

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

Buntingford Journal



A special Adult Ballet class run by Buntingford School of Dance to raise money for mental health charities.

***Inside this month:* The first instalment in our Local History Group's guide to Buntingford street names; the Town Twinning Association seeks new members; Summer Arts launch the Battle of the Bands; plus details of local choirs, events and much more.**

70p

**March 2020
Volume 45, No.2**



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MARCH 2020

MONDAYS

- 9:00am – 10:00am **Cardio & Core** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane, £4 payg. Contact Irene on 07802 418755.
- 9:30am & 10:30am **U3A Exercise Class.** Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 for participation info.
- 10:00am – 10:45am **Stretch'n'Grow**, a fun exercise & activity class for children confidently walking to age 5. Term time at Seth Ward CC. £2 per family. 01763 273008.
- 10:15am – 11:15am **Jump & Jiggle**, active rhymes for pre-school children, at Buntingford Library.
- 10:15am **Fitness Pilates** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane, £5. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net.
- 10:30am – 11:30am **Movement to Music** for the Over-60s with Imagination Arts. At Benson Hall, £5 per class. For details call 07714 378887 or email: info.imaginationarts@yahoo.com
- 10:30am – 12 noon **Iyengar Yoga** at URC Hall (term time). Contact Jen Harris 01920 821288.
- 11:00am – 12noon **Stay & Play** at Jenyns School, Braughing, term time only.£1. 01763 273008
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm **Positive Movement** exercises at Seth Ward CC. £3. 01462 678804.
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm **Senior Citizens Club** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Bingo and an afternoon of socialising. For more information contact Jeanne Clark on 01763 274631.
- 2:00pm – 3:15pm **Activity Session** with Hertswise Dementia Support, upstairs at Seth Ward Community Centre. £3, carers free. Call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044.
- 4:00pm – 4:45pm **Lab-Tots**, fortnightly in term time at the Library. Science sessions for 3-8 year olds. For more info contact Sophia 07720 292350 / www.labtots.com.
- 4:15pm – 6:30pm **Ballet** at URC Hall, with Buntingford School of Dance. Contact 01763 271010.
- 4:30pm – 8:30pm **Rib Valley Trampoline Club @** Freman College (term time). Adults 7:30–8:30. Contact Andrea Allen 07989 980038 or email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk
- 5:45pm – 6:45pm **Cougars U10s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 6:10pm – 6:40pm **NEW: Body Blitz, followed by Barre Strength** (6:45–7:30pm) at Cottered Village Hall, £8 together or £5 each. Contact Irene 07802 418755.
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Pilates Improvers/Intermediates** at Seth Ward CC. Louise, 07867 675389.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm **Shotokan Karate** at Seth Ward CC. Contact Peter Deacon 01462 642922.
- 6:45pm – 7:45pm **Cougars U11s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 7:00pm **Bridge** for experienced players at Buntingford Bowls Club. £2.50 per session. Contact Eddie on 01763 273640 or 07976 896718.
- 7:00pm – 7:30pm **Body Blitz (Interval Training)** at Cottered Village Hall, £5 payg. Contact Irene 07802 418755. *See above for new class starting 6th Jan.*
- 7:00pm **Fitness Pilates** at Layston School, with 2 instructors, £5. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 7:15pm – 8:15pm & 8:30pm – 9:30pm **Yoga Flow** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Contact Annie Knapman 07500 110876, email: info@annieknapmanyoga.co.uk
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Abs (body toning)** at Fit Together Gym. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm – 9:30pm **Buntingford Community Choir** at Millfield School, Monks Walk. For info see www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk or email: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk
- 7:30pm – 9:45pm **Buntingford & District Youth Club** at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Call Danny on 07879 853849 or email: danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk.
- 7:45pm – 8:45pm **Cougars U11s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 8:15pm **Circuit Training** at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01920 823677.

TUESDAYS

- 9:15am – 10:15am **Badminton** at Seth Ward CC, £2.50 per session. 01763 273712.
- 9:30am – 11:00am **Tuesday Toddlers** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. £2 for first child, then 50p for each additional child of same family, includes drink and snack. Term time.
- 9:30am **Nordic Walking** at Seth Ward CC. Equipment provided. First session Free. Call 07940 080 453 to book or see info@easthertsnordicwalking.org

WHAT'S ON

- 9:30pm **NEW: Trigger Point Pilates** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane, £5 payg. Contact! Irene 07802 418755 / www.irenegibson.co.uk.
- 10:00am – 11:30am **Under 1s Group** at Buntingford Bowls Club. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 11:45am **Tappy Toes** at Seth Ward CC. Dance & movement for children who are confidently walking to age 5. £2 per family. Term time only. 01763 273008.
- 4:15pm – 9:00pm **Ballet, Modern & Tap Classes** at Fremam College, with Buntingford School of Dance Ltd. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- 4:30pm – 6:00pm **Cougars U7s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 5:00pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U9s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 7:30pm **Karate Club**, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm **Cougars U15s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm **'Braughing Sing' Community Choir** at Jernyns School, Braughing. Contact Elaine 07501 495940 / 01763 289738 / www.braughingsing.com.
- 7:45pm **Fitness Pilates** at Layston School, £5. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 8:15pm – 9:00pm **Adult Tap for Fun & Fitness** at Fremam College with Buntingford School of Dance. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- WEDNESDAYS**
- 9:15 – 10:45am **Hormead Stay & Play** at Hormead School. £1. Term time. 01763 273008.
- 9:30 – 10:30am **Matwork Pilates** at Cottered Village Hall, £5 payg. Irene 07802 418755.
- 9:30 – 11:30am **Barokway Parent and Toddler Group** at Barkway Village Hall. Children 0–4 years. Contact Kim Semple on 07964 151288.
- 10:30am **BALFF 'Plant Hunters'** at the Community Centre, Luynes Rise, 10am for coffee.
- 2:00pm **U3A Seated Exercise Class**. Jacqui 07956 647806 for participation info.
- 4:00pm – 8:15pm **Commercial & Modern Dance** at URC Hall with Buntingford School of Dance. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010
- 4:15pm – 6:15pm **Rib Valley Gymnastics Club @ Edwinstree School** (term time). Contact Andrea Allen 07989 980038 or email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm **Cougars U12s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Freestyle & Shotokan Karate** at Fremam College. Contact Sensei John Srinivassan, Mushin Academy of Karate, 07722 071408.
- 6:45pm – 7:15pm **Cardio Resistance HIIT Blast** at Layston School; £4 (or £7 with Pilates class). Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Cougars U13s** at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.
- 7:30pm **Fitness Pilates** at Layston School, 2 instructors, £5 (or £7 with Cardio HIIT class). 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Boxercise/Tae Bo** session at Fit Together Gym. Contact Al 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm **Slimming World Group** at Millfield School. Angela Anderson 07708 444991.
- 8:00pm **Horizon Divers** at Fremam Pool. Contact 01920 823955.
- 8:00pm – 9:00pm **Buntingford Meditation Group**. Contact Martin on 07771 972444 or see www.buntingfordmeditation.com for details and venue.
- 8:00pm – 10:00pm (Sept to May) **Ware & District Photographic Society** at Thundridge Village Hall (see page 17). For details go to www.wareps.org.uk or ring Barbara Norris on 01920 822104.
- THURSDAYS**
- 9:30am – 10:30am **Dance Fit** at Seth Ward CC, £5. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net
- 9:30am – 11:00am **Anstey Toddlers** at Old School House, Anstey. £1 per family. Term time only.
- 9:45am – 10:45am **Pilates Improvers** at Seth Ward CC. Louise, 07867 675389.
- 9:30am – 10:30am **Little Sparks Stay and Play** in St Peter's Church. Suggested donation £2 per family. Contact Nanny Alex 07595 053512
- 10:30am – 12:00 **Coffee & Company** at URC Hall (opposite the Post Office/McColls). A welcoming group for anyone in need of a coffee and a chat. Contact Martin 01763 272245

MARCH 2020

11:00am – 12:00

Fitness for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. £5 per class. Eileen Dixon 01763 257474 / 07966 222272, email: eileensaerobics@hotmail.com

11:00am

Fitness Pilates at the Scout Hut, £5. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806.

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Baby classes run by **Best Start Club** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane. Contact Laura Sheriff 07801 796334 / laura@thebeststartclub.com.

2:00pm – 3:00pm &
3:00pm – 4:00pm

Tai Chi at the Seth Ward Community Centre, with Tai Chi expert Kim Noyma. First session free, then £3 per session. Beginners welcome.

2:15pm – 2:45pm

Toddlers Tales, stories & rhymes for preschoolers, at Buntingford Library.

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Ballet at URC Hall, with Buntingford School of Dance. Contact: 01763 271010.

4:30pm – 6:30pm

Drama workshops 15–18 year olds, with Stagefrights Theatre at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Dave 01438 232181; email: stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Buntingford Swimming Club at Freman Pool. Adelaide 07710 550050.

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Cougars U8s at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Cougars U6s at Ward Freman (indoors).

6:30pm – 7:00pm

Body Conditioning at Seth Ward Community Centre, £5 payg, or £7 with Pilates (below). Contact Irene on 07802 418755 / www.irenegibson.co.uk.

6:30pm – 7:30pm

Cougars U14s at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.

7:00pm

Mustard Seed Singers, St Peter's Church. Contact Jan 01763 272217.

7:00pm – 7:45pm

Dance Fit at Layston School, £5. 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net

7:15pm – 8:00pm

Matwork Pilates at Seth Ward Community Centre, £5 payg, or £8 with Trigger Point Pilates (below). Contact Irene on 07802 418755.

7:30pm

Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.

7:30pm – 8:30pm

Cougars U18s at Norfolk Road Multi-Use Games Area.

7:45pm

Fitness Pilates at Layston School, £5 (£8 with Dance Fit). Jacqui 07956 647806.

8:15pm – 9:00pm

Trigger Point Pilates at Seth Ward Community Centre, £5 payg, or do all 3 Thursday evening classes for £10. Contact Irene on 07802 418755.

8:00–10:00pm

Buntingford Dramatic Society, Benson Hall.

FRIDAYS

9:00am

Fitness Pilates at FitSpace, Park Farm Ind Est, £5. Jacqui 07956 647806.

9:15am

WeightWatchers at Benson Hall.

9:15am

NEW: Friday FIT Total Body Workout at URC Hall, £5. Irene 07802 418755.

9:30am – 10:30am

Badminton at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.

10:00am – 10:30am

Rhyme Time at Seth Ward CC. £1 per child. Term time only. 01763 273008.

10:00am – 1:00pm

Art in Sandon Village Hall, £10 per session. Call 07960 408635.

10:45am – 11:45am

Full Body Workout at The Scout Hut, £5. Jacqui 07956 647806.

11:00am – 12:00

Drop-in Breastfeeding Support Group at Bramble Hill, 01763 273008.

4:15pm – 8:45pm

Street, Ballet, Tap & Modern/Jazz at Freman College, with Buntingford School of Dance. Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010

5:30pm – 8:00pm

Friday Project Youth Club at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Danny 07879 853849 / danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

SATURDAYS

9:00am – 1:00pm

Ballet & Modern Dance at Freman College and at URC Hall (9am–12noon). Contact: buntingforddance@btinternet.com / 01763 271010

9:15am – 2:00pm

Musical Theatre School for 4–14 year olds at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Call Anna 07545 788433 or email stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk.

9:30am – 10:15am

Barre Pilates at Layston School, £5 payg. Contact Irene on 07802 418755.

9:30am – 10:15am

Cardio Resistance HIIT Blast at Braughing Community Centre, £5. Contact Jacqui 07956 647806 / www.jacqui-smith.net

10:00am–11:00am

Walking Football, MUGA. £2. Jeff 01763 274800 / 07836 232963.

2:15pm – 4:15pm

Drama workshops 6–15 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Dave 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAR 2019

- Mon 2nd 10–11:30am **Chatter Table** at the Manor House.
- Tues 3rd 8pm **Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society A.G.M.** (see page 9).
- Wed 4th 7:45 for 8pm **Buntingford Gardeners' Club A.G.M.** (see page 34).
- Sat 7th 7:30pm **Buntingford Film Club – 'Joker'** in the Seth Ward Community Centre, Luyes Rise (see page 26).
- Sun 8th 12–3pm **Braughing Pop Up Market** in Braughing Community Centre.
- Mon 9th 1:30pm **U3A Meeting** at the Seth Ward Community Centre (see page 28).
- Tues 10th 11am **Tea & Chat Jigsaw Club** at Buntingford Library.
- Tues 10th 2:15pm **Buntingford Local History Group** at the Library (see page 16).
- Wed 11th 8pm **Royal British Legion Meeting** at The Crown.
- Thurs 12th 7:15 for 7:30pm **Buntingford W.I.** at the URC Hall (see page 45).
- Thurs 12th 8pm **Buntingford Drama Auditions** in Benson Hall (see page 27).
- Thurs 12th 8pm **Hare St & Hormeads Garden Club** in the Village Hall (see page 23).
- Sat 14th 7:30pm **Home-Start Ceilidh** in Royston (see page 32).
- Mon 16th 10–11:30am **Chatter Table** at the Manor House.
- Mon 16th 12noon–2:30pm **Jazz on the Heath** at Therfield Heath Café, with Dave Rance's Rockin' Chair Band. £8 on the door.
- Mon 16th 8pm **Unplugged Acoustic Night** at The Crown, Market Hill.
- Wed 18th 10:30am **B.A.L.A. Coffee Morning** at Benson Hall (see page 44).
- Thurs 19th 7:45pm **Annual Town Meeting** in the Bunters Suite of the Seth Ward Community Centre (see page 19).
- Fri 20th 8pm **Buntingford Railway & Local History Society** at The Crown PH.
- Sat 21st 3pm **Tea-Time Talk** in Standon Village Hall (see page 44).
- Sat 21st 7:15pm, First Race 8pm **Royal British Legion 'A Night At The Dogs'** in the Seth Ward Community Centre (see page 31).
- Sat 21st 7:30pm **J S Bach's B Minor Mass** in Ashwell Church (see page 10).
- Fri 27th 7:30pm **'Lion'** in Braughing Village Hall (see page 27).
- Sat 28th 7:15 for 7:30pm **Westmill Quiz Night** in the Village Hall (see page 11).
- Sat 28th 7:30pm **'Bohemian Rhapsody'** in Furneux Pelham (see pages 27 / 45).

FUTURE DATES

- 2nd Apr **Home-Start Literary Lunch** in Royston (see page 32).
- 20th Apr **Friends of the Rib & Quin Spring Meeting** (see page 11).
- 21st Apr **Buntingford Civic Society A.G.M.** (see page 9).
- 2nd May **Buntingford Twinning Association Saturday Night Hop** (see page 43).
- 9th May **VE Day 75 Anniversary Celebrations** (see page 9).
- 19–23 Jun **Summer Arts in Buntingford 2020** (see page 24-25).

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE STATION:

Baldock Road, Buntingford

Non-emergency telephone: 101

In emergencies dial 999

GAS:

Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999

ELECTRICITY:

Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838

WATER (Veolia):

Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325

SEWERAGE (Thames Water):

Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800

FLOODLINE:

Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188

Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60

DOCTORS:

The Medical Centre – White Hart Close

Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)

Orchard Surgery – Baldock Road

Tel: 01763 272410 (After hours: 272411)

**B A S H (Buntingford Action
For Social Help):**

Providing transport for hospital and doctors

appointments. Tel: Colin Horgan 07733 091731

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

Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554440

(in emergency, dial 999)

LOCAL COUNCILS:

Buntingford Town Council – 01763 272222

East Herts District Council – 01279 655261

Housing – 01279 714714

Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852

For emergencies out of office hours: 01279 655261

Adult Care Services – 0300 123 4042

Children's Services – 0300 123 4043

Hertfordshire Highways – 0300 123 4047, or report

faults online: www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:

High Street, Buntingford

Opening times: Mon, Tues, Thurs 10:00 – 17:30

Friday 14:00 – 17:30

Saturday 09:00 – 13:00

Telephone enquiries – 0300 123 4049

Option 1 – Renewals 03:00–23:45 every day

Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00,

Sat 09:00– 6:00

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:

The Manor House

Market Hill, Buntingford

Opening times: Monday 10:00 – 16:00

Tues & Wed 10:00 – 13:00

Telephone advice: Mon to Fri 10:00 – 16:00

Call 03444 111 444

**HOUSEHOLD WASTE &
RECYCLING SITE:**

Watermill Industrial Estate

Aspenden Road

Opening times: Mon to Fri 17:00 – 20:00

Sat & Sun 10:00 – 13:00

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

EDITOR'S LETTER

As February draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on how very different the weather has been to what we had in the same month last year. If you recall, in 2019 we had the warmest, sunniest February anyone could remember – temperatures of 20°C and more for day after day. Not this year! February 2020 may well go down as the wettest anyone can remember. Fortunately for us, most of that rain has fallen elsewhere, although we have still had enough for the local water company to cancel their longstanding threat of a 'hosepipe ban' this Spring.

I wonder if weather is one of the factors the Halifax had in mind when they judged East Herts to be the best place to live in the country? Jeff Jones starts his 'News from Your Local Councillor' piece this month with the Halifax poll that was widely reported in the national press. He picked it up from the Daily Mail, and the town they chose to represent East Herts? Yes, it was our very own Buntingford.

Carol Emery has been leading a fantastic piece of research by some members of the Buntingford Local History Group to investigate the origins of all the street names in the town. She has sent me her complete list, which is far too long to reproduce in one go – it would take up half the Journal – so I will be printing it in stages over the coming months, a few pages at a time depending on available space. I've made a start on page 17.

The organisers of this year's Summer Arts festival are keen to raise awareness of the event, even if it feels like it's still a long time till June. In particular they want to encourage entries to their 'Battle of the Bands'. If you know someone in a band who might be interested, perhaps you could point them towards page 24 or the Summer Arts website.

In his usual topical fashion, Vyse casts his cynical eye over the latest health scare dominating the news, asking himself what might lie behind it (pages 30-31). From what I've heard so far, the coronavirus appears to be rather less deadly than the average flu, but for those who might be worried I have also reproduced there some Government and NHS advice for the public which the U3A recently sent out to its members.

We have a full-house of reports from our local schools this month, which is quite rare these days. They all seem to have lots going on. And our cover picture comes courtesy of the Buntingford School of Dance, who held an adult ballet class raising funds for mental health charities. Well done to them, and to everyone who gives their time to support worthwhile causes. Finally, local churches and other groups are marking Lent with a variety of discussions and seminars – details on pages 12-13.

Christine Noble

**Editorial copy deadline for the April 2020 Journal is
Saturday 14th March 2020**

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

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

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



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of



A focus on Making Buntingford Beautiful from me this month.

I find it sad that so many of the comments I receive, and views I see on social media, are about litter, dog mess and the state of our footways and footpaths. Littering is a nationwide issue and the government are urging communities to take responsibility for their own environments. This is something that we can all do and I know that some people are already making huge efforts in this area. Facebook recently showed two young girls who had collected four bin bags of litter (photo, right), mostly from the Ermine Street area. I certainly thank them for their efforts and I urge all those who are able to take a more proactive stance – if you see pieces of litter on your walks in and around Buntingford, just take the time to pick them up and dispose of them when you get to a litter bin or get home. Every little helps.



Dog mess is one area which I really do not understand. As a dog owner myself I am appalled at some of the incidents I read about. Just 'bag it and bin it!' There are many dog bins around the town and the Town Council even provide free bags, so what is so difficult?

I often get approached by residents bemoaning the dangerous state of some footways – especially at this time of year when wet leaves have rotted down to make for treacherous surfaces. Pig's Nose along by the river was recently cleared and it looks so much better, but it took weeks to get this actioned. Surely we should expect a more proactive service?

So sad to see that Radley Opticians was ram-raided once again recently. I spoke to owner James who was putting on a brave face, but it must be galling to be targeted in this way yet again. It's not just the loss of valuable stock but the damage to his property. Thanks must go to James for the service he provides to Buntingford and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him all the best for the future. I am led to believe that the perpetrators have since been detained.

The Civic Society AGM will be held this year at the Community Centre – 21st April at 7.45pm. The guest speaker will be Tim Hill, MCIEEM, who is the Conservation Manager for Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Graham Bonner, Chairman Buntingford Civic Society
graham_bonner123@yahoo.co.uk

Buntingford Civic Society was established in 1972 with the aim of improving the fabric of the Town. It has led or been involved in many restoration and enhancement projects, planning, communication and financial support to improve aspects of life in Buntingford. **Annual household membership is just £10** and includes delivery of the Buntingford Journal (10 issues a year) to your door. If you would like to join the Civic Society, an application form is on the website at www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk Alternatively, you can pick up a paper copy of the form at the Manor House, or email the Membership Secretary, Peter Hay, at membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk.



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the A.G.M. of the Buntingford Civic Society will be held on **Tuesday, 21st April 2020, from 7.30pm, upstairs at the Seth Ward Community Centre, Luynes Rise.**

Following the business of the meeting, there will be a talk by Tim Hill, Conservation Manager for the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Light refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting.

Non-Members welcome

BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

on Tuesday 3rd March from 8pm

at the United Reformed Church Hall, Baldock Road (opposite McColl's)
Bird-keepers come and join us. New members welcome.

Enquiries to Mr Tim Robinson on 01763 243143

VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations

To commemorate this important anniversary, VE Day 75 is a three-day international celebration that will take place from **8th to 10th May 2020**. It will be an opportunity for us all to remember the enormous sacrifices that were made at home and abroad and to joyously celebrate, as people did 75 years ago, the arrival of peace in Europe.

Buntingford Town Council are ensuring that we can all join in the celebrations with a family event on **Saturday 9th May** at the Community Centre, Luynes Rise. This will start at 2pm and last until approx 10pm.

Two live bands – Radio Video and Smoking Goats – Buntingford Community Choir and the Freman College Big Band are scheduled to provide the musical entertainment. The musical finale will comprise a professional 'Big Band' and vocalist playing 1940s 'hits'. Kiddies will have fairground rides, stalls, a bouncy castle, bungee trampolines and face painting. Entrance for all of this will be FREE.

There will be a licensed bar and several food outlets, including a hog roast and barbecue. Veg Heads will provide a vegetarian option. We are even trying to arrange a Spitfire flypast but at the time of writing this cannot be guaranteed. The event will finish with a fireworks display. Put the date, 9th May, in your diary now because this promises to be a very special family day out.

Graham Bonner

For us in the Buntingford Community Choir, the word community is very important. We are always delighted to be invited to partake in local events, and this year we have been approached to sing at four of the biggest events in Buntingford's Calendar:



- VE Day 75 festivities
- Summer Arts Festival
- Classic Car Show
- Seniors' Christmas Party

We have lots of new songs to learn and old ones to polish up!

Recently we have had several ex-members, who left for different reasons, return to the choir after taking a break. It's always lovely to see old faces back again, so if you used to be in the Choir and are reading this wondering if you would still be welcome, the answer is YES you would. We would love to see you back.

We meet at 7:30 on Monday evenings in Millfield School, Monks Walk, SG9 9DT. Starting with a gentle warm up, we have a tea break at about 8:30 and finish at 9:30. Just come along with a bottle of water, a pencil and plenty of enthusiasm. There are no auditions, you do not have to read music, and anyone over 16 years of age with any singing ability is welcome. It's only £4 a week and the first week is a free try-out.

For more information go to our website: www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk
Or email: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk

Braughing Sing Community Choir Sings The Musicals!



Come and join us! The choir is open to everyone and there are no auditions. We welcome new members of all ages and abilities. We meet at **Jenyns School, Braughing SG11 2QJ**, on **Tuesdays** (during term time) **7.30 to 9pm**.

Summer Picnic Concert – Saturday 6th June

For more details contact **Elaine 01763 289738**

Facebook page: **"The Braughing Sing" / www.braughingsing.com**

ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY MUSICAL DIRECTOR ANDREW O'BRIEN WITH THE EAST HERTS SINFONIA

B MINOR MASS J.S. BACH

Saturday 21st March 7.30pm ASHWELL PARISH CHURCH

One of Bach's last compositions, completed in 1749, the year before his death, this was described by the early 19th-century Swiss music critic Hans-Georg Nageli as: "The greatest work of music of all ages and of all peoples." **Tickets £15** (just £1 for under 18s) available online shortly and from choir members. Details on the website:

www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk

Things have been moving on since our public meeting in Braughing in January. Our Chairman, his wife and our Technical Officer, Derrick Guy, attended the Lea Catchment Partnership Conference held at Bayfordbury. This event, now in its 7th year, is hosted by the

Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) and brings together people and groups with an interest in the rivers of the Lea Catchment. The aim is to share progress on projects and best practice, and facilitate connections with agencies and water companies.

Over the last couple of months, largely through Derrick's efforts, FORQ's executive have been researching smart phone apps. We were looking for a well-designed app that is informative and available to all, with the potential to record sightings in a way that will help build a picture of 'our' wildlife. Many of the apps available are niche and specialist, but a number of the key elements we need are available in the iNaturalist app. This has full species coverage, can upload pictures and sounds of sightings, and automatic location identification processing in the background makes it extremely easy to use. It can also make identification suggestions and enable others to verify sightings on the website.

We have set up a specific project for the Rib and Quin Valleys, picking up on existing sightings already in the database. The blog post on our website has more about both app and project at: <https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com/2020/01/24/recording-forq-wildlife/> App users will contribute in real-time to our understanding of the wildlife of the river valleys, either by uploading sightings whilst out and about, or via the iNaturalist website from home. We would love more people to help us add to the database.

If you take a look at the iNaturalist project page you will see that a rather nondescript sedge (Scarce Tufted-Sedge *Carex cespitosa*) has appeared in the recent sightings column. We are excited about this because, when we looked at the distribution map for the species, we found that this sighting in the FORQ catchment is the ONLY known specimen of *Carex cespitosa* in the UK and the most westerly in its range! Due to its rather special UK status we are not releasing the exact location of the specimen, but having a plant that is apparently unique in the UK and which is threatened by Himalayan Balsam and a drying river system, we feel we should be concerned about it.

The FORQ Spring Public Meeting is on Monday 20th April, venue TBA.

Pauline Ayres
Communications FORQ

Westmill Events Quiz Night



Saturday 28th March
Village Hall

7.15 pm for prompt 7.30 start

£12 including Fish & Chips

Alternatives: Chicken, Sausage or Veggie Purger

Tables for 6 - be prepared to share.

Limited number of tickets. Book now.
Contact Olga on 273654



**EVERY TUESDAY IN LENT:
3rd March to 7th April**
**Coffee & tea from 7.30 pm.
Start at 8pm. Finish at 9.30pm**
**At The Stables, 57 Wyddial Road,
Buntingford, Herts SG9 9AX
01763 271 459**

HEALING

LENT REFLECTIONS 2020

A series of reflections for people of all faiths and none to explore how we, as individuals and as members of communities, can be forces for **healing** and change in today's divided society.

3rd Mar: **Rev James Sawyer**, Rector of the Quintet Churches (*Anstey, Brent Pelham, Great Hornead, Meesden & Wyddial*) will introduce this series by talking about his own faith journey from a childhood in St Albans, through a 30-year career as a graphic designer to his current ministry. He will share his thoughts about how Parish Churches and faith leaders can help heal relationships within, and between, communities.

10th Mar: **Heal your Behaviour!** Exploring the Enneagram: liberal Evangelist Rev Dave Tomlinson, author of '*How to be a Bad Christian*,' joins us to explain this ancient yet profoundly helpful tool for understanding how and why we think, behave and feel.

17th Mar: **Healing Relationships between Nations** – In the UN's 75th anniversary year we assess its achievements and how to re-invent multilateralism (David Woolcombe).

24th Mar: **Healing inter-faith relationships** – We welcome back Rabbi Jeff Berger, with colleagues Kashif Merchant and Rivka David, to talk about their experience of bringing together children of different faiths in a summer camp.

31st Mar: **Healing Thyself** – Jessica Drake (MsC, CTA, UKCP) was born in Little Hornead and has had a fascinating journey to her present career as a psychotherapist and yoga teacher, wife and mother. She will talk about how faith has helped her address her demons, the links between Eastern faiths and Christianity, and how yogic meditation can help everyone heal their body, mind, spirit and relationships.

7th Apr: **Healing the Spirit** – Dr Gemma Simonds CJ, sister in the Congregation of Jesus and senior lecturer in pastoral theology at Heythrop College, University of London, is a regular contributor to BBC and other radio. She is a prison chaplain, a teacher of Ignatian spirituality, a specialist in religious life within the media and one of the forces behind *Pray As You Go* and other Jesuit Media Initiatives.

Directions: You can reach the Stables via the small door on Church Street, or by the main entrance on Wyddial Road, just beyond the Fox & Duck, past Flint Cottage. If you come into Buntingford by car, it's best to park in the Town car park (access on Bowling Green Lane), walk through the arch to the High Street, then cross the road to go down Church Street. If you have mobility issues, or if you get lost, call us on **01763 271 459**.

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



CHURCHES TOGETHER LENT COURSE

“A Passion for Christ”

Come and explore how a passion for Christ can transform our perspective in any

situation. A Lent study focussing on Paul's second letter to the Corinthians:

Sharing the sufferings of Christ – 4th March

Seeking love in the Church of Christ – 11th March

Spreading the aroma of Christ – 18th March

**Showing the life of Christ in our mortal bodies –
25th March**

Serving with a passion for Christ our Saviour – 1st April



Come and join us in the United Reformed Church Hall at Christ Church on Baldock Road, Buntingford, at **12noon** on the above dates. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Foundations for Dynamic Faith

Moving Christians forward away from religion and into reality.

Saturday morning Bible teaching seminars delivered by

CHRIS HILL (C L Ministries). The next seminar is on **MARCH 21**
followed by **MAY 9 / JULY 11 / OCTOBER 3 / DECEMBER 5**

At Buntingford Library, The High Street, SG9 9AE

(Please park in the Town car park behind Sainsbury's)

Drinks at 9.45am / Start 10am sharp / Finish by 12.30pm

**Due to limited space booking is essential – to reserve your place please
contact Barry or Carol Brown on 01763 272210**

‘GOD’S NOT DEAD’ ???

***WAS THE EASTER CRUCIFIXION THE END OF GOD’S STORY? IS THERE
A GOD AT ALL? OR IS EASTER AN IRRELEVANT HISTORICAL FACT?***

Come and see this general release film, ‘God’s Not Dead’, and make up your own mind! It tells the story of a young man studying law who is challenged by his philosophy professor to acknowledge that God is dead.

17th April 2020 @ 7.30pm at Buntingford Library

We are a group of Christians from different denominational backgrounds who are showing this film for free. There will not be any pressure at all to join a church or organisation. Contact phone number 01763 272210.



The
United
Reformed
Church

Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

Minister: Vacant

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

Services and Junior Church at 11.00am every Sunday

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

March	1	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Robert Pope
	8	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
	15	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	22	Morning Worship	Tina Wilson
April	29	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
	5	Morning Worship	Bob Parkin

Churches Together Lent Course will run from Wednesday 4th March for 5 weeks – see page 13 for more details. Lunch from 12 noon. Course 12.30 to 1.30pm. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Everyone is welcome.

REGULAR EVENTS

Junior Church – Every Sunday at 11am, for all young people and children.

Bright Hour – A time for fellowship with prayers, hymns and activities. The next meetings are on Tuesdays 3rd and 17th March at 2:30pm in the Church Hall.

Coffee & Company – Every Thursday morning from 10:30am.

Lunches for Christian Aid – First Friday of the month, 12:30 to 2pm in the Hall.

Website: www.buntingfordurc.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/URCBuntingford

ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Cyril Chiaha

Sunday Mass: 9:15am (with term-time Children's Liturgy on 2nd & 4th Sun only);

Holy Day Mass: 7pm; **Weekday Mass:** Tues & Thurs 9:30am, Fri 10:30am (with Exposition and Benediction 11-11:30am), Sat 9:30am;

Confessions: Sat 10:30-11am

ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY & ENGLISH MARTYRS

Catholic Church

Sunday Mass: Saturday 6pm (Puckeridge), 11:15am (Old Hall Green);

Holy Day Mass: 10:30am (Puck.); **Weekday Mass:** Wed 10:30am (Puck.);

Confessions: Sat 5.15-5.45pm (Puckeridge)



United Benefice of

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



Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072

There is a full and varied pattern of worship across the three churches:

St. Peter's has a more contemporary style, **St. Mary's** more traditional, **St. Mary the Virgin** more liturgical. *Everyone is welcome at our churches.*

Services for March 2020

Sun 1st	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	10:00am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 8th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Morning Worship
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
	3:00pm	St Peter's, Buntingford	Praise Party
Sun 15th	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 22nd Mothering Sunday	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	All Age Mothering Sunday Interactive Service
Sun 29th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship

The Ash and Quin Valleys Group

Living God's Love

Services for March 2020

St Mary's, Braughing

Sun 1 st	11.15am	All Age Holy Communion
Wed 4 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 8 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 8 th	5.45pm	Refresh Service (informal)
Wed 11 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 15 th	11.15am	Holy Communion with Baptism
Wed 18 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 22 nd	10.00am	All Age Morning Worship
Wed 25 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)

St Mary's, Furneux Pelham

Sun 1 st	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 8 th	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sun 15 th	9.30am	Café Church
Sun 22 nd	11.15am	Morning Worship with Baptism

St Mary's, Stocking Pelham

Sun 29 th	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
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Rev'd Julie Gawthrope
01920 823531

St Mary the Virgin



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
FURNEUX PELHAM

St. Mary's Church
Stocking Pelham

The following article is from a talk given to the Local History Group by Jenny Dingley.

Buntingford's Tannery

Like lots of towns, Buntingford had a tannery which processed raw hides, often sourced from the local slaughter houses, into leather which could be used to make saddles, shoes and harnesses. Most tanneries would have been on the outskirts of their town because of the awful smell and pollution which was caused by the tanning processes. However, Buntingford tannery was just off the High Street, covering an area of about an acre at the rear of the Master Tanner's House, accessed through the large archway next to what is today Jo Morden, the hairdressers. The site consisted of a series of sheds, barns, drying lofts and pits where the tanning process took place. As a plentiful supply of water was needed, a culvert was made from the River Rib starting near Pig's Nose, running through the site and discharging back into the Rib near the Jolly Sailors.

The traditional tanning process began with the delivery of hides from the local butchers' slaughter houses, as well as from further afield. They were washed to remove blood, dirt and any preservative put on by the butcher and then sorted into their suitability for use as future leather. After soaking in a lime solution to remove the hair, which could be collected for making felt, they were 'fleshed' to remove any fat or flesh still remaining. The hides, now known as pelts, were then treated with a mild acid to remove any traces of the lime. Once this was done the hides would be immersed in a series of baths in which bark and chopped almonds had been leached to draw out the tannin. Each bath was of an increasingly strong solution and the pelts moved from one to another until the required colour and texture had been reached. They were then dried and rubbed with oil to maintain a degree of flexibility, depending on the final use. The whole process took at least a year and could take up to two years.

Records show that Buntingford's tannery operated from at least 1792 when it was owned by the Green family. It was bought by Benjamin Trood in 1830 who sold it to Thomas Peggram in 1838. By 1854 Peggram had emigrated to Australia to set up a tannery there and the new owner was George Mickley, a local businessman who built the business up and must have made quite a profit as he was able to purchase several properties in and around Buntingford and also became secretary of the Ware, Hadham and Buntingford Railway Company. On Mickley's death in 1894, the tannery was purchased at auction by Henry Samuel Ashford from Woking. He ran it very successfully until he retired due to ill health around 1918. Ashford was well known in the town, being the owner of the Gas and Coke Company, a local magistrate and Deacon of the United Reformed Church. On his retirement his family moved to Layston Cottage. Some of the land attached to the cottage was later sold and the retirement bungalows called Ashford's were built.

In 1918 Amalgamated Tanneries Ltd bought the business from Mr Ashford, but in an unfortunate accident the following year a carpenter, who was repairing a gutter on one of the sheds, was killed. A court case for negligence eventually led to the liquidation of the company. It was then bought by the British Electric Tannery Syndicate Ltd, but it never returned to trading. By 1925 the tannery had closed for good and the site lay dormant. The land passed through several owners who all had grand ideas for use of the site, but nothing came to fruition until 1961 when planning permission was given for 16 houses to be built on the land. Today this development is known as The Tannery and several of the old tanning buildings were also converted into homes.

A number of local residents can remember playing in the disused site and can tell stories they were told about fathers and grandfathers working in the tannery.

The next meeting of the Buntingford Local History Group will be on
Tuesday 10th March at 2:15pm in Buntingford Library

Buntingford Local History Group's Guide to Street Names in Buntingford

Carol Emery, with the help of Jenny Dingley, Robin Webb and Jenni Keeling, has researched and compiled a list of Buntingford's streets, explaining where their names came from. Not every street has a ready answer – apparently no-one knows why Norfolk Road is so-called – but I am certain their work will be of interest to many readers. The list is alphabetical and I will be publishing it in stages as it's far too long for one issue of the Journal. This entry takes us from A to De. The group would welcome any comments, especially if you notice anything missing or wrong. You can contact Carol through me, the Journal editor, or you could go along to one of their monthly meetings.

- Aldridge Way** – Ernest George Aldridge was a private in the 2nd Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment. He died aged 28 on 25th September 1915 and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial in France. William Aldridge, Ernest's brother, was a private in the 6th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment. He died aged 23 on 17th February 1917. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Both are commemorated on the Buntingford War Memorial.
- Ansell Close** – James Ansell died during the First World War and is commemorated on Aspenden's War memorial.
- Anvil Court** – This was part of the blacksmith's premises.
- Applewood** – Originally an orchard.
- Archers** – According to an old map, these houses were built on Archers Field.
- Ashfords** – Named after the Ashford family who owned the Tannery and lived in Layston Cottage. The bungalows were built on part of the garden of Layston Cottage.
- Aspenden Road** – The road leading to Aspenden.
- Aylott Close** – Named after Frank Aylott who was manager of the football club when it played on the land that is now Aylott Close, off Freman Drive. The developer asked to name the road after Frank because he had been so gentlemanly and nice to deal with in the court case which occurred to acquire the land for the development.
- Bake House Court** – Site of a bakers where they made the bread.
- Baker Drive** – Frederick Baker was an acting Corporal in the 1st battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He died aged 22 on 5th May 1915 and is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres in Belgium and on the Buntingford War Memorial.
- Baldock Road** – Originally called Baldock Lane, at some stage it was changed to Baldock Road and it leads to Baldock.
- Barleycroft** – Named after a field.
- Bell Barns** – Named after the barns that belonged to the Bell Inn and were used for stabling horses. The Inn is long gone, but the property still stands on the High Street.
- Bishop Way** – Possibly named for Seth Ward, who became Bishop of Salisbury.
- Bowlers Mead** – A map of 1880 shows a field called Bowlers Green meadow.
- Bowling Green Lane** – This was originally a track at the rear of properties on the west side of the High Street and was called Back Lane. The present name comes from the bowling green which was in the garden of the large house on the corner of Bowlers Mead. The house was occupied in the 1870s by Thomas Nevett, a local builder.
- Bradford Court** – Reuben Bradford was a private in the 4th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He died aged 36 and is commemorated on the Arras War Memorial, and also Buntingford and Aspenden War Memorials.

- Brice Gardens** – Hugh Leonard Brice was a private in the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He died aged 31 on 21st April 1915 and is commemorated on Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, and on the Buntingford War Memorial.
- Bridewell Close** – This is named after The Bridewell, the large house that stands on Wyddial Road which was at one time Buntingford's House of Correction. The houses were built in the 1960s on land that had belonged to The Bridewell.
- Bridge End** – Near the bridge on the north edge of town that leads to Wyddiall. The bridge is known as Kingsley Bridge.
- Bridgefoot** – Originally Bridgefoot was a farm, part of the Corneybury Estate, in the area now occupied by the Co-op and around Hare Street Road. The name was also later used for Bridgefoot House, built as the Buntingford Workhouse.
- Broad Baulk** – The footpath from Buntingford to Throcking at the rear of the bungalows was originally a green lane called Broad Baulk.
- Campbell Close** – Named after Annie Campbell of Layston Court who gifted what was known as Town Hall Land, which was later built on and became Dell Springs.
- Castle Grove** – William Russell Castle was a private in the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He died aged 20 on 7th May 1915 and is commemorated on the Memin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. Ernest Henry Castle was a Lance Corporal in the 8th Battalion Tyne Buffs East Kent Regiment. He died aged 25 on 26th September 1915 and is remembered on the Loos Memorial, France. Both men are commemorated on the Buntingford War Memorial.
- Chapel End** – So called as it sits at the southern end St Peters Church, which for many years after its construction was known as the Chapel of Ease.
- Chequers Close** – Named after The Chequers Inn, now called Brambles, at the northern end of the High Street. Originally the land at the rear of The Chequers would have reached to this development.
- Church Street** – Originally called Great Lane, this was the route from the town to St Bartholomew's Church at the top of the Causeway, now a private residence.
- Clayton Drive** – William John Clayton was an ordinary seaman who died on 24th March 1942 when his ship, the *SS Empire Steel*, was torpedoed by a U-boat. He is commemorated on Tower Hill Memorial in London and on Buckland War Memorial.
- Cornwell Close** – Reginald Alfred Cornwall was a rifleman in the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, posted to the 6th City of London Battalion. He died aged 18 on 19th July 1918. He is buried in Contay British Cemetery in France and commemorated on the Buntingford War Memorial.
- Crouch Gardens** – Named after the Crouch family who owned Corneybury Manor from 1583 to 1690.
- Deacons Place** – The developers told the council that the name was chosen to reflect ecclesiastical links, but a Deacon is also a role within the Freemasons and the owner of the land, who was a mason, wished the development to be named after that role. This ties in with Tylers Close which is opposite; Tyler is another masonic role.
- Dell Springs** – A map of the Manor of Corneybury dated 1740 shows a field called Dell Field, so the name may come from that. However, locals say that this was known as Dell Spring Wood as there was a group of young trees in the field. It was gifted to the council by Annie Campbell (see Campbell Close, above) as the council hoped to build a town hall there. Eventually it was sold for development and became Dell Springs.
- Dellow Close** – Reginald Dellow was a lance corporal in the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He died aged 18 on 6th May 1915 and is commemorated on the Memin Gate at Ypres, Belgium, and on the Buntingford War Memorial.



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

Due to a Councillor's non-attendance at meetings, a casual vacancy has arisen on the Council. After following due procedure, the Town Council is free to co-opt to fill the vacancy. Hopefully this will be done at Council on the 27th February. Details of the successful candidate will be announced in due course.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday 19th March 2020 in the Bunters Suite at the Seth Ward Community Centre at 7.45pm. There will be an overview of the year from the Mayor, Councillor Graham Waite, and Councillor Jon Ling will give a presentation on Plastic Free Buntingford. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions on any local issues. All members of the electorate are welcome to attend and local organisations are asked to submit a report, which will be on display for members of the public to read.

After a long and arduous process, it is hoped that the town CCTV will be installed within the next month or so. Progress has been painfully slow due to the town's Conservation Area status and the many Listed Buildings that will need cameras installed on them.

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE, Town Clerk

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

The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AB

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

Twitter: **@buntingfordtc** Facebook.com/**BuntingfordTC**

Website: **www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk**

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

Town Council meetings for March 2020

Thurs 5 th Mar	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 12 th Mar	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 19 th Mar	7:45pm – Annual Town Meeting, Bunters Suite, Seth Ward Community Centre
Thurs 26 th Mar	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Full Council

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

'Coffee with a Cop'

PC Gemma and PCSO Paul Dearman will be at the Buntingford Coffee Shop, 61 High Street, on **Wednesday 18th March, 11am–12noon**. If you have any concerns about crime or antisocial behaviour, please go along and join them for coffee and a chat.

News from Your District and County Councillor, Jeff Jones

East Hertfordshire Voted Best Place to Live in UK in 2020



It's a pity that the Daily Mail could not spell Hertfordshire! But good to see from the photo that Buntingford was chosen to represent East Hertfordshire.

In a Quality of Life Survey organised by the Halifax to find the Best Place To Live in the UK, this year East Herts has come out top! According to the Halifax, East Hertfordshire, with its “bustling market towns and picturesque countryside”, came out No.1 thanks to high life expectancy, good schools, health and happiness scores, and high average earnings. Life expectancy here is higher than the national average – on average men can expect to live to 82.5 years and women 85 years, which is respectively 3 years and 2 years above the national average. School results had a big impact with 73.3% of students in the area achieving grade 9 to 4 in English and Maths. Health and wellbeing also scored high, with 97% of residents reporting good or fairly good health. I hope that our excellent District Council and Councillors may have been a contributing factor!

Ward Freman Pool Improvements

East Herts Council has invested heavily in the district to improve its leisure facilities. This includes £32 million for a new pool at Grange Paddock in Bishop's Stortford, redevelopment of Hartham Common Pool at Hertford, and improvements at Ward Freman Pool (right), including a gym. These projects aim to support the Council's vision for leisure across East Herts by providing attractive facilities available to the whole community and contributing fully to the health and wellbeing objectives of the Council. £900,000 has been approved for the



improvements to Ward Freman Pool to boost the range of activities offered:

- Creation of a new 30-station gym to include dry-side changing facility
- New wet-side changing rooms, with new showers, changing area and vanity units
- New accessible changing facilities
- Refreshed pool hall with new lighting

And behind the scenes: • New boilers; • New filtration system; • New pool air handling system. It is hoped these improvements will be completed by the end of August and coincide with the award of the contract, following a successful tender, to Everyone Active to manage these facilities on behalf of East Herts Council for the next 15 years.

Redrow – The Maples

Sir Oliver Heald MP, myself and two Neale Drive residents, Bill Osborne and Pannie Hopper, had a meeting recently with Herts Highways to seek their opinion on a request by The Maples residents to stop up the spine road access to the A10. The approved plans for the estate included the closure of Ermine St northbound access to the A10. Although Highways would not approve a closure of Neale Drive onto the A10, they would not offer objection to the Ermine St access remaining open. Highways will safety audit the new Neale Drive access once it has been opened for a period. Further meetings between Oliver and myself with East Herts Planning and with Redrow confirmed that both would offer no objections to both accesses to the A10 being open. This will give a choice of A10 access from Neale Drive (southbound only) or Ermine St from the north of the town.



Left to right: Sir Oliver Heald MP, Bill Osborne, Pannie Hopper and Jeff Jones at County Hall.

Councillor Advice

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

Cllr Jeff Jones, District and County Councillor, Buntingford Ward
07836 232963 / Jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk

COFFEE AND COMPANY

Thursdays 10.30am – 12 noon
URC HALL – Baldock Road Buntingford

(Opposite McColls/Post Office,
disabled access from Meeting House Lane)

Come for Coffee, Cake, Company and Chat

Elderly? Living Alone? New to the area?

Working from Home? **All Welcome.**

Just turn up and give a small donation for refreshments.



My Friend Phil

Surveying his estate Phil has the syncopated strut reminiscent of the 70s comedian Max Wall. Feet splayed, chest puffed out, rear end upwards and a dominant head thrusting backwards and forwards in rhythm with his gait. He has a certain cocky style, his focus is unwavering and he is always on alert, listening out for friend or foe.

His colourful head and raiment are so much brighter and more flamboyant than the sombre black Mr Wall favoured – but at the time Mr Wall wore it to perfection. Instead Phil is comparable to Joseph and his “technicolour dream coat”. Such a mix of colours should shout at one another, but of course they don’t when so elegantly arranged. The luminosity, iridescence and radiance of the colours are second to none, especially if the early morning sun, or closing sunbeams, catch his back. As he wanders, his large feet plant themselves purposefully but daintily, much like a Nureyev exploring his stage.

But he does have his aggressive moments when these beautiful feathers stand up on end and strong clawed feet make short shrift of any opponent who dares to enter his territory. Several times each season he will appear looking slightly dishevelled with tail feathers askew. This is when he has, with some relish and repeated shrill sounds of “ku-tuk-ku-tuk”, sought to fight off any other male bolshie enough to try to take over. I hope the ladies of his harem appreciate these efforts on their behalf. These skirmishes can last for an hour or more and appear to be quite vicious, but fortunately he always seems to regain his composure despite losing a feather or two.

Unbeknown to Phil and the many other wildlife friends who frequent my garden, they are all given names – hence the fact you have already heard quite a lot about him. These names go on season to season, even if the original specimen may not actually visit any more. Don’t ask me why naming each is important, it simply is. The heron is Henry; the squirrel Cyril; the two red-legged partridge are Patrick and Percy; the flock of long-tailed tits the groupies. The large, beautiful, friendly and intelligent pheasant is Phil and each member of his harem is named Clara.

I do feed Phil and his closest friends, including his harem who like to stay close. It takes little time for them to learn that the rattle of the corn and seeds in the tray is their call. Phil very quickly establishes his pecking order and is robust enough with his entourage to ensure that he feeds before the often delinquent females get their turn. Last year he became so tame that he fed from my hand. I think this provides him with a further air of bravado and a little more assertion that he’s in charge.

Phil is a clever survivor. Surrounded by arable fields his territory goes far beyond my garden but every late summer he takes a more permanent residence in “Fields Edge”, a lower, overgrown and tangled part of the garden. Here, he and his entourage can hunker down and remain well hidden, especially when the green-coated and booted brigade are endeavouring to bag them out of the sky most weekends after 1st October. Quite often they will recce a shoot the day before and I’m quite sure Phil observes their manoeuvres, planning his hunker down accordingly. A shoot will start around mid-morning, long after Phil and friends have had their breakfast. They lie quiet and low and so well camouflaged that even I, knowing their location, can’t see them. The shoot is soon over, the beaters and guns move off. Then, when he feels the coast is clear, he struts out chuntering to himself: “Sorry chaps, you weren’t quite savvy enough to bag us this time, so you won’t be casseroling me or my girls with Madeira and mushrooms any time soon.”

It’s now a new January and my fine feathered friend is still here with what seems most of his entourage in tow. Dare I say looking even plumper and more glorious than before? In the short hours of wintry sunshine he shines as he struts, now noticing the new bright green shoots around him. He and I can fall out if he dares to peck at these, but frankly

compared to the partridge he's quite restrained, they can strip plants with the speed of locusts when they find a flavour they really like.

The shooting parties are still visiting regularly, but I feel Phil and his friends have honed their hiding techniques to such a fine art that with a little bit of luck I will be able to enjoy their glorious company for some time yet. That is, of course, as long as the stalking flash of chestnut and white I briefly saw yesterday in a field close by doesn't have other ideas!

Sue Cutts – Buntingford Writers' Group



Mudlarks, Community Award 2019.



The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

CPRE Hertfordshire Awards 2020

For those caring about their Community and/or the Environment

Our annual Awards Scheme is now open when we invite you to nominate people or groups who have helped improve life in your community and/or enhanced the environment in Hertfordshire.

We want to recognise and celebrate the efforts of those who work so hard to protect, promote and enhance their towns or villages and/or the surrounding countryside to make them better places to live, work, go to school, and enjoy today and tomorrow. They could be charities, informal groups, events, businesses, or individuals of all ages. Cllr Jeff Jones of Buntingford said of these awards: "It is great to see individuals and groups receiving recognition for their work and contribution to the community."

We need you, the public, to nominate for the awards, or spread the word by telling others about them. We are happy to receive self-nominations. To make a nomination download a form from our website www.cpreherts.org.uk/awards and return it to us by **31st May 2020**. Or for more information contact gill@cpreherts.org.uk.

Our judges review the nominations over the summer and the Awards are presented at an evening event in October. Previous nominations include village halls, playgrounds, chalk streams, local nature reserves, health walks and woodland restoration, riverfly monitoring, a bird box trail, an eco-house and various "friends of" groups, a community car scheme, community choirs, festivals, community orchards and a lambing weekend. Someone or something in your community deserves to be recognised!

HARE STREET AND HORMEADS GARDEN CLUB

Now in its 27th year, the club meets each month (except January and August), usually in the Village Hall, Great Hormead (SG9 0NR), where meetings start at 8pm. The next meeting is on **Thursday 12th March** when Annie Godfrey, owner of Daisy Roots Nursery, Hertford, will give a talk called 'Good in Bed', looking at plants that have a long season of interest in the garden and earn their keep. Annual Club membership is £15, visitors pay £3 per visit. Raffle, plant sales and complimentary refreshments. Enquiries Jane Wright 01763 289417.





BATTLE OF THE BANDS

FREE ENTRY

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE
2:30PM
LAYSTON GARDENS



FULL ENTRY DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORM AT SUMMERARTSINBUNTINGFORD.COM



LAUNCH WEEKEND

OPENING FESTIVAL

19th June 2:30pm - 21st June 10:15pm
Layston Gardens, Buntingford High Street

FREE Daytime Entertainment

Craft Demonstrations - Kids Activities
Creative Art Stalls - Good Eats & Drinks
Live Music

Ticketed Evening Concerts

The Essential Jersey Boys - DixieMix
Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage Folk
And Many More...

Tickets Available Either Online Or From
Chris Dellar & The Black Bull
from 1st April 2020

summerartsinbuntingford.com



Early Bird Offer £10

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

A reminder, as most of our supporters are now aware, that we have moved our 'cinema' to Seth Ward Community Hall, which is a bigger venue and therefore we can have a bigger audience! The screening of *Downton Abbey* in January endorsed this with 100 people thoroughly enjoying the evening. As I write this, it is very much hoped that another capacity audience will be there to support Kelly in her fundraising efforts for Great Ormond Street Hospital with *Big Hero 6* and the classic *Singin' in the Rain* on Saturday 22nd February. More on this next month and also on the winner of the Short Film Contest which will be decided at the final of the competition on Friday 21st February.

Coming up at the Community Centre Cinema

Saturday 7th March at 7.30pm **Joker**

This 2019 American psychological thriller has been much lauded by critics and won this year's Oscars for Best Actor, Joaquin Phoenix, and Best Original Score. Set in 1981 in a decaying Gotham City, it follows Arthur Fleck, a failed stand-up comedian whose descent into insanity inspires a violent counter-cultural revolution against the wealthy. Not for the faint-hearted, *Joker*, led by Phoenix's ferocious, feral performance, is a brutal, dark and compelling original story of a man's painful journey to self-destruction.



Saturday 4th April at 7.30pm **Knives Out**

Acclaimed writer and director Rian Johnson pays tribute to Agatha Christie in this fun, modern-day murder mystery where everyone is a suspect. When crime novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) is found dead at his estate after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) is enlisted to investigate. From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Harlan's death. An entertaining whodunnit, with a sharp script, great performances and biting political commentary!

Saturday 16th May 7.30pm **1917**

To complement the VE-Day Celebrations of the previous weekend, we are showing this multi-award-winning First World War movie directed by Sam Mendes. Based on a true story, this drama plunges the viewer into the trenches to breathless effect.

Community Screenings coming up in nearby villages

Friday 27th March at 7.30pm in Braughing Village Hall

Lion – Tickets from the Village Shop

Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm in Furneux Pelham Village Hall

Bohemian Rhapsody – Tickets £10 in aid of St Mary's Church Roof Fund

Further information from Fliss Sandell 01763 272111.

Outdoor Screenings this Summer

We are planning Outdoor Screenings over the weekend of 25th/26th July at Layston Church. Details t.b.a. but this will definitely include 'Rocky Horror'! And our Outdoor Movie at The Sword Inn Hand, Westmill, will this year be on Sunday 23rd August.

So the Film Club continues to thrive, offering exciting events in and around our town.

Christine Stuart-Taylor, Event Co-ordinator – 01763 272990

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

Online Booking via Billetto: www.buntingfordfilmclub.org

Buntingford Dramatic Society

First, a very big **THANK YOU** to our wonderful Buntingford audience who came to see our comedy double-bill in February: *Camp Confidence* and *Dinner for One*. Four sell-out performances and, we hope you agree, a genuinely entertaining evening and a performance worthy of the West End from Chris Richardson in *Dinner for One*. As the Chair of our Society pointed out, this will be a hard act to follow, so instead of trying to do more of the same, we're going for something COMPLETELY different:

Lady Audley's Secret

This outrageously over-the-top comedy/thriller was the favourite melodrama of the Victorians. It tells the story of social-climbing Lady Audley who manages to fall in love with, offend and/or murder every man she meets! A pantomime of upper-class intrigue and snobbery, it has excellent parts for 4 men and 4 ladies, plus key backstage roles. **Auditions** will be held at 8pm in Benson Hall on Thursday 12th March and the play will be performed as part of Buntingford's Summer Arts Festival, and the Hertfordshire Year of Culture, on the 3rd, 4th, 10th & 11th July.

Come along and join the fun – email buntingford.drama@outlook.com if you'd like to know more about what the various roles, both on-stage and off, involve.

CALL FOR

ARTISTS



HERTS
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STUDIOS

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TO TAKE PART IN

Herts Open Studios 2020

Open to artists across Hertfordshire
Registrations open 1st March - 30th April

WWW.HVAF.ORG.UK

Fifteen-year-old Mick Casson was a very lucky boy. He had just left school and all he wanted to do was to play the drums. So he decided to join the Army and by coincidence the Recruitment Officer had just received a request for some drummers! He was in.

He rose to become a Sergeant Major having had the perfect career touring the world playing drums. When he was retired by the Army, he became the manager of an Old People's Home for a few years, after which he decided to retire. This didn't suit him and he suffered depression until he was told there was a job available for a Beefeater at the Tower of London. He had never visited the Tower of London and thought it was just the iconic White Tower – he didn't know that people actually lived there!

He was ideal for the job and absolutely loved it. Like all the Beefeaters, he loved to tell the stories of the Tower. He also has a wicked sense of humour. One of the many anecdotes he told us was about an American who asked where the water was in the moat. Mick replied that they had to let it out in order to mow the grass. Happy with this, the American went off and later returned with a group of his own and immediately told them what Mick had told him. Unfortunately, Mick's boss heard him! But Mick never owned up.

Our 3rd Age Ukes recently played at the Barley Town House for the Barley Community Group. It coincided with the birthday of Group Leader, Colin Meehan, so included 'Happy Birthday' and a cake (photo below). The afternoon was much enjoyed and the group has been invited back next year.



Our next meeting will be on Monday 9th March when our speaker will be Daniel Pinder with a talk entitled 'Tax Care and Toy Boys', which we're told will be light-hearted, informative, finance planning advice by the Co-op. Doors open 1.30pm.

Jean Cook

Please visit our website for information on our groups:
www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford



The Hundred Parishes Society

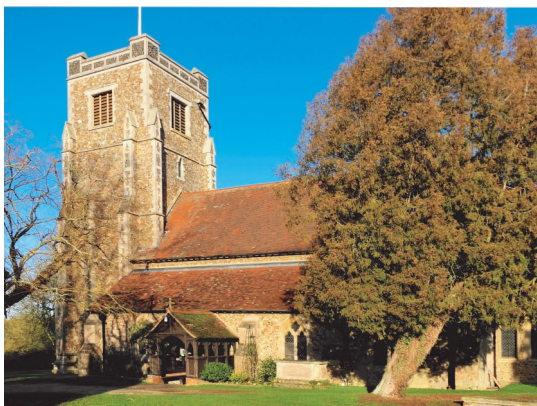
www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Please take another look at the new polymer £20 banknote that has just been issued. It features the British artist JMW Turner (1775–1851) and his painting, *The Fighting Temeraire*. The painting shows HMS *Temeraire* in

1838, being towed by a steam tug towards a scrapyard at Rotherhithe on the Thames. It was a sad ending for a ship that had achieved considerable fame at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The *Temeraire* was immediately astern of Nelson's flagship, the *Victory*, and played a major part in the battle, her crew capturing two enemy ships while suffering heavy casualties.



The captain of the *Temeraire* at Trafalgar was Eliab Harvey (1758–1830) from Chigwell in Essex. He shared his time between naval duties and being one of the two Members of Parliament for Essex. He was later knighted and promoted to the rank of admiral. Sir Eliab's final resting place is in the Hundred Parishes, in the Harvey family crypt beneath St Andrew's Church, Hempstead (below). The crypt holds the coffins of around 50 members of the extended Harvey family.



An earlier family member was William Harvey (1578–1657), the first doctor to describe the circulation of the blood. His mortal remains are also in Hempstead Church, although in 1883 his body was moved by the Royal College of Physicians from the crypt into a large sarcophagus in the chapel above.

A print of *The Fighting Temeraire* hangs in Saffron Walden in the Wetherspoon pub called The Temeraire, whose walls are richly decorated with pictures and information about local history.

The new £20 note is not the first to have a local connection. The £50 note in circulation from 1994 to 2011 featured Sir John Houblon, the first Governor of the Bank of England, whose family once owned Hatfield Forest.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Beware the Yellow Peril

It is sometimes alleged that the sage Michel de Nostredame (known to us Nostradamus) foretold that there would be a threat from the east. Because his predictions are somewhat vague and could, like statistics, be used to “prove” anything, one cannot guarantee that it is worthy of serious consideration. However, learned and intelligent people throughout history have applied logic and the predictability of human species, together with natural phenomena, to assess the probability of future events.

Closer to home my late father, whilst not a man of letters (he did get one to say they were converting him to natural gas back in the day), made more accurate predictions by instinct and observance of people and world events where humans never learn and set the clock to zero every day. He also possessed the Cassandra gene which I think he handed down to me. The mythical daughter of Priam, king of Troy, had the gift of predicting the future with some accuracy, but as the gift had been given by the god Apollo (Sunny Jim) as an inducement for “favours” in return, when she didn’t concur he threw a wobbly and cursed her never to be believed. Is it surprising, therefore, that I am somewhat sceptical of certain reassurances? Such as the word “consultation” when a group has already made its mind up about an event, be that a building programme for our town, or “the pound in our pocket will not be affected by devaluation” (thanks Harold), or “Universal credit will be easier to understand and will help people up against it”, or “It’s a freak virus and we have it under control”.

I appreciate that the powers that be, including politicians (who are chronically incapable saving anybody except themselves), but mostly the faceless shadowy types who rule the way of this planet, do not want us, the great unwashed, to know what’s really going on. These people are the architects of all what we as mere individuals accept as something we have thought of and a part of the necessities of life. Be it mobile phones (kept in the back pocket when not in use), bottled water or coffee on the go to show you are a busy person and on trend. All these habits have been carefully designed by marketing “focus” groups to keep us enthralled waiting for the next must have “toy”.

We now have the latest universal world plague, along with the affliction that makes one say “like” after ever other word. Once again it appears to have emanated from the east and the usual hysteria, probably dating back to the time the Mongol hordes swept across Asia to the gates of Europe, is in full swing fuelled by the media in its many insatiable forms stirring up racial conflict, just to keep us from seeing what is really going on.

I have always thought it interesting that “plagues” – such as bubonic plague, SARS and Avian flu – have oft migrated westward, not eastward. This is not always so. The flu pandemic that followed WW1, generally known by the misnomer “Spanish flu”, actually started in the USA. It travelled east with American troops shipped over to Europe to fight in the war and went on to kill far more people than the war itself. But, historically, facts seem to bear out that a lot of plague-type events have emanated from the Far East.

Whilst this latest outbreak of Corona virus is wreaking havoc and the real source of the outbreak is “being investigated”, one might reflect on the curious regularity of the source that still persists of these world events. For many years I have been circumspect as to the more industrial exports from China and its close neighbours. In my personal experience I have found that when the West gallops to take on production in the Far East “because it is more economic”, nobody appears to ask how it is achieved.

Let us take the example of white goods. In the days of yore when we first began to see British-made home aids they were built like tanks. The twin-tub was the housewife’s saviour and they lasted for years (no not the housewife, but no doubt the product added years to their lives). Most electrical manufacturers took up the challenge and homes

acquired fridges, washing machines, tumble driers, electric irons etc. They hardly broke down and when they did you could go to your local high street retailer (we were blessed with Buntingford Television where Reg and Hazel gave great advice and service at competitive rates). But with the advent of the “superstore” there was a surge to buy goods from the Far East which could be produced and shipped at knock-down prices. The first arrivals were of reasonable quality but after a while, when every brand was made there and badged to give the air of choice and our manufacturing base had collapsed, the quality started to drop and it was excused away by the term “built-in obsolescence”. So now, having destroyed our manufacturing industry, we are importing all sorts of rubbish which will not last, is almost impossible to repair economically, and in worst cases cause death. So when we see the portents of doom from a minute organism that we cannot see, ask yourselves is this another result of sloppy hygiene and cheapo manufacturing techniques, meddling in the laboratory, or a generated distraction by the shadowy powers to take our minds off more tangible things from the mysterious East? Like the great sock plague that wreaks havoc hereabouts when one is foolish enough to buy a “bargain” pack of six pairs of black socks (made in China), then after one wash in a Chinese-made washing machine one is presented with twelve socks of all different sizes and shades of black? Still, all cats and socks are grey in the dark as the saying goes – or Confucius might have said. Just a thought.

Wyse





BUNTINGFORD BRANCH
JOIN US FOR

A NIGHT AT THE DOGS

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

LICENSED
BAR



RAFFLE

SATURDAY 21st MARCH

AT

THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE SG9 9SG

DOORS OPEN 7.15pm FIRST RACE 8.00pm

INCLUDES PLOUGHMANS SUPPER

TICKETS £8.00 per person

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM

THE CHEESE PLATE OR CALL 07769653974

Coronavirus Advice: Following the confirmed cases of coronavirus in the UK, the Government and NHS have issued the following advice for the public:

Typical symptoms include fever and a cough that may progress to severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Anyone who has travelled to the UK from mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau in the last 14 days and who is experiencing these symptoms, even if mild, should stay indoors and call NHS 111.

More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public> and on the NHS website.



Royston Buntingford &
South Cambridgeshire

Dance the night away with The Cyriacs at a fun Ceilidh Evening to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

£16 a ticket to include a jacket potato supper. A licensed bar will be available. All proceeds to Home-Start. For tickets call 01763 262262, email admin@hsrsc.org.uk, or book online through www.ticketsource.co.uk/hsrsc



CEILIDH EVENING

7.30pm Saturday 14th March 2020

King James Academy Senior Site, Garden Walk, Royston, SG8 7JH

Or if dancing isn't your thing, how about our next ...

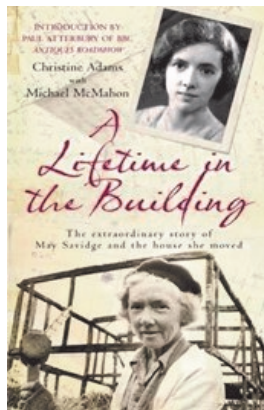
Literary Lunch

Thursday 2nd April, 12.15pm at The Bull, Royston
£15 with buffet lunch included

Home-Start poet-in-residence Jude Simpson will be hosting a chat with Christine Adams, author of '**A Lifetime in the Building: The extraordinary story of May Savidge and the house she moved**', which is soon to be made into a Hollywood film.

May Savidge was the author's aunt, who one day was told by her local council that the home she lived in was to be demolished to make way for a roundabout. May not only loved her home, she believed it was of historical interest as it was a pre-Tudor Hall house. Not many others shared her enthusiasm for preserving the past, but from the moment she received the notification of intent to demolish, May was certain that she had to save her house.

Eventually she decided the only way was to dismantle the house and move it, brick by brick, 100 miles to Wells-Next-the-Sea in Norfolk. Why Wells? Because she had spent happy times there as a child and thought it would be nice to live by the sea! When May began this undertaking, in 1969, she was in her late 60s. This inspirational tale will make you laugh and break your heart – the story of one woman's determination, in the face of great adversity, to protect the home she loved. Never has the saying "they don't make them like that anymore" been more appropriate.



Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire

Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, Royston, Herts. SG8 6JP.

t: 01763 262 262 e: admin@hsrsc.org.uk www.hsrsc.org.uk

**CALLING ALL SWIMMERS:
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR LOCAL HOME-START SCHEME?**



We are looking for swimmers to join our team in the **Home-Start Aquathon on Sunday 17th May at Royston Leisure Centre**. The event runs from 6pm, with the Home-Start team swimming at 8pm. It is not a race, you will swim with a team of 6 in relay for 55 minutes. We have three swimmers for the team already, and if you would like to join them we would love to hear from you. All you need to do is get some sponsorship, then turn up and have fun! There is always a great atmosphere at this popular event. We have 14 teams booked so far from local schools, army cadets, swimming clubs, youth and sports clubs, and one of our Trustees has a team. Call **Tracy** on **01763 262262** if you would like further information or a chat about the event.



Funds to help individuals create their dream community project

For the first time individuals, as well as fledgling groups without a constitution, will be eligible for a small grant from East Herts Council to help turn their dream community project into reality.

Another first is a pot of £10,000 to support organisations who are proposing to fund-raise online via a new Hertfordshire Crowdfunding platform. The maximum grant is £2,000 and the project must raise at least the equivalent itself.

People who wish to apply for a small grant of up to £300 will need their local councillor to sponsor them and act as a mentor. Larger grants of up to £8,000 are available to constituted groups and other not-for-profit organisations. Successful applications will have the support of the wider community and a detailed project plan that can be completed within a year of receiving the grant, creating stronger, more connected communities and leading to improved health and wellbeing.



Paradance.co.uk received a grant of £3,000 towards starting up four new dance groups for children with special educational needs at Amwell View School, Stanstead Abbots, and SPACE in Hertford and Bishop's Stortford.

The deadline for larger grant applications is 31st March and there will be a second funding round in the autumn. There is no deadline for the other funds. Before applying visit www.eastherts.gov.uk/funding-community-organisations for details. You should also email the council's grants officer Claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS' CLUB

The speaker at our last meeting was Susan Lees who came to talk about **Canons Ashby House and Gardens**. Canons Ashby is a gem of an Elizabethan manor house in peaceful Northamptonshire countryside. The manor was built with stone from a medieval Augustinian priory dissolved by Henry VIII, and has been the home of the Dryden family for over four centuries. Surrounding the house is a rare 18th-century style garden as imagined by Edward Dryden which is of national importance.

When the National Trust took over the house in 1981, the gardens were in a serious state of neglect. The Head Gardener took on a 5-year project to restore them to their former glory, reflecting the landscaping of Edward Dryden (18th century) and Victorian planting schemes recorded by Sir Henry Dryden (19th century). Originally there was a lot of topiary, some of which has been reinstated by cutting back and reshaping the overgrown yews. Sir Henry was the first in the country to use a mechanical lawn mower, which was pulled by a horse wearing leather shoes to protect the grass. Elm trees lost to Dutch elm disease have been replaced with new disease resistant trees. The garden is now a good reflection of what it looked like in its Victorian heyday.

The Gardeners Club holds monthly meetings in the United Reformed Church Hall, on the first Wednesday of the month (but not January and August), starting at 8pm. We are a group of like-minded people, some more expert than others, who all enjoy the pleasures and pitfalls of the plant world. We have a varied programme of speakers and organise day trips to interesting venues. A garden is not a pre-requisite of joining, all you need is an interest in plants and gardening. The annual subscription fee is £15; visitors are also welcome and pay £3 per meeting. Contact the Secretary for more information on 01763 271885. Our next meeting will be our **Annual General Meeting** which will be held on Wednesday 4th March.

Lesley Lowers, Club Secretary



Local chiropractic clinic wins national quality award

Attend2Health has been awarded the Clinical Management Quality Mark (CMQM) by The Royal College of Chiropractors. The CMQM is awarded to chiropractic clinics that demonstrate excellence in terms of operating within a structured, managed clinical environment. Applicants must demonstrate excellence in a range of areas including clinical audit, incident reporting and patient satisfaction.

Clinic Principal Louise Hampton is pictured receiving the award from the Chair of the Royal College's Health Policy Unit, Dr Mark Gurden, at a ceremony in London on 29th January. Louise said: "We are so proud to be one of just 60 clinics in the country to hold this award. Only 15 were awarded this year. The award of the Clinical Management Quality Mark recognises this clinic's commitment to operating in a professionally managed environment. The aim of our clinic team is to continually improve, and the award encourages us that we are achieving this."



EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Telephone:

03444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm

The logo for Citizens Advice, featuring the words "citizens advice" in white lowercase letters inside a blue speech bubble shape.

Settled Status

I'm from the EU and I know I need to apply for Settled Status as the UK leaves the EU. But I'm really confused about what documents I need in order to apply for me and my children. We've lived in England for a while and I'm worried that now the UK has left the EU, we might have to leave.

Even though the UK left the EU on 31st January 2020, your rights won't change until 31st December 2020. However, you should apply for Settled Status as soon as you can in case of any delays. After the transition period ends on 31st December you might be asked to prove your right to do things like get a job or use a service like the NHS. Having your status sorted will make this more straightforward.

If you haven't been in the UK for long, you can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme for pre-settled status. You only need to prove you've lived in the UK for 1 day in the last 6 months to get it. You can apply for pre-settled status as long as you move to the UK before 31st December 2020. If you get pre-settled status, you can then live and work in the UK for up to 5 years. After you've lived in the UK for 5 years, you should apply for settled status to stay for longer. You can spend up to 2 years outside the UK without losing your pre-settled status.

To get settled status, you need evidence that you've lived in the UK for 6 months out of every 12 months for 5 years in a row. In order to apply, you'll need to have a few things, including a passport or national ID card, a digital photo, your National Insurance number or proof of how long you've lived in the UK, a mobile number and an email address.

It may be easier to make your children's application after you've made your own. This way you'll be able to 'link' your child's application to yours, using the application number you got when you applied for yourself. You can do this at any time after you've applied – you do not need to wait for a decision. And if your own application is successful, your child will get the same status as you. In order to apply on behalf of your children, you will need to have proof of your relationship – for example a birth certificate.

If you need help, contact your local Citizens Advice. Details for Buntingford CAB are at the top of this page, or you can go to their website and type in your postcode.

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

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

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

THE CO-OP • DELISSIMO • LOCKS, STOCK & MORE • MARK DOEL
McCOLL'S (The Post Office) • PIGGOTTS



MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL



www.millfield.herts.sch.uk

It's another busy month at Millfield as we celebrate Safer Internet Day, World Book Day, World Water Day and support the NSPCC and Sport Relief. The children really enjoy joining in with these national events and we would like to say thank you to our school community for supporting our children so that they can take part.

Visits into School

Our Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed a wonderful Ancient Egyptian Workshop delivered by 'Portals to the Past'. They came to school for the workshop dressed as Ancient Egyptians and then took part in a quiz, games and a group investigation exploring Egyptian artefacts. There was also the crowning of a new Pharaoh!

Visits in the Community

Children in our Reception Classes have been visiting Layston Grove Care Home to share their favourite stories with the residents. Each week a small group of children walk to Layston Grove accompanied by their teacher and parent/carer helpers. Throughout the Spring term each child will have the opportunity to take part in a visit. Both residents and children thoroughly enjoy these visits.

Millfield's Pets

Our school dog Tilly (right) has increased her time in school and will now regularly work each Thursday and Friday afternoon alongside one of our Teaching Assistants reading with the children. We have also seen the benefits of the new addition of a tropical fish tank in the Hub area (below). It's a fantastic learning opportunity that is being enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to the Co-op and our PTA for funding this.



Science Week – 9th to 13th March

During British Science Week the children will be doing science activities based around the theme 'Our Diverse Planet'.

Safer Internet Day

We celebrated Safer Internet Day this year on 11th February when the theme was 'Together for a better internet'. We talked about how children should protect their own personal identity.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) Number Day

We were delighted to support the NSPCC by taking part in their Number Day. The funds raised make an enormous difference to children today and help change the lives of children tomorrow. Number Day is also a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards maths. In return for a small donation for the NSPCC, our children were invited to come to school dressed in anything related to numbers. Throughout the day the children participated in fun, curriculum-based maths challenges organised by our Maths, Science and Computing Faculty. Our Key Stage 2 pupils baked cakes in school which were sold at the end of the day in support of the fundraising.

World Book Day, Sport Relief and World Water Day

On Thursday 8th March we will celebrate World Book Day, when the children will come to school dressed as a character or author from the selection on our Character Tree.

On Friday 13th March the children will be taking part in games and sporting activities in support of Sport Relief's 'It's Game On' theme. We will also have an assembly about the work of Sport Relief.

Sunday 22nd March is World Water Day. In school the children will be learning about this year's theme of 'Water and Climate Change'.



Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher

If you would like to know more about Millfield School (or Little Stars Pre-School) please visit our website or contact the School Office on **01763 271717**.

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk



BUNTINGFORD
SCHOOL of DANCE

ISTD Graded classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern, and Recreational classes in Street, Commercial, Musical Theatre, Baby Boppers and Adult Tap

This term we saw some fantastic results from the ISTD exams taken before Christmas and more pupils are working hard towards ISTD exams in Ballet, Tap and Modern at the end of this term.

On the 4th February we held a fundraising Adult Ballet class to raise money for two mental health charities, "Mind" and "Young Minds". A fantastic turn out raised £115 to be split between the two. We are hoping to reintroduce an Adult Ballet class so watch this space for details.

Due to the success of our Saturday morning **Baby Boppers**, we are introducing a new class on **Mondays, 9.15–9.45am** at the URC Hall. This a fun class for children of 3 years and under, introducing them to music, movement and dance with a variety of music styles such as TV Theme tunes, Musical Theatre songs and pop music. Children are welcome once they can walk confidently. Contact us to book a place.

BOYS DANCE TOO!! Boys are welcome in all our classes, and we are pleased to have welcomed a number of new boys to the School in recent months. We currently have boys in Baby Boppers, Ballet, Tap, Modern and Street Dance. The photos show a few of our boys past and present; the three senior boys all joined us as Baby Boppers and continued with us into their 6th Form years.

New pupils are always welcome for a **NO OBLIGATION TRIAL IN ANY DANCE GENRE!** Have a look at our website:

www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

Or you can find us on Facebook or Instagram.





Layston C of E First School

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

We start the new Spring term exploring the value of Wisdom. Christians believe that true wisdom comes from God. As they grow in faith so wisdom will increase. In the Bible wisdom is seen as both a gift from God and a characteristic of God. In his parables Jesus taught that placing trust in God and recognising what is of value in life brings fulfilment.



We have had a very positive start to the Spring term with plenty to be proud of. Our value this half term is 'Wisdom'. The children are encouraged to act responsibly and to think about the wisdom of their words and actions. To this end, they have explored the difference between being clever and being wise, and why they should respect the wisdom of parents and teachers. We have discussed the meaning of common proverbs and talked about the importance of listening. The children have written thoughtful prayers and designed interesting posters.



We celebrated Christingle at St Peter's Church on 29th January (above). The children all made a Christingle from an orange. Rev Ian led the service and talked about the meaning behind Christingle. The children really enjoyed taking part.

We continue to promote reading and writing and this half term we have been extremely fortunate to have organised active literacy workshops in the hall for every child in the school (photos right and top right). The children had a fantastic time.





Here are some of their comments:

“I really enjoyed it and I was happy for the other team to win even though I scored no points.”

“It was fun!”

“It was all part of the fun, even though I lost.
I love running around!”

“I liked watching others score.”

“It was fun because I like sports.”

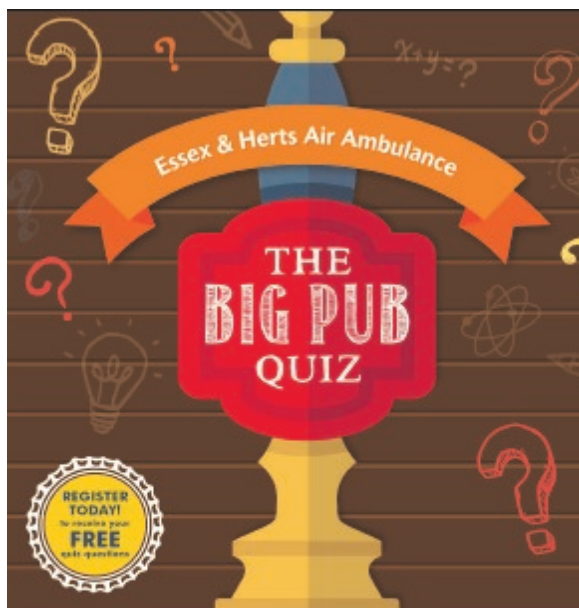
Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

The children in Y4 have been keen to raise funds for local charity, the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Service. Poppy and Ava designed a colouring competition and have delivered a collective worship to the whole school to explain the charity for which they are raising funds.

We are looking forward to a restful half-term break and we thank you for your continued support.



Adele McMurrough, Acting Headteacher



Our local life-saving Air Ambulance charity is looking for people to host it's annual BIG PUB QUIZ to raise vital funds that will help to keep the helicopter ambulances flying.

If this is something that appeals to you, call the EHAAT Fundraising Team on 0345 2417 690 for details or to register. Or you can register online at:

ehaat.org/the-big-pub-quiz

 Essex & Herts
Air Ambulance
Your local life-saving charity



Edwinstree Middle School



A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

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

This half-term we have been exploring the value of Friendship. We have also discovered the Book of Proverbs as a place to seek advice. We found the following helpful in discovering what a good friend is: *“Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but multiple kisses from an enemy multiplies kisses.” 27:5–6.* We now know it is easy to turn away or not to tell a friend when they are getting things wrong, but a true friend gives good advice, even if it is difficult for the other person to hear.



Young Voices at the O2

We were delighted for some of our students to be able to take part in this year's Young Voices event at the O2 arena. On 3rd February members of the Edwinstree School Choir travelled to the O2 to perform alongside hundreds of other young choirs (photos left). They shared the stage with many famous names, including singer-songwriter Ruti, the 2018 winner of 'The Voice'; country duo 'The Shires'; and 80s icon Tony Hadley. The choir were fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Our KS2 students joined together with their family and friends and a host of others to sing at the O2 arena



SATS workshop for Parents

We are supporting Year 6 as they prepare for their SATS in May and as part of this we hold regular workshops for parents to help them understand the tests and what is required. The workshops have proved invaluable and parents have welcomed the opportunity to learn with their child. To help prepare students for exam conditions, we will be staging Mock SATS for Year 6 so the students become familiar with what is expected and feel more comfortable. What we impress upon them is: *'It is not what mark you achieve, but the fact that you give it your best shot.'*

Artwork in the Community

On the theme of friendship, we are really pleased to be helping our local community. We were very excited when Hall & Glory on Buntingford High Street invited our students to create some designs for them to display in their shop window. The theme for the designs was 'Valentine's Day'. We hope you get the opportunity to see some of the wonderful artwork that was put on display.

Some of our environmental students will be working with Buntingford Town Council to help design a guide to the high street and those who are brilliant at recycling plastic.

Fullness Day – Opportunities to have fun, while learning and fundraising

Our February Fullness Day was requested by a Year 6 student with Type 1 diabetes, who has a special friend – a dog trained to sense her lows and highs and enable her to act swiftly when needed. These trained dogs are known as ‘hypohounds’. The Fullness Day also tied in with the Student Voice last year, which requested a day focused on animals.

The day involved lessons on a dog’s nose – who knew a dog’s nose can detect emotions as well as scents? One whiff of perfume can be detected by a dog in a whole stadium! Students also explored breeding for working dogs and the negative sides of interbreeding that have caused unforeseen problems with breeds like boxers. Lastly, they held a huge debate as to whether Edwinstree should have a dog of its own!

Students had the opportunity to meet a variety of working dogs and their trainers, as well as watch Flyball racing (photos right). Students competed in their House teams in a human Flyball race during the afternoon. The dogs were under control at all times. The only dog allowed inside the school was an alert dog in training that was a non-shedding breed to reduce allergic reactions. Phew – we managed to prove you can work with dogs and children!

Visitors next term

After half term, we look forward to a visit from the Archdeacon as we celebrate with the Diocese ‘God in His place’, a collective worship project designed to support us in the lead up to Lent.

Jo Gant, Headteacher



BALFF – Buntingford Adult Learning For Fun CHRISTMAS IN BOURNEMOUTH

I am organising a Christmas break in Bournemouth, leaving Buntingford by coach on 23rd December and returning on 27th December.

We will be staying at Bournemouth’s **Royale Hotel**, which has: Free WIFI; Golf nearby; Indoor pool; Lift to all floors; Restaurants; 24-Hour Service.

Highlights of the trip will be: Christmas Hotel Festivities and Entertainment; Christmas Tree Wonderland; Christmas Market; Beaulieu Motor Museum and Abbey; Visit to Salisbury.

If you are interested please contact me, **Julia Peacock**, on **01763 272584** or email **Julia@goldenmaggot.com** for a brochure.

Freman

COLLEGE

Freman's House Music

Moore House took the crown at our 45th House Music event in February, followed by Mills, Hepworth and Butler. Each House performed a 30-minute session which was edited, directed, staged and performed by the students themselves.

Friday 14th February saw a non-uniform day, with students asked to contribute £2 to raise money to help people tackle the current climate emergency. Some of the funds raised will go to support WaterAid, who help to provide clean water and toilets in communities around the world. The poorest countries are being hit the hardest by this climate emergency. The remaining funds will be used to support attendance of scouts from disadvantaged countries at the Climate Change Jamboree, which seeks solutions for our current climate emergency.

Houses of Parliament trip for Upper 6th

Claire Monk, our 6th Form Administrator, reported on the trip: "We had an informative talk and tour of the Supreme Court; some students went in to see the court case that was in session. We all got to meet and had



the opportunity to put questions to our local MP, Sir Oliver Heald, and we watched a debate taking place in the House of Commons. The buildings looked stunning in the sunshine, even though there are lots of renovations taking place. A good day was had by all."

What's coming up?

Our choir and rock band have been invited to perform at a gala concert at the Royal Albert Hall on 8th March. The choir will sing with students from other schools and a number of instrumentalists will be playing 'Pack Up' by Eliza Doolittle. This will be a fabulous experience for all involved and the students are really looking forward to it.

Some lucky students are looking forward to trips to Germany and Greece in the Easter holiday. It is well known that residential courses organised by schools are becoming increasingly invaluable as part of the National Curriculum and these trips are always very popular; students often come home with new friends and life-long memories.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

April heralds the start of Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. This year the Silver Award practice expedition takes place in the local area, with the assessed expedition taking place in June in the White Peak area of the Peak District. The Bronze Award practice expedition takes place in May, again in the local area.

BUNTINGFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION

So 31st January has come and gone. We may no longer be members of the EU but we remain, geographically and by history and monarchy, Europeans, with much to share with our European neighbours. Despite Brexit, or rather because of it, we think relationships set up 40 or more years ago between European towns and cities, in the shadow of WW2 and the Cold War, have become more important now than before.

At its heart, the core and essence of twinning is the willingness of individuals to share ideas, cultures, food and drink and so forth, by staying with hosts in their homes in the twin towns. Put simply, we believe that the spirit of friendship and understanding helps to underpin international harmony. Buntingford has been twinned with the town of Luynes in the Loire Valley for over 40 years and with Olvega in northern central Spain for 15 years. Luynes and Olvega are twinned with each other as well. Many longstanding friendships have built up in that time. Two years ago, to mark the 40th anniversary, British twidders who had visited Luynes as children went back to meet up with their childhood friends.

We are endeavouring to build relationships with our local schools as the schools in France are also keen to do this, and this was kick-started via a Bake Off in Buntingford last year. New members of any age, families and children especially, are needed to carry forward these worthwhile and rewarding connections with our European friends. Travel to France is normally by coach, but for Spain a flight from Stansted is needed. At this time of year we are planning our trips for the year. We will be visiting Luynes between 16th and 20th April and will receive our Spanish guests in Buntingford between 1st and 5th July.

Meanwhile, our main social event will be 'The Hop' at Seth Ward Community Centre on 2nd May (below). Tickets will be available nearer the time and early booking is advised. Details will be on the Buntingford Web page, local notice boards and in the Journal.

We would love some new members to help us carry our twinning adventure forward. If it appeals to you, please call us on **01920 822905** or email **stevendeeks@yahoo.co.uk**, or speak to anyone you may know who is already a twinner.

Steve and Mary Deeks

Buntingford Twinning Association
It's Back!!
Saturday Night Hop!
LUYNES - BUNTINGFORD - OLVEGA
May 2nd
Seth Ward Community Centre
Luynes Rise Buntingford
Get Your Tickets NOW! From **Only £10**
Free Snacks!
THE CHEESE PLATE
26, High Street, Buntingford

B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips for March 2020

Wed 4 th	10–2:30pm	St Albans (Market Day)	£8
Wed 11 th	10–3pm	Letchworth Town Centre, plus Aldi, Lidl, Sainsbury's	£6
Thurs 12 th	9:15–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Tesco	£5
Tues 24 th	10:30–3pm	Cambridge	£7.50
Wed 25 th	11:30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 26 th	9:15–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Tesco	£5
Mon 30 th	10–2:30pm	St Ives	£8
Tues 31 st	10:30–12noon	Coles Park, Daffodils and Coffee	£2
APRIL			
Tues 7 th	9:30–3pm	Southend	£13
Thurs 9 th	9:15–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Tesco	£5
Tues 14 th	9:30–3pm	Bury St Edmunds	£13
MAY			
Thurs 7 th	1:30pm– approx.5:30	'Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em' starring Joe Pasquale as Frank Spencer. Gordon Craig Theatre, 2.30pm matinee. Tickets £26. Booking deadline 25th March.	Bus: £5

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

To book a seat or for more information:

01763 271909, 07870 638480, 07423 746594

Coffee Morning at Benson Hall Wednesday 18th March, 10:30am

Tea-Coffee, Cakes, Sausage Rolls, Raffle

TEA-TIME TALKS in STANDON VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 21st March – 'The Buntingford Line'

We would love to have any memories you have of the railway so we can display them on the day – please send your recollections to me at tricia@streets1.uk

Starts 3pm in the Village Hall (SG11 1LE), followed by tea & homemade cakes and the chance to chat to friends old and new. Charge £5, payable on entrance.

BUNTINGFORD W.I.

We were delighted to welcome several newcomers to our February meeting and they picked a good time to come along, because our guest speaker was Jason Middleton talking about gemstones. It was fascinating to hear how gemstones are formed over thousands of years when minerals are forced together under great pressure and heat.

Jason brought along several samples so that we could see them in their original natural form, including citrine, amethyst, sapphire, peridot and tigers eye. To me, some of them looked nothing like the cut and polished jewels we are more familiar with and I could easily have found one on a beach and not given it a second glance! Jason also touched upon organic gemstones which are fossilised resin from trees, such as amber. Another example is jet which apparently is the remains of wood immersed in stagnant water millions of years ago and is only available today in antique or vintage jewellery. One of my favourite stones is the emerald, which is part of the beryl group and is the oldest jewel known to man, dating back to the earliest Egyptian Dynasties.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12th March when Joy Hall will be talking on 'Japan – Land of Contrasts'. We meet at the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road (opposite McColls) on the second Thursday of each month at 7.15pm for a 7.30 start. Visitors are very welcome at our meetings and we would love to see ladies who have recently moved to the area. If you would like further information about Buntingford W.I. please contact our Secretary, Pat Webb, on 01763 271305.

Val Hume

Ware & District Photographic Society

Ware & District Photographic Society were runners-up out of 34 Clubs who entered the East Anglian Federation's Digital Projection Images Championship on 9th February. One of Ware's images was judged best in the Championship. The Society will now, with two other Clubs, represent EAF at the National Championships at Warwick in July.

The Society meets weekly on Wednesdays, 8–10pm, at Thundridge Village Hall from September to May. A warm welcome awaits anyone interested in photography. Call Barbara on **01920 822104** or email secretary@wareps.org.uk for further information.

Standon Hand Embroidery Group needs new Members

Standon Hand Embroidery Group meets from January to November, 7.30–9.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month, in the Sargents Room at Standon Village Hall. The tutor, Julie Walsby, is very experienced and a warm welcome awaits anyone interested in learning hand embroidery, with help available for beginners and left-handers. Contact Barbara on **01920 822104** or email robertnorris591@btinternet.com.

Buntingford Film Club will be showing

Bohemian Rhapsody

in Furneux Pelham Village Hall on Saturday 28th March

Tickets £10 – profits will go to the St Mary's Church Roof Fund

Further information from Fliss Sandell 01763 272111



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com

As you can imagine, the recent storms Ciara and Dennis have somewhat restricted the amount of football that has been played! The First Team have managed three fixtures since my last column with only one fixture falling foul of a waterlogged pitch. Results continue to encourage all involved with wins against Oracle Components (away) and Old Parmerians (home) seeing the side score three goals in consecutive matches. The contribution to our goal difference was, however, undone by Rayners Lane Reserves where we shipped six against an excellent side who benefit from superb facilities.

The Reserves have also played three fixtures beating Stanmore Jafferys at home 4-1 and travelling to table topping Tring Town AFC and drawing 1-1. With the benefit of hindsight, the final fixture of this period against Stevenage Borough Community should probably have been postponed due to the driving rain and 50mph winds served up by Storm Dennis! Unfortunately the decision was taken to play and our unbeaten run came to a sudden and crashing end as Stevenage ran out 5-0 winners.

The Vets managed two fixtures and lost both against two of the better teams in the league. A trip to Broxbourne V&E Vets saw a competitive match settled by the only goal – unfortunately it was the opposition who scored it – whilst a home game during Storm Ciara against long-standing rivals Waltham Abbey saw the visitors claim all three points!

The Ladies have also only managed two fixtures with games at Hitchin and Evergreen both being called off due to the damage wrought by two storms in quick succession. Before the rain came, the ladies did manage two games against Flitwick Eagles (away) and Harvesters Ladies (home). Harvesters are flying high at the moment and it was no surprise to see our ladies compete but, eventually, lose the game. More disappointing was the result against Flitwick who, on paper at least, should be close competition. Unfortunately it wasn't to be this time and we will have to wait to bring them back to The Bury for another chance to grab some points.

It remains to be seen how quickly the Bury recovers from the recent periods of bad weather but with the Firsts still to play seven games, The Reserves thirteen and The Ladies nine, there's still plenty of football to squeeze in before the end of the season!

Players, Sponsors and Volunteers wanted!!!

Despite the season still having some way to go, we have started to turn our thoughts towards next season and beyond. As a Club we want to improve every year but, up until recently, much of our effort has gone into simply surviving. Fortunately, careful stewardship under my predecessor, Chris Thurgill, has allowed us to build on firm foundations and we can now start to plan for a vision of offering high-quality, exciting football at a higher level.

We are blessed with a small but dedicated group of volunteers and enthusiastic players, without whom there would be no Buntingford Town FC, but we can only do so much and go so far without the support of the local community whom we serve. If you would like to join us on the next stage of our adventure, either as a player, sponsor or supporter, please contact me on chair@buntingfordtownfc.com or 07976 869 532.

You can also follow us on facebook (@BuntingfordTownFC), Twitter (@BuntTownFC) or Instagram (@buntingford_town_fc) for details of upcoming games.

Mark Cotton, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

Buntingford Bowls Club, Wyddial Road



We are holding two **OPEN MORNINGS** on:
Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May, 10am to 1pm
All ages are welcome. Equipment will be provided.

FREE LESSONS will also be given during May,
from 6.30pm on: **Tuesday 5th, Monday 11th,
Monday 18th and Thursday 28th**

Come along and give it a try! Or call in for a chat & cuppa. Everyone is welcome
For more details contact Greg or Ellen on **01763 271959**

This year's **Hormead Rogation Walk** is on **Saturday 16th May**

Start at Little Hormead Church at 9.15am

Finish at Great Hormead Church at 5.00pm

Bring your own packed lunch.

For more details ring **Stephen Ruff on 01763 289516**

Barkway Park Golf Club

The new season is well underway at this local golf course which is now in its 27th year. The course has withstood the winter remarkably well and in spite of the very wet weather it has been closed on only one occasion.

The club comprises two sections: the main club which is open to all – young and old, ladies and gents; and a seniors section (known as the "Barkers") which is for people aged 50 years plus. **The main club** runs competitions for members most weekends, plays interclub competitions and organises one-off tournaments including charity events. **The Barkers** play every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and during the year have a series of competitions, play matches against eleven other clubs (home and away) and organise a very popular invitation day.

The club is very welcoming and new members quickly feel at home. If you are interested in finding out more about the course, the club or membership options, either visit the website (www.barkwayparkgolfclub.co.uk) or contact the Club Captain Ray Smith (raygsmith@sky.com) or the Barkers' secretary Jack Tillotson (tel: **01279 439839**). Alternatively book a tee-off time (tel: **01763 848215**) and try the course for yourself.

Steve Dunn (tel: 01763 848594)

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

Royston and District Ramblers Group Walks for March 2020

- Sun 1st** Rickling Green, 12 miles, led by Paul 01763 244038 / 07544 232330
Tues 3rd Croydon, 6 miles, led by Nick 01223 208172 / 07909 977994
Thurs 5th Linton, 6 miles, led by Peter 07951 362501
Sun 8th Little Hadham, Standon, 11 miles, led by Steve 07929 962647
Tues 10th Wallington, 5 miles, led by Sandy 01763 243003 / 07553 344567
Thurs 12th Shepreth, 6 miles, led by Rama 01763 260565 / 07392 526869
Sun 15th Horseheath, 9½ miles, led by Alan 01223 835908 / 07884 081715
Tues 17th Aspenden, 6 miles, led by Margaret 01763 848576
Thurs 19th Great Hormead, 6 miles, led by Ken 01763 246700 / 07913 814588
Sun 22nd Royston, Therfield, Litlington, 10 miles, led by David 01763 242677 / 07791 198026
Tues 24th Linton, 7 miles, led by Dick 01763 260534 / 07745 997244
Thurs 26th Abington Piggots, 6 miles, led by Viv & Jackie 07912 567378 / 07502 121852
Sun 29th A Suffolk Spring Stroll – Gazeley, 11 miles, led by Lesley 07734 111225
Tues 31st Little Gransden, 5½ miles, led by Barry 07919 552082

Tues and Thurs are morning walks, Sunday walks are all day.

For more details about the walks, meeting times and places, go to:

www.ramblers.org.uk/hertfordshire-north-middlesex

Scroll down through 'Groups in this area' and click on 'Royston'.

Vision Matters A 12-inch canvas for charity An open exhibition for famous and aspiring artists July 3-12

The latest in a series of fantastically popular art exhibitions at Gravelly Barn, Braughing. Entry is open to aspiring artists – lapsed, budding or established. All you have to do is buy a blank canvas for £10, create your masterpiece and see it hung at an exhibition at Gravelly Barn from July 3-12,

All the work will be for sale at £45 each and all the money raised will go to charity.

Our last exhibition, Choice Matters, raised a staggering £12,000.

Canvases now on sale

If you would like one, or know of friends and family who would like to take part, please contact us. **Jane Davalle: jdavalle@aol.com or 07905 184619**

For more information and a closer look at what we do at Gravelly Barn, please go to **www.gravellybarn.com**