

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

# Buntingford Journal



**Flowers left in tribute to Mehmet Gohver, who was tragically killed in the earthquake in Turkey.**

*Inside this month:* The Centenary of the Royal British Legion Buntingford Branch; the new Government requirement for Election Photo ID; an update from Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald KC, your local MP; and advice on avoiding fraud and scams.

**70p**

**March 2023  
Volume 48, No.2**



# *JOHN D KILBY & CO*

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & REGISTERED AUDITORS

**SPECIALISING IN THE ACCOUNTS AND TAXATION AFFAIRS  
OF THE SMALLER BUSINESS AND SELF EMPLOYED.  
LIMITED COMPANY FORMATIONS AND AUDITS.**

**FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION, WITHOUT OBLIGATION,  
ANYTIME BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT.  
ANSWERPHONE SERVICE OUT OF NORMAL HOURS.**

---

MUTFORDS, HARE STREET, BUNTINGFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG9 0ED  
TEL: (01763) 289 466 FAX: (01763) 289 888



## The Cage Barbers

" Giving you a legendary haircut with traditional service "  
Traditional Turkish Barbers.



### Services

- Haircut
- Hot Towel
- Threading
- Wet Shave
- Buzz Cut
- Facial Wax
- Wash
- Beard Design
- Face Mask



51A High street  
Buntingford

Monday - Friday: 9am - 6.30pm  
Saturday: 8am - 6pm  
Sunday: Closed



Thecagebarbers



01763 448941



www.thecagebarbers.co.uk

# Meeting House Boarding Kennels and Cattery



Family run kennels and cattery in 2 acres.

Fully trained staff.

Individual heated kennels with attached runs leading on to large grass exercise paddocks.

All pets must be fully vaccinated including dogs for kennel cough.

Vet on call 24/7.

Open for viewing – please call Peter or Sarah for an appointment.

## Meeting House Boarding Kennels and Cattery,

Warren Lane, Cottered, nr Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 9QG

Phone: 01763 281258

Email: [enquiries@meetinghouse-kennels.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@meetinghouse-kennels.co.uk)

Website: [www.meetinghouse-kennels.co.uk](http://www.meetinghouse-kennels.co.uk)



Call 01763 43 43 43

Buntingford & Surrounding Areas

Airport transfer specialists

Executive Mercedes estate available

All major credit/debit Cards Accepted

Local or long distance

Accounts welcome

Four, six and eight Seater vehicles

All Cars Licensed by E.H.D.C and Fully Insured.

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



# COUNTRY MAIDS

DOMESTIC CLEANING SERVICES

*Let us take Care of your Housework . . . .*

- Spring Cleans
- Weekly or 2 Weekly regular Cleans

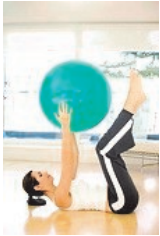


- Carpet Cleaning

Telephone: **01763 272908**

## JANE WALKER

personal health and fitness coach



General Fitness

Pilates Reformer and Mat Based  
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal  
Functional-Ageing-Programmes  
1-1 Training also available via

FACETIME and ZOOM

Free Consultation

07957 385 770

## WHERE THERE'S A WILL

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

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

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

Kate Bennett  
07525 454160  
kbennettlegal@gmail.com



Painting, Decorating and  
Handyman Works

Friendly, Professional and Reliable

Paul Wainwright

☎ 07816 964372

✉ paulwainwright42@googlemail.com

Free no obligation quotes

## Complete Garden Service

Block paving driveways,  
Patos, Decking,  
Brickwork, Fencing,  
Garden Maintenance,  
Grass and Hedge Cutting.



Please contact Greg Pettitt for a free quotation

Mob: 07947 960 783

Email: gregpettittcgs@aol.co.uk

# DON'T OVERPAY FOR YOUR WEBSITE

## John Littleford

W E B D E S I G N

JOHNLITTLEFORD.CO.UK

PRICES START FROM £295  
EMAIL: HELLO@JOHNLITTLEFORD.CO.UK

### P.J.DEARDS

#### Plumbing and Heating Services

For all your plumbing and heating requirements.

No job too small. Fully insured.  
Free quote and advice given



Call: 07704 842 208

### Suzanne Hoy Counselling

Counselling for most issues including

Anxiety - Anger - Phobias - Relationship Problems - Bullying  
Self Confidence - Assertiveness - Life Changes - Self Esteem  
Mid and Late Life Crisis - Loss and Bereavement - Panic Attacks  
Individuals and Couples

07961 022 502

zannahoy@icloud.com

BACP Accredited Counsellor  
Baldock Road, Buntingford, SG9 9FE



### REED FIRST SCHOOL WELCOMES YOU & YOUR FAMILY

Are you looking for a Nursery or First School place?

Nursery places can start the term children turn three.

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

REED FIRST SCHOOL, JACKSON'S LANE, REED, SG8 8AB  
admin@reed.herts.sch.uk | 01783 848304

www.reed.herts.sch.uk

Ready to try the  
world's leading  
platform for health  
and performance?

WORK OUT WITH US!

### CROSSFIT BUNTINGFORD

The largest fitness space in  
Buntingford!

constantly varied, functional fitness  
performed at high intensity,  
get fit for whatever life throws at you!

UNIT 17 THE FIRS, WATERMILL  
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
BUNTINGFORD  
WWW.CROSSFITBUNTINGFORD.CO.UK  
@CROSSFITBUNTINGFORD

With Covid spaced  
stations which  
contain all you need,  
you know you're in a  
good place to  
achieve your goals.



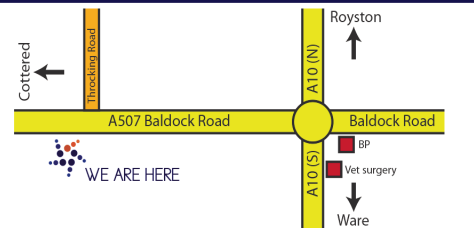
# Nationwide Supplies

BUILDERS AND PLUMBERS MERCHANT



- Plumbing & Heating
- Building Materials
- Landscaping
- Paints & Decorating
- Bathrooms
- Ironmongery
- Fixings & Fasteners
- Fencing
- uPVC Windows & Doors
- Aggregates
- Plaster & Boards
- Underground Drainage
- Sheet Materials
- Kitchens & Appliances
- Insulation
- Hand Tools
- Timber & Joinery
- Fascia & Soffit

- **Same day** local delivery
- Trade counter open to trade and public
- **UK next day** delivery
- **Click & collect** within 1 hour



TEL: 01763 28 11 11 | [www.plumb.build](http://www.plumb.build)

BUTTERMILK HALL FARM, BALDOCK ROAD, BUNTINGFORD, HERTS, SG9 9RH



YOUR LOCAL RETAILERS AND INSTALLERS  
OF WOOD BURNING STOVES,  
FIREPLACES AND GAS FIRES.



TEL: 01438 300330  
EMAIL: [INFO@HUDSONSSTOVES.COM](mailto:INFO@HUDSONSSTOVES.COM)  
CHURCH FARM, ARDLEY, SG2 7AH

## HANDYMAN

For all household & gardening jobs,  
Flat pack assembly – home improvements,  
Odd jobs, maintenance, decorating,  
New home DIY - no job too small.  
All the jobs you don't want to do.  
References available

Call Barry on 01763 272210  
or 07443 033298

## ANDREW COATES B.Sc GARDEN DESIGN

- Creative Garden Design & Project Management
- Consultations and Advice
- Maintenance, Planting, Pruning & Turfing
- Tree Surgery, Fencing & Garden Construction Services



**01462 896902** Mobile : **07718 426613**  
[www.ac-gardendesign.co.uk](http://www.ac-gardendesign.co.uk)



# For all your design & print requirements

E [design@churchlanecreative.com](mailto:design@churchlanecreative.com)  
T +44 (0) 1763 793290  
[churchlanecreative.com](http://churchlanecreative.com)

## Creative That Cares



**Buntingford & Stortford Hybrid Studio**

Personal Training, Venue Exercise Classes, Online Exercise Classes and Pre Recorded Workouts

Fitness Pilates, Circuits, Dance Fit, HIIT, Hooping, Stretching & Mindfulness

WWW.JACQUI-SMITH.NET  
07956 647806

Keeping people fit since 1996

### Fitness Pilates

Tuesday 10am / Tuesday 6:30pm / Thursday 10am via **ZOOM**  
Monday 7:15pm Layston School, The Causeway, (with Cardio HIIT £10)  
Wednesday 7:15pm Layston School, (£6 or with strength HIIT £10)  
Thursday 10am Seth Ward Community Centre  
Friday 10am Cotteder Village Hall, (£6 or with Full Body Workout £10)  
A class that increases muscular balance and strength, improve posture, core and back strength

### Variety Full Body Workouts

HIIT Tuesday 7pm / Sunday 10am via **ZOOM**  
Box Fit Wednesday 6:45pm, Layston School (£5 or £8 with Pilates)  
Friday 11am Cotteder Village Hall, (£5 or £8 with Pilates @10am)  
HIIT Saturday 9:15am, Braughing Community Centre  
Cardio (non impact or impact), Strength, Toning & Balance

### Dance Fit

Thursday 9:15am-10am Seth Ward Community Centre (£6 or £10 with Pilates at 10am)  
Dancing is great for losing weight, maintaining strong bones, improving posture & muscular strength, increases co-ordination and beats stress

All equipment provided, just bring yourself and water.  
ZOOM classes available as payg £5 or £20 per month subscription

All classes are £6 pay as you go

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

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

# A R Services

*carpentry  
kitchen/bathroom installation  
kitchen worktops mitred and fitted  
tiling/flooring  
flat packed furniture assembly  
painting & decorating  
general property maintenance  
garden maintenance  
wooden climbing frames*

*Prompt, trustworthy and reliable service*

*competitive rates free estimates*

Call Andy Ricketts  
on 07941 078069 or 01763 274868  
arservices69@gmail.com

# P.S.EVELEIGH

## PLASTERING CONTRACTOR



*All aspects of plastering covered:*

*Ceilings  
Walls  
Reskimming  
Skimming over Artex  
Rendering and Coving  
Quality Workmanship*

*Free Estimates*

*Over 30 Years of Experience*

**Call 01763 272569**  
or Mobile 07772 366587

Marketing  
**ZONE**

# Websites, design and marketing

Logos • Leaflets • Brochures • Websites  
Social media • Google AdWords

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

**T: 01763 274440**

Established 1997

# Personal, caring and independent.

*The complete  
funeral service*



24 hour service

Private Chapels of Rest

Bespoke Funeral Plans

Own Crematorium

STEVENAGE • 01438 316623

HITCHIN • 01462 438422

KNEBWORTH • 01438 812365

BUNTINGFORD • 01763 274111

WELWYN GARDEN CITY • 01707 390018

WELWYN • 01438 714686

HERTFORD • 01992 582052

WARE • 01920 468551

LETCHWORTH • 01462 684292

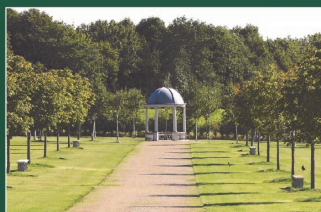
HODDESDON • 01992 471709

HARWOOD PARK • 01438 812515

HARPENDEN • 01582 762570

## Harwood Park

*The perfect setting to commemorate  
the life of your loved one*



Crematorium and memorial  
gardens created and managed by  
the Austin family in the beautiful  
Hertfordshire countryside.

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

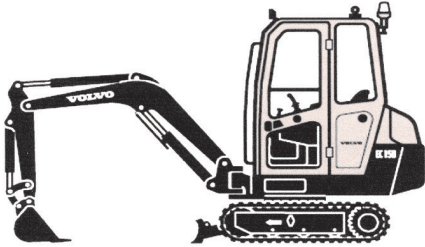
## AUSTIN'S

FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

*Serving the local community for ten generations*

# J P SERVICES



**Mini Digger & Driver Hire**

**Groundwork & Demolition  
Landscaping  
Drainage & Septic Tanks**

**Call James on:**

**07900 104223 or 01920 822888  
or email [jp-services@live.com](mailto:jp-services@live.com)**

**Website: [www.jplandscapeervices.co.uk](http://www.jplandscapeervices.co.uk)**



**BUNTINGFORD  
SCHOOL OF DANCE**

**Ask about our no  
Obligation Trial Classes!**



**Ballet, Tap, Modern/Jazz  
Commercial & Adult Classes**



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



**Oil, LPG & Gas Boiler  
Servicing and Installations  
10 months interest free credit  
on new Worcester Boilers  
Plumbing & Heating**



**Install Team: 01992 504655 Services: 01992 535236**

**[www.ncspropertymaintenance.co.uk](http://www.ncspropertymaintenance.co.uk)**

**enquiries@ncspm.co.uk**



**@NCS\_ECO**



**NCS Property Maintenance**



**Apple Blossom Pre-School & Day Care**

**Now Open**  
**A brand new**  
**Pre-School & Day Care**

Come and see us at:  
**Scout Hall, Bowling Green Lane,**  
**Buntingford SG9 9AW**

**Open 8am-4pm everyday**

✓ For children aged 2yrs +  
 ✓ Funding Available

**Call: 07432 793008**

**ENROLLING NOW!**   **FREE TRIAL FOR NEW STARTERS!**   **Find us online**

## Eileen's Fitness Classes

Qualified RSA Instructor with over 25 years teaching in the community

CIMSFA registered

Phone 07966 222272 Email: [eileensaerobics@hotmail.com](mailto:eileensaerobics@hotmail.com)

**CLASSES HELD AT BUNTINGFORD SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**THURSDAY** 11am – Older Adult Fitness Aerobics

With movements to help on balance, posture and everyday activities.

**CLASSES HELD AT REED VILLAGE HALL**

**THURSDAY** 7.30pm Zumba/Dance Fitness

A fun cardio dance inspired fitness class

Full Timetable and booking on

<https://gymcatch.com/app/provider/1355/events>

Follow me on

[Eileensfitnessclasses](https://www.facebook.com/Eileensfitnessclasses)

# *Ace of Herts*

Recycling green waste to preserve the environment

♥ Soil conditioning composts	♥ Top Soils	♥ Blended Soils
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Improves all round soil condition</li> <li>♥ Introduces organic matter</li> <li>♥ Feeds your plants</li> <li>♥ Increases worm populations</li> </ul> <p>Cumberlow Green Farm            Buntingford            Herts. SG9 0QD            Tel: 01763 281223            Mob: 07884 408529            Fax: 01763 281424            email: <a href="mailto:sales@aceofherts.co.uk">sales@aceofherts.co.uk</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bulk orders bagged or loose</li> <li>● Soils blended to your needs</li> <li>● Quality top soils</li> <li>● Composted bark</li> <li>● Bark chippings</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>You can collect or ask for deliveries to your door</b></p>	

For information how Ace of Herts is made, please visit our website [www.aceofherts.co.uk](http://www.aceofherts.co.uk)

# REBOOT IT SOLUTIONS

## Need a helping hand?

We provide a wide range of IT services and solutions all tailored to your individual needs.

From system set up and virus management to repairs and up skilling on the latest technology.

Offsite and home support available.

Tracy Walker - IT Consultant

07521 977997

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



Apple



Android



Microsoft



## TRUSTED STANDON BASED WILL WRITER



- ◆ Will Writing & Trusts
- ◆ Lasting Power of Attorneys (LPA's)
- ◆ Probate Administration
- ◆ Inheritance Tax and Estate Planning

Providing a professional, friendly service, I offer free advice and will guide you through your options.

Member of The Society  
of Will Writers



Safe to do  
business with  
Code Compliant

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

01920 747208 | [emma@dqrwillsandprobate.co.uk](mailto:emma@dqrwillsandprobate.co.uk)

See my recent reviews on Facebook: [@dqrwillsprobate](https://www.facebook.com/dqrwillsprobate)

## Audi Specialist

30+ years of brand  
experience



[www.hertsaudiexpert.co.uk](http://www.hertsaudiexpert.co.uk)  
Tel: 01763 283 919

- Competitive prices
- Fully trained technicians
- Genuine Audi parts
- Latest diagnostic equipment
- Free loan cars
- Free collect and delivery
- Courtesy wash and vacuum

## Accident Repair Centre

What we offer for all makes, models and clients:

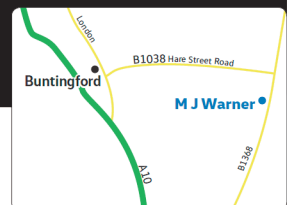
- We work with all insurers
- Provide FREE estimates
- Supply FREE loan vehicles
- FREE collection and delivery
- Alloy wheel refurbishment
- Paintless dent repairs/scuffs
- Smart repair service offered for vehicles returning to lease company
- Established for over 30 years



Call us on: 01763 289 472

## M J Warner

Hare Street, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 0EA  
Telephone: 01763 290145 | [www.mjwarner.co.uk](http://www.mjwarner.co.uk)



# Willow Landscapes

*Your local area specialist - lowest rates*

Tree Surgery  
Stump Grinding  
Hedge Cutting  
Fencing  
Turfing  
Garden Tidy



Leaf Clearance  
Patio Work  
All Paving Work  
undertaken  
and much more...  
All work guaranteed

Office: **07936 360 652**

Call Sid on **07925 273 773**

**willowlandscapes1983@outlook.com**

Willow Tree Farm, London Road, Barkway, Herts SG8 8EY

## **SJ TOKELY LTD**

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Units 12/13 Park Farm Industrial Estate · Buntingford · SG9 9AZ  
sjtokelyltd@btinternet.com

**Servicing & Repairs**  
**MOT's and Pre-MOT Checks**  
**Engine Diagnostics**  
**Air Conditioning Re-Gas**  
**Tyres - New Budget & Branded**  
**Any Type of Repair Undertaken**

**01763 274260**

**Collection & Delivery Available**



### **OPENING HOURS**

**MON - 8.00 - 6.00**

**TUES - 8.00 - 6.00**

**WED - 8.00 - 6.00**

**THUR - 8.00 - 6.00**

**FRI - 8.00 - 5.00**

**SAT - BY APPOINTMENT**

DEBORAH LOWETH MSSCh DIP POD MED MBChA



VISITING CHIROPODIST/PODIATRIST  
HPC REGISTERED. ALL ASPECTS OF FOOTCARE  
Mob 07748152538

Teen Spirit Coaching

Building Emotional Resilience  
Life Coaching for Kids aged 9-12



Is your child struggling to manage their anger, disappointment, self-esteem or lack of confidence? I can support them by using tried and tested tools to help them cope with every day stresses, through my fun and interactive Kids Life Coaching programme.

For more information visit my website or email  
cj@teenspiritcoaching.co.uk



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



Covering Buntingford and Surrounding Villages

# Dean Bye

Private Hire Taxi & Chauffeur

Mobile - 07768 174045

Email - [dean@hormeadcars.com](mailto:dean@hormeadcars.com)

East Herts Foot Health  
Clinic

## home visiting foot healthcare

Corns, Callus, dry/  
hard Skin, Nail  
Trimming &  
Shaping,  
Verrucas, friendly  
professional  
service

OVER 60's  
DISCOUNT,  
CALL NOW..  
07733233044

"East Herts Leading Mobile Foot  
Health Service"  
[easthertsfoothealthclinic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:easthertsfoothealthclinic@yahoo.co.uk)



# Naughty Apple Mac?

## We fix All Mac problems

Apple specialist since 1990

Refurb Mac Sales  
OS X • Hardware • Tuition  
iCloud • iPad • iPhone • Wifi



[www.rawpaw.com](http://www.rawpaw.com) (Buntingford)

Call for an Onsite Engineer

**07968 272 923**

**01763 272 575**

# WOOD BRIQUETTES



**High burn temperatures, Safe for wood burners, Very low ash content, Clean to handle**

**£3.50 per bag or 3 for £10 collected from Furneux Pelham or £5 per bag free local delivery (min order applies)**

*For more info please call 01279 777666 or email janbor@btconnect.com*

*All prices are inclusive of VAT charged at 5%*

## Bliss Yoga & Wellness

Gentle yoga & meditation

Yoga with a touch of Pilates

Sound healing & gong meditation

Well-being events

Private 1:1 sessions

Terahertz healing



[www.bliss-yoga-wellness.org](http://www.bliss-yoga-wellness.org)

**BLISS**  
YOGA & WELLNESS

07738 923833

the **humble** | **ine**  
graphic design

Hello! I'm a local graphic designer specialising in helping small businesses reach their full potential and attract new audiences.

- Branding & Logo Design
- Leaflets, Posters, Brochures, Reports
- Web Design & Social Media
- Packaging
- Adverts & Marketing
- Copywriting & Typesetting

*Does your branding reflect your unique personality?*

[www.thehumbleline.com](http://www.thehumbleline.com)  
[anne@thehumbleline.com](mailto:anne@thehumbleline.com)

Follow me @thehumbleline to see my latest projects, design tips & more.

## Layston Preschool and Nursery CIC

The Causeway  
Buntingford  
Herts.  
SG9 9EU  
01763 271 235



We offer places for both fee-paying and government-funded children aged 2½ to rising 5 with sessions in the afternoon for Preschool children

We also provide wraparound care for Nursery children from 0900-1515.

We are open Monday-Friday mornings (0900-1200)

for Nursery and Monday-Thursday afternoons

(1245-1515) for Preschool children and those having wraparound care. We also offer lunch club (1200-1300) for all ages.

We are non-profit making with any surplus funds reinvested into the setting. We have recently used this money to improve our outdoor area and to decorate the room.

Facebook: Layston Preschool and Nursery CIC

Email: [laystonpreschoolandnursery@gmail.com](mailto:laystonpreschoolandnursery@gmail.com)

Web: [www.laystonpreschoolandnursery.com](http://www.laystonpreschoolandnursery.com)

# attend2health

- Chiropractors
- Physiotherapy
- Osteopathy
- Chiropody & Podiatry
- Sports Massage
- Acupuncture
- Hypnotherapy
- Nutritional Therapy
- GP Services
- Yoga, Pilates & Tai Chi

**£20  
OFF**

YOUR FIRST APPOINTMENT  
WITH THIS ADVERT\*



**01763 87 80 87**

**[www.attend2health.co.uk](http://www.attend2health.co.uk)**

27 High Street Buntingford SG9 9AB

\*Valid for Chiropractic, Osteopathy and Physiotherapy New Patients only.

*Award-winning Clinic*



# Linden Flooring

Affordable prices for flooring you'll love

Specialists in Carpet, Vinyl & Karndean (LVT's) flooring

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

[info@lindenflooring.co.uk](mailto:info@lindenflooring.co.uk)

07956 460486 01763 274381



*Who knows what the future will bring?*

Let me help by guiding you in the right direction. I offer Numerology, a Psychic and Tarot reading. Interested, I do hope so, please contact me, David on 07970 833185 or [daveprudames@icloud.com](mailto:daveprudames@icloud.com)



## Barley and Barkway Federation

Barley and Barkway Federation offers high quality teaching in small classes in single year groups. Provision at our schools from Preschool through to Year 4 (ages 2 to 9).

In a secure learning environment, every child is encouraged and challenged to reach his or her potential.

Sessions at our successful Forest School for all children throughout the year.

Expert sports coaching and music tuition.



## TOUCH OF *glamour* BEAUTY SALON

A WIDE RANGE OF TREATMENTS FOR BOTH MEN & WOMEN

Elemis, Murad, CACI Synergy & Ultimate, O.P.I, Jane Iredale Makeup, Shellac & LVL

38 High Street • Buntingford • Herts • SG9 9AQ

T: 01763 271122 [www.touchofglamour.co.uk](http://www.touchofglamour.co.uk)



Ofsted says Barley and Barkway are 'Good' schools. Barley holds the Early Years Herts Quality Standards Award

If you would like to come and see our schools in Action, please contact the Head teacher on 01763 848281 (Barley) or 01763 848283 (Barkway)

## Soggy Doggy Grooming & Tooth Cleaning



A Friendly home from home pomper for your dog in my home in Framan Drive, Buntingford

Appointment Only  
07724 047746

# Digital Skills Group in Buntingford

*Would you like to know your way around a computer, tablet or phone and gain confidence in the Digital World?*

*Join our friendly, **FREE** and volunteer-led group and improve your digital skills now!*

Our Digital Champions will show you how to do simple things online such as how to use your devices, online shop, access virtual appointments, and overall, stay better connected with your friends and family!

**All you need are your charged devices!**



**Community Alliance**

BROXBOURNE & EAST HERTS

**Mondays from 10.30 to 12 noon**

**13/02, 13/03, 24/04, no session in May, 12/06, 10/07**

**Call 0300 123 1034 to join!**

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

# MARCH 2023

20's Plenty for Buntingford .....	7
Attend to Health – Latest award & Charity morning .....	27
BALA – Minibus Trips, Soup Lunch & Coffee Morning .....	31
BASH – Appeal for volunteer drivers & Notice of AGM .....	6
Braughing Fair & Wheelbarrow Race 2023 .....	39
Braughing Get Together – Avoiding scams & Upcoming events .....	39
Buntingford Civic Society – Notice of AGM & Chairman's Letter .....	4 & 5
Buntingford Community Choir .....	11
Buntingford Film Club .....	24-25
Buntingford Gardeners' Club .....	29
Buntingford Local History Group – Project High Street & Next Meeting .....	26-27
Buntingford School of Dance .....	33
Buntingford Shorts International Film Festival .....	24
Buntingford Town Council .....	16
Buntingford Town F.C. ....	40-42
Buntingford W.I. – Regular report & A Short History .....	13 & 14-15
Buntingford Writers' Group – Writing Morning in Cotted Village Hall .....	4
Church Services .....	8-11
Citizens Advice East Herts – Giving Notice to Change Jobs .....	30
Editor's Letter & copy deadline for April Journal .....	3
Friends of the Rib & Quin .....	34-35
Hertfordshire Constabulary – Telephone frauds targeting older people .....	35
Home-Start – 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert & Aquathon 2023 .....	33
Hundred Parishes Society – The 2021 Census .....	21
Isabel Hospice – 'Tonnes of Care' Donation Days & Muddy Mayhem .....	36
Lenten Reflections 2023 .....	12
Letters & Emails to the Editor .....	4
Mehmet Ethem Govher – Tributes and Vigil .....	5 & 17-18
Mind & Music – Songs to aid Memory and Wellbeing .....	38
News from Your District & County Councillor – Response to the earthquake in Turkey / Local elections in May & Election photo ID .....	17-18
Quiz Night at St Peter's Church .....	8
Reed Garden Club .....	43
Reed Spring Quiz .....	12
Royal British Legion Buntingford Branch – Marking the Branch Centenary in Buntingford and Ypres .....	22-23
Royston & District Model Railway Club Exhibition .....	23
Short Story – 'Bridal Shower' by Sue Shearing .....	28-29
Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club .....	38
Tea-Time Talk in Standon Village Hall .....	37
'That which is hidden ...' by 'Meadonian' .....	20-21
U3A Buntingford .....	25 & 37
Update from your local MP, the Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald KC .....	19
Useful Local Information .....	2
Vyse – 'They're tying us in Knots!' .....	42-43
What's On – Dates for Your Diary .....	44

# USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

<b>POLICE STATION:</b> Baldock Road, Buntingford	Non-emergency telephone: 101 In emergencies dial 999
<b>GAS:</b> <b>ELECTRICITY:</b> <b>WATER (Veolia):</b> <b>WATER (Affinity Water):</b> <b>SEWERAGE (Thames Water):</b> <b>FLOODLINE:</b>	Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999 Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838 Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325 Emergency – 0345 357 2407 Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800 Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188 Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60
<b>DOCTORS:</b>	<b>Buntingford Medical Centre</b> – White Hart Close Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)
<b>B A S H (Buntingford Action For Social Help):</b>	Providing transport for hospital and doctors appointments. Tel: Colin Horgan 07733 091731
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RAPE, RACE or HATE CRIME:</b>	Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554440 (in emergency, dial 999)
<b>LOCAL COUNCILS:</b>	<b>Buntingford Town Council</b> – 01763 272222 <b>East Herts District Council</b> – 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 <b>Hertfordshire Highways</b> – Report faults online: <a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults</a>
<b>BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:</b> 77 High Street Buntingford, SG9 9AE. Tel: 01763 272396	<b>CURRENTLY CLOSED FOR REFURBISHMENT. DUE TO REOPEN IN EARLY APRIL</b> <b>Normal opening times are:</b> Mon, Tue, Thur 10:00–17:30 Fri 14:00–17:30 Sat 9:00–13:00 <b>Telephone enquiries</b> – 0300 123 4049 Option 1 – Renewals 03:00–23:45 every day Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00, Sat 09:00–18:00 <b>More info at:</b> <a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>CITIZENS ADVICE EAST HERTS:</b>	<b>Call the CAB Message Line</b> on 01920 459 944 at anytime and they will call you back. They aim to return calls within 24 hours (except at weekends). <a href="http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk">www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk</a>

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

## EDITOR'S LETTER

The news from Turkey and Syria keeps getting worse as the full impact of the recent earthquake unfolds. Given the sheer scale of the destruction and the horrific death toll, perhaps it's not so surprising that it has touched people directly here in Buntingford, but the death of Mehmet Gohver, so well-known and well-liked in the town, came as a terrible shock. Graham Bonner (page 5) and Jeff Jones (p.17-18) offer brief but heartfelt tributes to Mehmet and our thoughts are with his family and friends and everyone affected by this awful tragedy. It is almost impossible to imagine what people are going through. Jeff Jones also reports on his and Buntingford's response to send aid to the area.

On a far brighter note, I want to congratulate the Buntingford Dramatic Society for their latest production – *Calendar Girls*. It was, quite rightly, a sellout and commiserations to anyone who didn't get to see it. What a wealth of talent we have right here in our small Hertfordshire town! The play was funny, poignant, emotional, and really brought home the reach of cancer which will affect one in two of us at some point in our lives. It also celebrated what ordinary people can achieve when they put their minds to it.

Scammers and fraudsters are active bigtime in the UK – I've just read that fraud now accounts for 40 per cent of all reported crime! So it's timely that Hertfordshire Police and the u3a offer advice this month on how to avoid getting stung (pages 35 & 37). The ingenuity of the scammers is endless. I recently came across a new one – I was sent an email claiming to be from TV Licensing telling me there was a problem with my payment method and would I please click the link in the email to sort it out. I didn't (golden rule: don't click on anything!), and of course there wasn't a problem, but for a second it almost got me. If I suspect an email is bogus I look carefully at the email address that sent it and usually find it doesn't match who it claims to be. But the most irritating and frequent scam I get is a recorded phone message claiming to be from Amazon Prime – I know they're bogus because I don't subscribe. These come from local (i.e. 01763) numbers, which means I always answer them because it might be someone calling about the Journal!

We have some new contributors this month. Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club, having heard that Buntingford doesn't have an active club at the moment, is inviting tennis lovers to try out their refurbished facilities. And 'Braughing Get Together' extend an invitation to their coming events, including an intriguing outing to Brixton Prison. Finally, the local elections coming up in May will be the first time that voters must produce a form of Election Photo ID at the polling station. There is more information on this on page 18.

**Christine Noble**

**Editorial copy deadline for the April 2023 Journal  
is Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

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

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

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

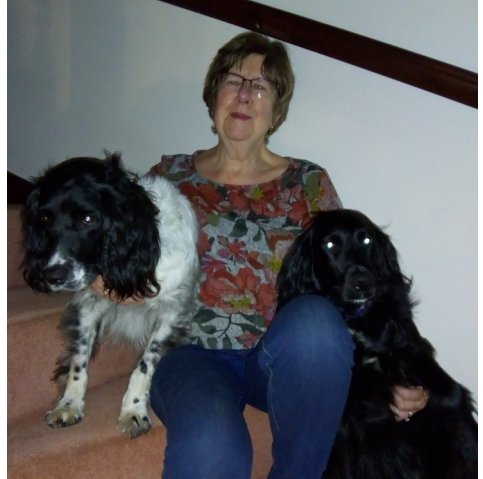
# LETTERS & EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Christine

I wish to convey my sincere thanks to all the dog walking community, to Bowls Club members, to my friends and neighbours in Buntingford for their kind comments and offers of support following the sudden death of my wife Gwen on the 27<sup>th</sup> January.

I have been quite overwhelmed by the response from the community which has helped me in this very difficult time. Thank you everyone.

Frank Beale  
Scamp and Max  
15 Freman Drive, Buntingford, SG9 9TD



## Buntingford Writers' Group

**Writing Morning – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at Cottered Village Hall, SG9 9PX**

We're holding a Writers' morning at Cottered Village Hall, from 10.00am to 12.00noon, on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Refreshments provided.

All aspiring writers welcome. We write, we share, we encourage. Just bring a laptop or paper for your writing. A morning for those who like to work on their own but appreciate the support of others.

Contact [chriskell137@gmail.com](mailto:chriskell137@gmail.com) if you'd like to join us. £5 to cover costs.

**Advance Notice is hereby given that the**

**Buntingford Civic Society**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

will be held on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
at the Seth Ward Community Centre, Luyes Rise

*Further details (of guest speaker etc.) to follow*



# Buntingford Civic Society

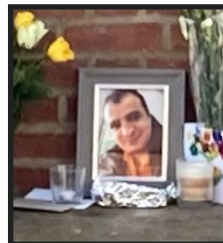
(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

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

Member of



The tragedy that is the Turkey/Syria earthquake brings home how precarious life can be. The scale of the tragedy is almost incomprehensible and the destruction that it leaves is immense. So many lives lost and futures destroyed. The loss has even reached Buntingford – Mehmet Ethem Govher, the manager of Kings and The Fryery, was in Turkey visiting his parents when the earthquake struck. Tragically Mehmet and both of his parents lost their lives. The tributes on social networks bear testament to the high esteem in which Mehmet was held by Buntingford residents.

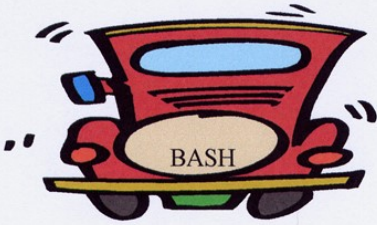


Buntingford has, as usual, responded magnificently with donations of vital supplies delivered to the disaster area by Councillor Jeff Jones and volunteers in the Buntingford Community Bus. Our thoughts and prayers go to all those affected by this tragic event.

The Government recently published its long-awaited environmental improvement plan which includes a commitment to plant 30,000 miles of hedgerows a year by 2037, rising to 45,000 miles a year by 2050. This is the first time the government has set a target for more hedgerows. Hedgerows line our countryside, providing refuge to countless species of our favourite wildlife and absorbing carbon day in and day out. We have lost half our hedgerows in the past 70 years so this new initiative is welcomed.

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

**Buntingford Civic Society** was established in 1971 with the aim of improving the fabric of the Town. **Annual household membership is just £10** and includes delivery of the Buntingford Journal (10 issues a year) to your door. If you would like to join the Civic Society, you can download an application form from the BCS website or email the Membership Secretary, Peter Hay, at [membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)



## BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR SOCIAL HELP

### Volunteer Hospital Driver Service

### Please help if you can

B.A.S.H., Buntingford Action for Social Help, is a local group of volunteers, which offers hospital transport for local folk who need help getting to and from their medical or dental appointments. We rely entirely upon volunteer drivers using their own vehicles. In this town of ours, many find B.A.S.H. invaluable.

We are now greatly in need of more volunteer drivers who may have some time to offer to the community from time to time. A typical B.A.S.H. run might be to the doctor's surgery, a dentist, one of the hospitals within our area or, occasionally, to visit a sick relative.

We will be ever so grateful indeed for any help you might be able to offer. You can volunteer to do as little as one trip a month, or as many trips as you want, according to your own availability at any given time. We cover the cost of your fuel for each journey.

To offer your help please contact: **Colin on 07733 091 731**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO**  
**THE B.A.S.H. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**on TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023, 7.45 for 8 pm**  
**In the Main Lounge at DIXON PLACE**

The committee would be pleased to see you at this informal occasion to talk about B.A.S.H. and answer any questions you may have. Nibbles and drinks will be provided after the meeting.

Although we have had fewer requests from clients recently we do value our drivers and it will get busier again.

***We still need you.***



**BUNTINGFORD ACTION  
FOR SOCIAL HELP**

**Volunteer Hospital  
Driver Service**

Please reply to:

**Val Reedman**

**vrfamily42@gmail.com**

**01763 272 135**



20's Plenty for Us

...making your place a better place to be

Buntingford

More and more local authorities across the UK are realising that adopting a wide area default approach to implementing 20mph speed limits is the most effective, cheapest and quickest way to reduce road danger, lower air and noise pollution, and generally improve the quality of life for residents – whether they live in a large city or small village. There are a lot of really promising developments across the UK as more and more local authorities are adopting a wide area approach to a 20mph limit. Here is a round up of recent news.

- **Edinburgh** – the city council has announced a **30% reduction** in casualties since the introductions of 20mph speed limits in 2018. There are plans to further extend 20mph limits in the city and reduce speed limits on rural roads.
- **Glasgow** – plans have been announced to implement a mandatory 20mph speed limit on the majority of roads in the city (including every residential road) to “boost road safety and encourage active travel”. The roll-out could be completed in as little as 18 months.
- **The Wirral** is reducing the speed limit on **1700 roads** to 20mph with unanimous council support for the first phase of delivering 20mph across the authority.
- **Cornwall Council** will complete the roll out of 20mph speed limits on most residential roads in the county by 2026 at a cost of £3.8M.
- **Manchester City Council** has committed to setting 20mph as the default speed limit in the city.
- **Doncaster** has confirmed its commitment to 20mph for all residential roads over the next two years and allocated £1M towards this in the budget.
- **Herefordshire** is planning wide area 20mph limits for Hereford and further plans for lower limits on residential roads across the county.
- Finally, in **London**, new figures published by Transport for London are proof positive that wide area 20mph speed limits work. There has been a **25% reduction in overall deaths and serious injuries** since the start of the 20mph roll out in the capital. The greatest reductions are seen in the numbers of vulnerable road users being injured, particularly pedestrians, with a massive drop of 63%.

Unfortunately, I have no good news to report from Hertfordshire on the County Council's 20mph plans here. After two years of their ambitious **£7M** budget announcement (more than enough for a county-wide 20mph speed limit on most residential roads) only a handful of schemes have even made it to the public consultation stage. The proposals have all been unambitious, very small zones that do not include roads with higher average speeds (where most collisions occur) and are disproportionately focussed on urban rather than rural communities where there is growing concern about the levels of speeding and road danger.

### [JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN](#)

Mailing List, Campaign Stickers & Enquiries [buntingford@20splentyforus.org.uk](mailto:buntingford@20splentyforus.org.uk)

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

TWITTER: @20Buntingford [www.20splentyforherts.org](http://www.20splentyforherts.org)

GATHER THE GANG AND GET COMPETITIVE!

# QUIZ NIGHT

Form a group of up to 8 people per team and get ready to battle it out.

**SATURDAY 4TH MARCH**

Door open at 6:30pm  
7:00pm prompt start

**St Peter's Church, Buntingford**

Tickets £10 per person  
Includes supper

Drinks available for donations or bring your own

To reserve your ticket or team please email:

**[unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com](mailto:unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com) or phone 07484345027**

## ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

**Parish Priest:** Reverend Father Cyril Chiaha

**VIGIL MASS for Sundays is at 6pm every Saturday**

**SUNDAY MASS is at 9.15am and 11am every Sunday**

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES, SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES  
& OTHER PARISH NEWS are available on the parish website:  
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/buntingford/>**

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





The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

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

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

## Services at 11am / Junior Church in the Hall at 11am

March	5	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	12	Morning Worship	Christine McLeod
	19	Mothering Sunday	Rev Allen Morton
	26	Morning Worship	Rev Sue Fender
April	2	Palm Sunday	Rev Sue Fender

## BOOKING THE CHURCH HALL

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

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUNTINGFORD Lent Groups

**Lent Group (1)** is a Lent Course based on the prayers of Jesus. The course material will be provided. This is a **daytime** event held on **Wednesdays** at Christ Church URC and it runs for 6 weeks (it started on 22<sup>nd</sup> February). Just come along at 12.15pm on Wednesday – *please bring your own lunch*, hot drinks will be provided. Study will begin at 12.45pm and finish at 1.45pm. All are welcome, no booking is required, just turn up.

**Lent Group (2)** is an **evening** event on **Thursdays**, 7.30–9pm, at The Vicarage, Vicarage Road, Buntingford, which started on 16<sup>th</sup> February and again runs for 6 weeks. Places will be limited so if you are interested in coming please email Kirsty at [vicarabw@gmail.com](mailto:vicarabw@gmail.com).

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Morning Prayers

Every Tuesday and Thursday, 9.00 to 9.30am, at St Peter's Church  
*All are welcome*

### Coffee and Company

Meets every Thursday, 10.30am to 12.30pm, in the URC Hall. If you're elderly, living alone, new to the area, perhaps working from home, and would like some company, come along to share Coffee, Cake, Company and Chat.

**All are welcome** – just turn up and give a small donation for refreshments.

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



United Benefice of  
Aspenden, Buntingford  
and Westmill

## United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford & Westmill

Priest in Charge: Reverend Kirsty Wainwright

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

Benefice Office Email: [unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com](mailto:unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com)

Benefice Office Telephone No: 07484 345027

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7839/benefice/>

# Easter Services Holy Week

April			
Date	Time	Service	Church
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	4pm	Priory Singers Traditional Service of Reading & Music for Passiontide	St Mary's Aspenden
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin Westmill
Palm Sunday	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Buntingford
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7pm	Compline	St Mary the Virgin Westmill
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Compline	St Peter's Buntingford
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Compline	St Mary's Aspenden
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Maundy Thursday – A service with the washing of feet and the institution of Holy Communion	St Peter's Buntingford
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Station of the Cross, reflection and artwork depicting the final hours Jesus took to the cross	St Peter's Buntingford
	2pm	Hour at the Cross	St Mary the Virgin Westmill
	7:30pm	A reflective Iona service with readings and meditations on Jesus' death.	St Mary's Aspenden
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	6am	Sunrise Service	St Mary's Aspenden
Easter Day	9:30am	All Age Holy Communion	St Mary's Aspenden
	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin Westmill
	11am	All Age Holy Communion	St Peter's Buntingford

For further details please visit our website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7839/benefice/>



United Benefice of  
Aspenden, Buntingford  
and Westmill

## United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford & Westmill

**Reverend Kirsty Wainwright**

Website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7839/benefice/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7839/benefice/)

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

Telephone: 01763 271552 or 07484 345027

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

### Our Services for March 2023

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9.30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	All Age Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	Mothering Sunday 11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford

Please see our Holy Week poster opposite for details of our Easter Services, which can also be found on our website.

## Buntingford Community Choir



**I am often asked what sort of music do you sing with Buntingford choir?**

My usual reply is something like: "Well, all sorts really, plenty of rock and pop music with a few show tunes thrown in." But now,

thinking about it, that statement covers a multitude of musical genres, so I thought it might be more helpful to list some examples of songs we have been singing lately, which include: *'Island of Dreams'*, *'You're My World'*, *'Do You Hear the People Sing'*, *'One Brick at a Time'*, *'Titanium'*, and *'Save Your Tears for Another Day'*.

We are always looking for new members. There are no auditions to join the Choir and you don't need to be able to read music. We meet at 7.30pm on a Monday evening at Millfield School and anyone over 16, with or without singing experience, will be made welcome. Our subscription rate is still only £4 per week. If you are interested in joining the Choir, or would like to come for a free trial evening, please contact us via email: [info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk](mailto:info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk)

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

**Paul Webster**

# LENTEN REFLECTIONS 2023

Every Tuesday evening in Lent, 7.30 for 8pm start – 28<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> April

At The Stables, 57 Wyddial Road, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9AX – 01763 271 459

(Access via the small door on the left near the top of Church Street, or via the main entrance on Wyddial Road, beyond the Fox & Duck Pub just past Flint Cottage.)

## Rediscovering Values



After a break of 3 years, Rosey and David Woolcombe are pleased to welcome you back to their home for their 6<sup>th</sup> series of Lenten Reflections, designed for people of all faiths and of none. This 2023 series seeks to explore the values that dictate the standards by which we live – values that influence decisions we take about our careers, our relationships, our leisure, our

food, our faith and the kind of world we want to bequeath to our children. Following our opening session in February with Revd Kirsty Wainwright, we are delighted to be able to introduce to you more wonderfully thoughtful people who will lead our reflections.

**7<sup>th</sup> March** – *How death and rebirth are central to the path of transformation and healing; and the symbolic message of Easter* – with Jessica Drake, psychotherapist, author & yoga teacher.

**14<sup>th</sup> March** – *Values in Servant Leadership* – with Jeremy Lefroy, former Conservative MP for Stafford, Founder and Director of Equity for Africa.

**21<sup>st</sup> March** – *Whole Value Ethical Decision-Making in Business* – with Andrew Baughen, Programme Director, Soulful Enterprise.

**28<sup>th</sup> March** – *Values for the Future* – discussions based on the United Nations' Summit of the Future initiative.

**4<sup>th</sup> April** – *Christian Values: Honesty – the Journey to the Cross* – with Revd Mark Bailey, Vicar of Cottered, Walkern, Benington, Ardeley and Throcking.

*We hope you want to come and join the discussion and look forward to seeing you.*

## The Reed Spring Quiz

The Reed Spring Quiz will be held in the Village Hall on

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March @ 7pm**

with a Ploughman's Supper and Licensed Bar.

**Admission £12.** To book contact Liz Jakeman on 01763 848398 or at [elizabethjakeman@live.co.uk](mailto:elizabethjakeman@live.co.uk)

*All proceeds shared equally between the Village Hall and St Mary's Church, Reed*

## Buntingford W.I.



I would like to start off by congratulating Buntingford Dramatic Society on their excellent production of 'Calendar Girls' (left). Some of our members went to see it and we agreed that it was really very well done – covering the 'sunflower'

moments with decorum and humour! – and the enthusiasm of the cast was lovely to see!

Maybe if you went to see it you will have also noticed our table promoting the Buntingford W.I. (right) and may have been inspired to join us? We do have lots of fun, but have no plans a present to follow in the footsteps of Rylstone & District! If you would like to read a little more about us, you will find a short history of Buntingford W.I. over the next two pages.

We had an excellent speaker at our February meeting – Joy Hall, who showed us some awesome pictures of her trip to America's National Parks, of which there are 62 covering an area of 85 million acres! She focused on Yosemite, Death Valley, the Grand Canyon, Arches, Slot Canyon, Mesa Verde, and Yellowstone, where they were lucky enough to view a lunar eclipse. At one place they stayed they were intrigued by a large box outside their cabin – it turned out that this was for locking away their food because of the bears! Joy's pictures certainly were 'Awesome' (the title of her talk) and included short video clips of waterfalls and geysers. Her talks are so entertaining and we will most certainly be seeing her again!



Also in February we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Golden Fleece in Braughing and we are still working on our proposed decorations to celebrate the King's coronation.

**Our next meeting will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March** from 7.15 for 7.30pm at the URC Hall (opposite McColls). Our speaker is Amanda Sutherland and her subject is 'Make Do and Mend'. Amanda will show us how garments from charity shops or old keepsakes can be adapted into new fashion pieces.

Visitors are welcome at our meetings so if you are new to Buntingford – or even if you're not! – come along and see what Buntingford W.I. is all about. Just turn up, or if you would like more information about Buntingford W.I. first, please contact Pat on 01763 271305.

**Val Hume**

# A Short History of Buntingford W.I.

Buntingford W.I. is one of the oldest clubs in the town which is still going strong. It was one of several W.I.'s formed just after the First World War following the formation of the National Federation in October 1917. A group of ladies got together at Layston Court on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 1918 and a committee was formed, comprising Mrs Ashford, Mrs Butler, Miss Boniwell, Mrs Crofton, Mrs Howard, Mrs Jones, Miss Kenyon Stow, Mrs Marshall, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Thody and Miss Woods, the latter being one of the ladies who lived in Layston Court at the time. Mrs Ashford was the wife of the then Master Tanner and Mrs Marshall's husband was one half of the Marshall and Snelgrove store in London.

Early Minute Books give a fascinating insight into activities at the monthly meetings. At the very first meeting there was a Lecture on the Women's Vote and other subjects during the year included a demonstration of rabbit skin curing, lantern lectures on New Zealand and Palestine, 'Women as Empire Builders' and the Battlefields of France and Belgium. They also held something called 'An American Sale', which sounds like our present bring-and-buy. It was suggested that any food left over after meetings should be sent to the inmates of The Union (Bridgefoot House, then the Buntingford Workhouse).

Monthly meetings seem to have been held in various places: the Technical Institute; a "long school room" (which may have been the URC Hall); the Forrester's Hall (now the hairdresser's next to the Post Office); or The George, a public house. There were occasional afternoon meetings when members were allowed to bring their children "on condition that they were taken out if noisy" and also some meetings at Layston Court, the home of Miss Woods, when members had lessons in straw plaiting and raffia work. They purchased some stools from a local builder which were strung by the members and sold to Marshall & Snelgrove (it helped that Mrs Marshall was a Committee Member!). The proceeds were put towards building a hall or room for the Institute.

Other activities included whist drives, rummage sales at the Court House (now the Day Centre), health lectures from the Red Cross and the local doctor, Dr Fell (whose wife was a committee member), and a singing class. In 1923 it was agreed that '*God Save the King*' should be sung at the conclusion of meetings. At the Annual Meeting in 1921 there were 92 members present and by 1922 the membership had risen to 136, although only 80 had actually paid their subs and only 58 attended the January meeting. Committee members were each asked to take charge of 10 members and visit them to find out the cause of the apparent apathy!

By 1922 the Committee were looking at possible sites for the proposed Institute Hall and by the end of that year the Building Fund amounted to £10. They took advice on plans and at a meeting in October 1925 a plan of a wooden building was discussed and passed as suitable. The cost of building was estimated at £360. However, by January 1926 the Committee was discussing a more ambitious project, which would include a committee room, and on the 21<sup>st</sup> January it was agreed to accept new plans, with a building cost of £800. No mention is made in the Minute Book of the actual building of the W.I. Hall, but the Grand Opening was set for 30<sup>th</sup> March 1927. From the start, the building was available for hire. It cost 25 shillings to hire it for an evening (7pm to midnight), plus an extra 5 shillings if you wanted heating and a further 5 shillings if you wanted the piano!

W.I. Meetings continued during the War years, although the number of members seems to have diminished to 68 and some lectures and talks had to be cancelled owing to "the International situation". However, during the summer months there were W.I. garden parties, either in the grounds of the Manor House (then the home of the Hartnett family), or the garden of Layston Cottage (owned by the Ashfords), or the grounds of Layston House, owned by Mrs Cornes. (Layston House disappeared when Snells Mead

was developed). It appears that the Hall was taken over by the Military during the War as a recreation room for evacuees. Meetings had to be held elsewhere, frequently at the Welfare Centre or Aylott's Cafe. In 1943 it was decided to let the Hall out for 25 shillings per week to a company called Quenby Brothers for the renewal of Radiolocation Valves

W.I. Meetings commenced with the singing of 'England' or 'Jerusalem' and speakers during the frugal War years included a demonstration by the Ministry of Food of various potato dishes, rug-making from scraps of material, repairing upholstery and 'Make Do and Mend'. Members knitted small garments to send to occupied countries and they also agreed, in April 1944, to invest money in War Savings during 'Salute the Soldier Week'. They ran an Aid to Comforts Fund and Prisoners of War Fund, and had monthly collections for the overseas Cigarette Fund. At a meeting in January 1945 the girls from Hackney, who had been evacuated to Buntingford, entertained the W.I. with dancing and recitations. Renting out the Hall to Quenby Brothers continued for three years after the War at a rent of £2 per week. It seems that the W.I. had some difficulty in reclaiming the Hall from them and had to resort to consulting a solicitor. The Hall was eventually vacated early in 1948 and W.I. meetings resumed there in September that year.

Unfortunately, there is a gap in the W.I. records so we now jump to 1967 when the President was Mrs Enid King. By 1968 the Hall was so dilapidated that letting income dwindled and it became financially unviable. An amicable solution seemed to come from the vicar, the Rev. K. Blythe, when it was suggested that a joint agreement could be reached with St. Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) which was in need of a Parish meeting place. The PCC would buy the Hall at the nominal price of £250 and if at any future time the church decided to sell it, the WI could have first refusal to buy it back.

When the Charity Commissioners were informed they insisted that the building must be sold to the highest bidder and the WI would have to pay for it to be valued before auction. The advice was that it would reach a higher price if planning permission was sought for a single house with garage. The auction was held up for about 18 months until, after the third planning application had been submitted, permission was finally granted. Nine years later, in August 1977, after legal and financial complications, the Hall was sold for the sum of £3,691 to Mr Derek Neil who used it as a furniture showroom.

W.I. Meetings were held at different venues until 1977 when the WI began using the URC Hall and their meetings have continued there ever since. At the beginning of the 1970s there were 46 members – new members had to be proposed and seconded at that time! As well as monthly meetings, there were whist drives, outings and annual dinners, and the W.I. always took an active part in the Buntingford Carnivals. There also seems to have been a W.I. darts team in 1973 and a discussion group was formed in 1975. In 1982 Buntingford W.I. amalgamated with Aspenden W.I., which was a good thing as far as Buntingford was concerned as numbers were still dwindling. The increased membership meant that a Choir and a Drama Group could be formed. The Choir won a cup at the County Music Festival and one of our members was accepted into the County Choir.

Buntingford W.I. today follows pretty much the same formula as it has done for the last 105 years except that nobody wears a hat these days! We still enter (and often win) the Carnival parades, we still have interesting and varied speakers, and we still take part in many other activities with other groups in Hertfordshire. We go on trips to various places of interest, get together for lunches, and have recently started 'Friday Friends', an off-shoot group which meets up on the first Friday morning of the month at the URC Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us. We like to help out at local Buntingford events whenever we are asked, and can always rely on our members to rally round and get baking. To commemorate our Centenary in 2018 a plaque was placed on the outside the former W.I. Hall at the top of the High Street – it is now The Tile Shop.

**Val Hume**



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

## A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

Our contractor was able to start work on the new pump track at Norfolk Road Playing Field earlier than expected. It's hoped the work will take no longer than 12 weeks.

You may have noticed two new trees have been planted in Layston Court Gardens, an Oak in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and a Cherry to mark the Platinum Jubilee. We have also installed a new inclusive picnic bench, which is already proving to be popular.

Councillors are working hard to plan an event to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The free-to-enter event will be on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May** on the field at the Seth Ward Community Centre and will be similar to last year's Jubilee event, with live music, a bar, food outlets and the very popular free fairground rides for the children.

May 4<sup>th</sup> will see elections for both the Town Council and the District Council. This year, for the first time, voters will need photo ID to vote. Details of what is acceptable ID is available on the East Herts Council website. Anyone wishing to stand for election to either of the two Councils must have their nomination forms delivered by hand to East Herts District Council by 4pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Electoral Commission website.

The Town Council has joined forces with St Peter's Church and the URC to help provide warm spaces throughout the rest of the winter months. The sessions will be at St Peter's on Mondays and Wednesdays, the URC on Thursdays and the Manor House on Tuesdays. Please feel free to call in between 9.30am and 2.30pm and help yourself to free tea, coffee and snacks. Wifi and TV are available at the Manor House. Meanwhile, our popular Chatter Table continues on the first and third Mondays of the month at The Manor House, from 10 to 11.45am.

**Jill Jones, Town Clerk**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Town Council meetings for March 2023

Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	7:00pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7:00pm – Planning Committee 7:30pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7:00pm – Planning Committee 7:30pm – Full Council meeting

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

# News from Your District and County Councillor

## Humanitarian Aid to Turkey

Following the requests made for donations to help the victims of the terrible earthquake in Turkey, there has been an incredible response from the local community and surrounding villages. The BCAT bus was mobilised to deliver the aid to where it is needed most. I left for Turkey with three volunteer Turkish drivers and a fully laden bus and trailer on Sunday evening, 12<sup>th</sup> February, for the 2,500-mile journey across Europe and the Balkan states. As I write



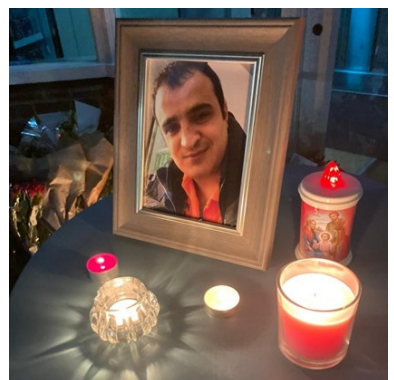
we are arriving into Istanbul on Tuesday morning. We intend to drive on to Aksaray, close to the earthquake zone, where many of the earthquake refugees have been taken. Two of our drivers are from this town. I take comfort that this arduous trip will enable your donations to reach those so closely affected by the disaster. I hope to return to Buntingford on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February.



*Top left: Jeff and the Turkish volunteer drivers. Left: loading up supplies on the Park Farm Industrial Estate. Above: collecting aid donations from the Islamic Centre in Harlow. Below: Mehmet, who died in the earthquake.*

We have sadly lost a well-known and much-loved member of our community in the earthquake. Mehmet, who tragically died alongside both his parents whom he was visiting, will be sorely missed by all who knew his ever-smiling face.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, colleagues and all that knew him. It was good to see a large gathering outside the Buntingford Fryery on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February for a vigil and two-minute silence in Mehmet's memory. Even the traffic at this busy time paid their respects by keeping stationary!





Buntingford Town Mayor Duncan Wallace leading the vigil in the High Street on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February in memory of Mehmet Ethem Govher, who died in the earthquake in Turkey.

## Electoral Boundary Review and Local Elections in May

Following a boundary review, Buntingford Ward has been expanded. In addition to Buntingford Town and the villages of Wyddial, Buckland & Chipping, the ward now also covers the villages of Cottered, Throcking, Aspenden, Hormead and Hare Street, and will have three Councillors rather than two. These changes come into effect at the District Council elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## Election Photo ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID at polling stations at elections. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**You can use any of the following forms of ID to vote.** Please note, if your photo ID is out of date, you can still use it to vote at a polling station provided it still looks like you.

- Passport
- Driving license (including provisional)
- Blue badge
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Defence identity card
- Biometric immigration document
- Certain national identity cards

**If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID**, or you're not sure whether the photo still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You can apply online at Voter Authority Certificate Application or you can complete a paper application – to request an application form, contact the electoral services team at East Herts Council on **01279 655261**. The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for use at the coming election is 5pm on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023**. If you have any questions or would like to find out more, call the helpline on 0800 328 0280

**Councillor Advice** – If you need help or advice on a District or County Council matter, I hold monthly face-to-face Councillor Surgeries at the Manor House. To book an appointment call the Town Council on 01763 272222. Alternatively I am always available by phone or email on the contact details below.

**Cllr Jeff Jones**  
**East Herts District and Hertfordshire County Councillor, Buntingford Ward**  
**0300 123 7493 / [jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk)**

## **Update from your local MP, the Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald KC**



Times are tough right now. Reduced Russian energy supplies to Europe have caused a rapid rise in the cost of living which has hit people hard. I have tried to find help for those who are vulnerable and on low incomes. Hopefully inflation is coming down now.

Many local cancer radiotherapy patients attend hospital in Hillingdon. I am campaigning for a local radiotherapy centre at Lister Hospital. I am also supporting a potential new cancer site at Watford Hospital and backing the bid by the NHS locally to obtain funding. Residents often attend Addenbrookes' Hospital in Cambridge and I am strongly supporting plans for a new Childrens' Hospital and a new Cancer Hospital there. This will also be easier for parents of chronically sick children

Lister Hospital is still suffering from the national NHS problems post-covid. They are treating some patients at home and offering more space to ambulances for Emergency reception. However the situation is unacceptable and needs to improve. I do pay huge tribute to all those working in this stressful environment and will work to ensure improvements happen.

On climate change, we have innovative farmers locally improving soil quality by using techniques such as 'no-till' drilling seed, more plant cover and grazing. This helps nature, as was seen at the Groundswell Conference in Weston. I spoke there and Ministers shared views, with many farming and environment businesses represented.

Natural features such as hedges, coverts and woods help to store carbon and I have been pleased to help plant trees in a number of local initiatives. In addition I am supporting wetlands and marine conservation. We have eight chalk streams here and I am Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Group for Chalk Streams. I attended meetings of Water Resources South East to ensure we have enough water, but also support river quality. I support the Catchment Based Approach launched by the Minister in Tewin, tackling river flow, pollution and restoring the route of streams.

As we seek alternative energy sources, more and more applications are being received for solar and wind farms. I am fully supportive of these methods, but only in the right places and not indiscriminately across good farmland we need for food.

In this past year I have attended many community events such as local fetes and shows, visited local businesses and schools, and held a number of surgeries. Remembrance Day was strongly supported locally. I laid a wreath this year in Buntingford. At Christmas I attended tree lightings and Christmas Fairs in our towns.

Despite changes at Government level, I have enjoyed being out and about again meeting residents. I am supporting more co-operation at International level. I am sure this has helped see a better UK relationship with our allies. I pay tribute to all those working in our emergency and vital public services at a particularly difficult period and I am hoping for a better year ahead for all residents as the country comes through these challenging times.

**Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald KC MP**  
**Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire**  
[www.oliverhealdmp.com](http://www.oliverhealdmp.com)

## That which is hidden ...

Most visitors to our house remark on how tidy it is, how little 'stuff' we have cluttering up the place. If only they knew. We are fortunate that there is enough space in a four-bedroomed property for two people that are traditional hoarders to co-exist. Our answer has always been to put the 'stuff' out of sight – in cupboards, drawers, the garage and, of course, the loft. Our abode is similar to an iceberg: what you see is just the 10 per cent above the water. The remainder is beneath the surface, where all our junk is stored, in these depositories of old memories and past recollections.

There comes a time when even the hideaways themselves get choked up to capacity and a 'clear out' has to be undertaken. That dreaded job where one has to ponder over each item, recalling the memory, then making the decision – does it stay, or does it go?

After nearly 30 years in our house we thought it about time to get a loft ladder installed. Now in my seventh decade, it was surely not unreasonable to bring to a halt those days of clambering up some wobbly steps while my wife looked on anxiously. She would hold the ladder as I climbed, repeatedly telling me to be careful as I hauled my ageing body through the trap door. Up here in the eaves was the only place in our house that my wife had not ventured. It was my sole responsibility to arrange the junk in this cavern, and its inventory had been mine to administer. Now, with our new loft ladder in place, the contents of this 'hideaway' were about to be revealed to a new pair of eyes and a scrutiny I had not previously requested.

The first things to, as it were, go under the hammer were my treasured football programmes, which went back some 60 years. The cull was about to begin. These were brought down to face the daylight, their glossy front cover images bringing back memories of cold winter days on the terraces. The occasional highs and probably more frequent lows of supporting a club since the days of my teens. The first questions asked were how much would these now fetch and were they still collectible?

Then came the boxes of old 45rpm vinyl singles, mostly from a similar era to the football memorabilia. Another question, why did we hold on to them, surely we can't still play them? Finally, a chance to get my own back as we uncovered boxes upon boxes of jigsaw puzzles that had been laboriously tackled by my mother-in-law and then for some unknown reason deposited with us.

The contents of this storage area were not all reminders of our past lives, there were some practical things left up there, probably too boring to warrant mention in these jottings. However, we had started the cull and with the addition of our new, easy access to the loft, one could see the beginnings of a shuffling around of the remainder of the house's assorted junk.

The space now freed up here would allow us to consider moving stuff from other areas, and so the sorting and clearing would continue. Further dilemmas were to be faced and decisions grappled with concerning vinyl albums, CDs, DVDs and old board games. The chilly winter months ahead were to be filled with these trips down memory lane and, at the end, the brutal decision of whether to keep or dump.

The fashionable word is 'declutter'. It is said easily if you are clearing a room perhaps for decorating, but when it comes to trying to put your past life in some order it takes on a quite different aspect. Most of us have an attachment to things like books, music and possibly art. They are the spiritual belongings that we have enjoyed, created memories through and which in turn forged our lives. As these items are considered, inevitably there is a resistance to either abandon them or pass them on. If they are to be handed down, will they be as gratefully received as we would wish? Does it even matter?

Consider books, in particular those that we have always promised ourselves one day we would read. How many of those days do we still have left to read them? Would we still enjoy them? Do they still appeal in these later years as they would have done in our forties? Quite the same applies to one's musical collection. All of those albums that have been stored as the technology for listening advanced with each decade. Do you, in your mid-seventies, still wish to listen to that live recording of Jon Hiseman's Colosseum based solely on a single track that you can just about recall from 50 years ago?

Art too can be a very subjective topic. What was appreciated and cherished in that first bachelor pad somehow seems out of place and character in one's retirement bungalow. The inevitable choices must be made, the hard decisions that come with decluttering. Brace yourself for a nostalgia trip that will usually end with a heavy sigh and another box ready for the charity shop – or perhaps that loft space.

**'Meadonian', Buntingford Writers' Group**



## **The Hundred Parishes Society**

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

**The Office for National Statistics (ONS) recently published analysis of the 2021 Census.** Nationally, this showed that the population of England grew by 6% in the last 10 years and 14% over the last 20 years. Locally, the increase has been much faster. The population of The Hundred Parishes in 2021 was around 156,000, up 12% since 2011 and 24% since 2001. If roads seem busier, these extra 30,000 people are a major factor.

Half of the increase is accounted for by six parishes close to Stansted Airport. Elsenham, Flich Green, Great Dunmow, Little Canfield, Stansted Mountfitchet and Takeley have each expanded by more than 50% in the last 20 years. Another big growth was seen in Buntingford: from 4,300 in 2001 to 7,900 in 2021.

The Census is the modern equivalent of the Domesday Book produced in 1086, when the national population was less than 2 million compared to 60 million today.

Today, 8% of the Hundred Parishes population was born outside the UK (compared to 17% in the whole of England and Wales); 10% of homes are flats (versus E&W 22%); 36% of houses have four or more bedrooms (E&W 21%); 27% of homes are rented (E&W 37%); 40% of adults work at home (E&W 31%); 55% are in professional or managerial jobs (E&W 46%); 56% of households have two or more vehicles (E&W 35%). We also have a different age mix to the UK average, with a shortfall of around 5,000 people in their 20s and 30s offset by around 5,000 extra people aged over 40.

While the statistics in the previous paragraph highlight contrasts between the Hundred Parishes and the national picture, other statistics are more closely aligned: 99% of households have central heating; 5% of households have a second home; 51% of the population is female and 49% male.

Each parish introduction on our website at **[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)** has been updated to include the 2021 population. For more information on the Census, go to **<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>**

**Ken McDonald, Secretary**



## Buntingford Branch Royal British Legion

Dear Reader,

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, our Branch marked its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary here in Buntingford. To mark the occasion we organised some events, starting with a church service held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February at St Peter's (right).

The Branch would like to thank all those who attended, especially Deputy Lord-Lieutenant Richard Beazley, one of His Majesty's representatives in Hertfordshire, and Mayor Duncan Wallace.



During the service, Hertfordshire RBL President, Colonel Kevin FitzGerald, remarked: "Let us, in the words of our Charter, maintain a strong, positive ... comradeship of all those who serve or who have served in our Armed Forces. Let neither their efforts nor their interests be forgotten, and may we secure just and equitable treatment in respect of difficulties caused in their lives as a result of their service."

After the service, attendees gathered at the War Memorial (above) to pay their respects to those who had not returned from duty. Deputy Lord-Lieutenant Richard Beazley laid a unique Centenary Wreath.

Then came two further events which were held simultaneously on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> February. While Branch members enjoyed a delightful three-course dinner at the Woodman Inn, Nuthampstead, the Branch Standard Bearer David Mitchell was parading the Buntingford Standard at the Menin Gate memorial in Ypres (right). David has made the Branch incredibly proud by going to such effort to parade there as a solitary figure representing our little town some 200 miles away. David was accompanied to Belgium by



his wife, who is shown here (right) holding a wreath which they laid on our behalf. This act demonstrates the Legion's most important personal trait: 'service not self'. We hope to use this inspiration to empower us for another 100 years of service in Buntingford.

Lastly, please can I remind all readers, *whether you have served or not*, that we are always looking for volunteers to help organise and run our events. If you can help us, please consider joining us by visiting

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

Or why not come along to one of our Branch meetings? These are now held every three months, on the second Wednesday of January, April, July and October, at The Crown on Market Hill, Buntingford. I look forward to meeting you.

Kind Regards,  
Phil Hare, Branch Chairman RBL



## ROYSTON & DISTRICT MRC MODEL RAILWAY CLUB EXHIBITION

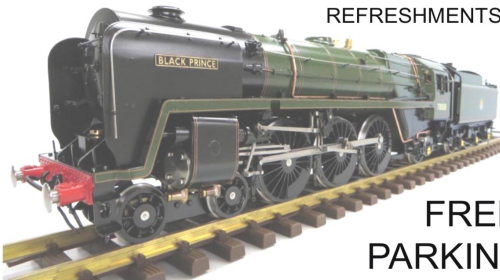
**SATURDAY 1st APRIL 2023**

**10.30am - 4.00pm**

**Adults £5.00 Accompanied children under 16 Free**

**15 LAYOUTS:-** IN, VARIOUS GAUGES  
TRADE STANDS AND DEMONSTRATIONS  
LIVE STEAM RIDE ON RAILWAY.

REFRESHMENTS



**FREE  
PARKING**

**BASSINGBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE  
BROOK ROAD  
BASSINGBOURN Nr ROYSTON  
HERTS SG8 5NP**

After the forced hiatus due to Covid, the **Royston & District Model Railway Club** is returning to the exhibition circuit on **1<sup>st</sup> April 2023**, with our first exhibition in three years (poster left).

If you are a railway modeller who would be interested to chat with like-minded people, the club meets most Friday evenings at Whaddon Village Hall, between 8 and 10pm.

We have several projects on the go, and once a month we have a running session on our large OO scale club layout. Visitors are welcome to come and see what we get up to. Or come to Bassingbourn on 1<sup>st</sup> April to take in all the exhibits and enjoy the live steam ride!

For more details, see the club website at <http://www.roystondmrc.co.uk/>



## International Student Film Festival

Upcoming Events  
– All FREE –  
All Welcome to Attend

### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Local Showcase

7.30pm at Christ Church, Buntingford

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April – International Awards

7:30pm on YouTube (available on demand after the event)

Buntingford Shorts, a subsidiary of Buntingford Film Club, was founded in 2017 as a way of promoting filmmaking to students across Hertfordshire and now the world.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Festival launched for entries in November 2022 and closed at the end of January 2023. We received an unprecedented number of entries – over 1200! – across several genres, including drama, documentary, horror and comedy. Our volunteers have now generously watched and reviewed every single one of these films and we have selected the top 3 to 5 in each category for our panel of professional judges to decide on the winners. These films will be shown at our upcoming events for audiences both online and in-person to enjoy.

Our local showcase, on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, celebrates films produced within Hertfordshire and surrounding counties. Some of our filmmakers will be present to introduce and answer questions on their film from our audience, and have their work live-critiqued by our judges. The quality of film being produced locally is outstanding and we are excited to hopefully boost the career of the next Spielberg!



Last year's Local Award Runners Up, with our panel of judges.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April (and throughout the month of April on demand) we will highlight talent from our global submitters. Judges will again provide live feedback to our filmmakers and the winning films will be shown for audience enjoyment. In previous years, we have showcased films that went on to be longlisted for the Oscars and we're confident that this year will be no different!

**Jake Andrews**

## BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm *Mrs Harris goes to Paris***

At the Seth Ward Community Centre, Luynes Rise, Buntingford SG9 9SG

**The Film Club will be donating the ticket sales from this film screening to the emergency appeal for the Turkey-Syria earthquake.**

In this charming comedy-drama, an adaptation of a 1958 novel by Paul Gallico, Lesley Manville plays a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls in love with a Christian Dior dress. The film follows her amazing adventures in Paris when she sets off to acquire a Dior dress of her own! The cast also includes Isabelle Huppert and Lucas Bravo in a scene-stealing role as André, the accountant who befriends her.

**Book your tickets at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub/>  
Or you can book them in person at: **Keith Ian Estate Agents, 42 High Street****



**The u3a is a self-help learning organisation for people who are no longer in full-time employment – there is no age limit.**

Buntingford u3a has more than 400 members and over 30 Interest Groups – details on our website. There is also a monthly meeting with a Speaker, at the Seth Ward Community Centre, on the second Monday of the month (no meeting in August). Doors open 1.30pm.

*New members welcome.*

**For further details visit our website: [www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford)**

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live  
**Buntingford**

# Buntingford Local History Group: Project High Street

At this month's meeting we attracted several new members who are keen to help with our history of the High Street project. We have been visiting all the shops trying to establish how long each business has been in that location and if they know any history of the building and previous occupiers. Everyone we have spoken to seems very keen to help and given us information which has been added to the research we have already done.

David Dixon, who runs the U3A photography group, has agreed to take photos of each of the properties in the High Street to create a visual record of how the street looked in 2023. We can then compare these photos with the historical photos we have in Philip Plumb's collection and those gleaned from other sources. David hopes to be able to avoid cars in the photos, which will be no mean feat as the High Street is always so busy!

After looking at the maps on the title records for 1838 and comparing them with more recent maps, it is amazing how many of the original buildings remain with pretty much the same footprint as they had over 180 years ago. Some of the shop fronts have been modernised with new windows but many original features remain intact inside, although possibly hidden by stock or shelving. What is immediately apparent is that, apart from Sainsbury's, Buntingford has none of the big multinationals that occupy most high streets in the UK. Instead, we have lots of lovely independent traders who on the whole have been trading successfully for a number of years.

I was quite surprised to find out that at one time there was a department store in the building that is now Effes and the empty Delissimo café, but many older residents may remember it. This shows what a vibrant centre Buntingford must have been years ago, attracting people from all around the local villages and possibly further afield. What we now lack is a bank, like so many other high streets, as banks and building societies have closed branches up and down the country telling us all to bank online. This puts people who can't or don't want to use the internet at a disadvantage. Some transactions cannot be solved via a computer link and perhaps that is one reason why our shops do well as we get a friendly personal service, which often isn't the case with the bigger chains.

We are looking at holding an exhibition in September/October to showcase all the work we have put into this project. Many people we have spoken to are keen to see what we have found out and once we have a date and venue arranged we will let people know.

## **The Adams Memorial School at Layston First School**

On another note, when I researched the history of our schools I tried without success to find out why one of the buildings at Layston First School was called the Adams Memorial School. No one locally could help and I could find nothing in the archives to give me an indication. There is an inscribed stone set into the brickwork of the building, which is still part of the school, but the builders who put a canopy on the building managed to cover most of the inscription and any clue it might have contained, which is a real shame. I did wonder if the building could have been named after a rector at Throcking who was a great advocate of education. His name was William Adams, he died in November 1878, and a few weeks ago I was sent a copy of his will.

Adams left extensive bequests to various friends, including William Corrie who was a Remembrancer of the City of London, an ancient role that has existed since 1571 and acts as the channel of communication between the Lord Mayor of the City of London and the Sovereign and Parliament. Other beneficiaries were the Reverend William Wigan Harvey, rector of Ewelme in Oxfordshire but previously rector of Buckland, and Thomas Robinson Woodfield, then a resident of Cannes in France. Adams left land in various counties to both of them and their heirs. He left the sum of £500 each to Buntingford National School, the Leicester Infirmary, the Hertford Infirmary, Addenbrooke's Hospital,

the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, and the Church Missionary's Society – a total of £3000 in all. In today's terms £500 would be equivalent to about £80,000, so more than enough to build a new school and name it after its benefactor. Adams made lots of further bequests to local residents who had served him or known him, to the poor of local parishes and to the church at Throcking. He bequeathed his law books to Jonathon Leader of the White House in Buntingford. His will was witnessed by William Gibbons and Thomas Nevitt, both builders of Buntingford. So it seems the mystery of why a building at Layston School was called the Adams Memorial School is solved!

Our next meeting is on **8<sup>th</sup> March** at 2pm in the **Bowls Club in Wyddial Road**. Everyone is welcome to join us, it costs just £2 per person and includes tea or coffee.

**Carol Emery, Buntingford Local History Group**



**Attend2Health is pleased to announce it was one of just nine clinics this year to be awarded the Clinic Management Quality Mark (CMQM) by the Royal College of Chiropractors.**



The CMQM recognises excellence in terms of operating within a structured and managed clinical environment. Applicants must demonstrate excellence in a range of areas including: clinical audit, risk management, incident reporting, outcome measurement, patient satisfaction, emergency procedures and operational policy. It's wonderful to demonstrate that we are doing all we can to create a welcoming, high standard environment. The photo shows Louise Hampton receiving the

award, accompanied by fellow chiropractor Megan Brown who has recently joined Attend2Health as a practitioner.

Also, last week Attend2health held a Charity Morning with a variety of stalls and a raffle, plus osteopathic and massage treatments. The event raised £261.37 for the Chiropractic Research Council, a charity that researches into relieving back pain.

Attend2Health offers a free chat with one of our practitioners if you want to find out if we can help with a problem. Call **01763 87 80 87** for more information.

**Louise Hampton**



**£261.37 was raised for**

 **Chiropractic Research Council**

## Bridal Shower – A short story

The bar was almost empty. It was the same every evening. Just a few regulars. Old boys Arthur and Ben playing dominoes over everlasting pints of beer in one corner. David the divorcee drowning his sorrows at the bar. Raucous Rita with her latest internet conquest in the booth by the loos. And then there was me and my friend Veronica.

Veronica was what you might call posh. Not really cut out for the likes of this spit and sawdust pub. Her manners were perfect, she spoke like the Queen, but like a lot of upmarket folks she had an overactive embarrassment gene. But hey ho, she was my best friend, and best of all, she loved me, warts and all. Not romantic love, you understand, just the love that true friends share over many years. We met at an art class at the local college when we were just out of school. Not many people went to uni in those days, we just did evening classes. Veronica knew all about Picasso and whatsisname who did matchstick men. She was very knowledgeable. I went because I thought we were going to draw nude men, but the only still life we got was a bowl of rotting oranges.

I don't know why we always went to the same pub. Nothing ever happened. The landlord was as bored as the rest of us. Keith he was called. Keith Gotobed. I always thought that was a funny name. Can you imagine when he was at school? "Gotobed, come here!", "make up your mind sir!" I said that to him once, and Veronica's embarrassment gene nearly exploded. Keith said it wasn't the first time he had heard it, and didn't even smile.

Keith sometimes talks to David the divorcee, but David can make you lose the will to live in two minutes flat, so mostly Keith pretends to be busy. Sometimes Keith's live-in girlfriend Tracey makes an appearance, and Veronica and I wonder why she bothers because there's nothing to do. But we look at her and wonder about her life. Not being fattist, but Tracey is, well, round. Some men like that, don't they? But then Keith has a belly like a cannonball. I said that to Veronica but she shushed me.

So we turned our attention to Arthur and Ben. They were truly part of the furniture. They had even grown to look alike. Both skinny with grey hair in an overgrown short back and sides. Arthur had a sort of haunted look. He always wore an old tweed jacket and brown corduroy trousers. Ben wore a long black coat. We wondered what they did when they were not in the pub. Who were they? What did they do before old age and dominoes overtook them? Veronica reckoned they were brothers who had never married. I thought they were retired teachers. My teachers seemed to have had that haunted look.

It was impossible to ignore raucous Rita. Her laughter and shrieks rang out in the otherwise subdued atmosphere. Her startled date usually looked like a rabbit caught in the headlights. I had to laugh.

Sometimes we stopped noticing the others and talked about politics. Veronica was really into world politics and so was I. We agreed on just about everything and enjoyed a good rant about the way the world was heading, and what we would do if we ruled the world. We had some radical ideas, well I did, and Veronica agreed really, but the embarrassment gene stopped her from saying so in case anyone heard who disagreed. I said that you should have the courage of your convictions. She said I had chalked up enough convictions with all my marching in demonstrations and banner waving.

We generally sat near the main door, just in case anyone interesting came in. Sometimes a lost motorist would pop in asking for directions, and occasionally a young couple would poke their heads round the door, clock us staring at them and disappear fast. But one summer's evening the door opened and in walked a bride. No kidding!

She had a veil over her face, and the full train dragging behind her. We watched excitedly to see the rest of the wedding party, but nobody came. Maybe they were parking?

But no, she was alone. A bride in a full white glorious wedding gown all by herself. She walked straight to the bar, at the opposite end to dreary Dave, and ordered a pint of Guinness. Keith Gotobed looked gobsmacked, but not being one for idle chatter he said nothing, just went about pouring the Guinness. Arthur and Ben didn't even look up. I don't think they'd notice if men from Mars walked in. Dreary Dave seemed to buck up a bit, and raucous Rita went unusually quiet.

Veronica and I speculated about the exciting new arrival. Veronica said she must have been stood up, but I pointed out that weddings weren't usually held in the evenings, to which she had to concur. I said we should go and chat to her. She looked lonely sitting on that bar stool all by herself. But Veronica was horrified and said she might want to be alone and we should mind our own business. She wanted to know really, but the old embarrassment gene had kicked in again. I got a bit tired of that embarrassment gene. It stopped me doing a lot of things.

The bride soon finished her pint, even under her veil, which looked really weird. Then she ordered another. This time she picked up the glass, got down from the stool and marched over to the old domino players. They looked up, startled. Nobody ever interrupted their game. The bride lifted her veil to reveal the face of an 80-year-old woman. She lifted the pint of Guinness, and as if in slow motion poured it over the head of Arthur, who sat stock still in total bewilderment. Then she spoke. We didn't have to strain to hear.

"Sixty years ago you made wedding vows. You vowed to love and honour me. You did not vow to marry Ben and the pub and dominoes. I am your bride, and I will wear this dress until you remember that."

For a moment there was silence, then Arthur stood shakily, Guinness dripping from his nose, took his bride in his arms and kissed her passionately.

I suddenly found myself applauding, and weeping a little bit, and raucous Rita joined in. Veronica hurried into the loo because posh people don't do emotion, and I understood. But we'll never forget that night.

**Sue Shearing , Buntingford Writers' Group**



## **Buntingford Gardeners' Club**

There was a good turnout of members and visitors at our February meeting, when Susan Lees talked about the National Trust property of Lyveden in Northamptonshire.

**The next meeting is our Annual General Meeting which will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

We hold monthly meetings in the United Reformed Church Hall on the first Wednesday of every month (except for January and August) starting at 8pm. We are a group of like-minded people, some more expert than others, but all enjoy the pleasures and pitfalls of the plant world. This year we are planning a trip to Barnsdale Gardens, which were created by TV gardener Geoff Hamilton for Gardeners' World during the 1980s.

New members and visitors are always welcome. For information contact the Secretary on 01763 271885.

**Lesley Lowers**



East Herts

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

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

## Giving Notice to Change Jobs

**I've been offered, and accepted, a new job. The new company wants me to start as soon as possible but we're really short-staffed where I am now and I don't know how soon I'll be allowed to leave. How should I bring all this up with my boss?**

Congratulations on your new role! It can feel awkward telling your employer you're moving on but there are set processes in place. The time between telling your employer you've found a new position and you actually leaving is known as your 'notice period'.

If you've been in your current job for less than one month, you won't have to give any notice period (unless your contract says otherwise). If it's more than a month, you have to give at least one week's notice. Check what your contract says to find out how much notice you'll be expected to give. If you don't have a contract and your employer has no written record of you agreeing to a notice period but you have been employed for more than a month, you have to give at least one week's notice.

Although it may be tempting to hand in your resignation as soon as possible, it's worth waiting until your new employer has confirmed your new employment, for example by signing your contract or by giving you a start date. It's then best to give your resignation in writing (email is fine), so that you have a record of the date you told your employer. You can find guidance on how to do this on the Citizens Advice website, where we have a page on handing in your notice. Fixed-term contracts are a bit different, as you won't need to give notice if you intend to leave on the last day of your contract. Leaving before the end of a fixed-term contract, however, usually means giving at least one week's notice, but again check your contract to see if this is different.

Don't forget about your holiday days during your notice period. If you have any unused annual leave, speak to your employer about either taking these during the notice period or being paid back for them in your final paycheck.

Finally, sometimes people can find their circumstances alter and change their mind about moving jobs. If this happens to you, you should speak to your current employer to see what your options are and if you can stay in your current role.

Everyone's situation is different, but if you face any challenges with an existing or potential employer, contact Citizens Advice for advice. You can call our Message Line **01920 459944** at anytime (we aim to return calls within 24 hours, except at weekends) or visit [www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk) to see our advice options.

You can also visit our Citizens Advice Contact Centre in the Methodist Church, South Street, Bishop's Stortford, on Tuesdays between 12pm and 2pm, or at the Hertford Sele Community Hub, Fleming Crescent, Hertford, on Wednesdays between 11am and 1pm, where our friendly staff can help you access our advice service.

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

*Citizens Advice East Herts is a registered charity.*

# BALA Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

## Minibus Trips March 2023

March	Time	Destination	Price
Wed 8th	9.30am–5pm	Bury St Edmunds	£13
Thurs 9th	10am–1.30pm	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£5
Tues 14th	10.30am–2pm	Saffron Walden Market Day	£6
Thurs 16th	9.30am–12.30pm	Hitchin Garden Centre	£6
Weds 22nd	10am–3pm	Cambridge	£7.50
Mon 27th	10am–2.30pm	St Ives	£8
Tues 28th	9.45am–12noon	Coles Park Daffodils (Westmill)	£2
Weds 29th	11.30am	Pub Lunch	£5
<b>April</b>			
Weds 5th	10am–3pm	Letchworth	£6
Thurs 6th	10am–1.30pm	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£5

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

**To book a seat or for more information ring:**

**07870 638480** (please be prepared to leave a message)

**BALA Soup Lunch** at URC Hall, Baldock Road

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 12 noon–1.15pm**

*Bowl of soup, bread roll with butter, dessert – £5*

**BALA Coffee Morning** at URC Hall, Baldock Road

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023, 10–11.30am**

*Sausage rolls, cakes, raffle*

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



## Home-Start Aquathon

Home-Start are very aware that everyone in our local community has, like us, found it hard to raise funds over the past few years and we really want to help you raise funds for your school, organisation or club through our Home-Start Aquathon event.

If you need to raise funds for equipment, a project or a trip, we can help you. All you need is a team of 6 swimmers to swim in relay on the night and gain sponsorship. Our Aquathon will take place on:

**SUNDAY 23rd APRIL, between 6pm & 10pm, at Royston Leisure Centre**

Any sponsorship money gained will be split 50/50 between your local Home-Start and the school, organisation or club that you represent. So pick your swimmers from teachers, PTA members, coaches, leaders, children, parents and family members, then come and have some fun while swimming to raise money. It is not a race, so please come along and have fun!

We will organise paper sponsorship forms as well as online funding pages for your team. Then you will receive 50% of the sponsorship money raised and also know that you are helping Home-Start to continue their work in our local community with families who are struggling with day-to-day life.

If you would like to get involved with the **Aquathon**, please contact Tracy at Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire on **01763 262262** or email [events@hsrsc.org.uk](mailto:events@hsrsc.org.uk)

**Home-Start also invites you to join us for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert:**

### **'Celebrating Voices'**

**led by the wonderful Linda Bance, on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

Come and enjoy a brilliant mix of singing styles from four local choirs – the Foxton Singers, Lift Off Choir, Reed Choir and WomenSing Choir. Our amazing Poet-in-Residence Jude Simpson will be hosting the event, and local author Sarah Harrison will join us to recite one of her poems.

The concert will be held at **St John the Baptist Parish Church, Royston, SG8 9LG. Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start.** There will be a licensed bar available and a raffle. *There is free parking at the Health Centre car park opposite the church.*

And just by booking your ticket/s, you are helping Home-Start to continue their work supporting local families in the community – THANK YOU!

**Concert Tickets are £10 for adults, £7 for under 13s**

To book please call **01763 262262** or email [events@hsrsc.org.uk](mailto:events@hsrsc.org.uk)



BUNTINGFORD  
SCHOOL of DANCE

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

*If you wish to register with us to join classes please use the QR code below or email us on [admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk](mailto:admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk) for more information.*

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

## 'Baby Boppers'

'Baby Boppers' is an introduction to dance, movement and music for parents and young children (confident walkers to 3 years) to do together.

The class is held at Hornead Village Hall, Great Hornead, on Saturday mornings, 11–11.30am.



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

To register for a place please complete the registration form on our website Contact page or scan and use this QR code (left).

## 'Baby Boppers'

Dance for 2-3 yrs

Saturdays

11.00 - 11.30am

Hornead Village  
Hall

Register via our  
website for  
a trial class



## 'Take a Bow'

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 1.30pm & 5.30pm

Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage

'Take a Bow' will showcase our classes, from our 3 year olds to our teenagers and incorporate Ballet, Modern/Jazz, Tap and Commercial Dance. Tickets will go on sale direct from the Gordon Craig Theatre on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

*Our aim at Buntingford School of Dance is for pupils to aspire to be the best they can be, whether dancing recreationally or aspiring to a career in dance.*

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

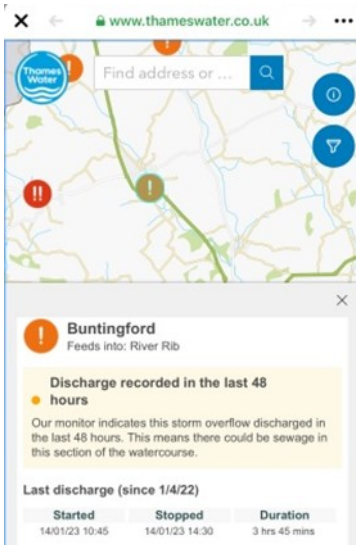
If you would like to advertise an event in the *Buntingford Journal*, please contact either **Christine Noble** on 01763 273095 / email [Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk) or **Keith Edwards** on 01763 272032 / email [Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

Towards the end of October we wrote to Sir Oliver Heald QC, Member of Parliament for our constituency and catchment as well as FORQ's President, for advice. Our work documenting the pollution and abstraction impacting our two chalk streams

has raised some clear and obvious questions, which we laid out in a letter and sought his suggestions as to how we might best obtain answers from the water companies as well as the local planning authorities. The letter was copied to our local councillors, and to the parish councils and angling interests that we have met and gained the support of over recent months. A copy of the letter is available to download from our website.

Sir Oliver was good enough to write immediately to Thérèse Coffey, the new Secretary of State for Defra, raising our concerns. Jan Goodeve, East Herts District Council Executive Member for Planning & Economic Growth, also responded having read our letter with interest and shared it with appropriate EHDC planning officers. It wasn't until early January that Sir Oliver was able to reply to us, sending on a letter he had received from Rebecca Pow MP, Defra Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience (a copy of which is also on the FORQ website). The FORQ executive committee are considering the Minister's letter and how best to respond.

At the end of January the Government published its Environment Improvement Plan 2023. There is a link to this document on the FORQ website, along with details from the section that concentrates on aspects of the plan relating to water. The plan states: *"We will achieve clean and plentiful water by improving at least 75% of our waters to be close to their natural state as soon as is practicable."* The plan lists a number of targets and how the government aims to meet them (details on our website). Importantly, it says that the government will *"protect our chalk streams by supporting the Chalk Stream Strategy"*.

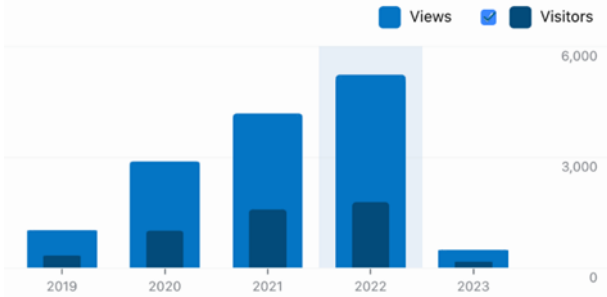


As many readers know, FORQ regularly monitors sewage spills into our rivers. We were therefore keen to look at Thames Water's recently launched website that reports when raw sewage is entering rivers from the facilities they operate. The site uses the same data that historically has been published on an annual basis by the Rivers Trust, but makes this information available in real time.

Details and a link to the Thames Water site are on the FORQ website. Not all sewage treatment sites are included, but casual monitoring of those that are has shown a number of spills already this year in our catchment. Data for Buntingford Sewage Treatment works shows discharges on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023, one for 3 hours 45 minutes (shown left) and then a second an hour or so later for a further hour. Thankfully there have been no discharges since then, but then there hasn't been much rain since then either. FORQ will continue to monitor the information for all the sewage treatment works on the Rib and the Quin.

Riverfly Monitoring at the two sites in Buntingford has continued over winter and December's results are on our website. Thanks to David and John for braving the cold conditions to gather this valuable data. They also did a session in January (results will be on the website soon); the next sessions are scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> March.

End of year figures show an increase in traffic to and views of the FORQ website in 2022 (right). A total of 1771 visitors viewed a total of 5226 pages through the year, which is 25% more than in 2021. The most popular posts were Peter's walks along the Rib and Quin.



**Pauline Ayres,**  
**Communications FORQ**

[forqcomms@gmail.com](mailto:forqcomms@gmail.com) <https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com/>



## Telephone frauds targeting older people in the area

Fraudsters posing as Police Officers and Bank Officials are targeting older residents in Hertfordshire. **During the last month they have asked victims to hand over cash and bank cards or to purchase high value watches and gold bars all of which were collected by a courier.** This has resulted in losses of over £100,000.

The fraudster phones you and claims to be from the police or from your bank. They tell you a convincing story. They may say that there is a problem related to your bank account and that you urgently need to withdraw your money from your bank and give it to a courier who will come to your house to collect it. Sometimes, people were asked to give their bank card to a courier. Sometimes, they ask you to buy high value items, such as watches or gold.

### **Please remember the police or your bank would:**

- **NEVER** ask you to withdraw money from your account.
- **NEVER** ask you to buy high value items.
- **NEVER** ask you to give money or goods to a courier or send money in the post.
- **NEVER** ask you to give your bank card to a courier or to send it in the post.

If you receive a call like this and need to check with your bank, remember that the fraudsters can hold the line open, so you should use another phone to make the call, or first call someone you know to check that the line is clear. Alternatively, visit your local bank branch.

**To verify a police officer's details,** call 101 and give the name or number that the officer gave you.

**To report an incident of telephone fraud,** you can either call 101 or report it electronically at **Contact us / Hertfordshire Constabulary ([herts.police.uk](https://herts.police.uk))**

## ‘Tonnes of Care’

Isabel Hospice is holding a series of donation days at venues across eastern Hertfordshire this Spring to boost donations to its charity shops. Events are taking place between 10am and 2pm

at the following locations and we encourage you to bring along and donate good-quality clothing and accessories, homeware, small electricals, vintage items and collectables:

- **Van Hage Garden Centre, Great Amwell** – 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> April, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> May
- **Bishop’s Stortford Rugby Club** – 6<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> May



Charlotte Greenwood, Head of Retail at Isabel Hospice, commented: “Van Hage and Bishop’s Stortford Rugby Club have been great ‘Tonnes of Care’ partners for us. We are so pleased they have both committed to donation days again this year as this will really help fulfil **our pledge to save 25,000 tonnes from landfill by 2027**. We ask the local community to get behind these donation days ... everyone can play their part in turning unwanted items into nursing hours and promote sustainable shopping.”



Isabel Hospice relies on donations of pre-loved items from the public to help fund its specialist palliative and end-of-life care for those living in Buntingford and across eastern Hertfordshire. ‘Tonnes of Care’ was launched by the Hospice on Earth Day 2022, and in January scooped the Green Initiative Award at the Heart Hertfordshire Hero Awards 2023. The award recognises those whose environmental efforts are making a difference towards a greener future. For more information on how your business, school or organisation can get involved in Tonnes of Care, visit [www.isabelhospice.org.uk/toc](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk/toc)

**Muddy Mayhem:** There is still time to sign up for this fun, family-friendly outdoor event taking place in the beautiful private estate of Woodhall at Watton-at-Stone on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March**, raising much-needed funds for Isabel Hospice. You can register at [isabelhospice.org.uk/events/muddy-mayhem-2023](http://isabelhospice.org.uk/events/muddy-mayhem-2023).



There was a large attendance for our February meeting when a member of Herts Police gave us an Awareness Session on Cybercrime and Cyber-enabled fraud.

It's quite staggering that several million cases of fraud and of computer misuse are reported to the police every year. Worldwide, in money terms, the total stolen is in the trillions of pounds. One lady, who insisted it wasn't a fraud, lost £500,000 which she had transferred herself over several amounts! We were told of some examples of fraud messages sent by text or email and how clever the fraudsters are in tricking us into believing they're genuine.

But many of these crimes could have been prevented by making a few small changes in online behaviour. You don't need to be a computer expert to avoid falling victim to online crime. You just need to develop a few good online habits which drastically reduce your chances of becoming a victim of cybercrime, make you less vulnerable and let you use the web safely. Unfortunately our expert speaker had no printed leaflets with him listing those good online habits, but he promised to email our Chairman with some links to sound advice and these will be circulated to our members and put on the u3a website shortly (address below).

Our next meeting is on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March** when stunt woman Lucy Allen will tell us all about *'From Titanic to Cruella – The Highs and Lows of a Stunt Woman's Life'*. The talk is about Lucy's life as a stunt woman: what stunt work actually is, how she got into it, the incredible highs and lows of the work, and many other stories from her long career.

**Jean Cook**

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

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

[www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford)

## Tea-Time Talk in Standon Village Hall

We hope those of you who came to Kathryn Shreeve's talk on Sir Ralph Sadleir in January enjoyed her presentation on this fascinating local Tudor statesman. Copies of Kathryn's book, *Who Was Ralph Sadleir?*, which was launched on the day of the talk, cost £5 and will be available at our forthcoming talks. Or you can contact me, Trish, on 01920 821069, or Helena on 01920 822177, if you would like a copy.

Our next Tea-Time Talk is on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm**

**'Where to Watch Wildlife Locally'** by Jonathan Forgham

A look at the best nature spots within a five-mile radius of Bishop's Stortford, illustrated with Jono's photos taken at sites such as Thorley Wash and Stansted Lagoons.

As usual, the talk will be followed by tea & cakes and a chance to chat.

**Entrance £5** payable at the door. We look forward very much to seeing you there.

**Trish Street and the T3 team**

## Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club

Spring is here so dig out your tennis racket and come along to the Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre for a game. We have three excellent courts, recently refurbished.

**PAY TO PLAY:** This is available to all, if you just want to book a court. The charge is £8 per hour, or £4 for juniors, and we even have availability at weekends. Contact Sally Bradshaw on 01920 821152.

**COACHING:** Our Head Coach is Cliff Devonshire, an LTA level 4 performance coach. Cliff has introduced programmes for all types of players, from junior to experienced club members. For more information please contact Cliff on 07709 355655 or email him at [clifforddevonshire@hotmail.com](mailto:clifforddevonshire@hotmail.com)

**ADULT TENNIS:** Wednesday morning, 10am–12noon, and Friday afternoon from 1.45pm. These sessions usually attract around 8 players of varying ability. We play doubles and change round regularly which gives an opportunity to play with different people. Contact Sally Bradshaw on 01920 821152.

**CLUB NIGHT:** Tuesday 6pm, also Sunday morning from 10am. All members are welcome. There is a WhatsApp group to ensure there will be players there.

### We have the following teams:

**The men's team** play in Division 2 of the Essex Small Clubs League and are doing very well in it. They played in Hot Rackets in the summer and won their division.

**The mixed team** also play in the Essex Small Clubs League and in the summer they won their league. They also play in the East Herts League which they won and were promoted two divisions.

**The ladies** play in the Over 60s Hertfordshire League and won the first match they played this season, against Hitchin. They also play in the Essex Small Clubs League against Dunmow, Stebbing and Braughing amongst others.

For more information on any of these contact Diana Foster on 07778 031430. We will be having a stall at May Day in Standon on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May, please come and visit us.

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME:** Special rates for parent/child/family memberships. For details contact Sally Bradshaw on 01920 821152.

**Diana Foster, Chairman of Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club**

## Songs to aid memory and wellbeing

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

**Each Thursday 2.00–3.00pm**

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

For information please contact David Ranford:  
[ranfordd@gmail.com](mailto:ranfordd@gmail.com) / 07888 398336 / 01920 739762



We have had our first BFWR Committee meeting of the year and we are now in full swing for the next **Braughing Fair and Wheelbarrow Race** on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023** – 12.00 noon to 6.00pm.



There will be all the usual attractions for everyone to enjoy – Dog Show, Bar, Food Stalls, Gift Stalls, Tombola, Raffle and, of course, the Wheelbarrow Races themselves. Please have a look at our new website for more information:

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

Entry to the races will be open nearer the time once we have finalised the categories. However, you can start planning your fancy dress costumes!

**The Wheelbarrow Race Committee**

## Braughing Get Together

In February, Braughing Get Together hosted Sue Shanahan from Trading Standards, who gave an excellent talk about the current scams. She gave some very good advice on how best to avoid falling into the scammers' traps:

- Do not answer telephone calls if the caller is not in your contacts.
- If you do answer, do not give out any personal information or bank details.
- If scam calls persist on landlines, you can request Trading Standards to put in a free call blocker. (Trading Standards can be contacted via the Citizens Advice Consumer helpline on 0800 223 1133.)
- Do not answer your door to cold callers; if in doubt call the police on 101.
- It is best to use tradesmen who are personally recommended; not all trade recommendation sites are thorough with their vetting.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – Following the success of our first outing to The Clink Restaurant at Brixton Prison, we have organised a second outing for those who may have missed out on a place first time around. It is an interesting opportunity to enjoy a three-course lunch in the Governor's House, cooked and served by some of the residents. We will travel by coach, leaving Braughing at 9.15am. The cost is £65 per head to include travel, the three-course lunch, and all tips and service charges. **To book**, please email Graham Purse at [graham@thepurses.co.uk](mailto:graham@thepurses.co.uk) or call 07979 153 495

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – A talk by Kristina Putsover, an optometrist working for the Royal College of Optometry, about her work in the optometry units in Africa – *'Africa Through My Eyes'*. At Braughing Church Hall, entry £4 on the door. Doors open at 7.15pm and there will be a licensed bar.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April** – We are sounding out interest in a visit to Brick Lane Music Hall for their St. George's Day lunchtime show. We would arrive at midday for lunch, followed by the show. Return departure time would be about 5pm. The cost of the show and lunch is £55; with cost of a coach added on, we think the total will be around £75 per person. If interested, please contact Cynthia Matthews via email [cynthia.matthews44@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.matthews44@gmail.com) or call 01920 822230 or 07933 202547



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

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

Spring has (maybe) sprung! As I sit here writing, looking out at bright sunshine and plants starting to pop up through the soil, it seems inconceivable that only a few weeks ago we were calling games off because of frozen pitches and then because of waterlogged pitches.

**First Team!** January saw three of five scheduled games called off, with only the Hertford Heath and Sandridge Rovers fixtures going ahead. Hertford Heath have become something of a local rival in the past few seasons and are currently flying high so it was somewhat disappointing to go there and lose, but the manner of the loss was promising and, indeed, two weeks later The Firsts came from behind to beat a very good Sandridge side 3-2.



The Firsts are unbeaten since that Sandridge fixture, drawing 1-1 against Cuffley and 2-2 with Welwyn Garden City FC Development – in both matches the team had the opportunity to win in the final five minutes but couldn't quite capitalise. The predicted rise up the table has started and The Firsts now sit in a creditable 11<sup>th</sup> spot in the Herts Senior County League Premier Division with games in hand on three or four of the teams ahead of them.

**Reserves!** The Reserves started the New Year with a 3-5 loss against Hinton Reserves and then saw the next three fixtures postponed because of the weather. The enforced break obviously worked for them as they came back to win 7-1 away against Bovington A and then beat Sarratt Rovers Reserves 3-1 at the Bury. Their cup fixture at the end of February has already been awarded as a home win because the opposition pulled out of the competition, so a good result in their next game could give them an unbeaten month! Now sitting seventh in Division 3, with three games in hand on the leaders, the Reserves could be on for a top three finish if they keep performing as they have in February!

**Ladies!** The Ladies fared pretty well over January, managing to play all their games bar one. The first game of 2023, against a very good Stotfold Junior Ladies First Team, was a disappointing 3-2 loss – another one of those games where we probably should have won but just didn't take our chances. Despite this The Ladies marched on, winning 6-5 against EB Lions AFC Ladies (the score does not reflect how dominant Buntingford were in the game) and 3-0 against Bedwell Rangers, and now sit in seventh spot in the Beds and Herts Womens Football League Division 3 table.

**Vets!** The Vets have managed to play three games since New Year, two league fixtures and one friendly against Goldings. The squad is still waiting for its first League victory and probably should have had it at the beginning of February when they met Standon and Puckeridge, but were narrowly beaten 4-3 in an extremely tight match. The friendly against Goldings the week before was a different story altogether as The Vets notched up 7 goals to win 7-1 away from home. With ten league fixtures yet to play, there's still hope that The Vets can rise from the bottom of the league table – the only way is up!

**Sponsors wanted!!!** As a club we are now turning our thoughts towards next season whilst also trying to keep a firm grip on this one! Running a sports club at grassroots level is an expensive proposition and we rely heavily on the support of local businesses for sponsorship. We are looking for support and sponsorship to continue our story as a

<b>Sponsorship:</b>	<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>What's included:</b>
Home Kit	£2,000	2 seasons 23/24 – 24/25	Sponsorship of The Ladies home kit with your company name and/or logo printed across the front. Your logo will also appear on our website, social media pages and in our weekly matchday programme
Away Kit	£2,000	2 seasons 23/24 – 24/25	Sponsorship of The Ladies away kit for two seasons (23/24 and 24/25) with your company name and/or logo printed across the front. Your logo will also appear on our website, social media pages and in our weekly matchday programme
Training	£1,800	1 season 23/24	Sponsorship of The Ladies training sessions at the new 3G pitch being constructed at Freman College. This will allow The Ladies to train at the best facility within the local area. Your logo will appear on any new training/ warmup t-shirts purchased for The Ladies by The Club as well as our website, social media pages and in our weekly matchday programme.
Equipment	£500	1 season 23/24	Sponsorship of The Ladies training and Matchday equipment, including training balls, match balls, training bibs, cones etc. Your logo will appear on our website, social media pages and in our weekly matchday programme

Club and ensure that adult football is available for future generations in Buntingford. If you would like to be a part of our journey, now is a great time for you to become involved and we have put together a range of sponsorship options which are available for the 23/24 season.

If you would like to be part of our journey by sponsoring the Ladies Team please take a look at the table of sponsorship options on the previous page then, if you need any further information, do not hesitate to contact me at [chair@buntingfordtownfc.com](mailto:chair@buntingfordtownfc.com)

### **Supporters wanted!!!**

Why not make it your New Year's Resolution to come and watch a home game at The Bury? You can find information on all our fixtures at [www.buntingfordtownfc.com](http://www.buntingfordtownfc.com). You can also follow us on facebook [@BuntingfordTownFC](https://www.facebook.com/BuntingfordTownFC), Twitter [@BuntTownFC](https://twitter.com/BuntTownFC) or Instagram [@buntingford\\_town\\_fc](https://www.instagram.com/buntingford_town_fc) for details of upcoming games.

**Mark Cotton, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC**

---

## **They are tying us in Knots!**

Anybody remember houses topped off with 'H' type TV aerials and telephone lines draped across poles crooked with the wind and weight giving the impression that some malevolent spider had been at work cluttering up the skyline? In these past decades efforts have been made to reduce this tangled scene, but just as you thought you had seen the last of those gruesome webs, a new plague has started to creep in like so many serpents slithering from our homes across the pavements and front paved areas, suckling family cars that stand patiently like cows in the milking shed.

Formerly a five-minute top up from the pump has now become an hour upon hour saboteur of time, as the umbilical black cords administer sustenance to the family transportation. Cables trace across the frontage of even more homes like deadly black mambas waiting to strike or trip the unsuspecting passerby. The harassed housewife and mother forever tripping over the cables en route to loading the car with children and accoutrements for the day. The even more harassed husband – or should we say 'partner', or even non-gender-specific other? – in haste with coffee in one hand, ever-present mobile in the other and slice of toast in the mouth, forgets about the tethered harness that will either rip the filler cap cover off when they take off or pull the charging socket from the wall ('they', note the pronoun that even God has to answer to now!) Argh!!!

After the first daily rush hour subsides the apparent moribund twisted serpents lie ready in coiled repose for the next opportunity. The first is the milkman (for those who are truly 'green') and in the winter dark he (or they?) will trip over the offending leads, followed by the postman (sorry, mail delivery operative non-binary) who will often fail to see the electric trip wire whilst trying to decipher the latest snail mail, unwanted brochures and advertising circulars, whilst crawling at ground level to gain access to letter boxes that would give a dwarf a bad back (apologies to those of diminutive stature).

What will happen when all vehicles are 'electric' as promised by those who control our world? Many of our older streets are traditional terraced housing with nothing other than kerbside parking, so pavements already blocked by the ever-present wheelie bins will now be joined by yet another impediment to passersby, be they dog walkers, mobility scooters, parents and children en route to school, the visually impaired or those of advancing years and not able to transverse the crochet hopscotch that lurks in the early morning or dusk and night?

Once again those that are supposed to know better and show leadership to the great unwashed seem to overlook the basic idea. Who will ever acknowledge that those who charge their cars on domestic tariffs presently pay VAT at 5% whilst petrol fuel at the pumps is charged at 20% VAT? Are we to believe that electric cars costing at least a third more than conventional vehicles will not be using domestic tariff electricity for much longer? That is not considering all the losses to the public purse when petrol and diesel taxes are lost. Tesla didn't build that into the equation, or perhaps they did? (The man is mad, Tik Tok!)

I try and imagine that if somebody wanted to charge their car they would take it to an 'electric garage' and sit in the car or truck or van for hours on end? It takes about five minutes to fill a car with petrol or diesel and that including paying for the fuel. How much time does it take to fully charge a car? This so-called technology has joined the awkward squad along with Smart meters, online and cashless banking, video conferencing, and computer purchasing. All only benefit the producers in the long run and the systems are full of loss leaders to get the average punter to buy into these products and services until you are hooked and then there is no turning back. None of these products has saved people money in the mid and long term.

If you don't believe me sit down and work out what the differences in costs are between using a cheque book and pen and pouring over a computer? What worthwhile benefits come from those items alone – and don't say communication and information. A telephone book, a pad of Basildon bond and a good fountain pen would outlast any latest model computer and mobile phone. And as for the waste of endless hours 'online', that is incalculable. The television screens and newspapers are full of stories of scams that have broken lives and families, all activated by the computer or its offspring, the devil's evil device, the mobile phone. Where there is a great deal of publicised crime, illegal acts and very much worse, the mobile phone has been in attendance but has not helped very much, indeed may have only inflamed the situation.

So think again before you start down the road of the electric vehicle – it may be quiet (in itself, potentially dangerous!) but it will cost you more in the long run. Meanwhile reflect on the image of the spaghetti al nero that will soon be part of front gardens and kerbs near us.

Vyse

## **Reed Garden Club in Reed Village Hall** **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2–4pm**

This month: 'Caring for Perennials' with Peter Jackson  
£2 entry, tea and coffee provided

**The Buntingford Journal is delivered FREE to members of the  
Buntingford Civic Society, or it can be purchased from:  
THE CO-OP • LOCKS, STOCK & MORE • MARK DOEL BUTCHERS  
McCOLL'S • KIM on the CARD STALL on Buntingford Market**

# WHAT'S ON – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## MARCH

- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> 8pm: **Buntingford Gardeners Club A.G.M.** at URC Hall (p.29)  
Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 10am–12noon: **Writing Morning** in Cotteder Village Hall (p.4)  
Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30 for 8pm: **Buntingford Film Club – Mrs Harris Goes to Paris** (p.25)  
Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 6.30 for 7pm: **Quiz Night** at St Peter's Church (p.8)  
Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 6.45 for 7.30pm: **Celebrating Voices Concert** for Home-Start (p.32)  
Tue 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30 for 8pm: **Lenten Reflections** at The Stables (p.12)  
Wed 8<sup>th</sup> 2–4pm: **Reed Garden Club** in Reed Village Hall (p.43)  
Wed 8<sup>th</sup> 2pm: **Buntingford Local History Group** at the Bowls Club (p.27)  
Thur 9<sup>th</sup> 7.15 for 7.30pm: **Buntingford W.I.** at URC Hall (p.13)  
Mon 13<sup>th</sup> 1.30 for 2pm: **u3a Monthly Meeting** at Seth Ward Community Centre (p.37)  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup> 3pm: **Tea-Time Talk** in Standon Village Hall (p.37)  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm: **The Reed Spring Quiz** in Reed Village Hall (p.12)  
Tue 28<sup>th</sup> 7.45 for 8pm: **The B.A.S.H. Annual General Meeting** at Dixon Place (p.6)  
Sun 26<sup>th</sup>: **Muddy Mayhem** in aid of the Isabel Hospice (p.36)  
Fri 31<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm: **Buntingford Film Shorts Local Showcase** at Christ Church (p.24)

## APRIL

- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm: **Buntingford Film Shorts International Awards** on YouTube (p.24)  
Sat 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30–4pm: **Model Railway Exhibition** at Bassingbourn Village College (p.23)  
Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>: **Home-Start Aquathon** (p.32)  
Tue 25<sup>th</sup>: **Buntingford Civic Society A.G.M.** (p.4)

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> May: **Local Elections** (p.18)  
Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May: **Coronation Day Celebration** at the Community Centre (p.16)  
Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May: **'Take a Bow'** Buntingford School of Dance (p.33)  
Sat 8<sup>th</sup> July: **Braughing Fair & Wheelbarrow Race** (p.39)

**Mondays:** From 8.30am: **Buntingford Market** on Market Hill

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

10–11.45am: **Chatter Table** at the Manor House – 1st and 3rd Mondays (p.16)

1.30 for 2pm: **Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club** at URC Hall

7.30–9pm: **Buntingford Community Choir** at Millfield School (p.11)

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

**Wednesdays:** 8–10pm: **Ware & District Photographic Society** in Thundridge Village Hall

**Buntingford Meditation** at St Peter's Church, except the 1st Wed in the month which is online: [www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation](http://www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation)

**Thursdays:** 10.30am–12.30: **Coffee & Company** at the URC Hall (p.9)

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

2–3pm: **Mind & Music** at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre (p.38)

**Saturdays:** 10am: **Walking Football** at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields



# Locks Stock & More

your local friendly Hardware & Locksmith Service  
45a, High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AD



*Our shop is bigger than you think so please pop in and have a look*

## Room 1:

*Light Bulbs, sealants, plumbing, electrical, glues, cleaning items, batteries, bits and pieces...and more*

## Room 2:

*Paint: Interior, exterior, metal, Frenchic (furniture paint), paint tools/cleaning items, hardware tools, hinges, door décor, body protectors...and more*

## Room 3:

*Key Cutting, locks, bird seed, pet food, kindle, fire lighters, craft items, candles, garden, pest control...and more*

01763 448170 [info@locksstockandmore.co.uk](mailto:info@locksstockandmore.co.uk)  Locks Stock & More



# TRAVEL STOP

BIG ENOUGH TO OFFER THE WORLD, SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE



*Sadly we have decided to close our Buntingford branch but we are still open and will continue to give you our best service from our other offices.*

You can still call us on 01763 788222  
or email [buntingford@travel-stop.co.uk](mailto:buntingford@travel-stop.co.uk)





# Buntingford Civic Society

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



## WHO ARE WE?

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

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

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

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Publish the Buntingford Journal  
Restored the town pump twice.  
Restored the Town Cage

Initiated erection of Christmas lights in the High Street and Market Hill  
Present an annual school civic award

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

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

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

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

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

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

Were actively involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan  
Arranged four Buntingford in Bloom competitions our fifth in 2020 cancelled due to the pandemic.

Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017  
Hosted annual Civic Day walks

## WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

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

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

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

# Poulton Building Supplies

## Landscaping & Garden Materials

### GRAB/MUCK AWAY SERVICE



## Small enough to care... Large enough to cope

When you are looking to make improvements to your home it's vital you pick a supplier that's got all the credentials you need to get your materials to site on time, every time.

We provide a delivery service which is second to none working for large national house builders, construction firms right down to self builders throughout the Hertfordshire area.

We are happy to supply to the trade and retail customers.

# Tel 01763 273932

# www.jackpoulton.co.uk

Poulton Building Supplies is a trading name of Jack Poulton & Sons Ltd  
Poulton Building Supplies, Home Farm Haulage & Storage Depot, Aspenden Road  
Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 9FG email: [enquiries@jackpoulton.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@jackpoulton.co.uk)



Grab Hire



Aggregates



Drainage



Bricks & Blocks



Insulation



Landscaping

# B & M Installations Limited

Household, Commercial & Industrial Electrical Work

Testing & Inspections Fault Finding/Reports

Factory Installations Reliable Local Electrician

NICEIC Approved



Why not call us today for a quote: 07973 726843 or 01763 288501



## Walkers Garage Ltd

Car servicing and repairs  
at very reasonable prices

Servicing • MoT presentation / repairs •  
Welding • Timing belts • Clutches •  
Brakes checked / replaced • Engines  
replaced / overhauled etc • Airbag /  
Emission warning lights  
and much more .....

Over 25 years car mending experience

Free collection / delivery etc

2 Owles Lane, Buntingford, SG9 9JA

**Telephone 01763 272 125**

*All work is fully insured*

## M Rome Joinery Ltd

Throcking, Buntingford

Your local established  
Joinery company

Quality bespoke  
Kitchens, Conservatories, Doors,  
Windows, Staircases, Barn  
Conversions, Listed Buildings  
etc ...

### Mat Rome

Tel/Fax: 01763 287507

Mobile: 07814 838460

email: [mat@mromejoinery.co.uk](mailto:mat@mromejoinery.co.uk)

website: [www.mromejoinery.co.uk](http://www.mromejoinery.co.uk)

**attend2health**  
helping you back to health

**£20 off**  
your first  
appointment  
with this advert\*

- Nutritional Therapy
- Chiroprody & Podiatry
- Sports Massage
- Physiotherapy
- Chiropractors
- Hypnotherapy
- Osteopaths

**attend2health** Helping you get back to health  
01763 87 80 87  
[www.attend2health.co.uk](http://www.attend2health.co.uk)

**27 High Street Buntingford SG9 9AB 01763 87 80 87**



**We carry out service, repair and installation of all central heating systems and gas appliances.**

Boiler annual service (with discount for customers within the SG9 post code)  
Hive smart thermostat installation  
Powerflushing  
Breakdowns and repairs  
Carbon monoxide detector installation  
System filters installed  
Boiler replacement

**For further details , free quotation or to book an appointment, give us a call**

**Tel: 01763 772017 / 07968 752393**  
**www.buntingfordheating.co.uk**  
**Email : info@buntingfordheating.co.uk**  
**We are a local company with a great reputation**

## **COLLINS ROOFING SERVICES LTD**

**BUNTINGFORD LOCAL FLAT ROOF SPECIALIST**

**We also deal with**

**New Roof  
Roof repairs  
UPVC Guttering  
Fascias & Soffits  
Boards  
Chimney Stack  
Repairs**



**Installer of  
Velux Windows**

**All work guaranteed  
Free estimates  
Free advice  
No obligation**

**119 Snells Mead, Buntingford, Herts., SG9 9JH**

**Tel: 01763 661350      Mob: 07831 265599**

**Email: collins.roofing@hotmail.co.uk**

**You Can Find us on Facebook @collinsroofingservices**

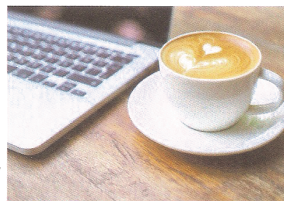
# Carers in Hertfordshire Online



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

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

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



## Carers in Hertfordshire Hub groups meeting online via Zoom

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

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

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

**To contact us call: 01992 58 69 69**

**Email: [contact@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:contact@carersinherts.org.uk)**

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



*Making Carers Count*

# Advertising in the Buntingford Journal

Your advert can be full colour, black and white or plain text. We can accept most common file formats including png, jpeg, pdf, doc, docx or plain text. There is no additional charge for updating or changing your advert. If you do not have any suitable advertising copy then we can usually produce something for you based on a sketch or business card.

Advert size is a multiple of a  $\frac{1}{8}$  page, where a  $\frac{1}{8}$  page is 6.4 cm wide by 4.75 cm high.

The current cost is £6.00 per  $\frac{1}{8}$  page per issue

e.g. one half page for a year (10 issues) =  $4 \times \frac{1}{8}$  pages @ £6 x 10 issues = £240.

Most advertisers take a full year but shorter periods are available with costs on a pro rata basis.

For a small additional charge, your advert can be placed on the Civic Society website with a link to your website.

For more information call Keith Edwards on 01763 272 032 or email [advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

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

## CURWENS

### We are your local expert Solicitors

Whatever your requirements we provide specialist legal services tailored for the individual needs and circumstances of you or your business



**Residential Property**

**Family Law**

**Dispute Resolution**

**Wills, Probate and Lasting Power of Attorney**

**Commercial Property**

**Business Law**

17 High Street, ROYSTON. SG8 9AA | Tel 01763 241 261 | EnquiriesRoyston@curwens.co.uk

Offices also in Enfield and Hoddesdon

**www.curwens.co.uk**





BUNTINGFORD

---

# FOOD BANK

---

The Foodbank is run by a group of volunteers, with collection boxes in the Buntingford Coop and the Wine bar, so people can donate food.

The food bank is run by a voucher system. These can be obtained from GP surgeries, schools, children centre, CAB and churches. Further advice can be found by emailing [buntingford.foodbank@gmail.com](mailto:buntingford.foodbank@gmail.com)

In order to run we rely on your donations, so please support us. **THANK YOU.**



# Hearing Advisory Service

Do you wear NHS Hearing Aids? We run monthly local clinics for hearing aid maintenance and battery dispensing.

Call 01707 324582 or email [info@hhas.org.uk](mailto:info@hhas.org.uk) to book an appointment

This is a free service available to NHS patients only. No service on Bank Holidays. Service may be affected by adverse weather conditions: please check before setting out during severe weather. Please note that our telephones are staffed Tuesdays to Thursdays (leave a message at other times and we will call you back). Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service is a registered charity no. 1063430 (Lealel) poster issued 20.07.2022

Scan the QR code, call 01707 324582 or email [info@hhas.org.uk](mailto:info@hhas.org.uk) to find your nearest clinic.

Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service



## Are YOU our next Digital Champion?

Empower people to get online safely and achieve their goals. Feel the joy of putting a smile on your client's face. Create valuable "Aha"-moments when someone "get's it".

Help fight digital poverty and isolation in your community!

You don't need to be an IT whizz to become a Digital Champion, you just need confidence, enthusiasm and a bit of spare time to help people realise the benefits of using digital technology via our drop-in sessions

We currently need Champions in the following areas: Stanstead Abbotts, Sawbridgeworth and Buntingford

Scan using your phone's camera



Community Alliance  
BROXBOURNE & EAST HERTS

To find out more head to: (QR code with Digital Champion Role description)  
Call: 0300 123 1034  
Email: [claudia@communityalliancebeh.org.uk](mailto:claudia@communityalliancebeh.org.uk)

## Digital Skills Group in Buntingford

Would you like to know your way around a computer, tablet or phone and gain confidence in the Digital World?

Join our friendly, **FREE** and volunteer-led group and improve your digital skills now!

Our Digital Champions will show you how to do simple things online such as how to use your devices, online shop, access virtual appointments, and overall, stay better connected with your friends and family!

All you need are your charged devices!



Community Alliance  
BROXBOURNE & EAST HERTS

## P.S.EVELEIGH PLASTERING CONTRACTOR



All aspects of plastering covered:  
Ceilings  
Walls  
Reskimming  
Skimming over Artex  
Rendering and Coving  
Quality Workmanship

Free Estimates

Over 30 Years of Experience

Call 01763 272569  
or Mobile 07772 366587

Mondays from 10.30 to 12 noon

13/02, 13/03, 24/04, no session in May, 12/06, 10/07

Call 0300 123 1034 to join!

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

# The Earth's Richies

Gardening & Landscaping Services

01763 661 516 - 07957 493 325

We offer a full Gardening & Landscaping service, whatever your garden needs; we have the expertise, resources and knowledge to achieve the perfect garden for you!

## P.J.DEARDS

**Plumbing and Heating Services**

For all your plumbing and heating requirements.

No job too small. Fully insured.  
Free quote and advice given



Call: 07704 842 208

**Peter Worby**  
Antiques Restoration

## ANTIQUES RESTORATION

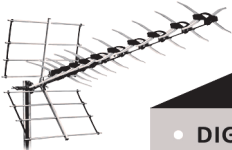
over 40 years experience  
All Repairs, Inc. Modern, Polishing  
Fully Insured, Free Estimates, No V.A.T.  
Tel: 01920 821973  
e.mail: peterworby56@gmail.com

*TOUCH OF glamour*  
BEAUTY SALON

A WIDE RANGE OF TREATMENTS  
FOR BOTH MEN & WOMEN

Elemis, Murad, CACI Synergy & Ultimate,  
O.P.I, Jane Iredale Makeup, Shellac & LVL

38 High Street • Buntingford • Herts • SG9 9AQ  
T: 01763 271122 [www.touchofglamour.co.uk](http://www.touchofglamour.co.uk)



# HERTFORD TV SERVICE

Tel: 01992 552955 [www.hertfordtvservice.co.uk](http://www.hertfordtvservice.co.uk)

Freeview

sky HD

freesat



MEMBER

- DIGITAL FREEVIEW AERIAL INSTALLATIONS
- EXTRA TV POINTS and SKY PLAYBACK
- AERIAL REPAIRS and STORM DAMAGE
- DAB/FM AERIALS and COMMUNAL TV SYSTEMS
- FREESAT HD, SKY+HD and SKY Q
- HIDDEN DISH SPECIALISTS and FOREIGN SATELLITE
- PLASMA/LCD/LED TV, AUDIO and DVD REPAIRS
- TV WALL INSTALLATIONS and HIDDEN CABLES
- WIRELESS BURGLAR INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEMS
- CCTV SYSTEMS IN FULL HD – WATCH ON YOUR TABLET OR SMART PHONE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD
- WIFI ACCESS POINTS and DATA NETWORK DISTRIBUTION
- SONOS and HOME CINEMA AUDIO SPECIALISTS
- VIDEO DOOR ENTRY and INTERCOM SYSTEMS

UNIT 1B, FOXHOLES AVENUE, HERTFORD SG13 7JG  
LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS ESTABLISHED 1979 • ALL WORK FULLY GUARANTEED



Deans Furnishers.com

Drop in and take a look  
around our brand  
new showroom



**30 Room Sets • Over 20 Tables & Chairs on display  
FREE parking for over 25 cars • FREE Delivery**



**Live in Ware or Hertford and can't get to the showroom?  
Call 01920 468887 and we will pick you up**



Stonyhills, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 0HJ

**Tel: 01920 468887**

Email: [info@beds2go.co.uk](mailto:info@beds2go.co.uk) • [www.deansfurnishers.com](http://www.deansfurnishers.com)

Opening times: Mon-Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 10am to 1pm, Bank Holidays 10am to 3pm



@deansfurnishers



@deansfurnishers.co.uk



@deansfurnisher

# COUNTRY MAIDS

DOMESTIC CLEANING SERVICES

*Let us take Care of your Housework . . . .*

- Spring Cleans
- Weekly or 2 Weekly regular Cleans



- Carpet Cleaning

Telephone: **01763 272908**



**PLUMBING & HEATING LTD**

**24 HOUR**  
EMERGENCY CALL OUT

- Boiler servicing • Underfloor heating • Hot water cylinders
- Complete central heating systems including gas, LPG & oil
- Complete bathroom refurbishments including tiling

Call: 01763 274717 Mobile: 07966 078371  
jamie@sjsplumbingandheating.co.uk  
[www.sjs-plumbingandheating.com](http://www.sjs-plumbingandheating.com)



*Anthony Howes Ltd*

French Polishing ~ Floor Sanding Services  
~ furniture ~ staircases ~ panelling ~ floors ~

Mobile : 07790 696631

E-mail : [howespolishing@gmail.com](mailto:howespolishing@gmail.com)

Website : [www.ahowespolishingandflooring.co.uk](http://www.ahowespolishingandflooring.co.uk)

# SIW GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Gardening Hedge Cutting  
Grass Cutting Garden Maintenance  
Strimming

1 Barkway Road 01763 849 636  
Anstey SG9 0BF 07805 606 550

## KARATE AND SELF DEFENCE

AT BUNTINGFORD'S BEST  
KARATE CLUB

OPEN TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 7:30PM  
EDWINSTREE SCHOOL GYM

AGES 10 -110 YEARS BOTH SEXES  
INSTRUCTION BY BLACK BELTS

TEL: BILL HOOPER  
01763 273123

"RUNNING SINCE 1983"  
[www.hertfordshirekarate.co.uk](http://www.hertfordshirekarate.co.uk)



the **humble** line  
graphic design

Hello! I'm a local graphic designer specialising in helping small businesses reach their full potential and attract new audiences.

- Branding & Logo Design
- Leaflets, Posters, Brochures, Reports
- Web Design & Social Media
- Packaging
- Adverts & Marketing
- Copywriting & Typesetting

*Does your branding reflect your unique personality?*

[www.thehumbleline.com](http://www.thehumbleline.com)  
[anne@thehumbleline.com](mailto:anne@thehumbleline.com)

Follow me @thehumbleline to see my latest projects, design tips & more.

Join  
**Buntingford**  
Chamber of Commerce



- Advertise
- Network
- Learn

[www.buntingfordchamberofcommerce.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordchamberofcommerce.co.uk)  
E: [info@buntingfordchamberofcommerce.co.uk](mailto:info@buntingfordchamberofcommerce.co.uk)

DEBORAH LOWETH MSSCh DIP POD MED MBChA



VISITING CHIROPODIST/PODIATRIST  
HPC REGISTERED. ALL ASPECTS OF FOOTCARE  
Mob 07748152538

Teen *Spirit* Coaching

Building Emotional Resilience  
Life Coaching for Kids aged 9-12



Is your child struggling to manage their anger, disappointment, self-esteem or lack of confidence? I can support them by using tried and tested tools to help them cope with every day stresses, through my fun and interactive Kids Life Coaching programme.

For more information visit my website or email [cj@teenspiritcoaching.co.uk](mailto:cj@teenspiritcoaching.co.uk)



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



Covering Buntingford and Surrounding Villages



Providing specialist legal advice and representation to households in Hertfordshire for over 20 years

# Practical Wisdom. Caring Advice. Results.

Offices in Buntingford & Hertford

- Conveyancing
- Family
- Inheritance disputes
- Probate

[www.judkins-solicitors.co.uk](http://www.judkins-solicitors.co.uk) | [mail@judkins-solicitors.co.uk](mailto:mail@judkins-solicitors.co.uk)

T: 01763 448152 | Judkins Solicitors, Manor House, Buntingford SG9 9AB

**CALL NOW FOR A CONFIDENTIAL FIXED FEE APPOINTMENT**



## Councillors Jeff Jones & Stan Bull

Your East Herts District  
Councillors for  
Buntingford Ward

**For A Better Buntingford**

Contact us with any local issues

Cllr Jeff Jones  
01763 274800  
[jeff.jones@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.jones@eastherts.gov.uk)

Cllr Stan Bull  
01763 272939  
[stan.bull@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:stan.bull@eastherts.gov.uk)

[www.eastherts.gov.uk](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk)

## OVENCLEAN®

*The original oven cleaning specialists*

*Ovenclean will transform your oven and put the sparkle back into your kitchen!*

- ✓ Friendly, professional and reliable
- ✓ Completely safe, eco-friendly cleaning system
- ✓ No fumes, no mess, no bother
- ✓ Removes grease, fat and burnt on carbon deposits from:
  - Ovens • Filters • Hobs • Grills • BBQ's • Ranges
  - Extractors • Microwaves • AGA's

*We can also repair your electric oven or hob.*

*Repairs include, element replacement, thermostats and fan motors.*

**Call Owen Rowlands today to book your oven clean/repair on:**

**07445 073 648 or 0800 840 7127**

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



## Buntingford Civic Society

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



# Annual General Meeting 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Buntingford Civic Society will take place on **Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023**, 7 for 7:30pm in The Bunters Suite, Seth Ward Community Centre, Luynes Rise, Buntingford.

*Following the business of the meeting, there will be a short presentation by a guest speaker on a topic relevant to the Civic Society.*

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

**Non-Members welcome**

# Dean Bye

*Private Hire Taxi & Chauffeur*

Mobile - 07768 174045  
Email - [dean@hormeadcars.com](mailto:dean@hormeadcars.com)

## INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

<b>A</b> ce of Herts, Cumberlow Compost.....	A11	<b>J</b> anbor Limited - Wood Briquettes.....	A15
Andrew Coates - Garden Design.....	A7	Jolly Waggoner.....	A4
Apple Blossom Pre-School & Day Care.....	A11	Journal Advertising.....	A25
Apple Computer Specialist.....	A14	J P Services.....	A10
A R Services.....	A8	Judkins Solicitors.....	A32
Attend2Health.....	A16		
Attend2Health.....	A22	John D <b>K</b> ilby & Co.....	A2
Austin's (Funerals & Memorials).....	A9		
		<b>L</b> ayston Grove Care Home.....	A36
<b>B</b> arley and Barkway First Schools.....	A17	Layston Pre-School.....	A15
Bliss Yoga and Wellness.....	A15	Linden Flooring.....	A17
B & M Installations.....	A22	Locks Stock and More.....	A19
Buntingford Chamber of Commerce.....	A31	Deborah Loweth Chiropodist.....	A14
Buntingford Civic Society.....	A20		
Buntingford Dancing School.....	A10	The <b>M</b> anor House.....	A35
Buntingford Drama.....	A26	Marketing Zone.....	A8
Buntingford Food Bank.....	A23	Meeting House Boarding Kennels.....	A3
Buntingford Heating.....	A31		
Buntingford Karate Club.....		<b>N</b> ationwide Supplies.....	A6
	A2	NCS Property Maintenance.....	A10
The <b>C</b> age Barbers.....	A24	Numerology, Physic & Tarot Reading.....	A17
Carers in Hertfordshire.....	A35		
Ceramic Tiler (Mark Addison).....	A14	<b>O</b> venClean.....	A13
Chiropodist (Deborah Loweth).....	A7		
Church Lane Creative.....	A7	<b>P</b> aul Wainwright Decorating.....	A4
Andrew Coates Garden Design.....	A23	Personal Trainer (Jacqui Smith).....	A7
Collins Roofing Ltd.....	A35	Poulton's - Building Materials & Aggregates.....	A21
Complete Garden Service (Gregg Pettitt).....	A12		
Computer Services (Reboot IT Solutions).....	A30	<b>R</b> B Taxation Services.....	A35
Country Maids.....	A5	Reed First School.....	A5
Crossfit Buntingford.....	A25	Riverside Taxis.....	A3
Curwens Solicitors.....		Rome Joinery Ltd.....	A22
	A29		
<b>D</b> eans Furnishers.....	A5	<b>S</b> .J.W. Maintenance.....	A31
P J Deards, Plumbing and Heating.....	A18	S.J.S.Plumbing & Heating.....	A30
Digital Champions - Community Alliance.....	A32	Soggy Doggy Grooming.....	A17
District Councillors.....	A12		
DQR Wills and Probate.....		<b>T</b> een Spirit Coaching.....	A14
	A28	SJ Tokely Ltd, Mechanical Engineers.....	A13
The <b>E</b> arth's Richies.....	A14	Touch of Glamour.....	A17
East Herts Foot Health Clinic.....	A11	Travel Stop.....	A19
Eileen's Fitness Classes.....	A8		
P S Eveleigh, Plastering Contractor.....		Jane <b>W</b> alker-Personal Health and Fitness Coach.....	A4
	A13	Philip Walker- Motor Vehicle Engineer.....	A22
<b>H</b> alf Cut Theatre.....	A7	MJ Warner.....	A12
Handyman - Barry Brown.....	A27	John Littleford - Web Designer.....	A5
Hearing Advisory Service.....	A28	Willow Landscapes.....	A13
Hertford TV Service.....	A14	Wills & Power of Attorney - Kate Bennett.....	A4
Hornmead Cars - Dean Bye.....	A30	Peter Worby, Antique Restoration and Cabinet Maker....	A28
Anthony Howes - French Polishing.....	A5		
Suzanne Hoy MBACP Counsellor.....	A7		
Hudson's Stoves.....	A31		
Humbleline Graphic Design.....			

## The Manor House



Set in the heart of the historic market town of Buntingford, the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Grade II Listed Manor House is a perfect setting for weddings and civil ceremonies. Seating up to 40 people, the Council Chamber is a perfect venue for your wedding ceremony.

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

**For a full colour brochure contact :**

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

**Or email : [clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk) Telephone: 01763 272 222**

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

**RB | TAXATION SERVICES**

ACCURATE ANSWERS....

E: [enquiries@rbtaxation.com](mailto:enquiries@rbtaxation.com)  
T: 01763 847222

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

**Mark Addison**

Wall and Floor Tiling Specialist

M: 07768 105 851 • T: 01763 272 126

E: [addison.mark1@sky.com](mailto:addison.mark1@sky.com)

## Complete Garden Service

Block paving driveways,  
Patios, Decking,  
Brickwork, Fencing,  
Garden Maintenance,  
Grass and Hedge Cutting.

**Please contact Greg Pettitt for a free quotation**

**Mob: 07947 960 783**

**Email: [gregpettittcgs@aol.co.uk](mailto:gregpettittcgs@aol.co.uk)**



# LAYSTON GROVE CARE HOME

BUNTINGFORD



## Layston Grove

Layston Grove is a luxury, 66 bed, residential care home in Buntingford, Hertfordshire. Boasting a host of 5 star facilities that include en-suite wet rooms, fully stocked bar, beautiful tea room, modern lounges, hairdressing and beauty salon, cinema room, spacious dining rooms and landscaped gardens.

Layston Grove offers the luxury of a five star hotel but feels like home.

Layston Grove offers residential, dementia and respite care

We understand when moving into a new home that residents want certainty and security. From our experience, "billable extras" are an unnecessary irritation, so at Layston Grove we don't have any. Everything is included in our residents fixed, inclusive fee. This fixed fee makes living with us easy. Residents can enjoy that glass of wine or beer with their meal, embrace the pampering and regular hair treatments in the salon or take a trip out of the home with the Lifestyle team, all of this is included.

All of our new residents are welcomed with a tailored, individual care plan, covering everything from their daily medication requirements to the food and hobbies they enjoy most. This care plan is continuously updated throughout their time living at Layston Grove Care Home in Buntingford.

Keen Avenue, Buntingford  
Hertfordshire  
SG9 9SU

[01763 274327](tel:01763274327)

[info@halcyoncarehomes.co.uk](mailto:info@halcyoncarehomes.co.uk)