

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

# Buntingford Journal



St Mary's Church, Aspenden, on a beautiful winter's day.

Merry Christmas & Happy  
New Year to All Our Readers

70p

Dec 2021 / Jan 2022  
Volume 46, No.9



# *JOHN D KILBY & Co*

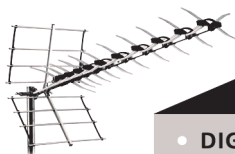
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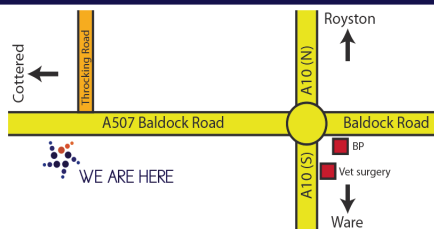
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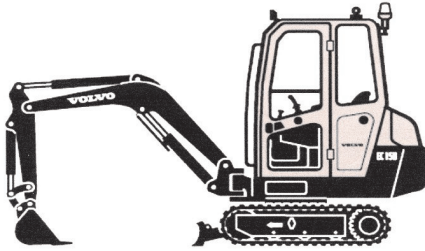
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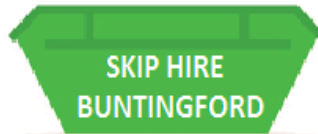
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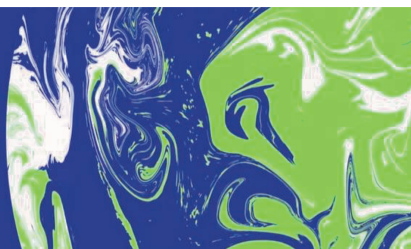


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GLASGOW

# COP26



## “WHAT HAPPENED?”

# CLIMATE CAFÉ

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November from 18.30 to 20.00 – Edwinstree School, Buntingford

*Presented by Buntingford Action on Climate Change and Sustainability & Peace Child International*

**“DOWN OR OUT AT THE GLASGOW CLIMATE SUMMIT?”** You may be aware that, after a day of extra debate, the Summit outcome came down to the decision to “phase down” rather than “phase out” fossil fuels and coal. Not great, but that was NOT all that happened. Buntingford’s COP Ambassadors feel optimistic because much progress was made! We’ve got 30+ Ministries of Education planning to teach future generations about the issue; we’ve got Green Deals in progress; we have the Forest Deal, the Methane Deal, and GFANZ – the Financial Industry committing trillions to zero carbon investments. And we have the public and the media making the issue a top priority. You should too!

**WHY?** Because bequeathing to our children and grand-children a world slowly suffocating from climate change is NOT to be contemplated. And what was on display in Glasgow were hundreds of inventions and strategies that can solve the crisis, and tens of thousands of committed people prepared to invest the money, and create the jobs that will make those solutions happen. Come find out HOW?!

**WHAT IS THIS CLIMATE CAFÉ?** A new way to learn about complicated issues! You listen to what Buntingford’s COP attendees + councillors, business leaders and students thought happened in Glasgow, and the actions they plan to take locally in response. Then at tables of 5-10 people you tell them what YOU feel should happen – and draw up a list of priority Next Steps that you want to see happen in our town.

**WHO SHOULD COME?** Students, Parents, families, teachers, business people – EVERYONE!

**RSVP:** for COVID safety, please tell: [david@peacechild.org](mailto:david@peacechild.org) – if you are planning to come



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FREE  
EVENT

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Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 from 4pm until 7pm  
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Come along and meet Santa and his reindeer

Performance from Royston Brass Band 5-6pm

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All proceeds will be match funded by

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# USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

## **POLICE STATION:**

Baldock Road, Buntingford

Non-emergency telephone: 101

In emergencies dial 999

## **GAS:**

## **ELECTRICITY:**

## **WATER (Veolia):**

## **SEWERAGE (Thames Water):**

## **FLOODLINE:**

Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999

Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838

Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325

Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800

Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188

Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60

## **DOCTORS:**

**Buntingford Medical Centre** – White Hart Close

Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)

**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](http://www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults)

## **BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:**

High Street, Buntingford

**Opening times:** Mon, Tue, Thur 10:00–17:30

Fri 14:00–17:30 Sat 9:00–13:00

**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 09:00–18:00

**More info at:** [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)

## **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:**

The Manor House  
Market Hill, Buntingford

**Offices are currently closed due to Covid.**

**For telephone advice** call 0800 144 8848 (Mon to

Fri 10am–4pm) or call the local MessageLine on  
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## **HOUSEHOLD WASTE & RECYCLING SITE:**

Watermill Industrial Estate  
Aspenden Road

**Currently closed.**

**Our nearest alternative recycling sites are in  
Royston, Letchworth and Ware.**

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

## EDITOR'S LETTER

I received so much material this month, I decided to drop the recently restored 'Dates for Your Diary' to free up the page for something else. Although some readers may find the Diary a convenient reference (at least I hope someone does, as it's time-consuming and fiddly to do!), for the most part it's just a round-up of things mentioned elsewhere within these pages that you can also find via the Contents page.

Until receiving this month's article from BACCS (Buntingford Action on Climate Change and Sustainability) I had no idea that Buntingford had representatives attending COP-26. Members of BACCS were there in Glasgow and bring us their first-hand account.

We have a tribute this month in memory of Trevor Reedman, who sadly died in October. Trevor was very well known in the town and very popular, as shown by the crowds who attended his funeral. Many Journal readers will have known him and I hope will appreciate this opportunity to read about his life and times in and around Buntingford.

The local history article looks back at education in Buntingford and how it evolved. There is still a lot more of this story to come, which Carol hopes to uncover for us in the coming months. Education in Buntingford has certainly come a long way since the days she describes. Today, instead of individual, idiosyncratic schools, our area has one of the most successful state school systems in the country in the form of the integrated three-tier Rib Valley Schools (see page 15). The active cooperation between local schools is also helping them to repair the damage done to children's education by Covid, and you can read more about this in Jo Gant's regular Edwinstree article.

Last year the annual Buntingford Shorts film competition went online and became international. Competition founder Jake Andrews reveals how it is shaping up this year.

If you think the cover photo looks familiar, that's because it is. I have exhausted my stock of photos suitable for a Christmas issue so have re-used the lovely snowy image of St Mary's in Aspenden, taken by the late Bob Jackson, and first seen two years ago.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has helped to produce the Journal this past year – the contributors, the advertisers, the volunteers who help with delivery, the shops that sell it. And thank you to you, our readers, for sticking with us. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and an optimistic New Year.

**Christine Noble**

**Many thanks to Brian Austin for proof-reading**

**Editorial copy deadline for the February 2022  
Journal is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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

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

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



# Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

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

Member of



The War Memorial adorned with commemorative wreaths following the Remembrance Service on Sunday 14th November

There was another wonderful turn out at the War Memorial this year to pay tribute to all those who have given their lives in conflict. Every year Buntingford ensures that “We will remember them”.

We have had some good news recently. After much campaigning by CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) the Prime Minister has announced in a speech that the Government will take a different approach to development. This approach will prioritise suitable brownfield land – that is land that has previously been developed – before building on the countryside. This is seen by CPRE as a historic moment in its efforts to protect and enhance the countryside for generations to come.

Buntingford has recently seen a surge in Covid infections. Over the past few days this has dropped but it does demonstrate how vulnerable we can still be. If you qualify for the booster jab I would personally urge you to take up the offer.

COP26 has taken over the airwaves recently, and with good cause. Whatever the global outcomes and actions, we are all responsible for our own lives and should feel duty bound to do anything we can to help in the global warming issue. Individual actions may seem miniscule, even pointless, in the greater picture but as they say, every little helps.

A recent consultation has been completed asking for residents comments on the proposed build of a further 60-ish dwellings on land either side of the A10/Neale Drive access to the Redrow estate. This land was originally designated as a green space buffer between the A10 and the Redrow estate. As far as I am concerned it should stay this way. Not sure why we would want or need another 60-odd dwellings in our already overcrowded environment. On a similar note Dandara are still working on plans to build a further 23 dwellings on their Aspenden Road site. A more ludicrous plan is difficult to imagine given the issues with pedestrian and traffic safety. I just hope that EHDC Planning see sense and refuse the application.

Finally, on behalf of the Civic Society, I would like to wish all our members and Journal readers a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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

**Buntingford Civic Society** was established in 1971 with the aim of improving the fabric of the Town. It has led or been involved in many restoration and enhancement projects and in planning, communication and financial support to improve aspects of life in Buntingford. **Annual household membership is just £10** and includes delivery of the Buntingford Journal (10 issues a year) to your door. If you would like to join the Civic Society, you can download an application form from the website or email the Membership Secretary, Peter Hay, at [membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

## Buntingford Dramatic Society

It is with very mixed feelings that we have to announce that the drama group are on the move to a new home. After nearly forty years of being based at Benson Hall for all our weekly rehearsals

and highly successful performances, we find ourselves no longer able to call it our home. However, we are delighted to be relocating to the Seth Ward Community Centre.

At a time of great uncertainty for the group we are overwhelmed with the help and support we have been offered by both groups and individuals in the wonderful Buntingford community. There are currently too many to name individually but special mention must be made of Jackie Smith and Graham Waite at the community centre and the wonderful folks at the Film Club.

We are currently undertaking the mammoth task of deconstructing and moving all our stage fittings, lights and sound systems, props and costumes, whilst continuing rehearsals. The recent award of Co-op Community Funding could not have come at a better time as we had already begun our project to upgrade all our technical equipment. We truly appreciate the generosity of all the Co-op members.

Under the current situation we have sadly had to postpone our proposed January performances but rest assured we will be back in March to once again entertain our loyal audiences.

It is said the Japanese have one word that translates as both crisis and opportunity. This perfectly describes how the Buntingford Dramatic Society have turned a seemingly negative situation into a wonderful new opportunity for the future.

**Jane Guy, Chairman Buntingford Dramatic Society**

## **BALFF – Cancellation of January Course**

After a lot of serious thought by the BALFF Committee, we have, sadly, decided that our January Course cannot now take place due to the Covid situation. In the room that we use at the Community Centre it would be impossible to keep you all safe with the numbers we usually have.

We considered using Zoom again, but unfortunately our Tutor for January cannot use Zoom, and the Tutor who is booked for next September needs a live audience to make the course interesting. Hopefully by next September we will be back to something like normality and able to use the Community centre again.

**JULIA PEACOCK (Chairman)**

## In Memory of Trevor Tom Reedman

8<sup>th</sup> October 1942 to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021

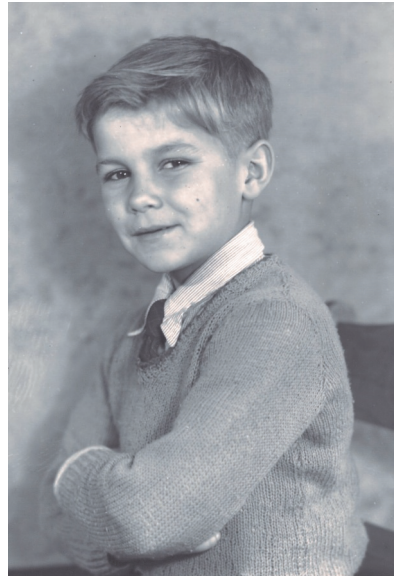


Trevor Reedman was almost that very rare person, someone who lived his entire life in Buntingford – almost, but not quite. Trevor was born bang in the middle of the Second World War, in Thorley, near Bishop's Stortford, to parents Arthur and Stella Reedman. His father, like so many other men at the time, was serving in the forces. Sadly, Arthur was one of the men who did not come home. He was part of the epic struggle in the North African desert and was killed in a tank accident in Tunisia in 1944.

So Trevor never knew his father, but life goes on and after the war his mother re-married. Her new husband, and stepfather to Trevor and his older brother Ian, was Jack Jarvis who ran the shoe

repair shop in Buntingford and the family moved here when Trevor was 6 years old. Before long he had a new sister, Davene, and finally along came a younger brother, Mark.

The photo (right) shows Trevor aged about 6 when he went to Layston School. He was a bright boy and in due course passed his 11-plus and went on to attend Hertford Grammar School (now Richard Hale). When he left, aged 18, he got his first job at Buntingford Post Office. While working there he was sent on a GPO training course at Bletchley Park. These days everyone knows the vital part that Bletchley Park played in the war, but back then there was still a veil of secrecy over its role and the story was little known. For many years Trevor had no idea that he had been treading some very historic ground.



In 1963 Trevor met his wife-to-be, Val. She was not a local girl, she was a Yorkshire lass, the youngest of five, who surprised her family by leaving home for a job 'down south'. She successfully applied for a position as a nursery assistant in Stanstead Abbots, where she met Trevor's sister, Davene.

The two young women became friends and Davene invited Val on visits to Buntingford, and that is how Trevor met her. Before long they were courting and they married in 1965, at St Mary's Parish Church in Beeston, Leeds. After honeymooning in beautiful Betws-y-Coed in North Wales, they returned to Buntingford and set up their first home in a one-bedroom flat above what is now the dry cleaners in the High Street.

It wasn't long until their first son, Jason, arrived and they moved to a bigger flat above what is now the dog groomers and café on the corner of the High Street and Baldock Road. It had a lot more space once you got inside, but lugging a pram up and down the



steep outdoor staircase was no joke! By now Trevor was working for Sainsbury's at their distribution depot and this led to them getting a new house in Vicarage Road in 1968. For many years the Sainsbury's Depot was by far the biggest employer in Buntingford and in the 60s a lot of new houses, including Vicarage Road and Monks Walk, were built to provide homes for Sainsbury's employees

Trevor spent the rest of his working life in the office at Sainsbury's, eventually becoming operations manager. It was long hours and often stressful work, but it was local and paid enough to raise his family, which had grown to three sons with the arrival of Adrian and then Glyn. When Margaret Thatcher's government introduced the 'right to buy' scheme, they bought the house in Vicarage Road and for the first time lived in a house they owned rather than rented. It would remain their home until, with the family grown and all left home, they downsized to Mill Close on the Bovis estate in 1996.

Trevor suffered his first heart attack when he was just 47 and heart problems would continue to affect him for the rest of his life. Over the years he was hospitalised on several occasions, including for a bypass operation. Ongoing ill-health led to him taking early retirement, in 1998, and this gave him the opportunity to develop new interests, one of which was cooking. With Val now working full-time in Hertford, Trevor felt it was unfair that she had to start cooking when she got in from work, so at first he offered to peel the potatoes and prepare the vegetables for her, then gradually progressed to cooking whole meals himself. He found he enjoyed it and even after Val retired he continued to cook for them often.

He joined the Buntingford Railway & Local History Society, which stoked his interest in history and railways. He also joined the U3A, at one time serving as Vice-Chair on the Committee. His lasting legacy to the U3A was writing the computer programme that they still use to keep track of their membership. Trevor was also a passionate member of the Buntingford Twinning Association, eventually taking on the role of Chairman. He and Val made several visits to Luynes in France and Olvega in Spain, and hosted French and Spanish guests in return, many of whom remained good friends. Trevor learnt French with



*Top right:* Trevor and Val on their wedding day. *Above:* Fifty years later, on a cruise that took them to Alaska and western Canada to celebrate their Golden Wedding.

the U3A so he could speak at least a little of the language while in France. They were also members of the Civic Society and active supporters of the Buntingford Branch of the Royal British Legion. In 2015 they celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.

When Trevor was taken into hospital in October, Val was not unduly worried, he had been in so many times before and always came home again. Being a practical sort of person she was making plans to have a stair lift installed, working out how to rearrange the furniture to make room for it and for any equipment that Trevor might need. So it came as a shock when he passed away in hospital, from pneumonia and heart failure, on 9<sup>th</sup> October. Family, friends and neighbours rallied round in support. Her sister-in-law Davene lives close by and son Adrian and daughter-in-law Lynne live not too far away, near Haverhill, but youngest son Glyn had to make the long trip from Toronto in Canada where he lives with his wife Sarah.

The crematorium in Stevenage was packed out for Trevor's funeral on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October, showing what a popular man he was. Hundreds of his friends and Buntingford residents joined his family to pay their respects and say farewell, but some important people could not be there. Glyn read out a heartfelt tribute from his three children – Trevor's Canadian grandchildren Jacob, Sasha and Olivia, now all grown up – including some sentiments they must surely share with their English cousins, Adrian and Lynne's sons Arran and Torin: "Growing up, you and nanny never failed to make us feel so loved and spoilt, from taking us on holidays to the simple little things like buying us treats from the Co-op ... it's going to take some time to get used to not having you around anymore, not seeing you on facetime or having you come over and see us in Canada, not seeing you peer out of your living room window as we arrived at your house ... It still doesn't feel real ... but you will always be with us ... we hope that wherever you are, you are proud to have us as your grandchildren. We love you so much."

Val requested no flowers at the funeral, instead having a collection in aid of the British Legion (Buntingford Branch) and the British Heart Foundation. She would like people to know that, so far, she has received over £800 in donations which will be split between the two. The impressive sum is a mark of the affection that people had for Trevor. He was a true son of Buntingford even if he didn't quite live here *all* his life, a kind and decent man who will be missed by all who knew him.

*'Those we love most, never go away. They still walk beside us each day.'*

**Christine Noble**

*With thanks to Val for taking the time to talk to me about Trevor and providing the photos.*

## **Reed Garden Club in Reed Village Hall**

**8<sup>th</sup> December, 2 to 4 pm**

Bring-and-share buffet. Celebrate the year and plan for the next.

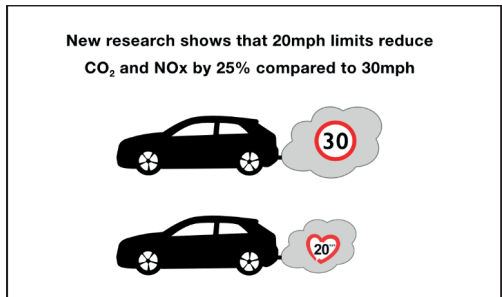
## **Soup Lunches in Reed Village Hall**

Soup lunches have started up again on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month. However, as we are not able to hold a soup lunch on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in December, we are making it on

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December**, then back to the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday for **January 28<sup>th</sup>**. No charge but donations gratefully received and proceeds go to St Mary's Church, Reed.

**20's Plenty for Buntingford** continue to campaign for safer roads in and around Buntingford and across Hertfordshire. There is no denying that it is extremely hard work and, at the moment, there are very few wins or reasons to feel positive. Our campaigning takes many forms, from putting questions to full County Council Meetings, leafleting, engaging in social media, writing articles, holding local events to selling 20's Plenty Campaign Stickers. However, as the level of road danger in and around Buntingford continues to increase, and as more and more drivers are speeding excessively on our roads, our campaigning becomes more and more important. At the same time, however; in so many other cities, towns and villages across the country (and in Wales and Scotland) 20mph speed limits are becoming the norm and where this is happening, people are seeing vast improvements in road safety and their quality of life.

There is more and more data available from 20mph wide area trials in Kent, the Scottish Borders and Wales, showing that there is good compliance with 20mph speed limits and notable reductions in average speeds - particularly on roads, that before having a 20mph speed limit, had average speeds greater than 24mph. These lower speeds in turn lead to reductions in casualties, and significantly lower emissions and noise pollution. As a result of these changes, more and more people are then able to move away from car use for local journeys in favour of walking and cycling which in turn greatly reduces traffic on residential roads and improves road safety further.



More and more Local Authorities are deciding to reject the existing 30mph speed limit as not fit for purpose in favour of a 20mph one, which gives protection to vulnerable road users. The resulting inequity between these forward-thinking authorities and ones, like Hertfordshire, are becoming more and more marked. Here, we are battling decision makers who are still relying on out-of-date data studies, and have introduced a complicated sifting system with over-restrictive criteria that require expensive engineering solutions for far too many roads. In real terms this means that many, many communities (particularly rural ones where the need is greatest) will simply not have a chance of getting 20mph speed limits any time soon. What everyone should be asking themselves is - is this acceptable?

We will continue to challenge the status quo until a default 20mph speed limit is implemented on all residential and urban roads where people mix with motor vehicles (with exceptions where appropriate) across Hertfordshire because **20's Plenty where people are**. It is as simple as that.



### **SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN**

Mailing List, Campaign Stickers & Enquiries  
email: [buntingford@20splentyforus.org.uk](mailto:buntingford@20splentyforus.org.uk)  
FACEBOOK: 20's Plenty for Buntingford  
INSTAGRAM: 20splentybuntingford  
TWITTER: @20Buntingford  
[www.20splentyforherts.org](http://www.20splentyforherts.org)

## BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY – STILL WAITING



The news we have to report this month is not quite what we were expecting. Quite out of the blue, last month there appeared in the library a 'User Survey'. It would seem that no one, not even our Town Council, had been advised there was to be an exercise in assessing people's views. The instructions were made very clear: the forms had to be

completed in the library, no one was permitted to take them out to complete at home in case they were not returned! The survey would only last one week, so unless you happened to visit the library to return a book you would be effectively disenfranchised. Bearing in mind that unless you had borrowed a 'Quick Pick' book, which you can only borrow for one week, the normal borrowing period is three weeks and the chances are you would not be aware at all that a survey was being conducted.

Upon enquiry we were advised that the survey was Countywide, so the problem of ignorance would exist in all the communities which have libraries. In our case, however, the matter is more extreme. Whereas other libraries in the county appear to have meeting rooms available to hire, our local groups and organisations are still precluded from meeting in our library. Indeed, even the library's own 'Story Time' for the children has still to recommence although that would not appear to be the case elsewhere. So we have another group of users denied the chance to put forward their views.

How about completing the survey online? Yes, that was a possibility, but it was only possible if you used the public computer in the library! What a sad reflection on how the Library Service is conducted.

When talking to County Hall we were told that the survey was completely independent and was being conducted by CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. So there will be a professional and independent statistical evaluation of the completed survey. That will be all well and good if there is a consistent response. We were told the intention was to set benchmarks. Given the fact that 'Libraries for Life' has now been cancelled – what a waste of money that was – it would seem reasonable that the Library Service should set new targets. But to achieve that it is necessary to ensure you have a level playing field first.

The tinkering continues. Last month solar panels were fitted to the library roof. Bearing in mind the size of the roof there are quite a lot of them, facing both east and west. With COP26 being held at the time it seems that the County are doing their bit. It appears that s106 money is not being used to finance this and Buntingford library is not alone in being included. The panels are working already and producing electricity, so well done Herts CC. However, while that confirms the library will stay on our High Street and continue the support it provides to our shops, the exercise did not include the installation of batteries to store the electricity – that will be dealt with sometime in the future. So the result of all this is that we are still waiting for news of a positive development towards the full refurbishment of the building.

We will continue to monitor the situation, but is waiting in expectation and hope all that we are left with? Well, it seems that there has been at least one response to our article in the

November edition of the Journal with a searching message sent to County Hall, our County Councillor and our Town Mayor. Whether it received a response is unknown but it demonstrates that we are voicing a view that is not just our own. So we are thinking of organising a meeting so that Buntingford Library Supporters can discuss the situation. If you are interested please get in touch with me.

**Brian Thompson / email: [scaldsgrove@gmail.com](mailto:scaldsgrove@gmail.com)**  
***On behalf of the Buntingford Library Supporters Club***



**Mon 6 Dec 18:00 – 19:30**

Skipps Meadow	Longmead
Monks Walk	

**Tues 7 Dec 17:30 – 20:30**

Freman Drive	Sunny Hill
Vicarage Lane	Pipkin Drive
Porters Close	Aldridge Way
Honey Lane	Sunny Hill
Wyddial Rd	Archers
Ermine Court	Paddock Road
Church St	The Causeway
High St (south)	High St (north)
Hare Street Road	Norfolk Road

**Fri 10 Dec 18:00 – 20:00**

Abrahams Drive	Peasmead
Fairfield	Knights Close
Oak End	Barleycroft
Meadow View	Mill Close
Campbell Close	

**Sat 11 Dec 14:00 – 20:00**

Downhall Ley	Phillips Way
Snells Mead	Ermine St
Dray Gardens	Crouch Gardens
Hummerston Cl	Olvega Drive
Seymour Rd	Stearn Way
Norris Way	Parker Drive
Bishop Way	Brice Gardens
Bryatt Gardens	Castle Grove
Neale Dr	

**Sun 12 Dec 16:30 – 18:00**

Greenways	Bowlers Mead
Baldock Road	White Hart Close
Bowling Green Rd	

**Donate at**  
[paypal.me/](https://www.paypal.me/buntingfordscouts)  
[buntingfordscouts](https://www.buntingfordscouts.org.uk)



# Education in Buntingford and how it evolved

## by Carol Emery and Chris Scott-Hake

Nowadays, education is free for the masses from the age of about 4 to 18, but this has not always been the case. Originally education was only available to those that could afford to pay the fees. Boys would be educated at boarding schools or day schools, going onto higher education in universities. Girls on the whole received their education at home, often by a governess who would possibly be a daughter of the clergy or from a less well-to-do family who couldn't afford to support unmarried daughters.

Places of education had been around for hundreds of years. Many of the Cambridge and Oxford colleges were established in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. Eton was founded by Henry VI in 1440. Only the very rich could afford to send their sons to school and then onwards to either the clergy, the military, or into the family business.

Some lucky children may have been able to get an apprenticeship, but again this would cost money and you would be locked into a bond with your master for 7 years. Often you didn't actually learn a trade as some masters saw it as a way of getting free labour as they only had to provide food, housing and clothing in exchange for 'learning' a trade. Whilst most people agreed that education was the way forward and a route out of poverty, nothing much was done for the poorer classes, but children who found themselves in the workhouse might be educated there. Buntingford Workhouse had school rooms for boys and girls: this newspaper advert from 1844 was for a school mistress, paying £15 per year with free lodging and double rations.

**WANTED**

**A SCHOOLMISTRESS** for the **BUNTINGFORD UNION WORKHOUSE**, in the County of Hertford. Salary, Fifteen Pounds a year, with lodging and double rations. The **Union** is a small one, and the Schoolmistress will be required to render occasional assistance to the Matron. The Election will take place at the Board Room at Buntingford, on **THURSDAY, the Fourteenth day of March next, at Twelve o'Clock, when the Candidates must attend personally, and previous to which time, Testimonials of character and abilities must be sent to my office.**

By order of the Board,  
**C. P. WORTHAM,**  
Clerk to the Guardians.

**Buntingford**  
29th February, 1844.

Buntingford's first school was the Grammar School which was established around 1620. It was funded by Elizabeth Freeman and her sister Lady Jane Barkham, daughters of John Crouch of Alswick Hall. It was a fee-paying school housed in what is now Layston Court. It could count several famous people among its ex-pupils, with Seth Ward being possibly the most notable. The school had varying success depending on who was head teacher, but by 1878 it had outgrown its location which was in a bad state of repair and so a new school was built in London Road called Hillside. The school did not operate for long in its new location. It closed in around 1891 and the building was used for various educational groups until being turned into housing now known as St Faiths Close.

Poorer children were expected to work from a very young age to help supplement the family's income. In rural areas farmwork such as harvesting and weeding was usually available. In towns children worked at whatever they could do, depending on their age and abilities. It wasn't until 1788 that the government ruled that boys must be over 8 years of age before they could be sent up chimneys to clean them. In 1834 this was increased to 10 years old. In 1802 the Factories Act stated that factory owners should provide some education to the children they employed, but this was ineffectual.

By the mid-1850s the government brought in school inspectors, teacher training and regulations on salaries and pensions for teachers. Many churches tried to educate the poor, often in the form of Sunday Schools. Trade directories at the archives don't give much information on schools in Buntingford, but in Pigot's directory of 1839 there is a



Buntingford Grammar School at Layston Court c.1830, in a drawing taken from Philip Plumb's book on the history of Buntingford.

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charity school in Aspenden, plus an infant's school. There is mention of another infant's school run by Miss Hoy and Miss Stracey but it doesn't give its location.

Dame Schools became popular. These were often in private houses and run by a female teacher, sometimes with the help of an assistant. Again, they were fee-paying so only families with a decent income could afford to send their children there. Buntingford had at least three Dame Schools. One was reported to have been in Victoria House in the High Street, where the 'Dame' was said to sit in a wicker chair next to the fire and on certain days she would get children to carry up water and towels so she could do her ablutions!

Another of Buntingford's Dame Schools was Miss Baker's at 60 High Street, now a newer house. Miss Baker lived at the front of the house and the schoolroom was at the rear, entered via an alleyway further up the High Street. The late Eunice Woods (née Clark) attended this school and during her time there were about 15 pupils. Zoe White, another ex-pupil, remembers being made to stand in the corner for copying the wrong piece of work. Ann Whitby said there was one large room with a big table which all the pupils sat around, and Miss Baker was very strict. Miss Baker also gave piano lessons, which Nancy Mayes (formerly Totman) remembers not enjoying. Eventually her parents allowed her to stop, but as can be seen in this newspaper clip (right), she did manage to pass her grade 2 exam.

By far the biggest Dame School in Buntingford was Miss Elliot's. Her father was the minister at the United Reformed

SUCCESSSES.—At the Examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, held recently at Crofton Grange, Buntingford, by Dr. Thornton Lofthouse, the two candidates presented by Miss L. M. Baker were successful in pianoforte playing, grade ii. They were Margery Ginn (Hertford) and Nancy Totman. The former gained distinction.

Church and Miss Elliot herself had been educated at Milton Mount College in Gravesend, a school for the daughters of Congregational Ministers. In the 1911 census she is listed as living in the Manse in Baldock Road, occupation teacher. This picture from Buntingford In Old Photographs (below) is of pupils at Tyneholme School in 1914. It's not



clear, but it may be Miss Elliot on the far right. The picture was taken in the garden at The Manse and she may have started the school at the URC Hall, but eventually it moved to 10 High Street (now the dry cleaners).

A former pupil, Elizabeth Davies (née Cannon), remembers attending the school along with Jack Howlett, Nancy Mayes, Rosemary Cannon, Michael and Sally Rolfe, Ann

Hargreaves from Puckeridge, and several of the Hodges from Wyddial. Nancy did not enjoy her time at the school, recalling that Miss Elliot was very old-fashioned. She also remembers that the girls wore a uniform of a green gymslip with a white blouse underneath. One of the teachers was Mrs Stern who rode her bike from Royston. Another was Zoe White, an ex-pupil of Miss Baker's, who taught dancing and PE.

Ann Whitby said Zoe took PE lessons in the garden of Cheriton, now known as The Master Tanner's House. They must have put on a lot of plays as Buntingford In Old Photos has several pictures like this one (right) of the pupils in costume. Nancy said the school closed in around 1942 and the pupils moved on to Layston School to take exams to get into local grammar schools.



Education was eventually rolled out to the masses, beginning with the introduction of National or British Schools. Most of our local villages had a school, with Buntingford's being built on land off the Causeway in 1845 to accommodate up to 140 boys. Many of these schools had links to the Church, sometimes the local clergy even took lessons. The main subjects taught would have been reading, writing and arithmetic, the so-called 'three Rs'. Discipline would have been strict with a master or mistress in charge. Some schools had a pupil-teacher to assist, most likely an older ex-pupil intending to take up teaching as a career. The pay for pupil-teachers was very poor so the turnover was quite high. In addition, there would have been 'monitors' – pupils of about 12 years old who were often put in charge of the smaller children. As you can imagine, some of them had great difficulty keeping control of their young charges.

In 1870 education was made compulsory for children between the ages of 5 to 13, but free education didn't happen until 1891. This probably explains why attendance was so poor at most local schools, especially at harvest time – children were still expected to supplement the family income. In addition, children often had a long walk to school from outlying areas and sometimes couldn't get there if the weather was bad, especially when it snowed. Illness was another common reason for non-attendance – several out-breaks of measles closed local schools for weeks on end.

Over the next few months, I hope to explore education in general and how the advent of schools within the town affected Buntingford. My next article will explore Buntingford's National School and its transformation into what we now know as Layston First School.

**Carol Emery, Buntingford Local History Group,  
Researched and written with Chris Scott-Hake**

## Rib Valley Schools



*"Together we offer more"*



### **Serving Buntingford, Puckeridge and surrounding villages, the Rib Valley Schools provide excellence in education from age 3 to 18.**

The distinctive nature of the Rib Valley Schools' three-tier system of First, Middle and Upper Schools enables us to offer a quality of education that is rarely seen in the state education system. Because we are a family of schools, we can share resources to benefit all our pupils from their earliest years until they reach adulthood. Staff and pupils from all three tiers work in partnership alongside each other and share facilities. So a child in any Rib Valley school benefits from the expertise and facilities of not just their own school but those of the whole dynamic partnership. A complete list of the Rib Valley Schools is given below.

For further information, or to arrange a visit, please contact the school direct.

### **First Schools: Age range 3-9**

**Anstey** - Anstey SG9 0BY - Tel: 01763 848346

**Jenyns** - Braughing SG11 2QJ - Tel: 01920 821461

**Hormead (C of E)** - Great Hormead SG9 0NR - Tel: 01763 289201

**Layston (C of E)** - Buntingford SG9 9EU - Tel: 01763 271235

**Millfield and Nursery** - Buntingford SG9 9DT - Tel: 01763 271717

**Roger de Clare (C of E) and Nursery** - Puckeridge SG11 1TF - Tel: 01920 821363

### **Middle Schools: Age range 9-13**

**Edwinstree (C of E)** - Buntingford SG9 9AW - Tel: 01763 271446

**Ralph Sadleir** - Puckeridge SG11 1TF - Tel: 01920 821042

### **Upper School: Age range 13-18**

**Freman College** - Buntingford SG9 9BT - Tel: 01763 271818



# United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill

Website: [unitedbenefice.org.uk](http://unitedbenefice.org.uk)

Email: [admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk](mailto:admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk)

Postal address: C/O St Peter's Church, Chapel End,  
Buntingford SG9 9AL Telephone: 07484 345027

## December 2021

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 11.00am	Sung Eucharist Family Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 11.00am	Morning Service Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 9.30am	Sung Eucharist Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill St Mary's, Aspenden
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Benefice Morning Worship <i>Please join us at St Peter's</i>	St Peter's, Buntingford

**Please see below for all our Christmas Events and Services.  
Sending you our best wishes for a lovely Christmas and New Year.**

## January 2022

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am 11.00am	Sung Eucharist Family Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 11.00am	Morning Service Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 9.30am	Sung Eucharist Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill St Mary's, Aspenden
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Benefice-wide Holy Communion <i>Please join us at Aspenden</i>	St Mary's, Aspenden
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford



St Peter's Church

**Saturday 11th  
December**

11:30am to 1:30pm

**Carol Singing and  
refreshments**



St Mary's Aspenden

**Monday 20th December 7:30pm**

**Carols by Candlelight**

## Christmas here at...

St Peter's Church

**Sunday 19th December 4pm**

**Victorian Carol Service**

Followed by festive  
refreshments





The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

**Minister:** Rev. Sue Fender  
revsuefender@gmail.com  
Tel: 01223 375588

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

## Services at 11.00am

**Junior Church meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays in the month at 11am**

**Tea and coffee will be served in the hall following the services**

December	5	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	12	Morning Worship	Peter Godbert
	19	<b>Carol Service</b>	Rev Allen Morton
	25	<b>Christmas Day Service at 10am</b>	The Elders
	26	Morning Worship	Rev Sue Fender
January	2	Morning Worship	Faith Paulding
	9	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
	16	Holy Communion	Rev Allen Morton
	23	Morning Worship	Penny Flynn
February	30	Morning Worship	Richard Lewney
	6	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Coffee and Company meets every Thursday, 10.30am to 12noon**, in the Church hall. If you're elderly, living alone, new to the area, perhaps working from home, and would like some company, come along to share Coffee, Cake, Company and Chat. **All are welcome.** Just turn up and give a small donation for the refreshments.

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

## ... the United Benefice

St Peter's Church

**Friday 24th December**  
2:30 & 4pm

### **Carols around the Crib Nativity**

A service for everyone.  
Children (or adults) are  
welcome to come dressed  
as their favourite Nativity  
character



St Mary the Virgin, Westmill

**Friday 24th December 5:00pm**  
**The Nativity** A service for everyone  
**Friday 24th December 11:30pm**  
**Midnight Mass**

St Mary's Aspenden  
**Christmas Day 9:30am**  
**Christmas  
Communion**

# The Ash and Quin Valleys Group

Rev'd Julie Gawthrop – 01920 823531 / vicar@braughing.org.uk

## Services for December 2021 & January 2022

St Mary the Virgin



### St Mary's, Braughing

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	Holy Communion Toy Service
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	All Age Morning Worship
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Carol Service
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Nativity Service
	11.15pm	Midnight Communion
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	11.15am	All Age Holy Communion
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
	7.30pm	Twelfth Night Carols
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	All Age Morning Worship
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	Holy Communion Healing Service
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)



ST. MARY'S  
FURNEUX  
PELHAM



### St Mary's, Furneux Pelham

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.55am	Remembrance Service
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Café Church
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	Morning Worship
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.55am	Holy Communion
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Café Church
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.15am	Family Morning Worship

### St Mary's, Stocking Pelham

Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4.00pm	Carol Service
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Christmas Day Celebration
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30am	Holy Communion

St. Mary's  
Stocking Pelham

## St Mary's Church, Aspenden

# Candlelight Carol Service

A TRADITIONAL SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm

No tickets this year, but please be in place early and wear a face-covering in the Church. And bring a torch, the road is very dark.



# attend2health

Merry Christmas  
Everyone



I just wanted to reflect on what a year it has been for us at Attend2Health and to thank all of our lovely supporters. Moving premises in a pandemic was certainly a scary thing to do, but was made a lot easier by having a fantastic husband to help me and a great team. The support we have had has been inspiring.

Attend2Health is keen to help as many local charities and organisations as we can. This year we have raised over £600 for the Foodbank, as well as sponsoring the Buntingford Bowls Club and Buntingford Cricket Club. We have also donated £170 in Gift Vouchers for various charity events.

We want to wish everyone a wonderful and healthy Christmas and New Year.

**Louise Hampton**

## ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

For decades, Royston Choral Society rehearsed, and mostly performed, in Royston Parish Church. Then, within a week of their Christmas 2018 concert, the church suffered its catastrophic fire. The concert relocated to Meridian School, for which much thanks, and rehearsals, gratefully, to Royston Methodist Church where the March 2020 concert was in its last week of rehearsal when the Covid-19 lockdown came in! The social distancing rules we now have to observe brought another relocation, to Bassingbourn Village College. RCS is most grateful to all involved in making these premises available to us – but looks forward to returning home to the Parish Church sometime in 2022.

Choir members are very excited to be preparing for their concert in Standon Parish Church, with Haydn's beautiful 'Missa brevis St Joannis de Deo' or 'Little Organ Mass', and Handel's ever-popular Messiah Part 1, telling of the birth of Christ. Being back together singing the Hallelujah Chorus is such a tonic and we are looking forward to sharing that and more with our audience on 11<sup>th</sup> December.



### **CHORAL COMEBACK CONCERT**

*Haydn – Little Organ Mass*

*Handel – Messiah Part One*

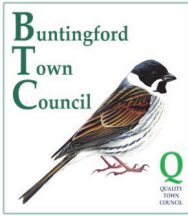
*Musical Director Andrew O'Brien Organ Robin Walker*

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 7.30pm**  
**STANDON PARISH CHURCH (SG11 1LA)**

**Tickets £15** includes Interval mulled wine or soft drink

For tickets, see website: <http://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk>

phone Caroline Franks on **01920 822723** or ask a choir member



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

## A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

It was pleasing to see so many people at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Led by the Town Mayor, 14 organisations laid wreaths at the War Memorial. Due to a technical fault, the event was not live streamed as promised. Apologies for this but an erratic internet connection caused the problem.

Chatter Tables have now resumed at The Manor House on the first and third Mondays in the month from 10am to 11.45am. Just drop in for a coffee and a chat.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January, a large ground floor office will be available at the Manor House, further details are available from the Clerk's Office.

We hope that the new skate ramps will be in place by early next year. The Town Council is working on several other outdoor sports facilities including a pump track, jogging track, outdoor gyms, electronic football wall and a trampoline. All of these facilities will be provided from developer contributions and most will be in place before the summer.

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

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

**Office hours: Monday–Thursday 9am–5pm; closed Friday.**

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

**Tel: 01763 272222 Email: [clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk)**

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

**Website: [www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk](http://www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk)**

### Town Council meetings for December 2021 & January 2022

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> December

7:00pm – Amenities Committee

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> December

7:00pm – Resources Committee

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> January

7:00pm – Amenities Committee

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> January

7:00pm – Resources Committee

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> January

7:00pm – Full Council

Meetings to be held at the Seth Ward Community Centre unless advised differently on the Agenda. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

### BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

**Wish the People of Buntingford**

***A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year***

**Mr T Robinson, Chairman 01763 243143**





## Community Grants from East Herts Council

### Deadline for applications fast approaching

East Herts Council is looking for projects that strengthen the community and lead to the improved health and wellbeing of residents and recovery after Covid. We would especially welcome applications from organisations delivering in areas of low income, or supporting vulnerable people or those with protected characteristics. The Council is keen to diversify its grant-giving in order to better help people from all backgrounds. Past projects include drama workshops for adults with learning difficulties, a community garden, festivals, a fitness trail, a community fun day organised by a faith group, creation of a new play area, and a new Changing Places facility, among others. **The deadline for applications is 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.** To apply go to: <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-and-wellbeing/funding-community-organisations-and-individuals>. To discuss your ideas, contact Claire on [claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk). Individuals and informal groups are eligible to apply at any time for a £300 grant to kick start a project in the community.



2021 was certainly different, but it brought into focus the wide-ranging benefits of the arts – creating, experiencing, enjoying. Now **Herts Visual Arts (HVA)** is delighted to bring you the **Herts Christmas Showcase**, an online window into the world of local artists and artisans.

The Showcase makes full use of HVA's dynamic website, with its artists' galleries, on-line exhibition, videos and social media features, to present a seasonal feast of visual art from our independent local artists and artisans. Be inspired by the range of work on show, from wall art, sculpture and ceramics, to glass, jewellery and textiles, to homeware, cards and stationery. You can browse the showcase from wherever you might be, via your phone, tablet, computer or other internet-connected devices. Artists will also be posting about their work on Instagram and Facebook. Follow **#HertsChristmasArts** for up-to-the-minute content, and on **5th December, from 5.30pm**, you can join our 'Special Christmas Showcase Live' across social media

Looking for something special? Want to get to know an artist? The live presentations connect you with the artist community, and make it easy to purchase direct. Simply get in touch with the artist to arrange a safe transaction. From greetings cards through to prints or original statement pieces, there's something for every pocket and taste.

## Mind & Music – songs to aid memory – each Thursday 2–3pm

Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre (SG11 1TF)



Bringing people together to sing well-known and loved songs, in a fun and friendly environment. Mind & Music welcomes people affected by dementia and their carers, as well as anyone concerned about their memory.

For information contact David Ranford: [ranfordd@gmail.com](mailto:ranfordd@gmail.com)

# Bringing Buntingford's Rib Back to Life

From recently received correspondence I am a bit concerned that my previous articles may have given too optimistic a picture of what we are trying to accomplish with the Rib through Buntingford. We are keeping to the original Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) plan and this is designed to achieve the following:

**Watercourse:** The intention is not to restore the river back to a wholly natural pristine state. Unfortunately this would be impossible through Buntingford while extraction is still taking place at the borehole at Chipping. Rather, the point of the project is to **improve** its current state to a better one than just a river of silt and stagnant flows, to better support the existing wildlife as well as attract new, and create a more pleasant river for residents in the town to enjoy.

We have carefully considered the hydrology regime of the river, the low flows in summer and the high flows in winter. A large amount of modelling and tweaking of the designs has been undertaken to ensure the best approach is taken increasing the range of habitats for wildlife in both conditions. All of this is being liaised with the Environment Agency (EA) which is responsible for checking and permitting any work related to rivers and flooding.

**High winter flows** – the features (berms etc.) are designed to be overtopped and remain fixed in place. Their geometry and placement have been modelled to ensure no increased flood risk. They will help to scour the silt to flush it through the channel more effectively. The root plates of the berms will create safe areas for fish to hide in to prevent them being swept downstream. There are minor fish species present in Buntingford including minnow, stickleback, and bull heads. Also there is still a range of wildlife that needs better supporting and protecting.

**Intermediate flows** (e.g. spring and autumn) are when the features will have most effect and be of most resource to wildlife in the channel. This coincides with the breeding season. The berms with planting will provide extra foraging and breeding places for invertebrates including dragonflies, damselflies, and also wildfowl and songbirds. They are also introduced to vary the flow patterns in the channel which will create micro habitats in the river bed for river-flies. We have riverfly monitoring in place to assess the changes over time.

**Low summer flows** – they will still have an effect regardless of their being no/low flows. Most importantly they are still providing additional riparian habitat for foraging and sheltering birds, fish and invertebrates. Plants also help to oxygenate the water and, in a chalk stream, submerged water plants are critical to managing levels in channel as part of the annual water cycle. So the features are not redundant even if there is only a small amount of flow.

## Target species that we aim to benefit with this work are:

- Various species of dragonflies and damselflies but probably banded demoiselle (which are happy to use slower flowing water courses and are present along the Lea Navigation), blue damselfly group who again are happy to use slower flowing areas and prefer thick marginal vegetation which the planted berms will provide. Also all types of river-flies that require micro spaces in the gravel.
- Kingfishers and grey wagtails – installing bird boxes along the water course will provide extra nesting sites.
- Bats – bat boxes on riparian trees along the water course for extra roosting sites
- Various aquatic plants planted on the berms, but also it is hoped that once the channel dynamics for flow improve (not quantity but movement of water within the

channel) there may be space for transplanting water starwort and other submerged plants.

- Minor fish species are present and adding habitat to provide shelter from wash out in winter flows and more shade in the hotter summer lower flows is important. In turn these fish support wading birds and I am pleased to say little egrets (right) have already been seen below the London Road stretch and along the Chapel End stretch of the river.



**Trees:** It has long been the policy of the Town Council to maintain and protect trees on the land they administer. They realise that the carbon capture facilitated by mature trees is invaluable to our environment. For safety and care reasons they commission regular inspections by professional arborists.

To that end the Town Council commissioned a report on the trees on the banks of Layston Court Gardens from a specialist tree company that also does work for EHDC and HCC. They recommended crown lifting (reducing the lower overhanging branches) of the trees along the river bank. Any work will take place in the winter and finish outside of nesting season to prevent disturbance to birds.

The cut overhanging branches of the horse chestnuts will be used to create the features in the river bed thereby recycling the natural material on site and creating extra light to support the plants introduced on the berms in the river.

We are meeting with the EA in late November to show them our revised hydrology report and updated plans. If these are acceptable to the EA we will be applying for the required permits in December. Providing we can then obtain the funding, this will enable us to start work in the New Year.

**Brian Lemay, [brianlemay@btinternet.com](mailto:brianlemay@btinternet.com)**

## Buntingford Gardeners' Club

Our speaker in November was Madela, on behalf of East and North Herts Waste Warriors, on the subject of composting and reducing waste. In our county nearly half a million tons of waste goes into landfill and 28% of this is food waste, much of which can be composted at home. Composting at home is good for the environment, good for your garden and for your own health. Organic waste sent to landfill produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas which contributes to global warming, so home composting is a very important contribution to reducing your carbon footprint.

Our December meeting will be our Christmas Party for members only. No meeting in January, then we are back for the first meeting of the New Year on 2<sup>nd</sup> February when our speaker will be Lucy Blunden, Medical Herbalist, talking about 'Wild Medicines from Weeds'.

We have monthly meetings in the United Reformed Church Hall, on the first Wednesday every month (except August and January) starting at 8pm. We regularly have an invited speaker talking on a range of subjects. We are always happy to see new members, the subscription is great value at just £15 per year or £7.50 for half year, and visitors are also welcome to come along for a charge of £3 per meeting. For more information about Buntingford Gardeners' Club, contact the Secretary, Lesley Lowers, on 01763 271885.

## BACCS

### Good COP or Bad COP?

The deadline for this Journal falls just before COP-26 finishes – and before we've had our Climate Café at Edwinstree where we hope to link global commitments to local Actions that we can all take. But with all three of us Buntingford COP-26 Ambassadors now returned from Glasgow, we can bring you from the COP some glad tidings as we move into the Christmas period.



WHAT DO YOU WANT  
BUNTINGFORD  
TO LOOK LIKE IN  
2050?



#### Consider these announcements that we witnessed:

**A Forest Agreement:** Leaders from 120 countries with 88% of the world's forests agreed to end and reverse deforestation, with pledges of \$20 billion to achieve that goal.

**A Methane Agreement:** 100 countries agreed to cut their methane emissions by 30% by 2030 (methane is 86 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.)

**The GFANZ Breakthrough (Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero):** A coalition of banks, asset managers and insurers co-chaired by Mark Carney, the former governor of the Bank of England, which together control \$130 trillion (!) in assets, agreed to cut the emissions from their lending and investment portfolios to net zero by 2050.

**Breakthrough in Education for Sustainable Development & Climate Change:** UK Education Secretary, Nadhim Zahawi, called for "... all children to be taught about the importance of conserving and protecting our planet" and promised to "... empower teachers in every school to deliver world-leading climate change education through a model science curriculum, which will be in place by 2023." He also promised to introduce a Climate Leaders Award, a bit like the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme (see 'Together for Tomorrow', below).

**All Aboard! the Global Energy Compact:** Energy companies are coming together to lead the transition to green energy. One of its leaders said they don't like the UN's slogan: *Leave no one behind!* "Don't think about leaving any one behind. Encourage EVERYONE to get on Board!" The Peace Child Forum Theatre show makes exactly the same point: shared responsibility is the only way forward.

**The public is behind this – FINALLY!** When the UN did the MyWorld2015 survey six years ago, Climate Change came bottom of the 15 issues individuals were asked to prioritise. Today, climate change comes top of most surveys about peoples' concerns. The public are ready for action on this issue.

**Governments set to "phase down coal and Fossil Fuels" and deliver 1.8 degrees of warming:** IF every government keeps its promises, we will keep the 1.5 degree target in sight. But it is a huge 'IF'!

#### A myriad little coups and breakthroughs are happening in many, many fields:

**Blue Forests:** Kelp and sea grass forests are greening the deserts of the ocean bed and absorbing more carbon than the Amazon rainforest.

**Desert Power:** A \$6-billion project to bring solar electricity to 5 countries in the Sahara desert, fully funded by the African Development Bank, is already being rolled out across the countries of the Sahel.

**The Maldives plan** to protect their islands with coral reef restoration, costing about \$25 a metre, where building breakwaters, as some advised, would cost \$7,000 a metre.

And many more positive, cost-effective projects were put forward that individuals and communities can do, including here in Buntingford, to turn the corner on "halting and reversing climate change" as the UN Scientists demand.

### Many will point at the negatives:

- Many, perhaps most, governments have not kept the promises they made at the Paris COP.
- Science tells us we need to cut emissions by 7% a year – but in fact, we're increasing them by 2% a year.
- Neither the G7 nor the G20 governments have set a date for discontinuing the \$5.8-trillion-a-year subsidies that governments give to fossil fuel companies.

So it **is** true: we still have a massive mountain to climb. But anyone who experienced the buzz and energy – and sheer SCALE! – of the Glasgow COP I think would agree that such negativity is unnecessarily curmudgeonly. The public gets the importance of this. The idea of “shared responsibility” must trickle down to local communities and councils like ours here in Buntingford. As Boris Johnson said in his opening statement: “What do you have to add to a COP to make it a COUP? – A ‘U’!” That’s you!

- YOU – the staff and students of Buntingford’s schools
- YOU – the Town, District and County Councillors
- YOU – the members of the Chamber of Commerce and anyone / everyone who does business in our town; and
- YOU – the families, friends, colleagues who live in our lovely town.

We ALL need to work out how we are going to rise to this – the biggest threat we have faced as a nation since the rise of National Socialism in the 1930s. There’s been a lot of talk about how what we need to tackle climate change is the kind of mobilisation we saw in 1939. But it’s not a war we’re facing – it’s a climb to the sunlit uplands of sustainability, like the Von Trapp family heading off to Switzerland at the end of ‘The Sound of Music’!

So – as we approach the Christmas season, let us focus on the ‘Glad Tidings of Great Joy!’ that Glasgow has brought us. Let us imagine and ideate the new cleaner, greener world in which we can all live happier lives, closer to nature, at peace with each other, and comfortable in the knowledge that we are all doing our level best to pass on to our children a lovelier, more sustainable planet than the one we inherited from our parents.

A Happy Christmas to you all – and let us all work for that cleaner, lovelier planet in 2022!

**David Woollcombe, Madela Baddock and Ros Kenealy**

**Email: [baccsbuntingford@hotmail.com](mailto:baccsbuntingford@hotmail.com)**

**Buntingford’s COP Ambassadors & Co-Founders of  
Buntingford Action on Climate Change and Sustainability**



The poster features a green border with floral and leaf patterns. At the top, it says 'Yew Tree Alpacas' in green and 'Christmas Shop' in large red letters. Below that, it says 'Meet our lovely Alpacas and shop for Christmas' in green. The dates 'MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> TO SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER' and '10.30am - 4.30pm each day' are in red and green. A circular photo of an alpaca is on the right. A green speech bubble says 'Coffee shop with homemade cakes'. At the bottom left is the 'Yew Tree Alpacas' logo. Contact information is at the bottom right.

**Yew Tree Alpacas**  
Anstey, Herts SG9 0DA  
(on the Anstey to Brent Pelham Road)  
Tel: 01763 848257  
Email: [info@yewtreealpacas.co.uk](mailto:info@yewtreealpacas.co.uk)  
[www.yewtreealpacas.co.uk](http://www.yewtreealpacas.co.uk)

## Buntingford W I

Our November meeting was our 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday and we treated ourselves to a delicious fruitcake with our tea and coffee. No other club or society in Buntingford has been meeting regularly longer than Buntingford W.I. and we are still going strong! We were sorry to have to stop the indoor meetings over the past year or so, but as soon as restrictions lifted we were able to meet outside on an informal basis and, as we met on Fridays, we called this 'Friday Friends'. This proved so popular that we are continuing this arrangement and 'Friday Friends' now meets on the first Friday of the month, the next one being on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the URC Hall at 10.30 a.m.

Our guest speaker in November was Louise Hampton from Attend2Health. She gave us lots of tips on how to avoid putting pressure on your spine and improve your posture, and also gave us an exercise we can do to improve balance.

Over the last few weeks our craft ladies have been making poppies and you can see the beautiful wreath they made, which we laid on the War Memorial on November 11<sup>th</sup>. They also found the time to work on our annual Christmas project, which this year is a giant Christmas Card. It will be on display in the Library on top of the 'Hot Picks' stand, so please go along to see it at Late Night Shopping and throughout December.

This month, instead of our usual meeting night on the second Thursday of the month, we are having our traditional Christmas Carol Party on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Unfortunately we are unable to hold it in the Church, but we will do our best to make the URC Hall look as festive as possible. This will be at the usual time of 7.15 for 7.30pm and visitors are, of course, very welcome.

In January we will hold our usual New Year Party. This is always a 'bring and share' supper and it amazes me that no-one knows what others will bring and yet we always get a varied selection of goodies!

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

*Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year from  
BUNTINGFORD W.I.*

**Val Hume**

**ARE YOU NEW TO BUNTINGFORD?  
ARE YOU A SENIOR CITIZEN?**

**THEN THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS'  
CLUB IS WHERE YOU SHOULD BE**

We meet every Monday afternoon at the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road (opposite McColls) from 1.30pm for tea/coffee and bingo, and also lots of fun and laughter with like-minded senior citizens

***For more info call:***

**Jeannie on 01763 274631 or Val on 01763 272019**

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Buntingford Community Choir



Hopefully singing at events in Buntingford in 2022

For more information go to our website: [www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk)

Or email: [info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk](mailto:info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk)

charity@gravellybarn

Vision Matters

A 12-inch square for charity

An open exhibition for famous and aspiring artists

May 13-16 2022



£10 entrance fee to include canvas, hanging fee and invitation to private view on May 12

All canvases will be exhibited anonymously and sold for £45 each, with the proceeds going to three charities (see website for more details)

Final submission date March 31

To get your booking form and canvas, contact:  
[jdavalle@aol.com](mailto:jdavalle@aol.com) or 01920 822229  
[glynnisb2910@aol.com](mailto:glynnisb2910@aol.com) or 01279 792571

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



**MACHINE EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP** with Sue Nicholls Designs

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January

10.30am to 2.30pm

**Beginners' Machine Embroidery**

A session that will give you good basic knowledge of the technique and something decorative to take home.

For further details visit:

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

or contact

[sue@suenichollsdesigns.co.uk](mailto:sue@suenichollsdesigns.co.uk)

# Buntingford Film Club

This is our final article for 2021, but don't worry, you can still find out what we have coming up from our social media feeds. The pre-Christmas film at The Woodman will not be going ahead but they are planning several screenings in 2022. We'll keep you posted.

There is still time to book for our December film, **The Holiday**, showing on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December** at the Seth Ward Community Centre. May I remind everyone that this is a charity performance on behalf of Home-Start, the local family support charity working to build the confidence and skills of parents and carers to achieve healthy and positive outcomes for children. This feel-good Christmas movie was specially chosen by Home-Start to give the audience a happy, entertaining evening out on the run-up to Christmas. It tells a story of two women, played by Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet, who cross the Atlantic and swap houses at Christmastime after breaking up with their boyfriends. Each woman finds romance (with Jude Law and Jack Black respectively) but realises that the imminent return home could spell the end for their new relationship. Produced and directed by Nancy Myers, the film grossed an impressive 205 million US dollars on its release. Come and get your Christmas off to a great start.



We are planning on getting 2022 off to a great start with **Cinema Paradiso** at the Seth Ward Community Centre on the **8<sup>th</sup> January**. This is a truly charming film, a real classic about a young boy, Toto, and his love for the cinema in the Sicilian town of Giancardo some years after the end of WW2. He forms a friendship with Alfredo, the projectionist in the 'Cinema Paradiso' of the title, who teaches Toto how to operate the equipment. The film received the Academy Award for best foreign language film, although the version we shall be showing is in English. The film has been described as a 'shining valentine' to the movies, full of homages, collages and the swooningly romantic music of Enrico Morricone.

**Doors open at 7.00 for 7.30pm for both performances.**

As you may have noticed, we like to mix the films in our programme for the season, with enjoyable films from several years ago, some special foreign films, and some current releases. We can promise you that the films for February and March will be new releases, so watch out for some exciting announcements. In the meantime, you can book tickets through [facebook.com@buntingfordfilmclub](https://www.facebook.com/buntingfordfilmclub) or in person at **Keith Ian, 42 High Street**.

**Brian Thompson**



## What are you doing this New Year's Eve? Or indeed, on any other day over the festive period?

### Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

Are you looking for a way to entertain family, friends or children this Christmas? Our online Escape Room might be just what you're looking for.

#### What's an Escape Room?

The concept of escape rooms started in 2004, with a game called 'Crimson Room'. The idea is simple: the player is locked inside a room and must work out how to escape, using whatever they can find around them.

The first escape rooms were digital, consisting of a computer-generated room image and a series of puzzles that had to be worked out in order for the player to escape. In 2006, escape rooms went physical, with venues around the world opening their doors. In 'live' escape rooms, the players (usually a small group) must work together to solve the puzzles and escape from the room within a time limit.

#### Going Digital

Escape Rooms (whether live or online) are a lot of fun: they appeal to a wide range of skills and interests. And ours is no exception!

The scenario: you have been stranded, with a group of friends, on a remote island which is gradually sinking! You need to find the clues, solve the puzzles and escape – before the tide comes in!

There's no time limit on the game (it usually lasts around 2 hours) and the puzzles are varied. Everything from musicals to maths, language to logic. It's also immersive and interactive, so you really feel like you're part of the game.



It's an online game, so you can play with a party sitting around a table, or virtually with people joining via Zoom, Teams, Skype, FaceTime or any other video chat platform.

#### Sign Me Up!

Want to give it a go? Just follow this link to sign up:

**Escape From St Margaret's Island – an online escape game experience Tickets, Sun 3 Oct 2021 at 14:30 | Eventbrite**

You'll receive an email link with the code to access the game.

Not sure and want more information? Check out our Escape Room advert: <https://youtu.be/qFv6hpJZt-E>

Access to the game is free, but we do ask players to make a donation! 100% of donations will go to help support Home-Start's work with local families, giving them a happier Christmas and a brighter future.

## Too Good To Be True?

The letter arrived with red and gold words embellishing the envelope: *'You are a Winner!! – Do Not Throw Away!!'*. Emma almost did exactly that, used to opening similar marketing scams to the 'Lucky Winner', only to find that the Lucky Winner had to call a 10p per second phone line which gave her a chance of winning a 'Special Prize' of about £1.50 – much less than the cost of the phone call. What persuaded her on this day to open it, she couldn't say. A slow mail day, perhaps: more like a slow life day.

Inside the envelope, in the same red and gold lettering, the letter proclaimed: *'You are a winner – £50,000 is yours when you phone this Special Winners Phone Line'*. Her cynicism unabated, Emma read further down to find the catch. Who were these people anyway? She didn't think she played the Golden Ticket Lotto, but nothing in the letter referred to the marketing gimmick she was expecting. She turned the letter over. No small print on the back. Nothing else in the envelope apart from a leaflet saying how much the Golden Ticket Lotto doled out each month to the good causes they supported.

Emma knew that it had to be too good to be true, but stood there uncertainly in the hallway. Pulling herself together, she early-morning shuffled into the kitchen and put the letter on the side, she would look at it later and at least throw the envelope in the bin. It was then that she noticed it wasn't addressed to her but to her ex-partner, now living in Worthing with his new girlfriend. He hadn't bothered to arrange a change of address service with the Post Office, so some of his mail annoyingly came to his old address.

Emma held the envelope in her hand, alone with her confusion. How could this good luck be happening to HIM? How come I never have any luck? I am so stupid to have thought for 5 minutes I could be the Lucky Winner. Of course I'm not the winner – my life is hard graft, self-doubt and thankless endurance. She felt tears prick behind her eyes, aware of self-pity she didn't usually let herself feel. If it's genuine, Pete and his girlfriend will have a windfall of enough money to change their lives. What about me then, what about ME? She sat down heavily, and let tears fall down onto her dressing gown.

It could just be a marketing ruse, she remembered. I should send it on to Pete. Or I could tear it up and say I never got it. But what if it's genuine, and the Golden Ticket Lotto company find I've not passed it on? What if I ring that number? They're bound to want some other kind of identification, and I'm not even the right gender. But I could give lots of information about him – address, phone number, date of birth – as if I'm calling on his behalf. Emma's thoughts went round and round – tormented, irate and just a tiny bit excited. What if there IS some way I could end up with the money?

She sipped tepid tea and ate half a slice of toast. I'll just go to work and think about it today. I might even tell someone at work and get their advice. Emma grabbed her work uniform and set off for the bus, the letter tucked into her bag.

It was hard to think of anything else but £50,000. She kept opening her bag to make sure that the letter was still there. Getting off in the town centre, she passed a man on a bit of cardboard with a dirty duvet wrapped around him, holding out an empty cup. She didn't even look at him, vaguely annoyed that he was there at all.

At the supermarket, the night shift were just coming off. She went round the back of the store to the staff entrance, hung up her coat, put her uniform on and checked in. Someone made a joke about the shelf stackers on the night shift being 'at it all night', which made her smile. Then she went into the Bakery where they heated up all the half-baked bread so the store would smell nice, and she smiled at that too. She chatted to the girls but somehow didn't tell them about the letter. During the day, her manager asked if she'd consider upgrading to till work because she was one of their more reliable

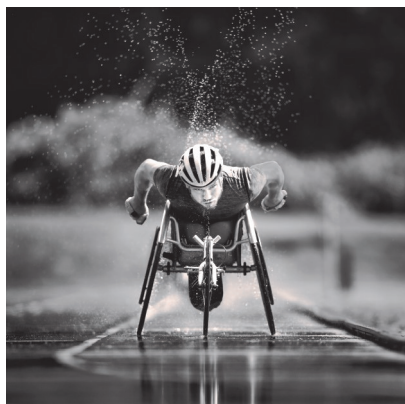
shelf-stackers and they could do with more staff like her in the run-up to Christmas She'd have to be trained but there'd be more money in it. She smiled at that too and said 'Yes'.

On the way back to the bus stop, she dropped 50p in the beggar man's cup and smiled at him. He smiled back. When she got home, she found the redirection address for Pete Clark and forwarded the Lotto letter onto him. She smiled at herself and sat down to watch telly. That's better, she thought, that's much better than being miserable and envious. But this has taught me something. I'll at least buy a lottery ticket this weekend, give myself a chance. And who knows, today a shop girl, tomorrow the store manager.

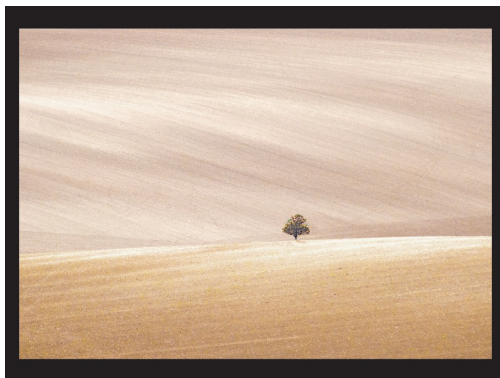
**Chris Kell, Buntingford Writers' Group**

## Ware & District Photographic Society

Ware DPS competed in the PAGB Inter-Club Print Competition at Smethwick on 24<sup>th</sup> October. There were 35 Clubs in the competition with 15 prints from each Club. Ware came joint 7<sup>th</sup> which means that we automatically go forward for next year's competition (8 Clubs automatically qualify). There were nearly 800 prints with 8 awards and Ware scooped 3 of them. Simon Jenkins was awarded a Silver Medal for his monochrome image 'The Naughty Step' (right); Bob Norris also received Silver for his colour print 'On the Edge of the Chilterns' (below right); and Peter Milsom received a Gold Medal in the monochrome section for his picture of Sam Kalek (below).



What a result! The last time we were in the top 8 was in 2007.



Ware DPS will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. We meet on Wednesday evenings, 8-10pm, in Thundridge Village Hall (SG12 0SY). Prospective new members are always welcome, and remember – the first 3 evenings are FREE!

**Barbara Norris, Secretary to Ware DPS**

## VINTAGE CAKES and SUMPTUOUS SOUPS



*Vintage Cakes, Cream Teas &  
Homemade Soups with fresh  
bread rolls – delivered to your door!*



*Please contact for price list.*

**Soup of the Month – Organic Spinach and Leek**

**ewyld93@gmail.com / mob: 07501 495 940 / tel: 01763 289 738**

### **Recipe for December** *Indian Fruit Chutney*

This preserve can be made in time for Christmas and makes a nice present when put into jars, labelled and decorated with a colourful cloth top (just a circle of cloth with the edge finished with pinking shears).

#### **Ingredients**

2 red chilli peppers	225g dried apricots, chopped
2 garlic cloves	450g onions, chopped
5cm root ginger	450g cooking apples
1 tbsp mustard seeds	225g tomatoes
900ml brown malt vinegar	450g mangoes, skinned and chopped, or a tin of mangoes
300g raisins	1.35kg sugar
225g stoned dates, chopped	

#### **Method**

1. Slice the chilli peppers, remove the seeds. Wash your hands!
2. Peel and chop the garlic and fresh ginger.
3. Put the chilli peppers, garlic, ginger and mustard seeds into a large pan with the vinegar and simmer for 10 mins. Strain and return the vinegar to the pan.
4. Add the dried fruits and chopped onions and simmer for 20 mins.
5. Dice the cooking apples and tomatoes and add to the pan together with the mangoes. Simmer for 45 minutes, stirring from time to time.
6. Add the sugar and stir over a low heat until this has dissolved, then boil steadily until the mixture is the consistency of thick jam.
7. Carefully spoon into clean sterilised jam jars and seal with waxed discs and a lid.

***Elaine – Vintage Cakes and Sumptuous Soups***

***Tel: 01763 289 738 / m. 07501 495 940***

***Facebook – Sumptuous Soups and Country Cakes***

If you would like to **advertise** in the *Buntingford Journal*, please contact **Keith Edwards** on **01763 272032** or email **Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk**

Citizens Advice East Herts' offices are currently closed to drop-ins due to Covid, but you can contact them by phone – call the local Message Line for a call back on **01920 459 944** or the Herts Advice Line on **0800 144 8848** (10am-4pm, Mon to Fri). Or see the online options at:

[citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk)



## Worried about what lies ahead? Help is available

As we head into winter many of us are dealing with the challenges of rising living costs and a reduction in some of the post-pandemic support available.

If you are finding things hard, please know that help is available. Our advisers stand ready to support with free, confidential and non-judgemental advice on all issues. We can help you look at how you might be able to maximise your income and can provide food and fuel vouchers if you are eligible.

We also have a number of helpful online resources, such as our online benefits calculator and guidance on budget setting, redundancy, council tax support etc. See our website for more information.

Don't struggle on your own – help is on hand. Give us a call on **01920 459 944** (leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as they can). Or go to [www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/get-advice-2](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/get-advice-2) for more options.

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

## WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY! Have you thought about becoming a Carer?

Herts at Home is a care provider working with Hertfordshire County Council. We are looking for committed, compassionate people to join our team in the north Herts area.



- We pay £12.43 per hour
- Mileage is paid at 40p per mile
- We provide full training and ongoing support
- You will work with a friendly and passionate team who share our company cultures, values & behaviours
- We are part of the Herts Rewards discount scheme
- Paid DBS check
- Refer a friend scheme

We can offer full time, part time, evening and weekend shifts to suit your lifestyle. Experience is not essential, but a caring and professional nature is.

Call us on **01438 845220** or visit our website [www.hertsathome.co.uk](http://www.hertsathome.co.uk)



## Holiday Thoughts

As Christmas comes, we quickly get stuck in to the mince pies and all the calorie-rich foods that the seasonal holiday brings. What's a year without a celebration at Christmas? But don't worry, go ahead and enjoy it! Once it's over you can work off what you've overeaten. So how are you going to do that exactly? (Work it off I mean.) To begin with, good nutrition is important. While a short drift away from the norm won't do too much harm, you need a re-set afterwards and this usually comes with a fitness regime of one sort or another. Come

the New Year we like to think of new things to do and perhaps set ourselves challenges and targets. This is a great time to get perspective on what you might want to do and look at how you are going to get there. Maybe you'd like to do a coastal trail walk? Play with the children or grandchildren more? Or just lose a little weight and get fitter?

### How can CrossFit help?

The objective of CrossFit training is always to *increase work capacity across all modal domains*, which means pushing our bodies on a regular basis. We do this through a regime of lifting, throwing, pulling things, swinging on things, using anything we can pick up or hang from, and of course our own bodies!

### We are the machines!

People new to CrossFit often ask "where are the machines?" In CrossFit we like to think we are the machines because we do the mechanical bit. We do use rowers, ski ERGs and bikes to a degree as they offer the chance to raise your body temperature, warm you up or give you an intense workout, but coupled with other movements to work muscles more dynamically you have what is called a MetCon.

### What's a MetCon?

MetCon is shorthand for *metabolic conditioning*. These workouts recruit all three of your body's energy pathways – phosphagen, glycolytic, and oxidative – which take turns generating adenosine triphosphate (ATP) to fuel your muscles. So, what are the benefits? Put simply, you'll be able to do more in life, even things you never thought possible. You can boost your bone density and heart health, feel stronger and more mobile, and most importantly maintain your independence as you age.

### Who can do CrossFit?

Just about anyone, any age. As long as you have no underlying health issues that make a doctor advise you to avoid exertion, we can help anyone. Recently my mum and dad, both in their 80s, have begun their fitness journey. Neither have been in a gym before, but both are enjoying doing it and feel better for it. They took the decision to get off the couch and move more. To start with we are working on ensuring that, should they have a fall at some time, they will be able to get back up by themselves, then we will progress from there.



So have a Happy Christmas, then come and see us in the New Year!

**Mick Nolan / [mick@crossfitbuntingford.co.uk](mailto:mick@crossfitbuntingford.co.uk)  
[www.crossfitbuntingford.co.uk](http://www.crossfitbuntingford.co.uk) / 07912 653164**

## Buntingford & Stortford Hybrid Studio

We are so pleased that we can have some celebrations with our fitness groups this year. Usually we end up having 4-6 Christmas meals in December but last year we had none, so this year I am going to enjoy every moment of it!

As usual we are running our FREE monthly challenges. For December we have our Advent Calendar Challenge with 24 days of mini-workouts. The in January will be our Squat, Lunge & Push-Up Challenge. More information is on social media [@jacquismithpersonaltrainer](#)

In classes on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December, we will be raising funds as usual for Save the Children with our Christmas Jumper Exercise & Games Classes.

All venue group classes finish on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December and return from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022, but for those who want to continue exercising over the Christmas period we are running a 2-week Christmas zoom programme to



keep you fit and healthy over the festive period. More details at: <http://jacqui-smith.net/christmas-package/>



Finally, we are running our online Absolute Beginners Club for Pilates, specifically for those who want to try out but are afraid to come into a class not knowing what to expect. Sign up for our 21-day introduction club at <http://jacqui-smith.net/abc-for-pilates/>

Jacqui Smith, Personal Trainer

[theteam@jacqui-smith.net](mailto:theteam@jacqui-smith.net) 07956 647806

## Barkway Park Golf Club

At the club's AGM in November, the outgoing Club Captain, Rob Dunderdale, and Seniors' Captain, Steve Dunn, gave their respective reports. Both remarked on the excellent improvements to the condition of the course following the appointment of Joe Graves as Head Greenkeeper and the substantial investment of the owner, Geoff Cannon. This has resulted in a steady stream of new members. The Captains for the coming year are Laurence Westrip (Main Club) and Colin Hamilton (Seniors) and their term was inaugurated with the traditional Captain's Drive-in, a Texas scramble enjoyed by some 80 club members and guests in remarkable autumnal weather.

During the year, golfers have generously donated to the Captains' nominated charities, the Alzheimer's Society and the British Heart Foundation, and sums of £1100 and £2000 have been raised. The club has decided to spend about half of the BHF money to purchase a defibrillator which will be kept in the clubhouse.

Despite lockdowns, the club has fulfilled its fixtures against other clubs in the area and completed a full programme of club competitions and open events. The 'star' golfer of the year is Andy Osbourn from Therfield who won both the main club and seniors' singles competition. The pairs' competition was won by Tom Albrow and David Burr.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the club is welcome to visit the clubhouse or call **01763 848215**.

At our November meeting the attendance in the hall had increased and we welcomed four new members and one visitor – all of whom recently moved to Buntingford. Many more were linked from home via Zoom.

After the Covid-19 disruption, our Carpet Bowls group (below) re-started during November. It meets in the Bowls Club, Wyddial Road, every Thursday morning from 10-12 during the non-Bowls season.



Our speaker on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December is Mark Lewis and his subject will be *'Cribs, Cards and Christingle: The Origins of Christmas Traditions and Customs'*. Mark is a freelance artist, designer silversmith and semi-retired university lecturer who had a wide-ranging teaching career. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Horners. His talk explores how our colourful Christmas traditions and customs came into being and how they are celebrated. His presentation includes some lesser-known folklore including Jesse Trees, Mumming Plays and Wassailing.

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January our speaker is Bob Redman on *'Elstree: Britain's Hollywood'*. Bob has lived in Elstree since 1972. Most of his career was spent as a management consultant, working almost everywhere but in the UK. As retirement approached, by chance he became involved in recording the last days of the Gate Studios, then the UK's oldest remaining film studio. From that grew a group of local volunteers, Elstree Screen Heritage, of which Bob is Secretary. He will share with us some tales of the ups and downs of film and TV-making in the various studios of Elstree and Borehamwood.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February will be Len Little on *'The Training and Use of Police Dogs'*. Len served as a frontline dog handler in Hertfordshire for 17 years and as a Home Office Approved Police Dog Trainer for 12 years. He was awarded a Scholarship to study sniffer dog training in West Germany in 1987 with the German Police and Customs.

We meet at the Seth Ward Community Centre – doors open 1.30pm. Please visit our website for news and details of all our groups. [www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford)

Jean Cook



## ISTD Graded classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern and Recreational classes in Commercial Dance

New pupils are always welcome at Buntingford School of Dance. We have spaces in most classes for pupils wishing to start in the New Year. We hold a waiting list for classes that are over-subscribed, and we can also put your child on our waiting list if they are not yet old enough for classes. The waiting list is reviewed regularly. Please contact us for details.

All new pupils get a **NO OBLIGATION TRIAL** in the classes they wish to join. We currently offer Ballet, Tap, Modern/Jazz, Dance Mash and Commercial Dance classes for children, and Tap and Ballet classes for adults. See below for some more information about the dance genres we offer.

This term we reintroduced Adult Ballet and had a fantastic turn out. It's great to see such a range of ages and abilities in the class, all keen to have a go. Our Adult Tap class (photo right) is also proving really popular with a range of ages and abilities who want to enjoy themselves while getting some exercise; the class is currently working on a fun routine to 'Puttin' on the Ritz'. Dancing is great for physical and mental wellbeing. It has been shown to improve posture and flexibility, reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, keep your mind sharp, boost aerobic power and muscle strength, help your heart – and is also a great way to meet new people and make new friends.



In December we have pupils taking graded exams in Ballet and Tap – some face to face and some remotely. We also have pupils working towards medal exams in Tap and Modern, which have a greater emphasis on performance. Exams give pupils something to work towards and help them focus on mastering steps and technique at each level as well as developing their sense of performance before moving on to the next level.

**What do we offer and what does it involve?** We offer classes in Ballet, Tap, Modern/Jazz & Commercial Dance. Pupils can start Ballet from 3 years old and Dance Mash (our introductions to all other genres) from 4 years. From 7 years old pupils can join Tap, Modern/Jazz and Commercial Classes. While we set a minimum age, it's never too late, so while lots join us at 3 or 4 years, some don't until they are older. Classes are every week during term time, held in venues in Buntingford, Great Hormead and Barkway.

**TAP** dance is a form of Percussive dance and is one of the most enjoyable and rhythmic forms of recreational dance. **MODERN/JAZZ** theatre dance is a rhythmic dance style, often seen on the stages of musical productions and known for its theatricality. **COMMERCIAL DANCE** encompasses myriad styles, from Street and Hip-Hop to Jazz and Contemporary. **BALLET** is a good foundation for all dance.

If your child fancies giving any of these a go, please contact us by email at

[admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk](mailto:admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk)

You can find and follow us on facebook and instagram

Or visit our website: [www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk)

# BALA

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

## Minibus Trips December 2021 & January 2022

	Time	Destination	Price
<b>December</b>			
Thurs 2nd	9.15-12ish	Royston - Aldi/M&S/Costa Coffee	£5
Wed 8th	12pm	Pub Lunch & The Blind Fiddler (FULLY BOOKED)	£5
Thurs 9th	9.15-12	Bishops Stortford Town Centre	£5
Mon 13th	10-2.30	St Ives	£8
Wed 15th	11.30	Pub Lunch (FULLY BOOKED)	£5
Sat 18th	10-3pm	Cambridge - City Centre & Grafton Centre	£7.50
<b>January</b>			
Tues 4th	10.30-3pm	Welwyn - catch the New Year Sales!	£7
Thurs 6th	9.15-12ish	Tesco, Bishops Stortford	£5
Tues 11th	10.30-2pm	Saffron Walden (market day)	£6
Thurs 13th	1pm	Gordon Craig Panto – ALADDIN (show at 2.30pm) <b>Theatre tickets £15.50</b>	£5
Wed 19th	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5
Mon 24th	9.30-3pm	Bury St Edmunds	£12.50
Wed 26th	10.30-2.30	Dobbies/Bury Lane Garden Centre	£5

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

**PASSENGERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING.**

**HAND SANITISER WILL BE PROVIDED.**

To book a seat or for more information: 01763 271909 or 07870 638480

### **BALA Coffee Mornings**

**Fridays 10<sup>th</sup> December & 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, 10.00–11.30am**

Tea/Coffee, Cakes, Sausage Rolls, Raffle

### **BALA Soup Lunch**

**Fridays 18<sup>th</sup> February, 12noon–1.15pm**

**All at the URC Hall, Baldock Road**



## The Hundred Parishes Society

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

As 2021 enters its final month, we anticipate seasonal celebrations to brighten the shortest days of the year. The ancient tradition of decking our houses with garlands of fresh green holly branches reminds us of the continuity of life, bringing us cheer when the days are short.

On reaching the age of 20, female holly trees start to bear red berries on branches covered with shiny green leaves which can be cut to make decorative wreaths. Such wreaths were symbols of good fortune in midwinter Celtic and Roman celebrations, a tradition that was revived and continues thanks to a local man, William Winstanley (1628-98). During the Commonwealth of England, which lasted from 1649 to 1660, the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell declared that it was illegal to celebrate Christmas, banning frivolities and feasting on mince pies. Winstanley, who lived in Quendon, believed in celebrating Christmas as a time for sharing joy, fun and good fortune with others. After the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, using his influence as a writer and poet, Winstanley encouraged a return to the seasonal merrymaking which we still enjoy today, becoming known as the 'Man who Saved Christmas'.



Holly trees were frequently planted near houses to ward off a lightning strike; interestingly scientific research has revealed the spiky leaves can act as miniature lightning conductors! Holly also grows in hedges or as a shrub in woods where its berries provide nourishment for blackbirds, thrushes and wood mice. Its dense branches provide secure nesting sites. Deer and rabbits will eat its nutritious leaves. Today, many homeowners plant variegated forms of holly to provide interest in their gardens and can select a mixture of foliage to make seasonal decorations.

Yew is another evergreen with red coloured fruits that are loved by birds and squirrels, but as its leaves are poisonous it is less suitable for indoor Christmas decorations.



**Tricia Moxey, Trustee**

## Buntingford Meditation

runs two **online** events per week:

**Mindful Mondays** – 12 noon every Monday. Half an hour of online mindfulness and meditation to refresh your day. Bookings via: [www.mindful-worklife.com](http://www.mindful-worklife.com)

**Buntingford Christian Meditation** – every Wednesday evening, from 8 to 9pm. Meditation and mindfulness practice in the Christian tradition. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Martin for details at: [info@mindful-worklife.com](mailto:info@mindful-worklife.com)

A paper entitled ‘**Water – What is going on?**’ by Professor Dieter Helm was recently brought to our attention. It looks at the past and current economics of the water industry and its privatisation, giving a very large pointer as to how and why our rivers and chalk streams are in the mess they are now. Though heavy on economic language, this is very much a recommended read and there is now a link to it on the Blog section of our website.



The long-awaited Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy was launched in the middle of October, with a reception at Tewin Bury Farm on the River Mimram, attended by Defra Minister Rebecca Pow MP, Tony Juniper of Natural England and Emma Boyd-Howard from the Environment Agency. The strategy was written and collated by Charles Rangeley-Wilson, chair of the CaBa Chalk Stream Restoration Group, in consultation with people

from the Environment Agency, Defra, Natural England, Ofwat, WWF, Angling Trust, The Wildlife Trusts, Rivers Trust, Salmon & Trout Conservation, Wild Trout Trust, Thames Water Affinity Water, Wessex Water, Beaver Trust and NFU.

We have been watching the progress of the Environment Bill through Parliament and the House of Lords. It was frustrating to see the diluting of the requirements on sewage release, but it has been gratifying to see how the issue is now more prominent in the press and that the public is rightly horrified by the actions of the water industry.

Riverfly monitoring at the two sites in Buntingford continues on a monthly basis, the results are always available on the FORQ website. We are now also monitoring for phosphates at both sites and hope to be able to test for nitrates as well soon. We are talking to test-kit manufacturing companies to see if there is a kit, similar to the one we use for testing for phosphates, for nitrates but so far have not managed to find anything suitable. Four more FORQ members have completed Riverfly Monitoring training in the last month. This means that we can now monitor more sites on a regular basis.

If you are interested in our Riverfly Monitoring and would like to know what sort of things we look for, there is a link on our website to a great YouTube video made by Liam Marsh which shows the key indicator species we look for during a monitoring session.

<https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com/blog/>  
<https://chalkaquiferalliance.wordpress.com/events/>

**Pauline Ayres, Communications FORQ**

**The Buntingford Journal is delivered FREE to members of the Buntingford Civic Society, or it can be purchased from:  
THE CO-OP • LOCKS, STOCK & MORE • MARK DOEL BUTCHERS  
McCOLL'S (The Post Office) • RILEY'S FAMILY BUTCHERS**

# Buntingford Cougars



Another year wrapped up for the Cougars and it was a big one! In years to come we'll look back with enormous pride on the celebrations that took place for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the money raised for charity. During November there will be a formal handing over of a cheque to the Lynsey Ivison Trust to recognise the club raising over £18,000 – yes, that's over 18 thousand pounds! – to support the charity in its wonderful work providing down time and family holidays for children who are critically ill. It's been an honour to support such a worthy cause.



As the club does every year for Remembrance Sunday, a wreath was laid at the War Memorial in town to remember the fallen. During our matches over the weekend of Remembrance Sunday, a minute's silence was held which was impeccably observed by all our players, from the very youngest in the U7s (bottom photo) through to the older age groups (below). Another proud weekend for the club.

As we get to the end of the second calendar year that has been impacted by the pandemic, it is really important to give the biggest thank you possible to our many volunteers who work in the club – the committee, coaches, squad coordinators,



etc. Amazingly, the club has emerged from the pandemic bigger than ever! At the time of writing we've added some 60 players since the end of last season and have topped 400 members! Think about that for a second ... 400 kids benefitting from a wonderful community club.

Of course, 400+ members (and still growing) brings a lot of pressure – the club is actively working to ensure that facilities for training and matches as well as coach development can cope with the levels of growth we're seeing. A big task for the next few years.



So, to wrap up for this year, it's a thank you from the club to everyone involved. The players came back from the second lockdown in the first part of the year raring to go. And we've had a good few months of footballing action as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations to enjoy. Have a great Christmas everyone and see you all in the biting cold of January for more grassroots football!

**David Deane**



# 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.***

## **How have Edwinstree students settled back into school this term?**

Having been back in school for eight weeks, we notice that students are now settling back into school life and the confidence they lost in their learning is slowly returning. Despite our parent community working really hard over the last two years, just like adults, our students have felt the impact of the pandemic. They have lost their independence in tackling learning problems and their basic grammar and writing skills have suffered, along with their fluency with numeracy and their confidence and ability to make friends and live alongside each other. The number of students that require intervention to support their wellbeing has quadrupled in the last two years.



It is a shock to realise that the last time Year 5 were in school for a full year they were in Year 3, and Year 6 were in Year 4. We have committed to taking the students as far back as they need to go to build their basic skills before racing forward with the curriculum. This means not cramming a student for

the SAT exam if they are not ready. We feel lucky that, as a middle school, our Year 6 are not leaving us this year and we have a two-year journey to support them to recover.

We are so grateful that the Rib Valley Heads have agreed to work together to map out a recovery curriculum that extends from reception and first schools all the way to upper school. We will be meeting to agree the key areas of learning all students need to achieve before they move on. This will help us to provide a coherent plan of action.

## **What COVID measures have returned to schools?**

Hertfordshire Public Health made a decision that all students and staff in secondary schools (Years 7 and 8 for us) should wear masks in all areas, including the classroom, and currently large events are not advisable. Last week, we spent time preparing our students and they are stoically managing to wear their masks. However, in class this is really difficult – even for young ears, the teacher's voice and student responses are muffled by this experience. We can't help but admire the NHS staff who have had to do this from the outset of the pandemic and for so many hours every day.

## **How can we host parents' events and celebration evenings to make sure that school life and all its enrichment activities are not curtailed?**

We were planning a disco at the end of November, but this will now be an event to give students an opportunity to complete a couple of their National Trust requests to star gaze, sit round a camp fire and eat roasted marshmallows. Outdoor events, despite the cold, are one of the most trusted ways for us to have fun and be together safely. It has been good to see our football teams attend sporting events and our new rugby teams go into battle. At the moment, these events can continue as they are outdoors and it is clear our students have missed the camaraderie, energy and challenge of competitive events, particularly our boys, who really benefit from the physical opportunity to channel their energy.

### **What is our Christian value for this half term?**

Last half term we explored the power of 'togetherness'. We learnt that a community is most powerful when there is a variety of voices and opinions and that not everyone thinks the same. Dissent and debate are important. This is something the internet can push against, as algorithms in all our social media tend to give us information that is similar to what we already think. We believe it is important to help students value a difference of opinion.

This term we will consider the value of 'service'. We plan to host a Fullness Day based around the COP26 summit and climate change, focusing on how we can all make small changes, at home and at school, that can have significant impact as a service to our environment. We were delighted to be invited to the COP 26 Children's Parliament as the representative for our Constituency. A passionate environmentalist in Year 7 represented us in a live debate, hosted by the Speaker and the MP David Davis. It was an excellent introduction into the value and service that MPs give to their community and students were reminded what our democracy is and how we use it to bring about change.

### **How will students get involved in providing 'service' in school?**

Our Year 8 Leaders will shortly undergo training for the roles they have volunteered for in school. We have 63 students wishing to support others, through sporting clubs, reading clubs, the Learning Zone (wellbeing support), planning Fullness days, helping with Resolve (when things go wrong) and supporting other students to run clubs. We look forward to seeing them helping our school community and acting as good role models for others.

### **How have we supported new students considering Edwinstree next year?**

In agreement with the Rib Valley Heads, we made the decision not to host an Open Evening event this year. We normally have over 500 visitors on these evenings, which was judged too great a health risk. Instead, we invited our local schools to visit us. Volunteer students from Year 5 and Year 8 met the Year 4s and gave them a tour around the outside of the building and explained what life is like at Edwinstree. We also held morning tours for parents. We were extremely proud of the mature and confident tours that the students conducted and it was lovely to see the younger students so excited about their potential new school. We hope to invite Year 4 students back to visit again after Christmas.

**Jo Gant, Headteacher**



## **Millfield First & Nursery School is looking for new Co-opted Governors to join our Governing Body**

Our governors come from a range of backgrounds, with different skills and experience, but all want the best possible education for the children in our school. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who:

- Has knowledge of and experience in legal matters, PR/marketing, or premises & facilities management, all not necessarily related to schools.
- Is interested in children's education and the performance of the school.
- Is willing to commit the time and energy required for the role.

These volunteer positions are open to any person from our community. Co-opted governors are not elected by an election, but instead are appointed directly by the governing body. For more information about school governance, please see <https://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor/Be-a-Governor.aspx> If you feel this may be of interest to you, or have further questions, please contact me directly in the first instance by email at [governors@millfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:governors@millfield.herts.sch.uk)

On behalf of our Governing Body: **Alex Tomkins, Chair of Governors**  
Millfield First & Nursery School, [www.millfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk)



# MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

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



## Autumn Term 2021

As we near the end of the Autumn term at Millfield, we feel fortunate to have experienced a term in school learning together. The children have had such a range of opportunities where their learning has come alive! From visiting workshops covering topics such as the Ancient Egyptians, the Iron Age and the Great Fire of London, to trips to other local schools for sporting events. Take a look at our new school video that was produced in the Autumn term.

<https://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk/school-video/>



## Visit and Tour for Prospective Parents and Carers

It was a delight to open our doors to prospective parents and carers who have children starting Nursery and Reception in September 2022. We held four open events for parents and carers to come and view our school and grounds, as well as to find out more about Millfield.

**Reception Applications:** Applications for Reception places to start in September 2022 can be made online until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022 on the Hertfordshire County Council website.

**Nursery Applications:** At Millfield we manage our own Nursery admissions procedures and we are currently taking applications for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019, who will be starting Nursery in September 2022. The closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. We are fortunate to offer both 15-hour and 30-hour provisions for Nursery aged children. Applications should be made directly to the School by contacting the School Office on 01763 271717 or by email [admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk).

## PTA Fundraising

It's fantastic to have the Millfield PTA in action again after the pause in events due to COVID-19. Millfield children thoroughly enjoyed the PTA Movie Nights in November, held to help raise funds for a new timber trail at Millfield.

## Christmas Performances

The staff and children are preparing for the festive season! Classes within the EYFS and Key Stage 1 will take part in our Christmas performances this year, which will be shared virtually with Millfield parents and carers.

## Spring Term Topics

After the excitement at the end of the Autumn term and Christmas, we will return to school in January ready to learn about new topics. The children in Nursery and Reception will be reading and learning all about stories with a focus on fairy tales. They will also be learning about growing. Key Stage 1 has chosen a topic based around 'Our World'. This includes learning about Monarchs in Year 1 and comparisons between the UK and Africa in Year 2. Year 3 children will be learning all about the Romans and Year 4 children will learn about America.

Finally, 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 please visit our website [www.millfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk) or contact the School on 01763 271717.



# Layston C of E First School

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

Our Christian values this half term are 'peace and justice'. We have been reflecting on both inner peace and peace within relationships. Remembrance Day is a powerful reminder of how lucky we are to live in peace in the UK. Within justice we have reflected on making the right choice even when this is difficult.



In November we have been thinking about the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought in the wars to secure our peace and freedom. Y2 created a beautiful poppy wreath against a background of poignant family photos, in Collective Worship the school created a poppy as Reverend Caroline led our remembrance service, and last year's tree wreath created by Y4 stands as a constant reminder to be grateful for our peace and freedom.

The children have engaged in a wonderful second half term of learning with a special focus on history from visiting 'Celtic Harmony' and learning about the Celts in Y3, to Y2's Fire of London Day and Y1's History of Toys Day led by 'History off the Page'. We are now planning and looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and Christmas through our nativity and pantomime performances, which will be recorded.

To find out more about our school, please visit [www.layston.herts.sch.uk](http://www.layston.herts.sch.uk)

*Wishing peace and goodwill to all from Layston First School.*

**Mrs S Betley, Acting Headteacher**

## Layston Grove Care Home **Christmas Fayre**

**On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 4pm until 7pm**

**Come along and meet Santa and his reindeer!**

**Plus Market Stalls, Festive Food and Fun for all the Family.**

Everyone is welcome and entry is FREE. All proceeds will be match-funded by Halcyon Care Homes and donated to THE BUNTINGFORD FOOD BANK.

## **‘I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas Just like the ones I used to know ...’**

The small herd of deer broke cover from the trees, disturbed by the sounds of human voices beyond the wood. As they escaped across a recently ploughed chocolate earth it made a beautiful vision. The backdrop is the multi-coloured hues of the autumnal arboreal screen which will soon be stripped by frost and wind to sleep throughout the oncoming winter. Today, after the early rain, it has brightened to a sky decked in the brightest blue with the remains of the rains deep grey receding on the horizon, the recent sunlight breaking through displaying the wide arc of a rainbow. Across the broad meadow the ground looks like glass with the low sun glowing off the grass and it takes some moments for my eyes to adjust to this amazing scene before me. Suddenly it is evident that the whole of the meadow is covered in spiders’ webs, a truly wondrous sight.

A soft mewling above me indicates that the buzzards are circling, looking for opportunities of the shoot and soon they are joined by kites who take part in the tableau, each waiting for provision of lunch. These periods when the organisation of the next drive allows for the necessary pause of the beaters whilst the guns plod across the field to their pegs prompts reflections upon the year almost complete.

Pulling up my collar and resting upon my trusty beating stick decked with hand carved tracery, I reminisce upon years past, lost friends, events which have evolved into anecdotes which will no doubt join the legend that is the shoot. Looking forward to the burgeoning turn of the year at Yule Tide and the festivities of mid-winter, it concerns me deeply that we have almost lost what I remember of past Christmases. I cannot help but muse upon what it was like almost eight decades ago when we experienced the excitement that a young mind felt with Dad coming home from the war and all the preparations for the coming festival.

Of course now most of the traditions are lost and the spirit of that time of year derided or modified by those who would destroy all that we held dear in the name of equality or some other campaign and the ever-increasing destruction of what our people fought and even died for in the name freedom.

The latest uproar as to whatever has offended certain sectors of the population with regard as to lifestyles, perceived affronts and selective criticism of history is playing a corrosive role in pushing us all towards the eventual demise of our country and all that has made this land great and which peoples from around the world risk life and limb to reach. I feel I am privileged to live in this land and at this time in history and be amongst life-long friends who shared the same ambitions through hard work and family values.

Just at that moment a hare that was squatting amongst tussocks of course grass poking through the silken ground breaks cover and zig-zags across the field, the sunlight bouncing off his speeding back.

My thoughts return to the upcoming festival of winter and the fact that we seem ashamed to use the name Christmas for fear of offending people who have a different style of worship, overlooking the fact that our national religion has its very roots in the same history and back at its conception the same spirit was at its heart. Mankind (now humankind as they wish to be addressed) should accept that it is they that have deviated from that fundamental fact and look for what those various religions have in common and let us enjoy and respect the traditions that are now almost gone.

Perhaps it is my memory but I still recall that time when two weeks before Christmas it was suddenly upon us, starting with rehearsals for the school concert and Sunday school play and we would make secret wishes that this year we would get to play Joseph or a

wise man and not be relegated to third sheep again. We tried to upgrade our position in the school band hoping this year we would be given a drum to play and the triangle would be given to someone else. With television yet to enter our homes, programmes with Christmas content relied on the wireless driven by an accumulator. We sat round the kitchen table beneath the gas-lit mantle and licked sticky pieces of coloured paper to make decorative chains. At least our tree was the real thing, with the plastic version still way into the future. My hard-worked parents tried their best to give us a special day,

A day or two before Christmas Day a cockerel would be despatched to reappear as the centre piece of our Christmas dinner. On Christmas Eve we tried to sleep, huddled together in our shared bed in the darkened bedroom with only moonlight brightening the room through the frost-coated windows.

A few years on and we were given our greatest Christmas present ever: a new house with indoor toilet and electricity and in our hall hung a tiny light shade with each side a different colour. Each Christmas thereafter this coloured shade appeared and I saw it as the herald to Christmas and all the traditions we so loved.

Meanwhile, back in the here and now, my reverie of memories was broken with the sound of the other beaters moving through the wood and soon the distant report of the guns meant that a festive bird was secure. As I moved forward with the others across the field I wondered how long it would be till all our traditions would be gone and I had only my recollections to stir the thoughts of Christmas past, and of course a rather battered tiny light shade. Happy Christmas to you all.

**Vyse**

## **TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS by Jackie Smith**

It's the beginning of December, and it's nearly Christmas time.

Time to put on songs like 'White Christmas' and 'Mistletoe and Wine'.

Put up the tree, decorations and the twinkling lights.

Wrap up the presents and the Christmas delights.

Set out your family traditions and write Santa's letter.

This year we hope everything is going to be so much better.

Grandma and Grandpa will sit in the arm chair.

Remembering people who are no longer there.

Looking lovingly at their kids and grandkids

In Christmas jumpers opening up gifts.

Drinking eggnog or a glass or two of sherry.

By the time dinner is served everyone is red faced and merry.

Then it's time to sit and eat mince pies in front of the roaring log fire.

Watching the Queen's Speech and maybe listening to carols from a church choir.

The old traditions that we take from our peers.

We carry on throughout all the years.

We pass them on from our parents to our daughters and sons.

And they in turn pass them down to their own little ones.

Without these traditions Christmas wouldn't be the same.

We'd even miss the squabbles over the after-dinner game!

So from my house to yours 'Merry Christmas' and before you go

Look out of the window and wish for some snow!

# Buntingford Shorts Competition

The Buntingford Shorts film competition provides a unique, free platform for students to have their work viewed and critiqued by industry professionals. Entrants may submit school/university coursework or any of their own creations. The festival includes the following genres: Animation, Comedy, Documentary, Drama, Horror, and Musical, with prizes awarded for each.

Following our successful international launch in 2020, this year we have received a record number of entries – over 600 from students around the world – and have closed all but the Local category. Anyone from Hertfordshire and the surrounding counties can still submit their work for the Local award category up until 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. For all terms and conditions please refer to our FilmFreeway page at: <https://www.filmfreeway.com/buntingfordshorts>

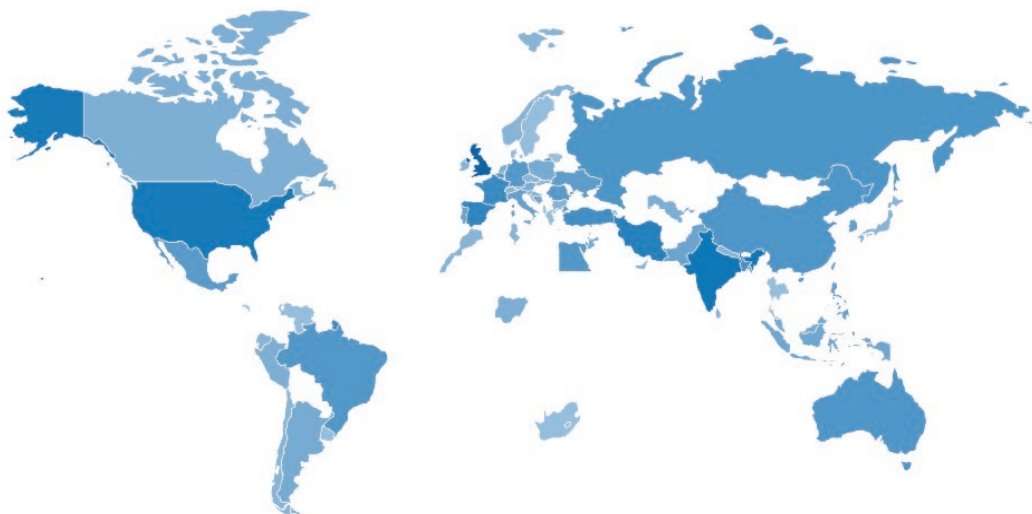
To view some of our previous entrants, as well as interviews with last year's finalists, please visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGUrx\\_p\\_5MtX7ZHQtal93Kw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGUrx_p_5MtX7ZHQtal93Kw)

There will be a live presentation evening for the Local award at the Seth Ward Centre, Buntingford, on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February. We will also have a live online finals evening for the six international categories via our YouTube channel on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

Thank you to all the local businesses who have made this festival possible through their generous sponsorship: Krowdrah, First Class Business Solutions, Replenish and Reuse Ltd, Becca Hutton Music, Yellow Technology Ltd, The Fox at Aspenden, Chris Dellar Properties, Hertfordshire Display Plc, Wisser Wealth, Lanes of London, Additions Tutoring and Melodies Music Education.

**Jake Andrews**

## Submissions Map



The darker the shade of blue, the more entries we have received from that country.

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# Buntingford Civic Society

Reg. Charity No. 1014873  
<http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk>



## WHO ARE WE?

We are your local amenity group, established in the early 1970's initially as a conservation group covering the ancient parishes of Buntingford, Layston, Aspenden, Wyddial and Throcking. We obtained charity status in 1993.

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

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

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Publish the Buntingford Journal

Restored the town pump twice.

Restored the Town Cage

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

Present an annual school civic award

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

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

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

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

Contributed financially to the Freman College sports hall, Buntingford Film Club, previous Buntingford Carnivals, and to the planned Summer Arts in Buntingford 2022 weekend, and given a grant to the Friends of the River Rib and Quin

Done River Rib cleans

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

Were actively involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan

Arranged four Buntingford in Bloom competitions our fifth in 2020 cancelled due to the pandemic.

Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017

Hosted annual Civic Day walks

## WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

Monitor future housing development and continue to work with local organisations for the benefit of Buntingford, including the River Rib Project.

**TO JOIN PLEASE SEE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON OUR WEBSITE**

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

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## Carers in Hertfordshire Online



Due to the situation with the coronavirus most of Carers Support Hub groups are meeting online via Zoom. The main purpose of the groups is to bring carers together so they can offer each other practical and emotional support.

**If you would like to join in a group online we request that you book a place.** If the group for the area where you live is at a time you can't make, or is not yet running online, you are welcome to book a place at another meeting. Please note the meetings may be subject to change so contact us to check details.

To book email [contact@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:contact@carersinherts.org.uk) or phone **01992 58 69 69** and let us know which group you are interested in. Once you've booked a place we will send you confirmation and the meeting login details. If you're booking by phone it would be useful if you could confirm your email address. **Please do let us know if you have any other technical issues or requirements, as we may be able to help.**



### Carers in Hertfordshire Hub groups meeting online via Zoom

Name of Group	When Meeting
Berkhamsted (a joint meeting with Hemel Hempstead)	Second Tuesday of the month, 10.30am – 11.30am.
Bishop's Stortford	First Wednesday of the month 10.30am – 11.30am.
Borehamwood	Second Thursday of the month, 10.30am – 11.30am.
Buntingford	Last Tuesday of the month, 10.30am – 11.30am.
Chorleywood & Rickmansworth	Third Monday of the month 10.30am—11.30am
Harpenden	Third Thursday of the month 10.30am – 11.30am.
Letchworth Garden City	Third Wednesday of the month 10.30am – 11.30am.
Potters Bar	Last Wednesday of the month 10.30am – 11.30am
Royston	First Thursday of the month 10.30am – 11.30am.
Stevenage	Last Thursday of the month 10.30am – 11.30am.
Ware	Third Friday of the month, 11am – 12pm noon.
Watford	Second Monday of the month, 10.30am - 11.30pm.

Our **Men's Carers' Group** is also meeting online on the **last Tuesday of the month, 1.30pm – 2.30pm** and twice a week we have some informal meet ups on Zoom for any carers to join in with so they can have a chat. Please contact us for more details or if you'd like to join any of these meetings.

Our Carer Support Advisors should also be able to advise you of other groups for carers that are meeting online during the coronavirus pandemic. You can contact them 9.30am – 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am – 4pm on Fridays for advice or support related to your caring role.

**To contact us call: 01992 58 69 69**  
**Email: [contact@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:contact@carersinherts.org.uk)**  
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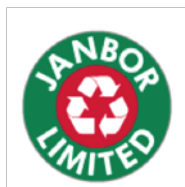
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# Buntingford Dramatic Society

It is with very mixed feelings that we have to announce that the drama group are on the move to a new home. After nearly forty years of being based at Benson Hall for all our weekly rehearsals and highly successful performances, we find ourselves no longer able to call it our home. However, we are delighted to be relocating to the Seth Ward Community Centre.

At a time of great uncertainty for the group we are overwhelmed with the help and support we have been offered by both groups and individuals in the wonderful Buntingford community. There are currently too many to name individually but special mention must be made of Jackie Smith and Graham Waite at the community centre and the wonderful folks at the Film Club.

We are currently undertaking the mammoth task of deconstructing and moving all our stage fittings, lights and sound systems, props and costumes, whilst continuing rehearsals. The recent award of Co-op Community Funding could not have come at a better time as we had already begun our project to upgrade all our technical equipment. We truly appreciate the generosity of all the Co-op members.

Under the current situation we have sadly had to postpone our proposed January performances but rest assured we will be back in March to once again entertain our loyal audiences.

It is said the Japanese have one word that translates as both crisis and opportunity. This perfectly describes how the Buntingford Dramatic Society have turned a seemingly negative situation into a wonderful new opportunity for the future.

Jane Guy  
Chairman  
Buntingford Dramatic Society

# BUNTINGFORD Swimming Club

Need to be Swim England Learn to Swim  
stage 7 or above.  
Please visit [www.buntingfordsc.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordsc.co.uk)  
for more information and to register for a trial.

**Thursday nights**  
from **6.30pm**  
term time only  
**Age 8+ years**

Buntingford Swimming Club is a coaching club and is now looking for new members of all age groups from September 2021.

With things hopefully settling following long periods of closure due to covid restrictions, we are looking to recruit new members of all ages (8 and over) to our small, friendly & competitive swimming club (currently we have 45 junior members) based at the Ward Freman pool in Buntingford, and we are affiliated with Swim England Hertfordshire.

The aims of our coaching club are to develop swimmers' skills and strokes, participate in competitive events at other clubs and impart good practice and safety in the water. We meet weekly with training split into 3 sessions for either 45 mins or 1 hour on Thursday evenings between 6.30pm and 9.15pm, in term time only.

The club enters a number of local galas each year, and the club hosts its own annual internal club championship each autumn. Coaching is provided by trained volunteers and older club swimmers help out with the younger ones.

New swimmers who would like to join us need to be at least Swim England Learn to Swim stage 7 or equivalent. For further information or to arrange a trial, please visit our website at [www.buntingfordsc.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordsc.co.uk) and on the home page please click on the link "register for a trial" and we will be in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.



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