

THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL



READ ALL ABOUT OUR TOE TAPPING JUNE JAZZ EVENT

with the fantastic Peter Rudeforth Jazz Band p.42

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

July 2025 Volume 50 | Issue 6

£1.25



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Buntingford Medical Centre,
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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
RAPE, RACE or HATE CRIME**

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Non-emergency telephone: 101

In emergencies dial 999

Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999

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Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800

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Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60

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Bash volunteer drivers providing transport to medical
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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:
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Adult Care Services: 0300 123 4042

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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

As we head into the height of the British Summer time we have news of loads of events to keep you entertained and outside enjoying the sunshine (or showers...this is the UK after all!) In July we have the Harmonaries Choir on the 5th, the Buntingford Dramatic Society's intriguing new play on the 3/4/5th, the Town Council Summer Event and the Braughing Wheelbarrow Race on the 12th July and the Anstey Fair on the 13th. Plus all the school summer fetes and the Library Summer Reading Challenge. Details of all of these and more can be found within the pages of this issue.

As well as news and updates from local community groups we have two new groups advertising for members if you fancy trying something new, there is the Embroidery Group in Standon p.8 and the Men's Shed starting up here in Buntingford p12.

We also bring you the next instalment in the History Society's trip down memory lane of the pubs of Buntingford. And if, like me you like to walk around the countryside and often wonder what the different crops are in the fields then the 100 Parishes have some help for you in identifying the different crops. For example I thought that barley was just prettier frondy wheat...and I always wondered what the fields of purple flowers are!

I was lucky enough to get down to the Art Exhibition at Westmill last month and have to say what a wonderful experience it was, the standard of art was so high, we had a lovely time wandering around looking at the artwork - so thank you to the organisers and artists, I am already looking forward to next year!

Anne

BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

JULY 2025

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Keith Edwards

01763 272 032
advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

EDITORIAL DEADLINE

Editorial copy deadline for the next
Journal is: **13th JULY.**

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

Peter Rudeforth Jazz Band at the Buntingford Live! event on 8th June

Carol and Terry Noble of the Buntingford Civic Society Executive Committee led two Town Heritage walks on the 14th and 15th June in recognition of Civic Voice Day on the 14th June 2025. The walks detailed much of the history of our town, including the many coaching inns, churches, our very rare chalk stream, the River Rib, and featured some of the notable figures from our past. Bishop Seth Ward, the Reverend Alexander Strange and Monsignor Robert Hugh Benson plus Dr John Addenbrooke. Mention was made that our War memorial was designed by Claude Lovat Fraser, whose family lived in the town, and that many of the new housing estate roads are named after those that lost their lives in various 20th Century conflicts, and some history of an early Buntingford School, our Technical Institute and of the Town Workhouse. It is proposed that further walks will be arranged later in the year either in July or August. Details will be published in the August/September issue and our website and Facebook page.



Walkers outside the Crown Public House

Taking place at the end of June, is the **"Buntingford in Bloom Competition-2025"**. Judging will take place over the weekend on the **28th/29th June**, and the winners of the various categories will be announced via our website and social media and in the August/September issue of the Journal. July will also be a busy month with BCS members involvement in the Town Councils **Family Fun Day on 12th July**, at the Seth Ward C.C, a must if previous years are anything to go by. Live Bands, FREE Children's Fun Fair, Licensed Bar, Food Outlets, Dog Show and a Spectacular Finale.

Well, that's all from me for now until the August/September Journal, so to all our members and Journal Readers, the BCS Executive Committee hope you have an amazing early Summer.

Graham Waite

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society



Walkers outside the Seth Ward Alms Houses



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

We are now nearing our Summer Event, to take place on the recreation field behind the Seth Ward Community Centre. The event will be on **Saturday 12th July** starting at 2pm until 10.30pm. There will be a free fun fair and face painting for the younger guests and live music, food outlets, bar and dog show. The dog show is being run by our local animal rescue charity RATS. The event will end with a laser light show. Please come along and make the most of the attractions, weather permitting it should be a good day for everyone.

The Town Council is happy to announce that it has now taken ownership of Layston Court Gardens which was previously leased from East Herts Council. This has secured the future of the gardens for residents. We have planned maintenance work in the gardens which will be closed from Saturday 26th July and re-open after lunch on Monday 28th July, during this time there will be no access for pedestrians, apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. Notices will be placed nearer the time.

The Manor House is licensed for Civil Ceremonies and many local residents have held their marriage ceremonies in the Grade II Listed Building. Ideal for small ceremonies of up to approximately 30 guests. All enquiries to the Clerk's office where we will be happy to show you around and answer any questions.

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.

Details of the July 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 July are:

Thursday 3rd July	7pm	Amenities Committee.
Thursday 10th July	7pm	Planning and 7:15pm Resources Committee
Thursday 31st July	7pm	Planning Committee and 7.15pm Full Council.

All meetings held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise.

MEDICAL CENTRE ALLEYWAY

Willa Appleyard

Fill Out A Form To Save The Alleyway To The Medical Centre

There's a small alleyway in the corner of the Medical Centre car park that takes you down towards the High Street.

It is a permissive path, which means our right to use it could be removed.

If we can prove it's been in regular use for over 20 years, we can apply to the Council to change it to a Public Right of Way.

IF YOU USE THE PATH ON A REGULAR BASIS, PLEASE FILL OUT A FORM

Forms can be collected from and returned to:

- The Manor House
- The Library
- Willa Appleyard at 93 High Street

Don't worry about sections you can't fill in; I'll complete them on my form.

If you have any questions, please get in touch on 07785 308 882 or email willa_appleyard@onetel.com.

Thank you, *Willa Appleyard*

STANDON EMBROIDERY GROUP

Barbara Norris

The monthly Standon Embroidery Group is seeking new members as it has several vacancies. It meets the second Tuesday of the month in Standon Village Hall from 2pm - 4pm under the expert tutor Julie Walsby.

So why not come along and learn the art of hand embroidery.

For further information call Barbara on 01920 - 822 104 or email her on robertnorris591@btinternet.com.

The cost is £7 per person per month which includes the cost of hiring the hall.



ANSTEY FAIR

Dave Kellett

The Anstey Fair will once again be held on **13th July** in St George's Fields, behind the Church. Free car parking with admission for adults at £3.00. No charge for children. Besides the usual stalls the following will be available:

- Bar
- BBQ
- Teas
- Nearly new clothing
- Tombola and raffle
- Miniature train
- Children's games
- Ice creams
- Bell ringing experience opportunity
- Dog Show - kindly run by Gemma Berry of Little Gems in Buntingford
- Morris Dancers (tbc)

Last year's fair was very successful. This year's promises to be even better!

HOME START NEEDS YOU!!

Royston, Buntingford &
South Cambridgeshire

At the heart of Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire lies a small but mighty charity that's quietly transforming lives: Home-Start RBSC. For 42 years, we've been a trusted source of support for families with young children who are struggling to cope. Whether due to mental health challenges, financial hardship, disability, isolation, or just the everyday pressures of parenthood, our trained volunteers offer a friendly, non-judgemental hand to help families through tough times.



We know that childhood can't wait – and that early help makes a lifelong difference.

From in-home support to running weekly family group sessions and organising fun, confidence-boosting outings, we're all about giving local children the best start in life. But we can't do it alone. As demand for our services grows, we're reaching out to the community we proudly serve to ask for your help.

Here's how you can get involved:

- ♥ Volunteer with us – We need compassionate individuals to support our family group sessions or help at fundraising events throughout the year.
- ♥ Become a regular donor – Monthly giving, however small, helps us plan ahead and ensure no family is left behind.
- ♥ Make us your Charity of the Year – Companies can have a big impact while boosting staff engagement and social value.
- ♥ Sponsor a family day out – We're seeking support to fund our annual summer trip to Standalone Farm – a cherished highlight for many of the families we help.
- ♥ Join our fundraising team – Have great ideas and a knack for events? Become a Team Leader and help organise our community fundraisers.
- ♥ Donate quality goods – We're always on the lookout for prizes for our raffles, which raise vital funds.

Whatever your skills, time or resources – you can be part of something meaningful right on your doorstep.

For more info visit www.hspsc.org.uk or email admin@hspsc.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you have any of the following repair skills?

Upholstery
Carpentry/Woodwork
Electrical Appliances
Mechanical
Bike Maintenance

Clothes alterations
IT Assistance
Computers/phones
Tool Sharpening
Toys

Would you be interested in donating your expertise & time as part of our Buntingford Repair Café, launching later this year?

If so, we would love to hear from you!

For more information contact [Madela](mailto:madela1@hotmail.co.uk)

email: madela1@hotmail.co.uk

phone: 07778 298605

The Buntingford Community Project

After five years as a community organisation, Friends of the Rib and Quin (FORQ) is reshaping itself into a less formal entity. As a result, some activities will continue, such as Riverfly monitoring and working with local schools, but attending events, writing articles for local journals and maintaining our website and social media will not be so regular or will cease.

Our objectives in setting up FORQ were three-fold - to raise awareness of the special nature our two local chalk streams and the challenges they face; to benchmark the wildlife in our catchment area, both in and out of the rivers, and to campaign for remedies to the problems of pollution and abstraction of the aquifer that significantly impact our chalk streams. The FORQ Executive believe we have achieved some successes against those objectives. Locally more people and organisations know of our chalk streams, their rarity and their ecological importance. The number of Riverfly monitoring surveys now totals three figures and nearly 1000 different species have been identified in our catchment through our iNaturalist Community recording scheme.

Despite this, our local chalk streams are officially classed as being in a "poor ecological condition" – as are many in the region - and this will not improve until solutions to the fundamental challenges of pollution and abstraction to this country's rivers and seas are addressed; but this is a long way off.

Going forward and with increasing urgency, our hope is that solutions will be found to the benefit of ALL our rivers and coastal areas, not just the chosen few, and that a better system of control, governance and environmental protection is found to

manage our catchments. The current system is broken. We also hope that local councils and councillors will find the courage to stand up for their local communities and natural environments and challenge the words and assurances of the water companies in making planning decisions without effective infrastructure in place. If anything has been demonstrated in recent years, it is that the water industry cannot be trusted. The public can see this, so why do councils accept their word? Unfortunately, a change of government has not changed this dogma.

This change to our organisation will mean we will close our bank account and it provides us with the opportunity to disperse our remaining funds to local organisations we would like to support. In doing so, we hope to continue to benefit both our local wildlife and our children's appreciation and awareness of our special local natural history and environment.

With this objective in mind, we will be making donations to Barley & Barkway First Schools Federation, Roger de Clare First School and 1st Braughing Scout Group. We think this appropriate in the context of the work they continue to do in introducing their young people to our local chalk streams and their biodiversity.

This juncture also provides the opportunity for us to thank those who have supported us. Individual contributions have been wide and varied, from providing venues for meetings to wonderful writing on our community's history and geography, from hours spent collecting, analysing and counting river invertebrates to the financial support of our parish councils . Our personal thanks to all of you.

FORQ Executive Committee.



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Fitness Pilates, Circuits, Dance Fit, HIIT, Hooping, Boxing & Mindfulness Classes and workshops

WWW.JACQUI-SMITH.NET

07956 647806

June was a busy month, we had our first evening move, meditate & relax session. Another is available is on the 9th July, see opposite.

We still have a few subsidised places (£30.00) for our Move Meditate & Relax on 19th July and 20th December at Ware Priory. September session is now fully booked. 9.30am-1.30pm.

Includes entry drinks and Danishes and a cold buffet lunch. Tea, Coffee and Biscuits throughout.

And our School Holiday Camps are back at Layston School:

**Tuesday's Thursday's & some Wednesday's
Layston School
1-5pm**

HAPPY Camps are activity camps offering children the opportunity to take part in sports, physical activity and arts & crafts, and enjoy a meal with friends while having fun during the holidays.

£12 per session

Parents of children eligible to attend FREE, you will need to be given an unique HAPPY Booking Code to book on via the School



Move, Meditate & Relax with Alice & Jacqui



9th July 2025

Layston School 6.30pm-8pm
(outside if weather permits)

Gentle Movement & Stretch
Breathwork
Tea Break
Relaxation



Donations to Community Initiative Charity
£10.00

Subsidised by Community Initiative Charity
Registration No 1109106

Please do refer to community initiative website below for more information and other workshops we are running



Want to come to an Exercise Class or fancy one of our FREE workshops then contact me on: 07956 647 806

Jacqui Smith Personal Trainer & Chair of Community Initiative Charity

www.communityinitiativecharity.com | www.jacqui-smith.net



NEW!

Buntingford Men's Shed Group

NEW!

Every Tuesday (from 24 June)
2.00pm-4.00pm

at The Manor House, Buntingford

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 info:

email: philricketts@btinternet.com

phone: 07896 860769



part of
The Buntingford Community Project



FINDING A JOB

My son and I are both struggling to find work at the moment. He's just finished university and looking for his first job, and I'm retired but need to top up my income. We've both been sending out applications for a while now, could unpaid work help us find something?

Whether you're trying to get into work for the first time or after time off, finding a job can be really challenging.

It's always a good idea to think about what skills or experience you could be missing for the kind of work you want, especially when feeling stuck after weeks or months of sending out job applications.

If you can afford to take unpaid work, it can be a good way to plug gaps in your CV and get a taste for different types of jobs. These sorts of roles usually come in the form of volunteering, work experience, or internships.

If you receive welfare benefits, you should check the Citizens Advice website or speak to an adviser before taking unpaid work.

And because the rules around unpaid internships are complicated, you should get advice on being paid less than minimum wage before applying to this type of role.

Volunteer roles are often well-defined and can expose you to specific types of work, whether you're looking for experience in an office or something more practical, like supporting people in your local community. Charities, including Citizens Advice, usually have a range of opportunities available.

Being a volunteer doesn't just give you a chance to learn and improve skills that are transferable to paid work, it can also help you gain confidence and self-esteem in a professional setting, and provide structure to your day or week.

This can set you up well for job applications and interviews by showing employers you've got transferable skills, relevant experience, and are ready to enter paid work. Just like any job advert, you can find plenty of volunteering opportunities online, so it's well worth seeing what's out there if you're interested.

If you need advice, the quickest way is to call our Message Line 01920 459 944 Mon – Thurs or visit our website www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk.

If you don't have phone or email or need extra support, **Citizens Advice Contact Centre in Manor House, Buntingford**, is open every Monday from 10am to 12pm, where our friendly staff will listen to what's happening and help you work out what to do next.

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY NEWS

Kathleen Beale, Library Manager

July in Buntingford Library is all about the Summer Reading Challenge! Presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, it is the country's largest campaign designed to encourage primary-aged children to read for pleasure. This year's theme is Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors.

Story Garden inspires children to tap into a world of imagination through reading by exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature. As they read books for their Challenge, children will collect stickers of the key characters and add them to their own Story Garden.

How children can take part:

1. **From 5 July**, sign up for FREE in Buntingford Library.
2. Read any six library books. All reading counts including listening to e-audiobooks, and parents or carers reading to younger ones.
3. After every two books, come back and tell us something about the books to collect stickers.

Once they have read all six books and completed the challenge, children will receive a personalised certificate and a medal, (while stocks last).

They will also be entered into our prize draw to win a ticket to a creative, interactive workshop with award-winning author Sean Taylor.

The challenge finishes on **Saturday 6 September**.

Throughout the Summer Reading Challenge Buntingford Library will have Drop in Maker Stations. These are free

activities and open to all children who visit the library. Maker Stations will be open from 2-4pm Monday to Friday and 10am-12pm Saturday. Donations welcome.

Maker Stations will change each week and here are some of the creative nature inspired activities and things that we will be making out recycled materials: Garden Collage, Wool Wrapping, Butterfly Feeder, Wild weaving and Snail Craft.

We will run two family sessions in the last week of July at £4.40 per child.

The first session for children 5+ will be based on the book, Errol's Garden by Gillian Hibbs, which is all about a boy who encourages his neighbours to establish a roof top garden on their apartment block where they grow fruit and vegetables. The children will plant cress seeds on a plate, which they will decorate first.

The second session for children 8+, will be based on the 13 Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths. The children will grow runner beans in a jar, using wet kitchen paper. (They can then clearly see the beans germinating.) The children will design their dream treehouses on a piece of paper and will adhere the paper to a stick which will be placed in the jar, so it ends up amongst the seedling foliage!

A scavenger hunt based on the Story Garden characters will run during library open hours. Just come to the Enquiry Desk or Summer Reading Challenge Desk for your sheet. Once you have found all the characters, you can collect a reward sticker!

Hertfordshire Libraries could not run the Summer Reading Challenge without our incredible volunteers. If you are 14+ and would like to make a difference by volunteering for the Summer Reading



Volunteer at your local library and help inspire children to get reading!



Challenge in one of our libraries, then complete an application form on the Hertfordshire Libraries website.

The Summer Reading Challenge helps broaden reading horizons and maintain reading levels for the next academic year. It's a fun, free family activity that encourages healthy reading habits.

Join us at Buntingford Library on **Saturday 5 July** at 11.30am for a Story Garden: Adventure in Nature and the Great Outdoors Storytime and activity.



BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY

77 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AE

Opening Times:

Mon, Tue, Thur 10 – 17:30
Fri 14:00 – 17:30
Sat 9:00 – 13:00

Telephone Enquiries:

0300 123 4049

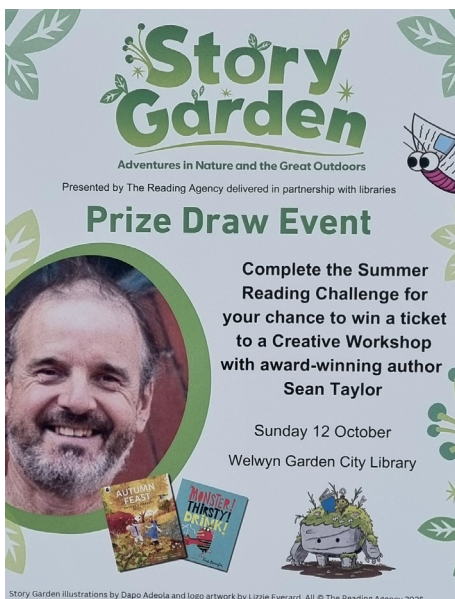
Website:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/

Follow us on Facebook
 #BuntingfordLibrary

Regular events:

Baby Rhyme Time: Mondays at 10:30 and 11:30
 Jigsaw and Cards: Tuesday at 10:30
 Story Time: Thursday at 10:30
 Lego Club: Fridays (Term Times) at 4pm.



Story Garden

Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors

Presented by The Reading Agency delivered in partnership with libraries

Prize Draw Event

Complete the Summer Reading Challenge for your chance to win a ticket to a Creative Workshop with award-winning author Sean Taylor

Sunday 12 October
 Welwyn Garden City Library



Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola and logo artwork by Lizzie Everard. All © The Reading Agency 2025.

Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola and logo artwork by Lizzie Everard. All © The Reading Agency 2025.



Saturday 5th July at 3.30pm

Great St Mary's Church
Sawbridgeworth CM21 9AJ

Come and enjoy a summer's afternoon concert celebrating classic arrangements from film, TV and musical theatre: including songs from Game of Thrones to Hamilton via The Greatest Showman and Les Miserables. A truly beautiful programme, supporting local charity Isabel Hospice, is designed to lift your spirits. Included in your ticket price is a donation to the Hospice, who will provide you with a free drink and a slice of cake following the show. Tickets are £10 from

www.theharmonaireschoir.com

The Harmonaires Choir, formed 10 years ago by Musical Director Josie Cowley, is a tight-knit ensemble renowned for its exceptional performances and dedication to community enrichment. Based locally, this group of talented vocalists has garnered acclaim for their ability to capture hearts with their harmonious renditions of classic and contemporary choral pieces and is going from strength to strength, singing in cathedrals as well as performing fund-raising concerts locally. For more information about the choir visit their website.



BRAUGHING FAIR AND WHEELBARROW RACE

Saturday 12th July 2025 | 12 noon until 6.00pm

The big event is only a few weeks away now. Have you entered online and got your fancy dress costumes sorted? No time to waste.

The categories are:-

Age	Advance Entry Fee	On the Day Entry Fee	Info
6 - 12 years old	£5	£7	
13 - 17 years old	£8	£10	
Adult & Child Race	£10	£15	Child must be between 6 and 17 years of age
Adults Men/Women/Mixed	£10	£15	

Prizes for Race Winners & 'Best Dressed Wheelbarrows'

Prizes for the best dressed and winners of the races. Please enter by visiting our website:- braughingwheelbarrowrace.com and clicking on the Enter Here link. Please remember the price is PER WHEELBARROW, not per person.

Volunteers needed please to help clear on Sunday 13th July.

Email info@braughingwheelbarrowrace.com to let us know your availability – thank you.

Wonderful Raffle Prizes to be Won!

Tickets for the raffle are now on sale at The Golden Fleece, The Axe and Compasses and Jenyns School. £1 a ticket with all proceeds benefiting the children at Jenyns School

- DINNER FOR 2 AT THE GOLDEN FLEECE
- £100 VOUCHER FOR THE AXE & COMPASS
- £100 VOUCHER FOR THE SWORD IN HAND
- £100 CASH
- £50 GARDEN CENTRE VOUCHER
- CAMMAS HALL FOOT GOLF FOR 6
- 2 X TICKETS FOR WILLOWS FARM
- 2 X TICKETS FOR WOODY'S PLAY BARN
- £20 VOUCHER AND GOODY BAG FOR ATTEND2HEALTH

The Dog Show

Get your doggies groomed and ready! You can enter online (there is an additional booking fee) or on the day. This year, class entries will close 15 minutes before each class. The classes are:-

- 1.15pm Beautiful Bitches
- 1.30pm Handsome Hounds
- 1.45pm Cutest Puppy
- 2.00pm Best Young Handler (8 to 16 years old)
- 2.15pm Best Rescue Dog
- 2.30pm Dog The Judge Would Most Like To Take Home

RAFFLE DRAWN AT 5.30 ON RACE DAY - SATURDAY 12TH JULY

WHEELBARROW RACE RAFFLE

TICKETS ON SALE AT...

The Golden Fleece | JENYNS SCHOOL & NURSERY | [Axe and Compasses logo]

£1 A TICKET

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHILDREN AT JENYNS SCHOOL, BRAUGHING FRIENDS OF JENYNS, CHARITY NO 1124390

- TENNIS LESSON WITH LTA COACH
- £20 ART SHED VOUCHER
- £20 FRENCH & DAY DELI VOUCHER (WARE)
- FAMILY TICKETS TO CHURCH FARM ARDELEY

.. MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!!..



Photo: Jenny Gottfried, Michelle and Chris Thurgill, Robert Bentley.

A u3a Quiz Team took first place in a quiz at the Golden Fleece, Braughing and donated their £25 prize to the local Food Bank.

Please note Change of Speaker. Our Speaker for **Monday 14th July** is Len Little: The Operational Use of Police Dogs. No meeting in August. Have a lovely summer!

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.**

BRAUGHING GET TOGETHER

Following a very successful season culminating in our "All things British" quiz, the Braughing Get Together team will take a well earned break in July & August.

We would like to thank everyone for making the Get Togethers such friendly events.

We will be back with new events for the start of term in September, commencing with a "Back to School" event.

Bring along some old school photographs and maybe wear something from your old school wardrobe.

In the mean time, have a restful and enjoyable summer.

Things are going well at our Monday evening choir practices. Our new MD is teaching us new songs, medleys and harmonies that are all new to us. So if you were thinking of joining us now is a great time.

Sadly we hear of our members both past and present who are suffering with illness or personal issues, just to let you

know that all your friends in the choir are thinking of you all.

If you do want to join us please contact me using this email address.

info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk

Or for more information go to our website: **www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk**

BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 2nd July

At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road

Doors open: 7:45pm for 8pm start

Summer is officially here, temperatures are hopefully rising, it's that time of year for Al fresco dining and time to dead head your perennials. If you're lucky enough to own a greenhouse it's also time to think about controlling the temperature inside.

This month we are pleased to have Cherith Lowry talking about the development and design of the Gibberd Garden which is based in Harlow and was created by Sir Frederick Gibberd and his wife. They include rare and exotic plant, sculptures, ceramic pots and architectural salvage from 1972 until his death in 1984. The gardens are open for visiting.

Our meetings are monthly and always on the 1st Wednesday of the month, apart from January and August when we don't have meetings.

We like to book interesting speakers throughout the year, giving talks



on relevant subjects, as well as demonstrations, outings and socials with quizzes. Not forgetting our monthly competitions too – with a vase of summer flowers for July!

Annual membership cost is only £20. You are always welcome to come along on a night of your choosing if you wish instead for just £3.

If you would like any more information, then please contact our secretary by telephone on:

07757 259 689

Hope to see you there.

If 'Books could Kill' was the intriguing title of the talk at our June meeting given by local crime writer, Sherry Hostler. She talked about her latest book 'Free Fall' but also about the research she does before putting pen to paper. Her book features mental health problems and particularly stalking and harassment. Who knew that one in three women are affected by this and, surprisingly, one in six men. Sherry's closing words – relating to the title of her talk – were:

"If a woman carries a book she will always have company and a weapon".

Would you know what to do if someone nearby went into cardiac

arrest? Stuart Chambers, a retired policeman, is coming to our next meeting on **Thursday 10th July** to talk about defibrillators and how to use them. We meet at 7:15 p.m. for 7:30pm at the URC Hall (opposite McColls) - visitors are welcome to all our meetings so if you are new to Buntingford (and even if you're not) just turn up on the night and come to see what Buntingford W.I. is all about.

If you would like further information about us please contact our Secretary, Pat on 01763 271 305



Book your place here!



BUNTINGFORD
SCHOOL of DANCE

4 Days - £180

(siblings 20% off
additional booking)

Limited day places may
be available @ £55

Dance Fusion Summer Course

Mon 4 - Thurs 7 August



enROLLING
NOW!

Discover
different
dance styles:

Dance
Technique
Clinic:

Put your
skills into
practice:

BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL OF DANCE



BUNTINGFORD
SCHOOL of DANCE

Zoë Eaglesfield www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

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

Following our sell-out show at South Mill Arts on 8th June we are now welcoming new pupils to trial classes and current pupils to trial new genres. The show is always very inspiring as our youngest pupils get to watch and be inspired by pupils in the other classes. As well as the amazing performances from all our pupils from our very youngest to our adult classes, we were privileged to welcome back former BSD student Leanne Wong who performed a beautiful ballet solo for us.

We have an exciting summer course planned to focus on a variety of dance styles, technique, strength, flexibility and performance. Our 4-day course runs **4th – 7th August** at the Buntingford Scout Hut and culminates in a workshop with Charlie Bruce winner of the BBC's 'So You Think You Can Dance' in 2010. Charlie has since performed professionally as a dancer in a variety of musicals, TV shows and dance shows. The course is open to both current pupils and new pupils.

We offer Baby Boppers, Ballet, Commercial, Contemporary, Modern/ Jazz and Tap. If you wish to trial/register for classes, please use the QR code below to register or for more information email us.



THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Brian Jones



Twenty four members of the club enjoyed a VERY NICE 75th Anniversary meal, thanks to the outside caterers (Gill Williamon Cater Hire Kelshall Royston).

We would like thank the following for their contribution to the event: Attend 2 Health, Coffee Shop, Jackie & Paul

Allam, Touch of Glamour, Buntingford Social Club, Bonneys Boutique, Jane Cester, Dianna Thorne, Hilary & the following Club members Val Linda Margaret Freda Wenna & Sally.

We meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays) 1:30pm for 2pm in the Church Hall opposite The Post Office in Baldock Road.

For more information please call Val on: 01763 272019

BUNTINGFORD DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS LAST QUIZ NIGHT IN EARTH

By the time you read this, Buntingford Dramatic will be on the verge of three performances of our latest production "The Last Quiz Night on Earth" by Alison Carr.

Scenario: a meteor is headed towards Earth and NASA has confirmed it is a life ending event. People decide to spend their last few certain hours down the Four Horsemen pub.

The story revolves around four people: Kathy, the pub landlady; Rav, her enthusiastic side kick; Bobby and Fran.

Everything starts out like any other evening down the pub- music, banter, laughter... but the pints go down and the meteor gets closer.

Rav decides what everyone needs is a pub quiz. This is where you, the audience, can choose to take part! What do pints make? Hangovers. What do pints make? Prizes!

Come along to Seth Ward Community Centre for an evening like no other.

Last remaining tickets on sale at www.buntingforddrama.uk.

THE LAST QUIZ NIGHT ON EARTH

by Alison Carr

an amateur production
by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

3rd 4th 5th July 2025

One pub. One quiz. One last round.
One last chance to win before the world ends.

Seth Ward Community Centre

Buntingford Dramatic Society



@buntingforddramaticsociety





In the country
no one can
hear you
scream.

But we can and we are
here to help.



**Herts
Domestic
Abuse
Helpline**

08 088 088 088

hertsdomesticabusehelpline.org

Victims of domestic abuse in more rural areas are often unprotected and isolated from help. A 2019 report* 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.

Call freephone 08 088 088 088


Monday to Friday: 9am–9pm Weekends: 9am–4pm

Or confidential email: kim@mailpurple.org

Follow us

 @HertsDomesticAbuseHelpline

 @HDA_Helpline

 @hdahelp

We are currently thinking positive thoughts that the Hertfordshire County Council Resource and Performance panel on the 17th July will recommend to grant our charity the lease for the pool site. This will then need to be agreed by the Cabinet, hopefully on the 21st July. Obtaining the lease is the next key step, without it the project cannot move forward.

Sport England believes in our project and has agreed to award us £15,000 in match funding but we must have the lease agreement in place first. This means that if we raise £15,000 specifically through Crowdfunder, they will match it up to £15,000. This funding will be specifically to replace the broken pool tiles and expansion joints, which will cost £56,200. We ask you to keep an eye out in August when we will be asking for donations specifically for this pool tile project.

To help with the pool tile project we have also applied to the Simon Gibson Charitable Trust for £20,000. We will get their decision on 31st July.

Whilst many of us objected to the Vistry development of up to 350 houses on land east of the A10 (adjacent to the Bovis estate) and are unhappy with the new Labour

planning priorities which overturned the decision, one of the positive outcomes is that £204,870 s106 money has been allocated for swimming pools. Annoyingly Grange Paddocks is mentioned along with Ward Freman. This ensures that if our pool remains closed at the point this money is payable, it will be of no benefit to the town, rather will benefit Bishops Stortford! If all the reserved matters are agreed, then Vistry propose the 1st occupancy will be in quarter 1 of 2028. 50% of the money is then paid before 50% of the dwellings are occupied with no more than 75% of all dwellings to be occupied before the full amount is paid. So we won't be able to access this money for a few years. It will however ensure that continued refurbishment of the building can be undertaken.

We will therefore be continuing our fundraising efforts. We have heard a tale that in the 1970's Ward Freman School students took part in a sponsored walk to raise money to build the pool. Can you confirm this rumour? Did you take part? Could we duplicate this event to raise money once again to get the pool open? Please get in touch if you can recall any original fundraising events or have an idea for a new event!

The Airport

Yippee! We're off on our holiday at last. Two weeks on the beautiful island of Corfu. John, our genial next door neighbour has very kindly agreed to take us to the airport, a really thoughtful gesture, so, we agreed to bring him back some Retsina and a bottle or two of 'Duty Free' for his troubles.

A rotund lad with a generous paunch and a happy and welcoming countenance, John's about the best neighbour anyone could possibly have, as he has proved over the two years we've lived at Meadow Rise.

Having helped us carry our luggage to the terminal, he makes his way back to his car, with a cry of "See you in two weeks, you lucky devils" and disappears into the early morning traffic of yet another dismal Monday morning.

Relaxing with Jill in the terminal prior to checking in with our luggage, we're enjoying a cup of coffee when our peace is shattered by the sound of four rowdy young lads, who going by their conversation are also bound for Corfu. The language and attitude of their so-called spokesman Kevin, leaves a lot to be desired, so I

decide to give him a piece of my mind, but I'm beaten to it by one of my fellow passengers.

Whatever John, who I later find out, was an ex-bouncer at a nightclub, said to the lad, his face went as white as his 'Sex Pistols' T shirt and immediately deflated, he goes over to join his pals who, faced with the prospect of trouble, had left him to it. Jill turns to me and says " I just hope they're not staying at the same hotel as us."

Things however are about to change. The lad, still smarting from John's dressing down, gets a phone call from his Mum, telling him he has forgotten his passport. Since we are due to fly within the hour, he orders her to 'get in the damned car and bring it down to me at the Airport – now!'

It's then she delivers the killer blow. She's just noticed it's two years out of date, so he's going nowhere! The wind well and truly taken out of his sails, he reluctantly explains the situation to his pals. Tough. He should be more responsible. They are still having their two weeks in Corfu and that's it. As he stomps angrily out of the terminal, we all breathe a sigh of relief.

I later find out from one of his so-called mates, that Kevin's mum has not only paid for his holiday but provided his spending money too, so they have no sympathy for him whatsoever.

I'm just about to take a final swig of my coffee, when I hear an all-too familiar voice.

"Cooo-eee Mr Barrington!" Turning round, I am suddenly aware of a certain Mrs Dora Clark and her hen-pecked husband Derek coming towards us. Dora, Manager of the Accounts department of the company I work for, is renowned for making it her business to know everyone else's. I suddenly remembered that a month ago, I had spoken with her when I had gone to pick up my expenses and she had asked if I had any holidays planned.

Unwittingly, I had mentioned not only Corfu, but also when we were going. She said at the time, she could 'never understand why people went abroad for their holidays when there was still so much to see and do in the British Isles'. Guess I must have painted too rosy a picture of Corfu during our conversation though for her to have broken a 'holiday habit'

of a lifetime. Fortunately though, we never saw hide nor hair of Dora and Derek for the next two weeks, probably due to the fact that Corfu does not include Bingo Halls and Bowling Alleys in their holiday entertainment portfolio!

Also saw the awful Kevin's mates again in our local pub the week after we got back home, who told us that he's still waiting for his new passport. Unfortunately for him, the Passport Office in Liverpool will not succumb to his threatening behaviour the way his poor old Mum does!



BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Carol Emery

buntingfordlocalhistorygroup@hotmail.com

This month's meeting, we met in the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Lane which gives us more room, and plenty of chairs for all the people that come to the meetings. It was sad to have to leave the library where we had been holding meetings for many years but due to the popularity, we were getting too big to all fit into the Magnolia Suite, our thanks to the library for making us so welcome over the years.

Following on from last months meeting and a talk on the lost pubs in the surrounding villages, this time it was the turn of Buntingford High Street, and the pubs that have gone and the two that remain.

We start on the east side of the road. One of the 2 remaining pubs is the Black Bull, it dates back to the 1600's, but in about 1720 it was known as The Horseshoes. At some stage it changed to the Black Bull, but often just referred to as The Bull, or Ye Old Bull. Originally owned by Philips Brewery of Royston but purchased by McMullen's in 1888.

Next was The George, or George and Dragon to give it its full title. This was one of the main coaching inns in the town and was mentioned in 1605, but may have been older than that. It was originally owned by the Lord of the manor of Corneybury which owned almost everything in the town. The pub at that time would have been used by the manor to collect rents from its tenants every quarter when they were due. In addition, over the years it was used for petty sessions courts, the Wadesmill Turnpike Trust to hold their meetings. The Ware Hadham and Buntingford railway held

their inaugural meeting here. In 1855 the Inland Revenue listed this as their office in a trade directory. There was a large function room at the rear of the property where many dances were held, as well as meetings of the WI before they got their own hall.

In September 1663 Samuel Pepys the diarist, and his wife stayed at the inn. Mrs Pepys drank some beer which was too cold and was taken very ill. It was the intervention of the mistress of the inn and some maids that made her sick and she recovered. In the 1930 it changed its name to the George Hotel. Many local groups, such as the National Union of Farmers, Bowls club, and others would hold their annual Xmas dinners at the inn. It closed in the 1950's and after standing empty for some time it was bought by Charlie Harris a local builder and converted into 2 shops, Hunters Estate agents, and the Hospice shop, with flats above and the function room made into a house.



The George

On the west side of the High Street we start with the other remaining pub, The Crown. Although we know this part of road as Market Hill, it was originally the High Street and the properties in it still have the postal address as High Street, not Market Hill. The Crown dates back to 1630, although that building was demolished and replaced in about the mid 19th century with the current building. It was very well used when there used to be a weekly cattle market outside.



Before the Manor House was built there was a pub there called the Kings Head, very little is known as to what date it was there or when it closed.

Crossing over Baldock Road we come to The Indian Star.

This beer house served Hawkes and Co's beer and also functioned as a barber. The last landlord was Charles Miles who also ran the barber's shop which was on one side of the property with the bar being on the otherside. Charles was also an umbrella maker, engraver of coffin plaques and scout master. It closed as a pub in 1905 when it's licence was revoked, although it remained a barber. The property is now Hemingway's.



Next door to that was the other inn, The Bell. This building dates back to at least the 1500's, a wall painting was uncovered showing the family crest of the Scope family in 41 during the 1970's. Most of the mail coaches stopped at the inn where their horses were changed and refreshments could be obtained. In 1826 John Sibley was the landlord he retired in 1852. It was in 1843 that Queen Victoria and her entourage passing through on her way to Cambridge stopped at the inn to change horses. She caused panic as she decided to alight the coach and went into the inn. John Sibley hadn't prepared anything as he wasn't expecting her to get out of the coach. Originally the inn owners had most of the land at the rear of the property and on the corner of Baldock Road where the Technical Institute now stands. In Baldock Road they had more stabling in Bell Barns, now flats of the same name.

By 1881 it was described as a pub not an inn. It suffered a drop in trade when the railway opened as most of the coaching trade used the railways, and around the same time it was split into 2 separate properties, 41 being a house and 43 selling the beer. It eventually closed with 43 becoming a shop, now Little Gems pet shop. The outbuildings at the rear turned into domestic accommodation.

The Carpenters Arms was the next pub now Bonney's Boutique.

BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP CONT...

We are not sure when it opened but it closed about 1911, it then became a saddlery and harness making business called Camp. This picture shows Mrs Camp at the door of her shop. Note the 2 gables on the building. When Mrs Camp closed the business, it remained empty for a long time. Charlie Harris bought it and demolished the gables, filled in the cellar and well in the back yard and turned it into a shop which he rented out to Boorman's, then Ken Jacks.

The next pub was The Angel, originally this building along with its next door neighbour was known as The Crowned Lyon and dated back to the 1500's. The Crowned Lyon is mentioned in the will of Henry Skyunner a butcher, he left this property and other properties to the poor of the Buntingford in 1588. It is thought that alcohol was served in the right hand building now the dentist whilst the food and accommodation was obtained in the left hand part, now the Coffee Shop. In 1630 the lease of the inn was held by Deodatus Bonyon at a yearly rent of £4 13s 4d. when he died his widow took on the running of the pub. By 1792 the pub was known as The Angel Inn and Susan Barker was the landlady. The properties had a lot of land at the rear; it originally ran down to what is now Bowling Green Lane. There was a large orchard known as Angel orchard. In the outbuildings horses were stabled and the towns old manual fire engine was housed in one of the sheds. It is believed that under the brickwork of the dentists is the original medieval façade.

Next was the Globe, a 17th century building now Crazy Daisy/ Detour Men's Wear. I have a photo copy of one page of an abstract of a title deed which shows in April 1857 the owner had been James



Mills Sewell. Unfortunately, I do not have the rest of the document and do not know whether it still exists. I do know that in 1881 John Farr and his wife were the landlords and staying with them were a group of musicians some of which were born in Germany. By the 1890 Walter Harris had taken on the property. He had a 5ft wheel hanging outside the building as he was a cycle and motor engineer. He had another property further down the street next to The Swan. On the 19th July 1929 the licensing committee refused to renew the license for the pub so it closed.





The Cock

The next pub was the White Hart which was burnt down in mid 1800's. The original building dated back to about 1596. The building that stands there now was built after the fire. Originally there was a large yard at the rear which housed a blacksmith's and some very poor people lived in over crowded cottages. The pub closed in the 1950's and is now a private house with the same name.

The Cock Inn was at 91-93 High St. although it is now 2 separate houses it was originally one with a door in the middle of the property. It was operating as an inn during the 19th and 20th century but closed when they didn't renew their license in 1913.



The Swan

The penultimate pub on the west side was the Swan. The listed building entry states the building dates back to the 18th century, but it may be earlier than that. The pub was originally owned by Mr William Robert baker of Bayfordbury estate. He owned this along with the Tally HO, Two Brewers in Sandon, Bull at Barkway and the Bakers Arms at Bayford. Along with Hyde Hall Farm. On the 12th



The Chequers

July 1893 all 5 pubs plus Hyde Hall Farm were auctioned off. The Swan was sold to the Clarke Family who brewed beer at Hyde Hall Farm. The Swan was let to George Page at £12 10s a year. By 1911 Hebert Cooper was the landlord. Between 1930 to 1953 Mr and Mrs Berry ran the pub, after them came Mr P Elder. It closed some time in the 1960's and was turned into a private house.

The final pub in the High Street is The Chequer's now called Brambles. The first record for this pub was 1750 when Susan Ingrey was the licensee. Next to it was a large yard used by one landlord to store the wood he sold. The pub had many landlords over the years many of you will remember Colin and Beryl Greaves who ran the pub in the 1960's, they retired in 1987 and a series of landlords ran it up until it was bought in 2003 by Robert and Joy Emslie. It was at that stage it became Brambles. The pub has been closed since about 2017 and remains empty.

My thanks to Buntingford in Old Photos Facebook page and also the late Philip Plumb who did so much research into the local pubs.

Our next meeting will be on the **8th July** at the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road. It starts at 2pm and everyone is welcome it cost £2 per person which includes tea and coffee. The talk will be part 3 of Time Gentlemen Please the rest of the pubs in Buntingford.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Tricia Moxey, Trustee



The topography, geology and fertile soils of the Hundred Parishes have combined to provide suitable conditions for farming. Currently, cereals cover about two-thirds of our arable fields with crops of winter or spring-sown barley, oats and wheat. 20% of fields have been planted with oil seed rape or vegetables. Grasslands make up the remainder of fields, providing forage for cattle, sheep or horses.

Inevitably the weather influences the success or otherwise of crops. This spring has been exceptionally warm, very dry and sunny so there are concerns about a possible drought, reduced crop growth and lower yields. Some farmers started earlier than usual to irrigate vulnerable crops, and all are hoping for some more rainy days ahead as plants need moisture to absorb the nutrients they require for growth.

Healthy soils will retain more moisture; some farmers are planting 'cover crops' beneath the main crop as this will help to reduce water run-off and leaching of nutrients. Leaving wildflower margins around fields encourages assorted predators that eat pests of crops.

Many farmers diversify their activities to spread the risk: planting different crops, creating fishing lakes for anglers or converting barns for holiday lets or wedding venues.

In recent years, some have been able to realise the potential of their south-facing fields, conveniently located over underlying chalk, to plant grape vines. Guided by the results of detailed

soil analysis, coupled with careful selection of appropriate species of grape, these winemakers are now producing first class sparkling English wines and also bottles of excellent red, white or rosé wine. Many offer tours of their vineyards as an added attraction.

Walkers following routes from www.hundredparishes.org.uk will appreciate the area's scenic beauty and rich agricultural heritage. Routes 127 and 161 pass vineyards and we should look out for other unusual crops.





Linseed



Sunflowers



Barley



Grapes



Grape Vines



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

July	6	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	13		
	20		
	27		

Regular Events

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

We are holding a new Ecumenical Bible Study on the first Wednesday of each month.

We will meet for lunch from 12.30 and our bible study will run from 1.00 – 2.00 pm.

Entitled Influential Women we will look at the stories of the women of the New Testament. Some only get a brief mention and we may not remember them, others have played a significant part in the life of the early church. All of them have story to tell us.

COFFEE & COMPANY

Meets every Thursday, 10:30am to 12:30pm, in the URC 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.

At Attend2Health, our mission goes beyond helping people out of pain—we're also passionate about supporting the community we're proud to be part of.

We believe that strong local connections are the backbone of a thriving town. That's why we actively support a number of sports clubs, events, and charitable causes in and around Buntingford. From local teams to fundraising nights, we're always looking for ways to give back.

We're proud sponsors of Buntingford Cricket Club and Buntingford Bowls Club, helping them continue the fantastic work they do for both young players and lifelong fans of the game. We also recently contributed to Rib Valley Gymnastics Club, helping them purchase a much-needed new mat to keep their athletes training safely.

We have donated money we have raised through selling balloons at the Car Show and Late Night Shopping to the Ward Freman Community Pool Group as its so important we get the swimming pool reopened again for our town.

You might have also seen us supporting the iconic Braughing Wheelbarrow Race—a brilliant local tradition that brings fun and energy to the area every summer.

Beyond sports, we regularly donate gift vouchers and prizes to help raise money for local causes. These have included events like the Mayor's Quiz Night, Freman College's Amnesty International Live Lounge, and HoriZen Academy of Gymnastics, among others.



We feel incredibly lucky to work in such a supportive and spirited town. Giving back is just one small way we can say thank you—and we're always happy to hear about more ways we can help.

If you're running a local event or fundraiser and think we could support you, feel free to get in touch!





United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

UNITED BENEFICE OF ASPENDEN, BUNTINGFORD & WESTMILL

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright



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

[unitededbenefice](#) | [UnitedBeneficeABW](#)

OUR SERVICES FOR JULY 2025

Sunday 6th	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 13th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	All Age Worship	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 20th	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 27th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
		No Service	St Mary's Aspenden
	11:00am	Morning Worship	*Edwinstree Middle School

*Please note whilst St Peter's will be closed as restoration works are being carried out, our ministry and mission will continue. Our weekly Sunday services will relocate to **Edwinstree Middle School, Norfolk Road, SG9 9AW**. For further information about the restoration project please visit our website.

Please visit our website for the latest information about our services, events and courses and you can also follow us on our social media channels.

Direct links to our 3 church Service and Event pages:

St Mary's Aspenden: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7834/service-and-events/events-all/

St Peter's Buntingford: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7839/service-and-events/events-all/

St Mary the Virgin Westmill: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7851/service-and-events/events-all/

UPDATE ON REGULAR EVENTS DURING RESTORATION



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.



Morning Prayer

9am Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we pray together via Zoom 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 at The Crown Pub

10am – 12pm (except bank holidays). The Crown Pub has kindly offered us the space to continue offering Tea, Coffee and biscuits whilst our restoration works are being carried out. All welcome.

St Mary's Church Aspenden
Website



St Mary the Virgin Church
Westmill - Website



St Peter's Church Buntingford
Website



The Buntingford Journal is delivered FREE to members of the Buntingford Civic Society, or it can be purchased from:

- THE CO-OP
- LOCKS, STOCK & MORE
- MARK DOEL BUTCHERS
- BUDGENS/POST OFFICE
- THE CHEESE PLATE
- KIM on the CARD STALL at Buntingford Market

HERTS & ESSEX COUNTRY FAIR

Brent Pelham – 17th August 2025

Herts & Essex Country Fair, Dog & Heavy Horse Show takes place in The Park, Brent Pelham, SG9 0AT on Sunday **17th August.**

This lovely, traditional and local Country Fair provides an entertaining and varied day out for all the family.

The beautiful Heavy Horses continue to be a highlight with a range of classes to recognise these incredible working horse breeds, which have played such an important role in agriculture over the centuries.

The Main Ring events will feature The Honourable Artillery Company Light Cavalry demonstration as well as a variety of displays including falconry, gun dogs, dog behaviour, foxhounds, bassets, beagles and a traditional parade of vintage tractors.

All dogs are most welcome at the show. Dogs and their owners will be able to enter the Family Dog Show - there is always a class for every dog and their owner. There will also be a working dog class for those traditional breeds.

In addition, your dogs' skills can be tested in the Gun Dog Scurry or in the dog obedience competition.



Local Countryman Steve Reynolds of Hamels Park, Buntingford will be the commentator as well as encouraging spectators to try their hand at traditional games such as egg throwing and the tug of war challenge.

There will be a great number of trade stands and displays, traditional games and a funfair for children. A range of refreshments will be available including village teas, bar and a food hall area.

Heavy Horse classes commence at 10.30am and the Main Ring displays at 11am.

Gates open at 10.30am.

This year we are proud to support St Mary the Virgin Church, Brent Pelham, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, Khandel Light and other local charities.

For further details The Herts and Essex Country Fair - Home | Facebook

ST MARY THE VIRGIN WESTMILL - SUMMER FAYRE



SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST
10am to 12noon

Come and enjoy lots of stalls, raffle, tombola, produce, This and That, cake stall to name but a few, also lots of games and fun in our beautiful churchyard. Free entry and with a free cup of tea/coffee. Do come and support. See you there!



The Buntingford Journal is produced and distributed by the **Buntingford Civic Society**, who was established in 1971 with the aim of improving the fabric of the Town.

Annual household membership is just £10

and includes delivery of the Buntingford Journal (10 issues a year) to your door. If you would like to join the Civic Society, you can download an application form from the BCS website: **www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk**

or email the Membership Secretary, Peter Lohmeyer, at **membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk**

The Buntingford Journal can also be purchased from:

THE CO-OP, BUDGENS/POST OFFICE, LOCKS, STOCK & MORE, MARK DOEL BUTCHERS, THE CHEESE PLATE, KIM on the CARD STALL



MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk | 01763 271 717 | admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk

Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher

As we head towards the end of this academic year we celebrate all the moments Millfield have experienced and enjoyed throughout the summer term.



Year 4 Residential Trip

Our Year 4 children very much enjoyed their residential trip to Hautbois Activity

Centre in Norfolk. The children took part in various activities from paddle boarding, absailing, crate climbing and more. Some of the activities were a first for the children so it was fantastic to provide these opportunities. It was a pleasure to take the children and they were great representatives of Millfield First & Nursery School.

Sports Mornings

In June and July, our sports mornings were held whereby the children took part in eight activities competing in their house teams. The children thoroughly enjoyed the events. It was great to have the mornings supported by Freman College students. It was also fantastic to be joined by so many parents and carers.



PTA Summer Fair

We are delighted to offer our school community a Millfield Summer Fair organised by our PTA. It promises

to be a fantastic afternoon filled with fun activities for all the family! There will be a wide variety of stalls and games to enjoy. This will be a cash only event. All

proceeds from the Fair will go towards supporting our school and enhancing the learning experiences of our children.

Millfield's Got Talent

Here at Millfield, our School Council children will be leading a 'Millfield's Got Talent' event giving all children the opportunity to shine and showcase their individual talents. This is a great way to end the academic year with prizes for all participants.

Transition and Induction Time

The Summer term is also that time of year when we celebrate and say goodbye to our Year 4 children, as well as support Millfield children in their transition into the next school year and, of course, prepare to welcome new children starting with us in September.

On Thursday 10th July 2025, our Year 4 children will be visiting their chosen new school for the day. They are excited about the next stage in their education! We will be hosting a transition morning at Millfield on Thursday 10th July to help all Millfield children prepare for September 2025. Throughout the Summer term, we continue to welcome new parents/carers for induction sessions and meetings for their child ahead of them starting in Nursery and Reception in September 2025.

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.

BARKWAY MARKET REVIEW - 10TH MAY

The sun shined and visitors poured into this year's Barkway Market on Saturday 10 May, which raised over £25,000 for the local community.

The warm weather and beautiful setting encouraged over 4,000 visitors to take their time milling around over 180 stalls to buy some unique products, and celebrate the day with some delicious food and a glass of something bubbly.

Stallholders, both local and from further afield, offered a wide range of products. These included local artisan cheese, wine, bread, locally grown lavender, carefully sourced antiques, plants and garden accessories, artwork, handcrafted wares, clothing, jewellery, beauty products and more. Charities such as HomeStart Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire were also in attendance to raise funds for their projects.

For the first time this year, visitors were also invited to enjoy Manor Farm's Secret Garden. This was the perfect setting to sit and enjoy the sunshine, whilst enjoying an ice cream and drink a glass of fizz, and enjoying entertainment from the Royston Town Band and the Barley, Barkway and Chrishall Choir.

Vendors in the Food Court also served delicious choice of food and drink, including refreshments served by Barkway's Tally Ho pub. There really was something for everyone to enjoy whilst sitting on a hay bale and listening to music provided by Royston Radio. There were plenty of activities for children too. Bouncy castles, balloon modelling and face painting, as well as the opportunity to have a photo taken with 'Barkway Bear' and the chance to win a family ticket to Standalone Farm. And if that wasn't enough, there was a wide choice of ice creams available too.

Barkway Market is entirely volunteer led, with the help of a dedicated committee who are supported by people from within the local community, who kindly give up



their free time on the day. The event also wouldn't be possible without the support of the landowners who allow the Market to take place within the grounds of Manor Farm and allow visitors to park on a private meadow nearby.

When asked about their day, one of the visitors commented *"We've never been before and honestly we had the best day out as a family. So beautifully curated and well organised. Thank you!"*

If you have a request for funding, please complete the form online at www.barkwaymarket.org/apply-for-funding and submit by email to info@barkwaymarket.org Alternatively, please post to Barkway Market Funds 2025, The Reading Room, 12, High Street, Barkway, SG8 8EA by 30 June 2025.

For more details about the Market, please visit www.barkwaymarket.org or follow them on Facebook @barkwayvillagemarket or Instagram @barkwaymarket. Bookings for 2026 will be open to potential stallholders early next year.



Drag Night Review 23rd May

Wow! What a fantastic night we all had at our first Drag Night Event. The room was buzzing with fun & laughter.

The three Drag Queens, Miss Lightening, Magenta Slipperz and Abbey Tart had us in the palm of their hands from the very first song to the last. We did not want the evening to end.

Thanks to all who came along and supported us. It was the first time we have put on this style of event, but it won't be the last.

Westmill Art Exhibition 2025

Buntingford Live were delighted to support and promote this local art exhibition.

It was a resounding success with over 500 people through the doors during the course of the weekend. Approximately £3000 was raised for Westmill church through commissions on picture sales and general donations from the visitors. As well as raising funds it was a fabulous community spirited event.

Sunday 8th June Jazz Event in The Stables Garden

We were so fortunate to welcome The Peter Rudeforth Jazz Band.



It was an afternoon of toe-tapping jazz, blues and swing set in the lovely garden of David & Rosey Woollcombe. We were so lucky that the weather was kind and we had about 100 people tucking into their picnics, and enjoying our licensed bar, particularly the delicious Pimms-Style Cocktail on offer!

We look forward to a return visit from this first-class band ere long.

'Uncanny' Featuring Nell Phoenix

In the sweaty gloom of the Bunter's Suite, (if ever a room cried out for decent air conditioning, it is this one), we were drawn into making a choice; did we believe these stories of ghosts or demons, or were the folk that told them delusional?

From the first written story of the supernatural some four thousand years ago, to a tale told over a Guatemalan coffee as the sun came up that involved a demonic doll and a car, Nell encouraged





her audience to look at the truth of these stories as we cheered and gasped through the heroic and downright strange.

To say we were spellbound might be closer to the truth, because Nell has the fantastic ability to draw us into the worlds the stories come from, to surprise with a 14th century Yorkshire accent, to get us to shout, laugh and pick up our dropped jaws!

It was quite an evening, and I expect, now that we have had a taste of it, there'll be more of this another time.

Buntingford Live and their fabulous team have another success on their hands.

Our next intriguing event...

Friday 8th August Author Talk 7pm Bunters Suite

Free Entry but book your seat on Ticket Taylor

As you can see from our featured poster 'Somebody's Child', this is an author talk plus....Irish author Fiona Neary talks about growing up with 50 foster children, Suzanne Shearing shows her 20 minute film about adoption, Mary Godfrey discusses growing up in a Barnardo Home. Q & A , books on sale.

Licensed Bar

More Dates for your diary

Friday 19th September 7:30pm
Comedy Night in Bunters Suite

Thursday 25th September 7:30pm

Haileybury Music Students, Westmill

Saturday 11th October 8pm

Seth Ward Hall, A Cabaret evening of Jazz with The Alex Jones Trio.

Friday 21st November

'A Christmas Carol 'with Guy Masterson!

Saturday 29th November 7:30pm

Blues & Booze Evening - details to follow

The next issue will have date of a Candlelit Carol event in December

Please use our website: buntingfordlive.org

WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY 2025

Wednesday 2nd	Gardener's Club: Gibberd Garden Talk p.19
3rd/4th/5th	The Last Quiz on Earth, Buntingford Drama Society Show p.23
Saturday 5th	Edwinstree Summer Fayre
Saturday 5th	Harmonaries Choir p.16
Saturday 5th	Library Story Garden Adventure p.15
Tuesday 8th	History Society: NEW VENUE as last time, talk will continue on pubs of Buntingford see p.28
Thursday 10th	WI: Defibrillators p.20
Saturday 12th	Town Council Family Fun Day p.7
Saturday 12th	Braughing Fair & Wheelbarrow Race & Dog Show
Monday 14th	U3A: Police Dogs p.18
Friday 18th	BALA: Coffee Morning p.46



LOOKING AHEAD

8th Aug	Bunts Live! Author Talk
9th Aug	St Mary's Summer Fayre p.39
17th Aug	Herts & Essex Country Fair p.38
12th Sept	Film Club: Wicked p.32
19th Sept	Bunts Live! Comedy Night p.42
25th Sept	Bunts Live! Westmill Church Concert p.42
11th Oct	Bunts Live! Jazz Evening p.42
21st Nov	Bunts Live! A Christmas Carol with Guy Masterson p.42
29th Nov	Bunts Live! Blues & Booze Evening p.42

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	WEEKENDS:
From 8.30am: Buntingford Market	7.30–9pm: Braughing Sing Community Choir in Jenyn's School Hall	Buntingford Meditation Online at 8 pm and once a month in Saint Peter's Church. To join the group the best way is to contact me via the website - www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation New meditators are welcome and guidance is given on how to meditate in the sessions.	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			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					
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			
7.30–9:30pm: Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School					

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MINIBUS TRIPS JULY 2025

DATE	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
Fri 4th	9.30-12.15	Harlow Garden Centre	£7
Mon 7th	10-2.30	St Ives	£8
Wed 9th	9.30-12.30	Royston Town Centre (Market Day) Why not try the new Horsebox Coffee Shop at the bottom of Fish Hill?	£5
Mon 14th	9.30-3	Southend	£13
Wed 16th	11.30	Pub Lunch	
Tues 22nd	9-3	Chelmsford (Indoor and Outdoor Markets linked by Shopping Centre)	£10
Tues 29th	10-2	Bickerdikes Garden Centre	£6
Thurs 31st	10-2.30	St Neots (Market Day)	£8

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 18th July, 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/>

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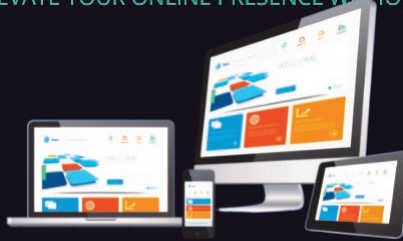
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Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service



Hertfordshire
Sensory Services Strategy
2020-2023

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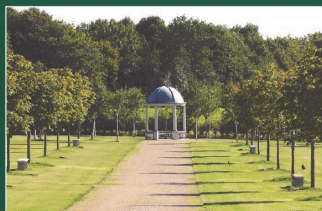
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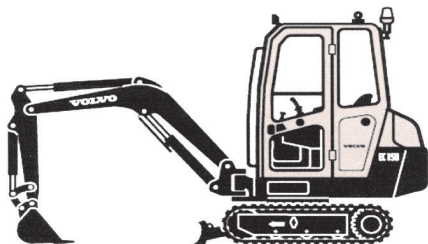


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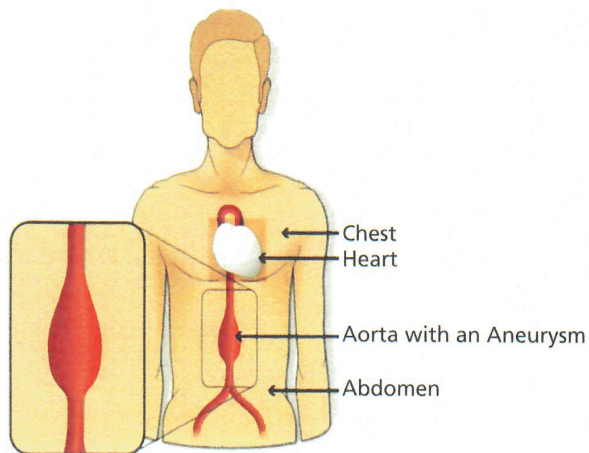
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WHO ARE WE?

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 and improvement of features of historic and public interest within the locality and endeavour to promote high standards of planning and architecture while our archives are a source of reference on local geography and history.

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

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Publish the Buntingford Journal

Restored the town pump twice and Town Cage once

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

Present an annual school civic award

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

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

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

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

Contributed financially to the Fremantle College sports hall, Buntingford Film Club, previous

Buntingford Carnivals, Summer Arts in Buntingford 2022 weekend, and gave a grant to the

Friends of the River Rib and Quin

Paid for the Local History Group competition prizes in 2023

Done River Rib and town cleans

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

Were actively involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan

Arranged Buntingford in Bloom competitions

Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017

In 2024 paid for roses and a plaque in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and for the Coronation of

King Charles III at the new cemetery

Hosted 2 annual Civic Day walks

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

Monitor future housing development and continue to work with local organisations for the benefit of Buntingford, including the River Rib Project. Are now sourcing a replacement plaque for The Cage. Are looking to host a third Civic Day Walk, arrange a fifth Buntingford in Bloom competition and be part of a D Day commemoration event in May

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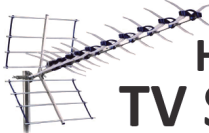
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Deans Furnishers.com



Looking for a perfect night's sleep?

For over 45 years, our family-run business has been your go-to destination for beds and mattresses.

Whether you need a traditional pocket sprung mattress, the latest in foam technology, or even a customized size, we'll help you find the perfect solution for a restful night.

We stock the leading brands like Relyon, Sealy, Dunlopillo, Rest Assured, Silentnight and Sleepzeeze, ensuring you get the best quality and comfort.

Beyond Beds

Explore our extensive collection of home furnishings, from bedside tables and wardrobes to dining tables and sofas, featuring renowned brands including Tetrad.



We Make It Easy

At Deans we treat our customers like family. Our knowledgeable team will help you select the best furniture or mattress for your needs. Plus, our free delivery service is always to your room of choice and includes unwrapping, assembly and removal of packaging.

Recycling service
for old furniture

Handy Location & Parking
Just off the A602 in Stonyhills
with FREE PARKING on site

Convenient Opening
7 days a week inc bank holidays

Deans Furnishers
Stonyhills, Ware SG12 0HJ
01920 468887 • deansfurnishers.com

Open Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
Sun 10am-1pm
Bank Holidays 10am-3pm



Community Alliance

BROXBOURNE & EAST HERTS

Digital Skills Group in Buntingford

Booking is essential!

Call 0300 123 1034 to join

Want to master your computer, tablet or phone?
Join our **FREE, friendly, and volunteer-led** group
to build your digital skills today!

Our Digital Champions will teach you how to do simple things such as:

- Navigate your devices with ease
- Online shop
- Access virtual appointments
- Stay connected with friends & family

Location:

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

Mondays

10:30am to 12:00pm

13th January, 10th February,
10th March, 14th April, 12th
May, 9th June, 14th July, 8th
September, 13th October, 10th
November, 8th December 2025



**All you need is your
charged device!**





100 YEARS
WOOD BROS
ENGLAND 1924

Summer Sale

UP TO 25% OFF

AT OUR WARE SHOWROOM



UPHOLSTERY | CABINET | FABRIC | REFURBISHMENT

Visit us in Ware, Online at woodbros.co.uk or call us on 01920 469241

*T&Cs. The Summer Sale discount and voucher applies only to Wood Bros full price items and cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotion. The sale runs from 2nd June - 4th August 2025

THE LUXURY BRAND WATCHES & JEWELLERY

BESPOKE JEWELLERY

ENGAGEMENT RINGS

WEDDING RINGS

JEWELLERY REPAIRS

WATCH REPAIRS

**LUXURY WATCH SALES
& SOURCING**

**WE BUY UNWANTED & BROKEN
JEWELLERY AND WATCHES**

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WWW.THELUXURYBRAND.CO.UK**