenities Committee – 7:30pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Committee – 7:30pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Resources Committee – 8:00pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Committee – 7:30pm
<b>January</b>	
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Amenities Committee – 7:30pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Committee – 7:30pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Resources Committee – 8:00pm
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Committee – 7:30pm
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Full Council – 8:00pm

All meetings will be held at The Manor House  
All members of the public are welcome to attend  
Office hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm, closed Fridays

**Tel: 01763 272222**

email: [btc.manorhouse@btclick.com](mailto:btc.manorhouse@btclick.com) – website: [www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk)



# CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BALDOCK ROAD BUNTINGFORD

<b>MINISTER:</b>	Rev Duncan Goldie	<b>SECRETARIES:</b>	Gwen & John Edwards
	The Manse		'Great Stones'
	Meeting Lane		Hare Street
	Melbourn		Buntingford
	CambS SG8 6AN		Herts SG9 0AD
	Tel: 01763 260747		Tel: 01763 289460

## MORNING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00am

December	5	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	12	Morning Worship	Janet Bottoms
	19	Junior Church Service	Junior Church
	19	Carols at Christ Church at 6.00pm	
	25	Christmas Day Service at 10.00am	Rev Duncan Goldie
	26	No Service at Christ Church	
January	2	Morning Worship	Maureen Kendall
	9	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
	16	Morning Worship	Rev Derek Newton
	23	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
	30	Morning Worship	Jeffrey Barham
February	6	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Janet Bottoms

**Junior Church** meets at 11:00am every Sunday during term time and welcomes all children and young people.

**The Bright Hour** – a time for fellowship with prayers, hymns, activities and occasional visiting speakers – meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm in the Church Hall.

**Coffee and Company**, organised by 'Churches Together', is held in the Church Hall every Thursday morning from 10:30am for anyone wanting fellowship and time for a chat.

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

Visit our website at [www.buntingfordurc.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordurc.freeserve.co.uk)

## ST. RICHARD OF CHICHESTER

Catholic Church

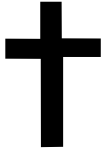
3 Station Road, Buntingford  
Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Father Ian Dickie

**HOLY MASS** is celebrated each:  
Sunday at 9:30am and 6:30pm  
Saturday at 6:00pm at Furneux Pelham  
Holy Days at 10:00am and 8:00pm  
Weekdays at 9:15pm

**CONFESSIONS** are each Saturday from 10:30am – 11.15am





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

**Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072**

Administrator Mrs Jenny Hill – Telephone 01763 271552 email [jenny.unitedbenefice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jenny.unitedbenefice@hotmail.co.uk)

There is a full and varied pattern of worship across the three churches

St. Peter's in Buntingford has a more contemporary style

St. Mary's in Aspenden has a more traditional style

St. Mary the Virgin in Westmill has a more liturgical style

*Everyone is welcome at any of the churches*

**Services for December 2010 & January 2011**

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	10:00am	St. Mary's – Aspenden	Christingle Family Service
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	All Age Family Worship
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St. Mary's – Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Holy Communion
	3:00pm	Nevett's Care Home	Christmas Carols
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:45am	St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill	Said Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Family Praise
	6:00pm	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Carol Service
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 for	St. Mary's – Aspenden	Carols by Candlelight (tickets only available free from Clive Alexander tel 271012)
Christmas Eve Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Carols around the Crib
	4:00pm	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Carols around the Crib
	5:30pm	St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill	Carols around the Crib
	11:15pm	St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill	First Communion of Christmas
	11:15pm	St. Peter's – Buntingford	First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	St. Mary's – Aspenden	Family Christmas Communion
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Shortened Holy Communion (said)
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:15am	St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill	Sung Eucharist
		St. Mary's – Aspenden CLOSED	
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	All Age Family Worship
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St. Mary's – Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Holy Communion
	3:00pm	Nevett's Care Home	Songs of Praise
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:45am	St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill	Said Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Family Praise
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:15am	St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill	Morning Worship
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St. Mary's – Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Holy Communion
	9:15am	St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Morning Worship

**A Warm Welcome awaits you at all of our services  
 May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you throughout the coming year**



# EDWINSTREE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our Action Aid week proved to be very successful with an impressive £1124.00 raised for our sponsored children in India, Stephenraj and Seema. Well done to all involved.



A big "thank you" must also go to everyone who sponsored children in our recent pilgrimage to raise funds for a new school mini bus. The magnificent total was over £5,000.00. This, added to the money already raised by the Edwinstreet School



Association, enabled us to take delivery of a 16 seater Ford Transit minibus, which will be used to take pupils to various sporting fixtures as well as field trips and other outings

We are also grateful to everyone who bought books from the recent Scholastic Book Fair. The commission earned has enabled us to provide many



lovely books to enhance all of our libraries. Mrs Chipperfield, leader of Art, took a group of Year 7 winners to Place House Hall in Ware for the presentation of the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust Art and Photographic Competition. The Barnardo's concert



was a once in a lifetime opportunity for Year 6 choir members to sing at the Royal Albert Hall. All pupils were a credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of performing at such a renowned venue.

The ESA's 'Pampered Chef' cookery evening, held while pupils enjoyed a disco, was attended by over forty people who saw our own Mr Howells assist in the preparation of a range of culinary delights.

School sports teams continue to do well in various activities, with wins against Leventhorpe for Years 7 and 8 boys in rugby. The district cross county held in Bishop's Stortford also saw Jamie Phillpott and Natalia Willis in medal positions, with Year 7 boys coming second overall.



Rehearsals are well under way for a 'Celebration of Christmas' being held on the 14th and 15th December. Some highlights being planned are choir, orchestra and audience items, together with seasonal refreshments. Tickets are available from the school office. After such a busy Autumn term, we wish pupils and staff a restful Christmas break.

**Diane George**

# **BUNTINGFORD ADULT LEARNING FOR FUN**

(formerly WEA)

Our new course starting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 is **Wartime Cinema and its Legacy** and our tutor is the very popular **Stephen Barnard**.

Cinema-going reached a peak during World War Two that has never been bettered – but what did we as a nation flock to see and what did war-time films tell us about ourselves and what Britain and her allies were fighting for? To what extent did war-time films create 'instant history', defining how events such as the Blitz and the Battle of Britain would be perceived?

This is a course about how the film industry kept the British people diverted and motivated during World War Two and what kind of long term impact the war years had on British cinema. Using plenty of film extracts, we will look at how the propaganda effort was channeled through the production of feature films and documentaries and their contribution to the war effort and how audiences responded to them. We will consider how the issues and tensions of wartime life were reflected in the films of the time and the extent to which the war itself changed film-making and popular taste in general.

We meet at the Seth Ward Community Centre, Luynes Rise, Buntingford. The Wednesday morning lectures start at 10:30am, but we have coffee beforehand.

Everyone will be made very welcome. If you would like any further details please phone **Julia on 01763 272584** or **Joan on 01763 273341**.

## **ASPENDEN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE**

**Annual Quiz Night – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**Benson Hall, Buntingford**

**7.15 for 7.30pm**

**Tickets £7 to include Ploughman's supper**

**Phone 01763 271137**

**Buntingford Journal is published by, but is editorially independent of, Buntingford Civic Society. It is delivered free to members of the Civic Society or it can be purchased from:**

**A CUT ABOVE • BASRAS SUPERMARKET • CO-OP SUPERMARKET  
COUNTRY FLOWERS • DELISSIMO • FLUTTERBY'S  
HARE STREET SHOP & FILLING STATION • KIRKHAMS • MARK DOEL  
PEARCE'S FARM SHOP • PIGGOTTS • QUILLER BOOKS • WESTMILL TEA ROOM**

# Layston Pre-School and Nursery

We are holding two open sessions for parents and children to view our Nursery



**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010**  
**9:30am – 11:30am**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011**  
**9:30am – 11:30am**



Layston Pre-School and Nursery runs within a classroom at Layston First School in Buntingford. We provide high quality care and education in a happy and stimulating environment, offering children the opportunity to learn through play and a wide range of structured activities, guided by the Early Years Foundation Stage birth to five. We offer ratios of **1:6** in our Nursery class. We have very close contact with Layston First School and have an **excellent transition** procedure for children entering the reception class.

Layston Pre-School and Nursery offer:

<b>Nursery sessions</b>	<b>9:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>
<b>Lunch club</b>	<b>12:00pm – 13:00pm</b>
<b>Pre-school sessions</b>	<b>12:45pm – 15:15pm</b>

If you require wrap around care children can stay for all the sessions during the day. The term after your child turns 3 you can access 15 hours of funded sessions. This can be used in a flexible manner across the day if required.

Please come and view our facilities, meet the staff and see how we provide care and education. If the open sessions are not at a convenient time for your circumstances, please ring **Maggie Ball** on **01763 271235** to arrange to view the Nursery at a suitable time for you.


We look forward to meeting you.

\* \* \* \* \*

**3rd Annual Christmas Flower  
Demonstration**

9<sup>th</sup> December 2010 7:15pm – 9:00pm

\* The Bury  
\* (by Sainsbury's Depot)  
\* £10 including Raffle  
\* Tel: (01763) 271655

  
**crazydaisy**

\* \* \* \* \*



# Buntingford Swimming Club



After completing another full year of galas and leagues, the Club held their Championships on the last week of October and the first week of November. There was a very good entry once again, with just under 400 swims due to take place. At the final count there were just over 360 completed, which was a very good show by the swimmers. There were quite a few new entries again this year, thanks to the continuing influx of new members joining during the past 12 months.

Six new Club Championships records were set during the competition. They were set by Aimee Norman in the Girls under 16 – 100 metres Freestyle and Ind. Medley events; Philippa Watkins in the Girls under 14 – 50 metres Butterfly event and by Ben Johnson in the Boys Open 100 metres Freestyle and Ind. Medley events. Not to be overshadowed by his sister, Robbie Norman also set new figures for the Boys Under 14 – 50 metres Butterfly event.

Numerous personal best times were recorded by the swimmers over the two weeks, and the Club were congratulated again by the outside officials on the standard being shown by swimmers, which is down to the hard work and commitment not only by the children but also by the teachers and coaches involved.

## ***Club Champions and runners-up for each age group as follows:***

	Champion	Runner up
Girls under 10	Aoife Power	Erin Graham
Girls under 12	Lottie Riley	Liberty Platten-Hawes
Girls under 14	Philippa Watkins	Sophie Parslow
Girls under 16	Aimee Norman	Charlotte Johnson
Girls Open	Jessika Dalby-Randall	Emily Burns
Boys under 10	Parth Nakum	Jack Fitzgerald
Boys under 12	Joshua Godbert	Isaac Perry
Boys under 14	Rhodri Hughes	Robbie Norman
Boys under 16	Nick Dickens	Adam Sheaham
Boys Open	Stewart Smith	Ben Johnson

## ***In the Parent and Child relay races the champions for 2010 were:***

Under 10	Bethany and Peter Godbert
Under 12	Kimberley and Paul Giobb
Under 14	Megan and Stewart Smith
Under 16	Matt and Steve Coote.

By the time this report has been published, the Club would have held their Annual General Meeting. The Committee have all agreed to stand again for 2011, which is very good news indeed. A full report about the AGM will be in the next issue of the Journal in 2011, and will include the names of the winners of the special awards made annually by the Club.

It just remains for the Committee to thank everybody who has helped the Club in any way during the past 12 months and to wish all Club members a peaceful, happy and prosperous new year – may it be a successful 2011 for all concerned.

**Alan Bowell**

## BUNTINGFORD CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

Telephone 0844 848 9700

Mondays 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesdays 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesdays 10:00am – 1:00pm

*Closed Thursdays and Fridays*



### Harassment for previous occupier's debts

**Q. Since moving house recently I have been getting letters and phone calls, almost daily, from debt collection firms chasing money apparently owed by the previous occupier. I've tried explaining they've got the wrong person but they don't take any notice. What can I do to stop this?**

**A.** The first thing to remember is that if it's not your debt, you aren't liable for it. You can't be sued or made to pay, and debt collectors have no power to come into your home.

#### **What you can do:**

- Ignore them, they can't do anything.
- Contact the company pursuing the debts in writing and explain that the person they are chasing for payment no longer lives at this address and has no connection with you.
- Point out in the letter that harassment is a criminal offence and that you will take further action if it does not stop.
- If the debt is in the previous occupant's name and they have left a forwarding address you could pass this information on, (it's their debt not yours!) but you're not under any duty to do so.
- Use a call-barring service or change your phone number and go ex-directory.
- Keep a record of any harassment, including dates, times and content of any telephone calls, and keep copies of all correspondence. Report the matter to the police if debt collectors threaten or intimidate you.
- Write a formal letter of complaint to the debt collector and original creditor, if you know who it is.
- If this still doesn't work, take your complaint further to the trade body they belong to (the Finance and Leasing Association; Credit Services Association or the Consumer Credit Trade Association all have Codes of Practice for their members).
- Speak to trading standards – they may have other complaints about same company – and inform the Office of Fair Trading, which regulates debt collection.
- Don't suffer in silence. Contact your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau – for contact details go to [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk). An adviser can intervene on your behalf with the company and help you to complain.



## Millfield First and Nursery School



October has flown by with a number of activities taking place at school. On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October our school joined other local schools at a Tug Rugby Festival at Edwinstree School. All the children had a great time and played with a very sporting attitude.



Diwali day

As we return from our half term holiday we are already busy; Key Stage 2 are learning about France whilst Key Stage 1 are investigating life in Spain. The Foundation Stage children have been learning about Diwali; they sampled Indian food, drew mehndi hand patterns and learnt the story of Rama and Sita.

Later this month we are holding a Book Fair at which our children and their parents will have the chance to purchase books.

On 'Children in Need Day' the School Council is arranging an event to raise money for this charity. Each class will be running a stall at the fair which will be held on the afternoon of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> in the School Hall. Each class will come along and have fun spending their money trying their hand at such things as 'Guess the name of the Teddy' and 'Splat the Rat!'

The PTA are also busy preparing for our usual Christmas Fair which will take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. Lots of fun activities will be taking place and of course Father Christmas will be visiting!

The Foundation Stage will be producing a Christmas Play and Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2 will also perform a play for their parents. These events are always very well attended by our parents and the children really enjoy the event. We will also hold a Carol Service on the last morning of term, Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to know more about our school please visit our website [www.millfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk) or contact the school on 01763 271717.

**Kathy Willett** – Headteacher

# Two Sides To Every Story

(Part 15)

Martin & Mandy

Today we're going back for some history – not too far back – so we're going to tinker with names. You can't always believe everything you read in the papers and we would hate to repeat an accusation made by a paper (even if it is 130 years ago) only to find that someone's great grandfather was actually a fine upstanding citizen and not a drunken reprobate as he had been presented!

In our investigations about Layston Church we had cause to look back through the archives at Hertfordshire's record office and we stumbled, by accident, across a series of articles entitled "Alleged Misconduct by a Hertfordshire Clergyman" published from the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1882 onwards.

The Reverend Butt, who came to St Bartholomew's as the vicar in August 1853, was accused of "Intoxication" and "The use of improper, profane, and indecent language." From reading the articles this comes down to being in public houses beyond "his honest necessities" and saying, "Damn it all" and "Blast it all" a lot. It was also said that "no-one's good name was safe with him."

The coverage was very professional – and the whole of the proceedings were reported seemingly word for word, but we'll try to give you a flavour with just some of the choice phrases from the hearing which took place in the George Hotel in the High Street.

As background information it seems that complaints were made against the post office, resulting in an inspector from London coming to enquire into the management, and it seems the Reverend Butt had some connection with those complaints. It looks like this was the root cause of the ill feeling towards the Reverend, which resulted in these accusations being made against him. There were three main witnesses giving evidence against Reverend Butt, and we'll call them Mr Smith, Mr Jones and the Sergeant.

Mr Smith, who was connected with the Post Office, kept a diary of all the Reverend's alleged visits to public houses, but stated that he himself had never been intoxicated (!) You get the feeling that this might have been stretching the truth just a tiny little bit, as this exchange of the solicitors suggests: Mr Bund (for Butt): "Have you ever seen Mr Smith drunk?" Mr Jeune (against Butt): "I object to that question." Mr Bund: "Then I won't press it, but I can easily understand why my friend does not wish any questions to be asked about Mr Smith..."

The Sergeant, at one point in his evidence, felt the need to state his sobriety – although at that stage no-one had asked him about it. "I will swear I was sober last night," he stated. Mr Bund replied, "What! Were you not drunk last night?" "I will swear I went to bed sober. I swear I was not drunk yesterday and I don't care what other people say. I went to bed at eleven o'clock last night, and I was sober then," came the reply. Mr Bund continued, "Will you swear you were not drunk at any time yesterday?" "Oh, I ain't going to say anything about yesterday." Mr Bund repeated his question, "Well, I was a little the worse for drink..." It turns out it took several men to get this particular witness back to his lodgings the previous evening and Sergeant appears to have lost his job as a policeman over his fondness for the bottle – might well be a case of the pot calling the kettle black here!

Mr Jones presented a story regarding the Governors of the Grammar School. He maintained that the Reverend Butt used to turn up at their meetings in the afternoon a little the worse for wear and had threatened to shoot the Headmaster's dog! I just love the end of this account he gave: "I may say that in consequence of Mr Butt's excited manner in the afternoon, the Governors unanimously decided to hold their meetings in the morning. Mr Butt is as different as possible in the morning to the afternoon. I believe he dines early....."



It looks like a dentists but look carefully above the door the next time you pass the building

Another phrase which made us smile came about because one of the solicitors asked, "Was he drunk?" which produced an objection from the other that it was "hardly a proper way of putting the question." The response to this was, "I beg your pardon. I have had the pain of appearing in several of these enquiries before Lord Penzance, and he has decided that it is the proper way of putting the question," which prompted the chairman to remark: "If Lord Penzance had decided so, there is an end of it." Lord Penzance was obviously not a man whose decisions could be questioned!

The case lists in detail all the public houses the Reverend is alleged to have visited, The Green Man in Royston, the Falcon, the Railway and the Green Man in Standon, plus the George, the Chequers, the White Hart, the Bull and the Railway Inn in Buntingford. It seems the only pub in Buntingford he passed in his daily life, but was not said to have frequented, was the Fox and Duck – one can only imagine he was barred for some reason (joke)!

These accusations are rather more fun than the testimony of the rest of the witnesses, who basically all agreed that the Reverend Butt was a jolly nice chap – not given to cursing or drinking, and was generally an all round good egg. From the subsequent coverage in the local paper, which was nowhere near as thorough, we can gather that this was indeed the case, and the rather sensationalist story, fizzled out when it was learnt that the Reverend wasn't quite such an old soak after all!

In his summing up Mr Bund submitted that "It was too beastly to suppose that any man in Mr Butt's position would have used such language." If only that were the case today – we could all do with cleaning up our language.

For the full story visit The Hertfordshire Archive office at County Hall and start with the papers on microfilm published in February 1882.

For more history and information related to St Bartholomew's visit  
[www.layston-church.org.uk](http://www.layston-church.org.uk)

## Local Resident Set To Tackle Mount Kilimanjaro



Sarah with Alice, Sophie and Hannah

Preparing to tackle Mt. Kilimanjaro next June, Sarah Oliver Batista will undertake the challenge with a pledge to raise at least £4000 for Marie Curie nursing care and research into cancer.

Sarah lived in Buntingford since her birth in 1974; she grew up here and attended Layston, Edwinstree and Ward Freman schools. She had several local jobs, including working at the Wine Bar, The Countryman, Wood Green Animal shelter and Nevetts, although her first 'job' working for her Dad at Semco Carpets was undoubtedly the best she ever had!

Daughter of Jim and Jill Oliver, Sarah has two sisters – twins Sue and Caroline who now live close by in Royston. She also has a sister Suzanne, who was one of Jim and Jill's many foster children, who lives locally too. Jim is fondly known to many as 'Jim the carpet' and has been supplying and fitting carpets for nearly forty years in Buntingford, although he has recently retired and is now busy doing odd jobs and babysitting! Sarah works at The Medical centre along with her mum.

Having lived briefly in Spain, Sarah returned to live in Hare Street where she now lives with her three children and her husband, Joaquim. Her children, three lovely lively girls, all attend local schools, with Alice (8) at Hormead School, Sophie (12) at Edwinstree and Hannah (14) at Freman College. Sarah is a governor at Hormead School, is on the local church council and helps out with Sunday school.

Sarah decided to undertake fundraising for cancer charities after quite a few very sad losses, also because a couple of family members had cancer and thanks to advances in treatment and diagnosing are now in remission. Alice's Nan, Winifred Hynes, was very ill with non Hodgkin's lymphoma, but thanks to treatment and time in remission she was able to meet her only grandchild, but sadly the cancer returned and she passed away but she did have the opportunity to see and love her little granddaughter. Sarah also lost her very good friend, Jean Church, who also happened to be her next door neighbour. Jean was an angel to Sarah, she was her best friend and helped her through many tough times. Jean's was a relatively short illness, but unexpected and shocking. Jean and Sarah used to discuss the future and Sarah said she would never forget her, her bravery, courage and dignity. They discussed at length where Jean wanted to die, it was so valuable that she could have the choice as it gave her some control back in decisions about her life when everything felt so absolutely out of her control. Jean did have contact with Marie Curie and made plans, but unfortunately while she was on a respite visit to Isabel Hospice, where she received fantastic care, she fell very ill and passed away there. Jean always encouraged Sarah to embrace challenge and adventure so she does

so in Jean's memory. Sarah's husband also lost his father to cancer around the same time and the contrast between the care available here and of that in Portugal really brought it home what we actually have to offer here through these charities.

Fundraising began with Sarah holding a coffee morning in her home and running the 5K 'Race For Life' with her sister Caroline. Then she and Caroline decided to run a half marathon, which caused much mirth among Sarah's friends who knew her fondness for wine and sofas! Sarah was regularly spotted running, sometimes even at 5.30 am, although she maintains this was to avoid the embarrassment of being spotted gasping for breath and being a very strange red colour. Although painful at times it was nothing to what some people have to endure. Sarah always thought of Jean's suffering every time it got hard and it spurred her on; it also helped Sarah to cope with the grieving. Caroline and Sarah completed the half marathon and raised over one thousand pounds between them. Sarah then began wondering what to do next and had these odd encounters with people who kept mentioning Kilimanjaro, so she looked up the challenge on the website, paid her non-refundable deposit then began to panic!

She has begun to train and her dog is enjoying walks several miles long. Despite not being able to run at the moment due to back problems Sarah is following all the training guidelines provided for the trek. The altitude is very high but there is very little that can be done to prepare for it and it is very random as to who it might affect and in what way.

Fundraising is well underway with a total of £1075 on her 'Just Giving' website. Sarah held a coffee morning and book sale/ bring and buy at Hormead village hall with the help of her husband, parents and some great activities put on by her children. Jean's daughter also helped out and £400 was raised, so thanks to everybody who helped or came along. Hormead School are helping to raise money with Christmas tree decorations that the children can decorate and write a prayer on for someone they miss or who is poorly, it will be called the 'Tree of hope'. They will also be holding a dress yellow and blue day in the spring, the colours that represent Marie Curie. The Blind Fiddler, in Anstey, held a Karaoke night on 20<sup>th</sup> November with various collections taking place in Buntingford and local businesses and pubs approached with requests for support of this event. On March 12<sup>th</sup> there will be an evening of live music at The Bury in Buntingford, with Highly Strung, a band whom Sarah's dad plays guitar with. Sarah has to have 75% of money pledged by March. For more information on the event or for fundraising update please visit [www.justgiving.com/sarahmarieoliver](http://www.justgiving.com/sarahmarieoliver).

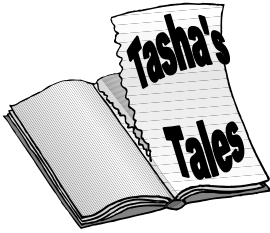
Donations and sponsorship pledges can also be made through the just giving sites. To contact Sarah with any donations, raffle prize gifts or fundraising ideas please email [oliver8356@btinternet.com](mailto:oliver8356@btinternet.com) or call 01763 289871.

Marie Curie nurses provide 24 hour nursing and medical care for people in their own homes, completely free of charge. They are dedicated to research. Please support this charity and event.

***In memory of Jean Church, Biddy Hynes, Dave Hynes, Sue Murray, Kirk Carpenter, Mariano Baptista and all those whose lives are in anyway affected by cancer.***

Thanks to all for support.

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



## Remembrance Day – for the fallen soldiers

On the Tuesday before Remembrance Day Freman College held a very moving assembly, which will never be forgotten as it touched everybody's hearts who were listening to a 6<sup>th</sup> former talk about a family friend and another soldier who had unfortunately passed away days before they were expected to return home. He read out the emails and letters that these two soldiers had written days before they had passed away, the excitement and joy from the letters made it even more real when we heard what had happened to these men who had fought for their country in this day and age and would sadly never return home. Staff and students were all in tears and were all quiet for the majority of the day after the assembly that all put a different perspective to Remembrance Day.

## Delicious Donating December and Joyful Jamboree January

This time has come again and it seems like the celebration of Christmas has started early this year, with promotions in the supermarkets starting at the same time as back to school equipment. With all the presents that are given and received this year more than ever I have been thinking about the older citizens of the world who won't have the presents from relatives, the warm snuggled up feel while playing board games and the overwhelming delicious meals of Christmas. But will have just themselves for company, or complete confusion and them who just know it as just another day. For whatever Christmas means to you, I think we should all try our best to help the less fortunate as it may not be as joyous for them at this time of the year.

At Freman all the tutors have a Christmas Hamper competition, last year I was the Christmas hamper as my tutor dressed me up as a robin. We had been building the robin suite for a couple of weeks and my face was all painted too, although my tutor only came second, it was worth all the embarrassment because part of the hamper is decoration but the main focus is all the food items which are delivered to the elder citizens of Buntingford.

January is the month of the sales, as there is left over Christmas gifts and the welcomed New Year stock. January is also the time of reflecting on the last year and looking on to the new. 2011 may bring surprise, sadness and serenity but what I have learnt is that living everyday to the full and like it's your last is more satisfying.

**I wish everyone a VERY Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**Natasha Morrison**

## BALFF

Our Christmas get together is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. We would be delighted to see past members along on this social morning for mince pies, sherry and a chat.

Time is 10:30am until 12 noon. If you cannot make this morning, the committee would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas.

Julia Peacock (chairman)

## FLYING HIGH

Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society held their Bird Show on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October where over two hundred birds were exhibited.

The Society's secretary Mr W Lodge said, "Membership numbers are up and the society is strong. I would like to thank the members of the public for their support at the show and who enjoyed the birds on show."

For more information contact

Mr Lodge on 01920 438482.



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## MEET YOUR LOCAL PCSO

If you have any issues you would like to talk about with your Police Community Support

Officer Amanda Higham or you just want to say hello, she will be at the specified venues as listed below. *(Times are subject to change at short notice)*

**Telephone 0845 33 00 222**

PCSO:	Date:	Time:	Venue:
Amanda	<b>Dec</b>		
	Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am – 11:00am 11:05am – 11:35am 11:40am – 12:15pm	Brent Pelham Meesden Anstey
	Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm – 1:45pm	Great Hormead Church
	Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:35pm – 6:00pm	Braughing Recreation Ground
	<b>Jan</b>		
	Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm – 12:30pm 12:35pm – 1:15pm	Wyddial Anstey
	Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	3:00pm – 3:30pm 3:35pm – 4:00pm 4:05am – 4:30pm	Albury Stocking Pelham Furneux Pelham
	Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	4:30pm – 5:00pm	Braughing, Malting Lane



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



Before I say anything about football in this edition of the Journal, I must first thank everybody who came along to support our firework display on October 31<sup>st</sup>. At one point the weather made an attempt to destroy all of our careful preparations but thankfully it cleared up in time for the fun to begin. And what a display it was – by all accounts the best we have had to date!

We were helped by so many people on the evening – obviously our committee members, but also their friends and family, master of ceremonies Jason Rowley, and live on stage Jack Bowden with 'Pandora and the Spoons'. A great selection of ghouls and witches turned out for the fancy dress competition which was won by a scary, but cute, spider adorned with the requisite number of eyes and legs! All in all it was a great evening, so thanks again to the people of Buntingford for turning out and also to The Bury for yet again hosting the event.



And now for the football. Well, I am very pleased to also report some tremendous successes on the pitch!

Our First Team moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league during November thanks to a great run of 7 consecutive victories. At the end of October a 5-1 performance at St Peters was praised by manager Barry Tokely as the best he has seen this season, and this was followed by a 6-2 win over London Colney Blues and a 15-0 (yes, fifteen) victory over 10-man Bushey Rangers.

There is already talk of promotion back to the Premier Division; premature perhaps, but this shows the depth of confidence surging through the club's veins at the moment.

Of course we must not forget the Reserves and although they have stuttered a bit recently, in the league they have games in hand and should move into the top 3 if they win them all. There is no reason why they shouldn't and I fully expect them to be there or thereabouts at the end of the season. The Reserves are also enjoying a cup run in the Herts FA Junior Cup, having already beaten Ware Lions Old Boys and Sun Postal Rovers. A tough fixture awaits them on 4<sup>th</sup> December, at Hadley, but should we win we will be just 4 games from the final.

Our Vets progressed in the Herts FA Veterans Cup thanks to the opposition failing to produce a side, and by the time you receive this Journal will have played their Quarter Final at The Bury against an unknown quantity, Metropolitan Police Bushey. Away from Cup Competition the side is still enjoying a successful season, and since a disappointing 2-1 defeat at Enfield has recorded victories against Wilbury Vets (8-4) and Guilden Morden (3-1).

All that is left is for me to wish you all a great Christmas and enjoyable New Year Celebrations. Keep checking our website, [www.buntingfordtownfc.com](http://www.buntingfordtownfc.com), to follow our progress during December & January.

**Chris Thurgill** – chairman, Buntingford Town FC

## **New structure arrangement for Local Resilience Forum in Hertfordshire**

A NEW streamlined partnership approach to emergency planning in Hertfordshire comes into effect this autumn, with a focus on reducing bureaucracy and being more innovative against a backdrop of increasing financial challenges.

Following extensive consultation between all partners and volunteer agencies involved in supporting Hertfordshire Resilience, the new structure has seen the creation of two distinct work areas – 'response and planning' and 'people and communities'.

Keith Emsall, Executive Member for Community Safety and Culture, said "Hertfordshire Resilience is successful because of the positive contribution of its partners. Together we have supported each other through some of the most challenging major incidents this country has seen in recent years.

However, we had become increasingly bureaucratic with more than 20 separate working groups supporting the activities of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) which is challenging to sustain even in the best of times. Working closely with our partners we have developed a new structure that can enable us to be more dynamic. The two work stream areas will be supported by task and finish groups to ensure we are delivering and not getting bogged down in bureaucracy". He further explained: "Everything we have done is subject to review and can only work if our partners remain supportive."

Hertfordshire Resilience activities will now be directed through a new 'Management Group' chaired by Hertfordshire Constabulary. It will be responsible for decision making and over-seeing programmes of work aimed at making Hertfordshire better prepared to respond in a crisis. This includes more effective engagement with the public.

Above the 'Management Group' sits the 'Executive Group' chaired by Hertfordshire County Council, set up with the aim of giving the LRF a clearer focus in how it manages emergency planning issues on behalf of the diverse communities of Hertfordshire.

"A huge amount of work has been done behind the scenes to adapt the structure of the LRF this includes the creation of a new link [www.hertsdirect.org/readyforanything](http://www.hertsdirect.org/readyforanything), which we hope the public and partners can access more easily to find out more about what we do and how we can help," added Keith.

## Once upon a village

*Another landmark in the author's progress through early years and a memory that is embedded in every person's memory. Most villages had little red bricked school houses that were divided into two or three classrooms that contained the full range of school attendance age from five to fourteen (later fifteen). Toilets were a block outside in the playground, across from the air raid shelter. In the back corner was the "drill shed".*

### My first day at school

Always a bit traumatic for any child, but mine seemed to be extra fraught as I grasped my grandmother's hand on that first day of the new school year (1948). My mother was occupied at the time, producing yet another brother (they were coming thick and fast now) and although I had walked past the red brick edifice on many occasions the actual step through the gates proved too much and I reasoned that education had got along just fine without me up to that point and if it ain't broke why fix it?

Looking back I was obviously causing a scene much to my grandmother's distress and embarrassment then almost immediately the mass of children and mothers parted like the biblical sea and this formidable creature (later I learned it was Miss Line, a person who I subsequently grew to admire and like) grabbed my arm and dragged me along with her as she advanced towards the entrance with the hardly comforting words, "Come along now stop that snivelling, your mother has enough to deal with today without you adding to it." It took but a few seconds to realise this was now out of my hands and the sobs I had hitherto held back could be contained no longer but this did nothing to placate either me or the person propelling me into a seat in the classroom. As my wails subsided and settled to a steady paroxysm of deep shuddering breaths I began to take in my surroundings. First the smell a mixture of putrefying milk, powder paint, ink and carbolic soap attacked my senses closely followed by the overpowering scent of mixed infants. The hard bench seat cut into my exposed legs and the wooden top of the desk strafed through with the wrinkles of age and handiwork of a thousand tiny bored fingers felt rough beneath my flimsy shirt sleeve, the elbows of which were squarely placed on the surface.

"Watch out for Miss Jenkins she don't like elbows on desks," a small voice penetrated my misery. Boy! How right he was because just then this harridan burst into the room. "Quiet!" her voice boomed, a voice that brooked no dissenters. "Register" was the next utterance and then for the following few minutes I was introduced vicariously via the wicked witch of the west to my fellow inmates through the steady calling of names and responses. My surname, being towards the end of the alphabet, eventually came and I mumbled something through the heaving chest that was still feeling the effects of my early outburst. "What's that? Speak up boy." This did nothing to help my mood and I sunk into a deep and lonely hole, which I recognised as my life from here on in which was then deepened by 'singing' the times table. Naturally I was at a complete loss as to what was expected of me and moreover I was overcome with terror when I experienced what failure entailed as one of my fellow inmates was sharply rapped across the knuckles with a ruler for not remembering what "eight eights are."

The day did not improve as we later went on to do writing practise and the rough surface of the desk didn't help one bit as I struggled to make perfect cup hooks with a blunt pencil. As the day wore on the fug of the all those small bodies pushed together was

accentuated by the sunlight that penetrated the upper part of the class room the windows were well above head height and all we could see (if we had the nerve to look up) was sky. The morning was punctuated by milk monitors dishing out small third of a pint bottles of curdling warm liquid, and as I have always had a sensitive nose it did nothing to improve my mood. Lunch was next and at the local congregational hall, a crocodile march away, this episode, even today, fills me with deep despair. I had been rather spoilt as all the women in my family were expert cooks and food was always a pleasure to savour. What the "dinner ladies" had done beggars belief and I resolved to run away if forced to eat this muck again. But I must say my new friend, who warned me about 'elbows' and answered to the name of Baggy Craig, wolfed down both his and my plate with relish. God! What was he getting at home? In the afternoon we were introduced to PT, which involved stripping to vests and plimsolls (it's a good job I knew how to tie laces) and rolling around on spiky coconut mats (ouch!) while being yelled at by the headmaster, healthily wrapped in over coat and scarf. The only relief in the whole day was when one of the children read a story to the class. About a hundred years later the home bell rang.

So this is school? I don't think I will come tomorrow.

**Vyse**



## **P L A Y   B R I D G E**

open to all experienced players

at Buntingford Bowls Club  
Wyddial Road

**Mondays 7pm for 7.15 start**

Tea and refreshments provided  
Bar available

**Chicago**

No need to book – £2.50 per session

For further information phone: Gwen 01763 272775  
or Eddie 07976 896718

Some groups may not be meeting over the next two months or may be holding a social event instead, so please make sure you phone beforehand. Also remember

to take along your membership card so that you are covered under our insurance and leaders know you are a member. Visitors are able to come along to two monthly meetings without joining and can try any of the groups as a taster if there is room.

Please phone 01763 271783 if you are interested in a trip up to London on the 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 9:30am from Buntingford coming back via lights. We are being dropped off at the V&A but you could visit the Natural History or Science museums or try a bit of ice skating or walk along to Harrods, coach £10.

Our speaker on December 13<sup>th</sup> is Brian Curtois on 30 Years as a BBC Reporter. There will also be seasonal drinks and refreshments. January's speaker on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> is George Perrott speaking about his Life at Covent Garden. We have a very varied list of speakers lined up for next year so we look forward to seeing you all again then. We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year and look forward to another busy year of retirement. Jean Devenish 01763 271783.

First Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec Contact Hilary Curtis	Craft Group 01763 272323	2:00pm – 4:00pm
First Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec Contact Linda Hood <b>Group now has a waiting list</b>	Walking Group (2 hours plus) 01763 272020	10:00am – 12:00pm Local Footpaths
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Contact Mary	Music appreciation 01763 273154	2:00pm Buntingford Library
One-to-one Contact Colin Gibbons	Family History 01763 271398	Finding Information to share with family/friends, group session
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec Contact Gill Southgate	Coffee & Chat 01763 271892	Phone for details 2:00pm – 4:00pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday 10 Dec Contact David Smith £3	Digital photography 01763 849023	2:00pm – 4:00pm URCH
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays Contact Christine Jeffries	Singing for Pleasure 01763 273466	2:00pm – 4:00pm Wyddial
Every Tuesday Contact Alan Smith £5	Bridge for Beginners Tutored 01763 287657	10:00am – 12:00pm Various homes
Various Contact Val Lohead	Out to Lunch 01763 271961	Various
Various Contact Evelyn Smith	Social Outings 01763 272241	Local theatres, meals out, quiz nights etc
Mondays Contact Dave Austin £3	Multi Activity Group 01763 272066	10:00am – 12:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec Contact Anne Austin	Reading Group 01763 272066	2:00pm Various houses
Contact Linda Grace	Art Appreciation Group	01920 438220
Every Wednesday Contact Dave Austin £3	Table Tennis 01763 272066	2:00pm – 3:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Christine Griffiths	Badminton 01763 272975	3:15pm – 4:15pm Seth ward Community Centre £2
4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday (not Dec) Contact Julia Peacock	Carpet Bowls 01763 272854	10:00am Buntingford Bowls Club
4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday (not Dec) Contact Alan Rumble	Computers 01920 823608	2:00pm – 4:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Mondays Contact Bev Smith	Yogic Breathing 01763 849023	10:00am – 11:00am Various houses



## Recall with the puppy

Build on a puppy's insecurity while controlling the exercise session. Puppies are born to follow and so use this natural instinct to help teach the recall. Often handlers are worried about letting a puppy off the lead.

- Take your puppy for short little expeditions each day on different ground. Make sure you show the pup the wonders of the world and that it does not find them out for itself. Remember it is your walk not the puppies; the puppy must think that this is something you do each day and he is now joining in.

- Be unpredictable, change direction every now and then. This will keep the pup alert and focused on you.

- Only reward your puppy for returning on your terms; if the pup

returns to you randomly throughout the exercise session ignore and carry on with your walk.

- Remember to use the come command only as the puppy moves towards you
- This may be during play OR while the pup is free running
- Keep sessions short and sweet
- Avoid chase games or going towards your puppy, teach him that it is fun to make up the ground between you and him.

## Recall with the secure dog

- Teach the come command in a safe area.
- Play hide and seek games and change your walk routes regularly but do NOT do this exercise if your dog is not keeping you within sight.
- Always go back to basics, put yourself in a position to win (on the lead or a trailer/long line).
- Never punish a dog for coming back to you.
- Control your personal space (which a secure dog will tend to value very little) not only on a walk but more importantly at home where often a secure dog is able to recall and clam your space on various different occasions throughout the day. You as an owner must instigate and finish affection!
- Remember leaders are watched and leaders are followed. Try not to approach the dog, make the dog move towards you and encourage enthusiastically when the dog moves in the correct direction.
- Find out what motivates your dog, tend to use play games with the higher energy dog to achieve a good solid recall.
- A whistle may be used; the dog will associate the sound with a reward. If introduced correctly, a whistle can help the owner start from fresh and also tends to be more consistent than the voice.
- Make sure exercise sessions are constructive as this will ensure the dog follows. Brisk walking and jogging as well as making the dog work for food, affection and play which the owner will control help to demonstrate to the dog that it is the owners walk.



By the time we got to October half term, I think we all – staff and students – were very ready for a break. With each year that passes, we seem to see an increase in the pressure that students and staff are placed under by the changing nature of how qualifications are assessed nationally. Many parents will remember the days when GCSEs (or even O levels) and A levels were two year courses assessed by exams at the end of the two years. Nowadays, students are assessed throughout these courses with exams taking place throughout the two years and many marks depending on work completed in lessons. GCSE coursework in most subjects has now been replaced by controlled assessments – work that has to be completed in a set number of lessons under supervision of a teacher. This makes good attendance more important than ever before and I would really like to thank students and staff who sometimes battle in despite coughs and colds to make sure that everything gets covered. More than ever before, I think our students really earn their holidays!



Certainly our A level geographers made the most of their half term break but they weren't relaxing, rather they were scaling the volcanoes and exploring the geographical idiosyncrasies of Iceland. It certainly sounds as if they had a really amazing time and I know that the teachers who accompanied them really enjoyed their company.

The run up to Christmas brings with it the usual mix of challenges and treats. We have had House Cross Country where over 400+ competitors (almost half of the college) take off across the fields to Throcking. Some extremely impressive efforts were displayed by male and female students. We also have the College Play, *Twelfth Night*, and the Christmas



concert to look forward to. Then the end of term with its usual Freman frivolities – hamper madness, Sixth Form Awards and so on.

However, there is also considerable hard graft and some important decisions ahead for many students. Many I and E Year students face Science GCSE exams next week. Our E Years have their mock GCSEs before the end of term and also those hoping to stay on in the Sixth Form will need to hand in their initial applications before Christmas. We will be keeping parents busy too, not only with events but also with Consultation Evenings for E Year and Upper Sixth Form students.

The college year always seems to fly by with so much going on. As ever, I hope students and parents are able to come along and take part in as much as possible in the weeks ahead.

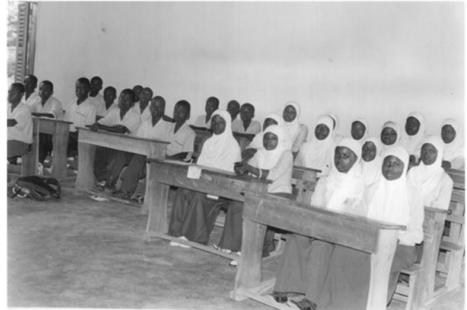
May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year from all here at Freman College.

**Helen Loughran, Headteacher**

### **Into Africa...**

The Geography Department, with the help of a committed team of sixth formers, is in the process of establishing links with a school in central Ghana.

Islamic Call School, in Kumasi, is a school of around 400 boys and girls, aged 11 to 18. Their Headteacher, Mr Boamah, is very keen to set up a working partnership with Freman College, so that his students can learn about the life of students in England.



We recently sent off a parcel of letters from our sixth-form team, and are eagerly anticipating replies from their new pen-pals. We are also in the process of making short movie clips about the various aspects of college life, to be shown to students in Ghana.

We hope that, as the partnership develops, some departments at Freman College may be able to establish lines of communication with their counterparts in Islamic Call School, to share teaching ideas. The partnership will be promoted around College after the October half-term holiday, and students in all year groups will be invited to write letters to students in Ghana. We hope that this new connection will lead to a long-term friendship between the two schools.

**Mr Abell, Geography Department**



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Lights of Love Buntingford, 18:00 – 19:00**

The Buntingford "Lights of Love" ceremony will be taking place at The Manor House, Buntingford, Herts. Isabel Hospice have eight ceremonies in the East Herts area. There will be a short Carol Service followed by countdown to lighting the tree. Donations will be made and lights will be lit in memory of loved ones at Christmas.

### **Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sat 4<sup>th</sup> December – Coopers of Stortford Christmas Fair, 16:00 – 20:00**

This two day Christmas event is in aid of Isabel Hospice and will include Christmas craft stalls, a cooking demonstration, mince pies and mulled wine, hot chestnuts, a dog show with a Christmas theme, bell ringing and much more.

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2010 – Jingle Bells & Bows Fun Run/Walk, 09:30 – 13:30**

This successful event in aid of Isabel Hospice is in it's 4th year, with runners and walkers circling Stanborough Lakes in Welwyn Garden City. The 5K run is at 10:30 with registration at 09:30. The 4K walk is at 11.30 with registration at 10:30. Run in fancy dress if you wish, maybe a Christmas Pudding or Father Christmas (prizes for the best costumes). Teams and individual runners welcome, why not get your non-running friends to sponsor you. Entry is £12 (free entry for under 16s). Hot drinks & minces pies will be available. You can email [julie.north@isabelhospice.org.uk](mailto:julie.north@isabelhospice.org.uk).

### **Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2011 – Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> February – Mellow Yellow Charity Art Exhibition**

In aid of Isabel Hospice and in partnership with Artshed Arts Centre, Westmill Farm, Westmill Road, Ware, Herts SG12 0ES. We hope that hundreds of artists, both local and beyond will take part in this Charity Art Exhibition. Private View 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011. Closing date for submission of work Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011

- Freestyle Exhibition – any medium – canvases 16" x 16" Maximum 3 canvases @ £14 each. All work to have a hint of yellow. All paintings to be sold @ £75 each – 30% of which donated to Isabel Hospice.
- Mosaic Masters – A new concept for this exhibition. Help to create a large-scale piece of work, in any medium, to reproduce a master painting by Van Gogh or Matisse. Canvases 8" x 8" – maximum 3 canvases @ £9.50 each.

For application forms/information contact: Lyn Andrews Tel. 01920 466446 email [enquiries@artshed-ware](mailto:enquiries@artshed-ware). Isabel hospice contact, Barbara Doherty Tel. 01279 842140. Canvases & application forms can be collected at the following Isabel Hospice shops.

Bishop's Stortford 01279 659551  
Buntingford 01763 274904  
Waltham Cross 01992 623291  
Welwyn Garden City 01707 334628

Cheques made payable to Artshed Arts Ltd.

**Isabel Hospice website [www.isabelhospice.org.uk](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk)**



# LAYSTON C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

As I write, we are busy making preparations for our Christmas Fair and for our Christmas play. Our production this year is called 'The Moon Thieves' and Year 4, as usual, will be taking the lead. There is much excitement as they begin to learn their lines!



Our children continue to welcome visitors to our school and to enjoy trips out.



Year 3 celebrated Greek music and dancing as part of their Ancient Greece topic. A favourite was the 'labyrinth dance' where the children re-create Theseus' journey through the Labyrinth to meet the Minotaur. Lorraine Theobald, who led the workshop, also taught them some Indian dances. Everyone enjoyed dressing up and joining in.

Year 1 visited the Toy Museum at Mountfitchet. They loved seeing the huge variety of toys on display. Star Wars items proved very popular as were the lifesize model dinosaur and cavewoman! Back in school, the children will be designing and making their own toys.



As part of National Anti-Bullying Week, Key Stage 2 pupils participated in a drama led by Simon Firth. The session explored what children can do if they see someone being bullied. As a whole school, we are focussing on 'helping hands'. We will be celebrating how we can work together and help each other.

Everyone at Layston School wishes you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

If you would like to find out more about our school, please visit our website at [www.layston.herts.sch.uk](http://www.layston.herts.sch.uk) or contact us on 01763 271235.

Layston Nursery Open Morning 9.30am to 11.30am Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

All welcome!

**Gill Langley** – Headteacher

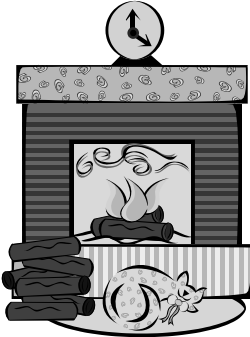
# Poets Corner

## Fairy Sparks and Fiery Larks!

Clocks fall backward to give an hour more.

The year is turning... as in years afore.

Our log burner has come into its own... using Ash and Beech and Oak and Rowan.



So, crumple the paper and pile on the sticks... the kindling variety will make the flame burn quick.

Once it's caught you add on the logs...keep it quite hot to avoid smokey fog!!!

And soon it is bursting with ribbons of flame, logs burning to charcoal – it's hard to tame.

Fairy sparks from resinous tree... the glowing red timbers are cosy to see.

...Half an hour later... we are roasty and snug... like the house has given us a great big hug!

Beating heart of the home and alternative heat... we're soooooo glad we've got it... it's so hard to beat.

Stacking wood, filling baskets... it's all such a lark, all for the pleasure of the fairy spark!

**Teresa Bonner**

get **more** out of **walking** with **the Ramblers**  
**Royston and District Group**  
**Walks for December 2010 and January 2011**

**December**

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Morning walk Great Hormead – 5 miles. Leaders Bob & Sue 01763 849046.
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Colliers End – 10½ miles. Leader Paul 01763 244038.
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Wimpole – 5½ miles. Leader Barry 01223 832984.
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Langley, Essex – 5¼ miles. Leader David 01763 242677.
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Royston, Heydon, Great Chishill, Lt Chishill, Barley, Royston – 12½ miles. Leader Christine 01462 734298.
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Rushden, Sandon – 5 miles. Leader Hazel 01763 848349.
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Dunton – 6 miles. Leader Edward 01438 226590.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Woburn, Aspley Guise – 10 miles. Leaders Linda & Roger 01462 453752.
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Morning walk Great Eversden – 5½ miles. Leader Ian 01223 872243.
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Morning walk Nuthampstead – 5 miles. Leader Eric 01763 848576.
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Baldock, Halls Green – 9 miles. Leader David 01763 247572.
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Morning walk High Cross – 6 miles. Leader Lesley 01763 273463.

**January 2011**

- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day. Morning walk – 3 miles followed by lunch, if pre-booked with leader. Leader Tricia 01438 880553.
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January Festival of winter walks – *an opportunity for non members to join at a 20% discount.* Therfield Figure of Eight walks – 6¼ miles + 3 miles. Leader David 01763 242677.
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Ashwell – 5 miles. Leader George 01763 242281.
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Ashdon – 5½ miles. Leader Alan 01223 840963.
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Debden Figure of Eight – 7 miles + 4 miles. Leaders Janet & Graham 01763 838300.
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Morning walk St Paul's Walden – 6 miles. Leader Lorraine 01763 242054.
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Great Chishill – 5 miles. Leader Jenny 01763 245969.
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Ayot Green – 10 miles. Leader Lorraine 01763 242054.
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Harlton – 5 miles. Leader Pat 01223 872344.
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Wandlebury – 6 miles. Leader Jane 01763 261565.
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Wallington, Weston – 10½ miles. Leader Paul 01763 244038.
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Melbourn – 5 miles. Leader Rama 01763 260565.
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Morning walk Barley – 5 miles. Leader Jackie 01763 260721.
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Wrest Park, Shillington – 9½ miles. Leaders Roger & Linda 01763 261405.

**B A L A**  
**Buntingford Action for the Less Able**  
Registered Charity No. 1094426

**Minibus trips for December 2010**

Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	Bus £4
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am – 3:00pm	Brookfield Centre – Boots, M&S, Argos, Next, Tesco etc	Bus £6
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am – 2:30pm	Van Hage Garden Centre	Bus £5
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	Bus £4
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am – 3:00pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WH Smith, Boots etc	Bus £6
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:30pm – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	Bus £4
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00am – 4:30pm	Milton Keynes Shopping Centre – BhS, John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, etc. etc.	Bus £11
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00am – 4:30pm	Milton Keynes Shopping Centre – BhS, John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, etc. etc.	Bus £11
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	Bus £4

**January 2011**

Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	Bus £4
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm leave	Trip to see London Christmas Lights. Café/ toilet stop en route. Home 7:00 – 7:30ish	Bus £10

**To book a seat or for more information phone 01763 273623 or 01763 271708**

***Coffee Morning***

at Benson Hall, Buntingford

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 10:30am – 12noon**

Coffee ♦ Bria-a-Brac ♦ Cakes ♦ Raffle ♦ Marmalade

*Proceeds for the Mini-bus*





# Gardening Year – Dec/Jan



If you are a keen gardener or just want to get out in the fresh air, or perhaps want to work off the extra inches Christmas and New Year seems to add to the waistline, there is still quite a lot that can be done in the garden, even in the depths of winter. So pick the dryer days, wrap up warm and get to work.

## General

On dry, frost free days:

- Continue winter digging.
- Treat fences, garden furniture and sheds.
- Jet-wash paths and patios that are covered in slippery algae.

## Vegetables

- Harvest Brussels sprouts, broccoli and leeks.
- Begin planning your vegetable patch for the coming year.

## Trees and Shrubs

- Move or plant shrubs and deciduous trees.
- Prevent broken branches by removing heavy snow from conifers.
- Prune wisteria, ivies and climbing hydrangeas towards the end of January.
- Prune apple and pear trees.

## Lawns

- Rake up last of the leaves.
- Keep off the grass as much as you can if it is wet or frosty.

## Flowers & Patio Pots

- Plant seasonal outdoor containers.
- Order your seeds for the spring.

## Ponds

- Do not feed **fish during the colder months as they are dormant.**
- **Remove any dead leaves or they** will clog the pond bottom and foul the water.

## Top Tips

- Gather natural decorations such as holly and ivy to make Christmas wreaths. If you have a holly bush with berries, cover with netting to preserve the berries from birds until you are ready to cut it.
- Clear leaves from shed and greenhouse gutters.
- Float a rubber ball on the pond so that in frozen conditions you can lift it out during the day to make a breathing hole for the fish.

*May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and an enjoyable gardening New Year.*

**Brian Lemay**  
brianlemay@btinternet.com

## The Secret's Out at Westmill Nursery! .....

With thanks to the T & M Greg Trust, Westmill Nursery, based in Westmill Village Hall secured allotment space at the beginning of the year to develop into a garden for the children. The new garden named 'the secret garden' is virtually adjacent to the nursery meaning that the children have easy access throughout the year.

Although the nursery already has outdoor space to the rear of the hall the new garden is significantly bigger providing numerous experiences and opportunities for the children to enjoy. The nursery plans to continue to develop the garden over time to include a sensory garden, storytelling area and willow arch to name but a few!

The nursery has been reliant on parent and staff volunteers kindly giving up their time to transform it. They also welcomed help from two Freman College students, Lewis Pike 14 and Alex Curran 15 who have now both completed their voluntary section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award whilst working in the garden. It has taken many months and most weekends since the beginning of term to transform it into an amazing space for the children.

The Secret Garden was officially opened on 5<sup>th</sup> November by Mike McRae, trustee of The Greg Trust and Frank Pike, husband of owner, Lorraine who carried out and organised a majority of the work. An apple tree was planted to remember this special day.

Parents and children joined in the celebration, with parents helping their children to plant some winter plants in the beds. Everyone tucked into some Indian soup and snacks to also celebrate the Hindu festival Diwali, which the children learnt about the same week as the opening.



Lorraine said "I am thrilled and extremely proud of what we have achieved, it has been hard work but the children now have a nice big area to enjoy, it has all been worth it just to see the smiles on their faces today. Experiences outside are so important to the children's development, this is a very exciting time for us".

The forthcoming winter months won't deter the nursery from enjoying the garden as the children are already learning how to look after young plants and keeping the lawn looking wonderful by raking up all the fallen leaves.

If you would like further information about Westmill Nursery please contact Lorraine on 01763 273005 or visit [www.westmillnursery.co.uk](http://www.westmillnursery.co.uk)





# BUNTINGFORD AND DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB



C I U affiliated  
6 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS  
Telephone 01763 271889

[www.buntingfordsocialclub.com](http://www.buntingfordsocialclub.com)  
[www.lemonrock.com/buntingfordanddistrictsocialclub](http://www.lemonrock.com/buntingfordanddistrictsocialclub)

**\*BIG CASH BINGO EVERY MONDAY\***

Guaranteed £150 minimum snowball prize. ALL WELCOME – start time 8pm

*Let's give you a reminder of events*

ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS SHOWN, TIMES PERMITTING

♪ **Live entertainment on Saturdays except**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the month** (unless otherwise announced) ♪

Plus: Darts ▪ Pool ▪ Snooker ▪ Wii console

We have Club Knockouts for Darts, Crib, Pool and Snooker

AND DON'T FORGET, WE SELL THE CHEAPEST PINT IN BUNTINGFORD!

We also have Happy Hour everyday 5:30pm to 6:30pm and Funday Sunday, where the juke box, pool table and snooker table are free all day

New members always welcome and for any of you lapsed members, you are always welcome to rejoin at anytime.

**For your diaries**

## ENTERTAINMENT FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

- 4th Dec - The Natalies – local band from Stevenage
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec - No entertainment. Free pool, snooker, Wii, juke box
- 18<sup>th</sup> Dec - Perfect Sense – Our local band playing fantastic music
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - Family disco / party
- 31<sup>st</sup> Dec - Abakus New years Eve lets dance the night away
- 8<sup>th</sup> Jan - Titan Roadshow – Family Disco
- 15<sup>th</sup> Jan - Numbers and co
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan - 60s and lulu tribute
- 29<sup>th</sup> Jan - Cool Beans

MEMBERS FREE, GUESTS £4 WHEN ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED OR £7 SPECIAL NIGHT

Don't forget to check out our page on facebook and our new website  
[www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk](http://www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk)

If you would like to have your event in the diary of events pages,  
please contact **Aliya Chowney** on **01763 272040**  
or email: [aliyachowney@btinternet.com](mailto:aliyachowney@btinternet.com)

# Learn to Dance

7:00pm Absolute Beginners **Salsa/Latino**

7:45pm Absolute Beginners **Ballroom and Latin**

8:30pm Improvers **Ballroom and Latin**

Starting Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011



## Children's Christmas Party

at Cottered Village Hall

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

2:00pm to 5:30pm Age 0 - 14 years old

**Tickets £6 or £7 on the door. Under 11 months £3**

Price includes food, drink and a present! There will also be a raffle

**Meet Father Christmas**

Tickets available from Catherine Chamberlain  
23 The Crescent, Cottered. Telephone 07837 761074

