

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

Buntingford



The U3A's Ukelele Group spreading Christmas cheer at Gravelly Barn, Braughing, in 2017.

*Merry Christmas & Happy
New Year to All Our Readers*

70p

Dec 2018 / Jan 2019
Volume 43, No.10



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MONDAYS

- 9:00am – 10:00am **Adult Ballet** at URC Hall with Buntingford Dance, £5. 01763 271010.
- 9:00am – 10:00am **Cardio & Core** at Benson Hall, £3 (subsidised). Suitable for all fitness levels. More info, call or text Irene on 07802 418755.
- 9:30am & 10:30am **U3A Exercise Class**. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 for participation info.
- 10:00am – 10:45am **Stretch'n'Grow**, a fun exercise & activity class for children confidently walking to age 5. Term time at Seth Ward CC. £2 per family. 01763 273008.
- 10:00am – 10:45am **Mummy & Me Cardio Class** at Benson Hall, £5 (term-time only). Children 0-5 years. Bring snacks/toys. Call or text 07802 418755 for more information.
- 10:30am – 12 noon **Iyengar Yoga** at URC Hall (term time). Contact Jen Harris 01920 821288.
- 11:00am – 12noon **Stay & Play** at Jenyns School, Braughing, term time only.£1. 01763 273008
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm **Positive Movement** exercises at Seth Ward CC. £3. 01462 678804.
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm **Senior Citizens Club** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Bingo and an afternoon of socialising. For more information contact Jeanne Clark on 01763 274631.
- 2:00pm – 2:45pm & 4:00pm – 4:45pm **Lab-Tots**, fortnightly at the Library. Pre-school session for 3-5 year olds; Afterschool session 4-8 year olds. Sophia 07720 292350 / www.labtots.com.
- 4:00pm – 6:45pm **Ballet Classes** at URC Hall, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- 4:30pm – 8:30pm **Rib Valley Trampoline Club @** Freman College (term time). Adults 7:30–8:30. Contact Andrea Allen 07989 980038 or email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Cougars U9s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
Cougars U10s 'Stripes & Royals' at Freman Sports Hall.
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Pilates Improvers/Intermediates** at Seth Ward CC. Louise, 07867 675389.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm **Shotokan Karate** at Seth Ward CC. Contact Peter Deacon 01462 642922.
- 7:00pm **Bridge** for experienced players at Buntingford Bowls Club. £2.50 per session. Contact Eddie on 01763 273640 or 07976 896718.
- 7:00pm – 7:30pm **Body Blitz Class (Interval Training)** at Benson Hall, £5. See website www.irenegibson.co.uk or Facebook page 'Irene Gibson PT'.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Cougars U10s** 'Blues & Whites' at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Pilates (Intermediate)** at Layston School. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 7:15pm – 8:15pm & 8:30pm – 9:30pm **Yoga Flow** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Contact Annie Knapman 07500 110876, email: info@annieknapmanyoga.co.uk
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Abs (body toning)** at Fit Together Gym. Contact AI on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm **Pilates Improvers** at Seth Ward CC. Louise, 07867 675389.
- 7:30pm – 9:30pm **Buntingford Community Choir** at Millfield School, Monks Walk. For info see www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk or email: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk
- 7:30pm – 9:45pm **Buntingford & District Youth Club** at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Call Danny on 07879 853849 or email: danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk.
- 7:45pm – 8:45pm **Trigger Point Pilates** at Benson Hall. £10 PAYG or £8 booked in advance. Suitable for all fitness levels. More info, call or text Irene on 07802 418755.
- 8:15pm **Circuit Training** at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01920 823677.

TUESDAYS

- 9:15am – 10:15am **Badminton** at Seth Ward CC, £2.50 per session. 01763 273712.
- 9:30am – 11:00am **Tuesday Toddlers** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. £2 for first child, then 50p for each additional child of same family, includes drink and snack. Term time.

WHAT'S ON

- 9:30am **Nordic Walking** at Seth Ward CC. Equipment provided. First session Free. Call 07940 080 453 to book or see info@easthertsnordicwalking.org
- 10:00am – 11:30am **Under 1s Group** at Buntingford Bowls Club. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 11:45am **Tappy Toes** at Seth Ward CC. Dance & movement for children who are confidently walking to age 5. £2 per family. Term time only. 01763 273008.
- 4:15pm – 9:00pm **Ballet, Modern & Tap Classes** at Freman College, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- 4:30pm – 5:30pm **Cougars U8s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U14s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 7:30pm **Buntingford Karate Club**, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm **'Braughing Sing' Community Choir** at Jenyns School, Braughing. Contact Elaine 07501 495940 / 01763 289738 / www.braughingsing.com.
- 7:45pm – 8:30pm **Pilates (Beginners)** at Layston School. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 8:10pm – 8:55pm **Adult Tap Dance Classes for Fun & Fitness** at Freman College. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- WEDNESDAYS**
- 9:15 – 10:45am **Hormead Stay & Play** at Hormead School. £1. Term time. 01763 273008.
- 9:30 – 10:30am **Intermediate Pilates** at Benson Hall, £5. See Facebook page 'Irene Gibson PT' and look in 'services' to see all the classes we offer.
- 9:30 – 11:30am **Barkway Parent and Toddler Group** at Barkway Village Hall. Children 0–4 years. Contact Kim Semple on 07964 151288.
- 10:30am **BALFF Course** at the Community Centre. Coffee from 10am. New course starts 23rd January (see page 35). Contact Julia 01763 272584.
- 12noon – 12:45pm **Beginners Pilates** at Benson Hall, £5. Suitable for all fitness levels. More info, call or text Irene on 07802 418755.
- 2:00pm **U3A Seated Exercise Class**. Jacqui 07956 647806 for participation info.
- 4:15pm – 6:15pm **Rib Valley Gymnastics Club @ Edwinstree School** (term time). Contact Andrea Allen 07989 980038 or email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Cougars U11s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Circuit Training for 50+** at Seth Ward CC. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Freestyle & Shotokan Karate** at Freman College. Contact Sensei John Srinivassan, Mushin Academy of Karate, 07722 071408.
- 6:45pm – 7:15pm **Cardio Resistance Blast** at Layston School. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Cougars U12s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Pilates (Beginners)** at Layston School. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Boxercise/Tae Bo** session at Fit Together Gym. Contact AI 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm **Slimming World Group** at Millfield School. Tel: Glenda McLellan on 01462 894351 / 07983 224121 or email glendakmclellan@gmail.com
- 8:00pm – 9:00pm **Buntingford Meditation Group**. Contact Martin on 07771 972444 or see www.buntingfordmeditation.com for details and venue.
- 8:00pm **Horizon Divers** at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.
- THURSDAYS**
- 9:30am – 11:00am **Anstey Toddlers** at Old School House, Anstey. Arts & crafts, free play and singing for toddlers & babies with their carers. £1 per family. Term time only.
- 9:45am – 10:45am **Pilates Improvers** at Seth Ward CC. Louise, 07867 675389.
- 10:30am **Mummy SOS Wellness Mornings**, alternating walking and play groups.

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- 11:00am – 12:00 **Fitness for 50+** at Seth Ward Community Centre. £4 per class. Eileen Dixon 01763 257474 / 07966 222272, email: eileensaerobics@hotmail.com
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm **Baby classes** run by **Best Start Club** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane. 1pm **Magical Musical Playdays** (1 to 3 years); 2pm **Baby Signing classes** (0 to 16 months). Laura Sheriff 07801 796334 / laura@thebeststartclub.com.
- 2:00pm – 3:00pm **Pilates** at Benson Hall. Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 2:15pm – 2:45pm **Toddlers Tales**, stories & rhymes for preschoolers, at Buntingford Library.
- 4:30pm – 6:30pm **Drama workshops** 15–18 year olds, with Stagefrights Theatre at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Dave 01438 232181; email: stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk
- 4:30pm – 7:45pm **Street Dance Classes** at URC Hall, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Buntingford Swimming Club** at Freman Pool. Adelaide 07710 550050.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U7s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 6:30pm – 7:00pm **Cougars U13s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- 6:30pm – 7:00pm **Body Conditioning** at Layston School, £5. See Facebook 'Irene Gibson PT'.
- 7.00pm **Mustard Seed Singers**, St Peter's Church. Contact Jan 01763 272217.
- 7:15pm – 8:00pm **Intermediate Pilates** at Layston School, £5. Or combine with 6:30pm Body Conditioning (above) for just £7. Call or text 07802 418755 for more info.
- 7.30pm **Buntingford Karate Club**, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 8:00pm – 9:30pm **Badminton** at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Contact Lisa on 07951 533395.
- 8:00–10:00pm **Buntingford Dramatic Society**, Benson Hall.
- FRIDAYS**
- 9:15am **WeightWatchers** at Benson Hall.
- 9:30am – 10:30am **Badminton** at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.
- 10:00am – 10:30am **Rhyme Time** at Seth Ward CC. £1 per child. Term time only. 01763 273008.
- 10:00am – 1:00pm **Art in Sandon** Village Hall, £10 per session. Call 07960 408635.
- 11:00am – 12:00 **Drop-in Breastfeeding Support Group** at Bramble Hill, 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 12:00 **Full Body Workout** at Benson Hall. Jacqui 07956 647806.
- 12:15pm – 1:15pm **Dance with Dani** at Benson Hall. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 2:00pm – 3:15pm **Activity Session** with Hertswise Dementia Support at Layston Grove Care Home. £3 per person, carers free. Call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044.
- 4:15pm – 8:15pm **Ballet & Modern Dance Classes** at Freman College, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- 5:30pm – 8:00pm **Friday Project, Buntingford & District Youth Club** at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Danny 07879 853849 / danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Cougars U18s** at MUGA, Norfolk Road.
- SATURDAYS**
- 9:00am – 1:00pm **Ballet, Modern & Tap Dance Classes** at Freman College and at URC Hall (9am–12noon). Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- 9:15am – 2:00pm **Musical Theatre School** for 4–14 year olds at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Call Anna 07545 788433 or email stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk.
- 10:00am – 11:00am **Walking Football**, MUGA. £2. Jeff 01763 274800 / 07836 232963.
- 2:15pm – 4:15pm **Drama workshops** 6–15 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Dave 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk.
- SUNDAYS**
- 10:00am – 11:00am **Cougars Cubs** at Freman Sports Hall.
- 11:00am – 12:00 **Cougars U6s** at Freman Sports Hall.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DEC 2018

- Sun 2nd 11am–3:30pm **Brent Pelham Christmas Fair** (see page 11).
 3rd to 8th 10:30am–4:30pm **Yew Tree Alpacas Christmas Shop** (see page 17).
 Mon 3rd 11am **Story Sacks** for the under 5s at Buntingford Library, a story followed by themed crafts, with Bramble Hill Children’s Centre.
 Tues 4th 8pm **Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society** at Benson Hall.
 Wed 5th 7:45 for 8pm **Buntingford Gardeners’ Club Christmas Party** at URC Hall. Members only (see page 16). No meeting in January.
 Thurs 6th 10am–12noon **Free Advice Session** at Buntingford Library with Fosters Legal LLP. For an appointment call at the Library or ring 0300 1234049.
 Thurs 6th 8pm **Hare Street & Hormeads Gardening Club AGM & Christmas Party** in Great Hormead Village Hall. No meeting in January. 01763 289417.
 Fri 7th 4:30–6:30pm **Millfield School Christmas Fair** (see page 38).
 7th, 8th, 14th & 15th **Buntingford Scouts Santa Run** (see page 17).
 Sat 8th **Buntingford Film Club** at Benson Hall: 2:30pm ‘Nativity!’; 7:30pm ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ (see page 26).
 Sat 8th 7pm **Christmas Village Supper** in Reed Village Hall (see page 16).
 Sat 8th **Christmas Concert** with Braughing Sing at St Mary’s Church (page 29).
 Sun 9th 2:30–4:30pm **Little Sparks Crafty Christmas** (see page 17).
 Tues 11th 2:15pm **Buntingford Local History Group** at Buntingford Library.
 Wed 12th 10:15–11:30am **B.A.L.A. Coffee Morning** at Benson Hall (see page 44).
 Wed 12th 8pm **Royal British Legion Meeting** at The Crown. No meeting in January.
 Thurs 13th 7:15pm **Buntingford W.I. Carol Party** at the UCR Hall (see page 45).
 Sat 15th **Over 65s Christmas Lunch** at the Community Centre (see page 22).
 Mon 17th 8pm **Unplugged Acoustic Night** at The Crown, Market Hill.
 Wed 19th 10am–12noon **Dementia Carers Support Group** in the Tea Room at the Wine Bar (see page 30).
 Wed 19th 12noon–2:30pm **Jazz on the Heath** at Therfield Heath Café, with Dave Rance’s Rockin’ Chair Band. £8 on the door.
 Fri 21st 8pm **Buntingford Railway & Local History Society** at The Crown PH. ‘Local History Films’ with Alan Charles

JAN 2019

- Thurs 10th 7:15pm **Buntingford W.I. Bring and Share Supper** (see page 45).
 Sat 12th **Buntingford Film Club** at Benson Hall: 2:30pm ‘Lego Batman Movie’; 7:30pm ‘Darkest Hour’ (see page 26-27).
 Mon 14th 1:30pm **U3A Monthly Meeting** at the Community Centre (see page 32).
 Wed 16th 10:15–11:30am **B.A.L.A. Coffee Morning** at Benson Hall (see page 44).
 Fri 18th 8pm **Buntingford Railway & Local History Society AGM** at The Crown.
 Wed 23rd 10am for 10:30 **New BALFF Course** at the Community Centre (page 35).

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE STATION: Baldock Road, Buntingford	Non-emergency telephone: 101 In emergencies dial 999
GAS: ELECTRICITY: WATER (Veolia): SEWERAGE (Thames Water): FLOODLINE:	Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999 Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838 Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325 Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800 Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188 Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60
DOCTORS:	The Medical Centre – White Hart Close Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours) Orchard Surgery – Baldock Road Tel: 01763 272410 (After hours: 272411)
B A S H (Buntingford Action For Social Help):	Providing transport for hospital and doctors appointments. Tel: Colin Horgan 07733 091731
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RAPE, RACE or HATE CRIME:	Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554440 (in emergency, dial 999)
LOCAL COUNCILS:	Buntingford Town Council – 01763 272222 East Herts District Council – 01279 655261 Housing – 01279 714714 Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852 For emergencies out of office hours: 01279 655261 Adult Care Services – 0300 123 4042 Children’s Services – 0300 123 4043 Hertfordshire Highways – 0300 123 4047, or report faults online: www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults
BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY: High Street, Buntingford	Opening times: Mon, Tues, Thurs 10:00 – 17:30 Friday 14:00 – 17:30 Saturday 09:00 – 13:00 Telephone enquiries – 0300 123 4049 Option 1 – Renewals 03:00–23:45 every day Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00, Sat 09:00– 6:00
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU: The Manor House Market Hill, Buntingford	Opening times: Monday 10:00 – 16:00 Tues & Wed 10:00 – 13:00 Telephone advice: Mon to Fri 10:00 – 16:00 Call 03444 111 444
HOUSEHOLD WASTE & RECYCLING SITE: Watermill Industrial Estate Aspenden Road	Opening times: Mon to Fri 17:00 – 20:00 Sat & Sun 10:00 – 13:00

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

EDITOR'S LETTER

Well here we are again, it's the last Journal of the year and Christmas is almost upon us. The first thing I want to say is a very big 'thank you' to everyone who has contributed to the Journal in 2018 – whether you send me something every month or have only picked up your pen once, it is much appreciated. Equally important are all our advertisers, the companies and individuals who offer their services in the Journal making it a mini Yellow Pages for our local area – it's always the first place I look when I need to find someone. I know I've said it before, but I really do mean it: without all of you there wouldn't be a Buntingford Journal. Thank you also to Simon who organises the printing, to the volunteers of the Civic Society who distribute and deliver copies to members, and finally to the shops who stock The Journal for sale. It's amazing how many people are involved, one way or another. Thank you one and all.

Perhaps because this is a double-month issue, I had more material than I could possibly fit in. I hate leaving things out so I will use everything I've held back in the February issue, provided it is still suitable. I would just like to remind anyone who might be thinking of sending in a piece for publication, it is important to supply your name, address and some quick contact details – telephone or email. Like most, probably all, publications we have a policy of not publishing any material supplied anonymously, and quite apart from that I might have a query that can only be answered by getting in touch. If you do not want your name to appear in print that's fine, but as editor I still need to know it.

There are two themes that struck me running through these pages: one is the approach of Christmas, the other is the centenary of the Armistice that brought the Great War to an end. I think everyone is agreed that the Remembrance Service drew a record crowd of people wishing to pay their respects together at the War Memorial. It was very moving.

The main subject in the news, of course, is still Brexit. This is understandable, but it is drowning out so many other important issues. And none is more important than the survival of our planet, as Madela is keen to remind us in this month's Buntingford in Transition piece, 'The time is NOW!'. But first let's all enjoy a peaceful and happy Christmas, and come back in the New Year refreshed and ready for the challenge of 2019. And when you sit down to Christmas dinner, spare a thought for the poor old turkey. Thanks for reading. Merry Christmas!

Christine Noble

Many thanks to John Makin for proofreading

**Editorial copy deadline for the February 2019 Journal
is Saturday 12th January 2018**

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

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

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

Letters & emails to the Editor

Dear Christine

Buntingford Action for Social Help (BASH) – Volunteer Hospital Driver Service

I am pleased to report that we have found a replacement for Jane Winter, our Transport Coordinator. Jane has done a terrific job for many years and we wish her well in her very well-deserved 'retirement'. Our new Transport Coordinator is Colin Horgan and the new BASH contact number is **07733 091731**. We wish Colin every success in his new role.

Volunteer Drivers

Due to the increased demand for our BASH service we do need urgently to recruit more drivers. If any of your readers are interested then would they please contact Colin on the above number for an informal discussion.

Depending on the volume of future requests we may still have to 'ration' our service until driver numbers rise. So anyone requiring transport should give us as much advanced warning as they can to avoid disappointment.

Sincerely, **Brian Lemay, BASH Chairman**

Hi Christine

Just a line to remind Journal readers that Buntingford has it's very own online community radio station. To listen simply go to radioneptuneweebly.com and tune in to some great sounds. We launched the station back in the spring and it's going well, but I would love to find some more presenters. Would anyone out there like to try their hand at recording a radio show? Check it out online or see our Facebook page.

Cheers, **Richard Royal**

Hi Christine

'THEY MATTER' – ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

I run a group within the Buntingford U3A called 'They Matter'. This is a group of 16 ladies who make sensory/activity mats and cuddle bags for dementia patients, both in Care Homes and also in their own homes. We have been going for about 15 months now and during this time we have donated over 120 mats to Care Homes in the local area. Each one is unique – the photo (right) shows just one example.



Unfortunately, from January we have to find a new venue with room for us to make these mats and with some form of storage space/ cupboard that we can use. We meet on the 4th Monday of the month from 10am–12noon (although this could be flexible).

The storage items are mainly in shoe boxes, laundry bags and various other containers, holding buttons, zips, ribbon, keys, material and many other miscellaneous items. I am asking around the town and local villages to see if anyone has this kind of facility to offer us. If you or any Journal readers know of anywhere that we might be able to use, please call me on the number below. Thank you.

Hilary Curtis, Tel: 01763 661508

Hi Christine

Please would you be kind enough to include in the Journal this fantastic news of money raised so far for this year's Poppy Appeal. This is a running total as not all donations have come in as yet. Many thanks to everyone who has donated.

Jackie Smith



**POPPY APPEAL
2018
THANK YOU
BUNTINGFORD
£9403.31p
Collected so far**

Hello Christine,

My name is Michael (Mick) Baker and I am trying to trace an old work colleague called John Jacobs. He moved to Buntingford with his partner Jean (or 'Jeanie') in about 2000 or 2001 (or maybe before). I know from checking on the internet that they were on the electoral register for Buntingford in 2014, but I have been unable to find out anything else about John or his whereabouts. We used to work together at Hackney Council (Highways). I joined in 2003, but John was there from the 1980s to 2010. He was the Team Leader and a terrific bloke! He would be about 68/69 years of age by now and I would love to get in touch with him again.

Recently I visited Buntingford and asked around in a few local shops, including the Post Office and the Library, but to no avail. However, the lady in the Library was very helpful and suggested I write to you and try to trace John through the Journal. So I am sending this request on the off-chance that John still lives in Buntingford and might read this and get in touch. Or perhaps a Journal reader might know of him and where he is now and ask him to get in touch with me, either by phone or email (details below)? I would so much appreciate any help anyone can give me.

Thanks and regards, **Mick Baker**
Tel: 07935 193803 / Email: Mickbaker62@hotmail.co.uk



SIR OLIVER HEALD QC MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH EAST HERTFORDSHIRE

will be holding his next MP's surgery in Buntingford on

Friday 18th January 2019, 5–6.30pm

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

For an appointment please ring: 01462 486074

Email: oliver.heald.mp@parliament.uk

Or look online at: www.oliverhealdmp.com



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk



What a wonderful turnout at the War Memorial to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War 1. It is so gratifying to see so many people who wish to pay their respects and remember all those brave souls who paid the ultimate price for us all. Before the memorial service a stone commissioned by Buntingford Town Council commemorating the 100th anniversary was unveiled and blessed by the Reverend Ian Hill. That, along with the two 'there but not there' silhouettes, gave the occasion added poignancy.

To further mark the centenary an exhibition was set up in the Manor House with many WW1 artefacts on display (photos left and below). The exhibition was arranged by Buntingford Town Council, the Royal British Legion and Freman College and many thanks are due to all those who gave of their time to put together such a fine display. Special thanks must go to Graham Waite for all the research he undertook to ensure that the exhibition duly honoured all those Buntingford men who went off to fight but never returned.



Changing the subject, it is with much satisfaction that I can report that the road surface at the Watermill Estate (particularly the entrance to the estate and the area by the Council dump) has at last been repaired. This has been a long-running saga with no one willing to take responsibility for the repairs. Perseverance, in this case, finally paid off.

At the request of Buntingford Town Council, East Herts District Council reviewed the existing governance arrangements for the Parish of Buntingford. It was felt that the new Redrow development should sit within the Parish of Buntingford rather than in Coterred as is currently the case. East Herts District Council have agreed and, pending a formal resolution, the Redrow estate will be classed as within the Parish of Buntingford.

Graham Bonner

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society

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

membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk



Brent Pelham

Christmas Fair

SUNDAY 2nd DEC 2018

11am – 3.30pm

Traditional Xmas Fair in the Village Hall

Free Entry • Christmas Trees • Stalls • Seasonal Food & Drink

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



Milfield School

Monday nights, 7:30–9:30pm

The power of music is a wonderful thing and on Remembrance Sunday the Choir witnessed this to the full when we sang for the staff and residents at Nevetts Care Home (below). The joy of seeing the looks of happiness and appreciation was priceless.

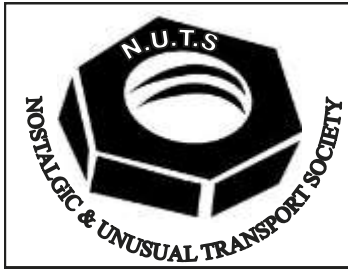
We move on now to our Christmas programme, which will conclude with the Buntingford Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at the Community Centre.

It has been a very busy and challenging year for the choir and we look forward to 2019 and more live performances. So, finally, from the Buntingford Community Choir



♪ **We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** ♪

**Any enquiries to: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk
or visit: www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk**



You don't normally think of 'wife-swapping' when talking about a highly respected Classic Car Group, but that's just what NUTS got up to at their last monthly meet. However, it wasn't what you might think it was!

In a chance remark one of the BOLTS (the wives of the NUTS), Rachel Fry, said she would love to ride in a different car sometime, and this sowed the seeds of having a Car Wife Swap in the mind of our Chief Nut, Iain Thomas. It resulted in a wonderful turnout

of 25 cars and their drivers PLUS 25 BOLTS – the wives, with many of them attending a NUTS' meet for the very first time.

Meeting for coffee at the Silver Ball, both the NUTS and the BOLTS were given raffle tickets each, but of two different colours. The NUTS tickets were drawn first and then the BOLTS, so all the ladies were driven off to the lunch venue in a different car from the one they had come in! It was a huge success and I'm sure it will be repeated next year.



Mrs Anne Bartle with Mr Bob Johnson in his 1967 Daimler V8 250 (above) and Mrs Rachel Fry with Mr David Stimpson in his 1952 Jowett Jupiter (left).



Jean Cook

BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

The Society held its Annual Cage Bird Show on Saturday 27th October at the Benson Hall. With 167 birds exhibited it was a good turnout and a good time was had by all. Thank you all for your support. The main winners were:

- **Best Canary – Brian Leggett**
- **Best Budgerigar – Colin Pegrum**
- **Best British Bird – Steve Wallis**
- **Best Foreign Bird – Steve Studd**
- **Best Junior – Miss Leia Robinson**

All winners were presented with a medal and rosette by Councillor Mr Stan Bull (thank you, Stan).

Our regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm in Benson Hall. New Members are always welcome!

Enquiries to:
T. Robinson 01763 243143
or C. Pegrum 01223 833557

Happy Christmas to All!

BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

50 Years in Buntingford

Buntingford & District Flower Club will begin their Golden Year with the first demonstration of 2019 on **30th January** at Benson Hall (opposite the Co-op supermarket, next to the R.C. Church) which has its own car park to the rear (entrance through Rib Way), commencing at 7.30pm with doors open from 7pm. The evening usually concludes between 9.30 and 9.45pm.

The Demonstrator will be Morag Bennett whose presentation will be 'For Home or Away' and the fantastic arrangements are raffled at the end of the evening, so there is an opportunity to take one of them home with you.

The Flower Club has 8 meetings a year, always on the last Wednesday of the month. Coffee and tea are served half-way through the demonstration. During the summer months of June and July there are outings to gardens of interest and also the possibility of attending a workshop for enthusiastic, if not very proficient, budding flower arrangers.

If you are new to the Town and have an interest in 'Flowers with Fun & Friendship', do come and join us as a visitor at only £6 for the evening, which includes the coffee, where you will be made very welcome!



attend2health

Wishing everyone a very
happy and healthy
Christmas and New Year.

As a thank you for your support this year we are offering readers £5 off one treatment in December by bringing in a copy of the Journal*.

(* not to be used with any other offer)



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



Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

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

Services and Junior Church at 11.00am every Sunday

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

December	2	Holy Communion	Rev Dr David Cornick
	9	Morning Worship	Bob Parkin
	16	Junior Church Service	Junior Church
	23	Carol / Christingle Service	
	25	Christmas Day Service at 10.00am	
	30	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
January	6	Morning Worship	Dr Christine Macleod
	13	Holy Communion	Rev Allen Morton
	20	Morning Worship	Dr Janet Bottoms
	27	Morning Worship	Rev David Tatem
February	3	Morning Worship	Maureen Kendall

REGULAR EVENTS

Bible Study Meeting – 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Hall. The format is lunch at 12 noon (bring your own food, tea & coffee is provided), then Bible Study from 12:30pm, finishing prompt at 1:30pm. We each bring along a newspaper and relate news items to the Bible. *All are welcome.* **Junior Church** – Sunday at 11am in term time, for all young people and children. **Bright Hour** – A time for fellowship with prayers, hymns and activities. The next meeting is on Tuesday 11th December at 2:30pm in the Church Hall. **Coffee & Company** – Every Thursday morning from 10:30am for anyone wanting fellowship and time for a chat. **Lunches organised by Christian Aid** – First Friday of the month, 12:30 to 2pm.

www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church
3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Cyril Chiaha

Sunday Mass 9:15am (with term-time Children's Liturgy on 2nd & 4th Sun only); **Holy Day Mass** 7pm; **Weekday Mass** Tues & Thurs 9:30am, Fri 10:30am (with Exposition and Benediction 11-11:30am), Sat 9:30am; **Confessions** Sat 10:30-11am

ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY & ENGLISH MARTYRS

Sunday Mass Sat 6pm (Puckeridge), 11:15am (Old Hall Green);
Holy Day Mass 10:30am (Puckeridge); **Weekday Mass** Wed 10:30am (Puckeridge); **Confessions** Sat 5.15-5.45pm (Puckeridge)

For details of Christmas services see page 16





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



Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072

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

Everyone is welcome at any of our churches.

Services for December 2018

Sunday 2nd	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
Advent	10:00am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
Sunday	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
2nd Sunday	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Morning Worship
of Advent	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
	2:30pm	St Peter's, Buntingford	'Little Sparks' Crafty Christmas' (see p. XX)
Sunday 16th	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
3rd of Advent	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Friday 21st	7:30pm	St Mary's, Aspenden	Candlelight Carol Service
Sunday 23rd	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
4th of Advent	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	All-age Christmas Worship
Monday 24th	2:30pm	St Peter's, Buntingford	Carols round the Crib
Christmas Eve	4:00pm	St Peter's, Buntingford	Carols round the Crib
	5:30pm	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Nativity Service
	11:00pm	St Peter's, Buntingford	Midnight Communion
Tuesday 25th	10:00am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Family Communion for Christmas
Christmas Day			
Sunday 30th	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion

Services for January 2019

Sunday 6th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
Epiphany	10:00am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
Baptism	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Morning Worship
of Jesus	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sunday 20th	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sunday 27th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship

CHRISTMAS SERVICES at:

Roman Catholic Church of St Richard of Chichester, Buntingford

Monday 24th December – 5pm: Children's Vigil Mass

Monday 24th December – 11.15pm: Christmas Carols followed by Christmas Vigil Mass at Midnight.

Tuesday 25th December – 9.15am: Mass of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Tuesday 1st January 2019 – 9.15am: New Year Mass, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Sunday 6th January – 9.15am: The Epiphany of the Lord

Roman Catholic Church of St Edmund of Canterbury, Old Hall Green, and of St Thomas of Canterbury, Puckeridge

Monday 24th December – 7pm: Christmas Vigil Mass (Puckeridge)

Tuesday 25th December – 11.15am: Mass of the Nativity of the Lord (Old Hall Green)

Tuesday 1st January 2019 – 11.15am: New Year Mass, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Puckeridge)

Saturday 5th January – 6pm: Vigil Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord (Puckeridge)

Sunday 6th January – 11.15am: The Epiphany of the Lord (Old Hall Green)

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS' CLUB



Even though our members outnumbered Reed Garden Club we were unable to win the inter-club quiz again this year. Back to form but a good night was had by all, topped off with an excellent supper provided by the members and an abundance of prizes in the raffle. The photo shows our Chair, Janet Murrells, presenting the winner's certificate to Wendy Evans, Chair of Reed Garden Club. There is always next year!

The club's committee has written to the Town Council about the state / lack of notice boards around the town. We have been invited to attend the Council's Amenities Committee meeting in the New Year.

We are arranging a Christmas Lunch at Scotsdales Garden Centre again this year and are also looking forward to our Christmas Party, for Members only, on 5th December. We do not meet in January, so our first meeting of 2019 will be on Wednesday 6th February when our speaker will be Andrew Sankey, garden designer, nurseryman and lecturer based in Cambridge, talking about 'A Year in the Life of a Cottage Garden'. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month and non-members are very welcome to attend as visitors. Please contact me, the Club Secretary, on 01763 271885 for details.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lesley Lowers

Friends of Reed Church Christmas Village Supper

The Christmas Village Supper, with the Royston Town Band, will be held this year on **Saturday 8th December at 7pm** in Reed Village Hall. Licensed bar and raffle. A hot supper is included in the admission: Adult £12.50, Child £6, Family Ticket £30. To book contact either Liz Jakeman 01763 848 398 or Mike Howes 01763 848 029.

BUNTINGFORD SCOUTS

SANTA RUN:

Santa + his elves will be visiting the following places in his sleigh...

Friday 7th December:

From 5:30pm

Monks Walk, Greenway, Bowling Green Lane.

Saturday 8th December:

from 4pm

Paddock road, Sunny Hill, Hare or rd, Adridge way, pipendrive, miles way, snails mead, Downhall by signpost, Chequers close, Freeman drive.

Friday 15th December:

from 5.30pm

Lynas rise, Fairfield, Layson meadow, Ribway.

Saturday 16th December:

From 4pm

The Village, St Francis close, London rd, Crouch Bankers Omega drive, church st, Vicarage rd.

please note: due to timescales he may not make it down every turning in Buntingford but will do our best to stop at the end of every road and play the music loudly so you know that Santa has arrived.

Yew Tree Alpacas

Anstey

Meet our lovely Alpacas and browse in our Christmas shop

Mon 3 Dec - Sat 8 Dec

10.30am - 4.30pm each day

View our range of alpaca products and other Christmas gifts including:

- Wide range of Alpaca socks
- Alpaca yarns from the Yew Tree herd and knitting kits
- Hand knitted accessories - beanies, scarves, gloves
- Alpaca greeting and Christmas cards
- Alpaca pillows and pillow refills
- Lisselle's luxury chocolates
- Christmas Candles
- Luxury chutneys & preserves



Complimentary refreshments and biscuits



Yew Tree Alpacas
Anstey, Herbs SG9 0DA
Tel: 01763 848257
Email: info@yewtreealpacas.co.uk
www.yewtreealpacas.co.uk

Calling all gardeners: we also have bags of 'Alpaca Gold' for sale (it's excellent manure!)

Little Sparks Crafty Christmas

FAMILY EVENT, ALL WELCOME
CRAFTS AIMED AT AGES 4-11YRS

Sunday 9th December 2:30 - 4:30pm

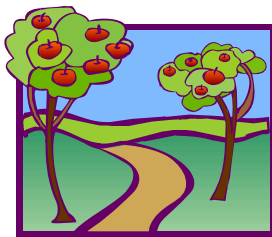
St Peter's Church, Market Hill, Buntingford, SG9 9AB

FREE (donations to the church welcome)

Limited places. First come, first served.

Email info@mummy-sos.com to book, or just turn up and join in!

Sponsored by MUMMY SOS



Orchard Surgery News

Staff on duty during normal surgery hours:

Monday – Dr Kate Corlett
Tuesday & Thursday – Dr Manny Orebiyi
Wednesday & Friday – Dr Natasha Larmie

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

Everyone at Orchard Surgery wishes all our patients and everyone in Buntingford and the villages a very peaceful and healthy Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christmas opening hours: 24th Dec as normal; 25th & 26th closed;
27th, 28th & 31st as normal; 1st Jan closed.

Please call 111 if you feel unwell over the holiday period and the surgery isn't open. Extended access is available 365 days of the year – details are on our website. Also the Herts Urgent Care Out of Hours service looks after all patients for the surgery – if the 111 service feels you'd benefit from this they will refer you on in a seamless manner.

Patients should request prescriptions well in advance to cover the holiday period, as the pharmacies and surgery will be incredibly busy during the limited opening hours of the 2-week holiday period. All details are on the website.

Register now for your password to use our 24x7 website for all sorts of self-managed healthcare. Simply drop in at Surgery Reception with photo proof of your I.D. (a passport or driver's license) and you will be given immediate access to the new Footfall website. This allows you to book your own GP appointments, reorder medication, check out your healthcare worries against a comprehensive advice service, and much more. Many patients are already registered and it would be super if more made a special effort to register by Christmas Eve. Make it an early present to yourself to get signed up.

The Surgery still has plenty of flu jabs so eligible patients should make an appointment now; 2 and 3 year olds can get nasal flu protection. MenACWY jabs and vaccinations against pneumonia and shingles are also available. With the weather forecast to be turning colder, get your flu and other vaccinations now before the frost and snow set in!

As reported last month, the Friends of Orchard Surgery donated a new ECG machine as their final parting gift before formally bringing the Friends to an end. The grateful thanks of the past and current surgery management team go to all the wonderful people who have provided this great voluntary fundraising service. The Friends of Buntingford will continue and our best wishes go to this good service for the whole community.

Patients with asthma, diabetes, COPD, heart disease or any other long-term condition should contact the Surgery for their annual review if they have not had one in the last 6–8 months. It's good to get checked to nip any potential issues in the bud and hear the latest advice on helping to manage your condition.

Don't forget, Orchard Surgery would love to find some young participants to bring new ideas, thoughts and positive action to the Patient Participation Group. Anyone interested please contact the Surgery Reception and ask for Karnika, or send an email to Justin.jewitt@me.com. The next PPG meeting will be in the New Year on Wednesday 23rd January, 6–7pm at the Surgery; all are welcome.

www.orchardsurgerybuntingford.co.uk / 01763 272410

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

Introducing Lee Pooley and Buntingford Heating Ltd

I am an ex-British Gas Engineer. I joined them back in 2003 as an apprentice and worked for them continuously for 15 years, both as an engineer and as a manager. Recently, I decided the time was right for a change, as having a young family and trying to work the hours that British Gas require was becoming just a little too much. I have kept close relations with the company though, and now carry out contracting work for them on a regular basis.

My family and I moved to Buntingford from Cheshunt two and a half years ago, and we absolutely love the town and the people. My daughter is currently in Edwinstree Middle School and my son goes to Layston First School and both are really enjoying their time at school and have made many good friends.



I decided to start Buntingford Heating after seeing the rapid growth of the town and realising that with this came an opportunity to work within and around my local community. With the expansion of housing comes the need for more experienced and qualified gas and heating maintenance. My aim is to gain as much work in Buntingford as possible and to maintain a good customer base within the town. To help me achieve this, I am offering discounts for Buntingford residents.

Buntingford Heating specialises in the repair, maintenance and installation of all types of gas appliances. We carry a wide range of boiler parts to ensure a 'one visit one fix' policy. We also carry out Landlords' Certifications (CP12) for letting agents / landlords and Legionella Risk Assessment Certificates.

Working with British Gas for so many years has taught me the importance of excellent customer service and instilled in me a high standard of work ethic which I have brought with me to my own business. Customer satisfaction is my No.1 priority and will be the core strength on which I base my business and its growth. I am looking forward to getting to know many more people in Buntingford, both as customers and friends, and bringing my own contribution to the strong community ethos here.



Lee Pooley, Buntingford Heating Ltd
email: info@buntingfordheating.co.uk
www.buntingfordheating.co.uk
tel: 01763 772017
mob: 07968 752393



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

This year was probably the most well attended Service of Remembrance ever, with at least 500 people making time to mark the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice. To mark the occasion the Town Council commissioned a granite stone placed at

the foot of the War Memorial and two silhouettes either side of the Memorial. The Mayor, with the help of the British Legion, arranged a four day WW1 exhibition in the Manor House, which was attended by many people. Thanks must go to the British Legion, Reverend Hill and Councillors for making this important occasion very special.

In preparation for the construction of the new cemetery, we are arranging to remove part of the hedgerow bordering the Causeway to create the entrance to the new cemetery. We are undertaking this now to avoid the bird nesting season.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to accommodate all of those who wished to attend the Senior's Christmas Lunch this year. We really don't like turning people away, but by the middle of November we had already exceeded the numbers by 10 attendees, which we have managed to fit in, but it was impossible to take any more. If we have any cancellations, places will be offered to those on the reserve list.

We are looking for prospective Youth Councillors to replace those we lost at the end of last term. If you know someone aged 11 to 18 who is interested in becoming a Youth Councillor, please ask them to contact us for more details.

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

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE, Town Clerk

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

The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AB

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

Twitter: [@buntingfordtc](https://twitter.com/buntingfordtc) Facebook.com/BuntingfordTC

Website: www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

Town Council meetings

Thurs 6 th Dec	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 13 th Dec	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 3 rd Jan	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 10 th Jan	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 31 st Jan	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Full Council

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

News from Your District & County Councillor

Remembrance Sunday 11.11.18

At the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which marked the end of WW1, it was good to see the hundreds of people at the Buntingford war memorial for this special memorial service. It was an honour for me



Above: 95 year old ex-Bomber Command Norman Perry laid the first wreath. Right: Sir Oliver Heald MP, Town Mayor Graham Waite and Cllr Jeff Jones after the service.

to lay a wreath on behalf of East Herts Council. Many thanks to Buntingford Royal British Legion and Buntingford Town Council for arranging the event, together with the WW1 exhibition held at the Manor House during the week.

Battles Over – Hertford Castle

On the evening of Remembrance Sunday, I took a Buntingford group in our BCAT bus along to Hertford Castle for the spectacular 'Battles Over' tribute, where we were warmly welcomed by the Mayor of Hertford. Images were projected onto the walls of Hertford Castle (right) and a flaming beacon was lit, one of 1,200 lit across the country to mark the WW1 centenary. The 3,000 estimated crowd were entertained by the North London Army Wives Choir. For all those who attended from Buntingford, it was a memorable visit on a special day.



BCAT service to nearby Villages

Have you thought of using our new BCAT bus service to head out of Buntingford for a pub lunch in one of the local villages? On Monday the BCAT route takes in The Bull at Coterred; Tuesday goes past The Blind Fiddler in Anstey; on Thursday you could visit The Three Tuns in Great Hormead; and on Friday there's a choice between The Sword Inn Hand in Westmill or The Fox in Aspenden. The bus sets off from the High Street at 11:45am and again at 1:45pm and gives you between 1½ and 2 hours in the pub for lunch. You can hail the bus anywhere along the route and the driver will stop when safe to do so. Or call 07391 994723 to arrange for pick-up and drop-off. Fare £1 per journey.



Over 65s Christmas Lunch

For the 4th year running I am hosting a Xmas lunch for over 65s at the Community Centre, this year on 15th December. I am pleased to see that Nevetts and Layston Grove care homes have a table each. The event is fully booked and I hope that everyone will have a great time. Buntingford Choir will once again be providing entertainment. Many thanks to Buntingford Memorial Charity for their grant towards the cost.

Buntingford Household Waste Recycling Centre, Watermill Industrial Estate

Following many months of lobbying by me, your County Councillor, and Graham Bonner of the Town Council, with both the owners of the estate and Hertfordshire County Council, the road outside the recycling centre has finally been resurfaced (right). The estate owner contested responsibility for the works but thankfully HCC stepped in and undertook the resurfacing as a duty of care for users of the HWRC. The site now has a safe access for residents using the tip and for tenants of the estate.



Councillor Advice

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

Cllr Jeff Jones

District and County Councillor, Buntingford Ward
07836 232 963 / Jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Flood update

The recent flood in the Isabel Hospice warehouse ruined more than 600 bags of donated goods. This is a devastating loss, especially so close to Christmas, and we now

urgently need donations for our 16 shops. We need all kinds of stock but most of all:

Winter coats; Knitwear; Hats; Boots; Ornaments; Games; Toys; Handbags

If anyone reading this can donate a bag of stock it would be greatly appreciated. We are also looking for volunteers to help sort the new stock in the shops – if you could help out for 2-3 hours as a one-off volunteer, please contact our volunteer office by email (volunteer.office@isabelhospice.org.uk) or call 01707 382517. Many thanks.

www.isabelhospice.org.uk



BUNTINGFORD IN TRANSITION

The time is NOW!

WHAT DO YOU WANT
BUNTINGFORD
TO LOOK LIKE IN
2050?

A UNICEF poster of the 1990s showed a child being asked the question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The child answers: "Alive – if possible!" As we approach 2019, this is no joke. Our last article mentioned a recent report from the International Panel on Climate Change which states that we have just 12 years – yes, TWELVE – left to avert catastrophic climate change.

Whilst Buntingford in Transition, along with hundreds of other groups around the country, have been toying with ideas about saving energy, water, food miles etc. (and we hope that, by the time you read this, our Town Council will have agreed to support our Plastic-free Buntingford initiative), climate change has been continuing all around us. Only new national and global laws will make the difference our future requires.

I am writing this on the eve of perhaps one of the biggest civil disobedience events to take place in this country since the suffragettes made a stand a century ago. By the time you read this a movement called Extinction Rebellion will have done its best to bring London to a standstill in an attempt to get our Government to recognise the fact that they are not doing enough to protect the UK population from the devastation that is likely to be caused by extreme weather events and other impacts of climate change. The movement is calling on the Government to take action NOW.

Climate change is a very inconvenient and uncomfortable truth for us all. I don't need to reiterate the facts and figures that bring scientists to their conclusion – these are all easy enough to find on the internet. Where, on the other hand, are the facts and figures to *disprove* the likely scenario if we don't take serious action to keep global warming to under 2°C, preferably 1.5°C? Our government, which is taking so much time and making so much effort to fulfil the wish of some people to leave the EU, surely needs to put as much if not more into fulfilling the wish of all of us to survive!

For anyone concerned about the world that future generations will inherit, who are perhaps feeling powerless in the face of the unknown, please contact me. The more people who stand together, the better for all.

Madela Baddock

07778 298605 or buntingfordintransition@gmail.com

Ringling the Bells for Remembrance

At 8.45am on Sunday 11th November our bell-ringing team rang muffled bells at Westmill church in memory of those men who gave their lives during the two world wars. At 12.30pm the same team rang the church bells at Aspenden commemorating the ending of the 1914–1918 war one hundred years ago. Bell-ringers throughout the country all rang their bells at the same time. We ringers felt very privileged to have been part of this national commemoration.

**Margaret Addicott, Hilary Austin, John Bowman, Helen Cowler,
Rosemary Poulton, Sarah Precious, Michael Thody, Claire White**

With several weddings coming up in 2019, we are urgently seeking more ringers to strengthen our team. If you might be interested, please email mikethody@gmail.com

Turkeys

You know when you hear people start talking about turkeys it must be close to Christmas. Getting a turkey, especially the right turkey, is surrounded by a great deal of what I can only describe as faff.

The general trend is that turkeys are only consumed at Christmas in the UK. This right away gives producers a headache, and an excuse to charge more since although turkeys can be grown all year they only need to be fresh in the shops for one short season. Most butchers, either in the high street or the supermarket, will not be able to promise you a turkey in time if you haven't ordered by the end of November. Certainly, don't expect to be like the reformed Scrooge and send a boy out on Christmas morning to get the biggest bird in the butcher's window; the shop will be shut and the butcher probably already on the sherry. So, you need to plan.

We had been keeping a few chickens in our back garden for a number of years, mostly for the eggs they gave us. We bred some successfully, even kept a couple of geese and some runner ducks for the eggs, but what about turkeys? My other half, the head fowl wrangler and despatcher, thought it should be straightforward enough and resolved to buy some turkey poults.

We built a turkey run in the garden. It didn't have to be too big, about the size of a one-car garage, but it had to be fox proof. It didn't need a shed, just a shelter, but the perch had to be substantial. These birds were going to be big. This took a few pleasant summer days to make. Holes for the posts, trenches to bury the bottom of the chicken wire into had to be dug, and plenty of screws and other fittings to ensure the tin roof we had scavenged wasn't going to blow off the shelter in the autumn winds.

Next, we had to find some turkey poults. Every young fowl is technically a poult, but we tend to call them chicks if they are hens. Poults are six weeks old, of either sex, and indescribably ugly. We went to an auction at a large barn in the wilds of Norfolk about 20 weeks before Christmas. This was a new experience for me, and over in about 20 minutes in respect of our section of the auction. It was bewilderingly fast. My 'chief wrangler' had been brought up at the knees of auctioneers and I didn't even notice her bidding until she raised a small piece of card with our buyers' number on to acknowledge the auctioneer. We went to join a short queue of people waiting to pay (strictly cash or account) and then, 50 quid lighter, we took the receipt to the cages at the back where the birds were. A young lad went into the cage and swiftly scooped them all up by the feet and then bundled them into a cardboard box. The birds took some minutes to settle down. I didn't trust them to stay that way. There was the occasional flapping of wings that was unwelcome on the slippery cobbles as we walked to the car park.

They were bigger than I expected and only just fitted in the dog cage we had put in the back of the car with what we had thought was sufficient newspaper. The drive home was a noisy and smelly one. The newspaper did not prove to be sufficient and the car took days to recover a sweeter disposition. We got them to their new (but sadly for them temporary) home and ensured the water and 'growers' pellets were ready in the 'on demand' feeder we had purchased at the auction side stalls. It was a big blue barrel with a twangy spring at the bottom. The hens (we had bought two feeders) quickly cottoned on to how it worked, but not only were the turkey poults ugly, it seemed they were stupid too. We had to resort to twanging the spring ourselves to fill a bowl beneath it.

There was a plus side to their care – we didn't have to lock them up or let them out each day since they preferred to roost under the shelter. Ten weeks went by and they began to look more like something resembling a turkey. Their wings spread and their tails

began to fan. They also learned a thing or two about escape. Our 'Tom and Barbara' neighbours often saw me dodging round the onion sets in their garden trying to corner one of the escapees. We hadn't put a net roof on the run and the turkeys seemed to have acquired squirrel DNA from somewhere (though we still had to twang their spring).

They finally reached 18 weeks and we changed the feed from growers to finishers. This really piled the weight on and the escapology stopped. And then it was time for their demise. Keeping hens had inured us to despatching our hens when they were too sick or just plump enough for the table, but these were big birds and killing them would take a team effort. I can assure you, turkeys never vote for Christmas.

Was it worth it? Well our biggest bird weighed 24lbs when it was dressed. It would have cost nearly £150 fresh from the butcher. All five were a similar size and those we didn't give away lasted in our freezer for the rest of the year. The look on the family faces that Christmas Day told us they were as delicious as we thought they were, and had hoped they would be. So the next year we went to another poultry auction ... two weeks before Christmas, of dressed birds straight from a farm. I like turkey, but I don't like faff.

Richard Wood, Buntingford Writers' Group



Oooh ... yes ... now ...listen! Just when you thought it was safe to return to the 'theatre' now that those naughty children have stopped being found with their trousers down in *Out of Order*, the Buntingford Dramatic Society is at it again with another big dollop of riotous comedy, this time

written by that lovely Ian Hislop chappie. Yes! The one from *Have I Got News For You* on the telly! The show is called *A Bunch of Amateurs* – so very apt because it's about a bunch of amateur thespians and it's being staged by us, as wonderfully ridiculous a bunch of amateur thespas as you're ever likely to see! Think Hollywood meets Am-Dram meets Shakespeare meets rural Suffolk ... And if that's not the makings of a night of giggles and silliness then I'm not Gladys Aman!

So keep your eyes peeled for posters going up in windows and on walls of our lovely town – and, from 1st December, get your Early Bird Tickets for the low low price of £13 from our WONDERFUL new Box Office at Bonney's Boutique, the lovely ladies' clothes and accessories shop on the High Street where I go to maintain my sartorial splendour! You can also buy tickets online from www.buntingforddrama.org (isn't that frightfully modern?!) But be sure to get your tickets before the Early Bird deal comes to an end at midnight on 7th January. Remember ...

A BUNCH OF AMATEURS

at Benson Hall

Friday 15th & Saturday 16th February / Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd February

It will be one of those super-duper supper evenings where you get some drama (loosely speaking), some yummy grub and a drink or two. Oh rub me down with linseed oil and batter me with a kipper, this is going to be a real good one! See you there my lovelies – I can't wait! This is Gladys Aman, your local theatre critic and all-round luvvie, signing off. Toodleloo!

Gladys XXXX

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

Thanks to everyone who came to our charity screening of 'Journey's End' on the Eve of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. After our expenses were paid we were able to hand over £532 to the Royal British Legion, which was very pleasing.

Another very big thank you is due from Buntingford Film Club to our local Co-op whose generous donation is very much appreciated. This support is a great help in our efforts to continue bringing quality entertainment as well as pleasant social evenings to our town.

Once again, in November the children from the winning House at Edwinstree School enjoyed a film of their choice on our big screen at Benson Hall. This time their Friday afternoon film treat was 'Freaky Friday'.

**This month's films at Benson Hall,
on Saturday 8th December, are:**

2.30pm Matinee – 'Nativity!'

Everyone loves Christmas but not Mr Maddens, a teacher at St. Bernadette's Primary School. It's his class's turn to put on the Nativity, and he has drawn the short straw as he's been given Mr Poppy, a rather excitable teaching assistant, to help with the task. Together with the children they embark on a truly epic Nativity performance, hitting quite a few bumps along the way! The third film in this series, 'Nativity Rocks', is due for release in cinemas this month, so why not check out the first film again with us and enjoy some seasonal treats as well as getting crafty with Kelly and the team making Christmas cards. We have also heard that Father Christmas is going to pop in to Benson Hall to say 'Hello'!



7.30pm Evening Screening – 'It's a Wonderful Life'

Frank Capra's much-loved classic comes to our big screen as our Christmas contribution this year. Starring James Stewart and Donna Reed, it tells the story of George Bailey, a man who has given up on life and decides to commit suicide on Christmas Eve. This triggers the arrival of Guardian Angel, Clarence (Henry Travers) who shows George all the lives he has touched and how different life in his community would be if he had never been born. Guaranteed to make even the grumpiest amongst us feel good! Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will be served for this festive evening.

**Screenings for January 2019 at Benson Hall,
on Saturday 12th January, will be:**

2.30pm Matinee – 'Lego Batman Movie'

Based on the Lego Batman toys, this is the first of the Lego Movie series (Lego Movie 2 is out this month). We follow Batman as he attempts to overcome his greatest fear to stop the Joker's latest plan. Batman themed biscuits will be the treats on offer, plus there will be a Lego building competition at the start of the



afternoon. Please contact Alex at Mummy SOS if you can't make the film but the children still want to go!

7.30pm Evening Screening – 'Darkest Hour'

Starring Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill in his Oscar and Bafta Best Actor award-winning performance of 2018, this tells the gripping story of 4 weeks in early summer 1940 when Churchill has just become Prime Minister, and many in the government want him to pursue peace with Hitler. More popular with the Labour opposition than with his own party, Churchill finds himself on the horns of a dilemma as he struggles to decide whether to fight on or capitulate to the peacemakers in his Cabinet. Arguably the best British film of last year, this is worth seeing for the astonishing performance by Oldman alone, and he is ably supported by a strong team of leading actors.



Short Film Competition

Following the success of the inaugural competition last February, we have decided to run our second short film competition (see below). For any budding young film-maker, this is an excellent opportunity to have your work assessed by professionals in a fun and collaborative way. It could help you move closer to realising the dream of a career in film-making! Entry conditions are on the Film Club's website.

Looking Ahead

We are hoping to hold a charity screening of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' on **Saturday 2nd February** to help a young schoolgirl raise funds to enable her to go to Peru to work in an orphanage there. More information will be available shortly on posters and social media.

Finally, if 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly' is your kind of film then don't forget that, thanks to our generous sponsor Simon Druce of Autofix, tickets for the screening on **Saturday 13th April** are FREE. They are available at our Box Office in the High Street on a first-come first-served basis. We look forward to welcoming you to all our events.

Christine Stuart-Taylor, Event Co-ordinator Tel: 01763 272990

Box Office: Chris Dellar Properties, 58 High Street Tel: 01763 272605

Online Booking via Billetto www.buntingfordfilmclub.org

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB
SHORTS COMPETITION 2018/19

1ST PRIZE OF £150
PRIZES FOR 2ND & 3RD

To win, create a short film between 1-10 minutes in length on a topic of your choice.

All entrants must be 14-18 years old
Deadline for entries is 25th January 2019

All entries shortlisted will be invited to a screening finale, where winners will be announced on **Thursday 21st February 2019.**

Short Story: **Not Alone On Christmas Day**

Jane slowly made her way from her bedroom to the living room and opened up the heavy curtains and looked out into the garden.

Outside it was just about light and she could see the black outline of the trees silhouetted against the lightening sky. Last night there had been a heavy frost and the lawn was white which made everything else in the garden look black and menacing. She shivered, then made her way to the kitchen to put on the kettle and look in the cupboard for the packet of paracetamol she knew was there. When found, she extracted two tablets and laid them on the worktop beside a mug. Her head was pounding, and when she saw the empty bottle of Merlot on the draining board she remembered the reason why. She had drunk the whole bottle when she returned home from church the previous evening.

The Christmas Eve service was something she had always in the past enjoyed. To hear the nine lessons and carols to her was what Christmas was always about. Seeing the children gathered round the crib singing 'Away in a Manger' bought memories of past Christmases. Seeing her own children standing hand in hand, gazing with awe and wonderment at the illuminated crib containing baby Jesus.

She could see from her place in the choir that the church was almost full. The congregation was made up mostly of families. Mums and dads; grandparents and aunties staying for the holiday period. When the service ended everybody wished each other a 'Merry Christmas' and all departed happily to enjoy an evening of a family gathering and to prepare for the following day's festivities.

She had come home to an empty house to spend the evening on her own. The service had left her feeling very alone, un-needed and depressed.

Jane returned to the living room with her comforting mug of tea and gazed once more out of the window. The light was a now little brighter and she was able to see birds happily feeding off the nuts and seeds that she had put out for them yesterday. She heaved a big sigh and made her way to the settee, sat down and took the two painkillers with a quick swig of tea, and waited for her headache to subside. "Christmas Day", she said to herself and the first in her 75-year life that she had ever spent alone. "It was my own fault", she thought. "After all, it was what I wanted." She had been invited by both her children to spend Christmas with them but had declined. She did not fancy a skiing holiday with Chris and her young family. She never really enjoyed winter sports anyway, though she liked the après ski. She did not seem to be able to cope with the cold these days. "I believe the main reason I was invited was to look after the kids", she had irrationally thought.

Her son John was spending Christmas with his mother-in-law's family and she had been invited. She was very fond of her son's wife, but found the whole family somewhat overwhelming. There are so many of them and although they always made her welcome she always felt an outsider. It was not too bad when Gordon was alive as they had each other for support.

She closed her eyes and thought about all the Christmases she had known in the past. Her own mother, although not very well off, had always made Christmas special. She joined a Christmas club and saved all year so that they could have presents, a tree and a feast. The most miserable Christmases were in the war years when she was evacuated. Parcels never made up for being away from home, for not being with her own family.

She remembered her first Christmas as a wife. They had just moved into their own house and she had just become aware that she was pregnant. After she told him on Christmas Eve, Gordon said that the news was the best Christmas present he had ever had. They

had kissed under the sprig of mistletoe that he had found on his way home from work. She remembered the Christmases when the children were small. The pre-Christmas excitement of decorating the tree and putting up the decorations. Then the excitement of opening the stockings on Christmas morning, and the whole family gathering around the table for the traditional lunch. There had been so many happy times. Now she was alone and the prospect of being alone all day was a really depressing thought. As her headache subsided, she made herself another cup of tea and thought about the day ahead and what to do.

Suddenly there was a knock on the front door. "Who on earth is that!" she thought. On opening the front door she saw the small figure of six year old Amy, who lived in the house opposite, standing on the door step wearing a Santa Claus hat. "Mummy says that if you are having Christmas on your own would you like to come and have dinner with us? Granny and Granddad have just arrived and it would be such fun if you came as well." Jane looked down at this little figure and tears came to her eyes. This would be Amy's first Christmas without her daddy as he had died less than a year ago, a victim of cancer.

She felt suddenly very ashamed of herself for feeling so selfish and self-pitying, after all she had memories of a long life shared with a wonderful man and children who gave her great happiness. This was something that had been denied to Amy and her mother. Jane bent down and hugged the little girl and said: "I will be delighted to come and have dinner with you and thank your mummy very much for inviting me." Amy trotted off down the garden path saying over her shoulder: "Mummy said to come when you liked."

Just as Jane closed the front door the phone rang. She rushed to answer it and a young voice said "Happy Christmas Grandma from Switzerland". It was 12 year old William, and soon the rest of the family said their greetings and how they wished she was with them. She had hardly put the phone down when it rang again. It was John, and once again all wanted to wish her a Merry Christmas and she had a full list at what Father Christmas had left for the children.

As she put the phone down Jane realised that she was not alone at all. She still had a very wonderful family that cared about her. After all Christmas Day was only one day and life still went on for the rest of the year.

So after a relaxing bath and putting on the new sweater that had been a gift from her daughter, she picked out a bottle wine and walked across the road to join Amy and her mother and to spend Christmas Day, not with her own family but one that wanted her to share it with them.

Isobel Browne, U3A Writers' Group



Braughing Sing Community Choir

Come and sing with our Braughing Sing Community Choir, we are a friendly bunch and welcome people of all ages and abilities. We sing a variety of songs and styles.

Tuesday evenings (during term time) **7.30-9.00 pm**
at: **Jenyns School, Braughing SG11 2QJ.**

**Christmas Concert at St. Mary's Church, Braughing
Saturday 8th December. All welcome!**

For more information visit: **www.braughingsing.com** or visit our Facebook Page: **"The Braughing Sing"** or contact **Elaine on 07501 495940.**



Dementia Carers Support Group

A free support group for carers meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, **10am to 12noon**, in the Tea Room at the Wine Bar on Buntingford High Street.

The next group meeting is on: **Wednesday 19th December**

For more information, call HertsHelp on **0300 123 4044**, Monday – Friday, 8am–6pm. www.hertswise.org.uk

Let's make Buntingford a Dementia Friendly Community

Around 850,000 people in the UK today are living with dementia and that number is rising. Two thirds of people with dementia live in the community; a third live in care homes. Wherever you live, if you have dementia the outside world is a confusing and often frightening place: 35% of people with dementia go out once a week or less, and 10% go out once a month or less.

On Tuesday 30th October in the Council Chamber of Buntingford Town Council, 24 people – representatives from a variety of organisations, businesses, churches and individuals – came together to discuss making Buntingford the first town in East Herts to become a Dementia Friendly Community. The definition of a Dementia Friendly community is:

“A city, town or village where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported, and continue to live in the way they want to and in the community they choose.”

Allison Purkiss from Layston Grove Care Home led the group with a presentation from The Alzheimer's Society on how to make this happen, how small changes in our own attitudes and behaviour can make all the difference, and what we need to think about. We need to raise awareness in our community about dementia and various ideas were discussed about how to do this. These included inviting members of the community to attend a Dementia Friends Information Session where people learn key facts about the disease and the small things that we can all do to help people live well with the illness. Other ideas included having a display in the library, giving talks to local schools and youth groups, talking to shop staff about dementia, and running a Dementia Café.

Allison: “It is really important that we involve people who are actually living with dementia so that any actions we decide to do are appropriate for them and are what they would find useful.” Everyone was encouraged to go back to their organisations and decide on what type of action they could undertake. Allison again: “Once we have some actions underway, we can apply for recognition with The Alzheimer's Society and start to issue window stickers to be displayed in premises to show commitment to the initiative.”

Our next meeting will be in January, date still to be confirmed. Everyone is welcome to come along. For more information on this community initiative please contact Allison Purkiss at Layston Grove on **01763 274 327** or email her at:

Allison.purkiss@oakdalecaregroup.com



EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Telephone:

03444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



Universal Credit and Sanctions

I've had my Universal Credit payments reduced for missing an appointment. I don't think this is fair as I had a good reason for not being able to attend. Now I am struggling to make ends meet. What should I do?

If you can't get to an appointment at the Jobcentre, ring them to let them know as soon as you can – explain your reasons and ask to rearrange. Keep a note of the date and time of the call, who you speak to and what was said.

If you need help with the cost of traveling to appointments, ask the Jobcentre what support is available.

Details about your sanction should be in your 'sanction notification'. This will be in a letter or, if you use the digital service, posted on your Universal Credit online account. You should be told:

- why you've received a sanction
- the level of sanction you've been given
- how long the sanction will last
- how much money will be taken away from your Universal Credit payment
- the date the sanction decision was made

You need this information to check if you've been sanctioned correctly. If you've misplaced it, contact the Universal Credit Helpline and ask them to give you a copy. As you work through these checks, you might want to make notes in case you want to appeal the sanction.

If you think the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has made a mistake in reducing your payments, you can ask for the decision to be reconsidered. Contact the department as soon as possible setting out why you disagree with the decision. Make sure to include the date of the decision and your personal information, including your National Insurance number.

You can ask for this reconsideration in your Universal Credit online account, using a form on the government website, in writing or over the phone. Your local Citizens Advice can help you put together this information.

If the DWP does not change its decision you can appeal, although this could involve going to a tribunal and may take some time to be heard.

If you're struggling to make ends meet, you can apply for extra help. Ask the DWP for a hardship payment. This is usually a loan and will be deducted from future Universal Credit payments. You can apply for this payment through the Universal Credit helpline, or by asking at your local Jobcentre Plus office.

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

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



I thought you might like a bit of a change to the usual report this month so here we take a look back at last Christmas with a collage of photos recalling how some of our groups celebrated their Christmas meetings in 2017. The Groups that sent me their Christmas photos from last year were (this page, top to bottom): Carpet Bowls at the Bowls Club; Bridge at Benson Hall; Wine Appreciation at Bunters; and Keep Fit at the Catherine Wheel; (opposite page, top to bottom): Church Crawlers at The George, Royston; and LETs on a visit to Waddesdon Manor.



Our next meeting is on **Monday 14th January** when our speaker will be Andrew Waite with his 'Introduction to Gemstones', then on **Monday 11th February** Sheila Edgar will be telling





us about 'Buckingham Palace'. We meet at the Seth Ward Community Centre – doors open 1.30pm. On behalf of the Committee and Members of Buntingford U3A I would like to wish Editor Christine and all the Journal Readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Jean Cook

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford



Mustard Seed Singers



The Mustard Seed Singers are soon to be two years old! We're a small group – only 15 strong – who enjoy singing together and have put on concerts raising money for the local benefice churches and for a couple of charities. Next spring we will be performing a concert at St Mary the Virgin church in Westmill in memory of our friend and singing colleague Jenny Soar, and later in 2019 we are delighted to have been asked to put on a

concert as part of Christ Church URC's 200-year celebrations. Some of our members sing with other choirs as well – Royston Choral Society, Buntingford Community Choir and Braughing Sing – and at Christmas many of us form part of the choir for the Candlelit Carol Service St Mary's Church in Aspenden.

Much of what we sing as TMSS is a cappella, but other than that we don't fall into any specific or main musical genre. We'll happily tackle pretty much anything – modern, traditional, pop, rock, folk, choral, sacred and secular. Having said that, it's quite hard to try and encourage others to join us when we haven't got a definite image to promote. We're very open and welcoming to anyone who wants to come and find out first-hand what we're about. So if you enjoy singing, can hold a tune and would like to be part of a small singing group we meet at 7pm in St Peter's Church in Buntingford on Thursday evenings. If you'd rather find out a bit more and ask a few questions first, then please email brinkman07@hotmail.co.uk or call Jan on 01763 272217.

Memories of the Great Flood of Buntingford – Part 3

Alison Plumb (right) lived in the High Street, opposite what is now Sainsbury's, with her parents – local historian Philip (below right) and his wife Dulcie – and her brothers and sister: Andrew 14, Martin 11, Simon 7 and Jennifer 4.



Alison's first recollection of Monday 16th September 1968 is of walking down to Market Hill as usual to wait for Mr Reg Baker, who lived in Archers but worked at Borg Warner and gave her a daily lift to school in Letchworth. Seeing the water across the road by Market Hill, she ran straight back home with the news that she wouldn't be able to go to school (hooray!). All four schoolchildren had the day off – Layston School on the Causeway was closed for Simon, and Andrew and Martin couldn't get to their school, St Edmund's at Old Hall Green. It would have been Martin's second day at his new senior school.



Alison's mother told her to make herself useful, so she got changed, put on her wellington boots and went to help her Great-Auntie Em at No.1 Chapel End (below). Emma Plumb, 73 years old, was very stoic about the situation. After all, the end of her garden was a sheer, unfenced drop down to the river, so it wasn't beyond the realms of possibility that one day there might be a flood. She was busy dragging furniture out of the house, piling up sodden rugs and cushions for throwing out, then sweeping the filthy water and debris out through the kitchen door. Alison still has the wedding invitation Aunt Em had kept to her parents' wedding, carefully dried, wrinkled and stained, with a note in her writing saying "spoilt in the flood" on the envelope.



When Alison and her brother went to St Richard's Church to see if they could help they were the only ones there to start with and she remembers feeling a bit put out that the Priest just handed them a broom each and left them to it! It was quite a daunting task for two children to tackle on their own. They spent ages sweeping out the water, falling over the sodden sawdust hassocks which were hidden under the water and dodging parquet floor blocks that were bobbing around. The water was still deep enough to fill their wellingtons so they took them off and stubbed their toes

on the uneven floor. Rows of chairs had tilted over, and as the water receded tide marks of mud and slime and debris stuck to the walls and radiators. Those parishioners, including Dulcie, who had washing machines volunteered to wash the altar boys' cassocks and priest's vestments.

When Alison's grandmother Agnes Plumb, who lived at 5 River Green, received a knock on her door very early in the morning from the police who told her to leave because the river was flooding, she refused to go and had to be "helped" from the premises. When the floodwaters receded the tidemark was four feet high. Sometime later Agnes received this letter (right) from the Buntingford Union Association with £5 (£85 in today's money) towards repairing damage.



Jean Cook

If you have any memories of that day that you would like recorded please email me at Jean.M.Cook@btinternet.com

BUNTINGFORD ADULT LEARNING FOR FUN (BALFF)

The new BALFF 10-week Course starts on Wednesday 23rd January 2019, 10am for 10:30am, at the Community Centre, Luyne Rise, Buntingford

‘THE SHOWS OF RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN’

Tutor is the popular Stephen Barnard

Joining forces in 1942 after long and successful careers working with other partners, composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein would revolutionise the stage musical with a series of shows. From *Oklahoma* in 1943 to *The Sound of Music* in 1960, they created shows which departed from the traditional lightness of operetta and musical comedy and told serious stories with well-drawn characters and character-driven songs. In this course we will look at each of their shows in turn – how they were originated and developed, the partnership's choice of directors, choreographers and casts. We will also look at the message and meaning of Rodgers and Hammerstein shows and how they tuned in to the mood of post-war America while challenging attitudes in sometimes surprising ways.

The cost is £20 for the course of 10 lectures. If this interests you just turn up at 10am on 23rd January. You will find a very warm welcome and a free cup of coffee or tea, before the lecture begins at 10:30am. If you would like more information on the course or on BALFF, please give me a call. Looking forward to meeting any new members.

Julia Peacock, Chairman Tel: 01763 272584



Layston C of E First School

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



We have had a very positive start to the year as we welcomed new children and families to our Layston community in Reception. I have been overwhelmed by how well all our children have supported and guided our new Reception children, helping them to settle in.

So much learning has taken place in just a short space of time. It is fantastic to see how well all the children have adjusted to their new year groups. The children have also had opportunities to embed their learning further through trips and visits to the school.

We started off with a visit from LabTots, led by Sophia Mitchell whose enthusiasm and energy is amazing. Her practical and engaging activities are a great way to ignite a love of Science in our children. We also had a Toy Day with 'History Off the Page' (left).

We had a trip to the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey to learn about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. The children also learnt about life in the Stuart period including games and food (opposite page, top). The



highlight of the day was the theatre production which retold the story of the Gunpowder Plot (above).

We were incredibly proud of the children who represented Layston School at the Remembrance Service (left).



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, pupils and parents/carers for their continued support and to wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Mrs Sonia Singh, Headteacher

www.layston.herts.sch.uk



Reed First



School

village contributed to a memory book which was displayed alongside the poppies in the church (right).

In school, all of the children took part in a fruit workshop, trying a range of different types of fruit and vegetables. Early Years children have a new sand pit and the Infants' long-awaited 'mud kitchen' has finally arrived. Year 4 children took part in Youth Speaks at Studlands Rise School, sharing Powerpoint presentations they had produced on a range of self-chosen topics. We had some interesting conversations in Anti-bullying Week, focusing on Respect. We also raised funds for Children in Need, wearing spots or Pudsey-themed clothes on a non-uniform day, and we joined together in the hall to share Spotty cakes.



Our wraparound care provision has really grown this term and we are looking for a second person to join our team after Christmas as a Playleader. Our 'Night Owls' club runs 3.15–5.15pm daily and we are initially looking for someone, maybe a student in Y12 or Y13, for two or three days per week. If anyone is interested in this, subject to the usual safeguarding checks, please contact the school office on **01763 848304**.

We have been pleased to welcome potential parents to see our school recently – we currently have spaces in all year groups. Again, please contact the school office if you would like to see what we can offer here at Reed First School. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Jackie Harvey, Headteacher



MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk



Visit and Tour for Prospective Parents and Carers

Following the interest shown in the Autumn Term visit and tour sessions for prospective parents and carers, there will be a further opportunity to visit our school on Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 9:15am. If you would like further information, please contact the School Office. Applications for Reception places to start in September 2019 can be made online until 15th January 2019 using the Hertfordshire County Council website.

Nursery Admissions

Here at Millfield we are in the process of reviewing our Nursery admissions procedures for children born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 who will be starting Nursery in September 2019. Applications will open after Christmas, in Spring Term 2019, for either morning or afternoon sessions. Applications for Nursery places must be made directly to the School.

Building Expansion Update

We are looking forward to the completion of our building works as the end of the year approaches. The internal works can then commence. We would like to thank all our parents, carers, neighbours and the wider community for their understanding whilst this major work has been undertaken.

Christmas Fair

Friday 7th December 2018
4:30pm – 6:30pm



- ▲ Stalls
- ▲ Raffle
- ▲ Tombolas
- ▲ Food
- ▲ Drinks
- ▲ Games

PTA Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair this year is on Friday 7th December from 4:30pm until 6:30pm. We have a good range of local craft stalls booked to attend, as well as the usual favourites such as a raffle, tombola and a Christmas Grotto! Our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils are making products in class which they will sell at the Fair. We hope lots of people are able to come along.

Christmas Performances

The children are preparing for the festive season when Key Stage 1 will perform

their Christmas Play, our Nursery classes will perform the Nativity and our Reception classes will participate in the annual Carol Service with a performance of the Tableau. At each performance we shall be collecting donations for our chosen charities. Our concerts are always extremely well attended and we hope everyone has a great time. Pupils in Key Stage 2 will be presenting a performance in the Spring Term.

Carol Singing in the Community

Our Key Stage 2 pupils are looking forward, as always, to visiting local care homes to sing Carols and Christmas songs. It is a tradition that everyone enjoys.

PTA Fundraising

Following a very successful Autumn term when a lot of money was raised for the school, the PTA are already planning a number of events for next year which will include raising funds for equipment to be used in the newly created Hub area within the school.

Spring Term Topics

After the end-of-term excitement and Christmas we will return to school in January ready to start some new learning. Pupils in both Key Stages are starting new topics: Key Stage 1 have chosen a topic based around 'Into the Night' and in science they will be learning about plants; Key Stage 2 will be learning about 'The Romans'. The children in Nursery and Reception are looking at stories and fairy tales.

Millfield School would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher

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



Pre-School Science 3yrs+
See, Do, Interact, Experiment,
Create, Question, Learn, Grow
& Develop with...

- Introducing scientific principles and concepts through enjoyable, exciting, easy to understand, interactive, engaging games, experiments and real life metaphors.
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- Lab Tots supports EYFS and Montessori principles using science education to reinforce and develop transferable skills incl. dexterity, reasoning, team work, communication, creative and imaginative problem solving thus promoting truly well rounded individuals.
- Lab Tots sessions give your children the best start, using science to create a truly unique learning experience.

To find out about & book your next **Lab Tots** experience visit

www.labtots.com
www.facebook.com/labtots.preschool.science
Tel: 07720 292 350 Email: sophia@labtots.com

Lab-Tots will be running pre-school sessions (for 3 to 5 year olds) at **Creativity Home Childcare**, Vicarage Rd, Buntingford on **Monday Mornings @ 11am-11:45am**

After-school sessions (for 4 to 8 year olds) will continue at **Buntingford Library on Monday Afternoons @ 4pm-4:45pm**

Dates for both sessions are:
14th January
28th January
11th February
4th March
18th March
1st April

Cost: £10 per session
For more information see the website or contact Sophia via phone, email or Facebook (details left).



Edwinstree Middle School



A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

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

We are really pleased to announce that after a rigorous two-day inspection, Ofsted have graded the school as 'Good' and that we are well on the way to returning Edwinstree to Outstanding. We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Buntingford Community for their support. If you heard a large cheer on Friday 16th coming from Edwinstree Hall, it is because we took the opportunity to celebrate with our students!

We started our year with a celebration of our amazing Earth by considering and reflecting on the value of Creation. We have explored what makes our world so wonderful and the responsibility we have to look after the Earth. As part of this reflection, we have also considered the WOW in our human capacity to solve problems and we have celebrated the life of ordinary people who have become extra-ordinary. At Edwinstree, we celebrate the fact that the next generation of problem solvers and successful people are here in our school and in the Community.

Remembrance Day

As part of our Remembrance to commemorate 100 years since Armistice Day, Edwinstree took part in the SAA's 'Paint a Poppy Challenge' in partnership with the Royal British Legion. Students, staff and parents were encouraged to paint a poppy for a



display in the school hall. Our Art Club students, with Mrs Chipperfield, created the display and we are pleased to announce that we were awarded second place in this national competition. Our prize: a lovely set of art materials for our Art Department.

All Souls' Day

Prior to half-term, the school celebrated All Souls' Day. This is the date in the calendar when we stop and spend time remembering and celebrating friends and family members who have died. We spent a lovely afternoon sharing our memories and creating 'memory catchers' (right), like the American Indian dream catchers, but instead of dreams, we captured our memories.



These are now displayed as a backdrop to our stage. The date coincided with mental health week and we supported our students to begin to understand that talking about sadness and loss is important in keeping us well, and that in talking we find opportunities to be thankful for the lovely times we spent together. This is one of the Christian values that we celebrate regularly.

Motor Neurone Disease Day

In the summer one of our students, with help from his friends, organised a fundraising day for the MND Charity. In total the school raised £605.47 and a cheque was presented to Roger Widdecombe, Regional Fundraiser for East of England Motor Neurone Disease Association (right). Thank you to all involved.



Year 8 Visit to Oliver Cromwell's House in Ely

Our first set of 'enrichment' trips took place on 15th & 16th October. As part of learning about the English Civil War, Year 8 visited the beautiful historic town of Ely (left). This included visiting the Oliver Cromwell house (below) to learn about the type of person he was. We also looked around Ely for evidence of the Reformation and the Dissolution of the Monasteries. We had a lovely day and our knowledge was greatly enhanced as a result of it. Once again our students were praised for their enthusiasm and good behaviour.



Edwinstree Choir

In continuing to improve our links with the local community, Edwinstree Choir took part in a concert at St Mary's Church in Standon, joining with Choirs from Roger de Clare School and Little Munden School. Thank you to those parents who supported this event.



House Rewards

Thank you to Buntingford Town Council who once again hosted a reward afternoon, this time for Stort House. We calculated all the positive rewards given out in the first 8 weeks of term and Stort just pushed ahead. Students spent the afternoon in Benson Hall watching 'Freaky Friday' and munching popcorn!

Advent

As always, we are looking forward to Advent and would like to remind the Buntingford Community that if you feel in need of a little festive cheer, you are welcome to join us on Friday afternoons for our Collective Worship when we come together and sing to end the week on a positive and joyful note. Please contact the school office on 01763 271446.

Jo Gant, Headteacher

Freman

COLLEGE

back former Freman student, Chris Wright, as this year's Adjudicator. Chris has a long history with Freman College House Music, entering the competition five times and being a director in his final year. After much deliberation the overall winners were Butler House.



Josh Bridgeland is a talented swimmer (above right) and his gruelling schedule is paying off as he recently finished 4th in the 200 fly at the English Nationals. He has qualified for the Winter Nationals in December in the 100 and 200 fly and the 400 IM, again an open age group competition.

Ballroom and Latin dancer Isabella Woollison (above right) danced her way to the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing National Grand Finals, coming 5th in the UK. The competition, held in the prestigious Empress Ballroom in Blackpool, had over 4000 entrants.

Freman College opened its doors to showcase our musical talent through our annual House Music event. This is the competition where students choose and direct performances across all genres: choir, orchestra, rock/pop and a cappella all featured. We were delighted to welcome

We also have lots to smile about on the sporting side. Rory Rees (left), who also plays for Royston Rugby Club, has been selected for the 2019 Junior Touch Rugby Championships Mixed 15s training squad. Rory has been selected as one of only 59 boys chosen to compete across the Boys 18s, Mixed 18s and Boys 15s categories – a phenomenal achievement.

Despite not being at full fitness, trampolinist William Marriage (below) took the Bronze in the Eastern NDP competition at Mens 13+ NDP4 and is moving up a level for his next competition.





Congratulations also go to Adam McCormack, Will Blair, Bryn Williams and Harry Lee, who have been selected to represent the U14 and U15 Lea Valley District football teams this season, and to Sofia Carpenter on being selected for the Herts Schools County Football team for the fourth consecutive year!



To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, the history department has been working with Year 9 students and embracing the current popularity of rock painting. Each student took time to reflect on the experiences the soldiers went through as they painted their rock. The result is this moving tribute (left) outside the college reception area.

Headteacher Helen Loughran said: "Mrs Bentley, one of our History teachers, came up with the idea of asking students to paint the rocks. It is really touching to see the ideas the students have come up with and also impressive to see the quality of their work too. As a school, marking Remembrance Day is always very important to us and includes an assembly with the 'Last Post' and a two-minute silence. But on this very special anniversary of the Armistice it has been great to do something more."

Head Boy Cameron Hood and Head Girl Olivia Clark (right) laid a wreath at the Buntingford war memorial on Remembrance Sunday as representatives of the pupils and staff of the Rib Valley Schools. Lest we forget.



B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips for December 2018 & January 2019

DECEMBER			
Mon 3 rd	10–2pm	Brookfield Centre – M&S, Tesco, Boots, Next	£6
Thurs 6 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
Tues 11 th	11:30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 13 th	9:15–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£5
Tues 18 th	10–12:30ish	Wyevale, Melbourn – Café, Cotton Traders, Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Shoes, Outdoor Wear	£5
Thurs 20 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
JANUARY			
Thurs 3 rd	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
Tues 8 th	10:30–3pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Next, Debenhams, Sainsbury's superstore	£7
Mon 14 th	10:30–3pm	Cambridge	£7.50
Thurs 17 th	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
Sat 19 th	2:30–6:30pm (performance at 4pm)	Pantomime – 'Snow White & the Seven Dwarves' at Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage	£5
Wed 23 rd	11:30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Mon 28 th	10:30–1:30pm	Letchworth – Morrison's	£6
Thurs 31 st	9:15–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£5
FEBRUARY			
Tues 5 th	10:30–2pm	Scotsdales, Shelford – Café, gifts, clothes etc	£6.50

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

**To book a seat or for more information call:
01763 271708, 01763 271909 or 07870 638480**

B.A.L.A. COFFEE MORNINGS

at Benson Hall, 10.15–11.30am

Wednesday 12th December 2018

Tea, Coffee, Cakes etc. Raffle, Crafts & Gifts

Wednesday 16th January 2019

Tea, Coffee, Cakes etc. Raffle.

BUNTINGFORD W.I.

Celebrating 100 years in Buntingford

We share our Centenary year with the end of the First World War and on November 11th we were represented at the Remembrance Day Parade by our President Jen Cresswell and also Veronica Easley, who laid our hand-made wreath at the War Memorial. Poppies not used in our own wreath were sent to Ypres and some from Buntingford will have been used in the stunning display made up of thousands of poppies outside St George's Church in Ypres.

The culmination of our Centenary Celebrations was a superb lunch at Whitehill Golf Club. Afterwards we enjoyed our 100th Birthday cake, which was beautifully made and decorated by member Veronica Easley. The photo shows our President cutting the cake (on the left), together with Veronica (centre) and Ann Whitby (right), who is our longest-serving member.

Our guests included Janet Naylor, Joyce Spackman and Jill Profit from the Hertfordshire Federation and Jill gave a short talk on 100 years of the W.I. The first W.I. meeting in the UK was held in Wales in 1915 and the first in Hertfordshire was at Northaw in 1917, a year before us, and the movement quickly spread. At that time the annual subscription was 10 shillings.

From the very beginning, education and the sharing of skills have been at the heart of the organisation and this remains true today. Women are invited to join the W.I. to meet new friends, learn new skills and make a difference on matters that are important to them, just as fellow members did 100 years ago. W.I. members have spoken up and taken action on a wide range of social and economic challenges faced by women and their communities. The first W.I. Resolution in 1918 related to state aided housing and called for "a sufficient supply of convenient and sanitary houses being of vital importance to women in the country".

Mrs Profit quoted a 'word association' article in a National newspaper 20 years ago: "Women's Insitutes – bramble jelly, singing 'Jerusalem', Victoria sponge cake? Wrong! Think Eco-Warriors, domestic violence, prostitution, Third World debt, child abuse, nude calendars, drugs." We have evolved!

Our meeting in December is our own 'Carol Party' on Thursday 13th. Our first meeting of 2019 is on 10th January and is our 'Bring and Share Supper'. All our meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 7.15pm for 7.30 start. So, women of Buntingford – why not make a New Year Resolution to come and join the oldest organisation in town?

Val Hume

For more information about Buntingford W.I. call **Jen Cresswell** on **01763 273221**





BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com

November is a busy and important month off the field for Buntingford Town FC as we organise and host the annual Fireworks Display at The Bury. The fireworks display is our big fundraiser for the season and helps us to ensure that playing adult football in Buntingford is affordable for everyone, regardless of their circumstances. Once again the event was incredibly well supported and we would like to thank everyone who came along. We hope you enjoyed the show and we look forward to seeing you all next year! I would personally like to thank the Town Council for their financial support for the evening, without which we simply wouldn't be able to provide the kind of display that we have become accustomed to. I'd also like to thank our volunteer stewards, the bar staff at The Bury and everyone else who ensured that the evening passed off smoothly.

We were also pleased to learn that we have been awarded a 'retain the game' grant by the Football Foundation which helps towards the cost of hiring training facilities. This allows us to keep our player subscriptions low which in turn, we hope, will allow more youngsters from the Town to continue playing once they've left youth football.

Mixed fortunes continue on the pitch and, whilst our performances are improving across all squads, too often we are giving our opponents a head start. The First Team followed up victory against Rayners Lane Reserves at the beginning of October with two wins, a draw and two defeats. A trip to Wormley Rovers Reserves in the Herts FA Intermediate Cup got the period underway with a stonking 5-1 win, but we were unable to build on the emerging momentum, drawing with Hatfield United (2-2) and then losing away from home to Hoddesdon Town Reserves in a mid-week fixture. Things looked to be improving when we turned round a two goal half-time deficit to beat Wodson Park Reserves 3-2, with the winner coming in the 90th minute. However, we came away with nothing from a scrappy home fixture against Hinton which was settled by a single goal for the visitors.

The Reserves have seen action four times since my last article, winning two and losing two. A 3-2 victory away at Albury launched a fledgling Cup Run, but this came to a premature end against Westmill first team a few weeks later – two first half goals being enough for our neighbours to progress to the next round. Both league games were away from home, with the hard fought 1-0 victory against Hatfield Town U25s followed by a 4-2 loss to Welham Albion Blues. As mentioned last time, the Reserves are a very young team this year and their performances should give them much to be proud of. If they continue to develop in the way they are, one or two first team players will have to start looking over their shoulders before the end of the season.

The Vets hosted Iron Maiden's own Vets Team at the end of October and a 5-3 loss to them was swiftly followed by a 7-0 loss to London Lions Vets in the Herts FA Vets Cup, then a 4-2 loss against local rival Standon & Puckeridge. Thankfully, normal service was resumed with a 3-1 victory away at Allenburys before a competitive game against Waltham Abbey saw the Vets turn round a 2-0 half-time deficit to earn a good draw – another 10 minutes and we could have taken home all 3 points!

As a Committee, we are mindful that we are only stewards of adult football in Buntingford and that Buntingford Town FC has a history that pre-dates us and a future that will, hopefully, outlive us. The Club has seen some financially dark days in the past and we know that to survive and, indeed, flourish in the future we must build a financially stable base – but we can't do that on our own. It costs us somewhere in the region of £10,000 a season to provide adult football in Buntingford, what with pitch hire, referee fees and kit costs. We can only survive through a mixture of charging players match fees, fundraising

and sponsorship. Sponsoring the club can be a cost effective way of promoting a local business and we offer packages starting from as little as £100. If you are interested in supporting your local club please contact me at: chair@buntingfordtownfc.com.

Finally, this is the last edition before Christmas so, from all of us here at Buntingford Town FC, have a fantastic Christmas. If, over the festive period, you need to escape from the in-laws, take a look at our website www.buntingfordtownfc.com where you will find the festive fixture list!

Mark Cotton, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

BUNTINGFORD COUGARS

The football season always goes so fast – it barely seems like we’ve started but we’re almost halfway through the season already! And what does that mean? Yep, mud. Oh, and cold, and rain! Always a joy, although for some reason the kids seem to revel in it.

With autumn also comes Remembrance, a time the club takes very seriously, and we are incredibly proud of all our players and coaches who across the weekend of 11th November observed respectful periods of silence before their games. It’s important that our younger generations remember and respect the sacrifices made by those who went before us. Our younger age groups also took part in the Remembrance Day parade to the War Memorial where two representatives laid a wreath on behalf of the club. Around 30 of our players across the U6–U10 age groups were present on the day and they were a true credit to the club and their parents in how they approached the parade.



Now it’s just the last few weeks of 2018 football and that brings us up to Christmas! I’m sure there’ll be a few Cougars’ Christmas parties going on – make sure you all enjoy, they’ve been well deserved. Over Christmas everyone gets a break from games and hopefully come back in January refreshed and ready for the bracing games ahead!

The Cougars are always open for new members who want to get involved, regardless of ability, across all our age groups. Get in touch through our Facebook page or find details on our website. Merry Christmas from everyone at Buntingford Cougars! As ever a huge thank you to all our volunteers and especially our coaches and our parents!

David Deane

Royston and District Ramblers Group

Walks for December 2018

- Sat 1st** Reed, 5 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026
- Sun 2nd** Bassingbourn, The Mordens, 10 miles, led by Vince 01763 241092
- Tues 4th** Arkesden, 6¼ miles, led by Alan 01223 840963 / 07933 713840
- Thurs 6th** Eltisleys, 5½ miles, led by Peter 07951 362501
- Sun 9th** Meesdon to Great Hornead, 9 miles, led by Lorraine 01763 242054 / 07890 325735
- Tues 11th** Barley, 5 miles, led by Rama 01763 260565 / 07392 526869
+ 3 mile walk led by Roger 01763 281368 / 07840 832648
- Thurs 13th** Ashwell, 6 miles, led by David 01763 247572
- Sun 16th** Horningsea, 10 miles FO8, led by Phil 01763 853744 / 07716 992847
- Tues 18th** Newport, 6 miles, led by Viv & Jackie 07912 567378 / 07502 121852
- Thurs 20th** Chrishall, 5½ miles, led by Jenny 01763 245969 / 07711 565612
- Sun 23rd** Puckeridge, Collier's End, Standon, 9 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026
- Thurs 27th** Therfield, 6 miles, led by Lesley 07734 111225
- Sun 30th** Baldock, Wallington, Clothall, Weston, 11 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026

Walks for January 2019

- Tues 1st** Brent Pelham, 3½ miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026
- Thurs 3rd** Barkway, Barley, 6 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026
- Sun 6th** Great Sampford to Hempstead, 10 miles, led by Paul 01763 244038 / 07544 232330
- Tues 8th** Standon, 6 miles, led by John & Lesley 01763 241525 / 07989 278609
+ 3 mile walk led by Roger 01763 281368 / 07840 832648
- Thurs 10th** Barley, 6 miles, led by Mike 01763 274679 / 07597 371875
- Sun 13th** Orwell, Wimpole, Arrington, 10 miles, led by Vince 01763 241092
- Tues 15th** Rushden, 6 miles, led by John & Lesley 01763 241525 / 07989 278609
+ 3 mile walk led by Roger 01763 281368 / 07840 832648
- Thurs 17th** Therfield & Kelshall, 5½ miles, led by Jenny 01763 245969 / 07711 565612
- Sun 20th** Castle Camps, 8½ miles, led by Brian 01223 243996 / 07500 546244
- Tues 22nd** Ashwell, 6 miles, led by Sandy 01763 243003 / 07553 344567
- Thurs 24th** Wadesmill, 6 miles, led by Mike 01763 274679 / 07597 371875
- Sun 27th** Buntingford to Hare Street, 9 miles, led by Lorraine 01763 242054 / 07890 325735
- Tues 29th** Croydon, 6 miles, led by Nick 01223 208172 / 07909 977994
- Thurs 31st** Swavesey, 6 miles, led by Viv & Jackie 07912 567378 / 07502 121852

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

www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk

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