



THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

**WARM UP
THIS WINTER
WITH OUR ROUNDUP
OF FESTIVE EVENTS**

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

Dec 25/Jan 26 Volume 50 | Issue 10 **£1.25**



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Baldock Road, Buntingford

GAS

ELECTRICITY

WATER (Veolia)

WATER (Affinity Water)

SEWERAGE (Thames Water)

FLOODLINE

DOCTORS:

Buntingford Medical Centre,
White Hart Close

B A S H (Buntingford Action
for Social Help):

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
RAPE, RACE or HATE CRIME**

LOCAL COUNCILS

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY

77 High Street, Buntingford,
SG9 9AE | 01763 274 608

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST HERTS:

BUNTINGFORD FOOD SUPPORT

Non-emergency telephone: 101

In emergencies dial 999

Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999

Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838

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

Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)

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

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

Buntingford Town Council: 01763 272 222

East Herts District Council: 01279 655 261

Housing – 01279 714 714

Benefits – Freephone 0800 373 852

FOR EMERGENCIES out of office hours:
01279 655 261

Adult Care Services: 0300 123 4042

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Hertfordshire Highways: Report faults online:

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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 3:00 – 23:45 every day

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

More info: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

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

www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk

Buntingfordfoodhub@gmail.com | 07842 889 772

LETTER FROM



The Editor

I have always been a big advocate of doing what you can for our planet, and so I was really pleased to read that the changes recently made to our bin collections have actually been making a difference! With more being recycled and less going into landfill. That's definitely got to make getting our heads around all the new bin collection days and what goes in which of our many bins worthwhile. To this end, East Herts have come up trumps again with a free app that you can download that will send you reminders of which bin needs to go out on which day and what you can put in each one. Read the update on p.11 to find out all the details.

And talking of green issues, between 9th -12th January Isabel's Hospice brilliant tree collection service is back! Make sure your lovely old tree gets recycled properly and support a good cause at the same time - see p.20 to find out how to book your collection. I'll never forget the day I looked up from sawing our tree into smaller bits to fit it in the brown garden waste bin many years ago and saw my toddler staring aghast at me through the window as if I was some kind of serial killer! Avoid traumatising your children... book a collection with Isabel's!

For those of you looking for a new challenge in the new year there are a few exciting new volunteer opportunities coming up with Homestart and Citizen's Advice. If you have some time to spare and would like to do something to help your community have a look on p.9 & 19 respectively.

I hope you all enjoy the many fantastic Christmas events that are happening in and around town, and I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a wonderfully Happy New Year.

See you in 2026!

Anne

BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

DECEMBER 25/JANUARY 26

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EDITORIAL DEADLINE

Editorial copy deadline for the next
Journal is: **15th JANUARY.**

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

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

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

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

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ON THE COVER

thanks to Jennifer Pallian @ Unsplash



BUNTINGFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Graham Waite, Chairman

chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of

CIVIC VOICE
taking civic sense

reg. Charity: 1014873

For those of you that couldn't attend the Service of Remembrance on Sunday the 9th November, it was really gratifying to see the number of people that did attend, especially the children from the schools and other organisations within the town. Our treasurer, Janet Murrels supported by Terry Noble, laid a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the Civic Society.

By the time you read this article we should be well into the Christmas celebrations and I am sure that the 3 events on Friday 28th November, Lights of Love, Christmas lights "switch on" and the Late Night Shopping were, as usual, really successful and well attended.

As this is the last Journal of 2025, double issue, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and those that buy the Journal, a peaceful and trouble free Christmas period, especially if it is spent with friends or relatives. Unfortunately this time of year can be very lonely for those among us that live alone and I would like to take this opportunity to ask anyone that knows of a neighbour that will be alone over Christmas, just give them a knock to let them know that they are being thought of, you would be surprised what a difference it makes to their day, even better if you can share a part of your day with them.

The New Year, 2026, is a special year for the Buntingford Journal, it will celebrate its 50th year in production. As has been previously mentioned, we hope to reproduce the first Journal, printed in January 1976, to accompany the February 2026 issue and this will be delivered, to members, along with a newsletter at the end of January.

Just a reminder that it costs more to buy your Journal at one of the retail outlets than it does to join the Society. If you buy the Journal monthly, that's 10 issues per year, £12.50 but if you join the Society the cost is £10 per year and the Journal gets delivered to your door by our team of volunteer distributors, worth thinking about!!!!

Finally, from the Executive Committee, we wish you a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year, 2026.

Graham Waite

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

01763 272 222

clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk

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

 @buntingfordtc  @BuntingfordTC

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

You may have seen our Facebook post, web site or leaflets promoting a petition that we are collecting signatures for. This is calling on East Herts Council to conduct a new Community Governance Review into the warding arrangements for Buntingford. Currently Buntingford is not warded, the non-political Town Council has 12 independent Councillors and residents may vote for their 12 preferred candidates. Under the new arrangements Buntingford will be divided into South and North and residents will only be able to determine the six Councillors in their ward, with no say over who the remaining six Councillors are. Whilst we accept democracy dictates that East Herts Council may make decisions on these arrangements, it should follow a robust consultation process and we believe, after speaking with residents, that although there was a consultation, it was not advertised sufficiently for people to understand the proposals. We have since circulated to every household our own leaflet.

We will shortly be presenting the petition to East Herts Council, if you have not already done so, please add your signature to the petition on change.org/BuntingfordCGR.

As we write, arrangements are underway to install the Town Christmas lights in time for Late Night Shopping and the Lights of Love ceremony on the 28th November. As usual,

grateful thanks to Councillor Graham Bonner for arranging the light installation.

Work is currently underway to refurbish the Council Chamber in the Manor House. The Council Chamber has many uses including holding all Council meetings, coffee mornings, hired out to various organisations and hosting civil ceremonies. If you are thinking of having a local civil ceremony, then please consider the Manor House, we will always be happy to show you around.

The management of the Multi Games Area is now back with the Town Council. If you wish to hire the MUGA, please contact the Clerk's office and we will check availability.

Layston Cemetery is owned and managed by the Town Council, please call us if you have an enquiry.

The Town Council owns and manages all of the recreation areas, parks and playgrounds in the town. Please report any problems with these to us at the number below.

We would like to wish all of the residents a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Details of the December/January Council meetings below.

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

Jill Jones PSLCC Cert HE -Town Clerk

Town Council meetings for the months of January & December are:

Thursday 4th December & Thursday 8th January 7pm Amenities Committee.

Thursday 11th December & Thursday 15th January 7pm Planning and 7.15pm Resources Committee

Thursday 29th January 7pm Planning Committee and 7.15pm Full Council.

All meetings held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise.

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY NEWS

Kathleen Beale, Library Manager

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/
services/libraries-and-archives/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/)

The Buntingford Library Team wishes all our wonderful customers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for all the support for our many events and library services throughout 2025. We love being a part of this supportive community and look forward to delivering our service and events in 2026.

These are all FREE events, donations welcome and Christmas Dress highly encouraged!



Quiz Night

Buntingford Library is hosting it's very first Quiz Night! Join us for a pre-Christmas night of quizzing fun as we travel Through the Decades.

Thursday 11th December 6.30-8.30pm

£6.00 per person, book in the library or online, BYOB

Christmas in the Library

Monday 15th December 10.30am:

Christmas Baby Rhyme Time

Thursday 18th December 10.30am:

Christmas Storytime & Craft

Friday 19th December 4pm-5pm:

Christmas Soft Toy Sleepover

Saturday 20th December 11.00am:

Christmas Stories & Craft

Tuesday 23rd December 10.30am:

Jigsaw & Cards Christmas Crackers and Mince Pies

Calling all How to Train Your Dragon Fans

Design your own dragon to for a chance to win one of five signed Cressida Cowell books. Collect your entry form from the library. Children need to be a library member to take part, and entries must be in by Sunday 11th January. While in the library children can complete our Dragon Hunt by finding all the hidden dragons and solving the riddle.

Winter Reads Challenge

The Winter Reads Challenge is back and will continue until January 31st. Pick up a challenge card or bookmark from the library to take part. Then complete 6 fun challenges for your chance to win an iPad and other prizes.

Winter Reads is a great way to expand your reading over the winter months and discover new favourite books and authors. We also have a series of exciting

REED VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

author events and children's workshops, and a host of winter-themed activities taking place across the Library Service. For more information pop into the library or visit Winter Reads 2025 | Hertfordshire County Council.



Reed's Burns Night Supper - Saturday 17th January at 7pm

Chase away those January blues! Join us in Reed Village Hall for our Burns Night Supper in honour of the celebrated Scottish poet, Robbie Burns. Following tradition, we'll toast the haggis before tucking into a hot supper complemented by a licensed bar. Admission £20 per person.

To book, please contact Liz Jakeman:

elizabethjakeman@live.co.uk
or 07596 597 042.

HOME START

NEEDS YOU!!

**Royston, Buntingford
& South Cambridgeshire**

Are you a parent, grandparent, carer or have experience of caring for children and wondering what to do with your free time? We need local people with your experience to become a Volunteer for our scheme.

Our volunteers get involved in all aspects of our work, from being alongside parents in their own homes, helping them to cope with the stresses and strains of life to being part of the Trustee Board working on strategy and planning.

Our next Volunteer Preparation Course starts in February 2026. This training course will provide you with all the knowledge you'll need to support a family, and you will become part of the fantastic Home-Start team. For other volunteering opportunities get in touch now!

You could be part of the team that delivers vital support to families, helping to change their life, and while you're doing it, it might just change yours!

For more info visit www.hsrc.org.uk/become-home-start-volunteer or email admin@hsrc.org.uk

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



RIVERWATCH BUNTINGFORD

Dr Derrick Guy

Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust,
- Living Rivers Champion
love.your.chalk.stream@gmail.com

Dandara will soon be handing over the Keepers Chase site to the residents, once the paths, including two footbridges over the Rib to the Aspenden Road, and a settlement ('suds') lake are completed. At a recent site meeting between residents, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust and RiverWatch, Dandara suggested it may be possible they provide funds via HMWT, Buntingford Town Council and /or residents to facilitate the wildlife sensitive landscaping in and around the river, potentially a vast improvement on its current state. I agreed to include (with residents' permission) that section in our routine Riverwatch / EA monitoring for flood blockages, balsam bashing etc and we already have an active 'Riverfly Monitoring' site just below the site compound.

The RiverWatch aim for 2025 (and 2026) was to extend our successful local Himalayan Balsam (HB) eradication efforts, from downstream of Pearce's Farm, eventually to where the Rib joins the Lee at Hartham Common. That is where our upstream HB seeds eventually end up, creating quite dense forests on the riverbanks.

Himalayan Balsam is an annual (dies off each winter) but each plant can release hundreds (thousands) of seeds around August, which can germinate any time over the next 2-3 years - thus requiring repeat visits to fully clear the seeds from the silt. HB looks (and smells) pretty but attracts bee pollinators away from the native wild flowers and over-shades any that do try to grow.

Clearly there has not been as much coordinated effort south of Standon to



Little Egret - finding plenty of minnows at River Green

eradicate HB or Giant Hogweed (GHW). It is not often known how much of a problem it is and can be hard to tackle when you are not starting from source and working down the catchment . The challenge on these downstream sections of the Rib is that the HB is often inaccessible - water is out of our depth (even with waders) and the bank sides too steep. At least two of us in RiverWatch are competent hanging from ropes, but I'm thinking we will also end up towing a boat along and tackling it from the river itself (what could possibly go wrong ?)

Affinity Water continue to support us annually with staff volunteers and grant funding. The Rib in Buntingford now just requires light weeding of HB, which is well on the way to being fully eradicated. Pearce's Farm to Standon will require repeat visits for the next couple of years. Standon Lordship down to Bengoe and Hartham Common will need a good three to four years of sustained effort. It



Dense forests of Himalayan Balsam south of Standon 2025



takes time to organise landowner and EA permissions to treat HB and GHW, and we ran out of time this year having got as far as Standon. More importantly we need to start clearing from June rather than our usual July / August.

Feel free to join us, the more the merrier. For prior notifications, sign up to our WhatsApp group : 'RiverWatch - Buntingford'. It is a private (ie closed) group of over 50 members for announcing and organising volunteering events. We also have a closed Facebook group (over 100 members) of the same name for those interested to know what is going on but less likely to join in with active events (still very welcome of course).

Send a joining request (by answering a few simple questions), to the WhatsApp and / or the Facebook group or for further information, contact me direct via email : love.your.chalk.stream@gmail.com

Derrick Guy, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust - Living Rivers Champion (volunteer)

BIN UPDATE FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Vicky Burt, Sue Nicholls

E. Herts District Councillors, Buntingford

Every one of us in Buntingford has been impacted by the recent changes to our waste collection service. That has meant some inconvenience and adjustment but it's change for a very good reason. We all share a planet with limited resources. We can't carry on simply throwing everything away and the new waste service is designed to encourage us to think about what we chuck, to help us recycle more and waste less.

Early results suggest that it is doing just that. The amount of non-recyclable stuff we bin has fallen by about 43% since July, going from around 4000 tonnes per month to about 2400 tonnes. Paper recycling has jumped from about 100 tonnes to a combined paper/card figure of about 750 tonnes! And together with residents across East and North Herts, our combined food collection is converting around 1000 tonnes of food waste into fertiliser while generating enough electricity to power about 600 homes.

And there's more good news: to help make bin day easier, East Herts Council has created a free app for smart phones - available from both the Google Play and Apple App stores. It gives you personalised bin day reminders, a clear guide on what goes into each bin and much more. Just search for "East Herts Council" and hit download. It's a small but practical step that will help households adapt to the new collection system.



The Norman Oliver Award for Outstanding Service to Buntingford u3a was presented to our u3a by his widow Mary in recognition of him being our very first Treasurer. This year the award went to Maureen & Ron Brighten, Group Leaders of the Wine Appreciation Group, having stepped in to take over from Dave Austin when he stood down.

Ron has also served as the Group Co-ordinator, before subsequently taking over the management of the three u3a Keep Fit Groups. He was the first Group Leader for both the Quiz and Clay Pigeon Shooting Groups. Ron is a member of the Bridge Group and LETs.

The award was presented at the October meeting of the Wine Appreciation by Julia Bush (Buntingford u3a Secretary).

On **Monday 8th December** we will be entertained by 'Welwyn Harmony' a ladies' a Cappella choir based in Welwyn Garden City who sing and perform in a Cappella, four-part harmony. We will be given a short history of a Cappella before the choir performs some Christmas music.

On **Monday 12th January** our speaker will be Kate Hufton 'East Herts & Essex Air Ambulance.' Your Local Life-Saving Charity: 25+ Years of Progress at EHAAT Join us as we look at the incredible work of the East Herts Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT). Donations will be greatly appreciated.

On **Monday 9th February**, Will Pascoe 'Alzheimer's UK' A remarkable insight into this worthy organisation on their research to find a cure for Alzheimer's. Donations will be greatly appreciated.



Maureen & Ron Brighten

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

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

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

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

Buntingford Dramatic Society

THIS



Anger
Management

After
the Fête



THAT

and the

OTHER



Rambles
on Radio

13 - 14 - 20 - 21 Feb 2026

Seth Ward Community Centre
Luynes Rise, Buntingford

£18.00 (plus booking fee)
includes cold platter

www.buntingforddrama.org.uk

Doors open 19:15 for 20:00

  @buntingforddramaticsociety



and mulled wine in the Church Hall afterwards. Do come and join us.

By the time this Journal is published we will have put our Christmas Display in the Library so pop along and have a look.

In January we will have our traditional New Year Party for members and on **February 13th** Simon Rice will come to talk about **'The Amazing World of Honeybees and their Cousins'**. Visitors are welcome at all our meetings which are always held on the second Thursday of the month at the URC hall in Baldock Road (opposite Budgens) at 7.15 for 7.30. If you would like further information about us you can telephone our Secretary, Pat, on 01763 271 305.

We celebrated our birthday in November with, of course, cake and Bucks Fizz - 107 years after a group of ladies got together at Layston Court on the 5th November 1917 and formed the first Committee of Buntingford W.I. Our WI is the longest running group in the town! Maggie Aldridge made a return visit with some 'Christmas Crafts' and we had a busy evening making 'rag wreaths', lavender bags and beaded necklaces and bracelets. It was great fun and the picture shows the end results!

In support of the W.I. campaign 'Dental Health Matters' we have made some decorative bags containing toothpaste and toothbrushes and these will be hung on the Christmas Tree in Aspenden Church as part of the **Christmas Tree Festival on the weekend of 13th and 14th December**. Afterwards the WI bags complete with their contents will be donated to our local food bank.

Our Christmas Celebration, with carols and seasonal poems, will take place in Christ Church in Baldock Road on **Thursday 11th December** at 7:15 for 7:30 starts. This is not just for W.I. members – everyone is invited - and there will be mince pies

Everyone is welcome to join
Buntingford W.I. for a
Christmas
CELEBRATION

THUR	DEC 11 TH	7:15 PM FOR 7:30PM
------	-------------------------	--------------------------

with carols and readings at
Christ Church, Baldock Road, Buntingford

Mulled wine and mince pies in
the Church Hall afterwards

BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL OF DANCE



BUNTINGFORD
SCHOOL of DANCE

Zoë Eaglesfield www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

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

The Autumn term has seen us welcome lots of new pupils to classes, the introduction of our Acro classes, many of our ballet pupils take exams and our regular dress up to fund-raise for BBC Children In Need. If you would like more information about our classes or want to book for the half term dance course (suitable from Age 5), then please see the details below.

To register for classes please do so via the QR code below or visit our website contact, Join Us or Holiday Course & Workshops pages. We take pupils from toddlers upwards and have classes for all ages. Our two-week trial period for £15 gives pupils the opportunity to try a variety of suitable classes to see what they like.

Our classes include **Acro, Baby Boppers, Ballet, Contemporary, Commercial/Street, Modern/Jazz & Tap** classes, with classes suitable for all ages from toddlers to adults. Contact us if you want more information.

Pay As You Go Classes – the classes below are available on Pay As You Go – book & pay online via the website contact page any time before the class start time.

Baby Boppers: A class for toddlers to 3-year-olds and their parents: Saturdays 9:00 - 9:30am URC Hall.



Book your place here!



2 Days - £97.50
(siblings 20% off
additional booking)
Limited day places may
be available @ £55

Dance Fusion Half Term Course Weds/Thurs 18th - 19th Feb

*enROLLING
NOW!*

**Discover
different
dance styles:**

**Experience a
variety of dance
styles including
Jazz & Lyrical**

**Dance
Technique
Clinic:**

**Improve turns
and leaps,
increase
strength and
flexibility**

**Put your
skills into
practice:**

**Learn a song
and dance
routine**

*JOIN US AND TAKE YOUR
DANCING TO THE NEXT
LEVEL!*

admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

Adult Ballet & Tap Classes: These are non-syllabus classes for adults of all ages with the emphasis on fun and fitness while learning to dance. Classes are suitable for all ages & abilities evenings.

Tap: Tuesdays 7:30 - 8:30pm Barkway Village Hall; Ballet: Wednesdays 6:15 - 7:15pm URC Hall.



BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 3rd December

At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road

Doors open: 7:45pm for 8pm start

December is a time to start reducing your indoor house plant watering. Outside is a good time to prune your apple & pear trees plus your acers and vines.

Last month we enjoyed a fabulous wreath making display of both autumnal and Christmas given by one of our members who is a fully trained florist. We all went away feeling very inspired.

The Club is again taking part in the Aspenden Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church (13th-14th December) with decorations being made as I write. Last year we were fortunate to come second, so no pressure!

Our meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of every month (no meetings in January or August).

We have speakers throughout the year, giving talks on relevant subjects, as well as demonstrations, outings and socials with quizzes. With light refreshments served, we have the chance to catch up and help each other and make new friends.

December's meeting is our Christmas party for members only, but if gardening is of interest to you, whether planting or looking then we will be pleased to see visitors/ new members at our first meeting of



the New Year on **4th February 2026**.

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

If you would like any more information, please contact our secretary, telephone: 07757 259 689.

Hope to see you there and have a lovely Christmas and New Year.

WARE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Barbara Norris

www.wareps.org.uk

Three members of Ware DPS had images selected for the Hertford Town Council's 2026 Calendar. Rob Turnbull's image entitled Hertford Basin was chosen for September, Kathy Sharman had 2 images selected - one entitled Santa and the McMullen's Brewery Horse & Dray for December and the front cover photo of Hertford Brewery. There are 6 Mayor's Commendations one of which is of County Hall by Barbara

Norris. The calendar will be on sale in the Town & Tourist Information Centre, 10-12 The Wash, Hertford.

The Club closes for Christmas on 3 December and reopens on 7 January. Further details of the programme are on the website **wareps.org.uk** New members are most welcome. The first 3 evenings are free.



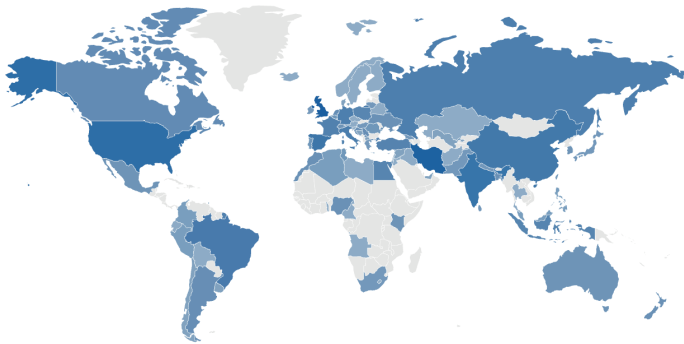
Paul Hutton

a small team of volunteer reviewers and we want to make sure they have sufficient time to watch and rate every film, as part of our commitment to supporting young film makers worldwide.

2026 Short Film Festival Update

Buntingford Shorts is a festival which promotes film-making by young people across Hertfordshire and around the world. The festival is organised into two events; one to showcase local film and the other to celebrate international film. We encourage films from all young film makers up to the age of 26.

Since submissions opened in October, we have received over 800 submissions; nearly 100 films from the UK and the rest from many countries worldwide, as shown in the map below.



At this time last year, due to overwhelming demand, we had to take the decision to close some categories early. We will continue to keep submissions open this year for as long as possible. We have

To date, we have seen a range of films in each of the six categories, including a moving documentary about the reality of war-torn conflict in the world, a horror film about being trapped in a game, and several incredible styles of animation. If you have an interest in film and time to spare, we would welcome volunteers.

Please email:

buntingfordshorts@gmail.com.

Shortlisting will take place in January 2026 for the international films, and in early February for local films. The local

showcase will be held on Saturday 11th April at Christ Church URC on Baldock Road in Buntingford. The international event will take place on YouTube on Sunday 12th April.

There will be prizes for winning films in each category.

For more information and to submit go to **buntingfordshorts.com**



The Choir will be taking its usual Christmas break from the beginning of December until the middle of January.

Hopefully giving us time to find a new Musical Director !

Unfortunately for us, our current MD has had to leave us due to moving to a new job and not being able to manage the Monday evening rehearsals. So we are looking to recruit someone to take over.

This is a paid position with a negotiable hourly rate.

Meeting on a Monday evening at Millfield School, in Buntingford, starting at 7.30 and we normally finish at around 9.15.

It's all very relaxed and sociable, so if you are interested please email me at this address: **info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk**

Here's hoping that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Bryan Jones

BRAUGHING GET TOGETHER

Andy Ayres

In October, there was a very successful, light-hearted Bingo evening, where we welcomed some newcomers.

On Friday 7th November, BGT held a highly successful, sold out, "Gunpowder Plot" evening.

Friday 5th December is our annual **WINTER SUPPER**, where we can Get Together with good friends, have a lovely meal and just chat.

Gill will once again will be tempting our palettes with her culinary expertise.

The price is held at £27.50 for yet another year and early booking is advised as it is an extremely popular event.

Friday 9th January 2026 will see the return of our ever popular **BEETLE DRIVE**. Lots of fun where no prior knowledge of the game is needed. Please register your interest with Cynthia.

Braughing Get Together events are held in the Braughing Church Hall and doors open at 7pm.

Our events are open to all, including those from outside of Braughing, to enjoy each others company and make new friends.

To reserve your places or for more information contact Cynthia Matthews:

Via email: **cynthia.matthews44@gmail.com**

Join us and make a positive difference to people's lives

Citizens Advice East Herts is on a mission to rebuild and expand our face-to-face advice service, which has been significantly reduced since the pandemic. We know that our phone and email service suits many of our clients, particularly those who can't get into towns during the working day or people in rural locations with poor transport. However, we also know, because you tell us, that many of you miss the face-to-face interaction with an adviser, and for some this is an essential service for many different reasons, such as a hearing impairment, or a language barrier.

So, since May we have doubled the opening hours of our outreach sessions at the Methodist Church in Bishop's Stortford, open on Tuesdays from 10 to 2pm, and in September we opened a new outreach at Hertford Library on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm. We have also extended our hours at Ware Priory, on Tuesdays from 10 to 1pm and at the Manor House, Buntingford on Mondays from 10 to 12.30.

All this means that we need more trained volunteers to guide people through online information and deliver advice in these outreaches. If you're passionate about making a difference in your community, are looking for a challenging and fulfilling

volunteer role, and can offer us a day a week, please do consider lending your time and skills to support this work. Volunteering with us can bring huge benefits to you too, gaining skills and confidence, as well as joining our friendly team.

We have spaces available on our adviser training programme starting January 14th at the Manor House in Buntingford. You don't need any previous experience, just an appetite for learning and competent IT skills. You'll attend classroom sessions in Buntingford, one day a week, for 12 weeks, followed by shadowing experienced advisers until you are ready to go solo advising clients on the phone or in person.

Trainees will learn how to advise clients on housing, employment, benefits, consumer issues, debt and more.

Please contact us on **training@citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk** before the end of December if you would like to join the course or phone 01920 454 892.

Citizens Advice East Herts is here to help you; if you need advice, call our Message Line 01920 459 944 or visit citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our advice options. Or you can come and see us on Mondays between 10 am and 1230 pm at the Manor House, High Street, Buntingford – we will find out more about your problem and help you find a way forward.



Isabel Hospice's Christmas tree collection and Recycling service returns to local residents sustainably recycle their Christmas Tree!

Isabel Hospice's much-loved Christmas Tree Collection and Recycling Service is back this January, giving residents across eastern Hertfordshire an easy, eco-friendly way to recycle their real Christmas trees while supporting local hospice care.

From 9th to 12th January 2026, volunteers will collect trees from designated postcode areas across eastern Hertfordshire. Last year, over 1,500 trees were collected, raising an incredible £23,000 for the charity's "Together at Christmas" campaign.

A suggested donation of £15 helps fund vital services such as the Inpatient Unit,

Hospice at Home, and Clinical Nurse and Paramedic Specialists. Even a £28 donation could pay for an hour of specialist nursing care at the Inpatient Unit, making a real difference to local families facing life-limiting illness.

To participate, ensure your tree is undecorated and under 6ft (or cut in half), and visible from the roadside.

Booking is quick and easy via the Isabel Hospice website and by letting Isabel Hospice collect and recycle your Christmas tree, you are not only helping the environment, but you are also making an immeasurable difference to local families facing life-limiting illness.

Learn more and book your collection at www.isabelhospice.org.uk/treecycle

We are practically standing on the edge of the starting blocks and hoping to hear the starter's gun soon, enabling us to dive head first into the essential refurbishment of the pool! At the time of writing we have not signed the freehold but we have assurances that Hertfordshire County Council will grant early access for work to start whilst the legalities of our Charity becoming the freeholder are completed.

It is essential that work starts as soon as possible since we have secured UK Shared Prosperity funding from East Herts District Council but this must be spent by 31st March 2026. This funding will provide a new filtration system but we still have to raise funds to repair the broken pool tiles, replace the expansion joints and restart the boilers.

Buntingford Town Council have been in support of our charity running the pool and we hope that they are committed to providing a grant now that will ensure we have suitable boilers to heat the water.

As soon as the freehold is transferred we can apply for a Biffa Community Landfill grant which we hope to use to purchase an air source heat pump and solar panels. This will provide a modern energy efficient way of maintaining the pool water temperature, reducing our CO2 emissions and running costs.

To repair the pool tiles and replace the expansion joints it's going to cost £64,000. We have £16,000 s106 money,

£10,000 UK SPF along with £5,000 already raised through Crowdfunder, so we are £33,000 short. The good news is that we have been awarded a Movement for Good grant from Sport England. So if we raise at least £15,000 through a specific Crowdfunder campaign we will receive £15,000 match funding from Sport England and have enough to get the pool open. So this is where we are asking you, the community, to get behind our charity and donate money. Your local pool needs you to donate now! Please visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/repair-pool-tiles-and-replace-expansion-joints or scan the QR code and give whatever you can afford. If you are a UK taxpayer please remember to tick the gift aid box, it does mean on £15,000 of donations we could claim up to £3,750 from HMRC!

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a splashing New Year by opening the pool in 2026!



Cracks Observed in the Coping Tiles Near Deep End.

BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Carol Emery

buntingfordlocalhistorygroup@hotmail.com

Our November meeting was an early Xmas Party which was enjoyed by all members. We do not have a meeting in December as so many people are busy preparing for Xmas so our next meeting will be on **January 13th 2026**.

However, I thought it would be nice to look back on what Xmas in Buntingford was like in the past using reports from the Buntingford and North East Herts Gazette which was a newspaper printed in the town by Robert Wilkerson, helped by Bert Thody and George Hill.

Thanks to Philip Plumbs daughter Alison, who has scanned articles from issues of the paper from about 1923 to 1940 there is a brilliant record of what happened over the years.

The first reports in December 1923 refer to Xmas Day at the workhouse. The 52 inmates started the day with coffee and ham for breakfast. All smokers were given a pipe and tobacco whilst non smokers received sweets, given by the board of guardians. Dinner consisted of roast beef, potatoes and parsnips followed by plum pudding, washed down by ale and minerals. Tea consisted of bread and jam followed by cake. In the evening, they had entertainment, a lantern slide show, games, songs with refreshments provided by benefactors of the workhouse. A party was also given by the Ex-Service Men's club for members children. This culminated with a visit from Father Christmas who handed out toys to each child.

In December 1926 these adverts appeared for Frank White and Piggott Butchers.

This shows the price of petrol in December 1926, about 7p in todays money but that was for a gallon, there are 4.5 litres in a gallon.

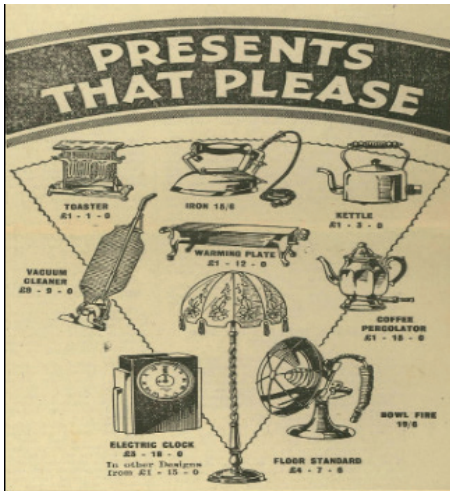
WIRELESS NOVELTY.
NOW DEMONSTRATING—
“THE PRINCEPS”
3-VALVE PORTABLE.
Entirely Self Contained.
FRANK WHITE
High Street, Buntingford.

H. W. Piggott,
FAMILY BUTCHER,
HIGH STREET,
BUNTINGFORD,
(Phone—BUNTINGFORD 24)
Offers All Meat Local Fed for Xmas:
PRIME OX BEEF
from Capt. R. SANDERS,
DAIRY FED PORK
from Capt. R. SANDERS and Mr. J. MAY,
LAMBS
from BUNTINGFORD MARKET.
BEEF SAUSAGES 8d. lb.,
ENGLISH FLANK 7d. lb.
Choice Assortment of **POULTRY**
in stock.
Stuff your Poultry with our
Sausage Meat.

Petrol Cheaper.
Compare Prices:
From the Pump—1/5½ gall. From Tins—1/6½ gall.
All Guaranteed.
Shell, Pratt's and National Benzol Mixture.
Commercial Users Supplied.
WILSON'S GARAGE,
BUNTINGFORD.
(Phone 16.)

Every year since 1919 there has been a Xmas Fat Stock Show held on Market Hill. In December 1929, 74 cattle were entered by local farmers. The winning beast was bred by Mr Vigus, from Tonwell and was auction off for £51 to Mr V Pledger of Barkway. There were 226 sheep and 203 pigs entered for various classes with prizes for the winners.

In December 1930 North Met the local electricity company put this advert in the paper offering small electrical goods for sale. Toaster £1.05p, kettle £1.15p, vacuum cleaner £9.45p, and an iron 77p.



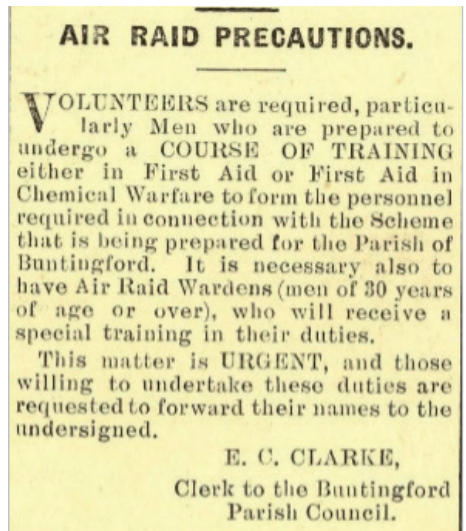
The post office had a reminder to post early for Xmas; to ensure delivery by 25th December letters needed to post no later than mid-day on 23rd December, local items could be posted Xmas Eve to be delivered on Xmas Day. The last date for first class letters in 2025 is 20th December, and that's progress for you.

In December 1933 Buntingford Bow Belles put on a pantomime at Benson Hall.



During 1935 due to the great depression over 30% of the workforce in the UK was unemployed. This was even worse in mining areas where in some areas over 50% of the miners were out of work. Buntingford British Legion in conjunction with the Hertford Group of which they were a part of asked for donations however small to be collected for the miners particularly in Durham.

In 1937 preparations were being made in case of war. This advert appeared in the paper asking for air raid wardens and people to train in first aid.



BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP CONT...

Aspenden Hall was put up for sale following the death of Sir Arthur Lushington, the estate had been in his family for centuries.

December 1938 was a bad year weather wise. The temperature dropped and snow fell on Christmas day, the roads were so bad many people couldn't make it to church services at St Peters, that included the vicar who was ill, his wife Mrs McCarthy ended up taking the services.

Also, in that year Moss's who ran a grocery store in what is now the library placed this advert in the paper.

St Richards church was undergoing building works to construct a bell tower. Each week there was a list of donations to purchase a bell for the tower by the then Father Dr Messenger. By the last week in December 1938 the fund stood at £28

7s 6d. They also had a visit from Cardinal Hinsley Archbishop of Westminster who held a confirmation service on the 11th December in the church.

The Cozy cinema showed a film called "Accidents will Happen" starring Ronald Regan, how many of those that attended would have thought they were watching a man destined to be a future President of the USA.

The Buntingford Charity issued 200 tickets for 4cwts of coal to people in need, and the Biggs charity issued tickets for the supply of "small loaves" about 600 loaves were given out.

Despite the bad weather the outer brick shell for the new senior school (now Edwinstree) had been erected. It was hoped the school would be open by May 1939.



Once again we extend our invitation to visit our "Store" for all your wants for the great occasion.

TINS FANCY BISCUITS	- - - -	1/- to 7/6
BOXES CHOCOLATES	- - - -	6d. to 15s. 6d.
CHRISTMAS CAKES	- - - -	2/6 to 7/6
CRACKERS (each containing a Cap & Novelty)	- - - -	1/2 to 5/6
PRESERVED GINGER and PINEAPPLE	- - - -	1/- & 1/4½ box
CRYSTALLISED FRUITS	- - - -	1/2 to 8/9
ORANGES, APPLES, NUTS	- - - -	
STONE'S GINGER WINE 2/9	IDRIS 2/-	WINES & SPIRITS

SPECIAL OFFER
1 Bottle WINE COCKTAIL (4/6) for 4/-

MOSS'S

W B Moss & Sons Ltd

Telephone 23 **BUNTINGFORD, HERTS.**
 "The Store that serves the District."

A special train was run for Spurs fans to go to watch the match at White Hart Lane against Burnley on 27th December 1938.

Tuesday, 27th December,
TO
NORTHUMBERLAND
PARK
(Spurs v. Burnley)
Buntingford dep. 11.2 3/6,
Westmill 11.5 3/3, Braughing
11.10 3/-, Standon 11.13 2/11,
Hadham 11.21 2/6, Widford
11.26 2/3, Mardock 11.29 a.m. 2/-
For full particulars see bills
obtainable at Stations.

War was declared in September of 1939, and preparations for rationing of bacon, ham, butter and sugar were being made. People were urged to register with a "shopkeeper" so that the government could then supply enough of each of these items to the shopkeepers to cover their customers needs.

A gala dance was held in the hall of the new senior school with the Mascot band supplying the music. The sum of £8 10s was raised towards a film projector for the school.

Browne's department store which was where Effes and No6 Six café are now advertised their wares for Xmas.

Whilst most of the clubs, dances and other entertainment seemed to be operating to as near as normal as was possible, one big casualty of the war was the Puckeridge Hunt. This was the fox hunting which ran from Major Barclay's house at Brent Pelham. Many of their members had been called up for active service and so subscriptions were down and the cost of feeding, housing and caring for the horses and hounds was causing great concern. They had parted with 7 of their 13 horses, and the hounds had been reduced by half

Only Two Shopping Days to Christmas !

Make the most of them by visiting

BROWNE'S
HIGH STREET, BUNTINGFORD.

(Phone 65).

The Largest Collection
of Gifts in the Town.

Down Quilts, Blankets, Fancy Linens, Etc.
Ladies' Handkerchiefs, Silk Sets, Blouses & Jumpers.
Gents' Ties, Braces, Gloves, Pullovers & Cardigans.
Children's Toys and Books. Games. Dart Boards.
Scents, Stationery, Handbags, China, Etc.

to 60. Staff in the kennels and stables had been reduced by half to 5, most of the men had left to sign up. Local farmers had agreed to supply forage for the horses for the period of the war which would help with costs. They hoped the hunt would still be able to meet on Wednesdays and Saturdays with hopefully the occasional Monday.

One of the biggest changes due to the war was the publication of the Gazette itself. Due mainly to national paper shortages the paper changed in May 1940 to a monthly edition but this changed in June to a fortnightly paper. However, the paper eventually closed so the people of Buntingford had to rely on the Hertfordshire Mercury or the Royston Crow for news. What was published was heavily censored with very little news of bombings or results of action on the front.

Our next meeting will be on **January 13th 2026** at the United Reformed Church at 2pm. The talk will be on the history of the Buntingford Journal. Its £2 per person which includes tea or coffee all are welcome.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Ken McDonald, Secretary



The Hundred Parishes Society is not a church or religious organisation but we encourage visits to churches because they are often the oldest and most interesting building in any community. Most of our churches are open regularly and welcome visitors. Our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk has many short articles, including some about various aspects of churches including bells, clocks, memorials, poppyheads, spires, towers and windows. We recently added an article about church fountains, some of which appears in the next few paragraphs.

Fountains hold holy water which is used to 'baptise' people, an initiation into the Christian faith. They are often situated near the church entrance. Our local churches have a great variety of fountains, usually made of stone. For example . .

St. George's church in Anstey has an 11th-century fountain that is rare in that it is decorated with mermen (the male equivalent of mythical mermaids) holding their tails.

Thorley church has a 12th-century fountain. It was removed from the church and for many years was used as a drinking trough on a nearby farm before being reintroduced into the church in 1855. Its ornate cover was designed by George Gilbert Scott, a prolific architect known mainly for his work designing and renovating churches and cathedrals.

Chickney church has a carved stone fountain from the 14th century. The bowl is lavishly decorated including shields bearing the coats of arms of local Braybrook and Fitzwalter families.

Debden's 18th-century fountain is made of Coade stone and is richly decorated with roses and heraldry.

Over the last couple of years, I have been giving a talk entitled "A peek inside some Hundred Parishes churches" to local groups. The talk is a PowerPoint presentation with many photos. If your group might be interested, please contact me on hundredparishes@btinternet.com .



Chickney



Thorley



Debden



Anstey

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



On behalf of the Buntingford Branch of the Royal British Legion, we would like to thank everyone who attended the annual Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 9th November and also the Armistice Day Service at the War Memorial on the 11th. Also, thank you to the Church leaders, the Town dignitaries and those who laid wreaths; together you help to ensure that these very important events continue seamlessly. It is always heart-warming to see so very many people willing to turn out to recognise and remember those who have fallen and to donate to the Royal British Legion enabling us to continue to support those in need. Our initial count suggests that our town has raised around £8,500 for this year's Poppy Appeal. Well done, Buntingford!

You do not have to have served in the Armed Forces to become a member of the Legion. The charity is open to everyone who has an interest and it is so easy to join. Just go to www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/membership/become-a-member or simply Google RBL membership. Becoming a member does not mean you have to serve on any committees or do anything beyond what you already do (although we wouldn't discourage you if you wanted to get more involved.) We would just love to add you to our list of supporters. Thank you.

We will remember them.

Attend2Health Celebrates 18 Years of Helping Buntingford Feel Better

At the end of October, Attend2Health celebrated an incredible milestone — 18 years of helping the people of Buntingford feel better.

Over the years, Attend2Health has grown from a small local clinic into a thriving multidisciplinary health centre. It's been wonderful to see how the clinic has evolved, especially since expanding into our new premises five years ago, allowing us to offer a much wider range of services and treatments under one roof. We are also multi award winning having picked up awards in customer service, and being named the British Chiropractic Association's clinic of the year in 2023. This year we are up for the Great British Entrepreneur Award at the end of November.

Today, Attend2Health provides care for people of all ages — from babies to the elderly. Our team offers both hands-on treatment and tailored exercise programmes to help patients recover from injuries, improve mobility, and maintain their overall wellbeing.

One of our osteopaths, Meghan, has a special interest in treating babies. A recent parent shared: *"Meghan is very gentle and works wonders for my baby. Highly recommend!"*

We're also proud of our physiotherapy team, who help patients get back to doing what they love. One delighted patient said: *"Top class physio. Cannot recommend Attend2Health highly enough. Got my running back on track following a broken foot bone. Now on course to run my 70th birthday marathon in October. Excited again!"*

In addition to chiropractic, physiotherapy, osteopathy, and massage therapy, we also offer audiology services, including ear wax removal and hearing aids. Our hearing aids range from £900 to £2,500, with many models cheaper than those available at Boots.

At Attend2Health, we take pride in creating a friendly, professional, and supportive clinic where patients' needs always come first. We're continually exploring new ways to expand our services and support our community's health even further.

We'd like to thank all our patients — past and present — for your trust and support over the past 18 years. Here's to many more years of helping Buntingford feel better!

Here's a few photos of how the clinic has changed over the years!





The
United
Reformed
Church

CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA

www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

 URCbuntingford

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

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

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

December	7	Children's Service	Rev Sue Fender
	14	Holy Communion	Rev David Tatum
	21	Carol Service	Rev Allen Morton
	25	Christmas Day Service	The Elders At 10.00 am
January	28	Morning Worship	Peter Godbert
	4	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	11	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
	18	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
February	25	Morning Worship	Rev Sue Fender
	1	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender

Regular Events

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

We are holding an Ecumenical Advent Bible Study course on the 3rd , 10th & 17th December..

We meet for lunch from 12.30

Bring your own lunch. Tea & coffee will be provided and our bible study will run from 1.00 – 2.00 pm.

COFFEE & COMPANY

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



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

UNITED BENEFICE OF ASPENDEN, BUNTINGFORD & WESTMILL

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright



OUR SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2025

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

Please see our poster for all our Christmas Services on p.34

Sunday 28th	9:30am	Benefice Together Advent Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
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JANUARY 2026

Sunday 4th	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion Service	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 11th	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
Sunday 18th		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 25th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	11:00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford

*Please check our website for further details of St Peter's reopening

REGULAR EVENTS AT ST MARY'S, *ST PETER'S & ST MARY THE VIRGIN



Prayer for Buntingford Walk

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

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



Little Lambs at St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Every Wednesday in term time 10-11:30am for pre-school children and their grown-ups. Songs, a bible story and prayer along with activities and playtime. A very informal social and worship occasion for pre-school children and their carers. There is a short service with songs and prayer followed by a story and activities for the children including toys.



Morning Prayer

9am Every Tuesday at St Mary the Virgin Westmill, Wednesday St Peter's Buntingford and

Thursday at St Mary's Aspenden mornings. We pray together using the Church of England Daily Prayer book, with bible readings, a reflection and a psalm. It is a quiet, gentle gathering to prepare for the day ahead. Please contact us for the link.



Monday Morning Coffee is back at St Peter's Church

Held every Monday (except bank holidays) A chance to meet up with old friends and meet new ones. All ages welcome. A huge thank you to The Crown Pub for allowing to use the pub enabling our coffee morning to continue whilst our restoration works were carried out.

Pancake Day Event

Tuesday 17th February

4pm

St Peter's Church



Calling all children and their parents/grandparents/carers



To register please scan the QR code

Pudding & Pondering Evening



A relaxed evening to enjoy puddings and to ponder some of life's big questions. No charge for entry. If you'd like to come along, please use the QR code or contact Revd Kirsty Wainwright at vwcarabw@gmail.com

Saturday 24th January 2026

6:00 – 7:30pm

Manor House, Market Hill, Buntingford

Scan to book your place



CONTACT DETAILS

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

email: unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com | 07484 345 027

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

St Mary's Church Aspenden Website



St Mary the Virgin Church Westmill Website



St Peter's Church Buntingford Website



Celebrate Christmas with Us

St Mary's Aspenden, St Peter's Buntingford & St Mary the Virgin Westmill

We have lots of events and services to prepare you for Christmas.
You are very welcome to join us at any of these services in our churches.

*** Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Aspenden**

Saturday 13th December, 10am – 4pm

Sunday 14th December, 11am – 4pm

Thursday 18th December, 7:30pm - Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's Aspenden

***Saturday 20th December, 4pm - Cakes and Carols at St Peter's Buntingford**

Sunday 21st December, 4pm - Quiet Christmas at St Peter's Buntingford

***Christmas Eve 24th December, Crib Service**

2pm at St Peter's Buntingford

4pm at St Mary's Aspenden

5pm at St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Christmas Eve 24th December, 11:15pm - Midnight Mass at St Mary the Virgin Westmill

***Christmas Day 25th December,**

9:30am - All Age Holy Communion at St Mary's Aspenden

10:15am - All Age Holy Communion at St Peter's Buntingford



***Services & Events suitable for children**

BUNTINGFORD SCOUT GROUP SANTA RUN 2025

30TH NOV 430PM

FREMAN DRIVE
CHEQUERS CLOSE
VICARAGE ROAD
HONEY LANE
WYDDIAL ROAD
BRIDEWELL CLOSE
CHURCH STREET
HIGH STREET
NORFOLK ROAD

1ST DEC 6PM

HARE STREET ROAD
SUNNY HILL
PADDOCK ROAD
PIPKIN DRIVE
ALDRIDGE WAY
SPENCER CLOSE
WARBOYS

2ND DEC 6PM

LUYNES RISE
FAIRFIELD
ABRAHAMS
DRIVE

3RD DEC 6PM

STATION ROAD
SNELLS MEAD
DRAY GARDENS

5TH DEC 6PM

REDROW
WOODS WAY
HUMMERSTON

6TH DEC 5PM

BOWLING GREEN LANE
GREENWAYS
WHITE HART CLOSE
MONKS WALK
LONGMEAD

7TH DEC 430PM

THE VILLAGE
LONDON ROAD
LAYSTON MEADOWS
CROUCH GARDENS
OLVEGA DRIVE

PLEASE DONATE
[PAYPAL.ME/BUNTINGFORDSCOUTS](https://www.paypal.me/buntingfordscouts)



FOLLOW US ON OUR LIVE TRACKER
EACH EVENING POSTED ON FACEBOOK

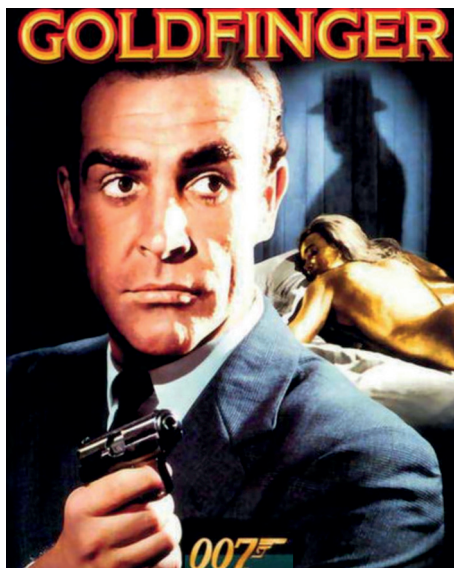




BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

David Woollcombe



GOLDFINGER

Saturday 10th January 2026 at 7.30pm

We start the new year with a Crash Bang Wallop of a Champagne Gala and our first-ever showing of a Bond Film. Thought by many to be the best Bond ever, Goldfinger has Sean Connery in the one with Pussy Galore and Oddjob + his lethal bowler hat. It has the attempt to rob Fort Knox + many other delightful insanities with Bond in his Aston Martin in hair-raising car chases and helicopter antics! Just what you need to blow away the post-Christmas blues and welcome the New Year with a Glass of Champagne provided through the generous sponsorship of our very own Phil Walker of Walker's Garage, Buntingford! Come enjoy the Best Bond in his Best Outing. Dress? – To Kill of course!



BRIEF ENCOUNTER

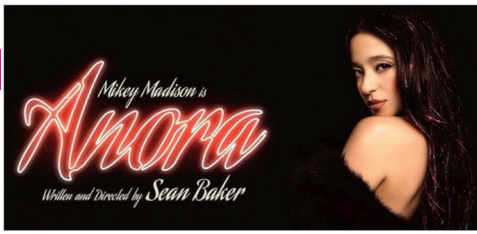
Saturday 7th February at 7.30pm

And then – for something completely different – we have the acclaimed romantic classic of British cinema, BRIEF ENCOUNTER – the story of a perfect wife, Celia Johnson, led astray by the dashing handsome Trevor Howard in Carnforth Station Café. Driven into each other's arms by the war, the film works because of Noel Coward's pitch perfect dialogue, David Lean's sensitive direction, Robert Krasker's moody black and white photography and the surging passion of Rachmaninov's 2nd piano concerto. Come and see it on the big screen and remember why it features in many people's top ten movies of all time!

All films at the Community Centre, Luynes Rise, Buntingford SG9 9SG

All Tickets: £9.00 (to include a glass of wine or beer + crisps) at: www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub

or in person at: Jonathan Hunt, 8 High St. Buntingford SG9 9AG



Classic Films: in the New Year

Buntingford Cinema is bringing back its Classic Film series to the Buntingford Bowls Club on Wyddial Road with two of the only four films ever to have won both Best Film Oscars and the Palme d'Or in Cannes. They are not to everyone's taste but for those who enjoy brilliant film-making, both are terrifically well-crafted. On **Tuesday 20th January**, we're showing the 2025 Oscar Best Film, **ANORA** – the

story of a Brooklyn stripper who marries the son of a Russian Oligarch with explosive consequences. Then on **Tuesday February 17th**, we're showing the only foreign language film ever to win a Best film Oscar, the Korean thriller: **PARASITE**. No need to book: just come, bring your own drinks, give us the suggested donation: £5 – and enjoy an evening of very great, very unusual art cinema!

SMALL SCHOOL, BIG WIN: RURAL SANDON JMI SCHOOL WINS FIGHT TO STAY OPEN

Gay Ayton
www.sandon.herts.sch.uk



Sandon JMI School has won the fight to stop Hertfordshire County Council proceeding to closure consultation, much to the relief of the whole community.

Following weeks of uncertainty and a passionate campaign from governors, parents and residents, HCC has confirmed that Sandon School will be open for the academic year 2026-27, giving valuable time to secure the school's long-term future.

Over 300 signed a petition and wrote letters to the Council calling for the school to remain open and highlighting the long-term consequences of losing such an important rural institution.

Local MP Chris Hinchliff also backed the campaign, visiting the school and writing an

open letter to the Council himself stating that "Village schools are more than places of learning. They are community hubs, deeply woven into the social and cultural fabric of their villages. Their closure would not only remove local education provision but also risk long-term damage to the cohesion and sustainability of rural life in these areas. Once village schools are closed, they rarely return."

"This is a real victory for Sandon and the future of our village schools," said Mr Hinchliff. "Sandon JMI is more than a place of education—it's a vital part of the community. I'm proud to have stood with parents, staff, and governors in making the case for its future."

Under Sandon JMI's new Headteacher, Ricky Boxall, the school is already seeing a rise in pupil numbers with growing demand from families particularly from surrounding towns, including Buntingford, seeking a choice from the larger mainstream offering.

"We are hearted by the immediate and passionate response and it's clear how much this school means to everyone. Our school offers a truly special environment. We firmly believe small schools have unique strengths and we will continue to advocate for rural education." said headteacher, Ricky Boxall.



As we near the end of the Autumn term, we take the time to reflect on what has been a busy term.

School Trips and Experience Days

Our curriculum has been enriched with a range of school trips for the Autumn Term, so far these include:

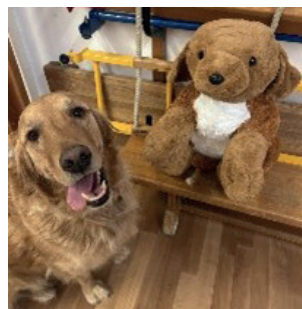
- **Great Fire of London Experience Day** for Year 2 children
- **Egyptian Experience Day** for Year 4 children
- **Gun Powder Plot Workshop** for Year 1 children
- **STEM Discovery Centre in Stevenage** for Year 3 children
- **Christ Church Christingle Service** for Reception children

Remembrance Service

It was a pleasure to see so many Millfield children and families, as well as our local community at the Remembrance Service in Buntingford. Our Assembly Committee, along with Mrs Kennedy-Weeks, represented Millfield and laid a wreath at the war memorial.



It was an honour to be part of such a respectful and heartfelt community service. Within our school community, we continued to pay our respects by creating poppy displays throughout the school, offering everyone an opportunity to pause and reflect on the sacrifices of others.



Blue, our School Therapy Dog

Blue's therapy training is progressing really well with the

support of his dedicated dog handlers and the PAWS team. This term we introduced Teddy-Blue who has joined our wellbeing team to provide additional support for children and to help them learn about the care, training and understanding of dogs. Together, Blue and Teddy-Blue will bring even more smiles, comfort and calm to our school community. We're so excited for all the 'paws-itive' moments ahead!

The Cabin Update

The Cabin is our community classroom, used for a variety of purposes, including our wraparound care provision. We're so excited about the recent updates to The Cabin! With an outside canopy area, brand-new sink area, cozy seating and beautiful displays, it's now an even warmer and more inviting space for our children to enjoy.



Layston Grove Visit

It was great to get out into the community and visit Layston Grove Care Home with the school council children. The children created christmas crafts with the residents. Thank you to Layston Grove for having us.

Christmas Festivities

At Christmas time there is always lots happening at Millfield from Nativity Plays, Christmas Carol performances, Christmas crafts and Pantomime Performances. It's an exciting time of year when we also participate in Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save the Children and enjoy our annual Christmas Lunch.

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

Applications for Nursery Provision for 2 Year Olds and 3 Year Olds and Reception September 2026:

If you have a child starting in Nursery or Reception in September 2026 the application processes are now open:

- For Millfield Nursery Provision for 2 Year Olds and 3 Year Olds please contact us directly: admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk or 01763 271 717. For more information view our website Nursery Admissions | Millfield First and Nursery School
- For Millfield Reception, please follow the application process via Hertfordshire County Council: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/school-admissions-and-transport.aspx>

The closing date for applications is Thursday 15th January 2026.

If you would like to know more about our School, please visit our website www.millfield.herts.sch.uk or contact the school on 01763 271 717.

Social Media

Discover all things Millfield by visiting our school website, Facebook page, and Instagram.



Instagram





Become a

Governor at our School

Millfield are looking for new co-opted governors to join our friendly and supportive Governing Body. Our Governors come from many different backgrounds with a range of skills and experiences, but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our school and are willing to commit time and energy.

Why get involved?

Develop your own skills:

Volunteering as a school governor helps you to learn and grow plus it looks great on your CV.

Board-level experience:

It's an opportunity to gain experience in a leadership role and influence strategic direction.

Build a network:

You'll connect with others in your community from different occupations and backgrounds.

Community contribution:

It's a chance to give something back to your local community.

Impact:

You'll make a positive difference to the educational outcomes of children and young people.

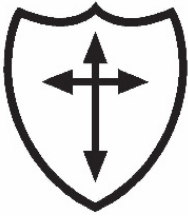
All skills and experiences are valuable: You don't need to work in education - many different skills and experiences bring value to our school governing body.

It's open to everyone: You don't need any specific qualifications as we welcome expressions of interest from anyone in the local community.

Further information about the governor role is on our school website: www.millfield.herts.sch.uk/governors

To find out more, we encourage you to contact the School and ask to speak with the Governance Professional Clerk.

Email: admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk Tel: 01763 271717 Website: www.millfield.herts.sch.uk



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL

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

www.layston.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Adele McMurrough, Headteacher

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

We have been thinking about the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought in the wars to secure our peace and freedom. As part of Buntingford's memorial service,



Mrs McMurrough and two pupils laid a wreath in honour of those who have died in conflict.

The children have engaged in a wonderful second half

term of learning with a special focus on history, visiting 'Celtic Harmony' and learning about the Celts in Y3.

In November, to celebrate Friendship Anti-bullying week, the children took part in a range of activities and team games. They showed great friendship and compassion towards each other.

Our Y3 & Y4 children took part in a cross country event with other first schools from the Rib Valley partnership. The children demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and teamwork. Well done Layston children.

Our children had a wonderful morning when they had a visit from the Pop Up Activity Village. The children had great

fun and were able to experience lots of different role play areas. They were sharing and working together turn taking to enjoy all the activities on offer.

We are now planning and looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and Christmas through our nativity and pantomime performances.

I am pleased to be able to inform our community that the pre-school here at Layston will be continuing under new management next term. Squiggles Pre-Schools already run 2 settings in Hertfordshire and are very much looking forward to opening a third. We look forward to working with them in the future.

To find out more about our school please visit our website at www.layston.herts.sch.uk. We have a planned open morning for prospective YR parents for 2026 on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 9:30-10:30am.

Wishing peace and goodwill to all from Layston First 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.

Harvest Service

As I write this in mid-November, we are excited as we plan for the approaching Christmas season, our choir are practicing for our first carols of the year at the Lights of



Love festival in Buntingford high street. They will follow this with visits to local residential homes for OAP's and to Lister Hospital where they will sing to patients in the children's ward.

At this time of year, when we come to the end of each day and meet in the hall for COWO, the lights of the candles burn brightly as the darkness of the evening surrounds us and we welcome God into our worship. We find the winter solstice a magical time and if our children cannot find the spirit of worship, they can gaze longingly from the 1st of December at the World's largest chocolate calendar that hangs from the ceiling in the hall!

At Christmas we remind students of the true meaning of Christmas the giving and that by giving, this can create a special feeling of goodness in us all. Giving is the magic of Christmas, and our tutor groups will once again be supporting the most vulnerable in our community by donating Christmas gift hampers to the food bank families within our community.



What did we get up to last half term?

We are very grateful to Aspenden Church for hosting a harvest festival service on the last day of term. The school walked in year groups in the beautiful Autumn sunshine, helped over the fields by our lovely Parents to the church to sing and celebrate the wonderful food that we are so privileged to take for granted. We made sure we had time to walk, kick and play in the Autumn leaves before returning to school.

Last half term we spent time supporting our school's wellbeing and celebrating nature, by getting out and about. Over 4 years, we try to complete as many of the challenges set by the National Trust who list 50 things to do before you are 11 and $\frac{3}{4}$. We extend the time to



13! As well as our conker tournament, we spent time running and rolling down the large hill at Aspenden.

We are starting a 5-year project with the Woodland Trust to expand the number of trees and hedging on our site. We begin with Charles III Coronation celebration an avenue of trees at our lower entrance will be planted in mid-November.

Once again, we hosted a huge open evening with over 400 people attending to view the school and take a tour with our year 6 and 8 guides. It was lovely to see our students wanting to share all with the parents and prospective year 4's.

How are we living up to our vision and LIVING life in all its Fullness?

As part of being a Church school we support students to become courageous advocates, giving the message that however difficult things are they can together create change. Part of this work is to allow students to volunteer to raise funds and to run Fullness days for their suggested charity. We started in September with a group of year 8 boys raising funds for Cancer Research. They spent time talking to students about why this was close to their hearts. They organised a bake sale, non-uniform day and a talent show to support their fundraising efforts and eventually ended up with £820.27 for the charity. This half term a year 6 pupil is courageously talking about her own brain injury, the impact it had on her, and how a charity supported her and her family to recover.

In Living life in all its Fullness, we know that fun is an important part of a child's early years and spend time making sure we plan for it within the school calendar. Students love enrichment trips and this term Year

5 and 6 were treated to a taste of a very different hot chocolate on their recent Mayans day at school while year 7 spent joyous time together at their Residential.

UK Parliament Talk

Our year 7 and 8 students had a talk about how the UK Parliament works. This was led by a member of Parliamentary staff. The session included

- Democracy and the work of Parliament.
- The role of MPs and the House of Lords.
- How laws are made.
- The difference between Parliament and Government.
- How young people can get involved and have their voices heard.

Year 7 Residential



At the end of September, our year 7 enjoyed their residential to Essex Outdoors Bradwell.

Christmas Services

During December you will see us out and about attending our Christmas service, and singing at Buntingford Christmas market The Lights of Love.

Our Christian Values:

Reverence, Wisdom, Thankfulness, Humility, Endurance, Service, Compassion, Trust, Peace, Forgiveness, Friendship, Justice, Hope, Creation, Community

2 025 was a great year for Buntingford Live and we have lots of exciting events already booked for 2026.

Here are the dates for your diaries.

- **Friday 20th March**
Acoustic Night
- **Saturday 28th March** One Woman Show with Liz Grand 'The Second Best Bed'
- **Friday 10 April** Comedy Night
- **Friday 24th April** Westmill Concert with St. Edmund's Young Musicians

- **Friday 29th May** Drag Night
- **Sunday 7th June** An afternoon of Jazz with The Peter Rudeforth Band in The Stables Garden.

There will be more detailed information on all these events in the February Issue of the Journal.

In the meantime, please visit our website for updated news and to book tickets.

Buntingfordlive.org

NB: We are now a registered charity. Our number is: 1211162

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!
A CELEBRATION OF
Christmas
A selection of Christmas songs, carols and readings featuring pupils from St. Edmund's College
St. Richard of Chichester Church, Buntingford SG9 9HT
Friday 12th December, 7pm

£3
£3 includes a glass of wine and mince pie, to be served in Bensen Hall following the concert

Donations to Home-Start Buntingford will be gratefully received on the evening.
HOME START Hertfordshire

Registered Charity Number: 1211162
Book online at buntingfordlive.org or scan the code

Farewell to 2025!



**BE PART
OF THE**

**BUNTINGFORD
LIVE!
TEAM**

Would you like to volunteer at some of our **Buntingford Live!** events? We would love you to come along and help some time.

Buntingford Live! is a charity run by volunteers in the community, for the community. We provide a platform for creative and performing arts events in and around Buntingford throughout the year.

Whether it's helping to set up the

venues, serving behind the bar or ushering guests, we would greatly value your time and support.

Whilst enjoying the event, you'll also be making a valuable contribution to your community, and sharing in the positive feeling we all get as volunteers at **Buntingford Live!**

Sound good? Please contact us at support@buntingfordlive.org or call Neil on 07354 795787.

Coming up – Rhythm & Booze and A Celebration Of Christmas. Scan the code for more details and to purchase tickets for either event.

Saturday 29th November



Friday 12th December

buntingfordlive.org
Enabling creative arts



Buntingford Live! Is a registered charity Number 1211162

WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 2025

Wednesday 3rd	Gardener's Club: Members Christmas Party p.16
Friday 5th	Braughing Get Together: Winter Supper p.18
Saturday 6th	St Nicholas Festive Fair
Saturday 6th	Film Club: Downton Abbey - The Grand Finale
Monday 8th	U3A: Capella Choir p.12
Thursday 11th	Library: Quiz Night p.8
Thursday 11th	WI: Christmas Celebration (all welcome) p.14
Friday 12th	Buntingford Live!: A Celebration of Christmas p.42
Friday 12th	BALA: Coffee Morning p.46
Sat 13th/ Sun14th	Aspenden Christmas Tree Festival
Monday 15th	Library: Christmas Baby Rhyme Time p.8
Tuesday 16th	Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18th	Library: Christmas Storytime & Crafts p.8
Friday 19th	Library: Christmas Soft Toy Sleepover p.8
Saturday 20th	Library: Christmas Storytime & Crafts p.8
Tuesday 23rd	Library: Jigsaw & Cards Christmas Crackers and Mince Pies p.8

JANUARY 2026

Friday 9th	Braughing Get Together: Beetle Drive p.18
Saturday 10th	Film Club: Goldfinger p.34
Monday 12th	U3A: Air Ambulance Talk p.12
Tuesday 13th	History Society: p.22
Friday 16th	BALA: Coffee Morning p.46
Saturday 17th	Reed Burns Night Supper p.9
Tuesday 20th	Film Club Classics: Anora p.34
Saturday 24th	Buntingford Repair Cafe

LOOKING AHEAD

7th Feb	Film Club: Brief Encounter p.34
9th Feb	U3A: Alzheimers UK
13th Feb	WI: Honeybees Talk p.14
13th/14th & 20/21st Feb	Buntingford Drama Society: This That and the Other p.13
17th Feb	Film Club Classics: Parasite p.34

**CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION
AND RECYCLING**
9th JANUARY - 12th JANUARY



REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	WEEKENDS:
From 8.30am: Buntingford Market		Buntingford Meditation Online at 8 pm and once a month in Saint Peter's Church.	10.30am–12.30: Coffee & Company in the URC Church Hall		Sun, 9am: Norfolk Road Playing Fields Junior Parkrun
10–11.45am: Chatter Table at the Manor House – 1st & 3rd Mondays		To join the group the best way is to contact me via the website - www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation	2–3pm: Mind & Music at Standon & Puckeridge CC		Sat, 10am: Walking Football at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields
Morning Coffee 10-12 St Peter's		New meditators are welcome and guidance is given on how to meditate in the sessions.			

EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY:

10.30–11am & 11:30 -12pm: Baby Rhyme Time (songs, rhymes, actions and puppets, for ages 6 weeks to 3 years)	10.30–12.30: Jigsaw & Chat club	11am: Chair Yoga with Kim	10.30 – 11am: Storytime (storytelling with props, for ages 2-5 years)	4-5pm: Lego Club for children	
11.45am–12.45pm: Forever Cycling at the Community Centre -1st & 3rd		10-11am Chatter & Natter, Buntingford Coffee Shop			
1.30 for 2pm: Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club at URC Hall		12- 4pm Braughing Shed Group, The Barn at Brook Cottage Farm Fernaux Pelham SG9 0LL contact: jacquithorne664@gmail.com or 07557 966 526			
7.30–9:15pm: Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School					

BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR THE LESS ABLE (BALA)

Registered Charity No. 1094426

MINIBUS TRIPS DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026

DATE	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
DECEMBER			
Thurs 4th	10.30-2	Scotsdales Garden centre	£6.50
Mon 8th	10-2.30	St Ives	£8
Wed 10th	9-3	Milton Keynes (approx. journey time 1 hr 15)	£13
Thurs 11th	12.45	The Fox, Aspenden (2 course carvery lunch £20)	£2
Wed 17th	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5
Fri 19th	10.30-2.30	Bury Lane/Dobbies	£5
JANUARY			
Tues 6th	9.30-1.30	Biggleswade, A1 Retail Park	£6.50
Fri 9th	10-2	Bickerdikes Garden Centre	£6
Thurs 15th	9.30-3	Bury St Edmunds	£12.50
Wed 21st	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 22nd	11-2.30	Burston Garden Centre	£8
Wed 28th	10-2.30	St Albans	£8
FEBRUARY			
Tues 3rd	9.30-1.30	Harlow	£7

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

To book a seat or for more information: 07870 638 480

(please be prepared to leave a message)

COFFEE MORNING

Friday 12th December 10-11:30am

Friday 16th January 10-11:30am

(sausage rolls, cakes, raffle)

at **URC Hall, Baldock Road**

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or call 01763 272 032

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

45 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AD

Tel: Stenfield Solicitors - 01763 295099
RS Property Lawyers - 01763 295096

Email: nicola@stenfield.com
nicola@rspropertylawyers.com

Web: www.stenfield.com
www.rspropertylawyers.com
nicola@rspropertylawyers.com

S | STENFIELD
SOLICITORS

RS | PROPERTY
LAWYERS

Stenfield Solicitors and RS Property Lawyers are regulated multidisciplinary law firms, each offering specialist legal services tailored to client needs.

Stenfield Solicitors specialises in litigation, matrimonial, family law, company law, commercial property, employment, wills and probate.

RS Property Lawyers is dedicated exclusively to residential conveyancing.

Our key objective is to provide solid, reliable, and cost-effective legal advice delivered in an efficient and friendly manner.

Our Buntingford branch looks forward to welcoming you.

Church of Saint Richard of Chichester

St Richard of Chichester Catholic Church
3 Station Road, Buntingford SG9 9HT
Telephone 01992 623156

Parochial Administrator: Father John Cunningham
Parish Deacon: Paul O'Connor

Regular Services at St Richard's Buntingford

Mass - Sunday 9.15am
Mass - Tuesday 7.30pm
Holy Hour - Friday 5.00pm

Services at St Thomas's Puckeridge

Mass - Sunday 11.00am
Mass - Thursday 12.30pm



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

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

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9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri



Unit 9, The Firs Watermill Ind
Estate, Aspenden Road,
Buntingford SG9 9JS



01763 271156



RECOVERY-EQUIPMENT.CO.UK

REED FIRST SCHOOL
WELCOMES YOU & YOUR FAMILY

Are you looking for a Nursery or First School place?
Nursery places can start the term children turn three.

Set in beautiful grounds, we are proud of our caring and inclusive environment. Our parents and children, staff and governors love being part of Reed First School and we would be pleased to welcome you too!

REED FIRST SCHOOL, JACKSON'S LANE, REED, SG8 8AB
admin@reed.herts.sch.uk | 01763 848304

www.reed.herts.sch.uk

WHERE THERE'S A WILL

After working as a solicitor for over 30 years, Kate Bennett now specialises in the writing of Wills and Powers of Attorney.



If you haven't done so already, for the sake of your loved ones, make your final wishes clear and get your affairs in order today.

For a trusted, experienced and straightforward service phone or email Kate to arrange an appointment to see her for a free no obligation meeting at your home.

Kate Bennett
07525 454160
kbennettlegal@gmail.com

KARATE AND SELF DEFENCE

AT BUNTINGFORD'S BEST
KARATE CLUB

OPEN TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 7:30PM
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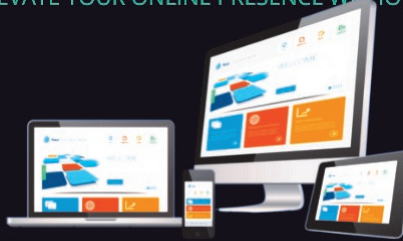
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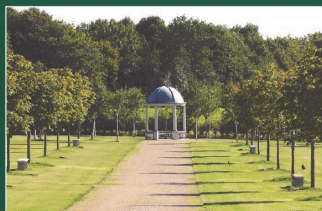
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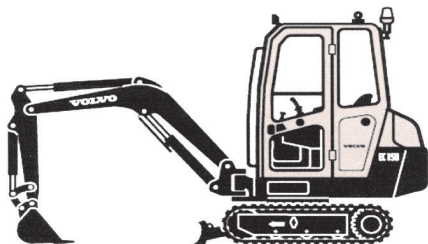


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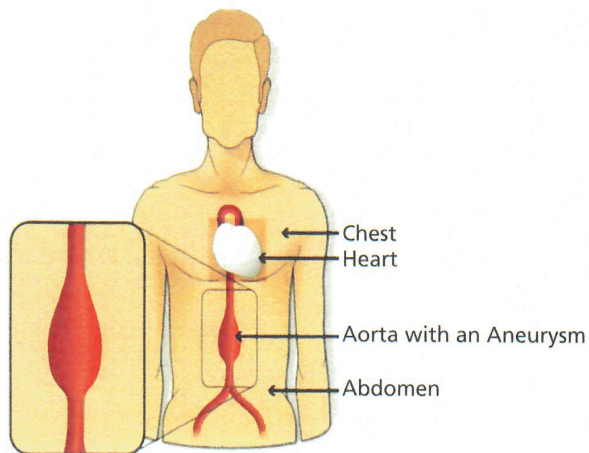
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WHO ARE WE?

We are your local amenity group, established in March 1971 initially as a conservation group covering the ancient parishes of Buntingford, Layston, Aspenden, Wyddial and Throcking. We obtained charity status in 1993. Our main aims are to secure the preservation, protection, development, 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 AND CONTINUE TO DO?

BCS have.....

- Introduced the Buntingford Journal in 1976.
- Restored the Town Pump twice and Town Cage once.
- Initiated erection of Christmas lights in the High Street and Market Hill.
- Presented an annual school civic award to Freman College.
- Updated the set of Town Trails with Discovering Buntingford booklet.
- Erected a Town Sign and replaced it on a like for like basis in 2018.
- Installed a seat on the hill to Layston Cemetery and paid for works at the Layston Cemetery.
- Erected Town Gateway signs complete with Planters.
- Contributed financially to Freman College sports hall, Buntingford Film Club, Buntingford Carnivals and "Summer Arts in Buntingford 2022" weekend.
- Start-up financial contribution to the Friends of the Rib and Quin.
- Paid for the Local History Group competition prizes in 2023.
- Carried out River Rib and town litter picks.
- Fitted a sign in the Police Station Community Garden and paid for new plants there in 2019.
- Were actively involved in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Arranged "Buntingford in Bloom" competitions.
- Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017.
- Paid for roses and a plaque in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and for the Coronation of King Charles III at the new Layston Cemetery in 2024.
- Hosted three Civic Day Heritage walks around the conservation area.
- Been actively involved in recent town celebrations to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, the Coronation of King Charles III and the 80th anniversary of D-Day and VE Day.

BCS will continue to.....

- Publish the Buntingford Journal.
- Monitor future planning applications and work with local organisations for the benefit of the Community
- Play an active role in the River Rib Improvement Project.
- Source a replacement plaque for The Cage .
- Host future Civic Day Heritage walks around the conservation area.
- Arrange future "Buntingford in Bloom" competitions.
- Present an annual civic award to Freman College.
- Pay for the maintenance of the Town Gateway Planters.

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Buntingford 2025

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

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But we can and we are here to help.

Victims of domestic abuse in more rural areas are often unprotected and isolated from help. A 2019 report¹ into domestic abuse in Yorkshire highlighted a number of shocking facts, including that the more rural the setting, the higher the risk of harm to the victim.

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



08 088 088 088

hertsdomesticabusehelpline.org

Call freephone 08 088 088 088
 Monday to Friday: 9am-5pm Weekends: 9am-4pm
 Or confidential email: kim@malpurple.org

Follow us
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Supported by charity no. 1040799 ¹ 'Gender and Control', commissioned by Julia McHugh, Chair of the National Rural Crime Network & Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire.

NEW!

Buntingford Men's Shed Group

NEW!

Tuesday 24 June
 2.00pm-4.00pm

The Manor House, Buntingford
 - then every Tuesday -

We are starting a **Men's Shed** in Buntingford. Whilst we are looking for a suitable venue we are going to hold regular weekly meet ups.

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

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

UK Men's Sheds Association

Contact Phil for more information:

email: philricketts@btinternet.com
 phone: 07896 860769



part of
 The Buntingford Community Project



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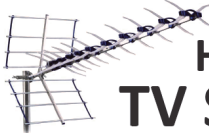
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Fitness Pilates

Tuesday 10am / Wednesday 6:30pm / Thursday 10am via ZOOM
Monday 7:15pm Layston School, Buntingford (with Cardio HIIT £10)
Wednesday 7:15pm Layston School (£6 or with strength HIIT £10)
Friday 10am The Scout Hut (£6 or with Full Body Workout £10)

A class that increases muscular balance and strength, improve posture, core and back strength

Variety Full Body Workouts

Cardio HIIT Mon 6:30pm Layston School (£6 / £10 with Pilates at 7:15)
HIIT Wednesday 6pm / Sunday 10am via ZOOM
Strength HIIT Wed 6:30pm Layston School (£6 or £10 with Pilates)
Full Body Friday 11am The Scout Hut (£6 or £10 with Pilates at 10am)

Cardio (non impact or impact), Strength, Toning & Balance, each week a different class

Dance Fit

Thursday 9:15am Seth Ward Community Centre (£6)

Dancing is great for losing weight, maintaining strong bones, improving posture & muscular strength, increases co-ordination and beats stress

All equipment provided, just bring yourself and water.

ZOOM classes available as pay £5 or £20 per month subscription
All venue classes are £6 pay as you go

Personal Training on a one to one basis using a variety of equipment in your Home. One to One Pilates also available.

Buntingford U3A –Monday Circuits 10:30am (spaces available) & Thursday Seated Full Body 1pm £4 with full membership

07956 647806 www.jacqui-smith.net theteam@jacqui-smith.net

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Do you enjoy the outdoors and have recently found yourself with more time on your hands? How about joining the Royston Ramblers?

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Our year-round Tuesday and Thursday morning walks are 5- 7miles, while Sunday's range from 9-12 miles. During the summer we also organise shorter walks of 3-4 miles on Wednesday evenings.

Royston Group is led by a band of experienced leaders, so all you need to do as a member, is turn up at a set time and location, generally within 20 miles of Royston, and enjoy the walk.

If you are interested, come along and see how you get on, with no obligation to join. You can view our walks programme and contact the walk leader, at www.ramblers.org.uk/royston and they will be pleased to welcome you or tel: 07734 111225 for further details.

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There are ample photo opportunities outside the classic Georgian frontage, on the staircase, in the garden or in the stunning Layston Court Gardens across the road.

For a full colour brochure contact :

Jill Jones-Town Clerk, The Manor House, Buntingford, Herts., SG9 9AB.

Or email : clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk Telephone: 01763 272 222

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

Gareth White Electrical Services



Welcome to Gareth White Electrical Services based in Buntingford: we are experienced and qualified electricians working with local home owners, landlords, developers, contractors and local businesses in and around Buntingford.

We are independent electrical contractors that place our customers first offering friendly, expert advice alongside our electrical services.

Every one of our jobs are different, however, we always maintain the same very high standards ensuring reliability, quality workmanship and fair pricing allowing us to provide the best possible service.

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