

THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL



**DOES YOUR PET
NEED PHYSIO?
FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT OUR LOCAL VET
PHYSIOTHERAPIST ON P.12**

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

March 2026 Volume 51 | Issue 2

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WATER (Veolia)

WATER (Affinity Water)

SEWERAGE (Thames Water)

FLOODLINE

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Buntingford Medical Centre,
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BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY

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Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188

Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60

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Bash volunteer drivers providing transport to medical
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Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554 440
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Buntingford Town Council: 01763 272 222

East Herts District Council: 01279 655 261

Housing – 01279 714 714

Benefits – Freephone 0800 373 852

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

www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk

Buntingfordfoodhub@gmail.com | 07842 889 772

LETTER FROM



The Editor

You will see that our cover star this month is Evie O'Conner our local Vet Physiotherapist. Did you know that animals often hide their discomfort and adapt the way they move to compensate for injuries or illness? This has a knock on effect on other joints and muscles and can lead to more problems further down the line, so vet physio is not just for the obvious rehabilitation after injury or accident but also very good if you notice your pet moving in an unusual way. Evie sent me such a lovely photograph to accompany her article on page 12, that, although in Hertford and not strictly within Buntingford, I thought it made a nice cover story.

I know I always say this, but we really are lucky to live in such a kind and caring community. There is too much to make mention of, so aside from all our usual film clubs, comedy nights, dance classes and interesting talks, I thought that I would mention the seed swap at the Gardener's Club AGM. Such a lovely idea (and for my fellow Archer's fans, maybe it reminds me of Tony's birthday seed give-away?)

I also love that the Whist Drive at the Braughing Get together group on 13th March p.19 explicitly states that no previous experience is necessary and that they change tables throughout the night to encourage new friendships. So if you're stuck in a bit of a rut or just on the look out for some more good friends, there is plenty on offer locally to get us out and meeting people. I keep reading articles about how we are going out less and less since lockdown. Let's make sure that's not true of Buntingford!

Anne

BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

MARCH 2026

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EDITORIAL DEADLINE

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

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

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

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

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

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ON THE COVER

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BUNTINGFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Graham Waite, Chairman
chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of



reg. Charity: 1014873

We hope all members of the Society received the complimentary copy of the first published Journal with your February Journal and its content, although not as comprehensive as the Journal now, stirred some memories for you.

As reported in my article for the February issue of the Journal, Debbie Lemay, one of a number of editors in its history, sadly passed away on Sunday 4th January. Her funeral was held at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow, on Tuesday 10th of February and was attended by her family and friends along with representatives from the Care Home in Gt Dunmow where Debbie spent her last days. The funeral was followed by a reception at the Manor House where people were able to share stories about Debbie and her husband Brian, both staunch supporters of the Civic Society. The members of the Executive Committee send their thoughts and prayers to family members at this sad time.

By the time you read this, we hope that the rain may have subsided somewhat, and the weather is warming up, ready for the Spring, with all that brings to the gardens, although some plants are already starting to sprout new growth, hopefully not premature. An early reminder to everyone that at the end

of this month, the 29th, the clocks go forward 1 hour, signalling the start of British Summertime, lighter evenings and longer days.

We apologise for continually repeating this message, but if you are NOT a MEMBER of the Society and buy your Journal from one of our retail outlet partners, we would remind you that Society membership is £10 per annum, which includes delivery of the Journal to your door by one of our dedicated distributors. Our grateful thanks go to these distributors.

Graham Waite

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society

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

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

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



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

01763 272 222

clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk

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

[@buntingfordtc](https://www.instagram.com/buntingfordtc) [@BuntingfordTC](https://www.facebook.com/BuntingfordTC)

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

Happily the new gates to Layston Court Gardens are now installed and we are now able to lock the gates. The closing times are either at dusk or 8pm whichever is the earliest. We are looking to replace the railings on the bridge into the gardens, but are waiting for a structural survey first.

The new parking charges have been agreed by East Herts Council despite significant local opposition, these charges come into effect from 1st April.

The Town Council has set its precept for 2026/2027 at a 6.76% increase, this represents a 13p increase per week on a Band D property. The reason for the increase is we have set aside funds to hold a bi-annual free to attend town event, similar to the events at the Community Centre over the past few years. Also additional funds towards any responsibilities we may have as part of the Local Government Re-organisation and to implement recommendations from our recent Local Nature Recovery survey.

The Government are consulting on proposals for the Local Government Re-organisation in Hertfordshire. Details can be found on www.hertfordshire-lgr.co.uk.

We expect the consultation on proposals for the ATF II scheme in early March, at the time of writing, a date has not been set. Details will be published on our website when they are made available to us. This scheme covers the area from the junction of the High Street with Hare Street Road through to the junction of Bowling Green Lane and Baldock Road.

The Mayor, Councillor Duncan Wallace will be holding his annual quiz night on 25th April 2026 at the Seth Ward Community Centre, further details will be published shortly.

The newly decorated Council Chamber at the Manor House is an ideal place to hold your civil ceremony. We are happy to show you around if you are considering this.

The management of the Multi Games Area is now back with the Town Council. If you wish to hire the MUGA, please contact the Clerk's office and we will check availability. Layston Cemetery is owned and managed by the Town Council, please call us if you have an enquiry.

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

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

Town Council meetings for the month of March are:

Thursday 5th March	7pm	Amenities Committee.
Thursday 12th March	7pm	Planning and 7.15pm Resources Committee
Thursday 26th March	7pm	Planning Committee and 7.15pm Full Council.

All meetings held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise.

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY NEWS

Kathleen Beale, Library Manager www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/

On Thursday 12th of February, we held our annual Library Lover's Afternoon Tea. We do this every year around Valentine's Day as a big thank you to all our lovely customers. It's our way of saying how much we appreciate the support for our wonderful library.

Well, we certainly felt the Library Love with so many of our community turning out and attending our Afternoon Tea. We were completely overwhelmed by the response, and the Buntingford Library Team sends a big thank you to everyone who attended. A special mention to Hillary and Maggie for the delicious muffins and lemon drizzle cake.

Temporary Closure

Buntingford Library will be temporarily closed for two weeks beginning Monday March 2nd and will reopen Monday March 16th. The temporary closure is due to required maintenance.

Items can be returned to any Hertfordshire Library or renewed online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries or by telephone on: 0300 123 4049.

If you are reserving an item before the closure, we can arrange to have the item delivered to another library for collection. Check your due dates and come in if you need a loan extension and we will change the due date for you. Please be aware that the Letterbox will not be cleared during the closure period.

Our Public Computers will be out of use from Thursday 26th February and will become available on Tuesday 17th March. WiFi printing will still be available until Saturday 28th February.

Temporary Closure

Due to required maintenance Buntingford Library will be closed on:

**Monday 2 March until
Sunday 15 March inclusive**

Items can be returned to any Hertfordshire Library, renewed online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries or by telephone on 0300 123 4049

We apologise for the inconvenience.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



Please follow Buntingford Library on Facebook for any updates and information.

Our regular activities and events will restart on Monday 16th March.

We apologise for the inconvenience and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 16th March.

Warm Space

It's cold out there...Buntingford Library is a designated Warm Space. Pop in to warm up and chill out. Have a warm cuppa, a biscuit and a chat. You can browse our books, read a magazine, read newspapers on our tablets or have a go at the communal jigsaw puzzle. All are welcome to enjoy your warm library!

The Friday Club

Introducing The Friday Club, a one hour making, crafting and creative session for children aged 3 years and over. Each week we will be making a different creation for you to take home. These will be guided sessions with all materials provided. Sessions will include rock painting, crafty creatures, junk nature, pet portraits and book crafts.

- Fridays
- 4.00pm-5.00pm
- Children aged 3-11
- Price £4.40 per child
- Book in the library
- Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.



BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY

77 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AE

Telephone enquiries: 0300 123 4049

Follow us on Facebook

#BuntingfordLibrary

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

Opening Times:

Mon, Tue, Thur 10am – 5:30pm

Fri 2pm – 5:30pm

Sat 9am – 1pm

Regular events:

Baby Rhyme Time:

Mondays at 10:30 & 11:30

Jigsaw and Cards: Tuesday at 10:30

Chair Yoga with Kim: Wednesday at 11

Story Time: Thursday at 10:30

Lego Club: Second Thursday of the month at 4pm

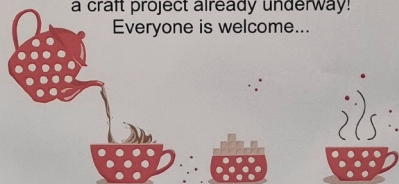
The Friday Club: Friday 4pm-5pm

Jigsaw & Cards

Drop in for a chat; make new friends over tea, biscuits and various activities.

Every Tuesday
Buntingford Library Hub
10.30am-12.30pm

Come in out of the cold and enjoy working on a puzzle, playing a board game, or bring along a craft project already underway! Everyone is welcome...



Further details 0300 123 4049
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



Counterfeit Goods

I bought a doll for my child recently. I thought it was manufactured by a well-known brand, but I suspect it might be counterfeit. How can I be sure and what are my rights?

You're right to seek advice about this issue, because counterfeit goods aren't only illegal, they can be dangerous.

Fake children's toys in particular, including dolls, often don't meet safety standards and can pose choking hazards - poor manufacturing can mean small parts are easily detachable.

Counterfeit goods are fake products designed to mimic the authentic ones sold by genuine brands. Sometimes it's easy to spot a knock-off, other times it can be harder to tell. It's not just toys and games - things like clothing, footwear, e-cigarettes, perfumes and media devices can also be counterfeit.

Things to watch out for include strangely low prices from well-known brands and signs of poor quality - like missing security seals, bad or non-existent packaging, blurry logos and poor stitching. You may also spot some spelling mistakes in the advert or on the packaging.

Looking at photos from official sellers can help when making comparisons, and it's important to only buy products from reputable sellers.

If you have purchased a counterfeit item, there are some steps you can take to try and get your money back. You're legally entitled to a full refund on fake goods within 30 days of your purchase.

If it's been over 30 days since you paid, but less than six months, the seller can provide you with a real version of the item first. If they can't, then they're legally required to give you a full refund.

If you paid more than six months ago, you're only entitled to a part-refund based on how much you've used the item and how long you've had it.

Sometimes sellers might refuse to refund you, and argue the items were obviously fake because they were very cheap, but they're breaking the law by selling them and your legal rights still apply.

If this happens and you paid by debit card, contact your bank and ask to use the 'chargeback scheme'. If you paid by credit card and the item cost less than £100, you can ask to use the same scheme.

If you paid by credit card and the item cost between £100 and £30,000, tell your credit card company you want to make a 'section 75' claim to get your money back. To report counterfeit goods or get help getting your money back, contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service. You can also report a seller to Trading Standards, which investigates criminal activity.

Citizens Advice East Herts is here to help you; if you need advice, call our Message Line 01920 459 944 or visit citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our advice options. Or you can come and see us on Mondays between 10 am and 12.30 pm at the Manor House, High Street, Buntingford – we will find out more about your problem and help you find a way forward.



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07956 647806

February/March is a danger zone for dropping off from exercise. Why? Here are some reasons:

1. Motivation shift (Self-Determination Theory)

January = extrinsic motivation (New Year hype, social pressure, "new year new me" energy)

February/March = reality hits -> motivation collapses if it wasn't intrinsic (enjoyment, identity, meaning)

2. Ego depletion / decision fatigue

Willpower is finite

Daily effort of new routines + life stress -> burnout

3. Habit formation myth

People think habits form in 21 days

Research shows 66+ days on average, sometimes much longer

-> February/March = no longer novel, not yet automatic

4. Goal-setting theory failure

Goals too vague: "get fit"

Or too extreme: "gym 6x/week"

-> creates cognitive overload and failure loops

5. Seasonal factors

Cold weather

Low sunlight

Post-holiday financial stress

-> dopamine and energy dip = behaviour drop-off

People don't fail because they're lazy — they fail because they build routines on motivation instead of systems.

HAPPY Children's Camps 2nd & 9th April for children aged 5-12 year olds funded by Department of Education & Herts County Council. There are FREE places for eligible children on funded school dinners and subsidised places for all other children, funded by Community Initiative Charity

Our Ware Priory 4 hour workshops with breakfast and lunch all finished off with Sound Baths

March (Fully Booked) spaces available for May, July & December

And as usual all our regular exercise classes in Buntingford, Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and Ware

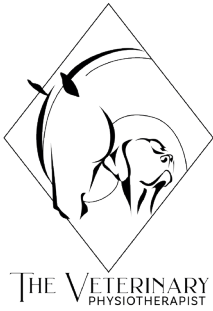
March isn't about restarting — it's about rebuilding habits that actually last.

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

Jacqui Smith Personal Trainer & Chair of Community Initiative Charity

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





THE VETERINARY
PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Hello, I'm Evie O'Conner. I run a mobile veterinary physiotherapy service in the local area and wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and what vet physio is.

What is Veterinary Physiotherapy and How Can It Help Your Animal?

Veterinary physiotherapy focuses on improving movement, comfort, and function in animals, predominantly horses, dogs and cats. It's about helping them move better, feel stronger, and stay comfortable throughout their lives, whether they're recovering from injury, managing a long-term condition, or aiming to perform at their best.

Animals often hide pain or compensate for discomfort by changing how they move. Over time, this can lead to stiffness, weakness, reduced performance, or secondary injuries. Veterinary physiotherapy looks beyond the obvious signs to assess how your animal moves as a whole and where support is needed.

Working alongside your vet, a veterinary physiotherapist can help animals recovering from surgery or injury, those living with conditions such as arthritis or joint disease, and animals who are slowing down, stiff, or not performing as they once did. It is also valuable for active and performance animals, helping to build strength, prevent injury, and support long-term soundness.

Treatment is tailored to the individual and may include hands-on techniques, electrotherapies (such as LASER and PEMFT), targeted exercises designed specifically for the goals of your animal,



and advice for ongoing management at home. The aim is not just to relieve discomfort, but to restore confidence, increase balanced movement and improve quality of life.

If you have noticed changes in how your animal moves or would like advice on supporting their comfort and long-term soundness, a veterinary physiotherapist can help.

From supporting dogs relearning how to walk after paralysis, to helping horses release tension and return to peak performance and even the occasional cat! No two cases are the same and I love every part of the process.

If you're interested, or simply unsure whether your animal would benefit from physiotherapy, please get in touch. I offer free phone and email consultations and am always happy to talk things through.

Evie O'Conner *iMSc VP, RAMP, Level 3 & 4 Small Animal Hydrotherapy*

The Veterinary Physiotherapist

07982 09 58 87

evie@thevetphys.com

www.theveterinaryphysiotherapist.com

THE ROYSTON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

The Royston & District Model Railway Club will be holding their annual model railway exhibition at Bassingbourn Village College on the 28th of March 2026, from 10:30am to 4:00pm.

If you have an interest in model railways or just need some advice or help getting into the hobby, call in and see us. The club meet most Friday evenings at Whaddon Village Hall between 8:00pm and 10:00pm. Alternatively, you can contact the club via our website at : www.roystonmrc.co.uk

Next year will be the clubs 40th anniversary.

Poster for the Model Railway Exhibition 28th March 2026. The poster features a black steam locomotive with 'MRC' and '2026' on it, pulling a carriage. Text includes 'MORE THAN 20 LAYOUTS', 'ROYSTON & DISTRICT MRC', 'MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION 28TH MARCH 2026', 'BASSINGBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE Nr. ROYSTON. HERTS. SG8 5NP', and event details: '10:30 am -> 16:00 pm • £5 adult FREE under 16'. A QR code is in the top right corner.

WARE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Barbara Norris

www.wareps.org.uk

Our 2026 programme is now in full flight with our usual mix of speakers, presentations, competitions and member activities. I am very pleased to announce that Ware came first in the Cambridge Inter-Club competition in January winning by 1 point from 29 other Clubs. The Roy Pitman Award was also won by Simon Jenkins with his image "On the Naughty Step". Two other members have had a print accepted in the Master of Print national competition. Towards the end of February we will be participating in the St.Ives Print competition - a popular and well supported local event.

In March a number of members will be heading into London to participate in a professionally led "Street Photography" day. Our tutor for the day has presented at Ware several times in the last few years and his presentations have been extremely popular, so we are very much looking forward to a day in his company.

Interested in photography? Looking to learn, be inspired and meet like-minded local photographers? Then do take a look at our programme www.wareps.org.uk or get in touch. We'd love to see you.



LtoR: Peter Remnant, Malcolm McKimmie, Alan & Kathy Bradbury, Carol McKimmie, Steve & Sue Hisgrove, Christine Newman, Steve Deeks, Cynthia Kattau, Barbara Henderson

Once again, the weather wasn't kind to our Thursday Walking Group. Their walks in December, January and now again in February were undertaken in very poor conditions. Each walk has been very wet, very cold and very muddy. Nevertheless, they've had a good turnout each time from their hardy and seasoned members.

The photo was taken at the ford over the river Quin at Gravelly Lane, Braughing. The walk was organised and led by Steve Deeks who used his local knowledge to adapt his planned route to avoid the worst of the mud. They did a 5.5 mile circular route from the Brown Bear via Upp Hall and Quinbury Farm and returned to the pub for a good lunch in the warm and dry.

Our forthcoming meetings are:

Monday 9th March, Malcolm Wells MBE, 'So Far So Good' - covering topics on his time in the army (Gulf War), receiving his MBE and training assisted dogs

Monday 13h April. Neil Hanson. 'Inn and Out at the Top' - humorous tales running a pub on the highest hill in Britain.

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

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

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

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

Buntingford choir have been in existence since February 2011. We are still meeting on Monday evenings and still trying to recruit new members.

If you are interested in joining our choir please contact me for more information at;

info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk

Rehearsals are at;

Millfield School

Monks Walk

Buntingford SG9 9DT

We start at 7.30 and we normally finish at around 9.15.

For more information go to our website.

www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk

BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 4th March

At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road

Doors open: 7:45pm for 8pm start

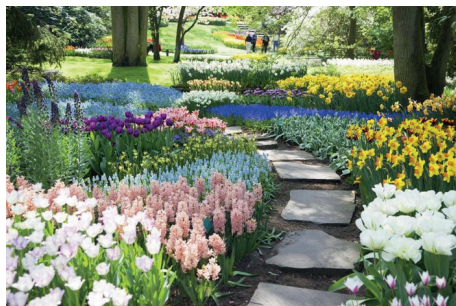
Last month, our first meeting of 2026 saw a good turnout of new & old members which is always pleasing to see – and even better as they will be returning!

Our meeting this month will be the AGM, nothing too formal but essential to keep the club running. Members can have their say and offer up any help or ideas they can bring to the club.

There will also be a seed swap at the AGM so please bring along any unwanted (in date) seeds and have a go at growing something a bit different.

The club has monthly meetings on the 1st Wednesday of every month (no meetings in January or August). We invite speakers on a range of subjects, have demonstrations, outings and socials.

Of course, there is always time for a cuppa and chat after the main event.



April's meeting will be a talk entitled "How We Made Our Garden" by Kerrie Lloyd Dawson which I am sure, with the better weather on the way, will give us inspiration. More detail to follow next month.

Annual membership costs £20 and visitors are also welcome at currently £3 per visit.

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

Hope to see you there!

Simon Rice was our guest at our February meeting and he told us all about 'The Amazing World of Honeybees and their cousins'. Simon is based in Buntingford and is one of only two Master Beekeepers in Hertfordshire. He is our first port of call if we have trouble with swarms of bees, which have been known to set up home in unexpected places, - a tumble dryer on one occasion!

Contrary to public opinion, the honey bee is not under threat. The beehive comprises worker bees, a Queen bee and the male drones. The worker bee is known as a 'Jill of all trades' and seems to do most of the work in the hive, from feeding the young larvae, making the wax hexagons and guarding the hive. The Queen is described as 'an egg laying machine'.

Simon talked about bee stings; a honey bee will sting only once and it will then die. The stinger will be lodged in the skin and, if stung, Simon advises that we should scrape our skin with a credit card. We also saw a short video of a drone mating – with the unfortunate outcome (for the drone) that he will die afterwards!

He also talked about bumble bees and hornets. Apparently the UK has been infiltrated by a species known as the yellow-legged Asian hornet and we are told to report sightings.

Simon's talk was so interesting and we had the chance of tasting and buying some of his honey.

If you are a WI member you will have the opportunity to take part in various events in Hertfordshire and a group of us will be going to a Fun Fashion Show next month.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday March 12th** at 7:15 p.m for 7:30pm start at the URC Hall (opposite Budgens). Our guest speaker is Harriette Wright on 'The Art of Breathing'. Visitors are welcome to all our meetings so if you are new to Buntingford (and even if you're not!) just turn up on the night and come to see what Buntingford W.I. is all about.

If you would like further information about Buntingford W.I. please contact our Secretary, Pat, on 01763 2713 05

THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Brian Jones

pleased to have welcomed four new members to the Club. Will soon be thinking about the trips for later in the year. If you would like to come and meet new friends for tea coffee and bingo.

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

For more information please call Val on: 01763 272 019.

BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL OF DANCE



Zoë Eaglesfield www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

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



We held ballet exams in December with all pupils achieving excellent results and following exams in ballet, tap and modern in March everyone will start rehearsing for a Showcase on 20th June at Freman College, giving pupils a chance to perform to friends and family. If you know someone who would like to join us and be part of the performance sign up now for classes.

WHY DANCE? Dance is great for improving flexibility, core strength, posture, coordination as well as giving you a mental work out learning and remembering steps. Dance is also good for your social and emotional well-being; reducing stress and boosting self-esteem. It's a great way to meet new people.

We offer classes for all ages from our toddler Baby Boppers class, classes for children aged 3 – 18 years to our adult ballet and tap classes, see below for the range of dance genres we offer.

TWO WEEK TRIAL: For all our children's classes for 3 – 18 years we now offer a

two-week trial period giving new pupils the opportunity to trial a variety of suitable classes to see what each class is like before committing to the full term. Complete our registration form and we will send you details of suitable classes.

PAY AS YOU GO CLASSES: We are now able to offer our toddler class (Baby Boppers) and adult classes (ballet & tap) on a pay as you go basis, these classes can be booked online for single weeks, a few weeks or a full term.

OUR CLASSES: ACRO; BABY BOPPERS; BALLET; COMMERCIAL/STREET DANCE; MODERN/JAZZ; TAP

If you wish to register with us to trial/join classes or book one of our pay as you go classes, please use the QR code to take you to the CONTACT page of our website or email admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk for more information.



SCAN ME

Meadonian

How I solved the problem of writer's block

I felt almost locked away; perpetual rain and an ankle injury had forced me to remain inside for the last two weeks since returning from holiday. I had resorted to that archetypal older person strategy of gazing out of the windows at anyone and anything that passed by. A week ago, a man dressed in the now customary dayglow orange overalls was surveying the pavements in my close and checking on the water meters situated outside all the properties. Having circuited the area he eventually came to mine and from his demeanour it appeared that something wasn't quite right. Not content with just raising the meter's cover and taking a reading with the implement he was holding, he got on his hands and knees and started to investigate the inner workings of this hole.

I had been away when a few weeks earlier a team had visited and installed a new water meter. There was little evidence of any change with this installation apart from some mud which had been removed from the hole and not been cleared up, rather just deposited in the road. So intrigued by this man's apparent concern with my meter, I went outside and asked him as to the issue. He told me that the installation had not been effective and the meter failed to work. So, not all bad, perhaps I had been getting free water for the last week?

He informed me that a team would be in touch shortly to install properly a better model and that the work would be completed correctly this time.

The following week, having received a phone call another installation team

did arrive and once more the street was bathed in bright orange day glow. This two-man team led by a little chap who appeared to be in charge proceeded to excavate a big hole in the pavement surrounding the meter to gain proper access. They worked efficiently with respect to my adjacent front garden. On completion of their work, this chap informed me that another team would be along in a few days to finish off the job and leave the pavement looking unsullied. In the meantime, the new bigger hole was covered with a large plastic board and the whole area fenced off with enough signs to satisfy a major motorway diversion.

I was impressed by the attitude of these workers though the rejection by the "boss man" to my offer of refreshment as he supped from his own flask made me think that perhaps my Yorkshire Tea wasn't good enough, all the while his assistant being happy to knock it back.

Before I knew it Affinity Water's answer to the "orange men" returned, almost the next day. Firstly, a huge dumper truck with a built-in crane and grabber arrived to remove the contents which had been extracted and left beside the hole. This was filled swiftly with new soil and patted down. Little boss man, or Elf as his partner referred to him said another team would be coming to finish off the installation and make good the pavement and drain cover. Elf once again refused my offer of tea or coffee while his mate drank hungrily from the proffered refreshment.

Within the hour team number three arrived, this time in a smaller vehicle with the tools to fix the pavement surface.

Andy Ayres

Before they had finished another vehicle turned up and parked up behind in readiness to move into place as the current team packed their tools away.

I was astounded at the resources both in manpower and the vehicles that had been made available just for one water meter. By the completion of the installation I will have seen eleven different workers and five trucks of varying size. The whole job was carried out with great efficiency and each team taking numerous photographs at each stage of their completion. To top it off, within less than an hour team number five arrived in yet another vehicle with boss man Elf at the helm. As the blue security fences were removed and the collection of road signs gathered up, the immaculate new pavement surface was revealed. At the centre of the repaired patch was a pristine black cover under which the new meter lay. All the detritus, soil and mud were no longer conspicuous as Elf went about his usual rigmarole of photographic evidence.

Once more a kettle was boiled, and the junior of the team was happy to accept the drink offered. While his boss was taking snaps from every conceivable angle I asked the chap why the other guy never took my offer of refreshment.

“Oh, don’t worry, that’s how he got his name, -Elf and safe tea.”

Finally, like the water, the block was raised and the writing began to flow.

Meadonian

February 2026

Braughing Get Together goes from strength to strength. Following on from the Gunpowder Plot we had full houses for our Winter Supper in December and our famed Beetle Drive in January.

Friday 13th February 2026 was MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT for all the sleuths amongst you. Poirot, Holmes, Kojak, Drebin and Clouseau are mere amateurs compared to the detective skills of our audiences. Don’t worry if you missed it, we have many more events to offer.

Friday 13th March 2026 is Whist Drive night. No previous experience is need as tuition will be given. This is a great way to make new friends as the makeup of the tables changes throughout the night.

Look out for our posters, emails and social media for more details closer to the events.

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

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

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

Via email: cynthia.matthews44@gmail.com

Via phone: 01920 822 230
or 07933 202 547

BUNTINGFORD REPAIR CAFE

Madela Baddock



Another successful repair café was enjoyed by all

As well as the more common household items like toasters, kettles and lamps, which were given a new lease of life, January's Repair Café saw some unusual and delightful items with some interesting problems like a clock which went backwards! Our repairers love a challenge.

New to us this time was a jewellery repairer who was able to restring precious necklaces and add new rings and clasps and make beloved jewellery ready to wear again.

Torn clothes and bags were restored, kitchen knives and garden tools sharpened.

It was also lovely to welcome visitors who just wanted to catch up with friends and family over tea and cake.

The next local repair café will be in Braughing on 18th April 1-4pm. You can book through <https://buytickets.at/braughingrepaircafe/1274990> from 1st March or email braughingrepaircafe@gmail.com

For our next dates and for our latest news find Buntingford Repair Cafe on Facebook.



Wherever you choose to go, be assured of a warm welcome, a cup of tea and hopefully a renewed item.

Testimonial from our last repair cafe:

During the summer we undertook to clear our loft as we were expecting to move. This was a huge undertaking due to the volume that had been stored over 50 years and took many trips to the Royston and Ware Recycling Centres.

One item that was retrieved was my old Phillips reel to reel Tape Recorder which had a number of sentimental recordings. When it was found was expecting just to plug it in and hear what had been recorded though it had been stored in the loft for 40 years. But disappointment as when plugged in it failed to turned on.

As my electronics experience was rather dated, and the limited number of repair shops around, I thought this was another item for the junk yard.

However I had seen the Repair shop advertised on social media, and we went along on that Saturday.

There I met Oles who stripped the recorder down to the chassis but it became apparent that there were several things wrong. The most visual thing was the drive belts had all disintegrated and melted. It was obvious it was not going to be an easy fix.

Oles was unable to make the repairs there, so he took it home.

I purchased a new set of drive belts, Oles by then had identified further problems, some of which would require spare parts, but with a 50-year-old tape recorder where can you source these. So, I searched the internet and found an ideal match in south London.

Oles had further identified that a transistor in the amplifier, had developed a known problem to that type of component and was able to fix with a workaround.

In all it was something of a major project with a positive outcome that enabled me to hear my daughters baby voice and my mother-in-law's voice (!?)

John

Westmill Art Exhibition 2026

**will be taking place on Sat 30th & Sun 31st May
in Westmill Church, SG9 9NH**

**If you would like to exhibit this year, please
send your name & details to
alex@alexphotos.co.uk or 07768 790902**

BUNTINGFORD SHORTS



Short Film Festival Update February 2026

Since our last article in December, Buntingford Shorts has received nearly 1800 submissions from across the world to our ninth film festival.

After extensive watching of over 200 hours of film, our small committee has shortlisted the final 18 films in the international film category with three films in each of the six genres: Animation, Comedy, Documentary, Drama, Horror and Music and Sound. This year, drama and animation have been particularly strong categories.

In the final international shortlisting, one third of the films have been submitted from the UK, with other submissions from across the European Union and from as far afield as New Zealand.

We now turn our attention to shortlisting the top five films submitted in the local category.

All five shortlisted filmmakers will be invited to attend the local showcase to discuss the inspiration behind making their film and share insights into their

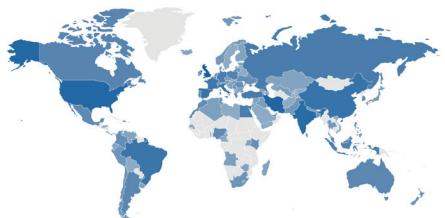
creative process. Each film will then be shown in full. Our panel of judges will then provide live feedback to the filmmaker. Once all five films have been shown the judges will announce the top three films and award each of the winning filmmakers their prize money. In addition this year, the festival committee will also present two special awards to the best films from school-age submitters.

The local showcase is a free public event which takes place on Saturday 11th April at 19:30 at Christ Church URC on Baldock Road in Buntingford. Drinks and nibbles are provided. Everyone is welcome.

The international event will be broadcast on YouTube on Sunday 12th April.

For more information go to www.buntingfordshorts.com/

Submissions Map





WARD FREMAN

COMMUNITY POOL
GROUP

Frazer Willett

fwillett@wardfremanpool.org

www.wardfremanpool.org

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

Exciting times lie ahead for us as we believe that we can open the pool in the Autumn.

Thanks to the generosity of the community, £34,000 was raised (including £15,000 from Sport England) to get the pool tiles and expansion joints repaired. Working with the District Council, we secured a UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant of £130,000 as well as the ring fenced s106 developer contribution amount of £16,700, to get the filtration and chemical dosing systems replaced. Buntingford Town Council have continued their support by giving us grants totalling £31,500 which will provide a contingency fund.

Local firms are really getting behind us too! In addition to those who previously sponsored our shopping bags and donated to Crowdfunder, J Colyer Services have been fantastic by donating two reconditioned boilers. Together with Gareth White Electrical Services and Thomas Electrical, they attended the site on 11th February to plan the installation.

We are patiently waiting for the freehold to complete and then the works can begin. The funding so far is sufficient for the essential behind the scenes work to get the pool operational. The pool may not look any different, but hopefully it will feel different. Once we are able to get full access, we can assess the state of the showers and see if we can improve them cost effectively before opening. The long term, (ten year) plan is to completely

redevelop the changing rooms and dryside of the building. For this we need significant funds so generating revenue along with continued fund raising activities and grant applications is required.

Once the initial work is underway, we'll be able to confirm an expected opening date and begin actively recruiting staff and volunteers. We'll also start shaping our swimming lesson programme. Thank you to everyone who has already reached out with offers of support, it's been wonderful to see such enthusiasm. We'll be looking to appoint a general manager as a key member of the team, along with qualified lifeguards. We'll also be seeking volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, from odd jobs during the pre-opening phase to ongoing support with reception, administration, and fundraising once the doors are open.

Your involvement will make a real difference to bringing this project to life so please get in touch if you feel you can help in any way.

Frazer Willett.

fwillett@wardfremanpool.org

BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Carol Emery

buntingfordlocalhistorygroup@hotmail.com

Our February meeting followed the history of getting fresh clean water to Buntingford. Before this happened, people had to rely on wells for the supply of water, large houses such as the White House, Layston Court, and Little Court had their own wells and servants to draw the water up either by hand or pump. Most of the pubs and inns also had their own wells, but the workhouse that had the most residents under one roof had to pay for their water to be brought to them. Less well off people may have shared wells with neighbours or have used communal wells such as the one on Market Hill. Philip Plumb in an article he wrote some years ago said that there were 100 wells in the town in the 1880's which served around 1300's residents. The supply from these wells was often contaminated and caused illnesses such as typhoid, dysentery and cholera. There was very little doctors could do as Buntingford didn't have an isolation hospital so the patients had to be nursed at home often in cramped and over crowded conditions where the other occupants were quite likely to succumb to the illness.

In 1872 the government brought in the public health act and each area was responsible for creating their own sanitary districts overseen by the Poor Law Union which ran the workhouse. In 1894 Buntingford Rural District Council was formed and it covered the following parishes: - Anstey, Ardeley, Aspenden, Broadfield, Buckland, Cottered, Great Horstead, Layston, Little Horstead, Meesden, Rushden, Sandon, Throcking, Wallington, Westmill and Wyddial. The sanitary officer was Mr Ernest Thody and he reported to the councillors.

There was a Medical Officer for Health, a government position and it was his job to visit anyone who contracted a notifiable disease that needed to be isolated to recover. He covered many different areas, the rural district of Buntingford, The Hadham's, Hertford, Stanstead and Ware, the urban district councils of Hoddesdon and the borough of Hertford. His salary of £600 a year was shared by these districts with Buntingford paying him £51 per annum.

In 1897 the medical officer didn't mince his words when he gave a report to Buntingford Rural District Council, he said that the water in the wells was sub soil water and always in danger of pollution. The quantity of water is not sufficient. The house drains and sewers do not get flushed sufficiently and if an outbreak of typhoid or diarrhoea should occur the germs from these will find themselves in the wells and an outbreak will occur. The argument that the inhabitants had been drinking from this water for years without harm does not hold good. It is the Medical Officers duty to highlight the risks involved if no action is taken.

Ernest Thody reported to the council that the only solution would be to sink a well 120ft to 160ft deep according to the location and store the water on higher ground then gravity would feed the water to houses via pipes. He considered that it would cost about £1,750 to implement this scheme. He considered each person would need about 10 gallons a day. The water would be carried in 3" mains pipes that would be connected to stand pipes at convenient locations. Today the average person uses about 31 gallons of water per day. The councillors were horrified at the cost and called a public

Water from	Appearance in two foot tube.	when heated to 100°	Examination.	Oxygen absorbed in 10 min. at 100°	Solids.	Chlorine.	Free Ammonia.	Albuminoid Ammonia.
Buntingford, sent by Mr Thody, May 30th 1898, in stoppered bottles, labelled, 1, 2, 3.								
No: 1.	Clear, pale blue, with slight sediment.	Faint.	Vegetable matter, sand &c.	.112	119.	12.6	.0072	.014
No: 2.	Clear blue, with sediment, and foreign matter.	Faint.	Vegetable matter, sand &c.	.084	96.0	12.6	.028	.0056
No: 3.	Clear blue, slight sediment		Vegetable matter, sand &c.	.084	73.5	9.8	.007	.0056

meeting. The consensus was that the cost was far too high for the ratepayers to bear so nothing was done.

A further public meeting was convened and this time Dr Dixon, and Dr Prince plus the Medical officer attended. Following that they all agreed that Buntingford did need a decent water supply and a committee of councillors was set up to look into how to achieve this. The committee asked Urban Smith the county surveyor to prepare a report and costing to supply fresh water to the town.

The summer of 1888 was very hot and most of the wells dried up as did the River Rib. Water had to be brought into the town by horse and cart. Even during the water shortage the councillors still felt it OK to pay to have the roads sprinkled with water to stop the dust rising. This was seen as an unnecessary expense and a waste of water by the ratepayers.

Urban Smiths report and estimate was received but the cost which he estimated to be £3000 was seen as far too high as both councillors and rate payers considered £2000 to be a more reasonable amount.

Mr Thody was instructed to take 3 water samples from 3 wells and get the medical officer for Health to analyse them.

The results were not good, each sample contained vegetable matter and sand and in comparison, water from the New River gave very good results.

By 1900 letters kept being sent to the council complaining about the stench from the sewers in the town and from Mrs Alice Woods at Layston Court urging the council to take steps to establish a water works for the town.

Mr Nevett the local builder suggested that the councillors first needed to decide on a site for the waterworks. 2 sites were identified, either on top of the hill above Newtown or to the west of the town at Howe Green. He then said the work should be divided into 3 parts.

1. For sinking a well, supplying and installing a pump, and for erecting a wind engine.
2. For constructing a service reservoir.
3. For laying the mains into the town.

Mr Thody said that a wind pump was the cheapest option and as a result the councillors asked him to visit water schemes at Saffron Walden, Bury St Edmunds, Newport and Bayford and report back on his findings. After reading all the reports the councillors still couldn't agree what was best even though the

BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP CONT...

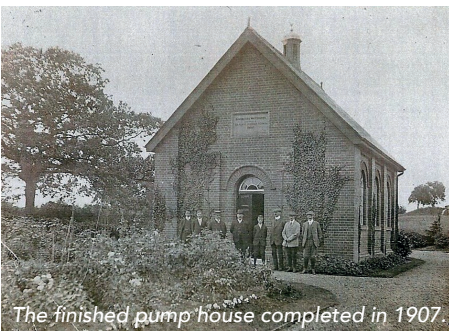


county council and the government were pushing for a scheme to be installed.

Eventually John Chadwick who had devised Much Hadham's water plant was asked to quote for a similar one for Buntingford. He quoted £2,790 which the council agreed to. The well was to be sunk on land belonging to Sir Arthur Lushington of Aspenden Hall. He was willing to sell the council the land as long as they connected the water supply to his house and farms.

A company called Grounds and Newton from Tottenham won the tendering process and at long last work began.

Both of these photos come from Buntingford in old photos Facebook page the first one shows the reservoir being built, the second shows it almost finished.





Today its overgrown and the windows have been bricked up.

The picture below shows the workmen digging the trench for the pipes to feed the water into the town.

Although Sir Arthur Lushington must have had the water laid onto his house and farms, the rest of Aspenden didn't have a fresh supply. In 1931 the council put out a tender for 170 yards of pipes to be laid from Buntingford to Aspenden with stand pipes along with hydrants at intervals from the green up to the church. The cost was expected to be about £1,050. Corneybury had no piped water either but the council did discuss solving this problem and a water tower was mooted as a solution until they found the cost would be about £1,500. I couldn't find out if Aspenden or Corneybury got a water supply in the early 1930's. Mr Marshall the chair of the council said that it was about time the

council considered updating both the sewerage and water systems.

In June 1934 they experienced another hot spell and although the consumption in Buntingford was 1,132,000 gallons, Sandon, Mill End and Green End had to rely on water being delivered by tanker from Buntingford. Wyddial was expected to run dry within the next few days.

In 1956 a new extension was opened at the Chipping pumping station, the original one had been built in 1938. It contained 2 bore holes at a depth of 450ft and a holding reservoir. New pumps installed in 1956 increased the flow from ¼ million gallons a day to ½ million gallons. It also fed water towers at Throcking and Therfield.

Today Affinity supplies our water needs having purchased the supply company from Veolia in 2012 for £1.2 billion pounds.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 10th March at 2pm** in the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road. The talk will be on Buntingford's Isolation Hospital. It costs just £2 per person which includes tea or coffee, everyone is welcome.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Ken McDonald, Secretary



Now that Spring is on its way, the weather should encourage us to make more use of bridleways and footpaths. Around 150 walk descriptions are available to download free from our website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk. As well as saying when to turn left or right, our route descriptions aim to point out things of interest along the way. Some of these will be marked on the local Ordnance Survey map.

Ordnance Survey ("OS") has been the UK's official mapping body since 1791 AD, having originated for military purposes. Its activities have left various physical markers which may still be encountered, albeit that mapping techniques have moved forward in recent times with the satellite-based GPS (global positioning system).

The two historic OS markers that are most likely to be encountered are "triangulation pillars" and "benchmarks". Several thousand triangulation pillars (also referred to as trig points) were installed all over the UK - solid concrete pillars about 4 feet tall, usually erected at a high point with a clear range of vision. Each has a place on top for positioning a map measurer's tool, a theodolite. The pillar's location and height above sea level have been precisely measured and recorded so that from here the map-maker

can plot the surrounding landscape.

OS surveyors also left "benchmarks" in thousands of strategic locations. These are additional altitude reference points, a horizontal line indicating height above sea level - chiselled into a wall or milestone from around 1840 until the 1990s. The benchmark was sometimes indicated on a brass plaque attached at the appropriate height. On OS benchmarks, the horizontal line appears above an upward-pointing arrow.

Please look out for trig points and benchmarks. If they are on a Hundred Parishes walk route but not yet mentioned in the description, please let us know.



Metal benchmark plate on Clavering Church wall.



Triangulation Pillar on Newport - Wicken Bonhunt boundary at Grid Reference TL501348.



Triangulation pillar in Castle Camps at Grid Reference TL625416.



Incised benchmark on milestone 32 north of Stansted Mountfitchet.



Incised benchmark on milestone 40 south of Littlebury.



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

UNITED BENEFICE OF ASPENDEN, BUNTINGFORD & WESTMILL

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright



OUR SERVICES FOR MARCH 2026

Sunday 1st	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 8th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	All Age Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 15th Mothering Sunday		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 22nd	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
		No Service	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 29th Palm Sunday	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Tuesday 31st	7pm	Taizé	St Peter's, Buntingford
Wednesday 1st April	7pm	Taizé	St Mary's Aspenden
Thursday 2nd April		Maundy Thursday Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
Friday 3rd April Good Friday	10am	Walk of Witness	TBC
	11am	Stations of the Cross	St Peter's, Buntingford
	2pm	Hour at the Cross	St Mary's, Aspenden
Easter Sunday 5th April	6am	Sun Rise Service followed by Holy Communion Service	St Mary's, Aspenden
	9:30am	All Age Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	11am	All Age Holy Communion	St Peter's Buntingford

REGULAR EVENTS AT OUR CHURCHES



Little Lambs at St Mary the Virgin Westmill

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



Morning Prayer

9am Every Tuesday at **St Peter's Buntingford**, **Wednesday at St Mary the Virgin Westmill** and **Thursday at St Mary's Aspenden** mornings. We pray together using the Church of England Daily Prayer book, with bible readings, a reflection and a psalm. It is a quiet, gentle gathering to prepare for the day ahead. Please contact us for the link.



Monday Morning Coffee is back at St Peter's Church.

Held every Monday (except bank holidays) A chance to meet up with old friends and meet new ones. All ages welcome.

Hymnathon

Help us sing 100 Hymns!
If you like singing, come along and join us

St Peter's Church, Buntingford
Saturday 13th June 2026
10am - 4pm

Refreshments will be available throughout the day

Donations raised in aid of Homestart, St Mary's, Aspenden, St Peter's, Buntingford, & St Mary the Virgin, Westmill.

HOME START
Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

You are invited to join us for Holy Week services at our 3 churches. Experience the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer and reflection.

Palm Sunday 29th March
9:30am All Age Worship - St Mary the Virgin Westmill
9:30am Morning Worship - St Mary's Aspenden
11am Holy Communion - St Peter's Buntingford

Tuesday 31st March
7pm Taizé - St Peter's Buntingford

Wednesday 1st April
7pm Taizé - St Mary's Aspenden

Maunder Thursday
7pm Holy Communion - St Mary the Virgin Westmill - washing of the feet

Good Friday
10am Walk of Witness
11am Stations of the Cross - Outside St Peter's Church
2pm Hour at the Cross - St Mary's Aspenden

Easter Sunday
6:00am Sunrise Service, followed by Holy Communion - St Mary's Aspenden
9:30am All Age Holy Communion - St Mary the Virgin Westmill
11am All Age Holy Communion - St Peter's Buntingford

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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

email: unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com | 07484 345 027

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

[uniteddedbenefice](https://www.instagram.com/uniteddedbenefice) | [UnitedBeneficeABW](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedBeneficeABW)

St Mary's Church Aspenden Website



St Mary the Virgin Church Westmill Website



St Peter's Church Buntingford Website





The
**United
Reformed
Church**

CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA

www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

 URCbuntingford

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

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

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

March 1	Morning Worship	Peter Godbert
8	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
15	Mothering Sunday	Rev Allen Morton
22	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Robert Pope
29	Palm Sunday	Joint Service
April 3	Good Friday	Rev Sue Fender
5	Easter Sunday	Rev Sue Fender

REGULAR EVENTS

LENT COURSE

We are holding an Ecumenical Course on the **4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March**.

We meet for lunch from 12:30pm

Bring your own lunch.
Tea & coffee will be provided

The Lent Course will run from 1pm – 2pm.

COFFEE & COMPANY

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



**Buntingford
United
Reformed
Church**

LENT COURSE

We are holding an Ecumenical Course
on the 4th 11th 18th & 25th March

Lunch at 12.30pm
*Bring your own lunch
Tea & coffee will be provided*

Course 1.00 - 2.00pm



TV CASTING CALL FOR COUPLES

ARE YOU & YOUR PARTNER CHILDHOOD SWEETHEARTS?

ARE YOU READY TO TEST YOUR RELATIONSHIP?

ITV STUDIOS ARE LOOKING FOR CHILDHOOD SWEETHEARTS AGED 21+ FOR A NEW TV SERIES. THIS POTENTIALLY LIFE CHANGING SOCIAL EXPERIMENT WILL GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO REDISCOVER WHO YOU ARE, REIGNITE WHAT BROUGHT YOU TOGETHER AND PROVE THAT ABSENCE REALLY CAN MAKE THE HEART GROW FONDER.

COUPLES MUST HAVE CHILDREN OVER 16 OR BE CHILD FREE

IF YOU AND YOUR PARTNER ARE UP FOR A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY, THEN PLEASE GET IN TOUCH NOW!



TEXT/WHATSAPP/EMAIL

 **07919 659572**



CASTING@POTATOTV.CO.UK



ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE AND WORK IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. FURTHER ELIGIBILITY AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.

YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED AND PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PRIVACY

NOTICE - [HTTPS://ITV.COM/STUDIOSPRIVACY](https://itv.com/studiosprivacy) |SYC

LENT REFLECTIONS ON POWER

David Woollcombe



Weekly conversations for people of all faiths & none on issues that affect our lives.

8pm to 9:30pm every Tuesday in Lent (coffee and biscuits from 7:30pm)

at the home of the Woollcombes, The Stables, 57 Wyddial Road, Buntingford SG9 9AX

Call: 07798 665 202 or email: david@peacechild.org – if you have mobility issues or need directions]

This year's series got off to a brilliant start with Richard Beazley putting forward his ideas on where POWER sits and how it might be better managed. Next up is Rosanna Cole on March 3rd talking to Sandra McAdam about the Power of Faith followed on March 10th by Mayor Duncan Wallace, discussing Power in Local Government & Policing. On Tuesday 17th March, we have Buntingford Drama Society legend, Lee Baddock, talking about the Power of Imagination, followed on 24th March by our new curate, Sarah Bagnall, talking about where Power sits in the Church of England and how it might be better managed. Finally, on March 31st, we have our new-ish MP,


Chris Hinchliff talking about Power in Westminster.

Each conversation offers us a chance to get to know these luminaries in our community – where they were born, what they were like as children, what led and inspired them to do what they have done with their lives.

Please join us and offer your input to conversations which – we promise – will NOT be all about Trump and the abuses of Power we are seeing all around us today – but more how we can all exercise our own Power to better effect!


ALL WELCOME! – at no charge. Just rock up at the Stables and join the Conversation.

Mental Health First Aid Course



Polly Joseph





Why Choose Us?

- Experienced Trainer with Lived Experience
- Certified Course (covers you for three years)
- Anyone over eighteen can attend
- Ideal for business owners, HR professionals, and those who work 1 to 1 (PTs or beauticians etc)
- Suitable for anyone wishing to support themselves, their friends or their family with their mental health

Course is taking place 9.30am-4.30pm
Fri 13th and 20th March

www.attend2health.co.uk
27 High St Buntingford

£200 for the Two Day Course

01763 87 80 87



Attend2Health is delighted to announce we were one of 13 clinics in the country this year to be awarded the Clinical Management Quality Mark (CMQM) this year by the Royal College of Chiropractors.

This award takes a lot of work to achieve and applicants must demonstrate excellence in a range of areas including:

- clinical audit
- risk management
- incident reporting
- outcome measurement
- patient satisfaction
- emergency procedures
- operational policy

We are really proud to get this award for the clinic especially as there were not many awarded this year. The presentation took place at the Royal College of Chiropractors Winter Conference in London on 4th February.

On the 13th and 20th March Attend2Health will be holding another Mental Health First Aid Course. See p.34. This is suitable for anyone wishing to support themselves, their friends or their family with their mental health. It is a certified course valid for 3 years. Here's a couple of testimonials from the last course...

'So pleased I prioritised this course in my already busy schedule. I don't intend to use this qualification in any professional capacity but to help my awareness of what everyone is going through and to



be able to listen without judgement and support people who need to be heard.'

'Polly was very friendly, personable and knowledgeable. She didn't rush us even though we kept talking and digressing. The course was very interesting and I will definitely be recommending it.'

For more information on this course or any of the different therapies offered at Attend2health including Chiropractic, Osteopathy, Physiotherapy, Sports Massage, Acupuncture and Podiatry call 01763 87 80 87 or book online at www.attend2health.co.uk.



MILLFIELD NEEDS YOU COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR GOVERNOR INFORMATION SESSION TUESDAY 3RD MARCH 2026 AT 9AM

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Learn about the role of a governor
- Meet and chat with governors
- Opportunity to ask questions
- Refreshments provided
- All welcome to join this session

LOCATION

Millfield First & Nursery School
Buntingford
SG9 9DT
01763 271717
www.millfield.herts.sch.uk





MINI MILLFIELD

We are excited to introduce our **fun, new Stay & Play Sessions** for children aged **birth to 4 years** Led by an experienced, qualified EYFS Teacher

What's included?

- Messy Active Play
- Music & Songs
- Stories & Rhymes
- Snack & drink provided for children



Every Tuesday (term time only)
Starting Tuesday 10th March

9:00am – 10:00am
No Booking Required

£2 per family
(card payment preferred)

Enter through our Monks Walk
Playground Gate entrance



<https://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk/>

01763 271717

admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk

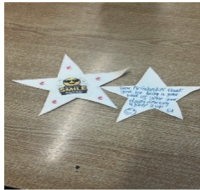


As a Christian school, we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.

As a community, we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.

What has been happening in Collective worship?

It's been a tough one, as we explored the value of Service for the last 5 weeks. This has included tutor groups facing a challenge to carry out a service in the community for two weeks. We have seen free readers at work, litter pickers, sports leaders offering support to younger students.



One of my favourites were the smile stickers that appeared around the school, gifting thank you's to staff and students.

Here is what we learnt about service:

- Jesus made himself nothing. As humans this is not easy to do.
- It can make us and those around us grumpy at first!
- We're not Jesus we are human, but we can have a deliberate go at trying to serve!
- Don't serve money! Don't ever make money your master
- To serve is to be truly free.
- It can be fun, and it can feel good to serve. It doesn't have to be a big thing; it can be to make a family member smile each day.
- Remember to serve God is to serve others.
- To serve is to find your true calling in life and to live it well – Find your unique and wonderful and own them.



Post our half term we look forward to the build up to Easter.

What build will be taking place at Edwinstree?

We are pleased to confirm that if all goes to plan, we will see in September 2027 a new Gym at the bottom of the school, a drop off space for parents, fully refurbished Science rooms and 4 new classrooms to support the expanding role that Herts believe will occur with new builds in Buntingford. Thank you to our Council Herts CC, and S106, developers funds that were released to us to support this.

What was our Fullness Day about?

Our Dynamic Diversity group is a student team who represent all our different diversity groups within the school. They meet every Tuesday to help the school community learn to respect difference. They are made up of neurodiverse, alternate faiths and no faith groups, the LGBTQ community and diverse ethnic groups within our school. As part of their work on Thursday the 12th of February,



they led a Fullness Day and invited the Electric Umbrella Band into the school to play for us. If you haven't seen this band, they are amazing and are made up of neurodiversity and learning needs young adults. We were so incredibly proud of our students as they showed grace and respect to all those involved and engaged full in the interactive concert. As a staff we were left feeling very grateful to be working with such a compassionate and caring group of students.

The Lord Lieutenant completed their annual visit to year 7 to talk about their role as Role representatives, the students were inspired to hear about the workings of the royal family, so much so one pupil wrote a letter to the King which the magistrates have posted !

Can you help us support our most vulnerable children with their SAT exam?

Can you help us to support our most vulnerable students during their exam time in May? We have a growing number of students needing support with readers, scribes and/or extra time.

We are unable to staff this as a school as we are now looking at up to 30 individuals required.

As in previous years we have come to rely on the wonderful community volunteers, parents, grandparents etc to help us. Would you be willing to help?

We would provide training, and a member of staff will always be in the room to support you and the children.

The dates and times that we need support are:

9am till 11.30am

Official SATs 11/05/20265 -14/05/2026

If you able to spare this time or just one day, please would you email **admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk**.

RBL
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Buntingford Branch

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday March 14th
7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Seth Ward Community Centre
Luynes Rise **SG9 9SG**

Tickets £15

Fish & Chips or Pie & Chips included

Bring along a team of eight or simply join a table on the night

Licensed Bar

Get your tickets now from
The Manor House, Market Hill, Buntingford
Or online at
<https://rblquiznight.eventbrite.com>

Our Christian Values:

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



BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

David Woollcombe



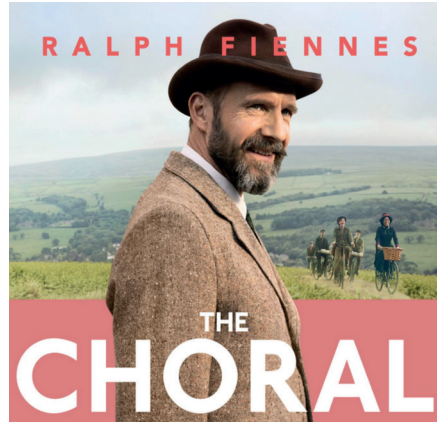
Buntingford Cinema presents:

F1 THE MOVIE

On Saturday 7th March at 7.30pm at the Community Centre

F1 the Movie is about an aging veteran driver (Pitt) returning to mentor a rookie (Damson Idris) in a struggling racing team. Filmed at real Grand Prix weekends with Lewis Hamilton as the F1 Racing adviser (- and co-producer), the movie has been described as a "high-octane, fun, and immersive experience that successfully captures the excitement of F1 racing." Brilliantly directed by Joseph Kosinski of Top Gun: Maverick fame, with stunning cinematography by Claudio Miranda, this is a film that has to be seen with friends on the Big Screen!

THEN - COMING UP



THE CHORAL

Saturday 11th April

A classic Alan Bennett script about an English country village during the 1st World War, coming together through a performance of Elgar's Dream of Gerontius with Ralph Fiennes playing an inspirational choir master who happened to have spent many years in Germany. This, and his "peculiarities" make him suspicious to a community rich in English oddballs – beautifully played by the likes of Roger Allam, Alun Armstrong, Emily Fairn and others. Of all the films we have shown this season, this film comes with the highest number of local recommendations!

NUREMBERG

Saturday 9th May

A handsomely crafted historical drama about U.S. Army psychiatrist, Douglas Kelley (Rami Malek) as he monitors the mental status of Hermann Göring (Russell Crowe) and others to prevent their suicides before and during the Nuremberg trials.



How about a new Experience-Alpaca Walking with Yew Tree Alpacas?

As we approach Springtime, with warmer weather and longer days, there's an unforgettable experience waiting for you 4 miles east of Buntingford in the picturesque village of Anstey.

In this little corner of Hertfordshire live the 49 alpacas in the Yew Tree herd and the alpaca boys love meeting and walking with alpaca fans.

Yew Tree Alpacas welcomes hundreds of people throughout each Spring and Summer to its Anstey base for alpaca walks and adventures. We have a new programme of walks from March to September this year on most Fridays and Saturdays.

Spending time with our friendly alpaca boys involves not only walking with them but learning about alpacas, feeding them and of course plenty of photo opportunities! The wonderful experience includes either lunch, refreshments or home-made cream tea, not forgetting a chance to browse and buy the wide range of products in our alpaca shop.

Choose to share your alpaca with a friend or walk one to one. There's a choice of two lovely walks, an Alpaca Stroll around our fields with fabulous views over to Anstey village and the longer Alpaca Walk Experience, a walk in the fields and on footpaths, not forgetting our fun agility course to finish.

What better way to spend time with friends or family, in our picturesque corner of North East Herts, spending time with our lovely alpacas – definitely an experience not to be missed

Pre booking is essential - either online, via the Yew Tree website www.yewtreeralpacas.co.uk or by phone 01763 848 257.

Children accompanied by adults welcome: Walks - 10 years +, Alpaca Adventures 6yrs+.

Note we are not an open farm all visits are for pre booked walks or adventures only.

Yew Tree Alpacas, Anstey, near Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG90DA

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

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

Our Classic Film Season continues with the Francois Truffaut Classic:

JULES EL JIM

Monday 16th March @ 7:30pm at the Buntingford Bowls Club



Jules et Jim tells the story of the beautiful, capricious Catherine (Jeanne Moreau) switching quixotically from Jules (Oskar Werner) to Jim (Henri Serre) – and back again. Both are

madly in love with her and the film follows their intense story from the years before to the years after the First World War. A recognised “classic of world cinema,” Jules et Jim is an exhilarating and uplifting meditation on the scope of human love. Come see it and join a conversation about it in the cosy comfort of Buntingford's delightful Bowls Club. Entrance is free (with £5 as a suggested donation.)

www.buntingfordlive.org | support@buntingfordlive.org

The Acoustic Night in The Bunter's Suite at the Community Centre Seth Ward on Friday 20th March is already completely sold out! We hope another such evening will be arranged later in the year, so look out for this and book early to avoid disappointment!

Next up in the Main Hall at Seth Ward Community Centre on **Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm** comes an intriguing event.

Hot on the heels of the film Hamnet, we are thrilled to bring you **'The Second Best Bed'**, whose central character, as in Hamnet, is Anne Hathaway, wife of William Shakespeare.

This is a one woman play written by AVRIL ROWLAND.

LIZ GRAND gives a critically acclaimed performance as Anne in this unique production of the 'THE SECOND BEST BED'.

When Shakespeare died, he famously left his wife Anne only one thing, the second best bed! The wake has finished, the mourners have all gone home, leaving Anne to remember her life with the most talented playwright the world has ever known. Or was he? Did he write the plays? His widow would know if anybody did. Wouldn't she? She would!

TICKETS ARE JUST £15, A STEAL FOR SUCH A THEATRICAL TREAT! Book your ticket to come and unravel the plot.

Next comes our ever popular **Comedy Night on Friday 10th April 7.30pm** in the Bunters Suite at Seth Ward Community Centre. Tickets which are always very popular are £15, **BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.**

We are delighted to welcome the return of TOM TOAL as host for the evening! He knows the Buntingford Crowd well now and is able to interact with the audience using

the local knowledge he's acquired very skilfully to such good and amusing effect.

He will be introducing us to three new comedians already well-known on the London Comedy Scene.

First, MARKUS BIRDMAN, one of Britain's most travelled standup comedians, having performed as far afield as Pakistan, Singapore, China, UAE, India and Australia as well as many countries in Europe. He is a veteran of the Edinburgh Festival with eleven solo shows to his credit and is a frequent headliner in the UK's top comedy clubs.

Next, ERICH McELROY offers a hilarious and insightful take on life in the UK through the (somewhat) sober eyes of an American. He has delighted audiences up and down the country for many years. While his six Edinburgh Shows contained political overtones, it's his modest, slightly bookish charm and genuine affection for the UK that makes him stand out.

ALISTAIR BARRIE is a regular performer at London's Comedy Store. Additionally, he has taken his shows to Australia, New Zealand, Cape Town, Mumbai and New York. He has delivered comedy at most of the major UK music festivals including Glastonbury, Latitude, Green Man and Edinburgh. He is the only comedian to have played both Labour and Conservative Party Conferences! Interesting! He has also entertained international troops in Afghanistan, Cyprus and the UAE.

As you will see we have the poster for the next **Westmill Concert** featuring Andrew O'Brien and his talented young musicians from St. Edmund's College on **FRIDAY 24TH APRIL AT 7.30pm** TICKETS ARE ONLY £5 AVAILABLE TO BOOK NOW for this delightful evening of spring music.

COMING SOON

Friday 29th May 7.30pm Drag Night in Seth Ward Community Hall Tickets £15

Wednesday 3rd June 7.30pm Westmill Church Concert with the Alvor Trio (harp, flute & viola) Tickets £15

Thursday 4th June Alvor Trio Masterclass for music students at Freman College.

Sunday 7th June (afternoon) The Peter Rudeforth Jazz Band in The Stables Garden Tickets £15

Thursday 17th September 7.30pm Haileybury Music Students at Westmill Tickets £5

Saturday 26th September 7.30pm Seth Ward Abba Angels Tickets tba

Saturday 24th October 7.30pm Seth Ward Sea Shanty, Folk & Country Night

Saturday 21st November 7.30pm

St.Peter's Church Kenneth Wilson & Cello Tickets £15

Friday 4th December 7.30pm Seth Ward Hall Guy Masterson Tickets £15

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

THE SECOND BEST BED

BY AVRIL ROWLANDS
DIRECTED BY CHRIS JAEGER
Starring **Liz Grand**
as Anne Hathaway

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 7.30PM
SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE SG9 9SG

TICKETS £15
Scan the Code or visit buntingfordlive.org

Tickets also available through Buntingford Library. The staff will be happy to talk you through the ordering process and even print your tickets for you.

LICENSED BAR 18
Registered Charity Number: 120192

This nationally acclaimed one woman play is full of humour and pathos and explores what Anne Hathaway knew. Did he or did he not write the plays? She should know!
"Lifts the lid on a Tudor can of worms... a showcase for the towering acting skills of Liz Grand." - Worcester News

November/ December Celebration of Christmas (date & details to be confirmed)

Please use our website: buntingfordlive.org

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

St. Mary The Virgin Westmill SG9 9LN

Friday April 24th 7.30pm

Music for an April Evening

Featuring students from **St. Edmund's College**

Director of music Andrew O'Brien is bringing a group of talented young musicians to entertain us with a variety of solo and ensemble works.

TICKETS £5
Scan the code or visit buntingfordlive.org
Also available through Buntingford Library

LICENSED BAR 18

Please bring cash to purchase drinks as WiFi in the church is unreliable

Registered Charity Number: 120192

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

WARNING: ADULT HUMOUR! 18+ ONLY!

Comedy night

FRIDAY APRIL 10TH
BUNTERS SUITE, SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE SG9 9SG

WITH YOUR HOST – TOM TOAL
MARKUS BIRDMAN
ERICH McELROY
ALISTAIR BARRIE

ENTRY 7.30PM, PERFORMANCES 8PM – 10PM WITH INTERMISSION

TICKETS £15
SCAN THE CODE OR VISIT BUNTINGFORDLIVE.ORG

ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY. THE STAFF WILL BE HAPPY TO TALK YOU THROUGH THE ORDERING PROCESS AND EVEN PRINT YOUR TICKETS FOR YOU.

LICENSED BAR 18
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 120192

WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH 2026

- Wednesday 4th** Buntingford Gardener's Club: AGM p.15
- Saturday 7th** Film Club: F1 The Movie p.40
- Monday 9th** U3A: 'So Far So Good' - covering topics on his time in the army (Gulf War) p.14
- Tuesday 10th** History Society: Buntingford's Isolation Hospital. p.27
- Thursday 12th** WI: Harriette Wright on 'The Art of Breathing' p.16
- Friday 13th** Braughing Get Together: Whist Drive p.19
- Saturday 14th** RBL: Quiz Night p.39
- Monday 16th** Film Club Classics: Jules Et Jim p.40
- Friday 20th** Buntingford Live!: Acoustic Night (SOLD OUT) p.42
- Friday 20th** BALA Soup Lunch p.46
- Friday 20th** Buntingford Railway & Local History Society: Introduction to East - West Project (The Crown, Market Hill 8pm)
- Saturday 28th** Buntingford Live! The Second Best Bed p.42
- Saturday 28th** Royston & District Model Railway Club: Exhibition p.13



LOOKING AHEAD

- 10th April** Buntingford Live! Comedy Night p.42
- 11th April** Film Club: The Choral p.40
- 13th April** U3A: Neil Hanson. 'Inn and Out at the Top' - humorous tales running a pub on the highest hill in Britain. p.14
- 17th April** BALA: Coffee Morning p.46
- 18th April** Repair Cafe: in Braughing p.20
- 24th April** Buntingford Live! St Edmunds Young Musicians p.42
- 9th May** Film Club: Nuremberg p.40

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	WEEKENDS:
From 8.30am: Buntingford Market		Buntingford Meditation Online at 8 pm and once a month in Saint Peter's Church. To join the group the best way is to contact me via the website - www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation New meditators are welcome and guidance is given on how to meditate in the sessions.	10.30am–12.30: Coffee & Company in the URC Church Hall		Sun, 9am: Norfolk Road Playing Fields Junior Parkrun
10–11.45am: Chatter Table at the Manor House – 1st & 3rd Mondays			2–3pm: Mind & Music at Standon & Puckeridge CC		Sat, 10am: Walking Football at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields
Morning Coffee 10-12 St Peter's					
EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY:					
10.30–11am & 11:30 -12pm: Baby Rhyme Time (songs, rhymes, actions and puppets, for ages 6 weeks to 3 years)	10.30–12.30: Jigsaw & Cards club	11am: Chair Yoga with Kim	10.30 – 11am: Storytime ages 2-5 years Lego Club (every second Thursday) age: 5-8	4-5pm: The Friday Club age: 3-11	
11.45am–12.45pm: Forever Cycling Community Centre -1st/3rd		10-11am Chatter & Natter, Buntingford Coffee Shop			
1.30 for 2pm: Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club at URC Hall		12- 4pm Braughing Shed Group, The Barn at Brook Cottage Farm Fernaux Pelham SG9 OLL Contact: jacquithorne664@gmail.com or 07557 966 526			
7.30–9:15pm: Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School					

BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR THE LESS ABLE (BALA)

Registered Charity No. 1094426

MINIBUS TRIPS MARCH 2026

DATE	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
MARCH			
Thurs 5th	10-2.30	St Neots	£8
Mon 9th	10.30-2	Scotsdales (Spring is on the way, the garden is waiting...)	£6.50
Fri 13th	9.30-1.30	Harlow (Harvey Centre, Water Gardens, Market)	£7
Wed 18th	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5
Sat 21st	10-2	Thriplow Daffodil Weekend (annual village market, Admission £12. Ticket only event so pre-booking essential)	Ticket £12 Bus £5
Tues 24th	9.45-12	Coles Park Daffodils and Coffee. Admission £5 (includes a bunch of daffs) Pay on entry	Ticket £5 Bus £2
Fri 27th	10.30-2.30	Bury Lane / Dobbies	£5
Tues 31st	9.30-1.30	Biggleswade A1 Retail Park	£6.50
APRIL			
Thurs 2nd	9.30-3	Southend	£13
Thurs 9th	9-2	Ely (market day)	£10.50

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

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

(please be prepared to leave a message)

SOUP LUNCH

Friday 20th March, 11:30-1:30pm

(enjoy choice of soup with bread roll and slice of cake £6)

COFFEE MORNING

Friday 17th April, 10-11:30am

(sausage rolls, cakes, raffle)

at **URC Hall, Baldock Road**

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or call 01763 272 032

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

45 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AD

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RS Property Lawyers - 01763 295096

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

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

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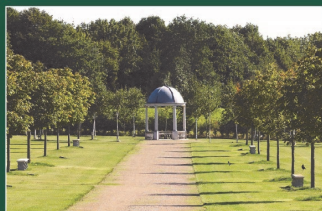
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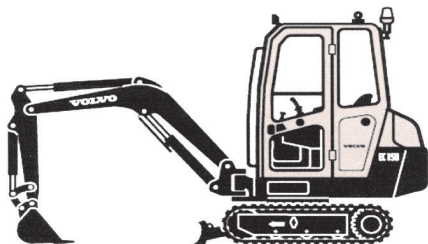


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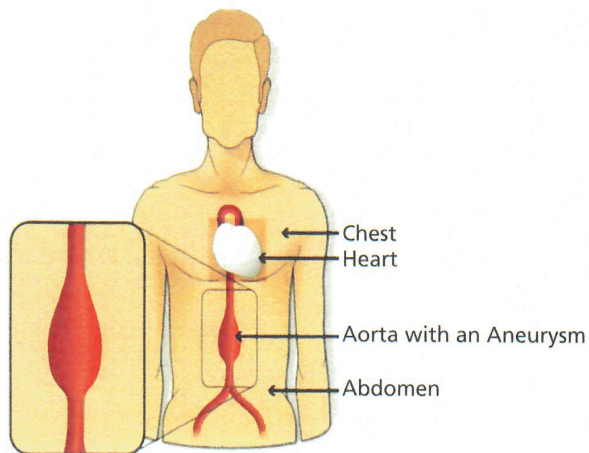
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WHO ARE WE?

We are your local amenity group, established in March 1971 initially as a conservation group covering the ancient parishes of Buntingford, Layston, Aspenden, Wyddial and Throcking. We obtained charity status in 1993. Our main aims are to secure the preservation, protection, development, improvement of features of historic and public interest within the locality and endeavour to promote high standards of planning and architecture while our archives are a source of reference on local geography and history. Over the years, the Society has broadened its interests within the community. Whilst conservation issues will always be important to us, we now try to take a greater interest in many other local organisations and activities.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE AND CONTINUE TO DO?

BCS have.....

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

BCS will continue to.....

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

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Buntingford 2026

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*carehome.co.uk score correct as at 13.02.2026.

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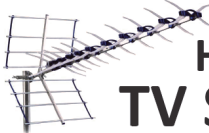
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Wednesday 7:15pm Layston School (£6 or with strength HIIT £10)
Friday 10am The Scout Hut (£6 or with Full Body Workout £10)

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

Variety Full Body Workouts

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

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For a full colour brochure contact :

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

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

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

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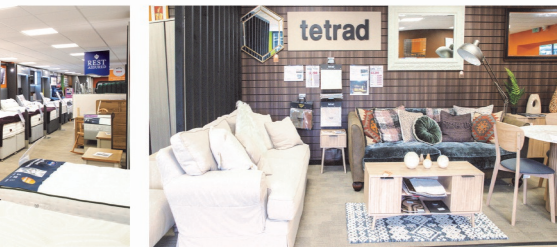
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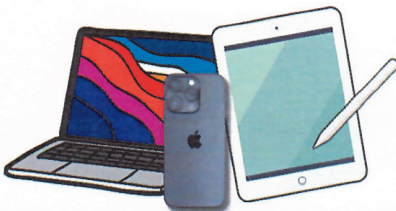
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