

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

# Buntingford Journal



**Young women of the Land Army billeted at Wyddial Hall in 1943.**

***Inside this month:* The Women's Land Army in two World Wars; Attend2Health takes on the old Barclays Bank building; looking back at the Buntingford By-pass campaign; all the action from Buntingford Town FC; plus poetry, a short story and much more ...**

**70p**

**November 2020  
Volume 45, No.6**



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# USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

<b>POLICE STATION:</b> Baldock Road, Buntingford	Non-emergency telephone: 101 In emergencies dial 999
<b>GAS:</b> <b>ELECTRICITY:</b> <b>WATER (Veolia):</b> <b>SEWERAGE (Thames Water):</b> <b>FLOODLINE:</b>	Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999 Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838 Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325 Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800 Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188 Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60
<b>DOCTORS:</b>	<b>Buntingford Medical Centre</b> – White Hart Close Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)
<b>B A S H (Buntingford Action For Social Help):</b>	Providing transport for hospital and doctors appointments. Tel: Colin Horgan 07733 091731
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RAPE, RACE or HATE CRIME:</b>	Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554440 (in emergency, dial 999)
<b>LOCAL COUNCILS:</b>	<b>Buntingford Town Council</b> – 01763 272222 <b>East Herts District Council</b> – 01279 655261 Housing – 01279 714714 Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852 For emergencies out of office hours: 01279 655261 Adult Care Services – 0300 123 4042 Children’s Services – 0300 123 4043 <b>Hertfordshire Highways</b> – 0300 123 4047, or report faults online: <a href="http://www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults">www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults</a>
<b>BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:</b> High Street, Buntingford	<b>Opening times:</b> Mon, Tues, Thurs 10:00 – 16:00 Friday 14:00 – 16:00 Saturday 10:00 – 13:00 <b>Telephone enquiries</b> – 0300 123 4049 Option 1 – Renewals 03:00–23:45 every day Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00, Sat 09:00– 6:00
<b>CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:</b> The Manor House Market Hill, Buntingford	<b>Offices are currently closed due to Covid.</b> <b>For telephone advice</b> call 03444 111 444 (Mon to Fri 10am–4pm) or call the local Messageline on 01920 459 944 for a call back
<b>HOUSEHOLD WASTE &amp; RECYCLING SITE:</b> Watermill Industrial Estate Aspenden Road	<b>Usual opening:</b> Mon to Fri 17:00 – 20:00 Sat & Sun 10:00 – 13:00 <b>Currently closed due to Covid.</b> <b>Our nearest open recycling site is in Royston.</b>

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

## EDITOR'S LETTER

I don't know about you, but I'm getting pretty fed-up with everything being cancelled! The latest casualty to Covid is the Remembrance Service, which might not be cancelled completely but will be sadly diminished – no parade, no public, just a short service when three key wreaths will be laid (see page 12). So I was grateful to Val Hume for sending in some fascinating information about the Red House, the usual starting point for the Parade, and Claud Lovat Fraser who briefly lived there and later designed the town's War Memorial (pages 8-11). The article Val refers to was in the May 2018 Journal – if anyone would like to read or re-read it you can find it among the Journal back issues on the Civic Society website, which currently go up to the end of 2018.

When you consider what people went through during the two World Wars, it does put today's troubles with the virus into some sort of perspective. In this month of remembrance, I am delighted to have an article about the Women's Land Army (pages 23-28), researched and written by Carol Emery of the Buntingford Local History Group. I knew a bit about the Land Army in the Second World War, but I confess it was news to me that there even was a Women's Land Army during the First.

For me, there are so many highlights in this month's Journal I haven't room to mention them all, but I would like to say a big thank you to all the readers who responded to my comment last month about not having as much material. Such as Jenny Dingley, who sent in the piece about the Buntingford By-pass (pages 16-17). Given the current campaign to reduce speeds through the town, it is interesting to look back at a past successful campaign – and try to imagine what it must have been like to have all the A10 traffic on the High Street. Mary Godfrey and Sandra Wyatt both sent in poems, which I was particularly pleased to receive (page 45). And Louise Hampton has begun reporting on converting the old Barclays Bank into a fitting home for Attend2Health (page 34-35).

Speaking of banks, Vyse regales us with the trials and tribulations of travelling up and down the county just to do a bit of banking. Mark Cotton makes a welcome return with a report on the teams at Buntingford Town FC – now enhanced with photos courtesy of new volunteer club photographer, Jon Howes. Many congratulations to Suzanne Shearing of Buntingford Writers Group whose first novel will be coming out later this month (page 31). And finally, thank you to Jo Gant at Edwinstree Middle School for a frank article about dealing with some of the day-to-day difficulties of Covid-19.

Christine Noble

Many thanks to Brian Austin for proof-reading.

**Editorial copy deadline for the December 2020 /January 2021  
Journal is Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

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

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**email: [Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)**

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

# LETTERS & EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Christine

Thank you for putting the leaflet and information regarding Community First Responders in the October edition of the Buntingford Journal. I would be grateful if you could put an amendment into the November issue. I think there was a miscommunication and some of the information there was incorrect.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer emergency cover at Community Events. Whilst we were present at the Buntingford Walking Market and on duty should a call come through, we were there to raise awareness and engage with the local community by promoting the role of the Community First Responder.

My CFR Co-Ordinator has asked if you could also mention that we do have stalls at local events (such as the Braughing Wheelbarrow Race) where we promote Community First Responders and demonstrate how to carry out Basic Life Support. We can also offer training to groups, for example in schools. This was obviously pre-Covid and we will always work within social distancing guidelines when these events are able to go ahead

If anyone reading this would like to find out more about being a Community First Responder and what it takes to save a life, please call EEAST on **0345 6013733**, email [CFR@eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:CFR@eastamb.nhs.uk), or visit [www.eastamb.nhs.uk/CFR](http://www.eastamb.nhs.uk/CFR)

Kind Regards, **Fiona Selby**

**Editor's Note:** The mistake referred to was entirely down to me misinterpreting, or over-interpreting, Fiona's original submission. *CN*



**VOLUNTEER WITH EEAST**

**COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER**

Would you like to **save a life** and be at the heart of your community? Become a community first responder (CFR)



**FIND OUT MORE**  
For more information on becoming a CFR with EEAST, please call us on 0345 6013733, or email [CFR@eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:CFR@eastamb.nhs.uk), or visit [www.eastamb.nhs.uk/CFR](http://www.eastamb.nhs.uk/CFR)



## SUMPTUOUS SOUPS

*Homemade soups delivered to your door!  
Individually frozen for your convenience.*

2 portions 2 fresh bread rolls

**£4.50**

Red Pepper and Tomato

Wild Mushroom and Walnut

Celery and Stilton

Chilli Lentil

Creamed Leek and Potato

Carrot and Orange

**To order ring – 07501 495 940 or 01763 289 738**

Hello Christine

Thank you – belatedly again, time just seems to fly by – for kindly including the Sandon fete in the Journal.

Sadly, though, we had to take the decision to cancel because of the government’s announcement the week before – gutted, it was not only a beautiful day, but the villagers had really got behind the idea and come up with inspiring activities and ideas. Next year hopefully!

We did ,however hold the grand draw and cream tea and cake sales – so were able to raise a small amount.

With thoughts as to how we’re going to have to get ever more creative for fund-raising, we’re turning to baking Christmas puds and mince pies now!

Best wishes, **Gay Ayton**



**Yew Tree Alpacas**  
*Christmas Shop*

Meet our lovely Alpacas & buy your Christmas gifts

**Monday 7th – Saturday 12th December**  
**10.30am – 4.30pm each day**

Our range of alpaca products and other Christmas gifts include:

- Supersoft Alpaca socks
- Premium alpaca yarns from the Yew Tree herd
- Hand knitted luxury accessories including a wide range of alpaca hats & scarves
- Handmade Alpaca pillows \*
- Alpaca greeting & Christmas cards
- Scented Christmas candles
- Yew Tree chutneys & marmalades

\* made to order - samples on display

*N.B. Covid measures will be in place*

**Yew Tree Alpacas**  
Anstey, Herts SG9 0DA  
Tel: 01763 848257  
Email: [info@yewtreealpacos.co.uk](mailto:info@yewtreealpacos.co.uk)  
[www.yewtreealpacos.co.uk](http://www.yewtreealpacos.co.uk)

Complimentary refreshments



Some time ago, I made a plea for cover photos and Ashley Cantor very kindly responded with photos of cats and birds taken in his garden. Unfortunately, as they were taken back in May, they are not really suitable for a November cover, but I thought I would share this beautiful cat with you (and fill a gap!). There has been comment recently on a scarcity of the usual garden birds, and I’ve seen a suggestion that the red kites might be to blame. Personally, much as I love them, I think it’s more likely to be a rise in the numbers of these chaps! Or it could be something else entirely.

CN





# Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

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



It is becoming increasingly difficult to write my monthly tome when the only news seems to be increasing worries over Covid and reports of events being cancelled or seriously curtailed. As I write, the situation seems to be worsening daily and it is difficult to see how Christmas will not be severely impacted.

As a direct result of Covid, this year's Remembrance Sunday will still go ahead but with a drastically reduced audience. The High Street parade will not take place and the wreath laying will be on a much-reduced scale. Unfortunately it will not be possible to have the usual gathering of schools, scouts and guides etc. Very sad, but completely understandable.

I must recognise, and pass on my thanks, to Karen Lavers in these difficult times. If you are not aware, Karen has run the Buntingford Food Bank for several years providing much-needed assistance to families in need. She has also recently instigated the Buntingford 'walking markets', which I know have been a huge success, and most recently the 'pumpkin parade', which will give the kiddies something to do in the absence of their usual trick or treating. I am not sure where Karen gets the time or energy, but she deserves our utmost thanks.

Dandara have submitted their application for a further 23 dwellings in Aspenden Road, adjacent to their current ongoing development. This really is an unnecessary and unwanted application. It will do nothing but increase traffic along an already unsuitable and unsafe road and has been submitted by Dandara purely to make them more money. It brings nothing to Buntingford or its residents and should, I believe, be strongly resisted.

Please keep safe everyone. Look after yourselves and please help those who you believe may be struggling. And remember – HANDS ... FACE ... SPACE.

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

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

If you have something to contribute to the *Buntingford Journal*, please contact **Christine Noble** on **01763 273095** or email [Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

It's been another busy month for our **20's Plenty for Buntingford** campaign. During October we, along with other Herts 20's Plenty campaigning groups, issued a joint **Press Release** which was sent out to local press, County and Parish Councillors, political parties and other interest groups across Hertfordshire. The aim was to raise awareness of the need to set mandatory 20mph speed limits in order to increase road safety for vulnerable road users and to encourage as many people as possible to respond to the **Herts County Council Speed Management Strategy Consultation**. Thank you to everyone who managed to do this (it wasn't an easy task). Over 350 people sent in a response (a record figure) to the council and they will be sorting through the responses over the next few weeks in time for the next **Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel Meeting** scheduled for **19 November**. This will be a virtual meeting that members of the public are able to watch (for details visit the Herts County Council website and search for Watch Meetings).

**20MPH IS POPULAR** 70% of people support 20mph limits (rises after implementation).

**IT'S MUCH SAFER** 20mph is seven times less likely to kill someone than 30mph.

**BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT TOO** less acceleration means less pollution and also more walking and cycling happens when people feel safer.

It is Hertfordshire County Council's responsibility to set speed limits, so it will be interesting to see how they respond to the growing call for the introduction of wide area 20mph zones in the county. It's not only the growing number of Hertfordshire neighbourhoods blighted by speeding traffic who are calling for change, the **Stockholm Declaration on Road Safety (2020)** and the **World Health Organisation** both agree that 20mph limits have a big part to play in reducing deaths and serious injuries on roads both in the UK and the rest of the world.

We continue to hear from Buntingford residents, and those in near-by villages who have issues with speeding traffic. It's encouraging that local police are listening to those concerns and as a result of responses to the ECHO reporting system, the focus of policing over the next quarter is speeding issues.

### 3 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- **Purchase Campaign Stickers** to help raise awareness - email us for details
- **Join our Mailing List** to keep up-to-date with **Campaign News & Events**
  - **Email your County Councillor** calling for the 20mph speed limits (contact us for an email template)



### JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

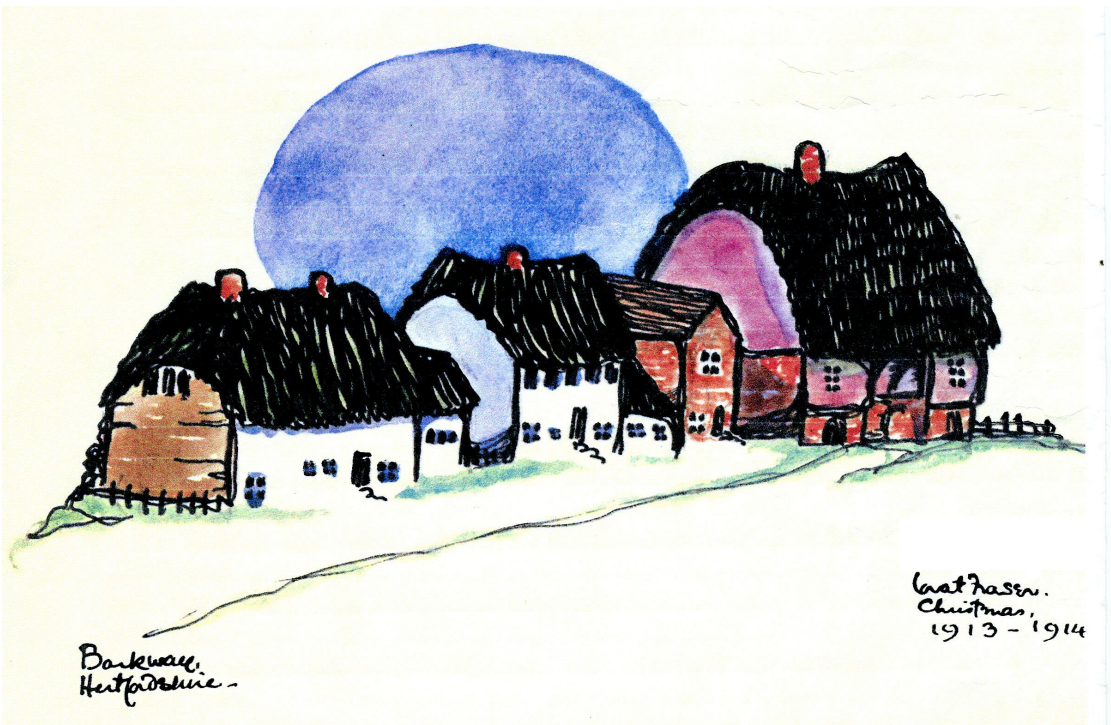
Join Mailing List/Contact: [buntingford@20splentyforus.org.uk](mailto:buntingford@20splentyforus.org.uk)  
Facebook: @20's Plenty for Buntingford  
Instagram: 20splentybuntingford  
Twitter: @20Buntingford  
[www.buntingford.20splentyforus.org.uk](http://www.buntingford.20splentyforus.org.uk)

## The Red House

Well done to Buntingford Civic Society for re-printing the 'Discovering Buntingford Town Trails'! As an addition to the reference to The Red House on page 13 in that booklet, I thought Journal readers might be interested to see a copy of the Sale Particulars (opposite and pages 10-11), originally published in June 1910 when the house was auctioned at The George Hotel. At that sale, the house was purchased by the parents of Claud Lovat Fraser (right) who came to live here with them for a while to recuperate from ill health. The drawing below is one that he made during this period of some cottages in Barkway. It was the last Christmas of peace before the First World War.

Fraser went on to become a hugely influential artist and designer. I very much enjoyed the article about him which appeared in the Journal some time ago (May 2018). You might note the drawing is signed 'Lovat Fraser' – his given name was Lovat Claud and it was his choice to switch the two round. He served as an officer in the First World War and when it was over he was commissioned to design the town's War Memorial, his most lasting legacy to Buntingford. The family grave in the older section of Layston Churchyard is sadly neglected, but still worth a visit if you are passing.

Val Hume



Re Charles Bond, deceased.

# BUNTINGFORD

## HERTS,

On the Great Eastern Railway, with good train service to London.

---

### Particulars and Conditions of Sale of

## An Old-Fashioned

# COUNTRY RESIDENCE

Situate in the centre of this quaint old Town, and known as "The Red House" with 8 bed and dressing rooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms and offices,

**PLEASURE GARDEN WITH TENNIS LAWN.**

Stabling, etc., together with

**A COMPACT FARMERY**

with Range of Buildings well away from the Residence,

**A 7-ROOMED DWELLING HOUSE,**

in the occupation of Mr. J. Boniwell, and

**3 COMMODIOUS COTTAGES**

known as Nos. 1, 2 & 3, Oxford Terrace. With the exception of the residence (which is sold with possession on completion, and until recently let at £55), the property is occupied, and produces £55 : 6 : per annum. Also the

**VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND**

(let in allotments), situate in a high and healthy position in New Town, Buntingford, with excellent frontages and good depths to Garden Road, and ripe for immediate development.

WHICH MESSRS.

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## BRAUND & ORAM

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By direction of the Executors under the will of the late Mr. Charles Bond, will

Sell by Auction, at **THE GEORGE HOTEL, BUNTINGFORD,**

**ON FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1910,**

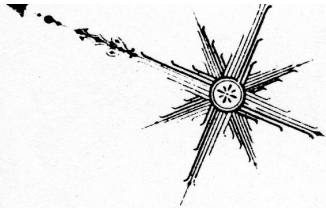
At 3.30 for 4 o'clock, in Lots.

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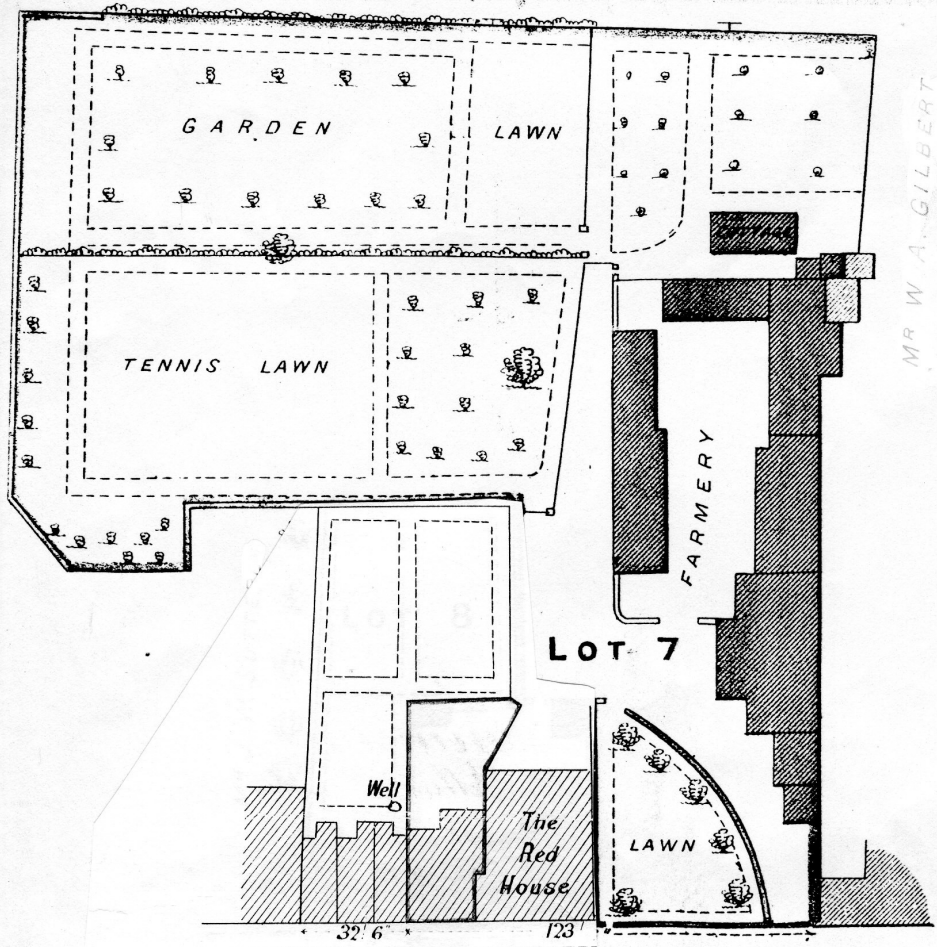
*May be viewed by permission of the Tenants.*

*Solicitor:* H. LOMAS, Esq., Rickmansworth.

*Auctioneers:* Messrs. BRAUND & ORAM, Hertford and Ware.



MR C. H. POULTON



MR W. A. GILBERT

LOT 7

From Rowston.

HIGH STREET

To

Scale, 50 feet to 1 inch.

Lot 7 (coloured Pink on Plan).

# The Old-Fashioned COUNTRY RESIDENCE, KNOWN AS "THE RED HOUSE,"

Of pleasing elevation and well-built in red brick with tiled roof, situate in the centre of the old town of Buntingford (proverbial for its healthiness and beautiful scenery and interesting by reason of the many quaint houses of various ages and styles of architecture) on the road to Royston and 31 miles from London.

The Property is within 8 minutes walk of the Station on the Great Eastern Railway with good service of trains to Liverpool Street and St. Pancras; is in the centre of the Puckeridge Hunt, near Golf Links, in both a residential and sporting district and forms an ideal investment for anyone seeking a Country Home without the burden of a large estate; the whole pre-eminently adapted for a hunting box or for a gentleman retiring from the more active duties of life.

**THE HOUSE** embraces the following accommodation:—

**On the Second Floor:** Quaint Landing leading to two bedrooms, each measuring about 14 feet by 13 feet (one having fireplace and cupboard).

**On the First Floor:** Five Principal Bedchambers (4 fitted with stoves) and Dressing Room, Bath Room (c.s.), Housemaids Sink (s.w.s.), and w.c. with modern pedestal fittings, Good Store or Linen Closet, and excellent cupboards. Gas is laid to this floor.

Lofty Landing with **FINE OLD STAIRCASE** leading to the

**Ground Floor** with Spacious Hall, Panelled Dining Room measuring 18ft. x 15ft. 6in. and 9ft. high, with picturesque cupboards on either side of fireplace; Drawing Room 16ft. x 14ft. x 9ft. high, with window and steps to Garden; and Morning Room or Library about 12ft. square, with garden entrance.

**The Domestic Offices** include Kitchen, 13ft. x 10ft. 6in. x 9ft. high, with oven and boiler range, dresser fitted with shelves, 2 drawers and cupboard under; Pantry with sink (c.w.s.) and shelving; Scullery fitted with copper, sink, shelving and cupboard; and Larder fitted with shelving.

**In the Basement,** Excellent Dry Cellarage.

There is a small walled-in garden at side and enclosed yard at rear with outbuildings & w.c.

## Large Pleasure Garden

with Tennis or Croquet Lawn and well-stocked Kitchen Garden.

**N.B.**—The House is at present in hand, but was until recently let at £55 per annum. It is in good decorative repair, a considerable sum of money having a short time back been expended on same, including the modernising of the drainage. Water mains pass the property. Possession of this will be given on completion of the purchase. Such fixtures as are the property of the vendors will be included in the purchase money.



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

**Minister:** Vacant

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

**The Church remains closed for services, but the Hall is open for bookings. Call Tracey Palin on 01763 271749 for Hall availability and details of restrictions due to Coronavirus.**

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

## ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

**Parish Priest:** Reverend Father Cyril Chiaha

**See the Church notice board or check with your parish priest for current arrangements regarding Mass times and Confessions.**



## Remembrance Sunday 8th November, 2020

In recent years, we have become used to a large crowd gathering at the War Memorial at 11am to show their respects to those who gave their lives in the World Wars and other conflicts. Sadly, due to Covid-19, this cannot take place this year.

There will be a small service at the War Memorial, and the road will be closed by the police as usual, but the parade from the Red House down the High Street will NOT take place and the Buntingford public are politely requested NOT to attend the service. Everyone is, of course, invited to join in the two-minute silence at home or wherever you are.

The small service is invitation only and the laying of wreaths will be limited to three key wreaths. All other organisations in the Town who normally lay a wreath at the Memorial are requested to do this at a different time, when the War Memorial is quiet.

# United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill



To everyone in Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill. Along with everyone else, we have had a challenging 2020 in our churches, but I wanted to update you all on how we have adapted and continue to do so for our community.



## Church at Home Packs

Every week we produce a PDF Church at Home pack for people to use on their own or as a family. It contains everything needed for a short service, including something for the younger members of the family too. This is emailed to most people, but we hand deliver to a few people without access to email.



## Sunday Zoom Service

Every week we hold a service on Zoom at 11:15am. If you haven't tried Zoom it is actually really easy and what is lovely about this service is that we get to sing! (Don't worry, others don't get to hear you, so you can sing as loud as you like!)



## Holy Communion

Every week we also have a simple service of Holy Communion in one of our churches. We have strict protocols in place to keep people safe and are adhering to all the government guidelines.

It would be wonderful to include you in one or more of these services. Please contact Nina to be added to the Church at Home pack mailing list (emailed or delivered) or for details on joining our Sunday Zoom Services. Nina can also help should you wish to join our physical church services. It would be wonderful to see you. Nina's contact details: Email: [admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk](mailto:admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk) or Mobile **07484 345027**

We have already celebrated harvest. This year, many of our church members have given money directly to both the Buntingford Food Bank and the Bishops Harvest Appeal (Creating a Buzz in Nepal) instead of our more usual collections.



This has been a difficult year for those who have been bereaved. Normally we would hold a special service inside church to act as a marker for our memories of our loved ones. This year, on All Saints Day, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 3:00pm, we are holding a simple outdoor service in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Westmill. The day after (All Souls Day), we will be making a Memory Tree in St Peter's Church and will light a candle, remembering those who died and praying for those left behind.



I am pleased to announce that Christmas will not be cancelled! Jesus will still come, God will be with us, we are still loved infinitely by our heavenly Father. But how we celebrate will be very different as we are not going to be able to have our usual large services. We are already planning on-line and YouTube carol services. So Christmas may be different this year, but if we allow God to meet with us in a special way, it could still be very memorable.

Please visit our Website for further information and our latest virtual events, including all our social media platforms, at [www.unitedbenefice.org.uk](http://www.unitedbenefice.org.uk). Keep safe, keep well and God Bless.

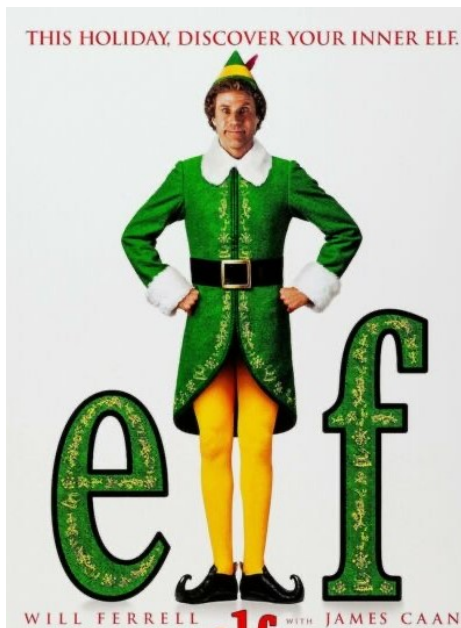
Reverend Ian Hill

## BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

The Film Club itself is not running any shows at the moment but we are happy to be supporting Kay & Matt Hamilton-Crook who are showing films at half-term and before Christmas in the beautiful surrounding of The Barn at Alswick. Here are some details for your interest:

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October Ghostbusters at 2pm / Shaun of the Dead at 7pm**

**Christmas Films: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December  
Elf at 2pm / Bad Santa at 7pm**



### Ticket Prices:

**Matinees: £10 Adult, £5 Child, £25 family (2 adults + 3 children)**

**Evenings: £120 for a table of 6, including meat & cheese or vegan platters & bottle of wine. Waitress service.**

Tickets for these film events are only available on Billeto. **Please note** that no tickets are being sold at our usual Box Office.

## BUNTINGFORD SHORTS

We are delighted to announce that after three most successful **Short Film Competitions** we have now launched our fourth contest. This is being run online and judging will take place in February 2021.

We are using the FilmFreeway online submission system which is used by some of the big film festivals worldwide. Already we have had an incredible response, having received 23 entries from students on 5 continents and in 11 countries!

Any student aged between 12 and 25 is eligible to enter and entry is completely FREE. This year there are prizes of £100 for the best short film in each of six genres: Drama, Comedy, Documentary, Animation, Musical/Music Video, and Horror.

News of the event is already circulating on social media, but if you know anyone who might be interested please encourage them to check out the details on our website:

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

or to enter via our FilmFreeway page:

[www.FilmFreeway.com/BuntingfordShorts](http://www.FilmFreeway.com/BuntingfordShorts)

Thanks go to Jake Andrews (from a distance at Derby University) and his team, which has recently been joined by our well-known local technical guru, Paul Hutton.

**Christine Stuart-Taylor**  
**Event Co-ordinator**  
**01763 272990**

**WE ARE NOW LIVE  
AND ACCEPTING  
ENTRIES FOR 2021!**



**BUNTINGFORD SHORTS**

**TO ENTER AND FIND OUT MORE HEAD TO  
[WWW.BUNTINGFORDSHORTS.COM/2021](http://WWW.BUNTINGFORDSHORTS.COM/2021)**

## **BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS' CLUB**

Buntingford Gardeners' Club Committee were due to meet in a member's garden at the beginning of September to agree a way forward for the club when the 'rule of six' came into our lives. As a result just 3 out of 9 committee members actually met to make recommendations to the rest of the committee via email, not the best way to make decisions.

Even though the United Reformed Church Hall is open again, the restrictions we would have had to put in place – in terms of seating, numbers and movement around the room – created too many problems. Reluctantly it was decided to cancel the remaining club nights up to March 2021. Speakers are being rebooked for future dates.

We have kept in touch with our members via email and are producing a monthly newsletter with photos of members' gardens, visits, jokes, quizzes and offers of any plants surplus to requirements.



Club Chair Liz James (on the right) presenting Lesley Lowers with the 2020 RHS Banksian Medal and Certificate.

The RHS Banksian Medal and Certificate was ordered and was to be used to reward the 'Best in Show' at our Annual Show. With no show this year it seemed a good idea to use the medal to recognise someone for their work on behalf of the club. Nominations were asked for and Club Secretary Lesley Lowers was the only person nominated.

Liz James says: "It is my pleasure, as Chair, to present the 2020 RHS Banksian medal to Lesley Lowers. She has worked enthusiastically at her role of secretary, ensuring that the club is run smoothly. She has lots of ideas and has booked great speakers. Unfortunately, with the world as it is with Covid-19, we will have to wait until 2021 to hear them as they have been deferred for a year."

## A short history of the Buntingford By-pass

**“Stop here and be sorry, because you’ll end up under a lorry”** ... was one of the many slogans used by by-pass campaigners in the 1970s to push for the re-routing of through traffic away from Buntingford’s jammed High Street. Other banners declared **“Prms v lorries – we don’t stand a chance”** and **“Pollution is the killer; solution is bypass or gas mask”**.

In modern times, prior to being by-passed, our High Street served a dual role. For Buntingford residents it was primarily a shopping centre serving the local population along with visitors from nearby villages, but it was also one of the last remaining bottlenecks on the A10 trunk road from London to Cambridge and thence on to Kings Lynn. The junctions with the B1038 and the A507, which forms part of an important east-west road network between the M1 and the expanding east coast ports and holiday resorts, also meant considerable and increasing volumes of traffic having to negotiate their way through the town. One of the straightest High Streets in the country it was also, at just 22 feet wide, one of the narrowest and fell way below the 30-foot minimum width for a trunk road. The pavement was only 3 feet wide in parts, rendering it completely inadequate for the safety of both pedestrians and drivers alike. Traffic jams, pollution, noise and fumes all added to the problems for pedestrians trying to negotiate the street, but widening it was neither practicable nor desirable.

Although the narrowness and congestion of the High Street necessitated drivers proceeding with special care, there were frequently minor accidents and the potential dangers were great. Problems included vehicles having to mount the pavements on both sides of the road in order to negotiate parked cars and lorries delivering to shops. Damage was caused to many of the older timber-framed buildings from both the ground and air vibrations of heavy vehicles in what had been decreed a conservation area and where over half of the buildings along the road carried listed status. Ceilings had fallen in, cracks appeared in plaster work, roofs had sunk and tiles loosened.

In order to balance the preservation of the fabric of these High Street buildings, the safety of pedestrians and the viability of Buntingford as a local shopping centre against the free flowing of through traffic the only possible solution was the construction of a by-pass, but it took many years for this to become a reality. With the volume of traffic steadily increasing over the decades, active discussions regarding a by-pass for Buntingford had been taking place since long before the Second World War and continued for 50 years, as these extracts show:

*“Buntingford is an important centre, and although the existing main road is generally sufficient for present traffic, it is important in any scheme of development for the town that the possibilities of a by-pass on the west side of the town should be considered.”*

*Herts Regional Planning Report 1927*

*“Market Hill and High Street are exposed to a noise level far in excess of what is accepted as even the minimum standard ... through traffic ... coupled with local traffic ... had led to completely unacceptable conditions.”* HCC County Surveyor’s report 1974

Several routes were proposed, swinging both east and west from the old Sainsbury depot at the southern end of the town, and these were open to public consultation in May 1977. The eastern route was investigated but quickly discarded due to the loss of many trees and parkland and the severance of several farms. A western route was thought to have more advantages, especially including the relief to the town of a substantial amount of traffic from the A507. Four possible options were proposed, each of which had their own advantages and disadvantages. Residents of Parkside were concerned about the impact of the bypass on their quality of life. Aspenden residents were similarly concerned

but these fears were largely laid to rest as the majority of the village would be hidden from the bypass apart, possibly, from those houses immediately beside the village green. The line of the bypass would also, it was argued, form an effective barrier to any further encroachment of Buntingford into the village as well as hiding the view of the Sainsbury depot and the Watermill Industrial estate.

Campaigning and good sense finally led to approval by the Secretary of State for Transport in April 1985 and, with a proposed cost of £4 million, the job was allocated to A Monk and Co plc. They broke ground on Monday January 27<sup>th</sup> 1986. The occasion was marked by a turf cutting ceremony to celebrate the years of active lobbying and the support of local people that had finally got the project underway. The Archaeology Section of the County Planning and Estates Department kept a watching brief on the work as it progressed, but little of note was uncovered.

The 2.7-mile single carriageway by-pass was fully open to through traffic from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 1987 and the old High Street was left in relative peace from about mid-day. Traffic counts in 1988 recorded 9400 vehicles using the bypass in a 16-hour period of which some 1400 were heavy goods vehicles. Traffic flows within the town reduced considerably, accident rates were significantly down and no problems associated with traffic usage along the bypass were identified. Only one complaint was received which related to the riding quality of the carriageway surface, but this was dismissed as any change to the concrete surface would prove very costly.

After the opening of the by-pass and the diversion of most of the traffic and almost all of the lorries onto the new road, Herts County Council planned for significant improvements to the High Street. An action group made up of County, District and Town Council representatives alongside other civic body spokespersons mounted an exhibition in June 1987 to canvass the views of local people on the High Street's future. The County Council was concerned to *"conserve and enhance the character of the town centre, particularly its rich historical heritage"*.

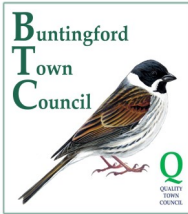
The improvement scheme included a revised priority at the junction of Baldock Road with the High Street, intended to send any through traffic away from the High Street and towards the bypass. New parking bays were introduced with a further two disabled driver bays at pavement level along the High Street, all with parking limited to 30 minutes. Several 'throttles' and speed tables were constructed to slow traffic and enable pedestrian crossing. An enlarged delivery area for the High Street supermarket was constructed and a roundabout at Vicarage Road was introduced to help slow traffic at the northern end. Weight restriction on vehicles entering from the north was reduced to 5 tonnes with fines for non-compliance. New paving and blocking served to identify the different areas and make visiting the High Street a pleasant experience.

There have been a number of 'tinkerings' with the original layout and discussions on these seem to be ongoing. Despite some disregard for parking regulations with cars parked half on the pavements, the abundance of 'A' frame advertising boards and the increasing proliferation of on-street chairs and furniture making the journey of a pedestrian more difficult than was intended, there can be no comparison to the conditions of the High Street of the early 1980s.

**Jenny Dingley**

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

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



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

## A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

Unless further restrictions are imposed, the Town Council office is now open Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm. Visitors are restricted to one person at a time, but please call in if you need information, dog bags or bus timetables etc.

Sadly I have to report that one of our longstanding Councillors, John Noades, has resigned from the Council. John served almost 17 years as a Councillor and during that time he served as Town Mayor on five occasions. He will be greatly missed and we wish him and his wife, Janet, all the very best for the future.

We have been liaising with the British Legion regarding **Remembrance Sunday** which this year is on the **8<sup>th</sup> November**. It has been decided to hold a very small, limited service to facilitate the laying of three key wreaths. Whilst we realise that this is an important occasion for many people, we ask that you do not attend as you would in normal years in order to prevent risk to the public and attendees due to lack of social distancing. If anyone wishes to lay a wreath, we ask that you do this in your own time when the area is not crowded.

The Community Centre is now open with the usual restrictions. We are still unable to hire the centre out for parties and cannot permit use of the changing rooms.

If after lockdown you feel the need to work away from the house, then we have an empty office at the Manor House, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, which will accommodate a small business. If you are interested in leasing an office please give us a call, the office comes with one parking space.

**Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE, Town Clerk**

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

The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AB

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

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

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

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

### Town Council meetings for November 2020

Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	7:00pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	7:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	7:00pm – Full Council

**All meetings will be held remotely,**  
details for observing the meetings can be obtained from the Clerk's office.



## News from Your District and County Councillor, Jeff Jones

Covid-19 continues to dominate our lives with the latest Tier system being implemented and currently Buntingford and Hertfordshire being in 'Tier 1:Medium'. As I write this article our neighbours, Essex, have been put into Tier 2 along with London. This is worrying for Hertfordshire residents as, being so close to London, it is possible that we may also be included with our neighbours in Tier 2.

As a reminder of the restrictions for Tier, please see the chart below. It is hoped that if everybody adheres to these measures we will see infection rates drop and avoid further restrictions being put upon us. Hertfordshire saw an infection rate on 9<sup>th</sup> October of 90 per 100,000 population. As of 17<sup>th</sup> October this had dropped to 57 per 100,000. This could be partly because positive cases among university students had been recorded at the GP they were registered with. Therefore a student who tested positive at university in Nottingham, for example, but still registered with their GP in Hertfordshire would be included in the Hertfordshire figures. This has now been amended.

### Hertfordshire COVID-19 Cases

**8,126** cases, **669** in the last 7 days, or **56.49** cases per 100,000 population

### East Hertfordshire COVID-19 Cases

**877** cases, **96** in the last 7 days, or **64.82** cases per 100,000 population

*Figures as of 17/10/2020.*

*Because it takes time for tests to be processed, figures for the most recent days are partial.*

### A10 Southern Roundabout

Following the positive results of the consultation, Highways are proposing to the Highways Cabinet Panel that this project is taken forward and funding requested from Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The LEP would then decide, compared with other projects they are considering,

if this one progresses. If approved for funding, the A10 Southern Roundabout Upgrade is planned for completion in June 2022. It will improve congestion in rush hour periods, and will be a vital part of any future plans to dual the remaining southern section of the A10.

### Redrow, The Maples

The final highways traffic calming measures along Ermine St and the opening of the Neale

### Key differences in England alert system

<b>TIER 1: MEDIUM</b>	
Follow the rule of six if meeting indoors or outdoors	
Pubs and restaurants to shut at 10pm	
<b>TIER 2: HIGH</b>	
No household mixing indoors	
Rule of six will apply outdoors	
Pubs and restaurants to shut at 10pm	
<b>TIER 3: VERY HIGH</b> Further measures may be agreed locally	
No household mixing indoors or outdoors in hospitality venues or private gardens	
Rule of six applies in outdoor public spaces like parks	
Pubs and bars not serving meals will be closed	
Guidance against travelling in and out of the area	



Drive spine road onto the A10 is expected to be completed very soon. Following a meeting with Highways, Redrow Homes will be applying for the road space booking to complete this final part of the Redrow Development to the north of the town. Once complete we will be seeing less traffic congestion in the town and reduced speeding traffic along Ermine St, making for a safer environment.

### **BCAT**

It is hoped that the Buntingford Community Area Transport hopper bus service will resume in November. Strict Covid measures will have to be implemented to make the service safe for users and drivers. Passenger numbers will need to be reduced and the service may need to operate on a pre-booked dial-a-ride type service. We would be interested to receive feedback on if you would like to use the service and where too. Please contact me (contact details below) or the Town Council with your comments.

### **Job Smart scheme**

The CVS for Broxbourne and East Herts (CVSBEH) is supporting a new scheme to help people who have recently lost their job as a result of Covid-19. The scheme is a partnership of CVSBEH, East Herts Council, Broxbourne Council, B3Living, Network Homes and the Department for Work and Pensions. It will offer support for people who might need help updating their CV, setting up a LinkedIn profile, or brushing up on online interview skills.

Buntingford has been identified as one area that could benefit from the project and a drop-in service will be based in the Seth Ward Community Centre from 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1pm to 4pm. They are hoping Citizens Advice will join them offering a wraparound advice service.

### **Seniors' Christmas Lunch**

I am sure regular attendees of the Xmas Lunch that I arrange for our senior citizens will have realized already that it will not be possible to hold the event this year due to Covid-19. With the strict social distancing measures required, and with the attendees being in our most vulnerable group of citizens, we will not be able to host the lunch safely. Hopefully I will be able to welcome our seniors back for Xmas Lunch next year.

### **Councillor Advice**

If you have any council matters that you need help with, I am always available on the contact details below.

**Cllr Jeff Jones, District and County Councillor, Buntingford Ward  
07836 232963 / [Jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk)**



**Have you recently lost your job as a result of Covid-19?**

Do you think you could do with a refresher on getting your CV up to date, setting up or improving your LinkedIn profile or online interview skills?

Whether you need virtual, online or face to face support to improve your skills and confidence, our Job Smart scheme may be able to help.

**Job Smart**  
Broxbourne & East Herts

Email us at [jobsmart@cvsbeh.org.uk](mailto:jobsmart@cvsbeh.org.uk) or call 0300 123 1034 / 07487246992 or visit [www.cvsbeh.org.uk/jobsmart](http://www.cvsbeh.org.uk/jobsmart) for more information.

For more information, visit [www.cvsbeh.org.uk/jobsmart](http://www.cvsbeh.org.uk/jobsmart). Alternatively, contact [jobsmart@cvsbeh.org.uk](mailto:jobsmart@cvsbeh.org.uk) or call 0300 123 1034.



## Community Grants from East Herts Council

### Up to £300 available from the Small Grants Programme

This programme aims to help people get new ideas off the ground and to restart projects that benefit the wider community. It is open for applications from community and voluntary organisations. Individuals and informal groups can also apply. You can find out

more about our priorities on the Council's website at [www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-wellbeing/funding-community-organisations-and-individuals](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-wellbeing/funding-community-organisations-and-individuals).

We accept applications any time and applying is simple, but please note that you will need to discuss your idea first with the Council's grants manager Claire Pullen ([claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk)) and your local East Herts Ward Councillor. In the past, we have funded such things as an Arts Trail on a village High Street, training for volunteers, apple picker tools for a community orchard, and a Men's Shed project.

### New crowdfunding matched fund is now open

East Herts Council is looking for community focused projects which strengthen the community and lead to the improved health and well-being of residents. We are especially interested in projects supporting vulnerable people. Eligible voluntary organisations could get up to £2,000 of matched funding for a local project. See [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/funds/east-herts](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/funds/east-herts) for more information. Applications will be accepted up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 as long as funds are still available.

### Large grants programme opened 15<sup>th</sup> October

East Herts Council has more than £80,000 of grant funding available for building improvement projects, as well as socially distanced activities and services delivered according to government guidelines. The deadline for applications is 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. For more information contact Claire on [claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk). In the past, we have funded a community garden at a local primary school, a Parkinsons Support Group, arts and crafts outreach, and improvements to a bowls club and cricket pavillion.

### Registering for the East Herts Lottery

More than 90 organisations are registered on the East Herts Lottery, raising a steady year-round income that helps them become less reliant on grants. Organisations such as Bury Rangers Football Club, Tidy Up Bishop's Stortford, Widford Playing Field, Wiggly Willow CIC, Much Hadham Forge Museum, Bishop's Stortford Breathe Easy Group and many others are benefitting from the Lottery. With just 20 ticket sales a week, groups can raise over £500 a year. There's no risk, no cost and no administration. To get started, register at [www.easthertslottery.co.uk/good-causes/apply](http://www.easthertslottery.co.uk/good-causes/apply). Be sure to check that you meet the terms and conditions before you apply.

## East Herts launches online 'Healthy Hub'

Mental health and coping with bereavement are among the online courses available on 'Healthy Hub East Herts', a newly launched hub offering support for different health and wellbeing needs in East Herts. Other sessions cover healthy eating, being job smart, and lots more topics aimed at helping people cope with new experiences, learn new skills and generally improve health and wellbeing. Afternoon or evening sessions are available. Eric Buckmaster, executive Council member for wellbeing, said: "The Healthy Hub East Herts is your go-to site for sessions to guide you to better health as you deal with a range of challenging life situations. It will be regularly updated with new sessions and topics, so if you need support in an area of your life, keep an eye on the website." For more information go to:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-wellbeing/healthy-hub-east-herts](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-wellbeing/healthy-hub-east-herts)



FORQ were delighted to hear from our President, the Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald QC MP (North East Hertfordshire), that he and Broxbourne MP, Sir Charles Walker, had set up a new All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) to fight for better river quality in chalk streams

and less damaging abstraction. As we know, Sir Oliver has campaigned for many years on chalk stream issues.

The APPG held its first meeting (virtually) on 15<sup>th</sup> September, attended by over 20 MPs. Sir Charles Walker MP was elected Chairman, with Sir Oliver as Vice Chairman. The next step is to meet with the responsible Minister to put the case for chalk streams.

Also in Parliament, the Rt Hon Phillip Dunne MP (Ludlow), Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee, has just published a Private Member's Bill designed to tackle river pollution from untreated sewage and improve water quality. Amongst other things, the Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill places a duty on water companies to ensure untreated sewage is not discharged into rivers and other inland waters. More details on the Bill are available on the FORQ website.

The Chalk Aquifer Alliance (CAA) has been continuing to provide excellent speakers for their series of lectures. Fergal Sharkey, who has been a long-time passionate campaigner on rivers and chalk streams, was kind enough to give a talk in September entitled 'Seven Deadly Sins – the lies told to you by the water companies and Environment Agency'. A very active Q&A session followed the presentation. If you missed it you can still watch a recording of it via the blog section of the FORQ website.

The series of presentations continues through October and November. On 21<sup>st</sup> October Charles Rangeley-Wilson speaks on 'Chalk Streams First'. This is followed on 4<sup>th</sup> November by Robin Price speaking on 'Safeguarding a sustainable supply of water for the East of England', then on 18<sup>th</sup> November by Mike Jones, whose talk is entitled 'Exploring managed aquifer recharge'. To attend these virtual events please register via the CAA website. All of them are recorded so if you can't make it on the day you can go to either the FORQ or the CAA websites to watch at your convenience. Useful links:

<https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com/blog/>

<https://chalkaquiferalliance.wordpress.com/events/>

**Pauline Ayres, Communications FORQ**

## **Buntingford Twinning Association**

There remains nothing to report because of the COVID situation here and in France and Spain. Our AGM will be postponed and we will update you as soon as we can in the New Year. In the meantime we hope that all Journal readers will keep healthy and safe.

**Steve and Mary Deeks**

If you would like to **advertise** in the *Buntingford Journal*, please contact **Keith Edwards** on **01763 272032** or email **Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk**

# The Women's Land Army

As Remembrance Day comes this month, I thought it would be an ideal time to look at one of the other groups who played an important part in both World Wars. This is a tribute to the women who volunteered for the Women's Land Army, a group who seem to have been largely overlooked yet who helped to feed the nation when it was most needed.

Following heavy losses of troops in the First World War, it was decided that more men would be needed to fight so men in reserved occupations such as farming, forestry and factory work were conscripted to join up. At the onset of the war Britain was importing over 50% of its food and the government were worried that this supply was being depleted by the sinking of merchant ships.

Individually British farmers knew how much they produced but had no idea how much was needed nationally. They were cross that their workforce was being sent away to fight leaving them short of young men to work on the farms. Farm work wasn't very mechanised at the time with most farms relying on horses to pull ploughs etc.

Women were keen to help with the war effort and when, in 1915, the government called for women to take on war work around a million signed up. Most of these ended up in munitions factories, making shells and bullets for use at the Front, but some were sent to help on farms. They met fierce opposition from the farmers and unions who thought they could only do light work and wouldn't be as useful as the men they were to replace.

Lady Denham, a prominent member of the newly formed WI, travelled the country recruiting women. They had to undergo an interview before they were accepted and records at the archives contain the following comments made on some of the girls:

*"A very nice girl strangely keen on milking – described herself as having a craze for it. NB she has no experience of milking cows."*

*"A very poor rough type – wants a change. Wants to go to another county after training. Is tired of Hertfordshire. Would probably get tired of anything shortly"*

*"A big girl, rather anaemic looking but has been at munitions for months. Previously in domestic service. Excellent references from her employer. A suitable girl and keen."*

By July 1918 it was estimated that there were 16,000 members in the Land Army. They were divided into three groups:

1. Agriculture, milking, lambing, planting root crops and corn. Hoeing, harvesting and other light duties.
2. Timber cutting, working in forests cutting and sawing timber to be used in ships and for pit props, etc.
3. Forage, growing and harvesting fodder for horses that were being used on the front line. Some girls actually went to the front to care for the horses.

The women did receive some training but it was very basic and they had to learn on the farms as they went along. They also had to purchase their own uniforms which consisted of a hat, a coat smock, breeches, a shirt and boots; the cost was 35 shillings (£1.75) but extra for the boots.

One woman who volunteered for the Land Army was Grace Mary Dobson (photo overleaf), who had been born in Louth, Lincolnshire, in 1890. Her family moved to Stevenage in the early 1900s and she enrolled in the Land Army at the outset of war. She met George Aylott whilst he was delivering hay to the farm in Cottered where she



Grace Mary Dobson in her First World War Land Girls uniform. Like many Land Girls, she met her future husband while working on the farm.

worked and they were married in November 1918. They had four children: Barbara, Frank, Benjamin and Richard.

The girls had their own magazine called 'The Landwomen', which was full of tips, poems and articles. These adapted nursery rhymes are from an edition in 1918.

*Hickory Dickory Dock,  
The Mouse ran up the smock  
She did not flinch or budge an inch  
The mouse died of shock.*

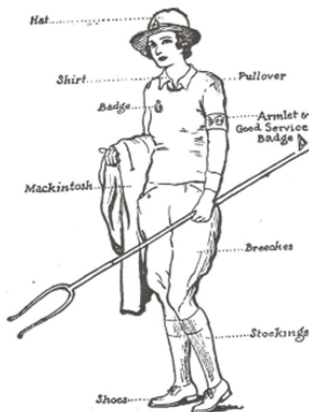
*Little Bo Peep  
Has all her sheep  
And knows just were to find them,  
She's joined, you see,  
The land Armee;  
We've taught her how to mind 'em.*

The work was hard and the hours long, but most of the girls seemed to have enjoyed their work. For some it was better than working in domestic service or in the mills up north. The Land Army was officially disbanded on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1919.

By 1938/39 the British government was preparing for another conflict which seemed to be getting closer and it was decided to approach Lady Denham to form a new Women's Land Army. By July 1939 she had set up in her own house at Balcombe Place in Haywards Heath, Sussex.

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LAND GIRL



This time uniforms were supplied for free. They were more practical as well.

- A rainproof mackintosh
- A khaki overall coat
- 2 fawn shirts
- A pair of corduroy breeches
- A pair of dungarees
- A green knitted pullover
- 3 pairs of fawn stockings
- A pair of heavy brown shoes
- A pair of rubber gum boots
- A brown felt hat
- A green armband with red royal crown on it.

Recruiting started in earnest and by April 1940 they had 12,000 girls on their books. The girls were interviewed and if accepted they received a membership card and a Women's Land Army badge. They were also issued with a free uniform (below left).

Again, training was a bit hit and miss. Some received up to 4 weeks' training at agricultural colleges, Oaklands at St Albans being the nearest one to Buntingford. Others had no training at all and had to learn on the job. Whilst training they were paid 10 shillings a week (50p) and received free board and lodgings. Very few of the girls had any experience of farming and whilst the recruitment posters had painted a rosy picture of working on the land, the harsh reality soon kicked in. The hours were long and strenuous and the pay was poor. At the beginning of the war they received 28 shillings a week (£1.40p), out of which they had to pay for their own board and lodging. This rose to 48 shillings (£2.40) by 1944.

The girls were often a long way from home and either lodged with the farmer's family or lived in hostels. Local hostels were often large houses requisitioned by the government. Our nearest was Wyddial Hall, the Heaton-Ellis family having moved to The Orchard, a smaller property in Wyddial, so the Land Girls could be billeted in the main Hall. There was a matron in charge and it



Above: Land Girls billeted at Wyddial Hall in 1943, in a photo taken for a book by local historian Philip Plumb. Below: Land Girls based at Rowney Priory, Dane End.



was her job to run the hostel. She would sometimes provide entertainment in the form of dances and social evenings, inviting local soldiers from the REME depot to attend.



Sawing with a cross-cut saw was hard physical work requiring women to work together.

In 1942 a new branch of the Land Army was formed – The Women's Timber Corps, whose members became known as the 'Lumber Jills'. Girls had to be at least 21 and have a good education. They were trained at the Forestry Commission's training centre in the Forest of Dean. Most of the girls came from the cities and had no idea about trees, so they were taught to identify different trees and how to fell them with axes and saws – there were very few chainsaws in the 1940s.

After felling, they had to strip the bark and cut the wood into suitable planks. They learnt how to make pit props and how to burn wood to make charcoal which was used in the manufacture of gas masks. They had to use tractors and horses to drag the trees out of the forests, clear the debris and replant new saplings to replace the felled trees. The Lumber Jills had higher wages than the Land Girls, at 45 shillings (£2.25). They moved from forest to forest, often working in the same teams.

In a book called 'Buntingford at War', Mary Doidge (nee Doyle) recalls her experience as a Land Girl. She joined up to get out of the mill in Yorkshire where she worked. Originally posted to Skipton near where she lived, she was later sent to Wyddial. She travelled down by train with 11 other girls and arrived feeling very homesick. However, she was very impressed with Wyddial Hall and her first meal of corned beef and baked potato.

Mary's first farming job was threshing at Smith's farm in Westmill, which she enjoyed. With her friends they often went to the Cozy cinema in Buntingford and sometimes to the American Air Base in Nuthampstead. She was moved around different farms and then went to Rowney Priory hostel in Dane End where she made friends with Pat Kemp and Margaret Callaghan, a friendship that lasted for life. Whilst working at Vigus Farm in Bengeo Mary met John Doidge, a cowman on the farm. She was discharged from the Land Army on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1946 and went back to the mill in Yorkshire, but she returned to marry John and they moved to the farm in Bengeo. After several other moves, including running the Black Horse in Brent Pelham, they retired to Buntingford.

Margaret Callaghan was born in Middlesbrough in 1922 and joined the Land Army in 1943, when she was posted to Rowney Priory. Whilst working at Cherry Green Farm near Westmill she met Frank Aylott, George and Grace's son, whom she married in December 1944. Another Land Army girl was Joan Blewett who came from London and was possibly posted to Wyddial Hall. She married Frank's brother Richard in 1949.

Many of you may remember some of these girls and Frank's daughter Jennie Keeling was kind enough to give me copies of the certificates, reproduced here (right), that her

THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

Herts County Council,  
County Hall,  
Hertford.

Dear Miss Callaghan.

23.2.44.

You have now been employed on the land, as a member of the W.L.A. for six months and are entitled to a Good Service Badge, which I am pleased to send you herewith.

I congratulate you on gaining the Badge and hope you will regard it as something more than a proof of your having worked in the Land Army for six months. You will have discovered by now that work on the Land is skilled work and that the Land demands the best service that we can give it. The fact that you have had even six months experience means that you are of more value to the Land, to your employer, and to the Country, than you were when you started work, and consequently cannot be so easily replaced. I do hope that you will gain more badges as time goes on.

The Badge should be worn on the armlet, on the button side of the Crown with the point of the badge towards the crown and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from it. A second badge will complete the diamond.

Yours sincerely,

Rouney

M. M. Scott pp.  
Agst. County Secretary  
(Mrs. K.M. McClintock)

Miss M. Callaghan  
1303

Badge due 9.2.44.

THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY.

Hertfordshire County Committee,  
County Hall,  
Hertford.

Dear Miss Callaghan

Aug/44.

I have pleasure in enclosing your 2<sup>nd</sup> Good Service Badge which represents 12 months good service on the land. This has been awarded to you after consultation with your employer.

I hope you will continue to be happy and successful in your work.

Yours sincerely,

M. M. Scott pp.  
County Secretary.  
(Mrs. K.M. Scott)

Rouney Abbey

Miss M. Callaghan

Badge due 9.8.44.....

130365



mother Margaret received on achieving 6 and 12 months' service in the Land Army

Although the war in Europe ended in May 1945, there were still some 60,000 women in the Land Army. By 1946 the numbers still stood at 54,000, but in August of that year the Timber Corps was disbanded. The Women's Land Army was finally disbanded on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1950. The only thanks the women got for all their hard work was a letter from the Queen, who was their patron, and after intervention by her a payment of £50.

Almost 60 years later, in 2008, any surviving Land Army Girls and Lumber Jills received a medal for their part in the war; the medals could not be issued posthumously. Following a three-year fundraising campaign, in 2014 a statue (left) commemorating the Land Army and Lumber Jills and their contribution to the war effort was unveiled by the Duchess of Wessex at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire.

**Carol Emery, Buntingford Local History Group**

## **BUNTINGFORD W.I.**

Well at the time of writing it doesn't look as if we'll be resuming our monthly meetings any time soon – realistically, we might have to wait until Spring at the earliest.

In the meantime our secretary, Pat, has been keeping us updated on things we can join in with. The W.I. Hertfordshire Federation is offering various talks online via Zoom – a good one coming up in November is about the ghosts said to haunt Hampton Court Palace.

We have been working on a poppy wreath which we will lay on the War Memorial at some time on Remembrance Sunday. Our Christmas project is also coming along nicely and will be unveiled on what would have been the 'late night shopping' evening in the High Street. The Library has once again kindly given us permission to display it on their 'Hot Picks' stand.

If you would like more information about Buntingford W.I. please feel free to phone our secretary Pat Webb on 01763 271305.

**Val Hume**

# BUNTINGFORD UNSUNG HERO AWARD 2020

These annual awards are to honour two local people – one aged 19 years or younger, and one aged 20 years or older – who have made a significant, voluntary, positive contribution to our community.

Nominations for 2020 close on 1<sup>st</sup> November ([www.b-hero.co.uk](http://www.b-hero.co.uk)) and the winners will be announced at the Lights of Love ceremony, outside the Manor House, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

*The Awards are sponsored by Buntingford Town Council, Buntingford Chamber of Commerce and Buntingford Civic Society.*

## Buntingford Library Is Now Open!

### Library Opening Times

Monday	10.00am–4.00pm
Tuesday	10.00am–4.00pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	10.00am–4.00pm
Friday	2.00pm–4.00pm
Saturday	10.00am–1.00pm
Sunday	CLOSED



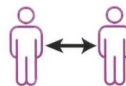
For the safety  
of everyone please:



Wear a face covering\*



Use the hand sanitiser provided



Keep your distance



Limit your visit to 15 minutes

\*unless exempt

0300 123 4049 / [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)

# A Shot in the Eye

## A Short Story

“Shoot it in the eye? Really? How do you do that?”

My dad smiled. “Fortunately, I never had the need to, but that’s what we were told; the only way to stop a charging elephant.”

As a child I was more than inquisitive about my father’s role in the war, but my enquiries were most times quashed before I ever got any real answers. I suppose it must have been like that for a lot of the veterans of that appalling conflict, rarely wanting to share the horrors they had confronted. So I was left with that advice from dad’s days fighting in the jungles of Burma. Not sufficient to have desperate Japanese soldiers trying to gun you down when at any moment a marauding elephant could emerge from the undergrowth and trample you to death. Take aim and hope its eyes are open.

Nearly 60 years later I was privileged to experience these wonderful beasts for myself and not just at the zoo or in a grotesque circus act. The Shamwari game reserve in South Africa boasted the opportunity to see the ‘big five’ whilst billeted in luxurious accommodation and waited on hand and foot by obliging staff. Twice daily safaris took us all over the vast reserve in vehicles purpose built for the job, driven and chaperoned by a young ex-army officer whose looks could have been chiselled from a Hollywood film set. Comfortably we sat in these converted jeeps, wrapped up in blankets to protect us from the chill of the dawn while Karl scanned the landscape for any sightings of creatures we could point our cameras at.

The thing that struck us softie tourists was the way in which Karl could see and identify animals at distances our own eyes could barely distinguish. Seldom if ever did one of us actually see an animal without the guide first telling us where to look. These creatures were free to roam over the 100 square miles of the reserve and so were not limited to specific areas, yet the ease with which he could trace their presence was very impressive.

On one such excursion he made out a gathering of elephants in a distant valley and so the jeep headed in that direction. As we approached the flat valley bottom the herd became clearer and we soon discovered that what had at first appeared to be about a dozen elephants was nearer in number to 50. Karl explained that they were all probably related – a vast family group of different generations which contained several very young and presumably recently born. These little chaps were carefully contained in the middle of the herd, surrounded on all sides by the adults. Because of these youngsters, the herd would be very protective and alert to anything that they felt could endanger them.

Carefully and slowly we approached, getting alongside the herd but not too near the young ones. Somehow Karl managed to drive, negotiating the ruts and bumps of the terrain, while at the same time keeping his eye on any sign of aggressive movements from the large adult males. We had sufficient time and opportunity to get the shutters clicking and even some video footage as we accompanied the herd, like a film cameraman beside the field on the final furlong of a horse race.

Eventually Karl decided that we had ridden our luck long enough and on noticing that one or two of the adults were getting twitchy, turning and swaying towards our vehicle, he headed off to higher ground to enable us to watch from a distance.

It proved to be the highlight of our whole trip. According to our guide it was quite rare to get alongside such a large family group. As he drove us back to base he regaled us with stories of other encounters and some near misses. It prompted us to ask if that was why

he carried a rifle beside him in the driving seat. He was to tell us that the guides never go out without this weapon, because one can never tell quite what might happen. If he had to use it, which so far he never had, he has been told to not just fire the gun but rather shoot to kill. An angry wild animal would not be put off by a gunshot if it meant him being denied dinner, hence he was instructed to kill the animal and protect himself and his passengers.

As we pondered on this, all of us feeling just a little sorry for these creatures that were after all only living out their lives in their natural habitat, we made our way along a raised track bordered on both sides by dense high shrub. The camp was less than half a mile away and as we all looked forward to a good bath and clean up before another hefty dinner, the jeep was brought to an abrupt halt. Thinking that Karl was just about to conjure up another rare beast that none of us had yet seen, we were surprised when he put the vehicle sharply into reverse and leant down with his hand to the rifle lying next to the hand brake. From our right, beating down 10-foot high trees and shrubs, emerging onto our track was an angry lone male elephant. Looking agitated and probably in musth, he stood defiantly across our route. He made a small movement in our direction, then thought better of it and continued on into the dense shrub on the other side of the track.

Throughout all of this Karl was on full alert, considering the options, looking for signs, contemplating escape, trying to decide the best way of keeping us all in one piece. He stood on the vehicle's bonnet to gain height and try to get an idea of the elephant's intended direction. When he decided it was safe to do so, he clambered back into the driving seat and we made our way hastily to the entrance to our camp. As we entered he called in Afrikaans to one of the guards to close the heavy gates which served to protect the hotel from these occasionally marauding beasts.

Back in our fortified luxury, over dinner we shared stories about our escapade and my father's advice came ringing back to me. If Karl was going to shoot that beautiful, misunderstood creature, would he have aimed for one of the eyes? Thankfully we never found out.

**David Bantick – Buntingford Writers Group**

## **A New Novelist from Buntingford Writers Group**

A member of the Buntingford Writers Group is about to become a published author. Suzanne Shearing's debut novel – 'Two Old Ladies and a Secret Child' (right) – will be published on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Many congratulations to her and to the Writers Group for helping to encourage her talent. The book can be ordered from:

<https://www.bookdepository.com/> or

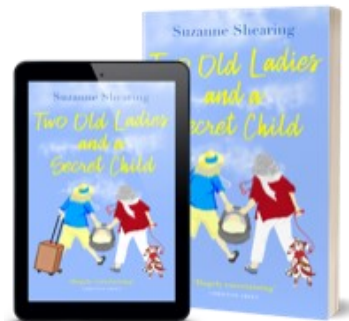
<https://www.waterstones.com/> or

<https://blackwells.co.uk/>

Sue has also written a delightful short story for next month's Journal. Something to look forward to!

Buntingford Writers Group welcomes writers of any standard, non-fiction or fiction enthusiasts, poets and journalists. Currently their meetings are mostly online, but they also go for walks and have meet-ups in a socially distanced way. They welcome new members, so if you are interested in joining them, contact:

Chris Kell on [chriskell37@gmail.com](mailto:chriskell37@gmail.com)



## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

With the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) coming to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> October, news of redundancies across all sectors dominates the news. Employees are often given a Settlement Agreement ('Agreement') setting out their financial entitlements on the termination of their employment.

### **What is a Settlement Agreement?**

It is a contract between an employer and employee, verified by a legal advisor, that prevents an employee from making complaints to the Employment Tribunal about breach of their statutory rights or contractual rights. This includes, but is not limited to, claims for unfair dismissal, redundancy, unlawful discrimination and non-payment of salary against their employer, associated companies and employees.

### **Claims that cannot be waived by a Settlement Agreement**

- If your employer breaches the agreement, e.g. does not pay you the termination payment, you could make a breach of contract claim.
- Claims in respect of unknown personal injuries at the time of signing the agreement.
- Claims in respect of accrued pension rights.

### **I am happy to sign a Settlement Agreement so why do I have to take independent legal advice?**

It is a legal requirement, included in Acts of Parliament, that for a Settlement Agreement to be legally enforceable, an individual must take independent advice. This is to mitigate the risk of employers putting pressure on employees to waive certain claims by signing.

### **Negotiating the terms of the Agreement**

Save for those clauses that relate to statutory requirements, the contents of a settlement agreement are largely at the discretion of the parties involved and can often be negotiated. You may wish to consider, and consult us as to the merit of, negotiating:

- The timing and reason for termination recorded in the agreement.
- The value of the exit package being offered having regard to salary, the value of any potential claims and any contractual provision for bonuses or deferred awards.
- An agreed reference.
- An agreed internal and external announcement.
- A waiver of restrictive covenants in the employment contract.

### **Tax free sums**

- The first £30,000 of a termination payment for loss of earnings is generally exempt from tax and national insurance contributions.
- In certain circumstances compensation for losses or injury to feelings resulting from discrimination during employment can be paid tax free, provided they can be justified.
- Payments towards legal costs (including VAT) relating to termination of employment.
- Payments made directly into a pension.

### **Taxable sums**

- Salary including bonus and commission payments.
- Holiday pay.
- Payments in lieu of notice (irrespective of any PILON clause in your contract).

### What will your advice cost?

Your Employer usually contributes towards the legal cost of you receiving legal advice in relation to a Settlement Agreement. The contribution is usually between £300 and £750 plus VAT and this is usually sufficient for the advice required unless you require extensive negotiations.

If you have received a Settlement Agreement and require advice, please contact **Kaajal Nathwani** on **020 8363 4444** or [kaajal.nathwani@curwens.co.uk](mailto:kaajal.nathwani@curwens.co.uk)

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

**With offices in Enfield, Royston, Hoddesdon, and Finchley**

Citizens Advice East Herts' offices are currently closed to drop-ins due to Covid, but you can contact them by phone – call the local Message Line for a call back on **01920 459 944** or the Herts Advice Line on **0800 144 8844** (10am-4pm, Mon to Fri). Or see the online options at:



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

## Energy Costs

**I'd like some advice on keeping my energy bills down please. I've been working from home since lockdown, and have been told we'll not be back in the office before January at the earliest. Now the weather has turned, I'm freezing sitting here all day in front of my computer! I'm worried if I turn the heating up my bills are going to go through the roof!**

There are a few things you can do to help with energy costs. Firstly, see if you can get a better deal by changing your energy supplier. However, as well as comparing prices, it's a good idea to check the customer service record of a company before switching. Citizens Advice has a **price comparison tool** on our website, and our **star rating** assesses the customer service records of the 40 biggest companies.

There are also little, everyday things that can help, such as making sure televisions and other devices are switched off and not left on standby; washing clothes on a lower temperature; and only filling the kettle with the water you need. One way of cutting costs in the long term is to invest in good insulation – or ask your landlord to do so.

If your pay is close to the national minimum wage, the extra costs of working from home could be counted as a pay-cut and take you below the legal level. Talk to your manager or HR department, or your union rep if that feels more comfortable.

Finally, your employer should pay for any costs connected to your health and safety when working from home – such as a suitable chair for work at a computer. It's also worth taking a look at your company's expenses policy – you may be able to claim for a number of other things, such as printer ink or telephone line rental.

For more advice and information on this or anything else go to:

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

or call their Message Line on **01920 459 944**

It has been another busy month at Attend2Health and we are pleased to welcome a new Sports Therapist, Oliver Smith (right), to join our team. Oliver will be working on a Sunday morning doing sports massage and one-to-one rehabilitation sessions to help with recovering from an injury or to give you exercises to do to help with back pain, for example. Oliver has a degree in Sports Therapy which he got in 2015 so has lots of experience in dealing with injuries. He has also worked with a lot of different sports teams over the years. To book an appointment just call **01763 878087**.



Here at Attend2Health we are all very excited to be moving to the old Barclays Bank in Buntingford. But before we can move there is a lot of work to be done inside the building to update it and make it suitable, so I thought I'd give readers an update in The Journal each month on the progress being made.



The first thing we had to do was to get in the professionals to get rid of all the asbestos in the building (bottom left). Some of the asbestos was fairly harmless like the Artex ceilings but as we were doing a complete refurb it was the perfect opportunity to get rid of this. There were however three boards of the more serious asbestos so this had to be removed very carefully over several days.



Once the asbestos had been removed next the safe doors had to come out (photos, this page). Luckily the guys made this look easy although I hate to think how much those doors actually weighed!



Our electrician is now undertaking a complete new rewire of the building as most of the wiring inside is 50 years old!

Next week the stud walls will start to go up and the electrician will be working on the first fix.

**Louise Hampton**





## Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

Supporting parents when it matters  
because childhood can't wait

Registered Charity No. 1105385

Back in 2017 Nicola Hardy, an IT support manager from Sheffield, handed in her notice, sold her house, and set off with a backpack to explore the world. Calling herself Adventurer Nic ([adventureernic.com/](http://adventureernic.com/)), she has climbed the 282 Munro mountains in Scotland, completed the Wainright Challenge (climbing all 24 of the peaks in the Peak District) and trekked up Killimanjaro. This October she challenged herself to “walk home” from her birthplace in Sheffield to her house in Cockermouth, Cumbria. The 200-mile trip replaced her plans to hike the length of New Zealand.

### Setting a Challenging Pace

While we're not suggesting anyone should quit their job and go hiking for a year, maybe Adventurer Nic's story might inspire you to take on a challenge of your own! Aid of Home-Start? Perhaps you've always fancied hiking the Pennine Way (270 miles from Edale in the Peak District to Kirk Yetholm in Scotland)? Maybe you'd like to take part in a fun run (we're pretty sure that's an oxymoron, but apparently some people enjoy them!)? Or would you consider a '30 Day challenge' where you take on a particular activity every day for a month? Or could you give something up, like a favourite food or drink?

Taking on a personal challenge is a great way to get fit or learn a new skill or discipline, and it's also a great way to raise money for good causes. In recent years, we've had seven supporters take on personal challenges for us, raising a fabulous £8490 in donations. Take Angus, our Family Group volunteer, who recently challenged himself to take part in the Duxford Dash (a 5km run around the Imperial War Museum) to raise money for Home-Start. Angus tells us that when he emailed all his friends about his activities, one of them emailed back to ask if his account had been hacked, as taking up running seemed so very unlike Angus! We're pleased to say that Angus completed his run and raised £1200 for us.

### Where do I even begin?

Working out what personal challenge you fancy doing can be, in itself, a challenge. There are so many options! Luckily there are some great websites that give you ideas, like these:

**Time Outdoors** (<https://www.timeoutdoors.com/challenges/UK>) has a huge list of challenges to look at and consider, from a 25km bike ride to skydiving.

**Easy Fundraising** (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/challenges/>) has a whole range of activities that could be turned into fundraising challenges. And shopping for your activity via EasyFundraising raises money for your good cause too. Now that's what we call a win-win.

If you'd like to discuss taking on a personal challenge to raise much-needed funds for Home-Start, please get in touch!

### Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire

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

Tel: 01763 262 262 Email: [admin@hsrsc.org.uk](mailto:admin@hsrsc.org.uk)

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



From 2 yrs  
(no need to  
be out of  
nappies)



Places  
available in  
our small  
rural  
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Woodland School sessions



# COME AND PLAY

Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 13:15. Email or phone for prices and further details. 15 hours funding for eligible families.

Owlets Preschool Class  
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SG9 0BY

01763 848 346  
admin@anstey.herts.sch.uk  
www.anstey.herts.sch.uk



# MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL



[www.millfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk)

## Autumn Term

Millfield staff and children have settled into the new school year with enthusiasm and motivation. We are incredibly proud of all members of our school community for their efforts in taking on new ways of working in light of COVID-19.

## Visit and Tour for Prospective Parents and Carers

We held a visit and tour session for prospective parents and carers in October. Thank you to those who attended and we welcome others who are interested in Millfield School to view our school website. Applications for Reception places to start in September 2021, for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, can be made online from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 using the Hertfordshire County Council website.

## Nursery Admissions

Applications for Nursery places to start in September 2021, for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, should be made directly to the School and will open on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. Application forms are available on the school website. If you would like further information, please contact the School Office.

## Walk to School Week

Reception to Year 4 children celebrated Walk to School Week during October. Each child received a walking challenge sheet to complete and for every day they walked to school they received a sticker. A class tally was then created to celebrate walking to school. Where walking was not possible, the scheme encouraged park and stride for 10 minutes.

## Virtual Assemblies

Our weekly virtual assemblies are full of fun and sharing, as well as celebrating our children's learning and determination. It is a fantastic opportunity for all the Millfield staff and children to join together and review the week.



## Harvest Festival

We celebrated Harvest Festival with assemblies in the classrooms. Food donations were collected for the Buntingford Food Bank (right).

## Children in Need Day

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, during Appeal Week, the children will be fundraising for Children in Need in support of their theme, which this year is 'Together, we can boost children's mental wellbeing'.

**Laura Kennedy-Weeks**  
Headteacher

If you would like to know more about Millfield School (including Pre-School) please visit our website [www.millfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk) or contact the School Office on **01763 271717**.



# Layston C of E First School

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

We start our second half term in Autumn exploring the values of Friendship & Self Sacrifice. FRIENDSHIP is a very important Christian Value and one that children can relate to through their everyday experiences. The bible tells us that Jesus was a friend to all, regardless of who they were. He taught that God is our friend and wants us to be like Him in our friendships with others. Christians believe they can call God their friend because of the relationship made possible through Jesus.

**Luke 6:31** *Do to others as you would have them do to you.*



The children have had a wonderful first half term of fun and learning. They have all contributed to our whole school art project about experiences during Lockdown 2020. The children completed a handprint in the colours of the rainbow (left) and then wrote or drew a memory of lockdown.

The rainbow colours reminded us of the Christian symbol of hope and the rainbows that we painted and stuck in our windows to say thank you to the NHS. The hands reminded us to help each other and to wash our hands to keep everyone safe. The tree is a reminder that we still continue to grow even after lockdown.

## Harvest Festival

This year our Harvest Festival took on a different format. Each class prepared a harvest song or poem and a prayer to share

with parents and carers. The children also wanted to raise money for our local food bank in Buntingford and so we held a non-uniform day to support this. Thank you to all our parents for supporting this by donating £1.

## Friendship week

Our Year 3 and 4 children took part in sports leadership activities with our sports coaches and had a lot of fun! During Anti-Bullying Week the children will be thinking about friendship and how to be a good friend.

We thank the wider Buntingford community for your continuing support. Best wishes,

**Mrs Adele McMurrough, Headteacher**

To find out more about our school, please visit our website at [www.layston.sch.herts.uk](http://www.layston.sch.herts.uk) where you can view information and videos of our classes. You are also welcome to telephone the school on **01763 271235** with any specific queries.



# 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.*



## Life at Edwinstree under Covid-19 Regulations

We have been listening to our Student Voice more than ever whilst we operate under Covid-19 restrictions and we are hearing loud and clear the students would like to return to a timetable where they have all their curriculum subjects. One of the greatest strengths of a middle school, is that students from Year 5 onwards get to spend time with specialist subjects across the whole curriculum. However, our current

Covid-19 restrictions limit our ability to do this and with positive cases growing, we cannot make the choices we hoped. We understand that being back in school is hard for all concerned, with longer lessons and less break times. However, on the whole, our students are resilient and show great courage and determination.

## How are we ensuring that we are have some fun with the children through this difficult period?

As a middle school, we take time to plan fun into our curriculum and Covid-19 is making this difficult. This term we introduced competitions with KS2 to compose a 'sticky' song (one that stays in your head) to remind them not to touch each other. A small group of students then went to the hall, to show their songs to the designated judge! KS3 were given a variety of dances to learn and were judged on their co-ordination, timing to the music and how many people were able to join in. The winners



were treated to films and popcorn on Friday afternoon! This was the first time we heard real laughter in the school in a long time. The gentle competitions help class groups to form strong bonds and work together.

### **Are we managing to run Collective Worship?**

One of the things we missed most in school is our Collective Worship, when the school community comes together to reflect and explore one of our Christian values. This term we have been looking at the value of 'Compassion', something we believe is important. Currently, we have explored compassion for others and the story of the *Good Samaritan*. We learnt that a 'good' Samaritan doesn't always look or feel like one at the time! We also looked into self-compassion, managing the ants in our head and our stress buckets! And we explored how whole communities can act compassionately and celebrated the fact that the homeless were housed for a period of time. Lastly, we considered the end of World War Two, when our country was broke and had lost so many young people, yet was still able to commit to some of the most compassionate legislation ever, the Welfare State and the National Health system.



In order to deliver Collective Worship, we live stream into the classrooms and offices so everyone can join in. We do invite a Year 5 class down to the hall, so they can experience what it is really like. We also include volunteer students and our external guest speakers from the church.

Friday afternoons is 'Hymns with a Difference' and you can find us not singing, but using sign language to celebrate our community under the watch of God. Our prayers have focused on a poem called 'Footprints in the Sand' and reflecting on these thought-provoking words help us through these challenging times.

### **Virtual Open Evening at Edwinstree**

We really missed welcoming visitors this year. Instead, parents of prospective students can visit our website and view a variety of children talking about their school and the Headteacher's Speech. As always the speeches from the children are their own. They are well worth watching, please go to [www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](http://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) to find out more.

### **School Improvement Adviser Visit to Edwinstree**

During the first half term, our School Improvement Adviser paid us a visit to see how we were coping with the ongoing Covid-19 situation. It was an opportunity for him to find out how students and staff were dealing with the huge range of emotions that have affected so many of us. Students completed a questionnaire to let us know how they were feeling, and we have provided calming strategies to help them cope with anxieties.

### **NHS at Edwinstree**

This term, the NHS school Nursing Team have been really busy. All children in Year 6 were given the opportunity to take part in the Lancaster Model online questionnaire in school. This asks about several aspects a child's life that can impact on their health, such as lifestyle and emotional wellbeing, and enables our skilled school nursing team to make an assessment of a child's needs and offer support and advice if appropriate.

The majority of our Y5, Y6 and Y7 students have taken part in the Influenza immunisation programme and our Y8 students took part in HPV immunisation.

**Jo Gant, Headteacher**



**Learn, Laugh, Live**

**It was an AGM with a difference – no hall, no actual members and no wine!** Instead it was a 'virtual' AGM from homes – some with the mandatory full bookcase at the rear – via Zoom.

Chairman Jim Farquhar welcomed the members and after the preliminaries gave his report:

"2019 seems so long ago and was a very different time. The groups were very active, monthly meetings were running in the Seth Ward Community Centre and were well attended, membership grew slightly to 538 (524 in 2018) and the u3a was a thriving social community. We didn't realise how lucky we were!

"2020 started okay with members renewing, groups continuing and the first 3 monthly meetings going ahead as normal. Unfortunately, since March everything has been dominated by Covid. The restrictions introduced at that time brought everything to a grinding halt. Membership renewals stopped at 468 and understandably have hardly changed since then (now 470, down 13% on last year). The monthly meetings for April and May were cancelled, eventually restarting in June using Zoom (not ideal but better than nothing).

"All group activities were also cancelled and most are still unable to restart. A small number of groups have limped along using Zoom (one of the Spanish groups, the Book Club, and Current Affairs) while a few others keep in touch via email or WhatsApp, but generally activities have been minimal. We are very aware that Zoom will never be as good as meeting face to face but at least it allows some activities and meetings to continue."

Financially, it wasn't an easy year but the subs are to be kept at £10 and will be for 15 months.

Ron Brighten stood down from the post of Group Co-ordinator and was thanked for all his hard work especially during the last nine months.

The new committee were elected en bloc: Jim Farquhar, Kate Farquhar, Lyn Kendal Archer, Paul Brunt, Val Reedman, Lesley Lowers, Tony Phillips, John & Janet Noades.

Jim went on to say that the committee had agreed that there would be no Norman Oliver Award for exceptional service this year, but at the end of the meeting Vice Chair Lyn Kendal Archer spoke:

"This has been an extraordinary and difficult year for Buntingford u3a and for all its members. At a time like this, there has been a need to maintain as much interaction as possible between the members to provide a social need as the normal Monthly Meeting and Group activities were no longer possible.

"Throughout this time, Jim has provided leadership and worked tirelessly to maintain the objectives of the u3a and develop new ways of interacting. Therefore, the Committee decided unanimously that he should be the recipient of the Norman Oliver Plate for 2020.

"Jim set up Zoom, first of all, so that we could still have our Committee Meetings and then it was extended to Zoom talks for the members. He also assisted other u3as with their use of Zoom.

"Jim has read, diligently and exhaustively, all the bulletins from the u3a Trust and Government guidelines to fully understand their implications so as to enable him to give guidance to the Committee and the Groups regarding risk assessments, meeting each other again and restarting our Groups.



Jim Farquhar, u3a Chairman and recipient of the Norman Oliver Plate 2020.

“He has been instrumental in taking us forward with the correct procedures to meet the Trust and Charity Commission financial requirements, spending days working on the financial procedures started to ensure they meet our obligations.

“I understand he is like a dog with a bone, worrying at a problem until it is right, which can mean he can spend half of every day on u3a matters. He takes his duty of care very seriously.

“As you will realise, he is supported by the Committee members with this additional work, but it is his leadership and passion to ensure things are right that we acknowledge today. Jim – congratulations on the award of the Norman Oliver Plate.”

The Award was presented to Jim by his wife Kate.

Jean Cook

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



## HARE STREET ROAD GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Each year we run a competition for children to encourage the next generation of allotmenters and gardeners. This year our competition was to see who could grow the biggest pumpkin! Judging took place on 26<sup>th</sup> September and the

winning pumpkin, with a massive circumference of 141cm, was grown by Jacob and Alby. Awards also went to Faith with a 95cm pumpkin and Phoebe with an 87cm pumpkin. All participants received certificates and prizes. We are currently working out what the 2021 competition is going to be!

If you are interested in taking on an allotment please contact our Chair, Roy Ellard, on the email address below. Don't worry if you haven't had an allotment before. We have a team of experienced allotmenters who would be delighted to help and support you.

**Martin Tuck  
Committee Member**



Email: [hsgassociation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hsgassociation@yahoo.co.uk)

# Counter Attack

Well, here we are deep into Covid 19 and as the nights draw in and the weather turns to depressing monotony we are beginning to feel the effects in so many ways. Indeed, we look back with some longing to when some benevolent presence gave us lovely sunshine to compensate and prepare us for the plague to come.

Still, our fellow town's folk are putting a brave face on things (we assume it might be a brave face beneath the mask). The local shops are gearing up to comply with the latest edict passed down by those who know best. Indeed, there appears to be a new and welcome reception by counter staff to assist us customers with helpful posters and labels within and without the shops. Sadly, and despite all the millions put into education and opticians, there are still those unfortunate customers struggling with understanding the direction arrows on the floor. Perhaps it might be due to the dreaded masks causing one's glasses and visors to fog up?

There also appears to be difficulty in adapting to product selection and the use of and sticking to shopping lists is still in it's infancy. It begs the question, how do these same people cope when "shopping on line"? This increasingly popular way of shopping has led to a mushrooming of the phenomenon known as "white van man". Every day these hard-working chaps deliver copious amounts of produce, much of which appears to have emanated from China (strange that the country which instigated the plague we suffer is now a major profiteer from it!). The white vans have to negotiate our narrow streets (thanks, planners) that are cluttered with vehicles because the owners are furloughed or "working from home". To complete the cycle (and yes there are plenty of cycles about the place) we see queues of people at the post office returning unwanted goods.

However, one thing we could do with at this time is the presence of a bank. What genius thought that as our town doubled in size it would be a good idea to close our only bank and building society? It was such a good idea that they then went and closed the banks in the nearby town of Ware as well. We now have to travel either to Hertford, or Royston, or one of the other larger towns a dozen miles or so away. Unfortunately, the bank in our county town does not have cashiers, at least it didn't seem to when I tried there and joined a long queue – socially distanced – for 20 minutes until a formidable person (I try not to be gender specific) passing up and down the line asked why I was there?

Many smart answers came to mind but for once discretion caused me to consider my chances of ever seeing home again. "You know you can bank online don't you?" it barked in reply. "I don't want to bank online, it's bad enough all the jobs are going without letting some machine loose with my hard-earned money." There were mutterings of agreement down the line but it froze when the operative cast a threatening stare at them. The operative gave me an attended tour of the bank's machines with the comment that they were so heavy they couldn't go upstairs. My feeble reply - "Another robot destined to take over the world like the Daleks then?" - was met with a stony countenance, so I left before the fabled word "Exterminate" emanated from its lips.

After many miles travelled I went to a bank in far off Hoddesdon which appeared to be customer friendly (I cannot give the name but let us say it had its roots in warmer Mediterranean climes). I had tried to enter the same bank in Hertford and Letchworth but apparently they were being refurbished and as such were shut. I now know that I had been spoilt up until then, when taking advice from a well-meaning friend I thought that I would try a little light banking in Royston. I consulted the weather, reasoning that there would be less people about as it was forecast to rain. Suitably attired I rolled up at the aforesaid bank in the High Street at 9.20am thinking I would be first through the doors. Wrong! As I turned the corner the queue was past SpecSavers. Still, we would soon be on the move, I

thought. Wrong – 9.30 came and went with no movement, then 10 o'clock, then at last we were on the move. Hooray! Wrong again – 10.15 came and went and I still hadn't passed Costa Coffee! Another bank operative passed down the line, masked and clutching a spray bottle, asking what was our business at the bank, counter or machine? Nice to know one's private financial business is being dealt with in confidentiality. An elderly lady was allowed to go in accompanied by the operative, which I thought was a kind gesture as she had only been standing behind me for almost an hour and I was beginning to wonder how one does mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when both victim and helper are wearing masks.

Thank goodness Ms Kirkwood of BBC weather was wrong and the sun shone. Eventually I was ushered into the inner sanctum and was told to "stand there". After another 10 minutes I was finally called up to the cashier, and I informed the person behind the screen of the service I required. I was advised that "the computers are going slow today" (I know how it felt) and I was asked again, why didn't I want to use online banking? When handing over some very shiny notes the cashier (not gender specific) said they didn't like cash as "you didn't know who had handled it". I suggested that if they had any spare cash that nobody wanted to handle I would risk it and take it off their hands. Also I think the operative was selling the bank short as only that morning the 5am business news reported that the bank was being investigated over alleged money laundering concerns. Well it is said that these new notes can resist a quick spin in the washer.

Obviously the cashier was having a bad day, doing it all on her own with a dodgy computer, and any attempt by me to lighten the mood even unto myself, who had now been waiting well over an hour, seemed unlikely to succeed. I thought I well I gave it my best" and left.

Vyse

## Poems for Today

C19 is here to stay  
I wish that it would go away  
Life's not the same when locked indoors  
Just washing up and scrubbing floors  
That's what they think I do all day  
But I just craft and have a play  
Results you'll see at Christmas time  
When I send cards that look just fine

Sandra Wyatt

### Writers Block:

#### How to unlock in Lockdown

Change the place and the time  
And add maybe a glass of wine.  
Play music softly and light a candle.  
Imagine a story line invent a scandal  
*Unblock.*

'Once upon time' an age-old beginning.  
It worked for Hans Anderson  
And Enid Blyton, so make a new start  
Develop and create your Art.  
*Unblock.*

How the wind howls describe the scene  
A place where you have been  
Or make up a dream a fantasy,  
The wine will help and keep you keen.  
*Unblock.*

Lockdown has led to a blank page  
No stimulation or motivation  
where we can fly to and find a story  
Look close to home and find inspiration.  
*Unblock.*

Take heart and follow my plan  
Change the place and the time to write  
Hurrah I have started to write!  
*Unblock.*

Mary Godfrey



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

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

It's been almost six months since I wrote my last column for The Journal, a column that never saw the light of day due to Lockdown arriving the day after I finished putting pen to paper! At that point we were still in the 2019/20 season with a dozen or so games left in the fixture list and performances finally starting to pick up. Rather naively, as it turns out, I was full of confidence that our momentum would mean that the run in to the end of the season would bring the rewards we had worked so hard to achieve. Unfortunately Lockdown meant a premature end to all the league seasons and all results were expunged on the instructions of the FA – the 2019/20 season simply ceased to be!

## **Pause and Plan!**

For some, the enforced break from football was extremely disappointing, but for us as a club it allowed us to take stock of where we were at and focus on putting in place the structures that will allow us to kick on in the next few years.

We are gratified that Sav Fusco and Dave Williamson have continued in the roles of Manager and Assistant Manager to the First Team, ably assisted by Bruce Knapp.

The Reserves also have a strong management team in place with Bobby White and Laurence Salmon back at the club and charged with developing our young squad of extremely talented individuals.

Kate McFayden and her wife Robyn also continue as the Ladies Management Team whilst Kate also takes responsibility, alongside Jeff Jones, for the Walking Football squad who have joined the Buntingford Town family.

Finally, we welcome Jon Howes of Howes Your Photo who has volunteered his time as Club Photographer – a role we have been trying to fill for some time now. It's amazing how popular Jon is amongst the players, each vying for star billing each week!

## **Football once again!**

Pre-season was upon us very quickly. Having sat around for what felt like weeks waiting for the FA to sort out guidance on how to resume football safely, the announcement that we could resume came without warning on their social media channels – leaving us and other clubs in our position scrambling to understand the implications of the guidance whilst fending off players desperate to kick a ball again.

A full pre-season schedule saw 11 home games and 4 away fixtures in the space of just four weeks before the 2020/21 County League season started on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The ladies continued to play pre-season friendlies right up to the start of their league season on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

With 6 league games now played, the First Team sits 11<sup>th</sup> in Division 1 of the Herts Senior County League having won 2 and lost 4, a slow start but with obvious signs of improvement each week.

The Reserves have played 5 games and also sit 11<sup>th</sup> but in Division 3 of the Herts Senior County League, having won 1, drawn 1 and lost 3. Again, good performances on the pitch haven't always translated into results, but the signs are there that this squad are going to be very impressive once they get going.

The Ladies have only played two games, one win and one loss, but they have scored an impressive 7 goals.

The Vets have only had two league games, winning one and drawing the other, and have filled the holes in the fixture list with friendlies against Royston Town Vets (lost 2-4) and Goldings Old Boys (won 10-2).

### Unbeaten weekend!

The weekend just gone (17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> October) brought with it a series of results the like of which Buntingford Town may never have seen before!

On Saturday both the First Team and Reserves played away fixtures, with the Firsts travelling to Evergreen in the League and the Reserves visiting local rivals Knebworth in the Cecil Hudson Cup. Both sides won with Charlie



Owen, Alex Hewer and Reece Knapp all on the scoresheet.

On Sunday the Vets welcomed Goldings Old Boys to The Bury and promptly put them to the sword with Nathan Searle notching up 4 goals, Glen Doherty 2, and Dan Beale, Chris Carter, Steve Dare and Ricky Emery adding the rest.



New Club photographer Jon Howes captured some of the action at recent games.

The pressure was on the Ladies to get a result against Bury Rangers Ladies and give the club four wins from four games. They got off to a flyer with Becky Lewis scoring within the first 20 minutes, then Kate McFayden added another straight from the second half kick-off. A penalty to the opposition made the last 10 minutes nervy but the ladies, cheered on by a bumper crowd, held on to ensure that the club recorded its first unbeaten weekend that any of us can remember! Hopefully this will become a regular event!

### Players, Sponsors and Volunteers wanted!!!

As I have mentioned before, as a Club we want to improve every year and 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 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, a sponsor or supporter, please contact me at [chair@buntingfordtownfc.com](mailto:chair@buntingfordtownfc.com) or on **07976 869 532**.

You can follow us on Facebook (@BuntingfordTownFC), Twitter (@BuntTownFC) or Instagram (@buntingford\_town\_fc) for details of upcoming games.

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

## Barkway Park Golf Club

The weather has not been so kind recently leading to a couple of abandoned competitions, but generally the course continues to be busy accommodating members and visitors every day, reflecting the attraction of golf during the pandemic. The green staffs' hard work is paying dividends, with greens and fairways in excellent condition.

Regular monthly and one-off competitions are continuing for members of both the main club and the Barkers (seniors). The October Stableford competition was won by Ben Smith with a creditable 39 points given the weather conditions. Mark Wright and Rob Dunderdale, with 37 and 36 points respectively, came 2nd and 3rd. The Barkers signed off their year with a '3 clubs and a putter' competition which was won by Richard Webb who beat Richard Apperley by one point.

The club's new golfing year commences in November with the Captain's drive-in on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a highly popular Texas scramble competition. The club's new Captain is Rob Dunderdale and the new Chief Barker is Steve Dunn. They are both looking forward to an interesting year!

## And they have lift-off! The Virtual Balloon Race

The Royston Rotary Club had an amazing success with its charity Virtual Balloon Race, raising £2,813.24 for Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire. A delighted Rotarian, Tony Briar, who organised the event locally, explained: "With all our usual fund-raising projects cancelled due to COVID-19, the Club looked for alternative ways to raise money for good causes. We eventually decided upon the virtual balloon race, which was run by a national provider, Eco Racing. It worked like this: The 'virtual' balloons lifted off from Red Square, Moscow, on 14<sup>th</sup> September and flew for seven days. We had been offering balloons at £3 each since mid-June and had received a great response locally. By the time the big day arrived we had sold 1044 balloons!



"All the balloons took off on time and most of them drifted off to the north-west of Moscow. After 6 hours the leading balloons were already 60kms away from the launch point, with everybody being able to follow them on Google. We noticed that a rogue cluster headed in the opposite direction, but evidently this was to be expected, and the winners of the race were the balloons that travelled the furthest, whatever the direction they took."

"At the end of the seven days the leading balloon from Royston's sales was 'MAS' (above), owned by 'Sam', having travelled 1,391kms and ending up over Sweden. Although Sam's position was only 20<sup>th</sup> overall nationally – and therefore not qualifying for any of the main prizes – he will nevertheless receive a cheque for £100 from Eco Racing as the overall winner from Royston's group."

Home-Start's Sarah Mascall said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the balloon race .... The last 6 months have been very challenging for Home-Start; but we proudly continue to bring 'a little lifeline of reality' to local families who are struggling in these difficult times. One mum told us, 'I have really appreciated having the service especially during lockdown as it has been such a lonely and isolating time'. ... This funding that has been so kindly donated by the Royston Rotary Club will be put towards a new training course for volunteers. Knowing we can plan to recruit and train new volunteers to help reach families in need is wonderful."