

*The independent journal for Buntingford & Villages
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Buntingford Journal



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70p

Dec 2022 / Jan 2023
Volume 47, No.10



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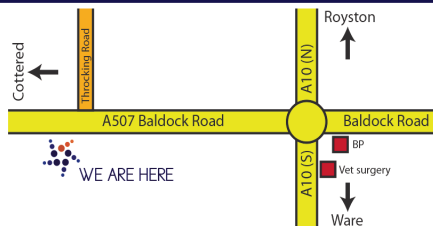
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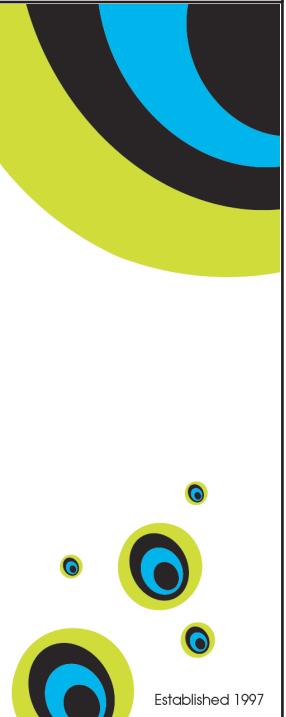
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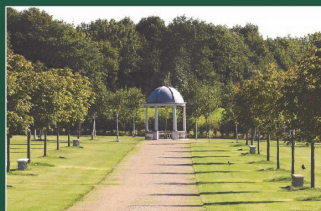
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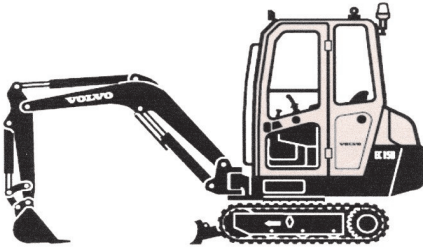


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Nutwood Community Christmas Lunch at the Woodman and Pheasant

For the first time since December 2019 at the Woodman in Nuthampstead, and now also at our more recent acquisition the Pheasant in Great Chishill, the Nutwood Pub Group will be providing a complimentary Christmas lunch with all the traditional trimmings to a select number of 'seniors' that are nominated to join us for a warm and friendly countryside welcome this festive season.

The lunch will include a full turkey dinner (or veggie option) with Christmas pudding to follow, and some festive 'cheer' to wash it down. In addition to delicious meals and drinks served by our own smiling and happy staff, guests will enjoy a free raffle (all prizes to be donated by Nutwood Pubs) – there's even a chance that Santa may put in an appearance!

We are inviting members of the pubs' respective local communities to nominate one or more people they feel would appreciate a festive hot meal with potential new friends, and we'll do the rest. We request a modest £10 donation per nominee towards our costs, but this is entirely voluntary – we are also welcoming donations from our regular pub customers, and all surplus receipts will be donated to one or more of our local charities.

It's likely some of the nominees may need assistance, so it would be most helpful if members of the community are able to help out with lifts to and from the pubs for their nominee/s on the day, as are fairly restricted in what we will be able to offer by way of suitable transportation ourselves.

All local residents and passing VIPs are also more than welcome to attend, but our focus for the day is very much upon those that may otherwise miss out on seeing family and friends this Christmas.

The Nutwood Community Christmas Lunch will be held at the Pheasant on Monday 19th December, and at the Woodman on Thursday 22nd December. In both cases we would ask all nominees to arrive by 12:30 for a pre-lunch welcome tipple, followed by the sit-down lunch at 1pm.

To make a nomination for The Pheasant please email Meg: pheasant@nutwoodpubs.com

To make a nomination for The Woodman Inn please email George: woodman@nutwoodpubs.com

As places are limited and are likely to go quickly for both lunches, please act now to ensure your nominee doesn't miss out this Christmas.

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Both The Pheasant, Great Chishill, and The Woodman Inn, Nuthampstead, have a full schedule of events throughout December. Including sponsored community lunches, visits from Father Christmas, carols and Christmas Markets! We look forward to welcoming new and regular guests over the festive season and into the New Year.

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USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE STATION: Baldock Road, Buntingford	Non-emergency telephone: 101 In emergencies dial 999
GAS: ELECTRICITY: WATER (Veolia): WATER (Affinity Water): SEWERAGE (Thames Water): FLOODLINE:	Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999 Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838 Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325 Emergency – 0345 357 2407 Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800 Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188 Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60
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
BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY: 77 High Street Buntingford, SG9 9AE. Tel: 01763 272396	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
CITIZENS ADVICE EAST HERTS:	Call the CAB Message Line on 01920 459 944 at anytime and they will call you back. They aim to return calls within 24 hours (except at weekends). www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk
HOUSEHOLD WASTE & RECYCLING SITE: Watermill Industrial Estate	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

EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to your Christmas issue of the Journal! I would like to start this letter by thanking the Buntingford Chamber of Commerce for the images of the Christmas Market and lights which I have shamelessly taken from their website for the cover. Most months, someone sends in a photo which leaps out for the cover, but at this time of year my luck often runs out – perhaps because I want something festive and with it still being November no-one is quite in the mood just yet. Anyway, by the time you're reading this, the Christmas Lights will be brightening up the High Street and I hope you enjoy this year's Late-Night Christmas shopping. And speaking of shops, it's good to see empty premises at the bottom of the High Street filling up again and I hear from Graham Bonner (see his note on page 5) that Lanes Jewellers has not closed.

Many of our annual Christmas events are back in these pages – the Scouts Santa Run, Carols by Candlelight, the W.I.'s Christmas Celebration, St Nicholas' Festive Fair, Yew Tree Alpacas Christmas Shop and much more. Still on the Christmas theme, we have a bitter-sweet seasonal tale from Vyse.

In his regular 'News', Jeff Jones reports on the Remembrance Service, which this year saw the return of the parade down the High Street and was very well attended. Martin Tuck tells us about his cycling tours of World War One battlefields and monuments in France and Belgium, and how the experience has made Remembrance Sunday even more poignant for him. In remembrance of another kind Val Hume brings us a tribute to Di Bamford, a much-loved former District Nurse, who passed away in October.

We have details of two annual competitions for creative young people that launch around this time – the Battle of the Bands 2023 and Buntingford Shorts, now in its 6th year of encouraging young film-making talent. The Battle of the Bands is now being promoted under the banner of Buntingford Live, a re-brand of the Summer Arts group that brought the Festival to Layston Court Gardens back in June. Edwinstree School report on the sterling work they are doing to make up for time lost to Covid. As part of this effort they are looking for volunteers to help their students get back on track with reading, and so are many other schools as the article from the charity Schoolreaders makes clear.

Finally, congratulations to Mark Wilkinson and the Friends of the Rib & Quin who have won a CPRE Herts Awards for 2022. Meanwhile, in Buntingford we will have to wait a bit longer for planned improvements to the Rib – Brian Lemay explains why on page 21.

With all best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christine Noble

**Editorial copy deadline for the February 2023 Journal
is Saturday 14th January 2023**

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

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

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



20's Plenty for Us

...making your place a better place to be

Buntingford

Highlights from 20's Plenty National Conference, Oxford, October 2022

As well as campaigning for a 20mph speed limit and safer roads in Buntingford and Hertfordshire, I am also really proud to be a member of the national 20's Plenty for Us team and in October I attended my first 20's Plenty National Conference in Oxford. As a road safety campaigner in Hertfordshire, it is so easy to forget that elsewhere real progress is being made in improving road safety through wide-area 20mph speed limits. There is growing evidence of significant reductions of deaths and serious injuries on roads and big improvements in the air people breathe and the quality of life for the nearly 26 million people who already have wide-area speed limits where they live.

The conference featured a full day of talks from academics, councillors, industry experts, campaigners and police who shared news of national progress, local successes and latest research. It was particularly interesting to hear news from the **Wales** national task force on how the default 20mph speed limit is being rolled out there, and some of the strategies being used to win public support, monitor safety and deal with disinformation.

In **Cornwall**, having already delivered wide-area schemes on over 700 roads, the Conservative County Council Cabinet Member for Transport spoke about how the sheer volume of community requests for 20mph speed limits there has resulted in them announcing a county-wide default 20mph speed limit due for completion in 2026.

Members of **Oxfordshire County Council** explained how the recently introduced county-wide 20mph was already delivering social and environmental benefits and how the county's active transport approach is transforming quality of life for residents. Oxford Professor of Geography, Danny Dorling, explained how 20's Plenty is the quiet revolution spreading across the UK and one of the few campaigns that has resulted in an actual improvement in people's wellbeing and life chances in the UK in the last decade. Sam Bailey (Urban Traffic Research) explained how research now shows that **emissions are 33% higher at 30mph than 20mph** and how implementing 20mph speed limits is more fuel efficient for motorists and has a very little impact on journey times.

Listening to all the good news from elsewhere in the country really highlighted the contrast with Herts County Council's approach. A refusal to follow best practice and adopt the wide-area policy that is proving transformational elsewhere, an insistence on measuring existing speeds for every single road that is proposed for a 20mph speed limit and a bias towards implementation on urban roads means that any progress here is painfully slow. You might think it is good news to learn that two 20mph zones are being implemented in Buntingford. However, when you learn that they are on Olvega Drive and Crouch Gardens – housing estates with no through roads and average speeds already well below 20mph – it will make no difference to road safety or quality of life for residents. It will certainly not benefit people across the rest of the town either who live on and use roads that have serious traffic and speeding problems and would see vast benefits from a whole town 20mph speed limit. A wide-area limit would be the most effective, quickest and cheapest way to reduce road danger and car dominance and increase levels of active travel locally.

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

Mailing List, Campaign Stickers & Enquiries: buntingford@20splentyforus.org.uk

FACEBOOK: 20's Plenty for Buntingford **INSTAGRAM:** 20splentybuntingford

TWITTER: @20Buntingford **www.20splentyforherts.org**



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of



In the lead-up to Christmas it is difficult to ignore the many families who must be caught up in the cost-of-living crisis. There is always so much pressure at this time of year on family budgets, but this year it will be even worse. If there is any way readers can help, perhaps with donations to the food bank, I am sure it would be gratefully received.

The Committee will be reviewing the publication of the Journal in the New Year. Sales in the shops are decreasing month on month and we need perhaps to rationalise between hard copy publication and an online offering. Whatever future route we choose we must consider revenues vs costs, our many Journal advertisers, and of course our Journal readers.

The Remembrance Sunday parade and service was once again very well attended and respectfully received. A wreath from the Civic Society was laid at the war memorial – “We Will Remember Them”.

Some good news at last on the planning front. EHDC have met and considered the application for 350 dwellings to the east of Buntingford. Their decision is that the application has been refused. I am sure that the 1000-plus objections put forward by Buntingford residents helped in their decision process. We will, however, have to wait and see if the applicant appeals the decision.



We have been informed that the planned River Rib works will be delayed. Contractors for the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT), hired for the works, suffered a major break-in at their yard and all of their specialist plant and equipment has been stolen. A delay to the work is therefore inevitable.

Finally I would like to wish all Civic Society members and readers of the Buntingford Journal a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Graham Bonner, BCS Chairman / graham_bonner123@yahoo.co.uk

Footnote on Lanes Jewellers – Facebook is wrongly reporting that Lanes Jewellers in the High Street has shut up shop. It has not. The proprietor, Tye, has some health issues but the shop will be open over the next few months on an as-and-when basis. If the shop is not open, Tye is happy to take phone calls on 07435 781370.

Buntingford Civic Society was established in 1971 with the aim of improving the fabric of the Town. **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 BCS website or email the Membership Secretary, Peter Hay, at membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk



In Memory of Di Bamford

15th July 1944 – 2nd October 2022

I was very sorry to hear that Di has passed away. I got to know her when I met her in 1998 to do a Profile of her for the Journal and she was so lovely and friendly and easy to talk to.

Di's childhood years were spent in South Wales and her nursing ambitions started when she was just 7 years old, caring for her grandmother who came to stay after a stroke. Her father didn't want her to leave home for nursing training so she joined the Salvation Army, which led to her helping to support bereaved people in Aberfan who had lost their children in the awful slag heap disaster there in 1966. She had emotional memories of that

time but believed that the experience helped her in later years to cope with her patients.

When she qualified as a nurse, Di went on various courses including renal dialysis, coronary, psychiatric and orthopaedic training, but after she met George Bamford she applied for a District Nursing post in Hertfordshire. There were 32 applicants for two jobs, one rural and one urban, and Di plumped for rural which is how the people of Buntingford came to be lucky enough to have Di as their District Nurse. Her District Nurse training was at Welwyn Garden City and she was honoured to receive a scroll nominating her as 'The Best Medical Nurse 1970-72'.

When Di started at the Health Centre there were three doctors – Dr Wigfield, Dr Leeming and Dr Macnamara. She said that she owed a lot to Dr Macnamara who taught her so much about medicine and the care of the patient's 'whole being', i.e. mind, body and soul. The hours she worked were quite long: when she checked in at the Health Centre at 8 o'clock each morning, she did not know how long the day was going to be. If one of the GPs wanted you during the night you went out, because social services or twilight service did not exist back then.

It was at this time that Di became a Marie Curie Nurse. She got to know her patients well, going far beyond the call of duty. One 92-year-old lady lived in a cottage in the High Street with no electricity and water from an outside tap. On her visits Di had to chop wood to light a fire in order to boil a kettle and when the lady became too frail to walk her dog Di would take the dog for a walk on her lunch 'break'. It was not unusual for patients to ring her at any time of the day and they thought very highly of her. When one patient was given some alternative medication, she said "I'm only having it if Bamford agrees".

Di particularly remembered being sent by one of the doctors to visit a family of nine brothers and sisters who lived in a farmhouse in one of the villages near Buntingford. She described the house as like something out of a Dickens' novel, with chickens roaming around inside. She had to move her patient, one of the brothers, to a different bed and as she changed the bedding she could see two rats "the size of cats" sitting on another bed across the room. When the man subsequently died, she had to go to the Chapel of Rest to identify him.

During our conversation, Di talked about the special bond that existed between patient and nurse in those days and how there seemed to be more time to do things back then. She used to receive gifts of fresh produce grown in patients' gardens and hardly ever had

to buy vegetables. She recalled one Christmas Eve when an old lady presented her with a parcel wrapped in red crepe paper: it contained one slice of pineapple and Di was so touched by the gift as the lady could ill afford the pineapple. To reciprocate, on her days off she would do lots of baking and take people homemade pies.

In 1987 Di was honoured with an invitation to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. She had been nominated by Rear Admiral M. Kyrle-Pope in recognition of all she had done for the people of Westmill where she lived with her husband, George, and son Gareth. Sadly, George passed away suddenly in 1990.

At the time that I interviewed her, Di had been advised to take early retirement because of health problems. She said she had no regrets as she had a wonderful career which gave her much joy, and the love she received from the people of Buntingford and her patients filled her life. There must be many people here who still remember her with affection and we are certainly lucky to have had such a caring lady as one of our District Nurses.

Sadly, Di developed early-onset Alzheimer's. She was cared for by her son until she passed away at home on 2nd October 2022. Rest in Peace Di. You have earned it.

Val Hume

BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

All our club members are very much looking forward to our **Club Christmas Lunch** in December!

We meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays – it does seem that there are more and more of them!) in the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road (opposite McColl's), from 1.30pm for 2pm. Just turn up, you will be warmly welcomed, or alternatively call Val on 01763 272019.

Our committee wish Journal readers and all our present and future members a very Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

A very Merry Christmas from everyone at Buntingford Community Choir



And wishing everyone a safe and Happy New Year!

For information about the Choir, go to our website: www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk

Or email: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk



The
United
Reformed
Church

Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

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

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

Services at 11.00am

December	4	Family Service	Rev Sue Fender
	11	Carol Service	Penny Flynn
	18	Holy Communion	Rev Allen Morton
	25	Christmas Day – at 10am	Rev Sue Fender
January	1	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
	8	Morning Worship	Bob Parkin
	15	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	22	Morning Worship	Rev David Cornick
	29	Morning Worship	Rev Sue Fender
February	5	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender

BOOKING THE CHURCH HALL

There are a few slots available for either a regular booking or for occasional use.
Contact Tracey Palin on 01763 271749 for further details.

BUNTINGFORD CHURCHES TOGETHER

Lunch, laughter & topical discussion on the first Wednesday of each month in the Hall. Lunch 12.30pm (bring your own, tea & coffee provided). Discussion 1 to 2pm.

COFFEE AND COMPANY

Meets every Thursday, 10.30am to 12.30pm, in the Hall.

If you're elderly, or 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 refreshments.

Website: www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/URCBuntingford



St Mary's Church, Aspenden

Carols by Candlelight

A Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 21st December. 7.30pm

All welcome!

Don't forget your torch – it can be very dark in Aspenden



Churches Together in Buntingford

Hello – Greetings to you all on behalf of Churches Together in Buntingford. My name is Sue Fender and I am the Minister of Christ Church United Reformed Church.

I have just come home from a holiday. I got back this weekend – in time to lead the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial and a service in our church. Before I left, the shops were full of Halloween costumes and sweets for trick or treat and fireworks ready to celebrate Bonfire Night.

During the two weeks I was away things changed – the shops are now full of Christmas! Trees, decorations, cards, gift sections, wrapping paper and of course plenty of festive food – sweet and savoury to delight our taste buds. I am always amused by how much of the ‘Christmas’ food has a use-by date of well before 25th December! The ‘Big Day’ is still over five weeks away.

We all know how much there is to do as we prepare to celebrate Christmas Day. So much time and effort go into it. Buntingford’s Lights of Love festival and Late Night Shopping is on 25th November and Churches Together will be there to help you celebrate and let you know when our Carol Services will be, so you can come along and sing with us and think about the true meaning of Christmas. Please come over and say hello.

The Church prepares for Christmas with a time called Advent. ‘Advent’ means ‘coming’ or ‘arrival’ and we use the time to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Each week we light a candle in our churches as we build up the story of God coming to Earth:

- ◆ The first candle symbolises the **hope** we have in God.
- ◆ The second calls us to be a people of **peace** and to embrace the peace of God in our lives.
- ◆ The third reminds us that God **loves** us so much he sent Jesus to be our Saviour.
- ◆ The fourth candle is for the **joy** we feel in this season.
- ◆ On Christmas Day we light the **Christ Candle** symbolising the Light of The World coming into our world.

This Christmas will be a scaled-back event for many of us as we face increased prices in the shops and for heating our homes.

However you celebrate, please be assured of a warm welcome in our churches. We hope you can join us as we tell again, then wonder at, the mystery of the baby born in Bethlehem. We wish you a very happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

God is with us –
Alleluia!

Sue

Celebrate the 'original' Santa at
SAINT NICHOLAS' FESTIVE FAIR

St Nicholas' Church
 Horseshoe Lane, Great Hormead
 Buntingford SG9 0NH

Sunday 4th December 2022
11.00am - 4.00pm

*New selection of festive stalls, refreshments,
 and raffle. All in aid of St Nicholas' Church*

FREE ENTRY

www.quintetchurches.com



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford & Westmill

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright

Website: unitedbenefice.org.uk

Email: admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk

Telephone: 01763 271552 or 07484 345027

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

Our Services for December 2022

Sun 4 th	9.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Wed 7 th	7.00pm	Compline	St Mary's, Aspenden
Sun 11 th	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9.30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	All Age Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Wed 14 th	7.00pm	Compline	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sat 17 th	4.00pm	Cakes and Carols	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 18 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Wed 21 st	7.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	St Mary's, Aspenden
Sat 24 th	2.15pm	Nativity Crib Service	St Peter's, Buntingford
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Nativity Crib Service	St Peter's, Buntingford
	5.00pm	Nativity Crib Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
Sun 25 th	9.00am	All Age Christmas Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	10.00am	All Age Christmas Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford

Our Services for January 2023

Sun 1 st	11.00am	Benefice Together Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
		<i>Please join us for our Cheeseboard Sunday (see below)</i>	
Sun 8 th	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9.30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	All Age Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 15 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 22 nd	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 29 th	9.30am	Benefice Together Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
		<i>Please join us at Aspenden</i>	



1st January
Cheeseboard Sunday at
Benefice Together Holy Communion
11:00am St Peter's Church
Bring and share ...

... a short reflection, poem, picture or anecdote to share in place of our sermon, and cheese, biscuits and tasty nibbles to share after the service.

Our Service pattern may be subject to change, therefore please check our website and church door notices for any changes. Thank you.

For further information please contact our Benefice office, details above.



*Advent and Christmas
with The United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford & Westmill*



Sunday 27th November - 7pm
Advent Service
St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Wednesday 21st December - 7:30pm
Carols by Candlelight
St Mary's Aspenden



Wednesday 30th November - 7pm
Compline
St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Christmas Eve

2:15pm & 4pm
Nativity Crib Service
St Peter's Church Buntingford



5pm
Nativity Crib Service
St Mary the Virgin Westmill

11:30pm
Midnight Mass
St Mary the Virgin Westmill



Christmas Day
All Age Communion
9am - St Mary's Aspenden
10am - St Peter's Buntingford



Saturday 3rd December - 11:30am
Outside Carol Singing & refreshments
St Peter's Church Buntingford

Wednesday 7th December - 7pm
Compline
St Mary's Aspenden

Wednesday 14th December - 7pm
Compline
St Peter's Buntingford

Saturday 17th December - 4pm
Cakes and Carols
St Peter's Church Buntingford



ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Cyril Chiaha

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2022 & JANUARY 2023

VIGIL MASS for Sundays is at 6pm every Saturday

SUNDAY MASS is at 9.15am and 11am every Sunday

Special Christmas Services

Saturday 24th December:

5pm Children's Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord

8.15pm Congregational Christmas Carols, followed by:

9pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Sunday 25th December:

9.15 & 11am Mass of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES, SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES
& OTHER PARISH NEWS** are available on the parish website:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/buntingford/>

All Masses will continue to take place at St Richard of Chichester in Buntingford until the remedial works in the parish church of St Edmund of Canterbury & English Martyrs, Old Hall Green, and St Thomas of Canterbury, Puckeridge, have been completed.



Buntingford Santa Run 2022



Mon 5 Dec 18:00 – 19:30

Skipp's Meadow Longmead
Monks Walk

Tues 6 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 9 Dec 18:00 – 20:00

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

Sat 10 Dec 16:00 – 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	

Tues 13th Dec 17:30 – 19:30

Greenways	Bowlers Mead
Baldock Road	White Hart Close
Bowling Green Rd	

Donate at

[paypal.me/](https://www.paypal.me/)

[buntingfordscouts](https://www.buntingfordscouts.org.uk/)



Scouts

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 • KIM on the CARD STALL on Buntingford Market**



Yew Tree Alpacas

Christmas Shop in Anstey, open 8 days

Don't miss the chance this December to see some of the Yew Tree alpacas and do some Christmas shopping at the same time.



As well as lots of alpaca present ideas you can see our girls out in the fields and enjoy a hot drink and homemade cake in our Christmas coffee shop.



Yew Tree Alpacas Christmas Shop

OPEN

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th December

Monday 12th - Saturday 17th December

10.30am - 4.30pm

Our range of alpaca products and Christmas gifts include:

- Luxurious alpaca socks
- Super soft alpaca yarns from our own herd
- Hand knitted alpaca scarves, hats & gloves
- Alpaca Christmas & greetings cards
- Alpaca pillows* & cushions
- Jigsaws & tea towels
- Marmalades & chutneys

*for order, examples on view

Coffee shop with homemade cakes



Yew Tree Alpacas
Yew Tree Cottage, Anstey, Herts SG9 0DA
(on the Anstey to Brent Pelham road)
Tel: 01763 848257
Email: info@yewtreealpacas.co.uk
www.yewtreealpacas.co.uk

We are open for 8 days this year: **9th and 10th December, then 12th to 17th Dec, from 10.30am to 4.30pm each day.** No need to book, just turn up within these times on any of the above dates.

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



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

The London Road scheme is now underway and has resulted in road closures along London Road preventing access to the A10 at the southern end of the town. The Town Council responded to both consultations on this project, initially voicing concern over the proposed removal of many established trees. This concern was taken on board and the new shared-use pedestrian and cycle path was re-routed behind the trees, resulting in the loss of far fewer trees, some of which were found to be diseased in any case. Details of the scheme, the programme of works and the road closures can be accessed via the following link.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/roadworks-and-road-closures/major-roadwork-projects/active-travel-fund.aspx>

By the time this Journal is published, the town should once again be lit up for Christmas. As usual, we thank Councillor Graham Bonner and his team for arranging the Christmas lights. The Lights of Love tree will be lit on Friday 25th November. Silver stars for placing on the tree are available in the Manor House reception.

If your organisation would like to apply for grant funding the application form can be downloaded from our website.

Details of the December/January Council meetings are below.

Jill Jones, 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

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

Website: www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

Town Council meetings for December 2022 & January 2023

Thurs 1 st Dec	7:00pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 8 th Dec	7:00pm – Planning Committee 7:30pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 5 th Jan 2023	7:00pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 12 th Jan	7:00pm – Planning Committee 7:30pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 26 th Jan	7:00pm – Planning Committee 7:30pm – Full Council meeting

All meetings to be held in the Council Chamber at The Manor House.
Members of the public are welcome to attend.

News from Your District and County Councillor

Remembrance Sunday

It was good to see a large turnout of residents and community groups at the Remembrance Sunday service outside St Peter's Church. The service was led jointly by Rev Kirsty Wainwright and Rev Sue Fender, the vicars at St Peters and the United Reformed Church respectively. Following a two-year parade absence, many ex-servicemen, community groups and dignitaries marched the length of the High Street to the War Memorial, ably led by Parade Leader Paul Allam. Many thanks to Buntingford Royal British Legion and Buntingford Town Council who jointly organised the event.



Above left: Sir Oliver Heald QC MP lays a wreath. *Above, left to right:* Colin Clear RBL, Cllr Jeff Jones HCC, Cllr Ken Crofton EHDC, Cllr Duncan Wallace BTC, Janie Wentworth-Stanley DL, Sir Oliver Heald MP, Andrew Huggins RBL, David Mitchell RBL

ATF Scheme London Road

There appears to be some confusion, and hence negative comments, regarding the description of this scheme. The ATF (Active Travel Fund) scheme is funded by the Department of Transport and will provide a 3.5-metre wide joint-use footpath for pedestrians, cyclists, buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters, not just a "cycle lane" as described in various quarters. The shared-use path will provide a level surface pathway, priority at side roads, and encourage walking and cycling as a healthy and safe alternative rather than using the private car. Additional safe crossing points, road narrowing and bus stop improvements will also be provided, allowing London Road to be reduced to a 30mph speed limit. Along with landscaping improvements, this will be an attractive, safe, cleaner and healthier environment for the Town's residents.

Planning Application 3/22/1551/FUL – Land east of the A10 in Buntingford

This planning application for 350 dwellings, plus commercial and retail units, has been refused by East Herts Council. The application was considered inappropriate development by encroaching into the settlement boundary and an unsustainable development, amongst many other reasons for refusal. In addition, EHC has announced

that it now has a confirmed five-year housing land supply. In fact it has 5.8 years, which gives East Herts additional protection from unwanted development outside the local plan.

Walking Football

Buntingford Walking Football are keen to attract new members at our Saturday morning sessions at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields. If you are over 50, keen to stay active, and enjoy playing the 'beautiful game', come along at 10am Saturday mornings and give it a go. The first session is free and then £3 for future sessions. There is a mixture of ages and abilities, ranging from 50 years to our oldest member of 73 years. Come along and give it a try!

Councillor Advice

I receive many requests for help and advice on District or County Council matters. I now hold monthly Councillor Surgeries for face-to-face meetings. With a Town Councillor present this gives residents the opportunity to discuss any concerns they have in the town. These Surgeries are by appointment by calling the Town Council on 01763 272222. And I am always available by phone or email on the contact details below.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

Cllr Jeff Jones

East Herts District and Hertfordshire County Councillor, Buntingford Ward

0300 123 7493 / jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Attend2Health tends to have quite a busy November and December with the late-night Christmas shopping, our Staff Christmas Party and Louise up for a couple of awards! On Saturday 19th

November Louise is attending the National Business Women's Awards in London where she is in the final for Influential Business Woman of the Year. Louise has also just become a trustee of the Chiropractic Research Council so is looking forward to raising money for this worthwhile cause.

We are continuing the theme of showcasing a different profession each month and this month it is the turn of our **Chiropractors**. Attend2Health has four Chiropractors at the clinic (below). **Adrian Collingwood** graduated in 2003 and has a special interest in how Chiropractic can help with headaches. He also likes to consider a problem in the context of a patient's lifestyle. **Louise Hampton** graduated in 2004. She has written a book on low back pain and tends to include quite a lot of massage in her treatments. **Ashleigh Cattle** graduated in 2017. She has competed to a high level in a number of sports and so she knows how Chiropractic can help when recovering from injuries. **Daisy King** graduated in 2020 and has an interest in sports and in people suffering

acute pain. She is a yoga teacher, a personal trainer and sports massage therapist as well as being a chiropractor, so she can use all these skills when treating.

We offer a free 15-minute chat so that you can find out if we could help. Please call 01763 87 80 87 for more information.



Adrian
Collingwood

Louise
Hampton

Ashleigh
Cattle

Daisy
King

Louise Hampton

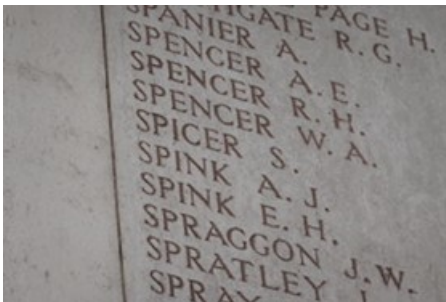
Remembering World War One

I have always had a fascination with history and a particular interest in the First World War through my grandfather, who fought at the Battle of the Somme. Thanks to the Ancestry website I found all his army records. He survived the war but never talked about his experience to me or any of his family.

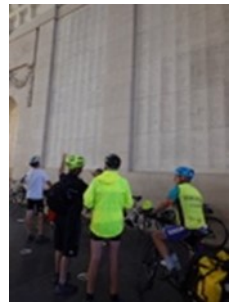
Four years ago I discovered an organised cycling holiday that visited WWI battlefields in France and Belgium. With a group of friends over a week we cycled to the various Somme battlefield sites, including where my grandfather had fought. It was a humbling experience and made me appreciate just what a huge loss of life occurred in this war.

I moved to Buntingford seven years ago and live on the Knights Walk estate, where I noticed how the road names are taken from fallen soldiers named on the Buntingford War Memorial. As part of our trip to the Somme we visited the Thiepval Memorial where William Aldridge is named. We also went to Connaught cemetery where Walter Miles is buried.

Two months ago I did another similar cycling trip, this time around Ypres. Our hotel was close to the Menin Gate (right) where every evening there is a ceremony to remember those who died. We attended and I was pleased to find the inscriptions for Reginald Dellow and



William Spencer (left). They were among thousands of names of young brave men whose bodies were never recovered. I think it is an excellent idea to use their names for



local roads so we can continue to remember them every day. For me, these trips have made the annual Remembrance Sunday event in the town mean even more to me.

If any of you are cyclists it makes for a great holiday. In Belgium cyclists have priority over all vehicles at roundabouts and junctions. Drivers are extremely considerate towards cyclists and always give way to them. Most roads have dedicated cycle paths. Cycling in rush hour in the city of Ypres felt incredibly safe and easy. We used Battlefield Journey Ltd who organised the hotel, meals and if needed bikes. I would recommend them although there are a number of companies who do this.



Martin Tuck

Now is the Season and the Time, and All Things must pass

The log in the grate suddenly sunk amongst the embers sending a shower of sparks up the chimney like so many golden fireflies. The darkened room took on a glow of warmth and the rays from the fire enhanced the various shadows of the dark polished furniture which stood guard like so many sentinels watching over the room. He kicked off his down-at-heel slippers and put his feet up on the footstool and with his large work-hardened hand he reached across to the small side table upon which was a half-full bottle of fine single malt whisky.

He carefully poured a large portion of the tawny liquid into an Old English crystal cut glass, which he held up for a few seconds, gazing at the refracted light in the vessel as it morphed into a myriad of rainbow swirls as the liquid clung to the sides, before raising the glass to his lips. He slowly sipped the liquid and felt his body respond to the comforting journey that the peaty river made on its way to his stomach. It had been a good day at the estate despite the increasing cold and flurries of snow that blew across the whitening fields. He and the team of beaters variously remarked that “it looks like we might have a white Christmas after all”.

But now the cold had been locked outside and he was well ensconced with the reviving tincture and perhaps later a festive cigar. He felt content, well almost, as he cast his eye about the room. The furniture of some antiquity had once graced the homes of his forebears and now enhanced the atmosphere as the polished mahogany and walnut shone in the firelight. On the table in the corner were some of the treasures he had gained over the years. Small but beautiful pieces of silver and porcelain and as his eye surveyed the room and alighted on particular items, especially the framed photographs, it brought back memories of all the many and varied experiences in which he had been involved over the eight decades that had been his span. The vintage acoustic guitar, which had helped him through some difficult times, sat reassuringly on its stand like the old friend it was. But something tugged at the edge of his thoughts, something was missing. The season's cards covered the mantel shelf and cabinets but he knew that there were two absent pieces of Yule-tide stationery and a deep melancholy began to fight with the effects of the spirit in the glass.

The clock on the mantelpiece continued its steady count, taking every second available unto its own, heading for the strike of twelve when it would officially be Christmas Day. Whether it was the somnambulistic tempo of the timepiece or the palatable elixir it was difficult to tell, but the whole atmosphere of the room suddenly changed and he could hear tiny voices in the distance. The sounds were familiar and he sat up in his chair, listening ... Gradually a strange stirring came about the room and he felt himself being drawn towards the voices. “Come on Grandad, let's play the football game,” called one. “Bagsy the red shirt,” cried the other. The voices now had shape and form and to his delight he recognised his two young grandsons.

He soon vacated the armchair and was drawn towards where the youngsters were enjoying the football game on the chest that was used as a coffee table. He watched as the two little boys called to each other in the game, interjected with “Watch me score, Grandad!” They played out the game until, inevitably, they wanted to change and a train set appeared, then castles of plastic bricks which they attacked with enthusiasm. “Look at me” called the taller of the two, his mop of curly black hair flopping over his eyes

where the longest eyelashes fell across his delicate features. "I'm the champion of the castle" called his brother, a boy with much straighter hair that shone with a deep iridescent lustre like the wing of a raven. As he took in the scene a rare tear ran down his cheek. He had missed these boys so much and the circumstances that had generated their absence made rage well in his chest, which immediately subsided as a pair of smiles lit up their faces. "Come on Grandad, let's have an adventure!" called the boys and suddenly they found themselves outside in a wood and the earlier snow had begun to drift. "Where shall we go?" enquired the youngest. "Now let me see," the words came easily but were somehow detached from his body.

They pressed on through the wood, now heaped with falling snow, and every few yards creatures came into view and stopped to observe the passing trio. A fox in its winter livery gave an enquiring look then disappeared back into the thicket. A busy-looking rabbit hesitated for a moment then went back to its foraging. "Grandad did you see the animals? They're not afraid," said one of the boys, amazed. "That's because they know you mean them no harm," he explained. The snowdrifts now clung to their legs and a badger, obviously intent on getting back to its sett, took no heed of their passing. "Look, there's a light!" one of the lads called. And soon they came upon a wooden hut in a clearing. He banged on the door and a voice from within called "Come in!"

The three adventurers entered the hut, which was lit with lamps that occasionally spluttered, and the smell that engulfed them was wonderful. Racks and piles of wood were everywhere and part-finished projects crammed the space. "Good evening boys, you came at last. How are you?" The faces of the boys beamed as they looked around for the voice's source. A man appeared from behind a pile of wood and came to greet them. He was slight in build, much like an equine protagonist with the countenance of an ageing elf. "Would you like to see what I have made for you?" The two lads nodded, excited now at the prospect of what might be to come. "These are for you both. I made them according to your grandfather's instructions and I hope you will like them."

The man then produced two long staffs topped with identical figureheads – immaculate carvings of a horse's head, beautiful to behold. Each staff was mounted with a silver medallion inscribed with one of the boy's names and the words **Carpe Deum**. "What do you think?" he asked his grandsons. "Fantastic!" exclaimed the pair in unison. He looked across at the wood carver, smiled and took his hand and shook it.

Almost immediately they found themselves outside again with the moon to light their way. An owl hooted as they approached the house, but suddenly the way was blocked by the biggest stag deer they had ever seen, who raised his antlered head and in a low detached voice said: "Time for you to go, old man. Time for you to go." He turned to the boys and quietly spoke: "He will not hurt you, he has come to take me home." "Goodbye Grandad" the boy's voices faded and the deer turned and walked towards the house. He followed slowly, his heart now beating heavily in his chest.

Christmas morning came in quietly, the grey ash lay in the grate and the sun cast its rays through the part-open french doors, a puddle of water on the floor at its threshold. All was quiet except the mantel clock, still ticking relentlessly, and if one thought to look outside in the melting snow one might see two sets of small footprints and the indentation of sticks. Inside the room the clock tick-tocked on and he was still, very still. Upon his cold hand lay two cards written in childish script: "Happy Christmas, Grandad" they read. "We love you!"

Vyse

**BUNTINGFORD
LIVE!**

Calling all young musicians...

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

INCREDIBLE FIRST PRIZE – PERFORM LIVE AT

STANDON CALLING 2023

PLUS a Recording Studio Experience Day
at The Music Bunker Studio



SCAN FOR DETAILS

For full details and to enter, visit:
buntingfordlive.org/bofb



Fused

2022 winners

"We felt like rock stars
for the day!"

Get your entries in by 18th February 2023. Live Final on
Saturday 18th March 2023.

STANDON CALLING

Music Bunker



buntingfordlive

Formerly known as 'Summer Arts In Buntingford', we are the group who ran the 3-day festival in Layston Court Gardens in June this year. The feedback on that event, both from the public and from participants, was extremely positive, but there was an almost universal opinion that our title, emphasizing the word 'Arts', was somewhat misleading – perhaps a little 'high brow'? – and had led some people to conclude that our festival wasn't for them. After some discussion, our committee decided that a change of name was the answer and it is my pleasure to introduce to you our new name and brand logo – 'Buntingford Live'.



Our aim as 'Buntingford Live' is to promote live entertainment and events in and around the Town. Provided we can raise enough funds, we hope to organise another Summer Festival to take place in Layston Court Gardens in 2024 under the 'Buntingford Live' banner. In the meantime, initial plans are being made to offer a broad range of smaller events from March to September 2023. Look out for more details coming up in the February 2023 edition of the Journal.

Our first poster incorporating the new 'Buntingford Live' logo is for the recently launched **Battle of the Bands** competition for 2023 (see left). Once again, thanks to Alex Trenchard, the Festival Director of Standon Calling who is keen to work with us, we are able to offer as part of the first prize the opportunity to perform live on stage at the prestigious Standon Calling festival in July next year. This is an amazing opportunity for young musicians to grasp. Despite the title, the competition is open not only to bands with up to 5 members, but also to solo performers and duos. We don't want to miss the chance of discovering there is a budding Ed Sheeran in our midst!

So calling all enthusiastic young musicians with talent and flare, aged from 12 to 18 years: check out the competition details on our website www.buntingfordlive.org/botb. Or simply scan the QR code on the poster opposite. Then get busy practicing, composing, playing, singing, or whatever your musical talent is, and apply! If you're too old, or too young, to enter yourself, then please encourage any young musicians you know to have a go – there's nothing to lose and so much could be gained.

Competition entrants have until 18th February 2023 to apply. The selected finalists will then perform and be judged on Saturday 18th March 2023 at Freman College.

If you would like to get involved with Buntingford Live, or can offer sponsorship for an event, please contact us – [@buntingfordlive](https://www.instagram.com/buntingfordlive)

Christine Stewart-Taylor, on behalf of the Buntingford Live Committee

River Rib – Update on Delayed Work

We have been informed that the contractors hired by Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) for the river works in Buntingford have suffered a major break-in at their yard. All their specialist plant and equipment has been stolen. They believe it could take some time to replace the machinery and therefore the river work is on hold until further notice. Once HMWT inform Buntingford Town Council of when they expect the work to commence we will inform you via the Town Council website.

HMWT would like to apologise to all residents for this unexpected delay.

Brian Lemay, brianlemay@btinternet.com



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com

Thank you for coming to our Fireworks!!

Before getting on to footballing matters I would like to thank everyone who attended our Fireworks Display on 6th November, which I trust you all enjoyed! The Fireworks at The Bury has become somewhat of an annual tradition in the Town, with hundreds of you slogging up London Road to watch and then trooping back down the hill home again, much like the soldiers in the nursery rhyme! The cost of putting on the display seems to increase each year and without the support of the Town Council we simply couldn't afford to put on the kind of display we all enjoyed this year. Our rough estimate is that 800–900 of you made the effort to attend this year and we hope to be able to do it all again in 2023!

Football!

The Firsts, Reserves, Ladies and Vets all resumed action in August. The Firsts were promoted at the end of last season and now represent Buntingford in the Premier Division of the Herts Senior County League, whilst the Reserves play in Division 3 of the same League. After a pre-season reshuffle at the Beds and Women's Football League, our Ladies team find themselves in Division 2 again. And the Vets remain in the Premier Division of the East Herts Vets League – more of that later!

The First Team got off to a flyer this season, beating Welwyn Garden City FC Development in their first game under the new (but not so new) management team of Bruce Knapp and Dave Williamson. However they have found the going a little stickier of late, recording 2 wins, 2 draws and 5 losses, albeit by narrow margins, with injuries and family commitments affecting the strength of the squad on the pitch in recent weeks. They face three away fixtures in a row to take them up to the end of November, then two home games at the start of December. In theory at least, they are all winnable games, so by Christmas we hope to see Buntingford higher up the table than they currently are!



The Reserves welcomed new manager Tristan Potkins at the start of the season and with a fair few new players in the squad have stormed their division so far, losing only one game. They sit in fourth place with games in hand over the top two teams – it's going to be interesting to see what they are capable of this year!

The Ladies said goodbye to a number of players at the start of the season, some leaving for university, some for a change of

scene, but they welcomed a healthy number of new players and started their campaign with probably their largest squad to date. Despite losing most of their pre-season friendlies, the team's league campaign got off to a great start, winning two tough games before losing to a very good Stotfold Junior Ladies side. Currently in 8th spot with two games in hand over the leaders, it's not inconceivable that the Ladies could be competing for a top spot in the run-up to Christmas.

The Vets have seen their league change format partway through the season, with the various divisions being merged due to a number of sides folding after a few weeks. It's safe to say that it's not been the best of starts for The Vets, but we have faith that they can start putting in the sort of performances their pool of talent promises and rise swiftly up the league standings.

Walking Football for over 50s continues at Norfolk Road from 10am on Saturday mornings – if you've never tried it, why not have a go?

A New Website!

Over the off-season we were busy behind the scenes and now boast a new website which contains all our fixtures, tables, match reports and photos, even video highlights of home games (when I get the camera working!) To check it out visit www.buntingfordtownfc.com

Players, Sponsors and Volunteers wanted!!

We have a vision of offering high-quality, exciting football at a higher level, but we can only go so far without the support of our local community whom we serve. We are blessed with a small, dedicated group of volunteers and enthusiastic players, but we would love to see that dedicated group increase in size. If you would like to join us either as a player, sponsor or supporter, please contact me on chair@buntingfordtownfc.com or **07976 869 532**. You can also follow us on facebook [@BuntingfordTownFC](https://www.facebook.com/BuntingfordTownFC), Twitter [@BuntTownFC](https://twitter.com/BuntTownFC) or Instagram [@buntingford_town_fc](https://www.instagram.com/buntingford_town_fc) for details of upcoming games.

Mark Cotton, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

Buntingford Dramatic Society presents

CALENDAR GIRLS

Fri 10th Sat 11th Fri 17th Sat 18th

February 2023

Based on the Miramax motion picture by Juliette Towhri and Tim Firth

Buntingford Community Centre
Luynes Rise
SG9 9SG

tickets available from
www.buntingforddrama.uk
and
Keith Ian Estate Agents
Enquiries: 07526 748838

Photo by Nikki Dale Photography

Tickets for this latest production by Buntingford Dramatic Society are now on sale for four evening performances on the 10th, 11th, 17th and 18th February 2023. They cost £15 each, which includes a cold supper, and can be purchased online at www.buntingforddrama.uk or at Keith Ian Estate Agents on the High Street.



Mind & Music – songs to aid memory and wellbeing

Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre
Station Road, Puckeridge SG11 1TF

Each Thursday 2.00–3.00pm

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

A message from the group leader, Dave Ranford

MIND & MUSIC started its Standon group in October 2021 and meets each Thursday afternoon under the leadership of me, Dave Ranford. I have enjoyed leading this sort of group for many years and I am now pleased to be able to work in my local community.

We use music to relax us and open our minds to the good things in life. Some people like to sing along; some like to listen and reminisce – and things always crop up for us to chat about. We always finish with smiles on our faces.

The songs and activities are chosen to encourage participation and reflection. Gentle exercise, breathing and relaxation are important elements of each session. Rounds, activity songs and using musical instruments encourage concentration. Above all, everyone is made to feel comfortable and valuable. Here is a selection of some of the things people have said about the Mind & Music group:

“Wellbeing and mental health are so important and groups like yours make a huge contribution.” (volunteer helper)

“Meeting up with the same participants, the leader and the lovely volunteer helpers, who make it all so welcoming and who become friends, is a weekly treat for everyone there.” (carer)

“We both leave feeling happy and stimulated. Wish it was more often.” (carer)

“When I take mum to the singing group it always lightens her mood, makes her smile and is always good fun. It also helps her meet people outside the family and gives her a sense of belonging to a lovely group. We all feel better, even the partners and carers.” (carer)

“Seeing people who struggle with memory loss ‘come alive’ when they hear familiar songs is such a joy for them and those who support them.” (volunteer helper)

It's so important for us all to feel good about ourselves and to enjoy the company of other people. At our weekly meetings we share memories and good times – and some of our favourite music. Why not come and give us a try? Please contact me or just come along to a session.

For information please contact David Ranford:

ranfordd@gmail.com / 07888 398336 / 01920 739762

Buntingford W.I.

We had another panic in November when our speaker had to cancel the day before our meeting due to a family bereavement and we are very grateful to Jeff Jones for juggling round his commitments so that he could come and talk to us about his aid trips to Ukraine. Jeff has made three trips so far in the Community Bus, each one taking about three days to get to the Poland/Ukraine border where a Tesco supermarket has been converted into a refugee centre. They did venture into Ukraine to the city of Lviv and there was an air raid warning whilst they were there, which brought home the fact that they were in a War Zone. Many of the buildings were boarded up to preserve them and Jeff said it was very emotional to see people carrying all their worldly goods in two bags.

Jeff found the whole experience immensely rewarding and is looking to make another trip in the New Year. He has a 'shopping list' of things which are needed but they will have to find an alternative place in Buntingford to store donations as the room they were allocated in the Manor House has now been let.

At our November meeting Buntingford W.I. turned 103!!! So of course there were plenty of homemade cakes to have with our tea and coffee.

Our Christmas Celebration, with carols and seasonal poems, will take place in Christ Church in Baldock Road on Thursday 8th December at 7.30 (see below). This is not just for W.I. members – everyone is invited (including men!) – and there will be mince pies and mulled wine in the Church Hall afterwards. Do come and join us.

Our January meeting will be our traditional New Year Party for members but we'll be back to normal on Thursday 9th February 2023 when our guest will be Joy Hall with her illustrated talk: 'AWESOME – America National Park'. We meet at the United Reformed Church Hall (opposite McColls) at 7.15 for 7.30pm. Guests are always welcome. If you would like more information about Buntingford W.I. call Pat on 01763 271305.

Val Hume

BUNTINGFORD W.I.
invites you to join them in
CHRIST CHURCH, Baldock Road, Buntingford,
on Thursday 8th December at 7.30pm
for a 'CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION'
with Carols and Seasonal Readings,
followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Church Hall.
Everyone welcome!

If you would like to advertise an event in the *Buntingford Journal*, please contact either **Christine Noble** on **01763 273095** / email **Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk** or **Keith Edwards** on **01763 272032** / email **Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk**

BUNTINGFORD ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (BACCS)

How far would you go?



WHAT DO YOU WANT
BUNTINGFORD
TO LOOK LIKE IN
2050?



You will probably have seen on the television or in the press that environmental activists *Just Stop Oil* have been making the news with controversial actions intended to raise the alarm about the climate and ecological crisis. What has your reaction been? Horror at the throwing of tomato soup on Van Gogh's *Sunflower*? (The painting was protected by glass, so no damage done.) Annoyance at road blocks? Dismay at activists hanging around in hammocks on the Queen Elizabeth Bridge at the Dartford Crossing?

Whatever your thoughts about their actions, have you thought about WHY they are taking these steps? This is the big question and as an environmental campaigner for 30 years, I feel their frustration. World leaders have been aware of the consequences of burning fossil fuels for over 30 years! Since the first United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, countries around the world have been negotiating on how we are going to combat “dangerous human interference with the climate system”, but despite all the talk the damaging emissions are still rising. A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018 said we needed to halve emissions by 2030 to avoid the worst effects of climate change, but we are still going the wrong way. Also on the news, you may have seen devastating scenes of epic floods in Pakistan and Australia, and of terrible drought in East Africa, resulting in millions becoming homeless and hungry, even dying from starvation because of failed crops – all due to the changing climate. These events may feel distant from us, but even as we struggle with the cost of living crisis, they are a reminder of how vulnerable we all are to the changing climate.

The environment and biodiversity seem to be very low down on our government's list of priorities and yet it is the one thing that unites us. We all live on the same planet which sustains us and yet is finite, so surely it should be of the very highest priority to protect our source of life. The idea of “growth, growth, growth” is not sustainable – how can it be? People acting as part of groups such as *Just Stop Oil*, *Extinction Rebellion* and *Fridays for the Future* understand the urgency of our predicament and are simply asking the government not to make things worse by opening up more oil and gas fields. And surely *Insulate Britain* have a point – doesn't it make sense to insulate our homes to reduce energy consumption and lower our bills, rather than extricate more oil and gas which costs us more in both money and environmental damage?

But why so extreme, you may ask? Unfortunately governments are in the habit of only thinking in the short term, which is why they have been kicking the environment can down the road for so long – the problem (particularly in the wealthier northern hemisphere) has always seemed to be something to worry about in the future. But the future is HERE and the effects of climate breakdown are happening NOW. We can't afford to kick the can down the road any longer so someone has to shout loud, and the more of us who listen and call on our government to act for our long-term benefit, the better for us and for future generations. According to a recent Save the Children survey, climate anxiety is rising with 70% of children in the UK worried about the world they will inherit, so let's take all the steps we can to show young people that we do care and are acting on their behalf. If you feel that our government should be doing more, **I urge you to write to our MP**, Sir Oliver Heald QC, at oliver.heald.mp@parliament.uk – the more people he hears from, the more likely he is to voice our concerns.

Madela and the Team

Facebook: @BACCSBuntingford Email: baccsbuntingford@gmail.com

Intergenerational Conversation Café on Climate Change

Edwinstree School – 18:30 on Wednesday 7th December

Everyone welcome!

Some of you joined us last year for a Climate Café event at Freman College to try to make sense of what had happened at the Glasgow COP. This year, with the COP happening in far-away Egypt, it has been hard to make sense of what progress, if any, has been made. And the war in Ukraine all adds to the anxiety – not just of children but the rest of us too! It is clear that the older generation has failed in its attempt to rise to that central challenge of Sustainable Development: to meet our own needs while NOT compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

BUT – we have made progress and shaped a clear vision of how beautiful a safe, sustainable planet would be. On 7th December we shall be discussing that progress at Edwinstree. The School is having a 'collapsed curriculum' day on climate issues – where the students will learn about what happened in Egypt and take stock of what they, as a school and as individuals, are doing to fight the climate crisis. Then in the evening, from 18.30, they have invited their parents and other interested members of the community to the school to hear their report and have an Intergenerational dialogue about what we, in Buntingford, should be doing NOW to usher in that safe, sustainable world we all hope our children will be living in by the end of this century. Do come along! Everyone's very welcome.

Contact Edwinstree School or david@peacechild.org for more information.

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

After a hiatus in October when we had to postpone our screening of *Elvis*, the Film Club was back to its glorious best in November when it screened the year's biggest box office hit – *Top Gun: Maverick*. A sold-out crowd, a great story, brilliant cinematography and action sequences, all looking great on the big screen in the community centre.

We're hoping to match that audience and the atmosphere when we finally pay homage to the King (Elvis, not Charles!) in our postponed screening of *Elvis* at 7.30pm on **3rd December** at the Seth Ward Community Centre. If you haven't yet seen this Baz Luhrman film – or if, perhaps, you weren't alive when Elvis lit up our lives like a fire-cracker! – come and see Austin Butler's incredible re-creation of him. Every critic agrees: he is EXTRAORDINARY! Many have not been quite so complimentary about Tom Hanks' portrayal of Colonel Parker, the mysterious manager who drove the Elvis machine through his glory days to his early death at 42. But I think Hanks gives a great performance that adds immeasurably to the intrigue of the story and makes this a truly memorable film. Get a ticket and judge for yourself!



The New Year beckons and we already have three GREAT films lined up. All will be on the first Saturday of the month at the Community Centre and all start at 7.30pm.

7th January: *Operation Mincemeat* – the true story of how Churchill, after Alamein, deceived the Germans into thinking that the invasion of Europe would come through Greece, not Italy. Narrated by the young Ian Fleming, the film is a detailed exposition of one of history's greatest deceptions. Add a top-flight cast (Colin Firth, Penelope Wilton, Matthew Macfadyen), spot-on writing, and the director (John Madden) who brought to the screen *Shakespeare in Love* and *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* – and you have an unforgettable evening in the cinema.



4th February: *Ticket to Paradise* – Julia Roberts and George Clooney play a divorced couple who team up and fly to Bali to try to stop their daughter from making the same mistake that they had made 25 years before. With great locations, funny, even silly romantic situations and a pair of cinema's most charismatic actors, this is just the film to brighten up your February days.



4th March: *Mrs Harris goes to Paris* – Lesley Manville plays a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls in love with a Christian Dior dress. The film follows her amazing adventures as she goes to Paris to acquire one of her own! The film has been chosen as a fundraiser for the new 'Buntingford Live' initiative (see page 21) which seeks to bring more fun live events to Buntingford through the year – culminating, we hope, in another Summer Festival in Layston Court Gardens in 2024. Come and help that dream come true by enjoying Mrs Harris make her's become a reality!



**Book all tickets through [Facebook.com@buntingfordfilmclub](https://www.facebook.com/buntingfordfilmclub)
Or from Keith Ian, 42 High Street, Buntingford**

Also in the New Year, watch out for an upgrade! The cinema equipment that has done us proud for six years is beginning to show its age, so we're looking to invest some of our Co-op grant into upgrading our projector to a new laser-powered model for a sharper, brighter image. Also, since one of our amplifiers burnt out at Westmill earlier this year, we will try to improve the sound quality with new equipment. No decisions have been made as yet, but know that we are always in the business of bringing a new and better quality of cinema to Buntingford. Have a Great Christmas – and a brilliant 2023!

David R. Woollcombe

Buntingford Shorts Film Competition

Buntingford Shorts enters its 6th successful year as an international event!

The ethos of Buntingford Shorts is founded on the principles to inspire, encourage, and support children and students as the film-makers of the future. In 2018 a small sub-committee of the Buntingford Film Club launched a local film-making competition for schools and colleges. It was a modest first competition, attracting just five entries, but the films that were entered demonstrated the incredible potential of storytelling via the medium of short film. The competition continued through 2019 and 2020 on a local basis, with entries growing to 17.

Forced online by the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 festival was launched towards the end of 2020 via FilmFreeway, an online submissions platform. The response was unprecedented with over 130 entries from across six continents, with entries welcomed in the following categories: Drama, Horror, Music, Animation, Documentary and Comedy, plus a local category for students residing in Hertfordshire and the neighbouring counties.

The 2022 competition attracted even more entries – we had to close International entries at 600, due to our capacity to shortlist! This was an undoubted success and demonstrates the talent, creativity and drive of students who are inspired to use the medium of film through which their voices can be heard. Entrants In 2022 were from as far and wide as Uzbekistan, Iran, Brazil, China and Buntingford, which proved fascinating watching!



2022 Local Winners and Judges

Left to right – Mel Powell, Charlie Hughes, Henry Fish, Tilly Jones and Tom Brownlee

Submissions for Buntingford Shorts 2023 opened on 1st November 2022, again via FilmFreeway. At time of writing, we have already received 250 submissions from students both locally and across the world. **Entries close** on 31st January 2023 for international categories and 1st March for local submitters. Our local showcase takes place on 31st March at Christ Church, Buntingford, and our international final will be live on our YouTube channel on 1st April.

To continue offering this exciting opportunity to students for free, we are generously sponsored and supported by local businesses along with the Buntingford Film Club. If you are a local business interested in supporting us for £50, £100 or £200, please do get in touch via email buntingfordshorts@gmail.com. We have a range of packages designed to promote your business in the local area.

Buntingford Local History Group: **Project High Street**

At our November meeting, instead of a presentation on a specific subject, we discussed undertaking a project that we could all take part in. Several years ago, the Group did a project on plotting the shops on the High Street and Market Hill in 1946. Many members at the time could remember the shops and with the help of various records and photos, many of which were in Philip Plumb's books on Buntingford, they produced a map showing the entire High Street and the location of the different shops. This culminated in a very successful exhibition at the Library, showcasing photos of shops from that period together with stories about local events, such as the carnivals and the building of the bypass, alongside pictures of those events as well as other interesting articles on the town. The exhibition was so well received that a few years later it was put on again at the Manor House to coincide with the Local Arts Festival.

Since those exhibitions even more information has become available and we have decided that it would be lovely to record how the High Street has changed over the decades. The earliest comprehensive records that exist showing businesses in the town go back to around 1840, so that is where we hope to start. Using materials that can be found on the internet, in books and at the Hertfordshire archives, we should be able to build up a detailed picture of how High Street businesses have changed over the years. Many of the buildings that were around in those times still remain although their use has changed, such as old public houses including The Bell and The George. Unfortunately for us, numbering of properties in the town didn't happen until the early 1900s, which makes our task harder because no records give an exact address. Some of our work, therefore, will have to be based to an extent on guesswork and process of elimination.

There are quite a few photos showing the town from the early 1900s onwards, which will be a valuable source of information. In particular the Buntingford in Old Photos Facebook page has a wealth of information and pictures which we will be able to draw on. Several members of our Group have already done a lot of work on listing each shop and the change of ownership over the years. This has been done partly by memory and by using adverts in the Buntingford in Old Newspapers Facebook page, and more latterly through adverts in the Buntingford Journal which has now been in print since 1976, and also using other readily available resources.

We hope to take photos of the outside of every property in the High Street and Market Hill to create a record for future generations of how the High Street looks in the 2020s – so please don't be alarmed if you spot someone taking a photo of your property! We may also be asking shopkeepers how long they have been trading at their premises so that we can get an accurate picture of the make-up of the High Street now.

For those of you who have lived here for many years, you will remember shops from your childhood, especially the sweet shops or those selling toys. Some of you may have worked in the shops, or have relatives who did, or been a delivery boy or girl. We are keen to gather as much information as possible to make the project as accurate as we can. Through the Journal in 2023 we will be asking if anyone has any stories, photos or recollections that they would be willing to share with us, with details of how to contact us.

Our ultimate aim is to stage an exhibition at a later date to share what we have found. We are aware that this is a mammoth task and will take us quite a while to complete, but hopefully it will create a lasting historical record of Buntingford through the ages. If you would like to become involved in our High Street project, please come and join us at our **next meeting on Tuesday 13th December** at 2pm in the library. It costs just £2, which includes tea and coffee, and we would love to see you there.

Carol Emery, Buntingford Local History Group

Buntingford Gardeners' Club

November's meeting was our Annual Quiz versus Reed Garden Club and I'm pleased to report that Buntingford held onto the Winners' title. It was a very enjoyable evening with wine and refreshments provided by the members. Our next meeting will be our members' Christmas Party.

We do not meet in January, so our first meeting of 2023 will be on Wednesday 1st February. The speaker will be Susan Lees, a return visitor to Buntingford, and her talk will be on 'Lyvenden and the Gunpowder Plot'. Set in the heart of rural Northamptonshire, Lyvenden is now owned by the National Trust. The house and gardens were begun by Sir Thomas Tresham to symbolise his Roman Catholic faith during the reign of Elizabeth I. The talk covers the restoration of the gardens, as well as the infamous plot and its impact on the family.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month and you are very welcome to attend as a visitor for an entrance fee of £3. Please contact the Secretary on 01763 271885 for details.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Lesley Lowers

BUNTINGFORD ADULT LEARNING FOR FUN **OUR 10-WEEK WINTER COURSE STARTS ON** **Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 10.30am** **SCANDALS MAKE FOR GOOD HISTORY**

Scandals make for good history. They are about changing rules or mores in society. What one person thinks he or she can get away with, another finds intolerable. The result is a cover up. This course will deal with four major scandals across the ages:

- The first concerns Frederick, the "Grand Old Duke of York", son of George III and lover of Mary Anne Clarke.
- The second is a very familiar scandal, the Profumo affair. We'll look at this in some detail because it deals with changes in society which we're still experiencing.
- We'll then look at a scandal from the 1920s, Teapot Dome. This was an audacious and for a time successful attempt by the US oil industry to control the US president, Warren G Harding.
- The fourth scandal will be 'customer choice' – it can either be the Dreyfus affair in France, which has anti-semitism at its heart, or the Jeremy Thorpe scandal, which has close links with Profumo. That will be up to the course participants.

The venue is Buntingford Community Centre, Luyne Rise. We start at 10.30am and finish at 12noon. We have coffee at 10am before the course starts. Everyone will be made very welcome. If you would like any further details please phone:

Julia on 01763 272584 or Joan on 01763 273341



!! BREAKING NEWS !!

On the struggle to refurbish Buntingford's Library

After NINE years of struggle, 2022 has been an eventful year for Buntingford Library! It started with the welcome news that Herts County Council (HCC) was going to match the developers' S-106 funding of £365,000 for library improvements with £350,000 from their own budget. This was followed by the publication of the HCC Library Service Plan 2022 which confirmed that Buntingford was scheduled for an "upgrade" in 2022/23, and set out within the Plan that Libraries would be "key assets in the delivery of Culture and Creativity" and the "venue to take the Arts to our communities including wider cultural events like dance and theatre." Exactly as we'd proposed in our original 2015 Plan!

Eagerly, we asked to see the HCC's Feasibility Plan for the refurbishment – but HCC have continued to refuse to show it to us. However, our contacts within the library service have seen it and told us that, unlike our plan, it didn't envision extending the library into the back room or getting rid of the notorious ramp between the two spaces and replacing it with steps and a platform lift as we'd proposed. At the Town Meeting in May our HCC Councillor, Jeff Jones, defended HCC's refusal to consult with us on the Feasibility Plan, warned against any further "unnecessary interventions" and laid out a timetable that would see work start on the refurbishment in Autumn 2022.

Unfortunately, in July 2022 HCC told us that all plans had been put on hold because of budget cuts. This was hugely frustrating as HCC had always told us the main reason for the years of delay was that they didn't have sufficient funds from developers to do the refurbishment. We had costed our original proposal with an HCC-approved contractor for under £100,000. Those costs have now doubled but are still well below the £365,000 S-106 money from developers sitting in a Council bank account. So to have the refurbishment placed on hold due to lack of funding is not just unacceptable: it isn't true.

Following this development our new Town Mayor, Duncan Wallace, encouraged us to update our original plan and recruit support from key Buntingford clubs. This we did, and the Civic Society, Local History Society, Film, Drama and Summer Arts groups, all wrote letters of support for our proposal, with the Chamber of Commerce confirming that they

always supported the presence of the Library on the High Street. Armed with this support, we sought a slot to discuss our proposal with Buntingford Town Council and this took place on 27th October. It's fair to say the meeting wasn't a resounding success. Our County Councillor Jeff Jones refuses to support our plan to improve the infrastructure of our library, or the implementation of the cultural and creative services proposed by the HCC Library Service Plan 2022 (putting him in direct opposition to his Council's policy). He took up a considerable amount of time rehearsing his views to the Councillors, which sadly curtailed meaningful discussion amongst them. Two Town Councillors who did get to speak urged us to seek early engagement with the HCC. They encouraged us to "get round a table" with the relevant officials and to try to agree a resolution. Mayor Wallace is now kindly trying to arrange such a meeting which, we hope, will bring about a happy ending to this long drawn-out saga.



Let us collect & recycle your real Christmas tree

Collection will be between **7 - 13 January 2023, from:**

AL6 9/0, AL7 1/2/3/4, AL8 6/7, AL9 5/6/7, AL10 0/8/9, CM21 0/9, CM23 2/3/4/5, EN6 4, EN7 5/6, EN8 7/8/9/0, EN10 6/7, EN11 8/9/0, SG2 7, SG3 6, SG9 9/0, SG10 6, SG11 1/2, SG12 7/8/9/0, SG13 7/8, SG14 1/2/3

To arrange a collection, book via: Isabelhospice.org.uk
 Register by midnight 3 January 2023.

In our presentation to the Town Council, Brian Thompson eloquently outlined the four main reasons why the Library is so important to Buntingford:

1. **Residents:** in a county-wide survey, Buntingford gave the highest per capita support for their library in the whole of Hertfordshire; the next highest was St Albans.
2. **High Street Shops:** 86% of visitors to the Library report that they stay on the High Street to shop.
3. **Neighbouring Villages:** since HCC discontinued the mobile library service, our 28 feeder villages depend on Buntingford Library.
4. **Children and Schools:** both in term-time and in the holidays, and in their pre-school story-telling groups, our Library performs a wonderful service for Buntingford's children and students.

Brian lives nextdoor to the Library and has been campaigning to save and improve it since 2014. Now in his 80s, we are determined to see his vision realised in his lifetime.

We thank all Buntingford residents who have signed our petitions and supported our efforts. If you want to see our plan realised, and NOT settle for the secret, downgraded plan that HCC seem determined to foist on us, but rather take full advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime chance to upgrade our Library to the bright new Arts and Learning Facility that Buntingford needs, please write to Brian at: scaldsgrove@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.
David Woollcombe, Sarah Cocks and Brian Thompson
Buntingford Library Supporters Group

Friends of the Rib & Quin were honoured to be amongst the nominees for the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Herts Awards for 2022. FORQ Chairman and founder Mark Wilkinson joined other groups at the presentation

evening at County Hall in Hertford in mid-October. The CPRE Herts ambition for these awards is to recognise and celebrate inspirational people engaged in activities which enhance and protect the Hertfordshire countryside and its rural communities. It was inspiring to hear of the efforts being made county-wide by so many people keen to protect their local environment and community. We are extremely grateful to Cllr Andrew Huggins for nominating Friends of the Rib & Quin and were thrilled to receive a Gold Award in the 'Improving and Protecting the Environment' category.



Left to right: Mark Wilkinson, FORQ Chair and Founder; Cllr Annie Brewster, Chair of Hertfordshire County Council; and Cllr Andrew Huggins of East Herts Council, Mundens and Cottered Ward, who nominated FORQ and Mark for the CPRE awards.

Mark had the opportunity to talk with Cllr Annie Brewster, Leader of Herts County Council, on the problems of abstraction and pollution that impact the Rib, the Quin and all of Hertfordshire's chalk streams. Mark was also honoured with a Special Award, along with Clare Gooden of the Hiz Conservation Group, in recognition of their contributions to protecting Hertfordshire's chalk streams in a year when the state of Britain's rivers has become a national crisis.

There have been a couple of changes within the FORQ Executive in recent weeks. David Edwards resigned as secretary of FORQ, a role he had performed for the last few years. Mark, Chris and I, as the remaining members of the Executive Committee, would like to express our thanks to David for all his hard work at a time when it hasn't been easy to get involved in new organisations and get things moving. David is also a Riverfly Monitor in Buntingford and we are delighted that he is going to stay on in that role. The dead fish incident in Braughing in

October showed how important this type of citizen science is these days. The results of David's latest RFM sessions, held towards the end of October, are on the FORQ website.

Pauline Ayres, Communications FORQ
forqcomms@gmail.com <https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com/>

Ware & District Photographic Society

The Photographic Society closes on 7th December for the Christmas break and returns on 4th January. New members are always welcome and the first three meetings are free! Further details on the website.

Standon Embroidery Group's next meeting is on Tuesday 10th January at Standon Village Hall, 2– 4pm. Further details from Barbara Norris on 01920 822104.

BALA Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus Trips December 2022 & January 2023

December	Time	Destination	Price
Tues 6th	10.30-2.30pm	Van Hague's Garden Centre	£5
Thurs 8th	9.30am-3pm	The Centre MK, Milton Keynes	£13
Mon 12th	10.30-3pm	Welwyn	£7
Wed 14th	11.30am	Pub Lunch	£5
January 2023			
Wed 4th	10.30am-2pm	Scotsdales	£6.50
Fri 6th	10.45am	PANTO: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/snow-white-and-the-seven-dwarfs/milton-keynes-theatre/) Milton Keynes Theatre. 1pm performance Ticket £25 (conditions will apply)	Bus £13
Wed 11 th	10am-3pm	Cambridge	£7.50
Wed 18th	11am	Pub Lunch	£5
Tues 24th	9.30-1.30pm	Biggleswade Town Centre (Market Day)	£6.50
Fri 27th	10.30-1.30pm	Bury Lane Farm Shop	£5

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

Our bus has full facilities for wheelchair transport with the latest length tail lift. To book a seat or for more information ring:

01763 271909 or 07870 638480

(please be prepared to leave a message)

BALA Coffee Mornings

at URC Hall, Baldock Road

Friday 16th December 2022 10-11.30am

Friday 20th January 2022 10-11.30am



East Herts

Citizens Advice East Herts operates a unique Messageline service. Call **01920 459 944** at anytime and leave a message (we aim to return calls within 24 hours, except at weekends) or visit www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our other advice options.

citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk

AVOIDING SCAMS

Last year I fell for a scam when I was doing my Christmas shopping. The scam was clever. I thought I was getting a good deal and didn't realise I was being scammed until it was too late. How can I avoid the same thing happening again this year?

Scammers' tactics are becoming more sophisticated every year, making scams tricky to recognise, but there are things you can look out for.

First of all, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. For example, tickets to an event that are much cheaper than they're being sold elsewhere, or a holiday that's a lot less than you'd expect to pay.

Be wary of people contacting you out of the blue on social media sites or via text and email offering an item for sale or a deal on something.

Do your research. If you're buying from a website you haven't used before, spend a few minutes researching it. A good place to start is by finding a website's terms and conditions. You should also look up the company's address, which can normally be found in the 'contact us' section of a website and should have a street name, not just a Post Office box. If it's a registered UK company you can check its details on the **Companies House** website.

Check to see what people have said about the company. It's worth looking at different review websites to see other people's feedback – don't rely on reviews the company has put up on its own website.

Scammers will often ask you to pay in an unusual way, or very quickly. For example, you're asked to send money through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union or pay via vouchers.

Remember, never give away your personal information such as a password or PIN and never click on or download anything you don't trust.

To find out about scams across the country, you can sign up to the **Trading Standards email alert** on the Trading Standards website.

If you find you have been scammed, there are organisations you should report the scam to. If you've transferred money in the last 24 hours, speak to your bank and the police. You should also contact the police if the scammer is in your area or you feel unsafe. You can also report the scam to **Citizens Advice** and to **Action Fraud**.

Finally, don't feel stupid or embarrassed about reporting a scam – scammers are clever and it can happen to anyone. Reporting a scam helps track down and stop scammers, helping to prevent it from happening to others.

www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk

Citizens Advice East Herts is a registered charity.

Community Initiative Fitness Projects

As you may have read in previous Journals, I am now chair of the **Community Initiative** charity promoting and teaching wellbeing and fitness in the local community. So far we have funding for a **FREE 8-week fitness try-out, starting Thursday 12th January at 11am in Buntingford Social Club (right).**


Our second project is a meditation, movement and breathing workshop in Great Hornead (below right). And our third is a winter Happy Holiday Activity programme for children at Layston First School (below). Bookings for places went live on Monday 21st November <https://sportinherts.org.uk/happy/booking/>

**FREE
BEGINNERS
FITNESS
COURSE**

Starting 12th January

Social Club, Buntingford
11am

This is an 8 week workshop



Have never known what exercise to try?

Our free course will cover Dance Fit, Box Fit, LIIT, Circuit Training, Pilates and many different class formats for you to try out

Spaces are limited to 12

Contact Jacqui for information and to book your space
07956 647806

Layston First School

Thursday 29th & Friday 30th December

9am - 1pm

Sports, Enrichment Activities & a hot cooked Lunch







Move, Meditate & Relax

17th January 2023 1-4pm

Great Hornead Hall, Buntingford

Decompress Your Nervous System through gentle movement

Emotional Release Breath

Meditation Session

A little Bit of Me Time & Cuppa



A Community Initiative Grant Project

Our FREE monthly challenge for December is our daily advert calendar which will be in all classes and on our social media pages [@jacquismithpersonaltrainer](https://twitter.com/jacquismithpersonaltrainer). Our January challenge is squats & lunges.

As those of you who work with us already know, we are a team of four instructors making sure there are not too many breaks in our weekly classes and all of us are also working with the Community Initiative (Charity No. 1109106).

Want to come to a class or need help getting into a Healthy Lifestyle? Then contact: theteam@jacqui-smith.net / 07956 647 806

Jacqui Smith, Personal Trainer & Chair of Community Initiative
Buntingford, Braughing & Bishop's Stortford Hybrid Studio



Full Class Listings



Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

and unwind. The groups support children's development through activities linked to the Early Years Foundation Stages of learning and development. They help families feel less isolated, improve peer support networks, and help them to feel more confident and connected in their local communities. Our Family Support Groups are run by a trained co-ordinator supported by volunteers with experience and understanding of the challenges that parents face. Home-Start trained volunteers come along each week to run activities and play with the children, chat with parents, and generally support the group session.

Introducing our new team member

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambs is delighted to announce that we have a new team member. Kate, our new Co-ordinator, will be driving forward the development of a new Family Support Group in South Cambridgeshire.

Home-Start Family Support Groups, like the one in the photo below, meet weekly offering a safe space for Home-Start supported families to meet, make friends



In February we will be running our next Volunteer preparation training course and are looking for new volunteers to sign up. The course, which runs over 7 sessions, trains and equips volunteers to provide Home-Visiting and Group support to families in our local community who are finding life difficult or just need an extra pair of hands. If you have a couple of hours spare a week and are interested in becoming a Home-Start volunteer, you can find out more on our website www.hsrsc.org.uk or drop us a line at admin@hsrsc.org.uk, or call us on 01763 262262. We would love to hear from you.

Make money for Home-Start through AmazonSmile

The Black Friday/Cyber Monday weekend is nearly upon us and it's the perfect time to make the most of some amazing deals and save a few £££s on your Christmas purchases. And if you shop online using **AmazonSmile**, you can collect FREE donations for your local Home-Start which all go towards helping us continue our support for local families with young children. From **Friday 25th** until **Monday 28th November** prices on a range of items will be heavily discounted, making it the best time of the year to shop and help Home-Start into the bargain! To find out more visit www.hsrsc.org.uk/2022/11/support-home-start-with-amazon-smile

Christmas Door Decoration Workshop on Tuesday 29th November in Foxton Village Hall. Tickets £25 which includes materials. For details e-mail events@hsrsc.org.uk, call **01763 262262**, or go to www.hsrsc.org.uk.

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambs (Charity No. 1105385)

"Home-Start helps parents to be the best they can be, because childhood can't wait."

Reed Garden Club

Wednesday 14th December, 1–3pm, at Reed Village Hall
Christmas Social

We are starting a little earlier than usual to accommodate the early dusk and allow plenty of time to socialise. This will be a 'Bring and Share' event (contributions agreed at November's meeting).

Wednesday 11th January 2023, 2–4pm, in Reed Village Hall

Speaker: Dick talking about "A Railway in your Garden"

The usual £2 fee for entry to apply, including tea and coffee.



BUNTINGFORD
SCHOOL of DANCE

BSD offers ISTD syllabus classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern, and recreational classes in Commercial Dance and Tap & Ballet for adults.

If you wish to register with us to join classes please use the QR code below or email us on admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk for more information.

*All new pupils get a **NO OBLIGATION TRIAL** in the classes they wish to join.*

'Baby Boppers'

– NEW For 2 and 3 year olds

Buntingford School of Dance is excited to reintroduce 'Baby Boppers' from January 2023. Baby Boppers is a dance class for 2–3 year old boys and girls who are confident walkers, accompanied by a parent (or carer). It is a fun class for parents and young children to do together, and an introduction to dance, movement and music.

Baby Boppers classes will be held in Hornead Village Hall, Great Hornead, on Saturday mornings, 11–11.30am. The first class is on Saturday 7th January and is a 'no obligation' trial, so come and join us – you've nothing to lose!

To register for a place please complete the Registration form on our website Contact page or scan the QR code (right). Places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis and in the event of being oversubscribed we will add you to our waiting list.

No special dancewear is required, just something easy to move in and trainers or securely fastened shoes.

From 3 years old children can transfer to Baby Ballet and Dance Mash Minis. If you know anyone with young children, please spread the word about this fun new class.

Email: admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk
Website: www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk



After a break of almost three years, the Wine Appreciation Group started up again in October. Dave Austin, its leader of 12 years, has now stood down and the new Group Leader is Ron Brighten. Our thanks to Dave and his wife Annie for all that they did for the group. Wine Appreciation meets in the Bunters Suite at the Community Centre on the last Thursday of the month at 8pm.

Another group – the Quiz Group – has started back with Tim Marks as Group Leader. Their first outing was to the Football Themed Quiz at the Black Bull where they came a creditable 4th place. We have a second Book Group starting in January on the first Monday of the month. There has been a change of venue for our Pickleball Group. As from 7th November they have relocated to the larger Cottered Village Hall. They meet every Monday, 11am–1pm.



The new u3a Buntingford Committee, left to right: Michael Murfitt (Treasurer), Lesley Lowers (Secretary), Keith Bradfield (Vice Chairman), Janet Murrells (Welfare), Martin Gray (Chairman & Webmaster), Val Reedman (Membership Secretary) and Tony Phillips. Two members not in the photo are Gill Alderton (Group Co-ordinator) and Mary Godfrey (Speakers).

Our next monthly meeting takes place on Monday 14th December when our guest will be Mike Wabe with 'Medieval World – Christmas Carol'. This is a 60-minute adaptation of Dickens' famous Christmas story, delivered by none other than Charles Dickens himself. **Our January meeting is on Monday 9th** when our speaker will be Len Little on 'The Training and use of Specialist Police Dogs', a return visit for this very popular speaker. Len served in Hertfordshire as a frontline dog handler for 17 years and was a Home Office Approved Police Dog Trainer for 12 years. In 1987 he was awarded a scholarship to study sniffer dog training in West Germany with the German Police and Customs.

Jean Cook

Membership of the u3a is open to anyone not in full-time occupation. We meet monthly, at the Seth Ward Community Centre, on the second Monday of the month – doors open at 1.30pm. ***New members are always welcome.***

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

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford

Schoolreaders Needed to Spread the Joy of Reading in Hertfordshire Schools



Literacy charity **Schoolreaders** is looking for more volunteers to help spread the joy of reading to children in Hertfordshire primary schools – especially around Buntingford.

A recent survey of young people conducted by the National Literacy Trust (NLT) revealed that reading enjoyment had reached a 15-year low, rallying slightly in the pandemic before declining again by 2022, especially amongst boys and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Furthermore, the Annual Literacy survey found that fewer than 1 in 2 children aged 8 to 18 enjoyed reading, with only 28% reading daily.

Schoolreaders is looking for volunteers of all ages, from students to retirees, who can listen to children read in a local primary school, especially at those schools where children require support the most. Worryingly, 1 in 4 children leave primary school every summer unable to read to the expected standard and the Schoolreaders scheme is now more in demand than ever, particularly to help children most disadvantaged by the education disruption caused by Covid lockdowns.



Schoolreaders volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week during term time and to commit to an academic year. They act as trusted role models in the classroom alongside the class teachers, not only helping children improve their reading but also being a positive influence. By applying now, new volunteers will be matched as quickly as possible to a partner school and be ready to start once they have completed a mandatory DBS check and virtual safeguarding training.

Jane Whitbread, founder of Schoolreaders, said: “Children who leave primary school unable to read well can’t access their secondary schooling fully, which will disadvantage them for life. One in seven adults have poor literacy and cannot read instructions on a medicine label or a bus timetable or fill in a job application form. Working together we can change this. ... There is no substitute for face-to-face interaction and support when it comes to reading. Our volunteers provide a crucial supplement to classroom teaching and are welcomed by schools – and the children. 95% of children in our scheme improved their reading performance and over 90% their reading enjoyment after time with a Schoolreaders volunteer ... If more children gain pleasure from reading from an early age and their reading fluency and confidence improves too, communities and society will reap the benefits.”

To find out more or to apply today to be a Schoolreaders volunteer in primary schools with the greatest need in Hertfordshire, visit:

[Schoolreaders.org](https://www.schoolreaders.org)





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.*

What is the value we are exploring?

We have been exploring the value of Reverence and how understanding this value and the virtues it creates within us might help us with our lives. We learnt that Reverence is a “feeling or attitude of deep respect, love, and awe, as for something sacred”.

We also took time to think about the traditional Church meaning attached to Hallows’ Day and Hallows’ Eve. We learnt that whilst it is fun to dress up for Halloween, it is actually a time to celebrate All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day. In particular we thought about the quotation from Luke below – acknowledging that this can be a time to remember with fondness our loved ones who have passed on and talking about them keeps them in our hearts and minds.



Luke 20:38 – “He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”

We have created a **Prayer Tree** within the hall space (photo above) and all pupils and staff are invited to write prayers on pieces of paper and add them to the pegs along the branches. We will then share in these prayers as a school

How are we making up for lost time post COVID?



We are working hard to support our students and their families to take part in lots of enrichment activities. Some of the events that have taken place this term are:

Maths Adventure Day – As part of our continued enrichment for students we ran a Maths Adventure Day for Years 5 and 8 (left). This involved an interactive game room activity, with students having to find a set of clues to unlock a code. Their maths skills were tested as they solved the clues.

Greek Day – This was for Years 5 and 6, hosted by a history company who came into school to help support students to learn about the ancient Greeks (right). There were lots of interactive resources for students to explore.



Stargazing Event – We invited the children and their families to join the Edwinstree School Association for a stargazing event. An expert came to school to talk alongside our Science team. Sadly, the clouds prevented an outside event, but we will be offering a second event to try again!

Bonkers Conkers! Will we make it to the Guinness book of records?

The Church of England asks us to “live life in all its fullness” and for the last couple of years this has meant planning fun and joy into our cycle of learning. We are trying to work through the National Trust’s list of “50 things to do before 11¼”. One of their 50 challenges is to play a game of conkers and we turned this into a house competition to see how many conkers each house could collect and which house would triumph in a conkers tournament.



Oh, my goodness! We had hoards of conkers brought into school, sometimes in suitcases! Our maths lessons involved a huge count up which took us to over 40,000 conkers! We then held the conker tournament at school for all year groups. The record for a conkers tournament currently stands at 250 people, so we have completed the forms for the Guinness Book of Records to see if we have beaten it. Thank you to our PCO Paul who popped in to be our witness.

We are really looking forward to the following events on the run up to Christmas:

- The ‘Lights of Love’ ceremony on Friday 25th November
- Our Christmas concert with Freman College involving Edwinstree and Freman musicians and choir members on Thursday 1st December
- Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 9th December
- Christingle for Year 5 students on Tuesday 13th December
- Year 8 Geography educational visit to London on Wednesday 14th December
- Aspenden Church end-of-term service on Friday 16th December

Could you help our students to recover their reading capacity following COVID?

This year we are reading daily en masse as a school. Could you help us? Would you be willing to offer two mornings or afternoons to come in and read with our students? It takes 30 minutes, twice a week, to make a difference. We literally need an army of volunteers to support us. If you think you might be able to help, please contact us via email at admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Jo Gant, Headteacher

Barkway Park Golf Club

Early November heralded the start of the new golfing year at Barkway with the traditional Captain’s Drive-in. Sadly, the weather did not grace the occasion and the record entry of some 100-plus golfers endured a rather wet round. However, the new Captains, Peter Bolden and Andy Davis (seniors), were rewarded with generous donations to their nominated charities – the British Heart Foundation and Macmillan Cancer Support. A total of £1088 was raised providing a superb kick-start to their year.

The wet and warm autumnal weather is helping the green-keeping team to maintain the excellent standards they achieved this year. The course is in outstanding condition and continues to offer exceptional value to members and visitors.

The Club’s presentation evenings will be taking place during December along with special seasonal competitions and social events.

WHAT'S ON – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

- Sat 3rd** 7.30pm: **Buntingford Film Club** – ‘*Elvis*’ at the Community Centre (p.27)
Sun 4th 11am–4pm: **Saint Nicholas’ Festive Fair** in Great Hornead (p.9)
Mon 5th to Tue 13th: **Buntingford Scouts Santa Run** (times vary, see poster p.12)
Wed 7th 7.45 for 8pm: **Buntingford Gardeners’ Christmas Party** at URC Hall (p.31)
Thur 8th 7.30pm: **Buntingford WI Christmas Celebration** in Christ Church (p.25)
9, 10, 12–17th 10.30am–4.30pm daily: **Yew Tree Alpacas Christmas Shop** (p.13)
Mon 12th 1.30 for 2pm: **u3a Monthly Meeting** at Seth Ward Community Centre (p.38)
Tue 13th 2pm: **Buntingford Local History Group** at the Library (p.30)
Wed 14th 1–3pm: **Reed Garden Club Christmas Social** in the Village Hall (p.39)
Fri 16th 10–11.30am: **BALA Coffee Morning** at URC Hall (p.35)
Wed 21st 7.30pm: **Carols by Candlelight** in St Mary’s, Aspenden (p.8)

JANUARY

- Sat 7th** 7.30pm: **Buntingford Film Club** – ‘*Operation Mince meat*’ (p.28)
Mon 9th 1.30 for 2pm: **u3a Monthly Meeting** at Seth Ward Community Centre (p.38)
Wed 11th 2–4pm: **Reed Garden Club** in Reed Village Hall (p.39)
Wed 18th 10 for 10.30am: **BALFF Winter Course** begins (p.31)
Fri 20th 10–11.30am: **BALA Coffee Morning** at URC Hall (p.35)

LOOKING AHEAD

- Wed 1st Feb:** **Buntingford Gardeners’ Club** at URC Hall (p.31)
Sat 4th Feb: **Buntingford Film Club** – ‘*Ticket to Paradise*’ (p.28)
Thur 9th Feb: **Buntingford W.I.** at URC Hall (p.25)
Fri/Sat 10/11, 17/18th Feb: **Buntingford Dramatic Society ‘Calendar Girls’** (p.23)
Sat 4th Mar: **Buntingford Film Club** – ‘*Mrs Harris Goes to Paris*’ (p.28)
Fri 31st Mar: **Buntingford Shorts Local Showcase** at Christ Church (p.29)

Mondays: From 8.30am: **Buntingford Market** on Market Hill (see page 5)

10am–12noon: **Coffee Morning** at St Peter’s Church

10–11.45am: **Chatter Table** at the Manor House – 1st and 3rd Mondays

1.30 for 2pm: **Buntingford Senior Citizens’ Club** at URC Hall (p.19)

7.30–9pm: **Buntingford Community Choir** at Millfield School (p.17)

Tuesdays: 10.30am–12.30pm: **Jigsaws & Chat** – Alternate Tuesdays at the Library

7.30–9pm: **Braughing Sing Community Choir** in Jenyn’s School Hall

Wednesdays: 10 for 10.30am: **BALFF Course** at Seth Ward Community Centre

8–10pm: **Ware & District Photographic Society** in Thundridge Village Hall (stops after 7th Dec for Christmas break, restarts 4th Jan, p.34)

Buntingford Meditation at St Peter’s Church, except the 1st Wed in the month which is online:
www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation

Thursdays: 10.30–12noon: **Coffee & Company** at the URC Hall (p.9)

12.30pm: **Functional Movement Class** in Reed Village Hall; contact Jessie Skeggs on 07977 146 380 / www.peacefulchangePilates.com

2–3pm: **Mind & Music** to aid memory and wellbeing (p.24)

2.15–2.45pm: **Story Time** for toddlers in the Magnolia Room, Buntingford Library.

Saturdays: 10am: **Walking Football** at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields (p.16)



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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

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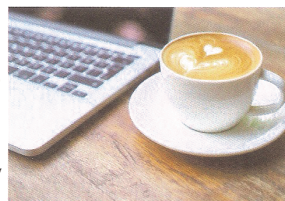
Carers in Hertfordshire Online



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 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

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For one-off adverts or to advertise a specific event, contact the Journal editor, Christine Noble, on 01763 273 095 or email journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk. Adverts for charitable or community events are normally free of charge.

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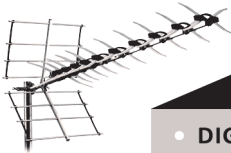
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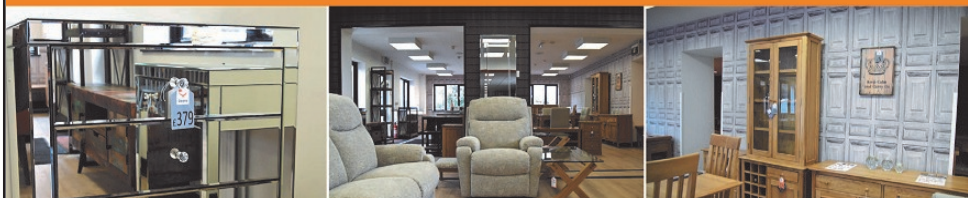


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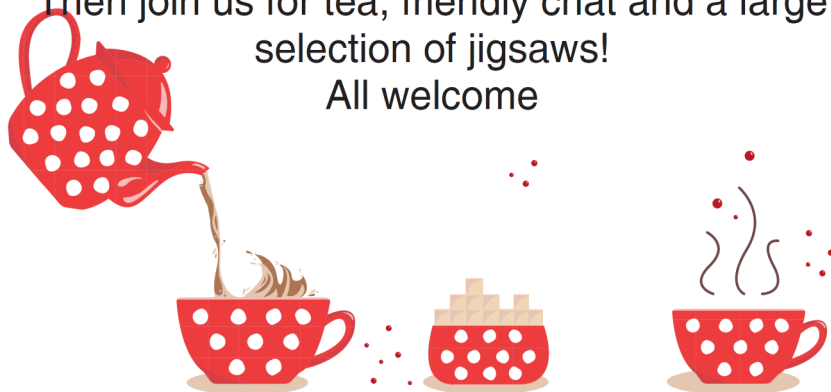
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For a full colour brochure contact :

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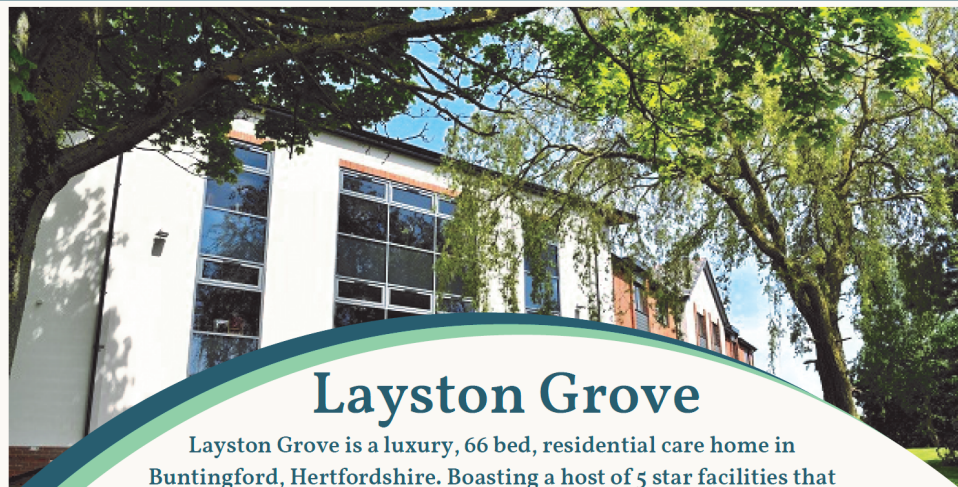
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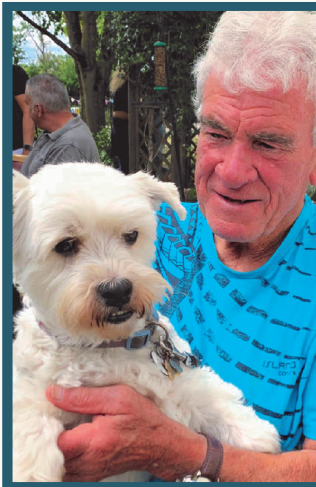
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Layston Grove offers residential, dementia and respite care

LAYSTON GROVE CARE HOME NEWS



LAYSTON GROVE DOG

SHOW This week we hosted our very own dog show here at Layston Grove raising funds for Hessa's Homeless Hounds. The event was well attended and we were delighted to meet members of the local community and their wonderful four-legged friends. The day was a great success, so much so that we are hoping to make this an annual event



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