

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

# Buntingford Journal



**Queen Elizabeth II during her Golden Jubilee year.**

***Inside this month:*** Tributes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; BALA celebrates 20 years of helping the 'less able' get around; meet the prizewinners of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Buntingford Classic; and the Hundred Parishes Society launches its first calendar.

**70p**

**October 2022  
Volume 47, No.8**



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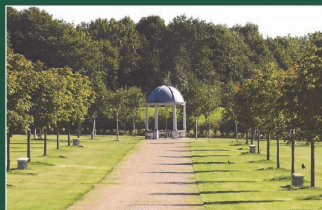
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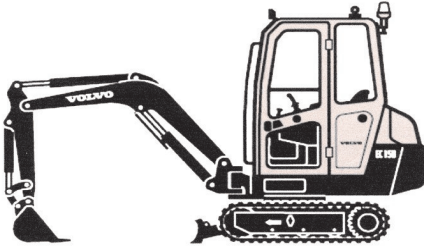
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# Useful Local Information

<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>WATER (Affinity Water):</b> <b>SEWERAGE (Thames Water):</b> <b>FLOODLINE:</b>	Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999 Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838 Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325 Emergency – 0345 357 2407 Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800 Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188 Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60
<b>DOCTORS:</b>	<b>Buntingford Medical Centre</b> – White Hart Close Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)
<b>B A S H (Buntingford Action For Social Help):</b>	Providing transport for hospital and doctors appointments. Tel: Colin Horgan 07733 091731
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RAPE, RACE or HATE CRIME:</b>	Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554440 (in emergency, dial 999)
<b>LOCAL COUNCILS:</b>	<b>Buntingford Town Council</b> – 01763 272222 <b>East Herts District Council</b> – 01279 655261 Housing – 01279 714714 Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852 For emergencies out of office hours: 01279 655261 Adult Care Services – 0300 123 4042 Children’s Services – 0300 123 4043 <b>Hertfordshire Highways</b> – 0300 123 4047, or report faults online: <a href="http://www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults">www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults</a>
<b>BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:</b> 77 High Street Buntingford, SG9 9AE Tel: 01763 272396	<b>Opening times:</b> Mon, Tue, Thur 10:00–17:30 Fri 14:00–17:30 Sat 9:00–13:00 <b>Telephone enquiries</b> – 0300 123 4049 Option 1 – Renewals 03:00–23:45 every day Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00, Sat 09:00–18:00 <b>More info at:</b> <a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>CITIZENS ADVICE EAST HERTS:</b>	<b>Call the CAB Message Line</b> on 01920 459 944 at anytime and they will call you back. They aim to return calls within 24 hours (except at weekends). <a href="http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk">www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk</a>
<b>HOUSEHOLD WASTE &amp; RECYCLING SITE:</b> Watermill Industrial Estate	<b>Currently closed.</b> <b>Our nearest alternative recycling sites are in Royston, Letchworth and Ware.</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

What an extraordinary month it has been – in fact, it's been quite an extraordinary year, with extreme highs and also lows. Many Buntingford residents, along with millions up and down the country, were deeply moved by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. So it's no surprise that several contributors pay tribute to her this month.

The Queen was famously the most photographed woman in the world – a claim perhaps once challenged by her daughter-in-law Diana, but the sheer length of time that Elizabeth was in the public eye meant in the end it was no contest. As editor I am fortunate that one of the many professional photographers to meet the Queen during their career also happens to be our County Councillor, Jeff Jones. In his regular 'News from...' article (p.16-17) he reflects on The Queen's long reign and recounts how events at County Hall played out to mark the succession. My thanks to Jeff for this month's cover photo.

Duncan Wallace has been thrown in at the deep end as our new Town Mayor and has risen to the challenge. Just days after presenting the awards at the Buntingford Classic (p.18-19) he was called upon to lead ceremonial proceedings that have not been seen in 70 years. In the Town Council article he relates details of events at the Manor House and elsewhere to mark the Queen's passing and the accession of King Charles III. You will find several other tributes. I will just mention here that Vyse was persuaded to pick up his pen once more to reminisce on what she has meant to him over her long reign (p.6-7).

But life goes on, and there are many things to celebrate. For one, BALA is 20 years old this month and inviting everyone to a free lunch at the URC Hall to celebrate (p.21-22). Home-Start are working on ways to mark their 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, coming up next year, and are keen to hear of any interesting ideas (p.36). They are also holding their A.G.M. this month, as are Buntingford u3a (p.42). And the Buntingford Twinning Association are keen to hear from anyone interested in joining them to continue the important cultural and friendship links with our twin towns in France and Spain (p.8).

Of the many words of Queen Elizabeth's that we have heard repeated recently, one remark has stuck with me which was roughly, "I have been around long enough to know that nothing stays the same for very long". The Queen always chose her words very carefully because words matter. It seems to me that in these days of instant social media, when so many comment from their gut without engaging their brain to think of the consequences, the world might be a better place if more of us followed her example.

**Christine Noble**

**Editorial copy deadline for the November 2022 Journal  
is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

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

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

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



# Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

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



Such very sad news and although at her age it was not unexpected, the death of Queen Elizabeth II came as such a shock. She had been a constant presence in all of our lives and it is difficult to comprehend that she is no longer with us.

She lived a life of impeccable service and her strong sense of duty and overriding commitment to the nation as Monarch for nearly three-quarters of a century earned her the love and respect of countless millions. A life well lived, for which we should all be eternally grateful.

Stoical, composed, pragmatic, private and with an unshakeable Christian faith, she served on the throne with wholehearted dedication. She gave a lifetime of service. We will miss her and will not see her like again.

May God bless our Queen, now reunited with her beloved Philip. Thank you Ma'am and may you rest in peace. Long live the King.

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



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

# Buntingford Branch Royal British Legion



It is with deepest sorrow that the Royal British Legion marks the death of our Sovereign and Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen has served as Patron of the Royal British Legion since 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952. We are immensely thankful for her faithful service, and we join the entire Armed Forces community in mourning her loss. Her unwavering commitment to the Armed Forces will be deeply missed and our sincere condolences are with the Royal Family at this time.

The Queen has always maintained a close relationship with the British Armed Forces. She was herself a veteran, having served in the Second World War as a driver and mechanic with the Auxiliary Territorial Service. Upon her ascension to the throne, she became Commander-in-Chief and Head of the British Armed Forces and those of the Commonwealth Realm. She was known for her devotion to the Armed Forces and her keen interest in their affairs, serving as an inspiration to them all. Our sincere condolences are with the Royal Family at this time.

**Andrew Huggins, Branch Chairman RBL**  
**God bless the Queen    God save the King**



## In Memory of Jean Hayes

As The Queen's funeral began on the morning of Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, former Buntingford resident Jean Hayes passed away peacefully at home, aged 92 years. She will be dearly missed. Jean was a piano teacher who lived in Monks Walk for many years. She was also a poet (aka Walter Meadows) who was regularly published in the Journal, and will be remembered fondly by many Journal readers. A few years ago, Jean moved from Buntingford to Berkhamsted to be nearer her daughter.

**Jean's funeral will take place at St Mary's Church in Northchurch, Berkhamsted, on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm.** Immediate family flowers only. Messages of condolence or donations may be given at the website of the funeral directors, J. Worley Ltd, at [www.jworley.co.uk](http://www.jworley.co.uk).

# The Mug

The day had been interesting and the gift that sat on my bedroom windowsill still intrigued me. Why were we given this colourful drinking vessel yesterday in school? And what were those words printed on the front in colourful lettering which surrounded the face of a beautiful lady: "HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE"? I had learnt to read before I had gone to school these few years past, but I had never seen any books in this language. What was it and what did it mean? I had asked my school chums but none seemed to know or were even interested, but over the next few days and weeks we were to learn what this was all about.



The newspapers that had dropped through our letterbox were full of the news of a coronation of a new queen and the radio had been full of boring announcements by very serious voices of what was about to happen. Whilst the grown-ups seemed interested in all these announcements they didn't mean much to me, just a lot of old people discussing another old person who had died and now we were going to have a queen. Apparently there was going to be a holiday to celebrate the event in June, well at least the weather should be fine for it.

However, during the coming months we became aware that what was about to happen was something special and the teachers in our small village school enthused about the upcoming event. But whilst that was interesting, I was more interested in a pending visit to hospital which was about to make me even more happy and was a direct result of the newly formed NHS.

My brothers and I, like so many kids in the village, had had one or more of the illnesses that were forever present, such as measles, whooping cough, diphtheria and polio, the results of which could leave you with life-long impediments. In my case and one of my brothers, we had been left with an acute squint in the eye that no amount of Elastoplast and National Health glasses would fix. Although many children suffered this and other life-affecting plagues, I was really worried by it. For one thing, it did nothing to help my playground image and the jeers of "four eyes" and the like bit home. But I was given a place at the local hospital to fix the problem and two weeks lying in bed with both eyes covered was to put things right and give me my self-respect back. Not least because I had to wear special dark glasses just like Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay during the ascent of Everest! Before long the spectacles joined other small treasures that I had begun accumulating in the mug on my bedroom windowsill. More importantly, by now I was becoming fascinated by this lady whose face was on the mug and in all the papers.

Then came the day of the coronation and despite the rain things were looking up. My uncle and auntie who lived in the village had bought a television set, one of the few available, and we had front row seats (actually we sat on the floor) in their front room. We had a village parade where we all got dressed in various outfits and marched up the high street, gradually getting soaking wet and I became a soggy pirate. Later, the damp eye patch joined the other articles in the mug.

As the years passed other small items were added to the mug, like one of the shoe laces from my running plimsolls which I wore in successful school races, some silver threepenny pieces from each year's Christmas pudding, and my cycling proficiency badge together with my *Eagle* comic lapel pin. And all the while the young queen featured in all the media, be it in Pathé films at the cinema, on television or in the newspapers. She seemed to be ever-present and no matter what dire things were happening in the world she was always there, a reassuring presence in the background to my life.

Then it happened: we were to see her in real life when she came to "open" a newly built block of flats in newly built Harlow New Town where we went to secondary school. We stood and waited in the crowds for her to arrive and when she did she looked spectacular yet unreal. I remember being surprised by how tiny she looked.

Once again the steady tread of time moved on. I joined the scouts and as always small keepsakes were added to the mug, like my woggle (a chap had to have a woggle!). Then music and girls came along and we invented teenagers (no, the girls didn't go in the mug, please try and keep up!). Whilst I was making like Elvis and cornering the market in Brylcreem and fashionable clothes, there she was, the Queen, still waving to the crowds and calmly opening things while the rest of the world was going crazy all around her. Meanwhile, the mug was almost full up with all the new additions – plectrums, bits of crashed aeroplanes from the war and such.

Things began to change as another lady became a very important part of my life and less was put into the mug as we made life-long friends together. Eventually of course we were blessed with our children and we watched them grow and joined in with every milestone of their lives, which somehow always seemed to feature that lady, our Queen, in the background. The children got their own mugs at Jubilees and royal weddings and so the collection grew whilst mine worked its way to the back of the cupboard. The years passed and other small treasures found their way into these newer mugs, like hospital tags from our children's births, a Blue Peter badge and things that belonged to our parents who were now all gradually passing away. Still she was there, always a reassuring figure in our lives, especially in times of world trouble.

I only saw her once more in real life. I was driving towards Birmingham and suddenly a police motor rider pulled up across the road and was closely followed by this great big car, all shiny with a flag on the bonnet. At that point there was no other traffic around me so I sat and watched the line of cars and motorbikes approaching, then as I sat there wondering what was going on, she passed right in front of me and she raised her hand in that familiar wave that was her signature. Quite unconsciously I responded by raising my hand in return, then she was gone, followed by the motorbike. Was I dreaming? Obviously not, as by then I was holding the traffic up and the chorus of horns were testament to my tardiness.

The Covid pandemic arrived and sadly lots of people left us, but again she was there to give hope and encouragement, as she had on so many occasions before. Then a day finally came when the press seemed more agitated than usual and soon we learnt that the great lady had passed away.

In the quietness of the early dawn I took the mug from the back of the cupboard, still with its collection of small tokens amongst the dust and a dead spider. But the face on the front was still bright and young and I took a few moments to think on how she had been a constant presence through my life.

I had eventually found out what those words around the portrait meant, roughly "Shame on he who thinks evil of it". Enough said.

**Vyse**



LUYNES - BUNTINGFORD - ÓLVEGA

## Buntingford Twinning Association Needs Help!!

Buntingford has been twinned with the lovely French town of Luynes near Tours in the Loire Valley since 1978. More recently, in 2008, we formed close links with the colourful and lively Ólvega near Zaragoza in Spain.

The aim of Town Twinning is to foster cultural links and friendships whilst enjoying ourselves in the company of our European neighbours. Many of us have made long-lasting friends over the years and we are sure this will continue for many years to come

### Right Now Though ... Our organisation needs YOU!!

We are now asking for all interested residents to think about joining us on the Buntingford Twinning Association Committee. We need 4 new members, at a time when help in maintaining our twinning links is essential. This year we are faced with vacancies on the team due to the resignations of some members after they had achieved many years' service. We now need some new young members and fresh ideas. Some young blood would be fantastic! Can we look forward to hearing from **YOU?** We are a voluntary organisation and membership is open to everyone from Buntingford and surrounding villages.

Your help and support, in any form, would be most welcome. Why not come along to a meeting to find out how to become involved? We'd love to meet you. Twinning can be your unrivalled gateway to France or Spain!

**If YOU are interested in becoming a committee member to help us further develop the Twinning Association, or if you would like to find out more, contact Dave Austin on 01763 272066**

**[daustin2020@btinternet.com](mailto:daustin2020@btinternet.com)**





# Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

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

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

## Services at 11.00am

October	2	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	9	Morning Worship	Faith Paulding
	16	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	23	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Robert Pope
	30	Morning Worship	Keith Cakebread
November	6	Holy Communion	Peter Godbert

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Buntingford Churches Together:

**Lunch, laughter & light topical discussion.**

**On the first Wednesday of each month in the Hall.**

Lunch 12.30pm (bring your own lunch, tea & coffee will be provided).

Discussion 1pm to 2pm.

**Coffee and Company** meets every Thursday, 10.30am to 12.30pm, in the Hall (disabled access in Meeting House Lane). If you're elderly, or living alone, new to the area, perhaps working from home, and could like some company, come along to share Coffee, Cake, Company and Chat. **All are welcome** – just turn up and give a small donation for refreshments.

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

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/URCBuntingford](http://www.facebook.com/URCBuntingford)

## ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

**Parish Priest:** Reverend Father Cyril Chiaha

### SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2022

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

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

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES, SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES & OTHER PARISH NEWS** are available on the parish website:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/buntingford/>

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



# United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill



## Reverend Kirsty Wainwright

Website: [unitedbenefice.org.uk](http://unitedbenefice.org.uk)

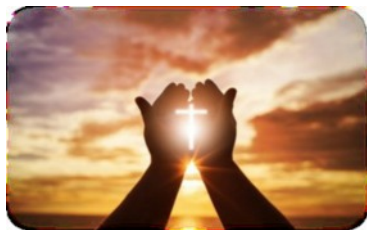
Email: [admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk](mailto:admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk)

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

## Services for October 2022

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9.30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	All Age Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Benefice Together Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	3.00pm	Service of Memories (right)	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill

Our Service pattern may be subject to change, therefore please check our website and church door notices for any changes. Thank you.



Please join us in  
**Morning Prayer**  
Held every  
**Tuesday & Thursday**  
**9am St Peter's Church**

For further information please contact our Benefice office, contact details as above.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUNTINGFORD

The three Churches in Buntingford – Christ Church United Reformed Church (URC), St Peter's and St Richard's – are delighted to announce that we are actively working together for the benefit of our town and local communities.

There are already a number of activities taking place across the town, such as Coffee and Company at the URC Hall on Thursday Mornings (10.30–12.30), the Buntingford

Christian Meditation Group (details can be found at [www.buntingfordmeditation.com](http://www.buntingfordmeditation.com)), and a number of joint services throughout the year.

Churches Together is able to provide support and encouragement from a wide range of traditions to work together in unity. Over the next months, we will be looking at ways in which we can work with other community groups as well as enhancing our ecumenical relationships. Our forthcoming activities include the service on Remembrance Day, with an act of remembrance at the memorial at 10.45am, followed by a service at the United Reformed Church. We will also be at the Lights of Love event on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

We would welcome your comments, views and ideas. Please email [churchestogetherinbuntingford@aol.com](mailto:churchestogetherinbuntingford@aol.com) or contact any member of the group through their church:

Fr. Cyril Chiaha	St Richard's
Revd Kirsty Wainwright	St Peter's
Revd Norman Jones	St Peter's
Revd Sue Fender	Christ Church URC
Ms Tina Wilson	Christ Church URC

**GOD BLESS YOU**  
**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUNTINGFORD**

## *Service of Memories*

*Join us at one of our lovely services to  
remember those we have lost.*

*To remember family and friends, sharing  
memories and celebrating their lives.*

*Sunday 30th October 2022*

*3:00pm at St Mary the Virgin, Westmill*

*Sunday 6th November 2022*

*3:00pm at St Peter's Church, Buntingford*

*If you wish to share a flower for each person you would like to  
remember, we will make an arrangement to display at the end  
of our services.*

*For further information please contact our Benefice Office:  
Email: [admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk](mailto:admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk) Tel: 07484 345027*

## Buntingford Gardeners' Club

Our Annual Show at the beginning of September turned out to be a very enjoyable and well attended event. Thanks go to all the members for taking the trouble and time to bring their exhibits for the show. Winner of Best in Show was Rosemary Austin with her amazing Pineapple Lily (right) and the winner of most first places was Glynis Jaycock.

**At this month's meeting, on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October**, the speaker will be Simon White talking about the Highlights of RHS Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. Simon is the General Sales Manager at Peter Beales Garden Centre in Attleborough. This is his second visit to us and he is sure to bring along some roses to sell.

Our meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, starting at 8pm, doors open 7.45pm. Visitors pay £3 per meeting; the Club's Annual Subscription is £17.50. For more information, please contact the Secretary on 01763 271885

**Lesley Lowers**



with the Altos. Very soon both were co-opted on to the choir committee, Alan as Treasurer and Carolyne as the Membership Secretary.

When Mandy Wilson, our Musical Director, left the choir due to pressures of a new job, we tried advertising the position and in the interim the committee asked Alan and Leigh Wood to act as temporary Musical Directors. After a few months, with no suitable candidates replying to our advertisements, we asked Alan and Leigh to take on the role permanently. Alan and Leigh led us through to early 2020 when the dreaded Covid struck. Alan had the idea that we could carry on meeting by Zoom, and so we did, still meeting on a Monday night and enthusiastically belting out songs or having 'pop quizzes'. We even had our Christmas party via Zoom. So it's a big Thank You from everyone in the Buntingford Community Choir to Alan and Carolyne.

In respect to the memory for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the Choir cancelled its rehearsal on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. The Choir meets for practice on Mondays at Millfield School, Monks Walk, Buntingford, starting at 7.30pm. If you are interested in joining please email us at: [info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk](mailto:info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk). Or for more information go to our website: [www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk)

“Last year, all across England, there were huge numbers of storm overflows resulting in the discharge of raw sewage into our waterways.”



This was the start of an excellent article on the CPRE Hertfordshire website, published in June, that highlighted the raw sewage spills that occurred across Hertfordshire in 2021. The article looked at data analysed by an organisation called ‘Top of the Poops’ (see <https://top-of-the-poops.org/>), which showed that there were at least 470,000 – yes, that’s almost half a million – raw sewage “dumps” into English waterways last year. The data is presented by parliamentary constituency, so looking at the parliamentary constituencies in our area we see that:

- The South West Hertfordshire constituency had 234 sewage dumps at 3 sites totalling 4,742 hours’ duration.
- The North East Hertfordshire constituency had 277 sewage dumps at 11 sites totalling 3,225 hours’ duration.
- The Hertford and Stortford constituency had 188 sewage dumps at 6 sites totalling 1,838 hours’ duration.

The article also drew on data from The Rivers Trust, who have updated their Sewage Map with the latest 2021 data. Of relevance to our area were the entries for Cottered and Barkway, which showed that:

- At Cottered, there were 83 spills for a total of 1,346 hours into the Cottered Brook.
- At Barkway, there were 40 spills for a total of 734 hours into the River Quin

CPRE Hertfordshire have calculated that across the county of Hertfordshire last year, there were more than 1,000 spills resulting in the release of raw sewage into our waterways for a total of well over **15,000 hours**. Their calculation takes into account the fact that not all spills are monitored, and that the data from the Environment Agency is incomplete. These figures are, quite frankly, horrifying. If you would like to read the full article you will find a link to it on the FORQ website.

Riverfly monitoring has continued throughout the summer but has proved difficult at some sites due to the lack of water in the river. This was particularly the case at one of our regular sites in Buntingford – we were unable to conduct our routine monitoring at the Watermill Bridge (Luynes Rise) site at the end of August. We always monitor two sites in Buntingford on the same day, and thankfully there was just about enough water at the other site (near the Aspenden Road bridge) but the riverfly score was exceptionally low. Once again, the phosphate levels were too high for our colorimeter to measure. This site is just below the output of the Buntingford Sewage Treatment Works.

**Pauline Ayres, Communications FORQ**  
<https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com/>

## Reed Garden Club

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2–4pm, at Reed Village Hall**

This month's speaker is Aruna Mene, ‘Rags to Riches’– the re-use of fabrics.

Entrance £2, tea & coffee included, also a bookstall. All welcome



# Buntingford Town Council

## A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 is a date now enshrined into the history of our country. A date upon which we all will recall where we were and what we were doing when we heard the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

When the news broke, the Town Council responded by immediately initiating its plans held for such an occurrence, and further planning began to ensure every aspect and detail was delivered over the coming days. As Town Mayor, I wanted to ensure Buntingford responded in a way rightfully expected of its community.

Initially, our Union Flag, flying from the pole in the car park of the Manor House, was lowered in accordance with protocol and a book of condolence opened in the council chamber for all to access. The coming days were to see a number of functions performed in accordance with protocol and our statutory duties.



On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, as Town Mayor I laid the first floral tribute to Her Majesty on behalf of the Town Council at our designated site at the memorial (left). A sombre moment when it suddenly all became so real.

Two days later, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>, I was privileged to host our town's proclamation ceremony at the Manor House (below). Again, in line with strict protocol, our event followed national events and then those held at County and District level. It was a humbling experience to read aloud, from the steps of the Manor House, the formal proclamation



document proclaiming the accession to the throne of our new Sovereign King, Charles III. Speaking to a packed car park with people from across our community, supported by my fellow town councillors, it is a moment I shall never forget.

Throughout the following days there were further administrative obligations to fulfil. Together with our Deputy Mayor Pat Furness I represented Buntingford at a service of remembrance hosted by East Herts District Council at





Wallfields in Hertford (left). It was a pleasurable event, during which we were able to reflect and share experiences with other parish representatives from across the district.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, in the presence of the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, I was honoured to give the welcoming address to a full-capacity congregation at St. Peter's Church, as we held our own commemorative civic service of remembrance. Most pleasing was the breadth of representation from across the community, with councillors

from Town, District and County level, including from neighbouring parishes, our emergency services and local scout group. It really was a coming together for our town to reflect and celebrate the extraordinary life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I extend my sincere thanks to the team at St. Peter's for their hard work in ensuring that this service was delivered in such a respectful manner befitting the occasion.

And, at 8pm that evening, members of that congregation fell silent, as we joined the nation for a minute of silent reflection at the Manor House to conclude our formal programme.

I spent the following morning, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, at the Manor House watching the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with some regular attendees of our Chatter tables, who meet on the first and third Mondays of each month. I was proud to observe the two minutes' silence with them.

**Buntingford Town Mayor, Councillor Duncan Wallace**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Town Council meetings for October 2022**

Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	7:00pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	7:00pm – Planning Committee 7.30pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	7.00pm – Planning Committee 7:30pm – Full Council meeting

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

## News from Your District and County Councillor

It is with great sadness that I heard of the passing of our Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September. She had devoted her entire life to serving the nation here in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Our longest-serving Monarch of 70 years she made history, and was history. An inspiration to everyone, she will be greatly missed.

I heard the sad news whilst at my son's wedding in Limoges, France. We had just finished the civil wedding service at Limoges Town Hall when the news came through. It was a day of mixed emotions with the joyous wedding celebrations and the sad news from Balmoral Castle.



I have been honoured to have photographed The Queen on many occasions during my professional photographic career and I am pleased to share with you my favourite photograph of her. This was taken during her Golden Jubilee year when she toured the country.

An assignment closer to home was when Her Majesty officially opened the new Glaxo Wellcome R&D facility in Stevenage in 1995. I was honoured to be the official photographer that day and followed The Queen and Prince Philip as they toured the state-of-the-art research and development facility. They were keen to meet staff and local dignitaries and finished the day with a tree planting and plaque unveiling, duties that she must have done many thousands of times during her lifetime.

Another memorable occasion in her presence was in 2018 when I was invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party as Chairman of East Herts Council. Jill and I were honoured and delighted to attend. It was a gloriously sun-filled day at the Palace and we were privileged to see Her Majesty walking through the grounds meeting guests. Unfortunately for us, we did not get the opportunity to meet her in person, but just being in her presence was very special. It was a day we will never forget.

We now see the succession to the throne of King Charles III, and I know he will also be a great success as Head of State. God Save The King.

With The Queen's sad passing, measures were quickly put in place that had been planned for many years. Known as Operation London Bridge, these included several

local events. First, the proclamation of the accession of His Majesty King Charles III, issued by the Accession Council, was read out at a ceremony at County Hall in Hertford at 1pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September (photo below). The proclamation was read by the High Sherriff of Hertfordshire, Sally Burton DL, in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant, local civic leaders, County Councillors and officers.

The proclamation was handed to District & Borough Council Chairmen to be read at their council offices. The proclamation was also read outside The Manor House in Buntingford by the Town Mayor, Cllr Duncan Wallace.

An Extraordinary Hertfordshire County Council Meeting was held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September where Councillors expressed tributes to The Queen. I took the opportunity at this meeting to say that the residents of Buntingford were deeply saddened by the death of our Queen and send their deepest condolences to King Charles and all members of the Royal family whilst offering our full support to The King on his accession.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September a Commemorative Event to mark the passing of The Queen was hosted by the Chairman of East Herts Council outside Wallfields in Hertford, attended by Town and District Councillors and local organisations. The event was an opportunity to give thanks for the late Queen's life and reign.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September a Civic Service of Remembrance and Celebration for the life of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was held at St Peter's Church, Buntingford, where Mayor Duncan Wallace gave a eulogy to the life of The Queen. St Peter's was full with residents, local groups and civic leaders and the service was also attended by Hertfordshire Deputy Lieutenant Janie Wentworth-Stanley.

**Cllr Jeff Jones**

**East Herts District and Hertfordshire County Councillor, Buntingford Ward**

**0300 123 7493 / [jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk)**



# The 22<sup>nd</sup> Buntingford Classic

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Buntingford Car and Bike Show was yet again a roaring success. Over 200 cars and motor bikes and scooters were present and paraded along the historic High Street. As usual, residents from the Town and local villages turned out in force to support the event. The weather was very kind, despite some less than favourable initial forecasts, and by 10am the High Street was already filling up with people and cars. Live bands played from midday until around 4pm and a variety of street food was available for those seeking sustenance. It also looked as if the local hostellers were doing a roaring trade. There were the usual prizes on offer – Best Car in Show, Best Bike in Show, Car to Drive Home In, and the Chairman's Choice. And the winners were:



**Best Car in Show (left)** – TVR Sagaris owned by Andy Hills

**Best Bike (below left)** – Harley Davidson owned by Simon Hoar

**Car to Drive Home In (above)** – Chevrolet Corvette owned by Chris Hucker

**Chairman's Choice (top right)** – A 1976 Toyota Celica owned by Phil Williamson



The prizes were presented by Buntingford Town Mayor Councillor Duncan Wallace and the happy winners are pictured right. Top to bottom: Andy Hills (Best Car); Richard Hoar, collecting the prize on behalf of his son Simon (Best Bike); Chris Hucker (Car to Drive Home In); and Phil Williamson (Chairman's Choice).

As usual the event passed without a single unsavoury incident. Thanks must go to all the volunteer marshals, without whose help the event would simply not be possible, and to

sponsors Layston Grove Care Home and Buntingford Town Council.

**Graham Bonner**



## Yew Tree Alpacas

# Early Bird Christmas Shop

*Meet our lovely Alpacas and shop early for Christmas*

**SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER**  
**10.30am - 4.30pm**

**10% off all alpaca products\***

\*discount on alpaca products only

Our range of alpaca products and other Christmas gifts include:

- Super warm, soft & durable alpaca socks
- Premium Alpaca yarns from the Yew Tree herd & knitting kits
- Hand knitted luxury accessories including a wide range of alpaca hats & scarves
- Fleecy Christmas gifts for bird lovers
- Alpaca greeting & Christmas cards
- Alpaca gift items incl mugs, cushions tea towels, bags, jigsaws, keyrings
- Marmalades & local honey



**Yew Tree Alpacas**  
 Anstey, Herts SG9 0DA  
 (on the Anstey to Brent Pelham Road)  
 Tel: 01763 848257  
 Email: [info@yewtreealpacas.co.uk](mailto:info@yewtreealpacas.co.uk)  
[www.yewtreealpacas.co.uk](http://www.yewtreealpacas.co.uk)

**Coffee shop\* with home-made cakes**

\*in marquee adjacent to alpacas grazing

It was wonderful to see such a great turn out for the Car Show on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Thank you to everyone who came to see us and got a balloon from us – we were certainly busy!



The focus of this month's article is Physiotherapy, which helps to restore movement and function when someone has been affected by injury, illness or disability. It can also help to reduce your risk of injury or illness in the future.

We have three Physiotherapists who work from Attend2Health (photo below). Joanne (on the left) graduated in 2001. She has also trained as a Neurological Physiotherapist and has an interest in treating neurological conditions and rehab. She is able to offer home visits and also has an MA in Design research for disability.

Annette (on the right) has an interest in Women's Health and can help with pelvic organ prolapse, incontinence and diastasis recti.

Ian (centre) has been a physiotherapist for 23 years. He has treated a wide range of people from school age to the elderly including high level amateur sports players. He has also provided pitch-side cover in the past.

All three of our physiotherapists are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council and can accept quite a few insurance companies.

We also offer a free 15-minute chat for anyone who wants to find out if we think we could be able to help before committing to a programme of treatment. Just give us a call on the number below for more information.

**Louise Hampton**  
01763 87 80 87

## Physiotherapy



**Joanne Willett**

**Ian Johnston**

**Annette Goodyear**

# Buntingford Adult Learning For Fun

## OUR AUTUMN COURSE IS 'CURRENT AFFAIRS'

9-week course starts Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has signalled the start of a new Cold War between Russia and the West. What are the consequences of this for the UN and NATO? We'll look at the implications, as well as 'winners' and 'losers' in the war. Whilst refugees from Ukraine are welcomed into Britain, other immigrants are not – what can be done to control illegal immigration? Successive Conservative governments have emphasised the need to 'level up' the regions of Britain and create a 'Northern Powerhouse', but what has been achieved so far? Other issues up for discussion include the Commonwealth – is it still relevant today? Is Britain over-populated and, if so, what can be done about it? And do we still have democracy and free speech? We certainly have free speech in our Current Affairs classes – come along and join in the discussion.

**If anyone is interested in joining us do just come along, you will be made very welcome. Our Wednesday lectures start at 10.30am, at the Seth Ward Community Centre. Coffee is served from 10am. For further information please phone Julia Peacock on 01763 272584 or Joan Jones 01763 273341.**



### Local Libraries to Host Healthy Advice Sessions

Residents can now benefit from free health and wellbeing advice at libraries in Hertford, Ware and Buntingford as the Healthy Hub East Herts team hits the road for monthly drop-in sessions. Residents can go along to talk in person about anything they feel they would like support with. Healthy Hub will be at Buntingford Library on 4<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November, from 10am to 12 noon.

Healthy Hub is a one-stop source of information connecting residents to health, wellbeing and social support, as well as community activity options. The sessions give residents the opportunity to drop in for a chat and sign up to free programmes and services on offer. From managing mental health and weight loss, to bereavement support and unemployment – however you may be struggling – they can help you get back on track.

Councillor Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for Wellbeing at East Herts Council, said: “We are delighted to have the opportunity to engage with local people in this way. We do, however, appreciate the sensitivity of some issues people may wish to discuss which is why we'll also have the option to leave details with us so that we can arrange a more convenient time to talk.”

Further information is available on the East Herts Council website at:

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



Simon Barfoot (on the left), Healthy Lifestyles Programme Officer, and Riccardo Maraia, Community Wellbeing Support Officer, who both work in the Wellbeing & Partnerships Team at East Herts Council.

# BALA – 20 Years and Counting

BALA is a not-for-profit local charity operating a minibus for local folk who, for whatever reason, have difficulty accessing other forms of private or public transport. BALA came into being over 20 years ago when a handful of locals identified the need in Buntingford for a transport service for people who are 'less able'. Following some dedicated fund-raising, our first minibus was purchased in September 2003, reported at the time in the Mercury (right), including a photo of some of the first BALA committee members. The charity has provided trips all over the area ever since.



We collect and drop-off passengers at the car park behind Benson Hall, usually between 9 and 11am. We go to various town centre or 'out of town' shopping destinations and garden centres such as Scotsdales or Frosts at Willington. We try to organise a pub lunch each month and often go farther afield to such places as Southend or Bury St. Edmunds for the day. There are many places to visit and we are open to suggestions for places that folk may like to go.

The minibus is funded by the fares charged. An example of a trip would be to Saffron Walden town centre on Market Day: pick-up 10.30am at Benson Hall; drop-off back at Benson Hall at 2pm. (Return times are often negotiable with the driver on the day depending on how much time the passengers would like at the destination.) Cost £7 per person. Our bus has 11 seats – 9 in the back plus 2 up front with the driver. It also has a wheelchair lift (right) and the space to secure one chair during travel.



Details of trips are published each month in the Journal, along with dates for our monthly fund-raising Coffee Mornings held in URC Hall on Baldock Road. To book a seat, simply call the number given below the list of trips. If you require a carer to travel with you they are welcome on the bus but would have to pay the same fare. We are not a local authority funded scheme so cannot accept bus passes. To satisfy our remit as a charity for the less able, on each trip we must transport at least one person over 75 years of age or a person registered as disabled. Furthermore, to maintain our viability we only run trips where four or more passengers have requested to travel.

Our drivers, who are all unpaid volunteers, are responsible for pick-up, transportation and return of passengers. They are not responsible for providing care to the passengers while on board or at the destination. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver, we would also like to hear from you. Please call Ruth on **07870 638480**.

## IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY! – CELEBRATE WITH US

20 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2002, our amended Constitution was officially adopted and we were granted Charity status. **To celebrate this occasion, we are hosting a FREE buffet lunch in the United Reformed Church Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 11.30am–1.30pm.** You are invited to come along, help us celebrate and find out a bit more about us.

# BALA Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

## Minibus Trips in October 2022

OCTOBER	Time	Destination	Price
Tues 4th	10.30am-2pm	Saffron Walden	£6
Mon 10th	10am-2.30pm	St Ives	£8
Wed 12th	11.30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Mon 17th	10.30-1.30pm	Brookfield Centre	£6
Thurs 20th	11am-2.30pm	Jordans Mill	£7
Tues 25th	9.30am-1pm	Harlow (Harvey Centre & Market Day)	£7
Thurs 27th	10.30-2.30pm	Bury Lane Farm Shop/Dobbies	£5
NOVEMBER			
Mon 7th	10am-3pm	Cambridge	£7.50
Wed 9th	11.30am	Pub Lunch	£5
JANUARY 2023			
Fri 6th	10.45am	PANTO: Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs ( <a href="https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/snow-white-and-the-seven-dwarfs/milton-keynes-theatre/">https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/snow-white-and-the-seven-dwarfs/milton-keynes-theatre/</a> ) Milton Keynes Theatre. 1pm performance Ticket £28.50 (conditions will apply)	Bus £13

All trips start from the Benson Hall car park unless otherwise agreed.  
Our bus has full facilities for wheelchair transport with the latest length  
tail lift. To book a seat or for more information ring:

**01763 271909 or 07870 638480**

(please be prepared to leave a message)



### BALA'S 20<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY LUNCH

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 11.30-1.30**

Come and join us for a free buffet  
lunch to celebrate at URC Hall



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

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 10-11.30am**

## BUNTINGFORD ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

### UN Day State of the Planet Programme

– *made in Buntingford* –

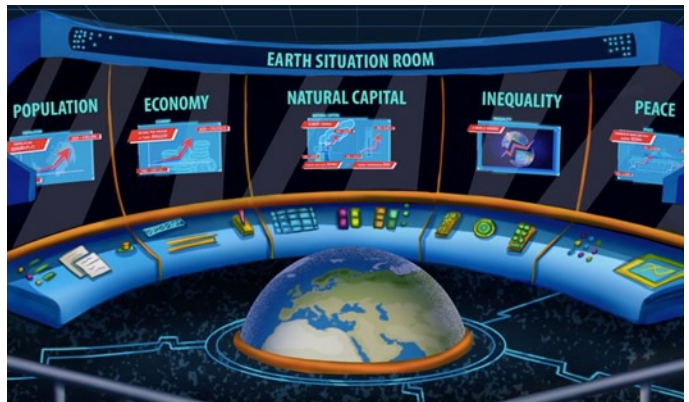


WHAT DO YOU WANT  
BUNTINGFORD  
TO LOOK LIKE IN  
**2050?**



“Save the World!” – “Heal the World!” sang Michael Jackson; – “The World’s going to the Dogs!” moan the old people; – “Stop Climate Change! Save the Environment!” cry the young people; – “Tell the Truth!” screams Extinction Rebellion from its pink banners. But what is the Truth? “How bad is it?” young people ask us. They have a right to know: but what do we tell them? “We live in an ocean of information,” says Inger Andersson, head of the UN’s Environment Programme, “but we can only retain small drops of knowledge...”

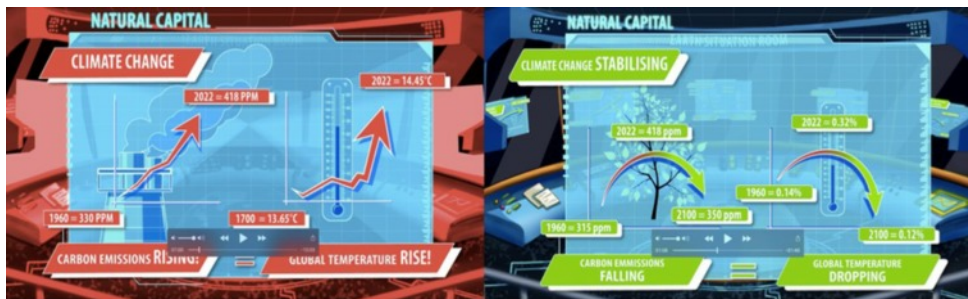
For the last two years a team here in Buntingford, led by David Woolcombe with two young people, Lauren Banham and Shope Fashade, have worked with experts from around the world to try to distil those “drops of knowledge” that most accurately reflect the State of the Planet as it is today – and as it needs to be by 2100 if future generations are to live in a safe, sustainable world. We sought the help of the United Nations as they share our concern about the state of the world and are looking for a public-facing event to mark UN Day, 24<sup>th</sup> October (the UN’s Birthday), every year. But the UN is not in a good place right now: it is beleaguered by its member governments who resist regulation of any kind and find it inconvenient to acknowledge, or act upon, what the science tells them. So we found ourselves relying on independent think-tanks and academics. With their guidance, we came up with the Key Indicators to measure in our imaginary Earth Situation Room:



The first thing to remember is that the Planet will be fine. “Nature will one day shake its fleas!” a New Yorker memorably told a group of our young people. The “fleas” are us! It’s not the Earth that faces extinction, but the human family (along with all the other species affected by us). So – inevitably – most of the key indicators are human-focussed:

- 1) **Population** – how many mouths do we have to feed, shelter, employ, educate?
- 2) **Economy** – how we measure the success of human activity.
- 3) **Natural Capital** – the cost to Nature of that success in terms of our depletion of the biosphere – water, soil, plants and animals.
- 4) **Inequality** – how fairly do we distribute the wealth of the world.
- 5) **Peace** – for without peace between nations, there can be no peace with nature.

Our UN Day State of the Planet Programme starts with data on these five indicators (which we dubbed PENCIP measures from their initials) as they are today; and it ends with data on what they need to look like in 2100 for a safe, sustainable world. Here, for example, is the data on Climate Change:



In the body of the programme, young people interview experts on how we get from today to that safe sustainable future. It exists in a 15-minute Summary, and a 50-minute full-length version and it will go live around the world on the Peace Child YouTube channel on October 24<sup>th</sup> 2022. In future years, we hope to work with the UN and a major streaming company to enable young people in every UN Member state to make their own version of the programme, in their own language, interviewing their own experts, and coming up with their proposals for how to work the changes that have to happen.

It's not easy to capture the state of the planet in a single short programme: the more we worked on it, the more we realised that we were bonkers even to try. But whether you're English, French, Russian, Chinese, African or Latin American – you can't argue with the facts about the state of the Planet. They affect us all. Such global issues can only be addressed collaboratively – through a strengthened and more effective United Nations. So, we hope that doing this annually will be a force for Peace.

Because BACCS is all about acting locally on global issues, we shall be holding another Conversation Café to coincide with COP-27 taking place in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt. See the November Journal for the date and time. And if you'd like to join the Green Party conversation on these issues on the UN's Birthday, get in touch with me at [david@peacechild.org](mailto:david@peacechild.org) – and come and join us at the Stables, Wyddial Road, Buntingford on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 19.00.**

**David R Woollcombe**

**Co-founder, Buntingford Action on Climate Change and Sustainability**

## **BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB**

We have had such lovely weather over the summer which enabled our members to enjoy three trips to the seaside.

We still have a couple of events to enjoy before the end of the year, plus, of course, our weekly get-together to play Bingo, drink coffee or tea, and generally socialise. Do come and join us and see what we get up to!

We meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays) in the United Reformed Church Hall, Baldock Road, Buntingford (opposite McColl's), from 1.30 for 2pm. Just turn up, you will be warmly welcomed, or alternatively call Val on **01763 272019.**

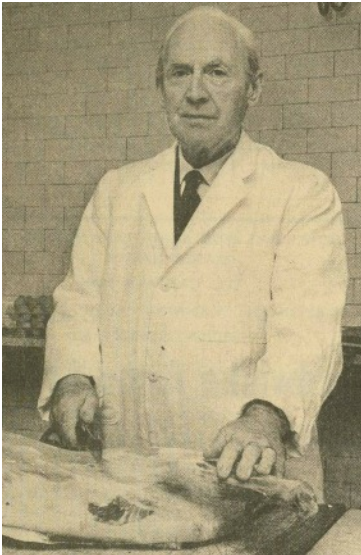
## Buntingford Local History Group

# Butchers in Buntingford

Animals have been killed and used for food, clothing and tools since prehistoric times, originally wild animals but eventually animals bred specifically for these purposes. The earliest records I could find of butchers in Buntingford date back to the year 1558 when Henry Skynner was described, by the vicar Alexander Strange, as a butcher. Other local butchers around the 15-to-1600s were William Ayer, Thomas Harbert, William Plummer and George Gates. During the 1700s William Eldridge, Thomas Eling, Henry Grey and Joseph Hill were said to be trading as butchers. This seems like a lot of butchers for such a small town, but because of the coaching routes that went through the place there would have been a huge trade for meals in the town's coaching inns.

In the 1800s the town's butchers included Stephen and James Archer, William Maskin, Frank Mottram and John Postle. Most were shown as living on the western side of the High Street, possibly because the gardens extended to Back Lane (what is now Bowling Green Lane) and animals could be kept in the gardens before slaughter. With a cattle market every Monday on Market Hill, there was always a ready supply of beasts for all the town's butchers, and once sold and paid for they would be walked along to the rear gardens and eventually up to the slaughter houses behind the butchers' shops.

At the archives I found a sales catalogue for an auction held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1891, at The George in Buntingford, on behalf of the executors of a Mr Bray, who died in 1883. Lot 1 was described as a butcher's shop, slaughter house and outbuildings with a frontage of 35ft on the High Street. On the ground floor the residence contained a shop, dining room, sitting room and wash house. On the first floor were three bedrooms, a box room and a store room used as a hay loft. The shop was at the time rented out to a Mr Mottram, who also rented the land at the rear from a Mr Leader who owned lots of property in the town. Attached to the catalogue was a note saying that prior to the auction sale Mr Mottram had offered £150 for Lot 1, and someone else had written that the property had been valued at £150. Notes alongside some of the other lots in the catalogue list bids rising in £10 increments but the lots were withdrawn, presumably because they hadn't reached the reserve. Alongside Lot 1 was the note 'sold'. This was the butcher's shop at 85 High Street that we now know as Mark Doel's.



Sid Howlett

The shop was originally run by Walter and Thomas Mottram. By 1911 Walter and his wife Hannah had their nephew Sidney Howlett living with them. Thomas died in 1921 and after Walter also died, in 1933, Sidney took over the shop and continued trading for many years becoming well-known in the area. He served for many years on the local council, and belonged to many other local committees. During the war he became the Ministry of Food's butcher-grader at the town's Monday market. In 1954 he took on this job full-time, travelling to five local markets a week grading the livestock. As a result of all this other work he needed two assistants in the shop. One was Joe Pinner from Buckland who worked there all his life and was famous for 'Joe's spicy sausages' which were very popular. Sid also employed George Hagger to help in the shop. Sid bought the White Hart pub

which was next door and eventually, along with the owners of neighbouring properties, sold off the fields at the back and developers built White Hart Close on the land. Sid and his wife Ivy (née Aylott) retired to one of the new houses.

Sid sold the house and shop on the High Street to the Ward Lewis family and Anthony Ward Lewis ran the shop for a short time. In the 1970s they rented the shop to Mark Doel, but they continued to live in the house until around 1975 when Mark bought the house and shop from them. Lindsey Doel told me that her father thought the window was too large so he had a 'Jolly Butcher' stencilled on one side. At Christmas they would use black electrical tape to section the window into small panes to make it look like a Victorian shop, with fake snow and holly to make it festive. Mark like to play pranks on customers, many of whom became friends. At Christmas, for example, he sprayed a pig's head gold, added some holly, then hung it on a friend's car! Mark eventually sold the house and shop to Geoff Pigg who still runs the butcher's shop today.

I found this advert (right) in a local paper dated the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1926. Piggott's was originally at 83 High Street (the old Lams Chinese takeaway), next door to Mark Doel's. Horace Piggott hailed from Langley in Essex, but by 1916 his war records show he was living in Norfolk Road, Buntingford, with his wife and children and his trade was listed as butcher. By 1939 his son Robert is shown as helping his father in the shop, so Horace must have traded at 83 High Street for many years. Animals were still killed in the slaughter-house at the rear where a Mr Burr, who lived in Barkway, was in charge of the slaughtering.

Piggott's did deliveries to several local schools, and Sandra Wyatt remembers how on Wednesdays she would drive the delivery van round the local villages delivering orders, one of which, to a pensioner, was for just two sausages. Horace died in 1963 and Robert continued the business until he retired, when the shop was sold to Charlie Cornes who kept the name Piggott's. He

in turn sold it to Roger Boxwell and although I couldn't establish the exact date of the sale, Roger Boxwell was shown as being there in 1980. In around 1982-83 Roger bought what was then Baxter's butcher shop which was further down the High Street (now Riley's) and moved the business there, still under the



Piggott's in the 1970s, still in its original location at 83 High Street.

name of Piggott's. Carl Billings bought it from him in 1988 and and traded as Piggott's for more than 30 years. When Carl gave the shop up in 2020 it was taken on by Gary Riley, who finally changed the name from Piggott's to Riley's Family Butchers.



Baxter's shop in the 1960s.

Riley's shop originally started life as the London Central Meat Company Ltd who traded there from at least 1937, as shown by an advert I found in a local trade directory. By the late 1950s it had been sold and the shop was then Baxter's. Many locals remember Wally Joyner who ran it both for the London Central Meat Company and then for Baxter's. Geoff Pigg worked with Wally for a number of years. In about 1982-83 the Baxter's chain of shops was bought by Dewhurst's, who closed the one in Buntingford as surplus to requirements.

There is mention of other butcher's shops in town including, in the 1880s, one at 54 High Street. And this advert from a local paper in 1933 (below),

found on the Buntingford in Old Newspapers webpage, is for a new butcher's shop opening that January. Then in 1937 the Co-op opened a store in Buntingford High Street. In addition to the grocery shop they had a butcher's next door, which is on the right in the photo (top right.)

A well-known family of Buntingford butchers was the Jacksons who originally came from Westmill where the father, Henry Jackson, was the landlord of The Sword in Hand. Henry had four sons: Walter born in 1860, Fred born 1864, Arthur 1865 and Ernest 1870. In the 1871 census Henry listed his occupation as publican and butcher. In 1891 Walter was living and trading as a butcher on Great Lane (now Church Street). By 1901 Arthur was running that shop and Walter had opened another at 49 High Street (now The Beauty Lounge). Ernest may also have worked in the shop as it's his name that I found listed in trade directories.

Arthur continued to run the Church Lane shop with his wife Maria and their five surviving children. Next door was a sweet shop run in 1901 by Eliza Bysouth, then later by Mrs Handy and Mrs Mayes, which was used by local children on their way to or from school. Mrs Mayes' husband Walter worked for the Jacksons and Nancy Mayes' family still have the horns from the first cow that Walter slaughtered.

In 1909, at another auction of property owned by the Leader family who lived in the White House, Arthur Jackson purchased several cottages and a piece of land in Great Lane. In 1912 he also bought the Cage for £10 from the estate of William Butt, the owner of Corneybury Manor. Arthur's son Henry assisted his father in the shop, but was also a

**NOTICE.**

**W. J. HUTCHINGS**

Begs to inform the public of Buntingford and surrounding districts that he has acquired the premises recently occupied by Mr. HAMILTON at

**HIGH ST., BUNTINGFORD**

and will open the same for the sale of

HIGH-CLASS HOME-KILLED

**ENGLISH MEAT.**

It will be my endeavour to purchase my Cattle from Local Farms, and assist our own town and industry.

As an introduction I am giving to all Purchasers of the sum of 2/6 and upwards 1lb. of my celebrated Pork Sausages.

ALL MEAT AT LOWEST PRICES.

OPENING DATE :

**Thursday, Jan. 26th.**



local photographer and used the shop as his darkroom. Arthur's wife Maria died in 1932, Arthur in 1948, and Henry passed away the same year, just a few months after his father.

Jacksons' shop was opposite the Fox and Duck in Church Street (photos overleaf). I have tried to trace the history of the property, parts of which date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but this has proved quite difficult. In the tithe records of 1841 the owners are listed as William and Charles Drage, both vicars. It seemed odd to me that two vicars should jointly own property so I dug a little deeper. Documents at the archives showed that their father William Drage was a grocer in Buntingford in the late 1700s. He seems to have been a wealthy man, owning property in Buntingford, Sandon and Kelshell, and his will shows that he also owned the tolls on Thrapston Road in Huntingdon, the town where he was born. However, his own father had died when William was still a small boy, leaving William's mother £100 and a pub to run, so although not poor it seems that William's money didn't come from his father. I can only assume that William Drage the grocer was a very astute man who invested in property as well as running his grocery business.

Other documents I found show that Arthur insured against fire a property in Great Lane that was referred to as 'Kents'. From this, I surmise that Jacksons was originally called Kents. What the house was used for prior to 1891, when it was definitely a butchers run by the Jacksons, we will never know. After Arthur Jackson died it is believed the house was sold and rented out for a number of years. John and Jenny Reynolds bought the house in 1997 and renovated it, and they sold it to the current owners, Dave and Sue Miller, who were told that originally the house was three small cottages, which was possibly prior to the Jacksons buying it. Dave and Sue think that it may at some stage have belonged to the Diocese of St Albans, and also that a Dr Grey may have owned it at some point, but I have not found records to confirm this. Whilst doing some renovations in a ground floor room they discovered a concealed cupboard with a candle stub and some old coins on a shelf. Could this have been a priest hole? Again, we will probably never know and can only wonder at what happened in the past.

**The next meeting of the BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP  
is on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October** at 2pm in Buntingford Library.  
Topic: Buntingford Town Council Past and Present. £2 per person.**



*Left: Henry Jackson. Above: Walter Jackson's shop in the High Street in around 1903. You can just make out three carcasses hanging up outside. Below: An abundant Christmas display of meat outside the Jackson's shop in Great Lane. Arthur Jackson is in the centre of the picture, with Walter Meyes, who worked for him, on the left.*



Coming back to today, we are very lucky to have two good butcher's shops in Buntingford where we can buy fresh meat, unlike so many High Streets that no longer have this service and people have to rely on pre-packed meat from supermarket chains.

**Carol Emery, Buntingford Local History Group**



**BUNTINGFORD ACTION  
FOR SOCIAL HELP**

**Volunteer Hospital  
Driver Service**

**B.A.S.H. is  
delighted to be  
able to continue  
serving the  
community by  
assisting local  
folk with  
attending medical**

**and dental appointments and returning them home again. Public transport is not always the most convenient option, so we will help as far as we can.**

Our volunteer drivers come from many walks of life. They are always respectful towards those travelling with them and often offer help if needed.

More drivers, with their own cars, are very much needed for us to be able to offer this service to the community without having to disappoint people from time to time. It is ever so hard to say to someone "I'm sorry, no more drivers available", when that person needs to attend an appointment.

We can usually find somewhere suitable to park and wait without incurring parking charges. However, should circumstances dictate otherwise, any parking charges would be paid by our passenger.

By way of a fare, for the round trip, we simply ask for contributions toward petrol costs as per the amounts shown here (right):

**Point of contact is:**

Colin Horgan  
11 London Road  
Buntingford  
SG9 9JJ  
Phone: 07733 091731  
Email:

**[B.A.S.H.communitytransport@gmail.com](mailto:B.A.S.H.communitytransport@gmail.com)**

**Drivers are reimbursed at the rate of  
40p per mile.**

**If you have a little free time occasionally  
that you would like offer to the community  
as a volunteer driver, please contact Colin  
who will gladly discuss things with you,  
and hopefully welcome you to join us.**

<b>DESTINATION</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Addenbrookes</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>Lister</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Herts &amp; Essex</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Hertford County</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Royston</b>	<b>5.00</b>
<b>QEII</b>	<b>14.00</b>
<b>Harlow</b>	<b>14.00</b>
<b>Ware</b>	<b>7.00</b>
<b>Papworth</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>Rivers</b>	<b>14.00</b>
<b>Luton</b>	<b>17.00</b>
<b>Cambridge Lea</b>	<b>16.00</b>
<b>Hitchin</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Epping</b>	<b>17.00</b>
<b>Local</b>	<b>2.00</b>
<b>Outlying villages</b>	<b>35p per mile</b>

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

**THE CO-OP • LOCKS, STOCK & MORE • MARK DOEL BUTCHERS  
McCOLL'S (The Post Office) • RILEY'S FAMILY BUTCHERS  
KIM on the CARD STALL on Buntingford Market (Mondays only)**



Buntingford Scouts



# Family Race Night

at Layston School

12th November 2022 7-9.30pm



**Adults £10, Children (under 14) £2.50 inc. Ploughman's Supper. Bar and tuckshop available.**

**Book tickets online at**

<https://app.tickettailor.com/event/1650292>

## **Invitation** from Ware Choral Society

**This year Ware Choral will be performing 'The Messiah' at Christ Church in Ware on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.**

We would like to invite you to come and join us! If you enjoy singing and are free on Wednesday evenings for rehearsals, why not come along and be part of our choir for this and any future performances? All voice parts are welcome.

We meet at the Riverside Hall in Ware on Wednesdays, 7.15 for 7.30pm. Rehearsals for The Messiah started on September 14<sup>th</sup> but you would still be very welcome to come and try a few sessions at any time during the autumn, without commitment, and see if you like us!

If you'd like any more info and just might be interested in joining us, have a look at our website [www.warechoral.org.uk](http://www.warechoral.org.uk), or you could email [colinbrookbanks@gmail.com](mailto:colinbrookbanks@gmail.com). Alternatively, as a local choir member, phone Liz on **07778 363709**.

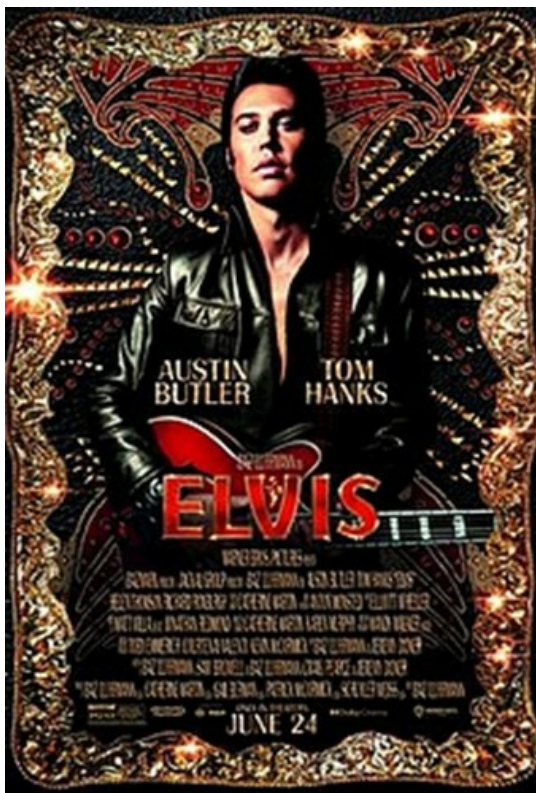
Hope to see you soon!

## BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

It never ceases to amaze how generous Buntingford people are even at a time of economic hardship. The charity screening in September on behalf of the United Reformed Church raised £700.

Now it's back to our normal locality of the Seth Ward Community Centre. But there has had to be another change as the film that we advertised last month is not going to be available in time for our October screening and so has been deferred to the following month (see below).

The film we shall be showing on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October**, from 7.30pm in the Community Centre, will be 'Elvis' (right), the version by Oscar-nominated director Baz Luhrmann which was released earlier this year. It stars Austin Butler as Elvis Presley whose stellar career is told from the perspective of his manager Colonel Tom Parker played by Tom Hanks. Since its release in Australia in May the film has been widely praised.



Our film for November, therefore, will be 'Top Gun: Maverick'. Although not originally planned for the Club's November screening, we normally do try to show a film with a military theme in that month, bearing in mind that Remembrance Day falls in November. In this long-awaited sequel the character of Maverick, again played by Tom Cruise, is now nearing the end of his career as an ace pilot and is training the next generation of pilots. Special praise has been articulated for the cinematography which is said to be even more impressive than in the first Top Gun film. Join us and see for yourself at the Seth Ward Community Centre on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**.

Book your tickets through

[Facebook.com@buntingfordfilmclub](https://www.facebook.com/buntingfordfilmclub)

or at Keith Ian, 42 High Street.

**Brian Thompson**



**East Herts**

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

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

## TIPS FOR FINANCIAL WELLBEING

This is a challenging time for many. This short guide is designed to help you maintain financial wellbeing and to provide practical steps if you're struggling to make ends meet.

### **Maximise your Income**

Applying for benefits is one way of topping up your income. Our online benefits calculator shows what benefits you might be eligible for. See [www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/benefits-calculator/](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/benefits-calculator/)

### **Minimise your Expenses**

If your income drops, you need to cut your overheads. Cancel any unnecessary services, but check the contracts to make sure you are not breaching any agreements. Cancel the related direct debits so that payments do not go out, and inform the service provider.

### **Government Support for Households energy bills**

Make sure you are getting all the help with your energy bills that you are entitled to. For more information go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-bills-support/energy-bills-support-factsheet-8-september-2022>

### **Rent/Mortgages**

Speak to your landlord or mortgage provider. You may be able to get a payment holiday or a payment break. For further info see: <https://www.fca.org.uk/consumers/financial-impact-rising-cost-living>. *But be careful!* Many companies have been known to increase monthly repayments considerably to accommodate the amount owed during the given break. Discuss this arrangement thoroughly with your landlord/mortgage provider and agree on what will be paid on top of your monthly rent or minimum contractual repayment. Be sure that it is manageable and affordable before taking the deal.

### **Manage your Debts**

- **Credit Cards/Unsecured Loans** – Speak to your credit card companies and loan providers as they may have policies in place to support you in managing your debts, but beware and read the fine print. You may end up increasing your monthly contractual repayments to repay any amounts owed during the break.
- **Secured Loans (Car Finances/Hire Purchases)** – These are priority debts and non-payment will result in the loss of the items secured within the contract. You should be very careful when negotiating any reduced payments. Once again, most contracts include payment holidays or breaks. Read the fine print before agreeing to anything.

### **Budgeting**

Budgeting will help you to manage your finances. The Money Saving Expert has a great article on how to budget: [www.moneysavingexpert.com/banking/budget-planning](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/banking/budget-planning). List all of your income in the spreadsheet, then all of your expenses in order of importance. Expenses such as Rent, Council Tax, Utilities and Secured Loans should be listed first.

If you really need to watch the pennies, print out your budget and check it daily against your bank account. Look out for any inconsistencies and discrepancies when you

compare your expenses against your bank statement. Avoid taking cash from the cash machine. And remember, those little pennies and small change are the unaccounted figures that destroy budgets.

**For more help or to speak to someone:**

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

**Message Line – 01920 459944** (any time). Leave a message and an adviser will call you back usually within 24 hours (except over a weekend).

*Citizens Advice East Herts is a registered charity.*



## **The Hundred Parishes Society**

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

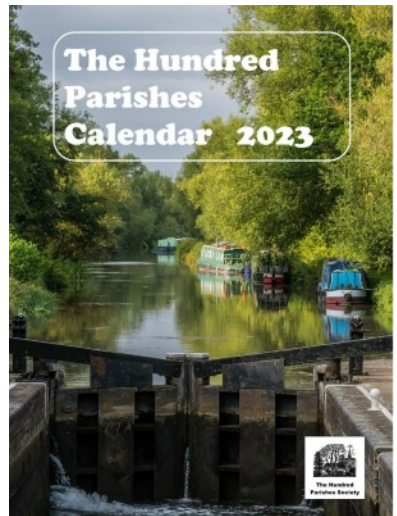
The Hundred Parishes Society is a membership organisation and also a registered charity. Its formal objectives are: to “advance the education of the public in the character and history of The Hundred Parishes”; to provide information for leisure time occupation; and to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the area, all for the benefit of the public. We tend to

abbreviate this by saying we encourage people to appreciate the area.

Over the years, the Society has pursued its aims through a number of channels: regular articles in local magazines; various elements of its website [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk); and a hardback book, 800 copies of which now reside in people’s homes and libraries. We have recently expanded our activities by launching The Hundred Parishes group on Facebook and by producing a calendar for 2023 (right) featuring photos of places in the Hundred Parishes area.

We hope that our Facebook initiative will engage with an additional audience as well as providing existing members with what may suit some of them. The immediacy and interaction of Facebook complements our established, structured approach – which will remain undiminished.

If you already use Facebook, just carry out a search for The Hundred Parishes. Once you have agreed to the group rules, you will be able to join the private group, to share in discussion and post photos if you would like to. You do not have to be a member of The Hundred Parishes Society to join the Facebook group.



**The Hundred Parishes 2023 Calendar is now available** from several local outlets including Barley Stores, Ermines Tea Room at Wadesmill and the Tourist Information Centre in Bishop’s Stortford. It costs £10 and we hope many people will buy a copy to hang on their wall. Please see our website for further details and a full list of stockists.

**Ken McDonald, Secretary**

**Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire are holding their Annual General Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October.** Please join us to meet some of our trustees and staff who can share with you the important work that Home-Start has been doing in our local community over the last year. You will hear from Sarah, our Scheme Manager, and Maureen, our Chair of Trustees, who will reflect on the last year as well as touching on what is to come over the next year. We also hope to share the Home-Start journey of one family supported by us in the past, which is undoubtedly the best way to really understand the difference that Home-Start can make to people's lives! Please email us on [admin@hsrsc.org.uk](mailto:admin@hsrsc.org.uk) to confirm your attendance or call us on **01763 262262**.



**We are also excited to announce that in 2023 Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire will celebrate it's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday!** This means that Home-Start have been supporting families in our local community for an incredible 40 years! We consider that to be a significant achievement, especially considering the funding challenges faced along the way, alongside all the other changes we have worked through. Over the last 40 years we have seen hundreds of different faces in the roles of staff, volunteers, trustees and supporters helping hundreds of different parents and children. The continuity amongst all these faces is the unwavering commitment and dedication to the important work that Home-Start does with local families. We couldn't have done it without these incredible people sharing our journey.

We are already planning some interesting ways for the charity to mark this milestone – look out for our 40<sup>th</sup>-themed events and our 40<sup>th</sup> blog thread amongst other things – but we are calling out for anyone with a past connection to our charity to get in touch. Did you have Home-Start support for your family sometime over the last 40 years? Were you a trustee? Or perhaps you were a home-visitor or family group volunteer? If you have a story to share about Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire, we would love to hear from you!!

Or maybe you could help us mark our special birthday by getting involved with our fundraising? Are you a business that could make us your charity of the year for 2023?



**Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire**

Could you get together with some work colleagues or friends to take on a 40<sup>th</sup>-themed sponsored challenge? Could you donate £40 in 2023 – £1 to mark each year of our existence. The ideas list is endless and if you would like to share some ideas about how to get involved then we would LOVE to hear from you. And if not, then watch this space for details about how we plan to celebrate and how you can be a part of our special plans! Please get in touch by calling us on **01763 262262** or email [admin@hsrsc.org.uk](mailto:admin@hsrsc.org.uk)



BUNTINGFORD  
SCHOOL of DANCE

Celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Year, BSD offers ISTD syllabus classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern, and Recreational classes in Commercial Dance and Tap & Ballet for adults. If you wish to register with us for classes please use the QR code below or email [admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk](mailto:admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk) for more information. All new pupils get a **NO OBLIGATION TRIAL** in the classes they wish to join.

The Autumn term sees some of our pupils working towards end-of-term exams and others continuing with syllabus work and routines. Classes will begin by working on steps, choreography and ideas that may be used in our annual show; next term work on routines for the show will begin in earnest. For some pupils this will be their 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> and last show with us and for others it will be their first. Our shows are an opportunity for pupils to experience a performance and for parents, family and friends to see our dancers of all ages, from 3 year olds to 18 year olds and adults. **Our next show is on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023** at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage, and if you or your child would like to be part of it please register now for classes. Our show includes all our pupils from the youngest to the eldest, with each class learning a routine to perform.



Congratulations to several of our pupils who have successfully auditioned for places on much sought-after associate dance schemes: Darcy, Freya and Tegan with the Cecchetti Ballet Associates Scheme; Chloe with the Cecchetti Ballet Scholars and Associates Schemes; and Kitlyn with London Studio Centre Associates Scheme. They will now attend classes in London at weekends in addition to their regular classes here with BSD.

### Why dance? What are the benefits?

- **Get your heart pumping:** Regular dancing can improve heart health.
- **Balance and strength:** Dance improves posture and helps maintain strong bones and muscles because it involves movements in all directions, keeping all muscles active.
- **Cognitive performance:** Dancing produces endorphins that promote mental health. Research also shows that it helps areas of the brain that control memory and

skills such as planning and organising.

And having to remember steps and routines, even to keep smiling, requires focus – giving you a mental workout as well as a physical one.

- **Emotional well-being:** Dancing in a class or with family and friends is great for reducing stress and boosting self-esteem. **Dance is for everyone!**

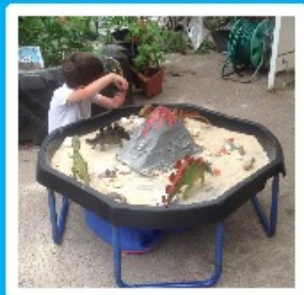
Are you housing a family from Ukraine with a child who'd like to dance? If so please contact us regarding free classes for them.





## Looking for a Nursery or Reception place for September 2023?

Come and join Millfield First & Nursery School  
in Buntingford



### Nursery and Reception at Millfield offers:

- A newly developed Early Years environment.
- Highly trained and dedicated staff.
- A variety of inspirational child-led learning activities.
- Morning sessions for all Nursery children.
- Afternoon Early Explorer sessions for Nursery children. This provides additional enrichment activities through fun, engaging, first-hand experiences specifically designed to prepare children for Reception.
- A smooth transition into full time education.

### Tours for Prospective Parents:

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 9:05am

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 9:05am

Contact the School Office to book a place

To apply for Nursery contact us directly (see details below)

To apply for Reception contact Hertfordshire County Council

[www.millfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk)  
[admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk)  
01763 271717



# Layston C of E First School

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

## Community - We are stronger together

Our new value for the first half of the Autumn term is 'Community'. This Christian Value comes from a Greek word 'Koinonia' which means 'that which is in common'. Other translations might include 'union' and 'partnership'. In school we will ensure that everyone feels included, that the children support one another, and everyone makes a contribution and knows that they are valued and important. The values of the school have an impact on the community and beyond. We will be thinking about how we can involve the wider community in our harvest fundraising by supporting the Buntingford Food Bank. In our classrooms, we will be working together to make things easier so we can achieve great results!

Matthew 18:20

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.”



A warm welcome to all of our new families and to those returning to us after the summer break. We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and are feeling refreshed and ready for the Autumn term. The children are settling in well to their new classes and are excited to learn new skills. There will be lots of opportunities in Forest School and through our creative curriculum this half-term to enrich their learning and promote belonging and community.

We are already thinking about our Reception intake for next year in September 2023. We would like to invite prospective parents to an **Open Morning on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October**, 9:30-10:30am, for a tour of the school. To find out more about our school, please visit our website at [www.layston.sch.herts.uk](http://www.layston.sch.herts.uk). You are also welcome to telephone the school on **01763 271235** with any specific queries.

From all of us here at Layston we would like to thank you for your continued support.

**Mrs Adele McMurrough, Headteacher**



# Edwinstree Middle School



A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

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

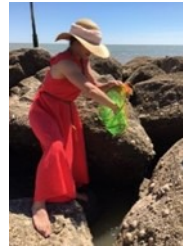


## What happened at the end of the Summer term?

In our last Journal entry, we asked you to pray for the school that we might, after two years of cancellations and disappointment, be able to get our children out on the trips we had planned and the events that help to celebrate their time at Edwinstree. Well thank goodness – we did it! Finally, we could take the school to the seaside and enjoy the glorious weather. The children experienced the sheer joy of a sunny day, a warm beach and all the fun of traditional seaside activities.

We ticked off another of our “50 things to do before we are 12” from the National Trust list by making sure that we had an opportunity to crab on the beach and fly a kite.

We also continued our new tradition of saying goodbye to our Year 8s with an overnight camp on the school field. At midnight we sat and shared our stories and memories. We hope to create a life-long memory for everyone to take with them on their life’s journey. This year a huge blood-red moon came out to greet us, and combined with a clear sky and bright stars, we were left in awe at the beauty around us. When we sang our good-bye songs and hymns we felt a little of the spirituality that the Church of England helps us to find and treasure. Magic!



We were so pleased to welcome our new Reverend, Kirsty Wainwright, to our Year 8 end-of-term Leavers service which we held outside on Aspenden green (right). Thank you to the Aspenden team who allowed us to use their toilet facilities! By walking the students over on the last day of term for a formal goodbye, hymns and service, they were able once again to enjoy the beauty of the place we live in. Our ceremony involved some of our most confident readers with reflections of their time at Edwinstree, our band and finally the Year 8s. Awards were given out for all, as we celebrated the values they take forward. Our ‘Spirit of Edwinstree’ is the final prize which goes to the student we think has within their time most represented the Church of England and our school. This year that prize went to A Van Staden. Congratulations.



## What plans do we have for this year?

Global warming remains the number one concern for our students, as they look towards a future that is uncertain and very different from anything we have known. They continue

to play their part by making sure that they recycle their soft plastics. During the summer we collected over 2 tonnes of crisp packets and clingfilm, and this will go off this term to a company that converts the plastic into outdoor furniture. We will continue to work hard to remember to place our vegetable waste and bread into our 14 tiger worm bins, who feed off the waste and create compost juice that we call 'worm juice'.

Our school curriculum plans focus on the importance of reading, as we have seen a decline in students reading regularly at home. We will be looking to devote 20 minutes of our day to this. We will also be working hard to develop our wellbeing and resilience programme. Over the last two years we have delivered an altered curriculum that supports the learning and understanding of mental health. We are working hard to build the resilience of both staff and students by teaching them how to notice if they are not okay and to share with their trusted adults when they feel this. A variety of toolkit strategies are going in place to support any child or adult who is not okay. We believe this work remains incredibly important as we move from the Covid crisis to the Cost-of-Living crisis. Sadly, we are currently reeling from the level of poverty that many of our families are experiencing as they absolutely struggle to make ends meet. Our pastoral support team would like to thank the food bank for their outstanding work in supporting our families now and in the future.

### **What value are we exploring this half term in Collective Worship?**

As I write we are coming to terms as a school with the end of an era and the passing of our Monarch. Post this news, our first simple messages to students were shaped by an understanding of constancy and how the Queen has been with people and in our lives for such a long time. We explained that her death might shake people a little and provoke a feeling of loss for loved ones who have passed away. However, we used the Buddhist saying that "old age is a privilege denied to many and for the few" to remind them that we need to take the mourning period as an opportunity to celebrate the Queen's amazing life and to acknowledge and feel proud of the life she lived. Finally we used a Philip Larkin poem to help and guide us as we awaited her state funeral.

**IN TIMES WHEN NOTHING STOOD  
BUT WORSENER, OR GREW STRANGE,  
THERE WAS ONE CONSTANT GOOD:  
SHE DID NOT CHANGE.**

**- PHILIP LARKIN -**

We look forward with anticipation and celebration for our new King as the Head of the Church, and have confidence that his mother's sense of duty and service is embedded in him and his family.

**Jo Gant, Headteacher**

### **We hold a coffee morning for Ukrainian families at St Mary's Church in Walkern every Wednesday from 10.30–11.30am.**

We are a voluntary group who provide free tea/coffee and cake where our Ukrainian families can meet each other and also have access to our Food Bank. There are several families living in and around Buntingford who would like to come along but are unable to do so because of lack of transport.

**Would anyone in Buntingford be willing to volunteer to bring them to the coffee morning? If you can, please contact me, Sally Roberts, by email at**

**[sally041960@gmail.com](mailto:sally041960@gmail.com) Many thanks!**

# u3a learn, laugh, live Buntingford

Members of Buntingford u3a, along with people throughout the world, were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our dearly beloved Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Our Chairman Jim Farquhar, paid tribute to her before our monthly meeting.

The Photography Group has re-started following the Covid pandemic and the Carpet Bowls group will restart in October.

The Church Crawlers (below) continue their monthly visits to various churches. Last month they visited St Mary's Church, Shephall, Stevenage, which has a single War Grave and also the grave of an Olympic Gold medallist, Thomas Hampson, showing the five Olympic rings (right).



## The u3a Buntingford Annual General Meeting

will be held on  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022**  
Starting 2.15pm at the  
Seth Ward Community Centre

This month, on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, we have our AGM (left). Our Chairman and other members of our committee have served longer than their scheduled term of office due to the pandemic so we shall be electing new members to take their places. To make this a social occasion, there will be cake and wine available as well as the usual tea and coffee, both before and after the business session. Please attend if you can, either in person or via Zoom.

**Jean Cook**

Membership of the u3a is open to anyone not in full time occupation. We meet monthly, at the Seth Ward Community Centre, on the second Monday of the month – doors open at 1.30pm. **New members are always welcome.** Please visit our website for news and details of all our groups:

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

## Buntingford W.I.



Our September meeting fell on the day that we heard the sad news that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away. She was a loyal and dedicated member of the WI for 80 years and never failed to show her support throughout her time as Queen. Here she is (left) in 2015 on the day she

came to celebrate the WI's centenary at a special WI meeting at the Royal Albert Hall. The second photo (right) shows Her Majesty admiring homemade windchimes on the WI stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition in 1965, the year of the WI's Golden Jubilee. At the beginning of our September meeting Jane Eagle paid tribute to her and we all joined in a prayer.



Our guest speaker was Analiza Jones and she was so bubbly and entertaining. Using her photographic slides she described the process of making handbags using fibres from the abaca plant, a relative of the banana family native to the Phillippines. She showed how the stalks and stems are stripped by the local people, pounded, dyed and woven, and turned into the most beautiful bags. These days artificial dyes are used to get exact colours but the traditional way was to use vegetable dye and also urine. A wide range of products were then available for sale and proved to be very popular.

There will be more details nearer the time but we would like to give advance notice of our **Carol Service**, which will be held on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December** in Christ Church, Baldock Road. We are so grateful to have been given permission to use the Church again. Everyone in Buntingford is welcome to come, not just WI members, so put the date in your diaries!

'Friday Friends', which was set up during lockdown so that we could keep in touch outdoors, is still held on the first Friday of the month from 10.30am in the URC Hall.

**Our next meeting is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October** when our guest speaker is Veronica Weatherhead from the Mercy Ships charity. We meet at the United Reformed Church Hall (opposite McColls) at 7.15 for 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome. If you would like further information about us call Pat on 01763 271305.

Val Hume

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

# What's On – Dates for Your Diary

## OCTOBER

- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm: **Buntingford Film Club** – 'Elvis' at Seth Ward Community Centre (p.33)  
Tue 4<sup>th</sup> 10am–12noon: **East Herts Healthy Hub** at the Library (p.21)  
Tue 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm: **Home-Start A.G.M.** in Royston (p.36)  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> 7.45 for 8pm: **Buntingford Gardeners' Club** at URC Hall (p.12)  
Mon 10<sup>th</sup> 1.30 for 2.15pm: **u3a A.G.M.** at Seth Ward Community Centre (p.42)  
Tue 11<sup>th</sup> 2pm: **Buntingford Local History Group** at the Library (p.29)  
Wed 12<sup>th</sup> 10 for 10.30am: **BALFF Autumn Course** starts at Seth Ward CC (p.21)  
Wed 12<sup>th</sup> 2–4pm: **Reed Garden Club** in Reed Village Hall (p.13)  
Wed 12<sup>th</sup> 8pm: **Buntingford Branch of the Royal British Legion** in The Crown  
Thur 13<sup>th</sup> 7.15 for 7.30pm: **Buntingford WI** in URC Hall (p.43)  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> 11.30am–1.30pm: **BALA's 20th Birthday Lunch** in URC Hall (p.22-23)  
Mon 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm: **UN Day State of the Planet** discussion with BACCS (p.24-25)  
Sat 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am–4.30pm: **Yew Tree Alpacas Early Bird Christmas Shop** (p.19)

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Tue 1<sup>st</sup> 10am–12noon: **East Herts Healthy Hub** at the Library (p.21)  
Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Nov: **Buntingford Film Club** – 'Top Gun: Maverick' (p.33)  
Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Nov: **Buntingford Scouts Family Race Night** (p.32)  
Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Nov: **Remembrance Sunday**  
Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Nov: **BALA Coffee Morning** at URC Hall (p.23)  
Thur 8<sup>th</sup> Dec: **Buntingford WI Carol Service** in Christ Church, Baldock Road (p.43)  
Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec: **Ware Choral Society 'The Messiah'** (p.32)  
Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023: **Buntingford School of Dance Annual Show** in Stevenage (p.37)

## Mondays:

- From 8.30am: **Buntingford Market** on Market Hill  
10am–12noon: **Coffee Morning** at St Peter's Church  
10–11.45am: **Chatter Table** at the Manor House – 1st and 3rd Mondays  
1.30 for 2pm: **Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club** at URC Hall (p.25)  
7.30–9pm: **Buntingford Community Choir** at Millfield School (p.12)

## Tuesdays:

- 10.30–11.30am: **Jigsaws & Chat** – 1st Tuesday at the Library  
7.30–9pm: **Braughing Sing Community Choir** in Jenyn's School Hall

## Wednesdays:

- 10.30–11.30am: **Coffee Morning** for Ukrainian families in Walkern (p.41)  
8–10pm: **Ware & District Photographic Society** in Thundridge Village Hall  
**Buntingford Meditation** at St Peter's Church, except the 1st Wed in the month  
which is online: [www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation](http://www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation)

## Thursdays:

- 10.30am–12.30pm: **Coffee & Company** at the URC Hall (p.9)  
12.30pm: **Functional Movement Class** in Reed Village Hall; contact Jessie Skeggs  
on 07977 146 380 / [www.peacefulchangePilates.com](http://www.peacefulchangePilates.com)  
2.15–2.45pm: **Story Time** for toddlers in the Magnolia Room, Buntingford Library



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# Buntingford Civic Society

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



## WHO ARE WE?

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

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

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

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

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

**TO JOIN PLEASE SEE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON OUR WEBSITE**  
**[www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk](http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk)**

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## Carers in Hertfordshire Online



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

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

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



### Carers in Hertfordshire Hub groups meeting online via Zoom

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

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

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

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

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

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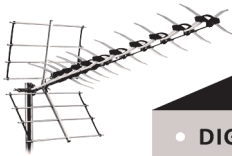
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## LAYSTON GROVE CARE HOME NEWS



### LAYSTON GROVE DOG

**SHOW** This week we hosted our very own dog show here at Layston Grove raising funds for Hessa's Homeless Hounds. The event was well attended and we were delighted to meet members of the local community and their wonderful four-legged friends. The day was a great success, so much so that we are hoping to make this an annual event



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