

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

Buntingford Journal



The team from Buntingford on their aid trip to Poland.

Inside this month: How to get your tickets for the Summer Arts Festival, now on sale; 'Much Ado About Nothing' is coming to Westmill; the latest news from our Patient Participation Group; and discover how the Friends of the Rib and Quin are monitoring the health of our rivers.

70p

May 2022
Volume 47, No.4



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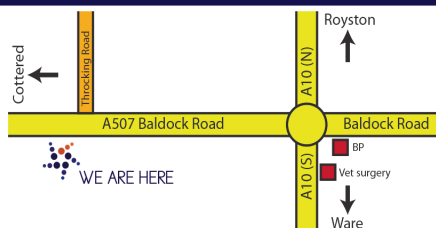
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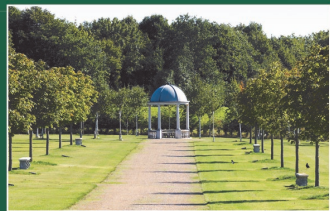
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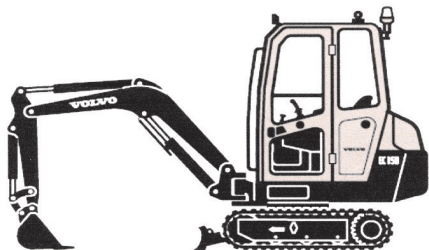


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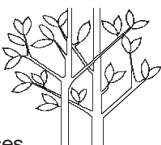
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Facebook: Search for Barkway Market

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USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE STATION: Baldock Road, Buntingford	Non-emergency telephone: 101 In emergencies dial 999
GAS: ELECTRICITY: WATER (Veolia): SEWERAGE (Thames Water): FLOODLINE:	Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999 Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838 Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325 Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800 Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188 Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60
DOCTORS:	Buntingford Medical Centre – White Hart Close Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)
B A S H (Buntingford Action For Social Help):	Providing transport for hospital and doctors appointments. Tel: Colin Horgan 07733 091731
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RAPE, RACE or HATE CRIME:	Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554440 (in emergency, dial 999)
LOCAL COUNCILS:	Buntingford Town Council – 01763 272222 East Herts District Council – 01279 655261 Housing – 01279 714714 Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852 For emergencies out of office hours: 01279 655261 Adult Care Services – 0300 123 4042 Children’s Services – 0300 123 4043 Hertfordshire Highways – 0300 123 4047, or report faults online: www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults
BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY: High Street, Buntingford	Opening times: Mon, Tue, Thur 10:00–17:30 Fri 14:00–17:30 Sat 9:00–13:00 Telephone enquiries – 0300 123 4049 Option 1 – Renewals 03:00–23:45 every day Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00, Sat 09:00–18:00 More info at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU: The Manor House Market Hill, Buntingford	Offices are currently closed due to Covid. For telephone advice call 0800 144 8848 (Mon to Fri 10am–4pm) or call the local Messageline on 01920 459 944 for a call back
HOUSEHOLD WASTE & RECYCLING SITE: Watermill Industrial Estate Aspenden Road	Currently closed. Our nearest alternative recycling sites are in Royston, Letchworth and Ware.

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

EDITOR'S LETTER

Spring is here and summer is on its way. The blossom this year has been beautiful, indeed it still is and there's more to come, but I noticed this morning that the cherry blossom is already falling like confetti, a reminder of how fleeting this wonderful season is. We must enjoy it while we may.

Jeff Jones, Richard (Reg) Hall, and Ben & Ray Gough are back from their humanitarian trip to the Poland-Ukraine border, and are already off again on a second trip delivering donations of prioritised goods. Instead of his usual 'News from your Local Councillor', Jeff brings us a report of the trip on pages 17-19. Several articles this month mention some significant amounts of money raised and donated to help Ukraine, and on page 19 there is an invitation from Roger Stainton of Braughing Get Together to an evening dedicated to raising as much as possible for Ukraine – the highlight of the evening will be an auction of promises and donated gifts.

Life goes on for other charities, too. Home-Start are staging their own version of 'Strictly' on 14th May (page 37), pairing professional dancers with local 'celebrities'. I checked out the event on the Home-Start website and discovered that our very own Alex Kanold, aka 'Nanny Alex', will be taking part. I wish her the best of luck, but whatever the outcome it promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

There are some fun events coming up next month which are previewed in these pages. Of course there is the Platinum Jubilee, which will be marked, among many other ways, by a big party for everyone at the Community Centre on Saturday 4th June. Then we have the Summer Arts in Buntingford Festival to look forward to, three days of free day-time entertainment with three evenings of ticketed events, all taking place right in the heart of town in Layston Court Gardens. Tickets for the evening events are now on sale – see pages 22-23 for details. The Festival organisers are also appealing for volunteers to help run the event – see page 5 if this might be of interest to you. And before all that, Half Cut Theatre are bringing their version of Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' to The Sword Inn Hand garden in Westmill on Thursday 2nd June (page 4-5). What a treat!

Coming back to May, the Bowls Club Open Days are on the 1st and 2nd (page 7), the Vision Matters charity art exhibition is back at Gravelly Barn (page 15), and the Annual Town Meeting is on Thursday 26th May (page 16). As promised last month, I have reinstated the 'Dates for Your Diary' list summarising coming events – it's on page 44.

Christine Noble

**Editorial copy deadline for the June 2022 Journal
is Saturday 14th May 2022**

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

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

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

f HALF CUT THEATRE

@CUTTHEATRE

@HALFCUTTHEATRE

LCUT
HALF CUT THEATRE



"GLITTERINGLY ENTERTAINING...
RICHLY FUNNY"

Praise for Half Cut Theatre's
A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Hour

TICKETS
PAY WHAT YOU DECIDE

AFTER THE SHOW

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE

6^{PM}

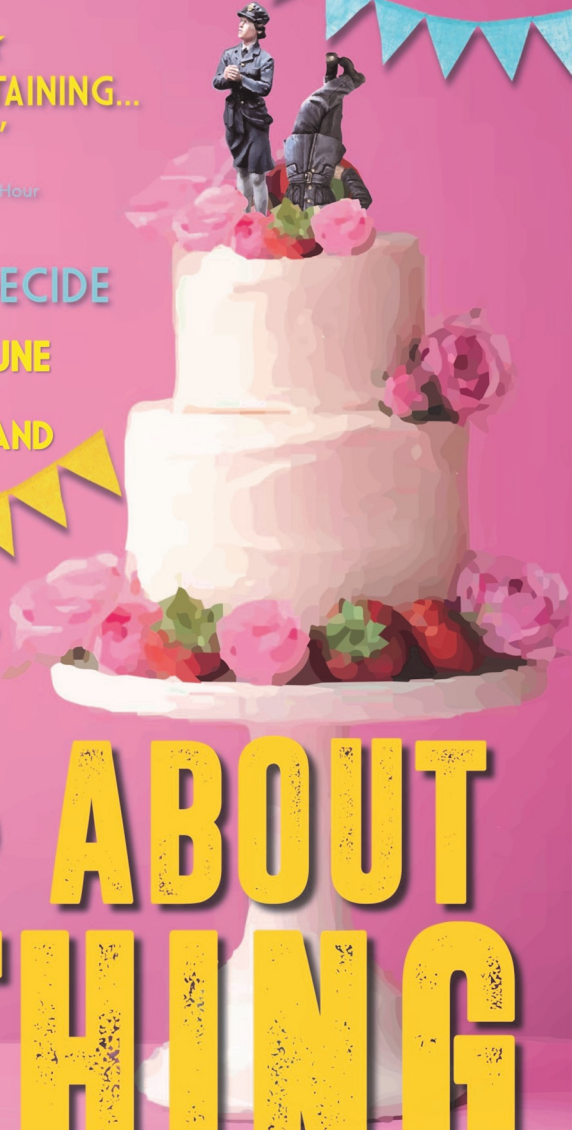


BOOK

THE SWORD INN HAND

WESTMILL

HERTFORDSHIRE



Much
Ado

ABOUT

NOTHING

TO RESERVE A SPACE VISIT

WWW.HALFCUTTHEATRE.CO.UK/BOOK

Hello Readers of the Buntingford Journal!

Half Cut Theatre are delighted to be visiting **The Sword Inn Hand** in Westmill on **Thursday 2nd June** with our new adaptation of Shakespeare's '**Much Ado About Nothing**' (see our poster, left). This popular summer comedy is a bittersweet tale of feuding lovers, crossed wires and a well-meaning but rather foolish police constable!

We at Half Cut believe that theatre should be available for everyone so we do not set ticket prices in advance. It works like this: reserve your place for free on our website at halfcuttheatre.co.uk/book, come along to the performance at 6pm (don't forget your chair or picnic rug!) and then **Pay What You Decide** by cash or contactless card after the show (the performance will last for 75 minutes).

This stop of our summer tour is particularly exciting for me (James) as my Grandfather is from the area; he was born in Aspenden in 1925 and is still with us today! Whilst I no longer have family in this part of Herts, it is a place I know well and visited regularly as a child so I cannot wait to bring this riotous adaptation of Much Ado to Westmill.

Our shows are full of music, songs, silliness and plenty of heart! There will of course be food and drink available from the Sword Inn Hand and Thursday 2nd June also happens to be the start of the Jubilee Weekend – what's not to like?! See you there!

The Half Cut Theatre Team

A colorful poster for the Summer Arts In Buntingford Festival. The main text 'Summer Arts' is in large, multi-colored letters (red, green, blue, orange). Below it, 'In Buntingford' is in blue. A yellow sun with rays is on the left. A red banner with white text 'THE FESTIVAL' is on the right. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Supported by: East Herts' and 'STANDON CALLING', the dates '17th-19th June 2022', and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter with the text 'Follow us:'.

Supported by:  STANDON CALLING **17th-19th June 2022** Follow us:    

WE NEED YOU!!

Volunteers Required For Summer Arts In Buntingford Festival 17th, 18th, 19th June 2022, Layston Court Gardens, Buntingford

We need volunteers to help us run the first ever Summer Arts In Buntingford Festival in Layston Court Gardens. Volunteer duties will include helping stalls set up, meeting and greeting artists, as well as the less glamorous activities such as picking up litter and emptying bins – in other words all the normal jobs that a Festival brings.

We are looking for volunteers to help us during the hours 7am–11pm on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and then on Monday 20th to help us dismantle the tents etc.

If you are able to spare a few hours to help us on any or all of these days, initially please send an email with the hours and days you could help, and we will be in touch. The email address is: volunteers@summerartsinbuntingford.com

**Thank you in advance – with your help we can make
Summer Arts in Buntingford a great success.**

Are you prepared to wait 20 years for 20mph speed limits?

The 20's Plenty for Us campaigning message is a simple one. That 20mph should be the normal speed limit on urban and residential roads where vulnerable road users mix with motor vehicles. This acknowledges the danger that people (pedestrians, cyclists or horse riders) are exposed to as road users and that a 20mph speed limit goes a very long way in protecting them from serious injury or death. In fact, casualty rates are reduced by 20% and the chance of surviving a collision improves by 7 to 10 times on 20mph roads compared to 30mph. You would hope that a local authority would be keen to roll out a 20mph speed management strategy to protect as many people as possible from road danger in urban and rural communities alike (in effect a wide area policy). This certainly is the case in counties such as Oxfordshire, where the county council has announced the roll out of 20mph speed limits on 80% of roads. Other counties from Cambridgeshire to Cornwall are adopting a similar approach and in London a total of 136 miles of road will have a 20mph speed limit by 2024.

In early 2021, Hertfordshire County Council announced a budget of £7m to be spent on 20mph zones over a four year period. You would hope that, following such an announcement, the decision-making process for the roll out would be fair and transparent, with the main focus being on the need to protect as many vulnerable road users as possible from the potential harm. In January 2022, a Potential 20mph Schemes document was released by HCC (a ranked list of proposed 20mph schemes). It is understood that of the list of 552 locations the ratio of urban to rural schemes is 4 to 1 and that only the first 100 schemes will get the go ahead in the four year time frame.

Through an FOI request, 20's Plenty for Buntingford has obtained the full list of Potential Schemes and the map for our County Councillor's Division. It really doesn't make good reading for our local communities. Of the first 100 schemes the top 33 are urban and just 8 of the first 100 are rural locations. Locally, of the 5 schemes listed for Buntingford they are ranked 155th, 259th, 291st, 379th and 548th. Puckeridge is ranked 306th, Great Horstead 446th, Braughing 467th, Westmill 501st and Cottered 507th. This means, potentially, that there is not one town or village in our Division that will see 20mph speed limits implemented in the next 6 years and potentially this decade, or even longer. We have also learned that the actual pace of roll out is even slower than the proposals suggests. To date, necessary location data has only been collected on 4 proposed schemes from the top 100 list and just 6 schemes will be put out to public consultation this summer - a process that could take many months and may not even result in implementation.

Local residents rate road danger as one of the main concerns in their communities (as reflected time after time in local policing priorities). There is also strong desire for 20mph speed limits to improve road safety and people's quality of life. Surely we all deserve safer, happier communities wherever we live better? The only way to affect change is for more local people to make their voices heard. Why not join our campaign?

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

Mailing List, Campaign Stickers & Enquiries buntingford@20splentyforus.org.uk

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

TWITTER: @20Buntingford www.20splentyforherts.org



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk



As some of you may be aware, an application to build a further 400 dwellings on land off Luynes Rise to the west of Buntingford is being considered by DLP Planning. This is virtually the same application that was submitted in 2017 and ultimately rejected by EHDC Planning Dept. The reasons for rejection were:

It would not constitute sustainable development.

It would encroach into the rural area beyond the town's settlement boundary.

It failed to provide for sufficient supporting infrastructure.

Buntingford Town Council have queried with EHDC whether these reasons would apply to any new application. EHDC have confirmed that they would. On the face of it this would seem to be good news but we will have to wait and see what transpires. One would hope that this information is relayed to DLP Planning and they call off any plans for this totally unwanted and unnecessary development.

Good to see the work being undertaken by gardener Alex Jones in Layston Court Gardens. The gardens are a haven of peace and quiet in the middle of our busy town and Alex is constantly looking at ways to enhance and improve. Keep up the good work Alex.

Having been struck by 'the lurgy' (not Covid) I was unable to attend the Civic Society AGM on 5th April so my thanks to Graham Waite for deputising. I believe there were some interesting discussions on a variety of topics. Thanks to all those who attended.

Graham Bonner, BCS Chairman, 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

Open Days at Buntingford Bowls Club

Buntingford Bowls Club is starting the month of May with its annual **Open Days** when everyone is welcome to come along and try out bowls for free. This year the Open Days are on **Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd May, 10am to 1pm**. The emphasis is on having fun (the bar will be open!), but you will learn the very basics of bowling. Then, for those interested in learning more – as well as anyone unable to attend on either of the Open Days – there are a further **four FREE coaching sessions** with the Club's experienced coaches on the **4th, 11th, 17th & 24th May, 6pm to 8pm**.

If you would like more information please contact **Dave Murphy**, one of our coaches, on **07917 084 881**. This year is Buntingford Bowls Club's 100-year anniversary, which makes it a very special year to welcome new players. We look forward to meeting you.



Do you wear NHS hearing Aids?

Every 4th Monday morning of the month, Mobile Hearing Aid Technicians from the Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service will visit the Seth Ward Community Centre in Luyne Rise, Buntingford, to provide

hearing aid maintenance (cleaning and retubing) and battery dispensing. This is a **free service** available to NHS patients only and an appointment is required.

To book an appointment please contact the service by:

- **Phone: 01707 324582, or**
- **Email: info@hhas.org.uk**

No service on Bank Holidays. The service may also be affected by bad weather – please check service availability before setting out during severe weather.



attend2health



On Tuesday 22nd March Attend2Health held a **Charity Day**. We had stalls selling Captain Tortue Clothes (left), Tropic products and a jewellery stall by Luidmila Townsend. Thank you so much to all the businesses and patients who donated prizes for the raffle and came to the event. We managed to raise the fantastic amount of £510 for the DEC Ukraine Appeal.

The clinic has also just run its first set of **Self Defence classes** (right) which were a huge success and so we will be running another set of classes, this time on a Sunday morning, 10am–11am, starting on 1st May. It's £75 for the 5-week course with up to 12 people. **Call 01763 878 087** to book your place. We are also looking at holding some 'First Aid at Work' courses, so please let us know if you would be interested in these.

Louise Hampton



Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Buntingford and Puckeridge Medical Centre

There are currently 19,939 patients registered with the practice which serves Buntingford, Puckeridge and the surrounding villages. In the last eight weeks there have been 20,833 telephone calls into the practice with an average wait-time of 5 minutes at peak times. Late morning and late afternoons are good times to call if your need is not urgent. 17,314 appointments were allocated, of which 9476 were face-to-face, 8415 of them with a GP, a rise over the previous eight weeks. 'Did not attend' data continues to be monitored to ensure that professional time is not wasted. If you no longer need, or are unable, to attend an appointment, please contact the surgery so that it may be re-allocated.

Dr Chin has now started at the Puckeridge site and two new practice nurses are due to start in April, one at each site. The Puckeridge extension is almost complete and the plan is to move into the new build in April so the builders can transfer into the existing space to freshen it up. This means that staff will temporarily be working in the smaller space and ask that patients attend alone, if possible, to make life easier for everyone. Parking is also slightly reduced and you are asked to park off-site if at all possible to leave the available spaces for those who are unable to walk any great distance. The phlebotomy clinic will be in Buntingford for the immediate future. Everyone is very excited about this new extended facility and can't wait until it is all complete and can be enjoyed fully. Discussions with Buntingford Town Council continue regarding options for the Buntingford site.

Spring booster jabs are now being rolled out for the over 75s and those with weakened immune systems, provided it is over six months since your last jab. Appointments can be accessed through the national booking service on the NHS website. The surgery will take delivery of a small supply of vaccine which they will use for their care-home and house-bound patients and possibly smaller clinics at the surgery sites for eligible patients. The surgery will contact you to advise you of any future clinics. If you have not yet had your first, second or booster COVID vaccine please have these as soon as possible.

The surgery is now conducting reviews for patients with long-term and chronic conditions, for those suffering from asthma, cancer, coronary heart disease, COPD, diabetes, mental health issues, osteoarthritis, pain or stroke. The reviews will be done through a mixture of face-to-face and online consultation and discussion, and patients should wait for their invitation to make an appointment. The minor surgery clinic has also recommenced.

The national guidelines regarding the management of COVID continue to relax and the practice would like to thank all patients for their support during the difficult last two years. However, the virus is still very much with us and patients should continue to contact the surgery by telephone and use any relevant on-line services. Masks should still be worn when attending the surgery for an appointment in order to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. Clinicians will also continue to wear PPE in all consultations.

As mentioned previously, calls to the surgery are answered by the receptionists who are bound by a duty of confidentiality regarding anything they may be told. They will ask a number of questions regarding your problem and any self-help treatment given to date so they can direct you to the most appropriate clinician or service. This is important to help prioritise patients quickly when dealing with 100+ calls each morning. If you would prefer not to disclose details just say so and they will still do their best to help you.

Whilst the PPG is not a forum through which to air personal stories, it was lovely to hear about a couple of very positive experiences where the practice responded with speed and sensitivity. They may not always get everything perfect for everyone all the time, but we are fortunate to have this hard-working and outstanding facility serving our community.

Jenny Dingley

We're all going on a summer

Queues, bloody queues! Is it worth it? Nine mile tailbacks, 12 hours in a car waiting for a ferry that has gone broke or has been broken (oops! mind that dock). Cancelled flights, hours sitting on a floor in the airport, why do we still do it? And if we choose to “staycation” all the prices have rocketed, so why do we insist in putting ourselves through it? All this takes me back to the time when all this was new, a real adventure and without all the forms and paperwork and worse.

In those far-off days, to start with you had to save up for years (no credit cards back then) to get a holiday abroad, and of course things like those getaways were rare and as such all the more anticipated. It was not for everyone until Freddie Laker came along with his cheap foreign holidays, then it started to go downhill to where we are now. Flying now is no better than a bus ride comfort-wise, nothing very exotic and at times a real pain.

My first experience of such a trip was strange by today's standards. It all began after I was in a telephone box in London near where I worked (for those who don't know what a telephone box is, it's one of those red things with a defibrillator inside). In those days for the most part the boxes were cleaned regularly and displayed all the information you wanted, and with a few coins you could reach most useful numbers. Anyway, on this particular day there was an advertisement poster extolling the pleasures of the Channel Islands (wherever they were?). “Eureka!” It came to me in a flash!

At the time I was courting a rather attractive young lady (for those who don't know what “courting” is, it was the way we did things then, you know, meet a girl, treat her well, meet her family, decide to get engaged, save up for years to get married and perhaps get your first home together, then some years later decide to start a family perhaps. Sorry, nothing like today, but hey, they tell me that's progress). But I digress. Looking at the aforesaid poster I thought this is my big chance to show the lady that I am serious – the 1950s Vespa was not doing it for me. So I made my way to a travel agent and came away with an armfull of brochures. An evening pouring over the paperwork increased my knowledge of the sunny climes. Then I consulted my post office savings book to see if there were sufficient funds (a close run thing). Next I put the plan to the lady who was very keen on the idea, but then I had to face her parents who gave me a grilling and lecture on what they expected of my behaviour whilst enjoying foreign soil and opportunities.

Surprisingly I got their approval, with a caveat which apparently involved a shot gun! Now I was all set I went into my boss's office next day and announced that I was due a holiday and would like to take two weeks in August. I was upset to be told “not approved, my niece is coming to learn the ropes over the summer and you are to look after her”. Well, I wasn't having that, so I told him what he could do with the job and left there and then. First rule, never ask for help twice.

So tickets secure, B&B booked, fingers crossed for weather, so where do we fly from? Southend. Southend??? There's an airport at Southend? The Kersal perhaps, but an airport? How are we going to get there? We put our heads together and came up with a cunning plan. My lady in far-off Harlow New Town (New? well it was back then – we watched it being built) discovered that Biss Bros coaches did Saturday seaside days out to Southend. So suited and booted (we dressed properly for the trip, you know – three piece Italian suit, silk knitted tie, Cuban heeled boots, and that was just me; my lady was as usual immaculate with hat and trend-setting dress, and not forgetting our two suitcases, one an Antler which my mum had bought for my birthday and I've still got), we stood at the bus stop where we were gradually joined by various families kitted out for a day in the sun with buckets and spades, towels, and bags of food. Looking back, I recall they were all dressed with care, unlike the sartorial dysfunction that abounds today. Not a tattoo or nose bolt to be seen.

Eventually the coach arrived. The door swung open and the driver looked at us and said "What have you got there?" Quick thinking, I said "sandwiches". A wry smile crossed his face, "Get on then". Once we were underway I walked forward and asked the driver, "Can you drop us near the airport?" "Right hoy mate" came the reply. An hour or so later we passed the town sign for Southend and a little further the coach stopped. "Here you are mate", said the driver. Well, we got down from the bus and there was no airport in sight! Then he pointed to a small finger sign on a post. "It's down that road, about a mile."

Playing the gentleman, I heaved up the two heavy suitcases and set off, my lady with her high heels clip-clopping beside me. Good job the sun was shining, but I was beginning to wonder if we had it right. Eventually we came to this large entrance in a wire fence with a sign that said Southend Airport. We were relieved we had arrived, but where was everybody? We had a good look around but the place was totally empty. In the distance was a wind sock and a couple of buildings like Nissan Huts. In front of us was a more substantial building and to our great relief the door was open, but inside it was like the Marie Celeste, nobody there and the shutters on what looked like the canteen counter were firmly shut. So we sat down and waited. Admittedly our flight was not for a couple of hours, but I expected a bit more hustle and bustle.

An hour or so passed, then just as we were beginning to worry the front door opened and two young women in uniforms came in, followed by two chaps in blue uniforms and caps. They gave us a quizzical look as they passed us, then went into one of the rooms and shut the door. Eventually one of the girls reappeared and asked what we were waiting for. I said, "An aeroplane, I hope to Jersey". She disappeared again then came back with her friend and said, "Well the aeroplane is in Jersey at the moment and we are going to get it. Would you like to come with us?" Wow! "Yes please!" And without further ado, without any paperwork, questions or looking at our passports (passports?), we climbed up into what we later understood was a six-seater De Havilland Dove. This was exciting stuff! We settled in for the flight and in what seemed only a very short while we were turning over the beaches of St Helier. It was like a film set and we were in it. Move over James Bond, we are coming into land. We had a fantastic two weeks staying at a wonderful small hotel and there was so much to do and see. We even got involved with the Battle of the Flowers – I didn't even know it was taking place but we were invited to build the float.

Sadly it was soon time to fly home, not in a De Havilland Dove but an old Dakota, late of the Berlin airlift. There was a hole in the floor beneath our seat, coal dust in the corners, and a thunderstorm broke as we were coming in to Southend. My lady's parents were there to greet us and we could not stop telling them about the place. So much so, the next year they did the same trip. Looking back, some may think all this was simple stuff but to us it was the most exciting experience.

In today's must-have life styles, where demands and expectations rise exponentially, people seem happy to accept travelling like livestock and all the travel chaos that must undo any benefit of a getaway. For my part, that trip to the Channel Islands meant that any plane flights since have been a disappointment. Not another cancellation, please!

Fred

PLANT SALE – Saturday 21st May

Outside St. Peter's Church, Market Hill, at 9.30am

Flowers and vegetable plants

Proceeds in aid of Church funds

THE DAY CHRIST CHURCH CEILING CAME DOWN

The ceiling above the pulpit in Christ Church had been causing concern for some time as a crack there was getting larger and the ceiling was drooping. At the Harvest Festival Service in 2021 it was observed that the ceiling was looking very vulnerable and it was decided to cover the pulpit and the organ so that if the section did fall the amount of damage would be limited. The pulpit was covered with MDF and the organ with a very large sheet of plastic. Then, on the following Tuesday morning, it was found that overnight the loose section of ceiling had indeed come down.



In fact, very little damage was done by the falling debris but the plaster dust spread throughout the church leaving a lot to clear up. The vacuum cleaner came out and, lots of rubble bags later, the area was cleared up. The cushions from the pews were put into plastic bags to keep them clean until the repair works could be completed.

There was then a need to get quotes for the reinstatement of the ceiling. Due to the church being grade 2 listed the ceiling had to be reinstated like for like, which meant that it had to be lime plaster. This is a specialist craft that not all builders can undertake. One of the main expenses was for scaffolding, the cost of which can vary immensely. In the end a local company, from Cheshunt, was the most competitive. The scaffold had to cover the entire area inside the Church, because as well as making good the plaster, the whole ceiling needed to be checked for stability and painted.



At the beginning of January, when most in the building industry are taking a 2-week Christmas break, the scaffolders arrived. It took two days to put all the scaffolding up and only then was it possible to get a good close-up view of the damaged area.



Following the laying of protective plastic sheeting over the scaffold, everything was finally ready for the plasterer to start work. The reinstatement work started at the beginning of February. Plastering of the ceiling has now been completed but the final drying out period will take some time before arrangements can be made for the decoration of the whole ceiling.

The Church is very much indebted to Joan and Allen Hathaway for all the work that they have undertaken in protecting the fabric of the Church and dealing with the contractors.



Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

Minister: Rev. Sue Fender
revsuefender@gmail.com
Tel: 01223 375588

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

Services at 11.00am (currently in the Church Hall)

Junior Church meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays in the month at 11am

Mask wearing is not a requirement during service but is recommended. However, when joining in with hymn singing the wearing of masks is expected.

May	1	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	8	Morning Worship	Rev Elizabeth Caswell
	15	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	22	Morning Worship	Faith Paulding
	29	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
June	5	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender

REGULAR EVENTS

Buntingford Churches Together: Lunch, laughter & light topical discussion group. On the first Wednesday of each month in the hall. Lunch at 12.30 (bring your own, tea & coffee will be provided). Discussion 1pm to 2pm.

Coffee and Company meets every Thursday, 10.30am till 12noon, in the URC Hall (disabled access from Meeting House Lane). If you're elderly, or living alone, new to the area, perhaps working from home, come along to share Coffee, Company, Cake and Chat. *All welcome* – just turn up and give a small donation for refreshments.

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

ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Cyril Chiaha

SERVICES FOR MAY 2022

VIGIL MASS for Sundays is at 6pm every Saturday

SUNDAY MASS is at 9.15am and 11am every Sunday

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

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, our churches in Puckeridge and Old Hall Green have been temporarily closed following the necessary risk assessment. So all services are currently being held at St Richard's in Buntingford.



United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill

Postal address: C/O St Peter's Church, Chapel End,
Buntingford SG9 9AL Telephone: 07484 345027

Website: unitedbenefice.org.uk

Email: admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk



Services for May 2022

Sun 1 st	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	11.00am	Family Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 8 th	9.30am	Morning Service	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 15 th	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	7.00pm	Praise the Lord	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 22 nd	10.00am	Benefice-wide Sung Eucharist <i>Please join us at Westmill</i>	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
Sun 29 th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford

At our 'Praise the Lord' service at St Peter's, 7pm on Sunday 15th, our Worship Group will lead us in contemporary songs of worship. It is an opportunity to come together to worship God and learn new worship songs. If you are interested in the Christian faith, you are most welcome to join us. Refreshments will be served at 8pm.



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



PLATINUM JUBILEE CIVIC SERVICE

St Peter's Church, Buntingford
Thursday 2nd June, 7pm

Our Civic Service to celebrate the
Queen's Platinum Jubilee

All are welcome. The Mayor and
Councillors of Buntingford will
be attending.

Please join us for refreshments
following the service

BENEFICE-WIDE SUNDAY SERVICE

St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
5th June 2022, 11am

Followed by the **Queen's
Platinum Jubilee Picnic**

You are invited to join us for a lunch-time
picnic outside St Mary's Church following
our Benefice-wide service in celebration
of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Please bring your own picnic
Hot drinks will be provided

MONDAYS at ST PETER'S CHURCH

Monthly Cake Stall

1st Monday of Every month, 10am to 12noon

Please support our lovely ladies who put on their aprons & bake delicious cakes, all in aid of raising funds for work to be done at St Peter's.



Weekly Monday Coffee Morning 10am to 12noon

Serving Coffee, Tea, Biscuits & Cake! All Welcome

mini 0-4 years Discoverers
Buntingford Baby Group
Mondays
1.45pm - 2.30pm
St. Peter's Church
Chapel End
Buntingford
SG9 9AN
YMCA
Buntingford
OneYMCA.org
Reserve your space via Eventbrite
For more info:
Buntingford@oneymca.org
oneymca.org/minidiscoverers

The Ash and Quin Valleys Group *Living God's Love*

Rev'd Julie Gawthrop – 01920 823531 / vicar@braughing.org.uk

Services for May 2022



St Mary's, Braughing

Sun 1 st	11.15am	All Age Holy Communion
Wed 4 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 8 th	10.00am	All Age Morning Worship
Wed 11 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 15 th	11.15am	Holy Communion
Wed 18 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)
Sun 22 nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
Wed 25 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)

ST. MARY'S
CHURCH
FURNEUX PELHAM

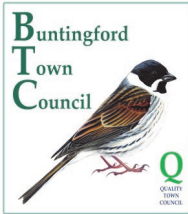
St Mary's, Furneux Pelham

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

St. Mary's Church
Stocking Pelham

St Mary's, Stocking Pelham

Sun 29 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
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BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

A reminder of the planned Platinum Jubilee celebrations to be held on 4th June at the Community Centre, to include music, food outlets, bar, fair rides and fireworks. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and as many people as possible come along to celebrate with us.

We are very aware that the ground around the new skate ramp and football wall is in desperate need of reinstatement. It may appear that nothing is being done to address this, but please be assured we are working to appoint a suitable contractor and, hopefully, the reinstatement will be undertaken within the next few weeks.

Buntingford residents were incredibly generous in donating essential items to be taken to Poland to assist with the humanitarian programme. Jeff, Reg and their team made it safely to Poland and back to deliver some of this aid along with pet supplies donated by RATS and their supporters. They were also able to offer a lift to a young Ukrainian making his way to Dublin. The group hoped to bring a Ukrainian family back to Buntingford but sadly the visas were not in place. I'm pleased to say the family have now made it here and are settling in. A second trip is planned for late April. We are grateful to Jeff, Reg and others for donating their time and representing the town in this way.

Local groups and organisations may not be aware that the Town Council has a small grant budget. If your organisation would like to apply for grant funding the application form can be downloaded from our website.

The Annual Town Meeting, a meeting of the electorate, will be held on Thursday 26th May 2022 from 7pm at the Community Centre; all residents are very welcome to attend. The meeting will be followed by the Annual Council meeting (Mayor making) and then the Full Council meeting. In line with Government legislation, the Town Council still holds face-to-face Council meetings on the last Thursday of the month at the Community Centre. Non-decision making Committee meetings are held remotely, but the public are still welcome to attend. Joining details are published on the agenda.

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE, 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

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

Website: www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

Town Council meetings for May 2022

Thurs 5 th May	7:00pm – Amenities Committee (Remote)
Thurs 12 th May	7:00pm – Resources Committee (Remote)
Thurs 26 th May	7:00pm – Annual Town Meeting, Annual Council Meeting and Full Council at Seth Ward Community Centre

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

News from Your District and County Councillor, Jeff Jones

Buntingford Humanitarian Aid Trip to Ukraine

My thanks for the amazing response we received to my call for donations of prioritised goods for the people of Ukraine. The room at the Manor House used to house the aid was full to the brim. We managed to load at least half of the donated goods, as well as pet food and supplies donated by friends of RATS, the animal charity in Hare Street, onto the minibus. The remainder will be taken on a second trip leaving 25th April.



There was little room left for the four drivers – myself, Richard Hall (aka Reg), and HertsLynx drivers Ben & Ray Gough (see cover) – when we set off on the two-day trip to the town of Przemysl on the Poland/Ukraine border. We made the Dover-Calais crossing with Irish Ferries, which was fortunate as P&O had cancelled all their ferries the day before. Following an overnight stay in Leipzig and a tiring 12-hour drive, to the frequent tune of car horns from other drivers beeping their support for our mission, our next overnight stay was in Krakow. This historic Polish town, which has seen its own

unwanted occupation in the past, has a beautiful old market square. As we arrived in the evening darkness, the square lit up to a candlelit vigil by Ukrainian refugees singing traditional songs (left). It was a very moving experience and it reassured us that our mission really was worthwhile.

Following a final two-hour drive we arrived in Przemysl and made our way to the train station where the trains arrive loaded with refugees fleeing

the war. The scene was heartbreaking, with families with children carrying all their worldly goods in a couple of bags and pets tucked into their jackets. There are numerous charities here supplying medical aid and food, as well as transportation on to a refugee centre. We were directed to this centre, a converted Tesco store, to offload your donated aid which was warmly received by an army of volunteers.





With a lighter load we then headed to the small village of Tarnawce where an animal charity had been given a warehouse to receive pet donations. The charity is run by Olga who gave us a warm welcome, along with a Japanese TV crew who happened to be filming at the centre. The warehouse receives many of the stray dogs and cats left behind by their owners, that are collected daily from within Ukraine and transported on to other animal charities in Europe for adoption by new owners.

We headed back to the “Tesco’s” refugee centre, where we registered as volunteers to transport refugees on to other destinations in the BCAT bus.

The centre appears chaotic, but is actually incredibly well run by volunteers and charities with food stalls everywhere, clothing stalls, medical supplies, baby necessities, all donated. The main part of the centre, which was once full of shopping aisles, is now lined with camp beds and sleeping bags for hundreds of refugees. From here they register to go on to other destinations in Poland or elsewhere in Europe.



There is a line of desks here, manned by representatives of different countries indicated by the flag hung above each desk. It was extremely disappointing to see nobody manning the UK desk. When I enquired as to the whereabouts of the UK representative I was told that because of our visa system nobody was interested in going to the UK! At that point I was embarrassed to be British. We did collect a young Ukrainian lad who was heading to Ireland and could we take him to the ferry port in France.

We had made arrangements before we left the UK to collect a family who were coming to live in Buntingford under the Homes for Ukrainians scheme. They were staying in a tiny apartment in Bydgoszcz in the north of Poland, so we headed off there with our new passenger, Alex, to pick them up.



Unfortunately the family had still not received their visas from the Home Office despite being registered for over a week. So sadly we had to head back without them. Two days later we arrived at the Manor House to a lovely surprise welcome, despite the 11pm arrival time! And I am pleased to say that a few days later the Ukrainian family received their visas and flew into Stansted where we collected them in the minibus (right). They are now settled in Buntingford and looking forward to their children starting in local schools and enjoying Buntingford hospitality.

By the time you read this, we will have left on our second trip to Poland in our Community Bus to deliver more of the much-needed aid that you donated and help transport Ukrainian families to destinations en route in Europe or even, hopefully, to the UK.

Councillor Advice

I receive many requests for help and advice on District and County Council matters. I also hold monthly Councillor Surgeries for face-to-face meetings and with a Town Councillor present this gives residents the opportunity to discuss any concerns they have in the town. The Surgeries are by appointment, available by calling the Town Council on 01763 272222. 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

The awful tragedy of Ukraine

- Indescribable barbarism
- Indiscriminate destruction of schools, hospitals, theatres, and whole cities.
- Astounding heroism of the Ukrainian military and civilians to defend their country.
- The humanitarian tragedy of besieged cities.
- The unprecedented surge of millions of families fleeing their homeland to safe havens in neighbouring countries.



All the above have filled our news for the past two months or more.

What are you doing on May 27th?

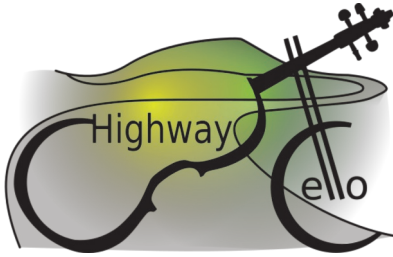
Ukraine needs our help Above all they need cash, to buy medical supplies, blankets, shelter, food, and water. There are dozens of well-meaning charities providing relief. Sadly, some appeals for your money are scams. The surest way to help is through our government's Disasters Emergency Committee.

What can we do? On Friday 27th May the Braughing Get Together organising team are holding a fun evening in Braughing Community Centre to raise funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Ukraine. The entertainment includes local band 'Rich Tea and The Biscuits', professional croupiers running roulette and blackjack tables, close-up magician, and much more. A luxury platter supper is included. And a licensed cash bar will be well stocked.

The highlight of the event will be the auction of an array of donated gifts and promises. Come and bid for a Majorcan apartment holiday; a luxury hotel and spa treatment break in Cheshire; 4 rounds of golf plus lunch; dinner at a local restaurant; hairdressing; a manicure; have your portrait painted; boxes of wine; a painting; scrumptious hamper; and lots more. *There is still time for anyone reading this to donate more items/promises to add to those already donated.*

This is a one-off exclusive event. Tickets are £35 a head (10% discount for a table of 8) and are now on sale. Don't delay – they are selling fast. **Contact Cynthia Matthews on 01920 822230 or 07933 202547.**

Roger Stainton, Braughing Get Together



CONCERT

7:30pm on 3rd June 2022

St Mary the Virgin, Westmill

Free entrance, 50% of retiring collection will go towards the Lady Chapel Fund to create the Westmill Community Room.

Kenneth Wilson is an ex-vicar, failed property developer, and reformed vegetarian, who once ran an Indian travel company. Now, as *The Poetical Cellist*, he plays a wide variety of foot-tapping, tear-jerking, and just plain appealing music. The cello is abetted – sometimes subverted – by an arresting and acid poetical commentary.

Kenneth appears at St Mary's Church in Westmill as part of his "Highway Cello" project, cycling with his cello from Hadrian's Wall to Rome, performing every day en route. You can read about *Highway Cello*, and listen to some of his performance, on his website:

<https://kennethwilsoncello.com>



Buntingford Branch Royal British Legion

Dear Reader

The Branch is busy planning its events for the rest of the year including a short service at the Buntingford war memorial on the 14th June to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Falklands conflict, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the reaffirmation of The Hertfordshire Covenant which shall be signed to mark its 10th anniversary on the 21st June.

We are always looking for volunteers to help organise and run our events, so if this might interest you please visit www.britishlegion.org.uk or come along to one of our Branch meetings, which are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month (other than January and August). I look forward to meeting you.

In April I have been raising money for the British Legion by taking part in the 'Walk 100 Miles' event. If anyone would be interested in sponsoring me, either give me a call on 07495 388 819 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2ctpz95j>. Kind regards,

Andrew Huggins, Branch Chairman RBL

Walk
100 miles
in April



Vision Matters charity art exhibition in Braughing

After a two-year delay because of Covid, Gravelly Barn is to hold its 'Vision Matters' 12-inch canvas for charity exhibition in May. Artists from across the county and beyond have been busy completing their blank canvases ready for the event, which will see hundreds of works on display. This is the seventh 12-inch canvas exhibition to be held at Gravelly Barn and well over £60,000 has been given to charities, both local and national.

Individual canvases will be on sale at £45 each and the artists, both established and aspiring, have used every kind of medium possible, from photography, oils, acrylic, watercolour, pencil, charcoal, collage and print to embroidery, sculpture, glass, tapestry and metal. There will be something for everyone's taste. These four images give a hint of the variety on display.

Exhibitions and music have been held at Gravelly Barn in Gravelly Lane for over 12 years and charities have benefitted to the tune of well over £120,000. But the 12-inch canvas shows have always been the big fundraisers. The last one, 'Choice Matters' in 2018, raised over £12,000 with 480 canvases on display. This year the money raised will go mainly to three charities: the Epping Breast Care Unit's mobile screening unit, and the BLISS and SANDS neonatal charities.



Vision Matters will take place over two weekends: Friday 13th to Sunday 15th May and on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May. Opening times are 10.30am to 5pm, except on Sunday 22nd which is 10.30am to 4pm. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available on all days and parking is free. For more information go to www.gravellybarn.com

The Hormead Rogation Walk – Sunday 22nd May

This year the walk will start from Great Hormead Church at 10.20am, following a short service there at 10am. The walkers will go across the fields to Brent Pelham and Meesden, and stop for a short prayer at each church. Lunch will be at Meesden Village Hall (bring your own), then on to Anstey Church for a short prayer, and finally to St Giles in Wyddial where drinks and cakes will be on offer. At 5pm there will be a 'Songs of Praise' evening service. The energetic can then walk back to Great Hormead, or you can pre-book a lift back to Hormead by contacting Rev James Sawyer on **01763 289258** or **07927 905 369**. Join us for the whole trek or just a few stages.

17,18,19
June
2023

Summer Arts
In Buntingford

Layton
Court
Gardens

THE FESTIVAL

Friday 17 June
**Friday Night is
Music Night !**

Entry by Ticket from
6.30 pm

Our Local Favourite

TJ

As featured in the UK Charts

**Battle Of The Bands
Winner Live on Stage !**

Get your Tickets now
for this Amazing Young Band

The Swift Beats

*The Authentic Tributes
to the 60's.*

Saturday 28 June

Free Entertainment from
10.00 am to 4.30 pm

**Stretch & Warm-Up
With Jacquie Smith**

Edwinstree School Talent

Bundlingford

Drama Group

Fremam College Talent

Bundlingford

School of Dance

Bundlingford

Community Choir

Tunes with The Trio

Entry by Ticket from
6.30 pm

It's Party Night !

**The Essential
JERSEY BOYS**

MIAMI Royals

The Ultimate Party Band

Sunday 19 June

Free Entertainment from
10.00 am to 4.30 pm

Pilates with Sarah Cocks

Fremam Big Band

Ware Ukulele Band

A-Train

Heres Holly Clog Dancers

Dixie Mix

East Anglia's

Hottest Jazz Band

Entry by Ticket from
6.30 pm

**Sunday Night Is Folk
Night !**

Enjoy the Acoustic talents of
our own Local Musicians

Plus! we are proud
to present

**Hannah Sanders
& Ben Savage**

*'Blessed with peerlessly
pure voices...
Catch them while you can!'
The Express*

Delicious Food & Drink from around the world available every day.
Fabulous Artisan Stalls. Craft Demonstrations. Local Interest Groups.
Children's Corner on Saturday & Sunday Daytime.

Box Office Now Open
Tickets for each of the Fabulous Evening Concerts
are just £10 each
Buy Online- www.summerartsinbuntingford.com

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OUR EVENING
ENTERTAINMENT
NOW TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT**



ONLY £10 online from: www.summerartsinbuntingford.com



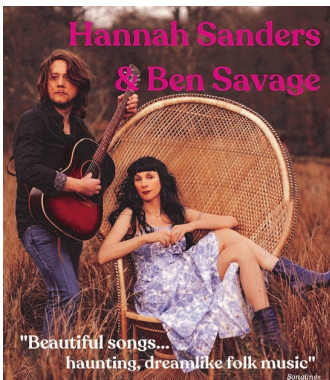
Friday Night: We kick start the weekend with the winner of the BOTBs live on stage. Then local favourite, Tammy, TJ (right), brings us an eclectic mix of chill pop and well-known classics. Finally, we're excited to welcome The Swiftbeats (left), a fresh young tribute band, bringing back the authentic sound of the Swinging Sixties!



Saturday Night: It's party night! The Essential Jersey Boys (right) set the mood with the best of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons' evergreen pop classics. To keep the party vibe



going we are then delighted to have on stage Miami Royals (left) who will keep you dancing the night away!



Sunday Night:

Leading up to the evening's entertainment we have Dixie Mix (right), a great Trad Jazz band from Suffolk featuring John Benson of Kenny Ball's Jazz Band fame on double bass. Then it's Summer Solstice Folk Night. Setting the mood, our acoustic session features talented young local singer Askyia, accompanying herself on the harp. Then we're thrilled to introduce Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage (left), a well-known folk duo from Cambridge who will enchant you with the sheer beauty of their words and music. You will be entertained!

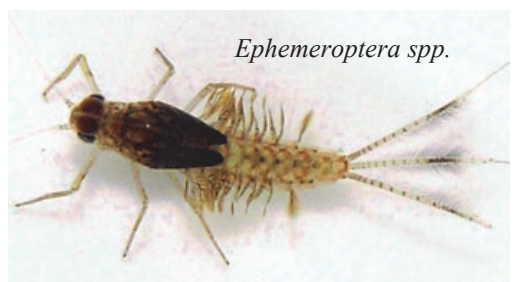


How Healthy Is Our River?

If you go down to the woods today – you'll see a lot of trees, but if you go down to the River Rib in Buntingford on a Sunday, you may see a bunch of people standing in the middle of the river with a fishing net or bent over a table staring at a tray full of water. What's going on? You might well ask, and the answer is that these are people from the Friends of the Rib and Quin (FORQ) who are assessing the health of the river by measuring the quantity and quality of 'Riverflies', or specific invertebrates ('mini-beasts') in the river. The greater the variety and numbers, the healthier the river is. Key species we look for include the freshwater shrimp *Gammarus pulex*, and mayfly larvae *Ephemeroptera*.



We carry out this exercise on a monthly basis at two sites in Buntingford (as well as several others along the Rib and Quin valleys), one at Buntingford Watermill by Luynes Rise (above the town sewage outlet), and the other just below the road bridge along Aspenden Road, which is below the sewage outlet. The method involves placing the net in the riverbed and kicking the gravel bottom around the site for three minutes (above), then emptying the contents of the net into a viewing tray and looking to see what we can find, assessing numbers and variety using a scoring system. We also measure pollution as chemical content of the water, specifically nitrates (which mainly come from fertiliser application) and phosphates (which mainly come from



detergents) using a colorimetric reader; flow rate and temperature. The results are then benchmarked against other chalk streams in the county and around the country.

So, what have we found? Well, the answer varies according to several factors, notably seasonality (time of year), temperature, level and flow rate of the water, and the degree of pollution. Generally, the level of invertebrate life is higher where there is a good flow of water and when it's warmer. However, significantly, it's much better, particularly in the number of freshwater shrimps, above the sewage outlet, where there is a low phosphate reading, than below, where the phosphate level is nearly ten times higher. Thames Water, who run our sewage plant, is aware of this, and we are informed that they plan to upgrade the unit in the near future, which should hopefully improve the results greatly.

And the general health of the river in Buntingford compared to others? Currently poor-to-fair. Not enough water, due to abstraction, and too high a level of pollution. Our Riverfly monitors will continue to assess it and would welcome anyone who wants to come and have a look to see what we are doing or join in – see our website (below) for details.

David Edwards, Secretary FORQ

<https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com>

BUNTINGFORD ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Importance of Bees

As I write, the sun is shining and it looks like spring has sprung at last! The sun brings us out of our houses and maybe into our gardens which, no matter whether they are big or small, play an important part in keeping our bees and other pollinators fed.

Did you know that bees pollinate over 130 fruits and vegetables and are responsible for pollinating three quarters of the world's flowering plants. Nearly 35% of the food the world depends on needs animal pollinators, like bees, in order to reproduce. These foods include staples and favourites like: apples, all kinds of berries, nuts, cabbages, melons, celery, peppers, peaches, pears, plums and tomatoes, to name but a few. And bees don't just pollinate our food, they also help plants and trees grow – which is vital to clean, breathable air. Unfortunately, bees are under attack from pesticides and climate change. Last year, beekeepers reported that 45% of their hives died. If bee colonies continue to collapse, what kind of world would that leave?



How can we help?

We can play our part by keeping a look out for local plant sales and making a point of asking for plants which are bee/pollinator friendly – these include Borage, Coneflower, Daisy, Echinacea, Goldenrod, Lavender, Marigold, Milkweed, Nasturtium, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Scabiosa, Snapdragon, Sunflower, Verbena, Yarrow, Zinnia ... there are far too many to list! If you would like to find out more you can take a look at these websites:

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/plants-for-bees/>

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/gardening-bees>

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/best-plants-bees-and-pollinators>

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

Madela and the Team – Find us on Facebook: @BACCSBuntingford

Email us at: BACCS@tutanota.com Website: <http://BACCS.uk>

“Inspiring Libraries”

The Buntingford Response Still Unresolved After 8 Years

The County Library Service is still failing to tell us how they propose to redevelop our library building on the High Street even though we now know there are sufficient funds available to start. As the population of the town has grown enormously, it is perhaps time to recap the last 8 years. The following timeline should make it clear how much we are being short-changed:



2013: Herts County Library Service initiates a strategy review with proposals published as a consultation document “Inspiring Libraries”.

2014: Despite the significant response from Buntingford residents (589 questionnaires returned by December 2013) Buntingford Library is placed in Tier Three to be staffed by volunteers as Buntingford is regarded as a village.

The Government promises £700,000 to support rural libraries by moving them into retained fire stations and this is proposed for Buntingford and three other towns in Herts. An informal working group, Buntingford Library Supporters Club, is formed to organise a series of public meetings and a petition, which is presented to the Cabinet Committee on 12th December 2014, with 2216 signatures and the Town’s response recommending the Library be retained on its present site and adapted to enhance its role in the community.

2015: The official report on the questionnaires discloses that 5,769 completed documents were returned to County Hall, with Buntingford returning 678 or 11.75% of the total, more than any other library in the County. 94.4% of those 678 indicate that the County’s proposals are unreasonable. Meeting on 10th February the Cabinet Committee agrees to upgrade Buntingford Library to Tier Two but confirms that work is underway to explore the feasibility of moving it to the Fire Station (nextdoor to the Co-op). A second petition is launched in Buntingford aiming at recommending that, instead of moving the library, the s106 money (funds contributed by developers for the specific benefit of the community) should be used to improve the existing library premises. Buntingford in Transition joined the campaign to organise another public meeting, following which another petition, with 1,192 signatures, is presented to County Hall.

2016: The County Council recognises that to meet the criteria for Tier Two the existing library building needs considerable improvement, which it costs at £272,000, well in excess of the £84,000 s106 funds then available. The schedule of works provided by the CC enables an alternative quotation to be obtained from a local contractor on the County’s list of approved contractors, which indicates the necessary work can be carried out within the s106 funds available. The Cabinet Committee decides to press on with moving the other three libraries into their local fire stations, but in the case of Buntingford decides to hold an exhibition at the Fire Station of both the County’s proposals and the local scheme, so residents can express views. 77% of those responding indicate that the library should remain on the High Street. The County finally agrees the Fire Station location is too dangerous to access and too remote from the High Street and decides not to proceed with that idea. The committee also decides to put consideration of any improvements to Buntingford Library on the back-burner for 18 months.

2018 The County launches a public consultation, from 8th January to 18th February, to assess the public response to transferring the library service to a Public Service Mutual Company. Subsequently 'Libraries for Life' is incorporated with the result that there is no further action on refurbishing the Buntingford library.

2019: A meeting in the library with the local County-approved contractor confirms the necessary work on the building can still be carried out within the limits of the s106 funds available. The Libraries for Life concept is abandoned and the County Council retains responsibility for the Library Service.

2021: Buntingford's Library is again on the agenda as the County feels that, with £300K s106 money banked, they have sufficient to deliver our upgrade. No start date or timetable is given but we are advised to look at the upgrades to other Hertfordshire libraries. In September 2021 visits are paid to six Hertfordshire Libraries and a lot of useful information is gained which is passed on to the County with our recommendations. No response to this is received.

2022: After five months we are told on 17th February that a feasibility study has taken place. The s106 money now stands at £325,000 but the overall cost is put at £650,000. The County confirm they will cover the balance. We respond on 3rd March asking to see the Study, and put forward some constructive suggestions. No response has been received to date but we understand that tenders will shortly be sought for a proposed refurbishment which does not remove the ramp between the front and rear of the building but merely extends it so that the gradient is not so severe.

All this comes 8 years too late. If the County are now prepared to contribute to the cost, why could they have not done so when the difference between the estimate we obtained from an approved County contractor and the County's estimate was much less? Why does the County continue to ignore the views of people who regularly use our library? The sad fact is that the Library Service have never bought into our vision for the building – **more than just a library, but a hub for arts, culture and learning in the centre of our community.**

Because that is what it has been. We have not been suggesting anything new. The Magnolia Room was used for public meetings, story time sessions for children, meetings of the Local History Group and Lab Tots. The Buntingford Film Club showed children's films there. Local artists were able to display their paintings on the walls of the library, as were the children from our primary schools. The WI always had one of their inventive crochet pieces on display there for Christmas and who can forget the mechanical models a local inventor was able to show there. Buntingford u3a would have been meeting there if the room hire charge had not been so high at the time, something the Library Service rectified too late. Fully opening out the building, as we suggested, would enable the use of the building to be considerably enhanced. Look at the number of clubs and groups who have had to seek accommodation elsewhere when they were no longer able to use the Benson Hall.

There is a glimmer of light ahead. The County Library Service have just issued a strategy document for the next 10 years building on the original "Inspiring Libraries" concept. We need to ensure that Buntingford is fully involved so that it is not a collection of unresolved ambitions which has been our experience to date. Perhaps, therefore, it is time for the residents of Buntingford to make their voice heard again. There is a Town Meeting scheduled for 24th May. If you have strong views about this, please try to attend.

**Sarah Cocks, Vicky Burt , Gillian Johnston, Brian Thompson, David Woollcombe
Buntingford Library Supporters Club**

Buntingford Gardeners' Club

Next meeting Wednesday 4th May

Doors open at 7.45pm for an 8.00pm start

At the United Reformed Church Hall, Baldock Road

**Speaker: Ron Basciano, volunteer at Luton Hoo, on
'The History of Luton Hoo Walled Garden'**

The Walled Garden at Luton Hoo Estate was designed by Capability Brown in the late 1760s for John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute, noted Botanist and Prime Minister under George III. This talk is about how successive owners transformed the garden over a period of nearly 300 years. It is also the story of the staff who worked there and the magnificent structures that survive from the Victorian Age. Our speaker will explain how a very active volunteer team is bringing the garden back to life.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month (no meetings in January or August)
Annual membership costs £17.50 – Visitors welcome, £3 per visit.

Reed Garden Club

Wednesday 11th May at 2pm in Reed Village Hall

There will be a talk by our local historian Tom Doige on
'Reed and Surrounding Villages'

Entrance £2 to include tea and biscuits.

All very welcome – membership not necessary.

Saturday 4th June – PLANT STALL – 10am to 12noon

Outside No.1 Willow Close, opposite Reed Village Green

Any donations of plants gratefully received. Please bring on the day,
or if prior to the event please contact Shirley on 07713 244278

**Dates for your Diaries to see the
Choir singing live in Buntingford:**

Saturday 4th June at the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the
Community Centre, singing at 15.45

Saturday 18th June at the Summer
Arts in Buntingford Festival in Layston Court Gardens, singing at 14.45

Both events are free, please come along and support us.

Choir Practice is now in full swing on **Monday evenings** at Millfield School in Monks
Walk, starting at 7.30pm.

If you are interested in joining the Choir please email: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk
Or for more information go to our website: www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk





The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Public and private gardens provide opportunities for pleasurable exercise and social interaction. Our sunny climate and fertile soils have encouraged those with green fingers to

hone their design and horticultural skills to create some outstanding flower-rich gardens for their own delight. Some, like Bridge End Garden in Saffron Walden (right), are free but entry charges do apply at others.

Many delightful gardens are listed in the current National Garden Scheme handbook and website, www.ngs.org.uk. This is a major showcase for owners who are willing to share their gardens with others; last year £3 million was donated by visitors to help nursing and health charities.

Some gardens have limited opening days, others offer more frequent opportunities to appreciate seasonal changes; some offer opportunities for booked group visits.

Some gardens open early to showcase spring flowers but as spring gives way to summer, more are opened to show off the variety of brightly-coloured blooms and intense floral fragrances, especially from roses. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable owners may specialise in growing cottage garden flowers, others in designing hidden features or ponds, and all are willing to share their passions with visitors.

With so many varied gardens to visit in the 100 Parishes area, it is a challenge to decide which one should top your list! I would recommend Easton Lodge (right),



where Harold Peto's Italian garden is always colourful and recent restoration works have enhanced the balustrade. Also, throughout the summer, the Henry Moore Studios & Gardens at Perry Green are delightful, with many of Moore's sculptures displayed in the garden setting (left) and an exhibition focuses on his work in the Sixties.

The 'What's On' listing on the Hundred Parishes website includes dates for individual open gardens and also where a village has organised a group of open gardens. Enjoy!

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

Buntingford W.I.

Richard Furnival-Jones came to our April meeting to tell us the story of Harrods and how it rose from very humble beginnings to be the Palace of Knightsbridge as it is known today. Charles Henry Harrod had the foresight to open his first shop in 1849 in Knightsbridge, which at that time was a haunt of vagabonds and thieves. Back then its annual turnover was £20, as opposed to £1.5 billion today!

Richard's talk was so interesting and amusing, with lots of little anecdotes. Who knew, for example, that Harrods introduced the first "moving staircase" in London? It was actually a moving belt made from woven leather and there were two members of staff at the top to administer smelling salts to the ladies and cognac to the men. (The ladies weren't offered a choice it seems!) Harrods has its own power station for electricity and its own water supply from three artesian wells, and it is said to be the purest water in London. Furthermore, the store was way ahead of its time when it introduced electric-powered delivery vans, six of which are still running today!

Also in April we enjoyed an Easter pub lunch and we are currently working on our project to decorate the old pump on Market Hill for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Our next meeting is Thursday 12th May, 7.15pm in the URC Hall (opposite McColls). This will be our Annual Meeting when our new committee is appointed but there will also be discussion on this year's resolution which relates to undiagnosed ASD and ADHD in women and girls. Visitors are welcome at all our meetings so if you are new to Buntingford (or even if you're not!) just turn up on the night and come to see what Buntingford W.I. is all about.

If you would like further information about us please contact our Secretary, Pat, on 01763 271305.

Val Hume

Buntingford Dramatic Society

Our next
Supper Theatre
production is ...

Murdered to Death

By Peter Gordon

A classic country house Murder Mystery spoof featuring all your favourite Agatha Christie type characters, including an ex-Army colonel with a stiff upper lip and an eye for the ladies, a drunken butler, a dodgy French art dealer, the incompetent Inspector Pratt, and Miss Maple, the local amateur sleuth who seems to attract murder wherever she goes. Will the murderer be unmasked before they strike again? Or will the audience die laughing first?

Friday 8th, Saturday 9th, Friday 15th, Saturday 16th July

At our new home, the Seth Ward Community Centre.

Watch our website www.buntingforddrama.uk for ticket details.

Buntingford Film Club

Our screening for May will be the last for the early part of 2022, before the summer break. That does not mean we will not be showing films at all – we are looking forward to getting our outdoor screen into use again this summer.

On Saturday 7th May we are showing **Belfast** at the Seth Ward Community Centre, doors open 7pm for 7.30 start. Written and directed by Kenneth Branagh, the film gives a very personal view of what it was like to grow up in Northern Ireland in the late 1960s. But while the film does not seek to hide the impact of the Troubles, the humour of the Irish is always there. Filmed in black and white, **Belfast** won the Oscar for Best Screenplay for Branagh, his first Oscar. It also won Best Screenplay at the Golden Globes, while at the 75th BAFTA awards it was declared Best British Film.



The four films we chose to show so far this year, once we were able to get back to the Community Centre, were all Oscar winners. Unfortunately our January film, **Cinema Paradiso**, was a bit of a non-event – it was clearly too soon after the Covid lockdown. Perhaps we will be able to fit it into our future programme. By February life was returning more to normality and we were looking forward to showing the new James Bond film. Unfortunately, an unforeseen event intervened – the Community Centre was closed to have the floor polished. So it was March that saw the screening of **No Time to Die**, Daniel Craig's final Bond outing, which was greatly enjoyed by a full house. We contributed the net ticket sales to the appeal for Ukraine and, with a generous contribution from our patrons, we sent a donation of £814, which will have been matched by the Government. Our April film was Spielberg's remake of **West Side Story**, another full house. Whether or not you preferred it to the earlier version, the music still wove its magic. So we have a lot to live up to when we resume in September, when our first offering usually complements the Classic Car Rally.

We will keep you informed about our activities over the summer and through social media. In the meantime there is still time to buy tickets for **Belfast** through:

[facebook.com@buntingfordfilmclub](https://www.facebook.com/buntingfordfilmclub) or in person at **Keith Ian, 42 High Street**

Brian Thompson

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 (The Post Office) • RILEY'S FAMILY BUTCHERS

The Hat with Five Lives

A Short Story

Granny finished sewing up the knitted hat and inspected it with a smile on her face. It was bright cherry red and had a generous fluffy bobble on the end. It was the sort of hat that anyone would be pleased to wear on a cold wintry day. She was tempted to keep it for herself but she had knitted it for her granddaughter, Chloe, who was due at 4 o'clock that afternoon for tea and cake, on her way home from school. Not her most favourite granddaughter, but still worthy of an unexpected gift from her Granny.

After tea and cake and a little chat Chloe was anxious to go. She looked at the woolly hat with an expression on her face that only a teenage girl can produce. She managed a polite thank-you to her Granny as she carried the hat carefully between her fingertips out to the waiting car, got in, waved goodbye and was gone. They arrived home and she quickly got out of the car. She was so busy checking her phone and waving goodbye to her friend that she didn't notice the red bobble hat had fallen from her lap down onto the pavement as she hurried up the path and went in.

It was getting dark and Matthew was late walking home from school. As it was Wednesday he had stayed behind for the Chess Club. His mother's birthday was coming up at the weekend and he had no money to buy her a present. He had stopped expecting any pocket money as his mother was struggling to make ends meet. He could get a Saturday job when he turned 15, but he was quite a small boy so there was no point in trying to bluff his way in by lying about his age.

What was that bright red thing on the ground, he asked himself as he walked along the road. He picked it up – it was a hat! He smiled at the bright fluffy bobble on the end and felt its knitted warmth. It looked brand new and unworn. It was the sort of hat his mum would choose, with her wide smile and wayward curly hair. He put the hat in his school bag and quickly walked home. It had been a good day; he had won his first chess match and now he had a very acceptable birthday present.

Matthew's mum, Annie, loved the hat and perched it on her curls as they ate the birthday cake her friend at work had made for her. She wondered about the hat. She knew Matthew had no money. She was so proud of him, how he had accepted the change in circumstances since her husband had died. They both missed him; they cried a lot at first but life had to go on. She now had a part-time job in the café and Matthew had continued to work hard at school. Her husband John would have been proud of them both.

Their town had its fair share of refugees. They sat in the café warming their hands on their cups of tea and Annie got to know some of them. An elderly lady, always on her own, seemed to be in pain with toothache and Annie gave her some aspirin, then she chatted with a young mum who had a small daughter needing a place at the local school. Some of the locals complained about the refugees and said they should be sent to a bigger town which had more facilities and money to spare. On her way home from the café she took a shortcut through the park. She saw a few faces she recognised and the elderly lady was sitting on a park bench whimpering with pain. Annie took off her red bobble hat and put it down on the small head, stretching it over her sore tooth. The lady smiled her thanks.

That January night the temperature reached a record low. The next morning the old lady was still on the park bench; she had died during the cold night. The local Gazette ran a front-page story about the lady and many people voiced their displeasure, saying they were shocked that a refugee had been so neglected and allowed to die in such awful circumstances. The photograph of her showed her wearing the red bobble hat.

The hat was too good to throw away so the charity shop washed it and put it in the bargain bin marked £1. The local football club sported a red and white kit. The bobble hat lay in the bargain bin all summer. Nobody was interested in a woolly hat when the sun was shining. But come Autumn and the football season, with supporters standing in draughty fields watching teenagers playing for their school, well that was a different matter. The red hat was snatched up eagerly by a young girl, who was trying to impress her football playing boyfriend and the hat was propelled into the exciting world of teen romance and football.

Matthew was now 15 and had matured into a good footballer. He was still quite small but he was quick on his feet and could outrun most of the bigger boys. This season his goal scoring record had risen sharply and Annie was pleased he was playing for his school and then for his town. It was Saturday afternoon and Annie had made a special effort to go and watch her boy play for the town. Then it happened, 5 minutes before the final whistle, Matthew appeared at high speed out of nowhere, snatched control of the ball and scored. It all happened so fast it was a second or two before his Mum realised who had scored the winning goal.

With tears running down her face she watched the home crowd going mad with excitement at her son, her Matthew. A slight blonde teenage girl wearing a red bobble hat was dancing round with him, a circle of happiness around the two of them. Annie went over to them and picked up the red bobble hat which had fallen off the girl's head in her excitement. At once Annie recognised the hat. It had been her hat, her birthday present from her son. The hat she had given to the refugee lady with toothache.

The three of them walked home through the park in the dusk. Annie was quite used to her son bringing his mates home to watch a match on TV, or just to hang out, but this was the first time he had shown any interest in girls and here they were, the three of them, tucking into sausage and chips and reliving the highlights of the match over mugs of tea. Later that evening Matthew walked his friend home. Annie smiled as she saw the red bobble hat firmly in place on the girl's head as they disappeared up the road into the night.

Sue Newberry, Buntingford Writers' Group

MISSING YOU – a poem by Maureen Smith

Through the years we've been together trials and tribulations bore
love, humour and compassion taken from God's golden store.

Missing you.

I go to speak to you all about the day, then I remember you are not there
and can not have your say, this is a sadness I have to bear.

Missing you.

Your chair stands empty by the hearth and I remember how we laughed
at memories of yesteryear, precious times I hold most dear.

Missing you.

I have to let you go at last, and though I will not forget the past
the future beckons paths unknown which I will tread, all alone.

United one day we will be in a world of joy and tranquillity.

Finding you.



Millfield First & Nursery School

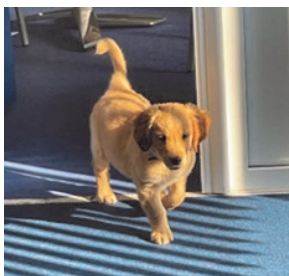
www.millfield.herts.sch.uk

We have had a busy and productive Spring Term, which has celebrated such a range of events and special moments. In our Award Assembly at the end of the term we discussed our 'stand out' moments – special, memorable moments that took place over

the term. It is a delight to share with you a selection of the children's 'stand out' moments:

- * "Growing cress" in Reception.
- * "Reading Traction Man" in Year 1.
- * "Meeting Blue" who has joined Tilly as our second school dog!
- * "Achieving 'Rory the Rhino' for being resilient and learning all about fractions."
- * "Having my art learning displayed in our Art Gallery in the hall."
- * "Dressing in red and having mad hair to raise money for Comic Relief."

Millfield children have immersed themselves in their learning and have astounded staff with their engagement and motivation!



School Dogs

Blue, our new school dog (left), is a Golden Retriever puppy who is already building relationships with Millfield children and staff. And like the children and staff, Tilly, Millfield's 4-year-old black Labrador, has warmly welcomed Blue to Millfield (right). Keeping animals at school helps the children's social emotional learning, as well as teaching them how to consider and care for another being.



"Talking about animals uniquely provides students an ideal forum to practice the skills they will need in the 21st century, such as listening, perspective-taking and critical thinking; skills business leaders claim are missing in the workforce." (Forsyth, 2012). We feel very fortunate to have had animals join our school – they are well looked after, cared for and loved by all. They bring so much joy to the staff and children they work with.



Owl Visit for Year 2 children

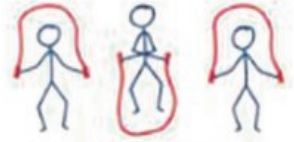
Year 2 children have been learning all about owls. As part of their topic, they enjoyed a visit from Herrings Green Activity Farm. The children had the opportunity to hold the owls and ask questions. When asked for an interesting fact that they had learnt, the children shared that "not all owls make a twit-twoo noise".

Sports Stars Training

The Schools Sports Partnership trained our Year 4 Sports Stars pupil voice group to deliver playground games. The Year 4 Sports Stars will be supporting KS1 and KS2 children to learn the rules of new sports games whilst having fun during break and lunch times.

Skipping Day

The children enjoyed skipping with their classes on National Skipping Day. It gave them the opportunity to develop their skipping skills as well as taking part in a variety of skipping challenges. Children thought about how skipping is not only a fun form of exercise but can also keep us healthy.



Governors

It was a pleasure to invite Millfield Governors back to school for a Governor open morning in March. They were treated to a whole school tour where they saw children and staff in action and were impressed with how focussed the children were with their learning. They were also thrilled by how keen children were to share information about Millfield.

Friendship Ladders

The theme of this year's Spring Term Friendship Ladder Day was 'Spring Arts and Crafts'. Children mixed within year groups to make pieces of Spring-related art and craft together.

Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher

If you would like to know more about our School, please visit our website www.millfield.herts.sch.uk or contact the School on **01763 271717**.

SUMMER MEMORIES – a poem by Jackie Smith

These are the memories of summers when I was a child.
Now, compared to then, the summers seem mild.
The days were long and so hot,
Not much rain and there was laughter a lot.
Off we would go to Walton on Naze.
Didn't have to worry about missing a plane.
Days spent making sand castles and sculptures of mermaids and boats.
Paddling in the sea, skimming stones and seeing what floats.
Dinner, if we were lucky, were chips on the pier
while Dad grabbed a rest and a well-earned beer.
If we were good and there were spare pennies to waste
We were allowed on the "one-arm bandits" but don't spend them in haste.
"There is no more where they came from" Dad would say with a laugh.
Mum would then say "it's getting late, we need to get home for a bath".
So pack up all the bits and bobs, the buckets and the spades,
The soggy towels that got caught in the waves.
Climb back in the car and off home we would go,
With our sticky, tired faces and skin all aglow.
Memories to treasure and keep in our hearts,
Our days on the beach in our childhood past.



Edwinstree Middle School



A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

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

What is the latest Covid-19 update?

Unfortunately, we suffered another Covid 'Outbreak' and once again Public Health advised that all visits be postponed. We have only been able to secure one visit out for a year group in the last two years. We have now rebooked the Year 8 and Year 5 visits and plan to arrange further days out later in the year for Years 6 and 7. We try to teach our students resilience, to help them understand that sometimes things don't always go to plan, but we will try, try and try again! In order to bring a little joy for all our students, we arranged for the Ice Cream man to visit one Friday and everyone enjoyed an ice cream treat (right). Just the sound of the bell on a sunny day was enough to make everyone smile!



Edwinstree does 'Strictly' House Dance Competition

Our students took part in a House Dance competition. Students volunteered to learn a simple dance routine and showcase it to the rest of the school community. We were very lucky with the weather and were able to gather outside to cheer them on in the sunshine. We understand that it is not an easy task to learn a dance and then perform in



front of the whole school, but the dancers were confident and enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their 'wonderful'. It was a very close competition, with only three points between all four houses, but Lea House were the winners.

How did Edwinstree support Comic Relief?

We held a non-uniform day to raise funds for Comic Relief and, at the suggestion of students, we held a cake sale to help raise funds for children in the Ukraine. Students raised over £450 for the two causes.

End of Term Easter Service

Unfortunately, due to the Covid outbreak we were unable to hold our special Easter service at St Peter's Church. Instead, we held our Easter service via Teams, conducted by Rev Norman Jones.

How did Edwinstree support the interview process for the new Reverend?

We were thrilled that Edwinstree students were invited to be part of the interview process for the new Reverend for Buntingford. Year 5 students posed mature and well-thought-out questions to the three candidates who applied for the post. The students themselves said they felt privileged and excited to be part of such an important event.

Jo Gant, Headteacher

Home-Start's 'Strictly for Charity' is the dance event of the year!



Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

Inspired by the BBC's 'Strictly Come Dancing', Home-Start are bringing the glitz, the glamour, the sequins, spangles and fake tan to the dance floor in support of local families. On **Saturday 14th May**, twelve local 'celebrities' partnered with professional dancers will take to the floor at the Cambridge Motel in Shepreth to compete for the Home-Start glitterball trophy. Be there to enjoy the show and vote for your favourite couple!

Tickets for the evening cost £30, which includes a two-course buffet. Plus there will be a full bar, raffle and lots of Strictly-themed fun, with everyone invited onto the dance floor to round off the night in style. So grab your glitziest dress or sharpest suit, dust off your dancing shoes, and join Home-Start on **Saturday 14th May, from 6.45 to 11pm**. It's going to be an amazing night! And remember – keeeeeep dancing!

For full details, go to www.hsrc.org.uk/event/strictly-for-charity

To book tickets call the Home-Start office on **01763 262 262** or email events@hsrc.org.uk



The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

CPRE Hertfordshire Awards 2022

A reminder that these awards are open for nominations until **31st May**.

The aim is to recognise and celebrate

inspirational people and groups engaged in activities that enhance and protect the Hertfordshire countryside and communities, especially those involved in projects that:

- connect people with the countryside and their local green spaces
- promote rural life and ensure that communities can thrive
- improve or protect the environment

We have an exciting new category this year, 'Made in Herts', which will recognise excellence in sustainable farming and local foods, products using local materials, or traditional craftspeople and artists, in particular working in rural areas or with rural themes. We also hope to make an Award for an outstanding project or activity run by or on behalf of young people (up to the age of 21) in the areas outlined above. More details are on the CPRE website: [CPRE Hertfordshire Awards – CPRE Hertfordshire \(cpreherts.org.uk\)](http://CPRE Hertfordshire Awards - CPRE Hertfordshire (cpreherts.org.uk)). Be inspired by past Award recipients, and make a nomination today!

Sadly our speaker for March had to cancel, so instead we were given an extremely interesting talk by two ladies from the 'Dementia Carers Count', a relatively unknown national charity offering free practical, professional, health and care support to family and friends caring for someone with dementia.

As well as offering face-to-face and online learning sessions, the 'Virtual Carers Centre' on the charity's website is a fantastic resource of articles, videos, presentations and more that carers to access any time, day or night. Their work helps carers to understand more about dementia, to connect with others in a similar situation, and to look after themselves while navigating the highs and lows of caring for someone suffering with dementia.

Everything the charity does is developed closely with family carers and delivered by experts, so they can offer services that genuinely help carers with their needs. Speech and language therapist Lissy Edwards gave us a taster session and explained the functions of the different parts of the brain. In reply to a question from the floor she explained that Dementia is the overall name for all kinds of dementia, of which Alzheimer's is just one. It was a truly fascinating talk.

Following on from last summer's two 'Picnics in the Park' in Layston Court Gardens when lockdown started to be relaxed, on Monday 21st March we held a very successful 'Tea and Cake in the Hall' at the Seth Ward Community Centre (bottom photo).

Our April speaker, Jenny Gibbs (right), was making a return visit to Buntingford. At the age of 50, she embarked on a new life in Turkey and met the man of her dreams. Her talk was about her journey across the country 'Chasing the Sun'. The photo shows her in Turkish national dress.



Our Speaker for 9th May is Paul Barwick on Nancy Wake and 'The Legend of the White Mouse'. Paul tells the story of WW2 spy Nancy Wake, a woman from humble beginnings who became a hugely successful spy for the famous SOE (Special Operations Executive), helping to save thousands of Allied lives. Her awe-inspiring tale is one of incredible courage and strength of purpose set against a world on fire. Through her



amazing exploits with the resistance groups in wartime France, Nancy became the Gestapo's 'most wanted' female agent, nicknamed 'The White Mouse' due to her ability to sneak out of the tightest situations. She became one of the most decorated Allied agents of the war.

We meet at the Seth Ward Community Centre on the second Monday of the month – doors open 1.30pm. Please visit our website for news and details of all our groups:

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford

Jean Cook

VINTAGE CAKES and SUMPTUOUS SOUPS



Vintage Cakes, Cream Teas & Homemade Soups with fresh Bread Rolls – delivered to your door! Please contact for price list:

Elaine – 07501 495 940 / 01763 289 738

Facebook – Sumptuous Soups and Country Cakes



Recipe for May

Harissa Shoulder of Lamb

A new take on traditional roast lamb!

Ingredients

- Whole shoulder of lamb (about 1.8kg / 4lb)
- 4 tbsp Harissa paste
- 1 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 200ml (7fl oz) stock
- 100ml (3½fl oz) natural yogurt (Greek style)
- 1 lemon, pomegranate seeds and fresh mint

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C/Gas mark 3.
2. Place lamb on a chopping board and make a few slashes over the surface of the lamb with a sharp knife. Season with salt, pepper and harissa paste. Oil both sides of the lamb joint.
3. Place the lamb in a roasting tin and roast for approximately 4 hours.
4. Remove joint from tin and transfer to a chopping board, then 'pull' the lamb apart using two forks.
5. Drizzle with yogurt and garnish with the mint, pomegranate seeds and lemon juice.
6. Serve with cooked rice or couscous.

Buntingford & Stortford Hybrid Studio



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

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



WWW.JACQUI-SMITH.NET

07956 647806

With the weather improving, as in past years we take some of our Pilates Classes outside which sets up an amazing feel good factor, as well as helping us get some Vitamin D.

In April we brought back our Box Fit Wednesday evening class, which is being well attended. As I write we are planning some new sessions to keep the class challenging and continuously improve fitness.

Our FREE monthly challenge for May is working on bottoms, and on our social media pages we will be looking at care & exercises for the feet.

More information and our monthly challenges can be found on my social media pages [@jacquismithpersonaltrainer](https://www.instagram.com/jacquismithpersonaltrainer) and in all our classes. Or scan the QR code (right) to find full class listings:

Want to come to an exercise class or need help getting into a healthier lifestyle? Then contact us at theteam@jacqui-smith.net or call me on **07956 647806**.



Jacqui Smith, Personal Trainer

Barkway Park Golf Club

The season is well underway and members have enjoyed some excellent playing conditions, with the weather generally being kind and the course in tip-top condition.

The winter singles competition has been concluded with Ray Smith victorious against Graham Locke in the final. In a high-scoring stableford competition, the seniors' Spring Trophy was won by Richard Webb with 44 points, just one point better than runners-up Kevin Lacy and Colin Hamilton.

The club has also commenced its programme of matches against local clubs with a mixture of outcomes. The men have beaten Heydon Grange and The Cambridgeshire, and halved the match against Gog Magog. The ladies were narrowly beaten by East Herts, while the seniors notched up two wins against the Princess of Wales Regiment and Elsenham, but were beaten by Newmarket in a close encounter.

The club welcomes new members and offers competitions most weekends and every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for its seniors, known as The Barkers!

Visitors are also welcome – tel: **01763 848215**.

BALA

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus Trips in May & June 2022

	Time	Destination	Price
May			
Wed 4th	10–2.30pm	St Albans	£8
Tues 10th	10.30–2pm	Scotsdales	£6.50
Thurs 12th	9.30–12.30	Biggleswade Retail Park	£6.50
Mon 16th	10–2.30pm	St Ives	£8
Wed 18th	11.30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Mon 23rd	2–3.30pm	Pearce's Farm Shop	£2
Tues 31st	9.30–3pm	Bury St Edmunds	£12.50
June			
Wed 8th	11.30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Mon 13th	10–3pm	Cambridge	£7.50
Wed 15th	9.30–3pm	Southend	£13
Mon 20th	10–2.30pm	St Ives	£8
Thurs 23rd	9.15–12noon	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£5
Tues 28th	10.30–2.30pm	Bury Fruit Farm & Dobbies	£5

All trips start from the Benson Hall car park unless otherwise agreed.
The bus has full facilities for wheelchair transport with the latest length hoist.
To book a seat or for more information, ring: 01763 271909 or
07870 638480 (please be prepared to leave a message)



BALA Coffee Morning
 At URC Hall, Baldock Road
Friday 20th May, 10.00–11.30am



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The end of the season is in sight!

After two disrupted seasons, both of which have been brought to a premature conclusion, it's somewhat of a relief to say that, this year, it does actually look as if we are going to make it to the end of the season with only a few fixtures left to fulfil for most of our teams. Where the last two seasons have been dominated by Covid and trying to understand how / if we could continue to play with the various restrictions and 'guidance' changing on what felt like a weekly basis, this season has been one where, as a club, we have been able to focus on what really matters – playing the game we all love.

Don't get me wrong, the past two years have allowed us to address many structural aspects of the club that we have long wanted to change or improve, but it's nice to get back to the 'normal' challenges of running a club: Is the pitch fit to play despite the rain this week? Can we get out four teams this weekend? Who's got the away kit after last week's game? Why have we lost 3 match balls when we didn't play last week?

With the First Team only having one fixture left, the Ladies two games and the Vets also having two matches remaining, the Reserves are going to see the most action between now and 15th May as they have four games (3 home / 1 away) to get through. So, how have our teams got on this season?

First Team! The Firsts remain in third spot in Division 1 of the Herts Senior County League having beaten second place Oracle Components at the beginning of April to secure a worst case position of fourth and, unfortunately, hand Hertford Heath the title. With their final game at home on 23rd April against Aldenham (3pm KO) and current fourth placed team, Hinton, facing a resurgent Evergreen on the same day, a good result could secure third and potentially put us in the mix for promotion to the Premier Division!

Reserves! The Reserves' season remains firmly in their own hands. Currently sitting in eighth in Division 3 but with five games left to play, there are potentially fifteen points left on the table, albeit that two of those are games against runaway leaders Little Heath and Hemel Hempstead Rovers. It's a reflection of how lopsided the fixture list has been for our Reserves that three of their four final games of the season are home fixtures which, hopefully, will give them a real boost during the run in. If you fancy coming up to The Bury to support them as they look to finish the season at a sprint, the final three home games are: **30th April** Hadley Saturday Vets; **7th May** Hatfield Town Reserves; and **14th May** Sarratt Reserves. All kick off at 3pm.

Ladies! The Ladies, having been promoted at the end of last season, have not had it all their own way this season and currently sit eighth in Division 2 of the Beds and Herts Women's Football League. Despite playing some excellent football, often outplaying sides placed higher in the table, we have not always been able to convert performance into points, partly due to coming up against more





experienced sides and partly due to being unable to field a consistent starting line up each week. Next season we will be looking to build on the lessons learnt this year, retaining as many of the current players as we can and recruiting more, particularly those leaving youth football who want to be part of a friendly yet competitive team. The Ladies final home game of the season will be at The Bury on 24th April when they host Stotfold Ladies, kicking off at 2pm – why not come up and meet the team, have a drink and watch the game?

Vets! The Vets have also struggled this season. We currently sit just one place above relegation from the Premier Division of the East Herts Vets League and, on the face of it, run a real risk of going down. However, the two teams occupying the relegation spots, despite having games in hand, don't really look capable of stringing together a run of results that would allow them to leap ahead of us. The Vets final game of the season is at home on **8th May** when they host Broxbourne at 10.30am. Broxbourne don't normally travel too well but could be in the hunt for the title on the final day of the season so it could be a great game to watch!

Walking Football Our Walking Footballers will continue training throughout the summer at Norfolk Road on Saturday mornings. If you've never tried walking football why not come down and have a go?

Players, Sponsors and Volunteers wanted!!! We have a plan and a vision of offering high quality, exciting, football at a higher level, but we can only do so much and go so far without the support of the local community whom we serve. We are blessed with a small but dedicated group of volunteers and enthusiastic players within the club without whom there would be no Buntingford Town FC, but we would love to see that dedicated group increase in size so, if you would like to join us on the next stage of our adventure, either as a player, sponsor or supporter, please contact me on chair@buntingfordtownfc.com or on **07976 869 532**.

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

Mark Cotton, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

The next meeting of the
Buntingford Railway & Local History Society
is on **Friday 20th May** in The Crown on Market Hill, starting at 8pm.

The speaker will be Russell Abbey on Nuthampstead Airfield.

Non-members are welcome for an entry charge of £2.

For more details, contact Stephen Ruff on 01763 289516.

Dates for Your Diary

MAY Sun 1st & Mon 2nd 10am–1pm: **Open Days** at Buntingford Bowls Club (see p.7)
Mon 2nd & 16th 10–11.45am: **Chatter Tables** at the Manor House (p.16)
Wed 4th 8pm: **Buntingford Gardener's Club** in URC Hall (p.28)
Sat 7th 7 for 7.30pm: **'Belfast'** with **Buntingford Film Club** at Seth Ward CC (p.31)
Mon 9th 1.30pm: **u3a monthly meeting** at Seth Ward CC (p.38)
Wed 11th 2pm: **Reed Garden Club** in Reed Village Hall (p.28)
Wed 11th 8pm: **Buntingford Branch of the Royal British Legion** in The Crown (p.20)
Thur 12th 7.15pm: **Buntingford WI** in URC Hall (p.30)
Fri 13th to Sun 15th, Sat 21st & Sun 22nd 10.30am to 5pm (4pm on final day):
Vision Matters charity art exhibition in Braughing (see p.21)
Sat 14th 6.45 to 11pm: **'Strictly for Charity'** with **Home-Start** (p.37)
Fri 20th 10–11.30am: **BALA Coffee Morning** in URC Hall (p.41)
Fri 20th 8pm: **Buntingford Railway & Local History Society** in The Crown (p.43)
Sat 21st 9.30am: **Plant Sale** at St Peter's Church (p.11)
Sun 22nd 10am: **Hormead Rogation Walk** (p.21)
Thur 26th 7pm: **Buntingford Town Meeting** in Community Centre (p.16)
Fri 27th: **An evening in aid of Ukraine** in Braughing Community Centre (p.19)
JUNE Thur 2nd 6pm: **Much Ado About Nothing** at the Sword in Hand, Westmill (p.4-5)
Thur 2nd 7pm: **Jubilee Civic Service** at St Peter's Church (p.14)
Fri 3rd 7.30pm: **Highway Cello** concert at St Mary the Virgin, Westmill (p.20)
Sat 4th All day **Jubilee Celebrations** at the Community Centre (p.16 & 28)
Fri 17th to Sun 19th All day **Summer Arts In Buntingford Festival** (see p.5 & 22-23)
JULY Fri 8th Sat 9th Fri 15th & Sat 16th: BDS presents **'Murdered to Death'** (see p.30)
Sun 10th 1–5pm: **Anstey Fair** at Anstey Bury
Mondays: From 8.30am: **Buntingford Market** on Market Hill
10am–12noon: **Coffee Morning** at St Peter's Church (p.15)
1.30 for 2pm: **Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club** at URC Hall
7.30–9pm: **Buntingford Community Choir** at Millfield School (p.28)
Tuesdays: 7.30–9pm: **Braughing Sing Community Choir** in Jenyn's School Hall
Wednesdays: 8pm: **Ware & District Photographic Society** in Thundridge
Buntingford Meditation at St Peter's Church, except the 1st Wed in the month
which is online: www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation
Thursdays: 10.30–12noon: **Coffee & Company** at the URC Hall (p.11)

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

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Buntingford Civic Society

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<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

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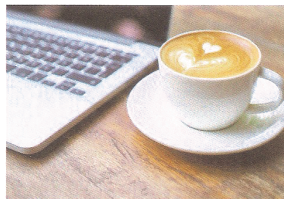
Carers in Hertfordshire Online



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 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.

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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

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.
Adverts for charitable or community events are normally free of charge.

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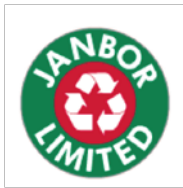
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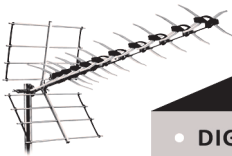
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