

THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

The Buntingford Classic Car & Bike Show

Find out who came to town last month to show off their motors - see review on pg.8

Buntingford Film Club

New season films revealed see pg.14

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

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LETTER FROM

The Editor

As I write this letter it really feels like Autumn is knocking at the door. We've had torrential rain and sunshine all in one week so who knows what October will bring?

One thing to look out for as the nights are drawing in, is the new Film Club season that has been announced on page 14, something to look forward to!

The Classic Car Show last month was a huge success with the biggest turn out ever, read all about it on page 8.

As I am getting to grips with editing your Journal it has come to my attention that the way the adverts are split across the front and back of the magazine is not necessarily best for you the reader, or for our supportive advertisers.

This month I am trialling a new system where all the ads will now appear at the back, (except for one on the back of the front cover to balance the pages).

My thinking behind this is that it seems a shame to have to flick through pages of advertisements to get to the editorial copy, and most people I have spoken to barely register the ads as they flick to the main content.

I also think it will be better and fairer for our advertisers to all appear in one place - so that when you are looking for a local business or a trades-person, it is easier to find them all in one place.

Let me know what you think, I'm hoping it will make things simpler for everyone!

Anne

BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

OCTOBER 2023

EDITOR

Anne Wright

journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

FAO Buntingford Civic Society
Journal Contributions
C/O The Manor House, 21 High Street
Buntingford, Herts, SG9 9AB

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

Keith Edwards

01763 272 032
advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

EDITORIAL DEADLINE

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

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

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

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

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

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ON THE COVER

Buntingford Classic Car Show 2nd September 2023



BUNTINGFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Graham Waite, Chairman
chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of

CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense

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Since my article for the September issue, things have moved on considerably on the Planning front.

We are advised by the Town Council that they have received a planning application from Countryside Management, a subsidiary of Bovis Homes and Vistry, for outline planning permission to build 350 dwellings on land to the east of the A10 by-pass. We are aware that there have been many objections to this application, but we await the decision by East Herts Planning.

We have also been made aware of the proposition by the Buntingford Medical Centre for a new Surgery to be located on land to the north of Hare Street Road. This new surgery will be built by Taylor Wimpey. At the time of writing there is no planning application, but we understand that it will form part of a larger development of 200 dwellings.

Wheatley Homes have submitted an application to build 68 dwellings on land to the east of London Road, south of Owles Lane.

We will be working closely with the Town Council to ensure the best outcome for the Town if any of these applications are successful.

On a brighter note, the recent Classic Car Show was again a major success.

Our thanks go to the organisers and volunteers for the hard work, planning and manning this event that showcases our town annually. The consensus is that it was the biggest attendance ever, a

fantastic advert for the town. We can now look forward to the upcoming events, Remembrance Sunday – 12th November, Lights of Love and Late-Night Shopping - Friday 1st December.

The Civic Society is a voluntary organisation that is overseen by an Executive Committee. Over the past few years this committee, for various reasons, has lost members and it has been hard to replace those members that have either left the town or are no longer available to fulfil this important role in the running of the Society. This has inevitably resulted in activities that would have historically been led by the Society being reduced, although we do still play an active role in events organised by other groups in the town. My message to any existing or potential member of the society is “come and join the Executive Committee”. We meet once a month on a Monday Evening at 7.00pm and we need “new blood and fresh ideas”.

If you are interested and would like to find out more about this vital role in the society then please contact our hard-working secretary, Carol Noble, for more details. She can be contacted by email at **secretary@buntingfordcivic.org.uk** or why not come along to our next meeting which is at **7.00pm on Monday 9th October at the Manor House.**

Graham Waite

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

01763 272 222

clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk

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

@buntingfordtc @BuntingfordTC

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

The Town Council is a consultee for planning applications, the Town Council cannot grant or refuse planning applications, this is the responsibility of East Herts Council. In anticipation of the consultation for a development of 200 dwellings including the provision of a Health Centre, the Town Council sought guidance from the residents on how they wish the Town Council to respond. At the time of writing, the survey that the Council sent out is still active. The results of the survey will guide the Council on how to respond if or when an application is received.

Plans are underway for this year's Service of Remembrance. Providing a road closure is granted by Herts Highways, a parade will commence on Remembrance Sunday from the Red House at 10.30am down to the War Memorial where a service will be held in line with previous years.

Plans are also underway for **Late Night Shopping and the Lights of Love Ceremony, this to commence at 6pm on Friday 1st December at the Manor House.**

Permission has been granted to erect a barrier at the footpath adjacent to the pump track at Norfolk Road Playing Field. This will help to prevent cyclists riding onto Bowling Green Lane whilst allowing access for wheelchairs and buggies.

The popular Chatter Table continues on the first and third Monday of the month at The Manor House 10 to 11:45am.

Details of the October Council meetings below.

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

Jill Jones PSLCC Cert HE -Town Clerk

Town Council meetings for the month of October are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Thursday 5th October 7pm | Amenities Committee. |
| Thursday 12th October 7pm | Planning and Resources Committee |
| Thursday 26th October 7pm | Planning Committee and Full Council. |

All meetings held at The Manor House.

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

THE CO-OP , LOCKS, STOCK & MORE , MARK DOEL BUTCHERS, McCOLL'S, KIM on the CARD STALL at Buntingford Market

Libraries Week

As part of National Libraries Week, Buntingford Library has a whole host of events and fun on offer, all on the theme of 'Green Libraries'.

We've teamed up with a local gardening group to launch our brand new 'Seed Swap' - a place where you can drop off your surplus seeds and share them with the community, as well as picking up something new to grow. The Seed 'Library' will be open from the 2nd until the 7th of October, and we hope to extend this if it proves to be popular. If you can donate any seeds to this cause, please drop them off to the library during opening hours. Let's get Buntingford growing!

As part of Libraries Week and in celebration of National Poetry Day on the 5th of October, we are also hosting our first Children's Poetry Competition. Children aged 4-11 are invited to write a short poem on the theme of 'Our World' and hang their poem on our 'Poet-Tree' in the Children's library. The poems will be judged by two fantastic local poets - Carolina Castillo and Chris Burleigh, and prizes will be a stack of books for the two winners' schools or classes. Please visit the library to collect an entrance form. Poems must be submitted between the 2nd and 5th of October.

As well as this, we'll also be launching our first 'Taster'

sessions: One on One lessons in digital technology such as using a laptop or tablet. If you or someone you know could benefit from some help getting online, using their tablet or emails, then please come along to our information event on the **19th of October between 4-5pm** to find out more.

There is always plenty happening at the library, from Baby Rhyme Time to Local History Groups. Please refer to the page opposite and the calendar at the back of this issue to see everything that's going on this month.



Go Green at the library this Libraries Week!

Buntingford Library presents:
Children's Poetry Competition

On the theme of **'Our World'**, to celebrate National Poetry Day 2023

Submit your poem between 2nd and 5th October 2023

Categories: Ages 4-7 and Ages 8-11
Prize will be a stack of books for your class or school
Please speak to a member of staff for an entry form

Guest judges: Local poets
Carolina Castillo and Chris Burleigh

Hertfordshire

02-08 Oct 2023

ORGANISED BY **Green Libraries Week** **CLIP** The library and information association

SUPPORTED BY **Nielsen BookData**

#GreenLibrariesWeek

Go Green at the library this Libraries Week!



Buntingford Library presents: Autumn Harvest Seed Swap

Swap your seeds and grow something new!

2nd – 7th October 2023
During library opening hours

Bring along your surplus seeds and pick up something new and exciting to grow.



ORGANISED BY



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More info: [www.](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)

hertfordshire.gov.uk

Library Event Calendar:

Every Monday 10:30-11am

Baby Rhyme Time

Every Tuesday 10:30-12:30

Chatter Table and Jigsaw Club

Every Thursday 10:30-11:00am

Story Time

Every Friday 4:00-5:00pm

LEGO Club

Special events this month-

2nd-8th October

Seed Swap

2nd-5th October

Submissions for the Children's Poetry Competition

19th October 4:00-5:00pm

Digital skills information session

4th November 10:30am

The Great Big Dinosaur Show with Mole and Gecko

BUNTINGFORD CLASSIC CAR & BIKE SHOW

Graham Bonner, Buntingford Chamber of Commerce – Events Co-ordinator



The day started for some at 7am... Road signs to be put out, bins to be in position, diversion signs to be put out.

The weather looked good for the day and at the allotted time of 9am the entrants started to arrive. Many had been queuing since just after 8am.

By 10am virtually all entrants were in place. Nearly 200 vehicles safely parked up. It is fair to say that the number of cars and public attending were greater than ever before.

The live bands arrived and the many street food options were doing a roaring trade.

Judging for the prize giving was completed and trophies presented as follows:-

Best Car in Show 1967 Chevrolet Camaro Owner Simon Hoare

Best Bike in Show 1965 Ariel Arrow Owner Terry Cooper

Chairman's Choice 1956 Bentley Owner Christopher Latilla-Campbell

Car to Drive home in 1987 Mini Owner Matt Eastman

Huge thanks must be given to our major sponsor Letchworth Motor Auctions for their financial assistance. Thanks also to Buntingford Town Council and to the volunteer stewards without whom the show would not have been possible.

Thanks also to High Street resident Neil Davey who at the very last minute arranged, and funded, the live music and street food at the North end of the Town.



Make sure next year you leave **Saturday 7th September** free when we will do it all over again!

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

Christine Stuart-Taylor, support@buntingfordlive.org



To this end, next month there will be news of the launch date of our annual Battle of the Bands Competition which awards the winning band a performance on stage at Standon Calling Festival in July 2024. It would be fantastic if this time round we had a winner from our own town,... past winners have been from TRING and WATFORD.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE ANY YOUNG MUSICIANS YOU KNOW TO START COMPOSING, PRACTISING

NOW!! Let's BRING IT HOME TO BUNTINGFORD!

Please get in touch if you have any thoughts, ideas via our website: buntingfordlive.org

We're delighted to say that all the tickets for our 'Comedy Nite' in the Bunters' Suite on Friday 27th October sold out very quickly. We're expecting that the show matches the success of ticket sales and if this is the case we will organise another along the same lines in the new year.

Clearly people are recognizing our new 'Buntingford Live' branding and keen to go online to book. This is really good news and next month's journal will have more details of dates of events which are currently being planned for your enjoyment.

As said before, we wish to offer a good variety of entertainment and arts events that appeal to all ages and continue to give the many talented young of our community opportunities to demonstrate these skills.

Please continue supporting our fundraising events, to ensure we can organise quality entertainment in and around our town.

buntingfordlive.org
enabling creative events



Whose Wine Is It Anyway?

It's the wine tasting with a difference!

Get together with your friends and make it the perfect start to Christmas!

Buntingford Live! brings you the great opportunity to taste some wonderful wines, whilst trying to determine which of the 'experts' is actually telling the truth! No prior wine knowledge is necessary (in fact, it's probably a hindrance if anything!!!), it's all a bit of fun - though that shouldn't stop you getting competitive, in a friendly way, of course. We'll be pouring six wines, including a taster wine to kick things off, and with each wine our panel of three experts will try to convince you that their description is the correct one. Of course, each time, two of the panellists will be bluffing, and it's up to you and your fellow tasters to decide which. Either make up a table of 8 or join a group on the night. But hurry because numbers are limited and tickets are selling fast.

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

Whose wine is it anyway?

Seth Ward Community Centre
Saturday December 9th
8.00pm

Wine tasting with a difference!

Listen to our 'experts' describing six different wines

Who's bluffing? Guess correctly and earn points!

No expertise required, just a sense of fun and a love of quality wine!

Over 18s only

For tickets and more details please visit

Tickets £20
Includes a FREE tasting glass to take home

buntingfordlive.org
enabling creative events

COMEDY NIGHT BELOW NOW SOLD OUT

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

COMEDY NITE

ADULT HUMOUR

Friday
October 27th
Bunters Suite,
Seth Ward
Community Centre

Dan Evans
Otiz Cannelloni
Peter Jones (Australia)
Your host for the evening
Tom Toal

TICKETS £15
Book early to avoid missing out!
Entry 7.30pm, performances
8-10pm with intermission
Licenced bar

For tickets, please visit:

buntingfordlive.org
enabling creative events

FORQ Executive members and Riverfly Monitors have continued to get out and about at various events. We met some great people at both "A Picnic For Change" on 20th August on Hartham Common in Hertford and the Harvest Fayre in Chipping on 9th September. At both we did Riverfly Monitoring demonstrations, which continue to prove popular, especially with the children. In Chipping we had to bring river water from Barwick and Braughing as unfortunately the Rib in Chipping is dry. As ever the level of new house building and the widespread publicity on sewage in the country's rivers and seas were top of the things people wanted to chat about.

At Chipping we had extensive discussions on why the river there is now dry nearly all year. Residents are clearly concerned about this and the fact that the river course is becoming so overgrown. We therefore had a lot of discussions about the level of abstraction by Affinity Water and how this has a detrimental effect on the flow of chalk streams. There is an Affinity Water abstraction point in Chipping but the people we spoke to had no idea of the volume of water that Affinity Water are taking.

A few years ago FORQ Chairman Mark was walking along Barwick Lane when he came across a tractor IN the River Rib. Being somewhat acquainted with the rather expensive and lengthy process required before acquiring a licence for such work, Mark contacted the River Rib CaBA Catchment Co-ordinators (HMWT) who advised that they weren't aware of any approved works in that area of the River Rib and that this activity should

therefore be reported to the EA. This was duly done.

Early this September Mark was driving up Barwick Lane and noticed what looked like piles of chalk along the riverbank, in a similar area to where he had seen the tractor some years previously. During the evening he walked down to the site for a closer look and discovered that a stretch of riverbed and bank had apparently been scoured over a stretch of 150 metres. FORQ believe that this is a clear breach of the regulations in place to protect our streams and rivers. The incident has been reported to the Environment Agency (EA).

Dredging is extremely bad for Chalk Steams as they take a very, very long time to recover from such vandalism. The delicate balance of the wildlife is destroyed in an instant but takes years to recover.

We do not know the reasons for the farmer in Barwick taking this action, but we hope that the Environmental Agency will investigate and maybe even prosecute as they did when the River Lugg in Herefordshire was dredged a few years ago. Then the farmer was sentenced to 1 year in prison, ordered to



Swan mussels found in the dredged river bed



pay prosecution costs and to carry out remedial works. The Lugg isn't a Chalk Stream, but the site was a SSSI. This is what the EA should be doing. FORQ would urge that if anybody sees this type of activity, they report it to the EA and get an incident reference number.

If readers would like to understand exactly why dredging rivers, and especially chalk streams, is a very bad idea we would recommend reading Charles Rangeley-Wilson's blog on the subject, which references the incident on the River Lugg.

Also worth a read is the Environment Agency blog from April 2023 on the River Lugg incident, there are links to both on the FORQ website (in our Blog section).

Several members of FORQ's Riverfly Monitoring team went to a Riverfly Information Day at Boxmoor (near Hemel Hempstead) on 10th September and will be attending the quarterly steering group meeting of Riverfly Monitors in early October, both organised by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

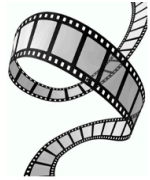




BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

David Woollcombe



WELCOME

To the Buntingford Film Club's Autumn Season

All shows will be at the Community Centre at 7.30pm on the 1st Saturday of each month unless otherwise stated. Where possible, all films will have live titling on top of the screen so you don't miss a line!

Tickets: £8.00 (to include refreshments) at: www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub

After the sell-out success last month of SNATCH, our annual Westmill Open Air Movie at the Sword Inn Hand – where our new projector really came into its own, lighting up our big Aircreeen – we are now pleased to announce a great season of movies up to Christmas and into the New Year back at our home base at the Community Centre on Luynes Rise. First up:

October 7th – Dan Akroyd & John Belushi in **The Blues Brothers**: A cinema legend worth seeing again and again for the ridiculously funny performances of Dan Akroyd and the late, great John Belushi & the extraordinary musical numbers featuring the likes of Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Ray Charles, Cab Calloway and John Lee Hooker. The story? - as if it matters! – Akroyd and Belushi are on "a mission from God" to raise the funds to save a catholic orphanage from closure by getting their old band back together and playing a gig. Will they get to the gig? Will they save the Orphanage? Come find out at the Community Centre in what we can guarantee will be a riotous evening of cinema!

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB
presents
John Belushi & Dan Akroyd



The Blues Brothers

Saturday 7th October
at 7.30pm - Community Centre
Luynes Rise, Buntingford SG9 9SG

Tickets: £8.00 (to include online commission + glass of wine or beer + snacks)
at www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub
or in person at: KEITH IAN 42 High St

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB
presents
Harrison Ford in



Indiana Jones
and the Dial of Destiny

Saturday 4th November
at 7.30pm - Community Centre
Luynes Rise, Buntingford SG9 9SG

Tickets: £8.00 (to include online commission + glass of wine or beer + snacks)
at www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub
or in person at: KEITH IAN 42 High St

November 4th – Harrison Ford and Phoebe Waller Bridge in **Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny**:

Harrison Ford (80) and Phoebe Waller Bridge (37 - Fleabag) make an odd pairing – but audiences loved them in this, the 5th and probably the last, Indiana Jones movie. It tells of their pre-war quest to find the Dial of Destiny, a powerful artefact that can control the weather. BUT – the Nazis are after it too. The film was mired in controversy and several critics didn't like it. But audiences loved it, as their reviews show:

"an unforgettable adventure packed with thrills and intrigue;"

"A triumphant return to form for the beloved franchise"

"an absolute masterpiece filled with excitement, death-defying stunts, and breathtaking special effects"

"A thrilling rollercoaster ride that will remind us why we fell in love with Indiana Jones in the first place."

A Must See!!

December 2nd @ 5.30pm – **The Little Mermaid** with Halle Bailey, Javier Bardem and Jonah King: This Disney 2023 retelling of the fairy tale, Little Mermaid, is generally considered the best of the Live Action remakes Disney has done so far. Immensely popular at the Box Office, Mermaid is the 5th biggest film of this year in the UK. Come for a great family night out to kick off the Christmas Season - and REMEMBER: this one starts EARLY – at 17.30 – so you will get the kids home before bedtime!

January 6th 2024: Margo Robbie and Ryan Gosling in **Barbie**: Our FIRST Film of the New Year will be the cinema phenomenon that is – BARBIE! A thin story about Barbie being kicked out of Barbieland into the "Real World" becomes, in writer/ director, Greta Gerwig's hands, something anarchic, wild, funny and, to borrow a quote from Clueless, 'way existential.' "I'm still amazed I got away with it," says Gerwig, "and the fact that it's already made \$1.3 Billion at the box office is sort of extraordinary."

Not that extraordinary – because it is an alarmingly FANTASTIC film!! Come see it on the big screen, and you will see how Gerwig cleverly marshalls a great cast, great style, great music and torrents of pink to produce a refreshing joyousness that makes Barbie the definition of escapism. We suggest you leave the little kids at home: this is not the Barbie film you might expect about the world's most successful doll: it is a film that asks you to THINK as well as LAUGH!

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB
presents



Saturday 2nd December
at 5.30pm - Community Centre
Lynes Rise, Buntingford SG9 9SG

Tickets: £8.00 (to include online commission + refreshments)
www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub

or in person at: KEITH IAN 42 High St

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB
presents
Margo Robbie & Ryan Gosling



Saturday 6th January
at 7.30pm - Community Centre
Lynes Rise, Buntingford SG9 9SG

Tickets: £8.00 (to include online commission + glass of wine or beer + snacks)
www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub

or in person at: KEITH IAN 42 High St

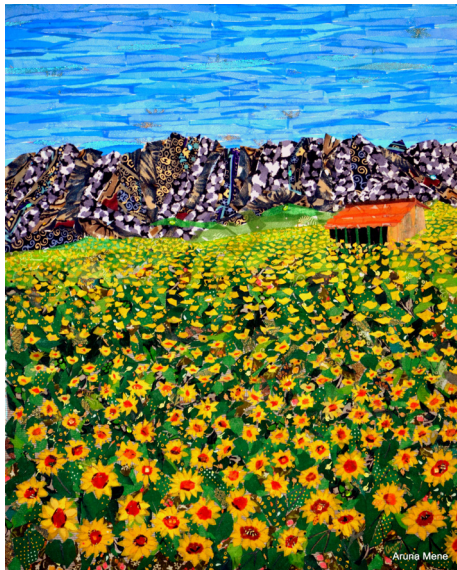


Aruna Mene, our speaker in September, took us 'Around the World in Fifty Fabric Collages'. Her beautiful creations express 'Joie de Vivre' and are made from recycling fabric scraps to avoid textiles ending up in landfill. She showed us images of collages she has made representing her travels across six continents and gave us a brief description of the countries she had visited. Aruna

uses her art to support local charities by holding auctions of her pictures.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday October 12th at the URC Hall in Baldock Road at 7.15 p.m. for 7.30.**

and our speaker is Damien O'Dell who will be telling us about his 'Adventures of a Ghost Hunter'. If you are new to Buntingford (and even if you're not!) just turn up on the night and come to see what Buntingford W.I. is all about.



If you would like further information about us you can telephone our Secretary, Pat, on **01763 271 305.**

WARE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Barbara Norris www.wareps.org.uk

New Season. The Club's new season commenced on 6th September at Thundridge Village Hall with an interesting lecture by Chris Forster about his journey after APPE. Further details about the programme are on the Club's website and new members are always welcome with the first three evenings free. So why not come along and see what we have to offer to enhance your photography.

Annual Exhibition. Our Annual Exhibition of the club's work will be on **Saturday 18th November at Thundridge Village Hall from 10.00am to 4.00pm.**

There will also be an exhibition of hand embroideries by members of Standon Embroidery Group and Hertford U3A. Admission is free. Tea/Coffee and Homemade Cakes will be available to purchase.

Sixtieth Anniversary. Don't forget to make a note in your diary for 2024 for **Sunday 14th April** when the club will be celebrating its 60th anniversary at Ware Drill Hall with a lecture by Charlie Waite, FRPS, one of the world's leading landscape photographers.

Tickets cost £10 and are available via tickets@wareps.org.uk

BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 4 October

At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road

Doors open: 7:45pm for 8pm start



Hope all had an enjoyable summer and tried growing something new – the rain certainly helped compared to last year!

Some people enjoy gardening from a young age, almost as if it is in their genes and others may take it up gradually as time permits and interests change.

Our talk this month is "Born to be a Gardener" given by Sharka Baxter who is a Cambridge based gardener and began her horticultural journey at Wimpole Hall. Sharka is now a professional designer

and garden coach and will give us advice on creating beautiful gardens which are also ecologically sustainable and wildlife friendly.

If you like the sound of this, please come along – even bring a friend?

We currently have over 40 members and over a cup of tea or coffee, we catch up and help each other with gardening tips, whilst sharing common interests. We have speakers giving talks on a variety of subjects, quizzes, outings and the annual show held in September.

Annual membership costs just £17.50, with visitors only £3.00 per visit.

Meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of every month. (No meetings in August or January).

Hope to see you there.

For any more information, please contact the Secretary telephone 01763 271 885.

BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL OF DANCE



Zoë Eaglesfield www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

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

Buntingford School of Dance offers ISTD syllabus classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern/Jazz and recreational classes in Commercial Dance. We also offer Tap & Ballet for adults for fun and fitness.

If you wish to register with us to join classes in September please use the QR code below, visit our website contact page or email us on admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk for more information. We also hold a waiting list if you wish to put your child down for a place before they are old enough to start classes. All new pupils get a NO OBLIGATION TRIAL in the classes they wish to join.


It has been lovely to see all our pupils after the Summer break and to welcome new pupils to all our genres of classes. We have seen new pupils of all ages from toddlers to adults. Dance is for everyone so please get in touch if you or child or grandchild is interested in learning to dance.

This term we have ballet exams for some pupils and a Nutcracker workshop near

Christmas. During October half term we have a two day West End themed Dance Camp open to pupils and new pupils, this will be an action packed two days of dancing, singing and acting.



If you wish to register with us to join classes in September please scan the QR code, visit our website or email us.


BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL of DANCE

'BabyBoppers'

A dance class for 2 – 3 year olds accompanied by a parent or carer

A
FUN
CREATIVE
introduction to
DANCE
MOVEMENT
and
MUSIC

for young children and an adult to enjoy together

For more information, including prices please contact us
Website: www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk
Email: admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL of DANCE

October Half-Term WEST-END Themed Dance Camp

SING DANCE ACT!

Plus other activities & games

Mon 23rd & Tues 24th Oct £50 for 2 days! Venue – TBA – in or near Buntingford
9-3 pm (approx. and 1hr) **Open to pupils and non-pupils**





**Buntingford
Community
Choir** 

Concert

21st October 2023
2pm
St Peter's Church

Join us for songs we love and songs from the musicals with refreshments served in the interval

**Free
Event**


St Peter's
Buntingford

BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

**ARE YOU NEW TO
BUNTINGFORD?**

**ARE YOU A SENIOR
CITIZEN?**

**THEN THE BUNTINGFORD
SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB IS
WHERE YOU SHOULD BE.**

We meet every **Monday afternoon** (except Bank Holidays) **1:30pm. for 2pm** at The United Reformed Church Hall, opposite The Post Office.

We play Bingo, chat and drink tea and coffee. We have been on a couple of trips this year and by the time you read this, members and friends will have been to the seaside before Winter arrives.

We have events planned before the end of the year.

Do come and join us, you will be warmly welcomed.

Just turn up or if you prefer, call Val on 01763 272 019

BRAUGHING GET TOGETHER

Don't forget this month:
Friday 27th October 2023

Our ever popular Beetle Drive.

Location: Braughing Church Hall.
Doors open at 7.15, tickets on the door and there will be a licensed bar.

Further events are in the pipeline, so watch out for emails, posters and announcements on social media outlets.

u3a learn, laugh, live Buntingford

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford

Jean Cook

Our Speaker for September was Steve Dimmer 'Oh Matron - a History of the Carry-on films.'

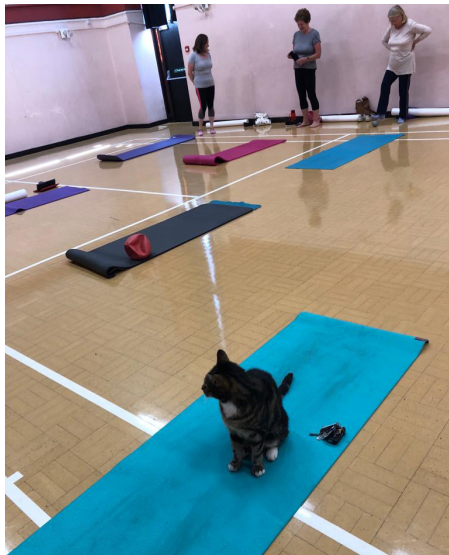
This was an hilarious account of behind the scenes and on-film goings on during the 34 years of the Carry-ons when they produced 32 films.

Steve showed several film clips and the audience were in stitches! Comments afterwards were that it was one of the best talks we've had.

Our Pilates group recently had a surprise visitor. Eager to keep fit with his new friends Dave waited patiently for the session to begin - see photo.

A new group started last month - Line Dancing - Tuesdays 4.30pm at the Seth Ward Community Centre.

Our next meeting is our AGM which takes place on **Monday 9th October**, at the Seth Ward Community Centre. Doors open 1.30pm.



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

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

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

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford

New members are always welcome.

REED GARDEN CLUB

Sue Huggins

October 11th, 2pm Reed Village Hall

This month's speaker Ed Fairey on "The National Gardens Scheme"
£2 entrance tea / coffee. all welcome.



Citizens Advice East Herts is excited to be opening a Contact Centre in Buntingford. It will run **every Monday from 16th October at the Manor House, High Street from 11am to 1pm.**

Nikki, one of the supervisors who will run the sessions, answers some key questions below about how the Citizens Advice Contact Centre will work and what help we offer there.

Q: What is it for?

A: While most people can contact us by calling our message line on 01920 459 944 or sending an email, we know that some people may not have internet access or be confident on the phone. The Contact Centres are for any one who needs a bit of extra help to get the advice they need.

Q: How do they work?

A: It's a bit like a triage service at a hospital where you are assessed to see if you need a Doctor or a Nurse. I'll listen to you, so I can work out what help you need. I can talk you through the options for this, set you up on our system, arrange for an adviser to call you back for an advice session, arrange a face to face appointment or point you in the right direction for any additional help.

Q: Why don't you give full advice at these sessions?

A: An advice session can take 20-40 minutes and often we ask for extra paper work or documents so there isn't time to do that as a drop in. The Contact Centres are there to help you get in our system, if you can't contact us by phone, email or need a bit of extra help.

The Message Line on 01920 459 944 is always the fastest way to get advice.

A RIDICULOUS NOTION

A ridiculous notion but do I dare?

I see them everywhere.

Could it be me?

One day I venture in and ask to see a patten book, not for knitting patterns. No for tattoos!!

E and I pour over all the designs whilst enjoying our lattes in the coffee shop.

M then said she would like one to match under the theme of mother and daughter.

So, we find some possibilities, and we make our plans.

We did it!

Thank you K at Sir-Ink-Alot.

A great job gently done.

In respect of my grandmother status.

After all I'm only in my 70's.

Whatever will I do next, I wonder.

From one who dared.

VENUE HIRE

The Buntingford Scout Hut is available to hire.

For all enquiries please email -
scouthutbooking4u@gmail.com



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

UNITED BENEFICE OF ASPENDEN, WESTMILL



Reverend Kirsty Wainwright

CONTACT DETAILS

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

email: unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com | 07484 345 027

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

[unitededbenefice](#) | [UnitedBeneficeABW](#)

OUR SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2023

Sunday 1st	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 8th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	All Age Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 15th		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Saturday 22nd	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
		No Service	St Mary's Aspenden
	11:00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 29th	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford

Please visit our website for the latest information about our services, events and courses and you can also follow us on our social media channels.

Direct links to our 3 church Service and Event pages:

St Mary's Aspenden: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7834/service-and-events/events-all/

St Peter's Buntingford: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7839/service-and-events/events-all/

St Mary the Virgin Westmill: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7851/service-and-events/events-all/



Quiz Night

Gather the gang and get competitive!

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

Saturday 7th October

Door open at 6:30pm
7:00pm prompt start
St Peter's Church, Buntingford

Tickets £10 per person
Includes supper
bring your own drinks

To reserve your ticket or team please email:
unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com or phone 07484345027

All proceeds will go towards the running cost of our 3 Churches
Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill



Service of Memories

A simple service to reflect on the passing of our loved ones, to share their memory and celebrate their lives

Sunday 5th November
3pm

St Mary the Virgin Westmill
with Reverend Kirsty Wainwright

You are welcome to bring a flower for each person you would like to remember.



Morning Prayer

9am Tuesday & Thursday at
St Peter's Church Buntingford

Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we pray together using the Church of England Daily Prayer book, with bible readings, a reflection and a psalm.

It is a quiet, gentle gathering to prepare for the day ahead.



Prayer for Buntingford

Held weekly every Friday
8:15am – 8:45am at St
Peter's Church Buntingford

A time of open, informal prayer for the town and local community.

Starting from Friday 29th September.



Monday Morning Coffee

Held weekly, every Monday
(expect Bank holidays)

10am – 12pm @ St Peter's Church
Buntingford.

A chance to meet up with old friends and meet new ones. All ages welcome.



Monthly Cake Stall

Held the 1st Monday of the
Month (except Bank holidays)
10am – 12pm @ St Peter's

Church Buntingford

Treat yourself to homemade cakes, whether you fancy a slice or two or a whole cake.

Dates for the rest of the year – 2nd
October, 4th November & 4th December



The
United
Reformed
Church

CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA
www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

 URCbuntingford

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

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

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

October	1	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	8	Morning Worship	Abigail Perrow
	15	Morning Worship	Christine MacLeod
	22	Morning Worship	Bob Parkin
	29	Morning Worship	Faith Paulding
November	5	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Robert Pope

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUNTINGFORD

Regular Events

'Lunch, Laughter & Light' - First Wednesday of each month in the hall 12:30pm

Topical discussion group Lunch 12.30pm - bring your own lunch - hot drinks will be provided Discussion 1.00pm - 2.00pm.

Morning Prayers, every Tuesday and Thursday at St Peters, 9:00am

9am to 9.30am – all are welcome

'Coffee and Company' Meets every Thursday, 10.30am to 12.30pm, in the

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

NUTWOOD BUSINESS NETWORKING

www.nutwoodpubs.com

Natalie Duncker

Cook Up a Storm

FREE Cooking Class at The Woodman Inn, Nuthampstead

The Woodman Inn, in collaboration with local parenting group, Mamas Who Brunch, recently partnered with Creative Chefs to provide a free cooking class for the under 5's.

Together with Healthy Hub North Hertfordshire and North Herts Council, Creative Chefs provided a fantastic opportunity for young food enthusiasts, under the age of 5, to engage in a hands-on cooking class that both tantalized taste buds and inspired culinary creativity.

This free event was designed to encourage little children to develop a passion for healthy food in a fun and exciting way, and to establish positive eating habits at an early age.

"The kids made rainbow pasta pots, which included a lot of tasting, mixing, and chopping with child safety knives." Said Angie from Creative Chefs "I provide all the ingredients and the kids get to take home a bag with their creation in it so they can show their grownups.

In the session we talked about the importance of eating a rainbow diet, we practised our counting skills to the number 3 we used our vocabulary to describe colours,



the feel and the taste of the ingredients. During the session, there are A LOT of tasting opportunities!" The children also received a little recipe booklet to take home. The funding for this type of event has come from the House Hold Support Fun issued by the government.

"We were thrilled to join forces with Mamas Who Brunch and Creative Chefs for this exciting event," said Natalie, of Nutwood Pubs. "Cooking is not just about creating meals; it's a wonderful way to bond with loved ones, and introduce the next generation to the joys of good food. Nutwood Pubs have the community at heart, and we're pleased to work closely with local groups like Mamas Who Brunch and Creative Chefs. We look forward to teaming up again in the near future."

This summer Nutwood Pubs run a £1 Kid's Meal offer at The Woodman Inn. This successful endeavour provided many families with an affordable day out in the countryside. Mamas Who Brunch puts on monthly events at The Woodman Inn, and are always looking to partner with small businesses with a family focus.



BUNTINGFORD WRITER'S GROUP

Meadonian

The Search for Life

It came to my attention through an ad in the back pages of *Private Eye*. In those days that magazine seemed unique in offering classified adverts for almost everything, especially strange dating requests.

It said simply, a group of like-minded young people were getting together to live harmoniously in a beautiful part of the country, to fend for themselves with no state assistance and to establish an alternative community.

I even remember where I was when I first saw the ad; on a tube train into London, the Piccadilly line. I was in the second year of my first job, as a pen pusher. Or to be accurate, more of a trolley pusher. I used to spend a lot of time delivering mail to a collection of offices over three addresses. The job looked a good one when I answered the ad in the *Telegraph*, or at least it did for a seventeen-year-old who had left school prematurely with insufficient O and A levels. At least I was earning money, paying my way, buying clothes and records, and all without the need to sponge off my dad. Not often anyway.

I remember writing a letter to the PO box number in the ad, telling them a little bit about myself. In no time I got a reply, inviting me to go and see them. I took a couple of days off work, saying I was going to spend some time with my girlfriend who was shortly to go off to university.

The odd address they supplied described it as being a mile from Langton Matravers, which was just a few minutes on the bus from Swanage. I knew the area pretty well having spent many family holidays there when a kid. That in itself was already cementing a positive feeling about the whole escapade.

I followed the instructions I had been given and received a couple of confirmations from local folk that I was headed in the

right direction. One or two hand painted signs had been propped up along the footpath indicating "Fort Worth", the name of the community.

A run of six rather dilapidated, terraced houses came in to view. They were distinguishable by the efforts that the occupants had given to the small front gardens. In the vicinity were a number of barns, similarly run down but showing signs of being patched up. Several people, all clad in jeans and t shirts were wandering around smiling and waving at me as I entered their domain. Somebody realised I didn't know where I was going and eventually I was shown into the rear of one of the former labourers' houses.

It was not an interview as I had previously experienced in my short life. Instead Robin, the person to whom I had written asked me what was it that I liked doing. That was followed by an enquiry into my musical taste, whether I smoked, and if I preferred men or women to share my lodgings.

Before I knew it and after a short tour and many introductions to commune members I was on the footpath back to the bus stop, all the while wondering whether I was about to do the right thing.

I had the whole of the bus and train journey to consider my options. Already just by going to see them it was as if my mind had been made up. The far more difficult thing now would be to defend my decision to my father and possibly even trickier, my girlfriend.

Dad had been widowed two years previously having nursed my mum through a long bout of ill health during my teen years. My younger sister was in her training to be a teacher and so rarely at home. My strategy with dad was to say that just as he had done at eighteen years of age, leaving home to go to war, I was intent on doing the same but with a more peaceful end in sight. Not surprisingly that argument was met with "Oh okay, let's see how long that

will last, do you want me to keep your room for you?"

I had met Claire, my girlfriend when she had just started her A levels and despite her father's animosity towards me as I perceived it, we had survived two years together. She had sailed into her preferred degree course and was looking to be away from her surroundings for the next three years, before finding a job somewhere in the agro-chemical industry. Clearly the next chapter of our relationship was going to be a challenge and gradually our paths would inevitably spread.

Returning to work my mind was constantly filled with these conflicts while at the same time longing to be away and living the simple life in Dorset. I had promised to give Robin at the commune an answer within a week. So as an indication of my intentions I suggested that Claire should come down to see the community and give us together a good chance of possibly arriving at the same decision.

In fairness to her, she never once tried to talk me out of it. She knew of my work frustrations, the disruption that mum's illness and premature death had brought, and she just wanted me to get settled and happy again. Claire was taken with the area, not having been to Dorset previously and a small part of her would clearly liked to have joined me, but that was never going to happen.

Robin was once again cheerful, talking about long term goals for the community with less and less reliance on the state. He spoke of how many of the group would find seasonal jobs in tourism but be around for the hard graft of the winter months, which he hoped would bolster their independence. He took us on a long walk covering many of the fields that they had acquired from a retired farmer. We were in sight of the dramatic coastline as it stretched west towards Kimmeridge Bay and he explained that the farmer had

held out from selling as he was convinced the area would be turned into a giant caravan site.

All of the plans were positive and clearly thought out and Claire having done some farm work during her school holidays was impressed with his strategies.

As we neared the old farm buildings Claire stumbled as she dismounted from a stile. She lay on the ground, not moving, holding her stomach. Robin and I went to help her up but she refused the assistance. She reached down to the seat of her jeans as a dark red pool of blood slowly emerged.

She had avoided telling me about the pregnancy, knowing that in the last few weeks my own life was in turmoil. Her plan had been to seek a termination but only with my blessing, which she assumed rightly I would give.

A group of ladies from the commune gave Claire assistance and we carried her onto the back seats of an old car which with some effort made it to the local cottage hospital. She was attended to and kept in overnight for observation.

Robin took me back to the commune, fed and watered me and found me a room to myself in one of the houses to sleep. The next morning the same old car spluttered its way back to the hospital to collect Claire and deposit us at the station.

There was very little discussion on the train, a few tears, lots of hugs and almost an acceptance of goodbye.

Claire now works as a director for a fertiliser manufacturer and occasionally drops me a message on Facebook. Robin has been married for the fourth time and runs a pub in Somerset. The commune was disbanded after three years due mainly to local discontent and a lack of farming subsidies. Me, I just write a bit from time to time.

BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Carol Emery

buntingfordlocalhistorygroup@hotmail.com

This week I received some very sad news that Brian Thompson has died. Brian was a member of our group for many years, and often gave talks on various subjects about people and places in Buntingford. He hasn't been able to come to our meetings for some while due to his failing health and we have missed his company and input to the group. We send our sincere condolences to his family.

Hopefully by the time you read this article our exhibition will have been and gone. I hope that lots of people came and enjoyed finding out more about our High Street.

Its amazing how many records exist that we were able to use in our research. Sales catalogues for auction of various properties were a huge help, and it transpired that Hertford Museum had several that they scanned and sent me. Once again it proved a challenge to work out what building they referred to but we think that we have managed to locate all of the properties in the High Street that are mentioned in them.

Many of you may remember the Heritage Centre that used to put on exhibitions on the history of Buntingford. When the group ceased to exist all of the items were boxed up and stored in the basement of the Manor House. Several of us went down in the basement to see if any of the stored items would be of any use in our research. Unfortunately, some of the items have succumbed to the damp and dusty basement. We have taken some items home to try to restore them and clean them up. There were lots of really interesting items especially

a lot of items written by Bert Thody who I expect a lot of you remember. We also found the membership book for the Youth Club which contains many names of people who attended the Youth Club and still live in and around Buntingford. We hope to be able to do a talk on the youth group at a later date.

Another book contained what we thought was a record of either Home Guard or the volunteer fire brigade. The first page referred to a record of Drills, Lectures and Exercise's, and how to record these.

There was then a list of attendance of committee members 1946-1947. The meetings must have been every month as it goes from October to June and apart from chairman, treasurer and honorary secretary who weren't named, the others in attendance were, Mr A Warner, Mr H Mayes, Mr C Moule, Mr W Hatchett, Mr A Postle, Mr Ward, and Mr R Hudgell.

The rest of the book proved to be a bit of a disappointment as it contained minutes of meetings of Buntingford Allotment Holders Association. It would appear that their first general meeting was held on the 19th September 1945 at the Foresters Hall in Buntingford. It said that allotment holders from Archers field also known as Newtown allotments had been invited with a view to providing them with other allotments to replace theirs as the site was under negotiation to be used for a housing development by Braughing Rural District Council. Presumably this would have been what is now Archers, named after the field on which they were built. This caused what appears to have been quite a heated discussion, Dr Felton stated that in her opinion the land was

more suited to allotments than housing, as houses could be built where allotments could not be made. It was decided that letters of protest should be sent to all of the following: Clerk of the parish council, clerk of Braughing Rural District Council, Herts War Agricultural Committee, Clerk of Herts County Council, Minister of Health, and the Minister of Town and Country Planning. It appears some things never change even back in 1945 the threat of building on cultivated arable land went on.

By 1946 allotments at Pigs Nose site also looked to be under threat. In May 1946 at a meeting it was reported that the road contractors had started work on the Newtown allotments site running over growing crops and cultivated land. The chairman said he had been told work would commence on the Pigs Nose site shortly even though the lease on the land didn't expire until the 29th September.

The committee asked for new allotment land to replace the ones they had lost but although it would appear they had been allocated some land it didn't specify where exactly it was in Buntingford, although mention was made about trees and bushes overhanging the allotments behind the bungalows on Hare Street Road.

What I did read was a request that the secretary write off for what I thought at first was Pig for Plenty pamphlets.



On re reading it I decided it must be Dig for Plenty not pig for plenty. This was a scheme to encourage people to grow their own food both during the war and afterwards as food rationing was in force until the 1950's. Above is copy of a poster to advertise this scheme.

Any money that we make at the exhibition on the sale of booklets, postcards and other items will be used to buy proper storage boxes so that the items in the basement will be kept in a better condition for future use.

Our next meeting will be on the **10th October at 2pm in the library. Its £2 per person which includes tea, coffee and biscuits.**



www.hsrsc.org.uk

events@hsrsc.org.uk | 01763 262 262

Tracy Aggett

Please join Home-Start for their AGM on what is a very special year for us all at this scheme. We are celebrating our 40th anniversary this year – 40 years of supporting local families with practical and emotional support. Come along and hear about how we are supporting our

families through our home visiting service and at our 3 family support groups. You will also hear from one mum who will be telling us about her Home-Start journey and how Home-Start were there for her and her family when they all needed a little bit of help.



Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire



would like you to

SAVE THE DATE

for our next

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on

Tuesday, 17th October 2023 at 7:30 pm*
(arrive by 7pm for 7:30 pm start)

at Icknield Walk School, Royston



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



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 for our other advice options.

Q : Halloween is coming up and my children are keen to dress up for trick-or-treat. I've read about accidents involving costumes catching fire and I'm worried about buying an outfit that could be highly flammable. I don't want to spoil their fun but I do want to make sure everyone is safe. How can I check if the costumes would be safe for my children to wear?

It's not easy being the 'safety police' when everyone just wants to have fun - especially when that fun includes extravagant costumes. Children should always be kept away from naked flames, but Halloween costumes come with their own set of risks for which extra safety precautions are needed.

They're not always subject to the same fire safety checks as normal clothing as they can often be classed as toys. With Halloween being a time where lots of lit candles in pumpkins are on the same doorsteps that trick-or-treaters congregate on.

As you rightly point out there have sadly been accidents associated with dressing-up outfits and so checking the garment complies with UK/EU safety standards should be a top priority.

No one wants an unexpected horror story at Halloween so it's always best to know what you're looking for when buying any costume to make sure the risks are limited as much as they can be:

- Always buy your Halloween costumes from reputable shops and online retailers. If you haven't bought anything from the shop before make sure you check online reviews.
- Make sure the costume comes with safety instructions, a UKCA or CE marking and the manufacturer's name. The UKCA marking is the post-Brexit British equivalent of the CE mark which is also still valid.
- Check for any product recalls online — searching for 'product safety recalls' will bring up the Office for Product Safety and Standards list.

And while you might like to let your creative streak run wild and attempt to make your own bespoke costume, it's worth keeping in mind that homemade fancy dress costumes may also come with risks, especially if you use fabrics or decorations not designed to be worn.

If you need advice, the quickest way is to call our Message Line 01920 459 944 anytime (we aim to return calls within 24 hours, except weekends) or visit www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our advice options.

If you don't have phone or email or need extra support we are opening a **Citizens Advice Contact Centre at the Manor House, Buntingford on Mondays 11am to 1pm from OCTOBER 16TH** where our friendly staff will listen to what's happening and help you work out what to do next.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Ken McDonald, Secretary



Thatch has been used as a roofing material for thousands of years. It was once common in rural areas because the material was cheap and readily available. Now, a thatched roof is much more expensive but the skill of the thatcher can still be seen throughout The Hundred Parishes. A thatcher undertakes a five-year apprenticeship with a master thatcher before becoming a master thatcher himself.

Most properties in the UK use either long straw, wheat reed or water reed. Many thatched properties are listed and when re-thatching is needed there is a requirement to use the same type of material as before.

In medieval times wheat grew to nearly 6 feet tall, while today's modern farming methods produce shorter-stemmed wheat and this has weakened the straw and its longevity. Now specialist growers produce taller-stemmed varieties, grown especially for thatching.

There is some debate about the longevity of a thatched roof. To some extent, life expectancy relates to the material used, but it is also dependent on factors such as pitch, orientation and air circulation. A good thatch will typically last from 20 to 50 years, providing excellent insulation. The ridge, along the top of the roof, will last between 10 and 20 years, so requires more frequent attention.

Traditionally a new layer of material is laid over the seasoned roof; this is called "spar coating". The bundles of straw taken up onto the roof are called "yelts". Twisted hazel sticks known as

"spars" or "gads" are used to secure the thatch in place. A thatcher may mark his work by placing a distinctive straw finial on the ridge.

Thatch appears not only on houses. There are several thatched pubs, a thatched church at Duddenhoe End in the parish of Elmton, and a partly-thatched village hall in Ashdon.



Little Hadham – Thatched Cottage



Clavering – Lantern Thatch



Rickling Green – work in progress.



Elmdon – Hamlet Church.



Ickleton: long straw being secured by local master thatcher, Mark Treadwell.



Thorley – The Olde Thatch.



Nuthampstead – Woodman pub.



It's been a busy month for Attend2Health. We are really proud to announce we have been nominated for the British Chiropractic Association Clinic of the Year Award. We are one of 3 clinics in the final which Chiropractors around the country now vote for the winner. This is a really special award and it is great to just make the final. One reason for us getting this far is our integrated approach with so many different health practitioners under the one roof.

Our Sports Massage Therapist Meghan Carolan has now also qualified as an Osteopath with a Masters Degree in Osteopathy so will be working from the clinic on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Meghan is now going to be studying for a Masters in Paediatrics so she will be able to help pregnant women and babies as well.

We had a wonderful time at the Car Show in September. We had a tombola and balloons for a donation to the Chiropractic Research Council. I'm pleased to report that we raised £206.17 for the Chiropractic Research Council a charity raising money to do more research into back pain and how Chiropractic can help so a really worthwhile cause.



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Firstly we have moved some of our classes back to The Scout Hut.
Monday & Wednesday evening 6:30pm Variety Workouts & 7:15pm
Pilates Classes and our Friday 10am Pilates & 11am Full Body Workout.



We have now finished our 10
Move, Meditate & Relax
workshops held in Bishop's
Stortford & Buntingford. Hopefully
I can get some funding to continue
them later again in the year.

Arts & Crafts Workshop

Coming soon Autumn All Things
Christmas.

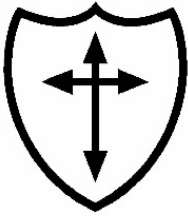
Christmas HAPPy Kids
Camps will also be
announced soon.

**Full Class
Listings:**



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Jacqui Smith Personal Trainer & Chair of Community Initiative Charity



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Mrs Adele McMurrough, Headteacher



We start our first school term by exploring our value of Creation and Stewardship. We have been discussing the importance of Creation and Stewardship in our collective worship and circle time. We talked about creation from a Christian perspective, that life is a gift, entrusted by a loving creator God to all of us. In forest school sessions children are encouraged to be creative and to value and explore the world around them and to celebrate and enjoy our world. With this gift comes a mutual responsibility to ensure the creation is not spoiled, but rather sustained by all.

Creation and Stewardship

A warm welcome to all of our new families and 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. They will be spending lots of time together having fun learning; playing games and sharing experiences. There will be lots of opportunities in Forest School and through our creative curriculum this half term to enrich their learning and promote our value of Creation and Stewardship.

To find out more about our school please visit our website at www.layston.herts.sch.uk.

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Phil Seaman

www.hertfordshireholly.org.uk



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When we are not out performing, we meet most Thursday evenings, between 8.00 – 10.00 pm at High Cross Village Hall.

We look forward to meeting you!

Please contact

Tim 07503 914 189

Or visit: www.hertfordshireholly.org.uk

FAMILY RACE NIGHT



at Layston School, 18th Nov
Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm
start

Ticket prices

Family Group (2 adults and up to 3 children) £25

Additional Adult - £12.50

Additional child - £2.50

Includes Ploughman's supper

Bar and tuck shop available

Book online

<https://buytickets.at/buntingfordscoutgroup/1011512>



EDWINSTREE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

Jo Gant, Headteacher | www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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

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

We are sorry to have missed the last journal but the end of term was a whirlwind of events including:

- Celebrating results with SATs students and partying with the rest of the year group at an outdoor disco!
- The school production of *The Island that Rocks*. We are really excited by our students talents in singing and drama and look forward to seeing them shine again this year.
- Students went to the beach.
- Year 8 went to Essex Outdoors in Harlow and then camped out in school with a midnight ceremony to celebrate their time with us.
- We held an ECO summer fete where we sold produce the students had made or collected.
- We held an end of term ceremony with our lovely Vicar Kirsty Wainwright at Aspenden park to celebrate the year and say Goodbye to year 8.

So, what are our plans for this year?

Working alongside nature to keep us healthy in mind and body.

We continue with the theme of supporting students, staff and our community with their mental health and in particular we take every opportunity to explore and be outside with nature. We are so lucky to be surrounded by such beautiful countryside. As mentioned above in the Summer term we were so privileged to work with a variety of local charities and famers who support our local community



and its environment and habitat. We would in particular like to thank the following for volunteering to tour, talk and engage our students about how they can make a difference. David Woollcombe, Derrick Guy, Monique Blackford, Michael Johnson, Alexander Gray, Aisha Hasan, Iain Wheller,



Madela Baddock and Vicky Saynor.

We are so very grateful to the community who have donated, and Edwinstree School

Association for raising the funds to support our wildlife pond, forest school and outdoor classroom, that will be in place this year.

We are also excited to be planting our tree walk in November, this is our celebration and commemoration of our Queen passing and our new King. Tutor groups chose the native species they would like to plant and we look forward to seeing the trees grow over the years into a lovely walkway canopy.

We will do our Autumn walk and roll down Aspenden hill which marks the first of the 50 things to do before you are 12, National Trust campaign which engages student. If you would like as a family to tick the list off, the link is here. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things

How have we started the year as a Church of England school?

We have been reminding students of what it means to be a church of England school. We began the year by focusing on a bible story. We started by reminding students of the setting of the stories, the Middle East, it's climate and ecosystem and the historical context that we are stepping back in time to 2000 years ago. The story we used this year is:

There was a Vineyard owner who went to the market to collect workers for the day so that they could pick his ripe grapes on his vines. The market is full of labourers

hoping to be picked for the day. They all have hungry families at home expecting to be fed. He picks some workers to start but as the day progresses he realises he needs more so he goes back to the market a number of times.

At the end of the story he pays all his workers the same amount of money whatever time of day they started work! This results in some workers being paid the same amount for one hours work as those that have worked a full day!

This story to start can provoke outrage, however when it is explained that the vineyard owner recognises the people in the market who are waiting to be picked for work, have more stress by not being picked at the start of the day then by going to work because they don't know how they are going to feed their families. It finishes with a quote " the last shall come first and the first shall come last."

In our modern-day context, we translate this in the following way:

We believe as a school it is our job to give our students a good education to get them over the line as possible. To do this we will use different size boxes or different strategies for each child. The story, the Church of England and our community support is the understanding of Equity. We commit to placing this value at the heart of what we do.

We use this slide to help them understand equity.



We will see you the other side of the half term when we will have rolled down a hill, star gazed with the community and supported local families in need of support with harvest baskets.



MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk | 01763 271 717 | admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk

Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher

We've had a great start to the new academic year at Millfield; children very quickly settled into school with enthusiasm and motivation. It has been a pleasure to see children back in school so happy and engaged. Millfield staff, including Blue and Tilly (our school dogs), are feeling very proud of Millfield children!

School Developments

Millfield staff, along with several contractors, were busy preparing the school site for a new academic year. Joe Poulton has levelled our Nursery outside space and installed astro-turf to help us utilise this outside learning space all year round. Our Reception toilets have been refurbished to create a more inviting area for our young children. With the help of children's design skills and knowledge of our curriculum, Wall Art have created four wonderful wall wraps (displays) in the Hub at Millfield. These include a fantastic World Map with a large compass, a bespoke historical timeline, a British Values display, which includes a map of the UK, and finally, a vibrant Millfield Kitchen display. We have redesigned the Year 1 classrooms and have lovely new furniture in a range of classrooms to maximise the learning spaces. It's so important to us at Millfield to create an environment which supports children's learning.

Outside Learning

Our outside space is an extension of our classrooms and provides a variety of opportunities for children. Taking the curriculum outside can improve attainment and increase engagement, as well as develop a wide range of



skills, including: problem solving, communication and resilience. Outdoor learning also provides endless opportunities to develop learning curiosity.

We are extremely fortunate as a school - our outside space is vast, green and varied. Our children have a spacious playing field to mix amongst their peers, play games and participate in sports. They can be the captain of our Millfield Ship, exercise on our gym equipment, read in the Woodland Circle or enjoy a walk along the wildlife path. Take a look at our Eunice Woods play area, Woodland Hut and Millfield Pond, which are all thoroughly enjoyed by children and staff.



Hello Yellow Day celebrating World Mental Health Day

On Tuesday 10th October 2023, we will be participating in 'Hello Yellow Day'. This is to celebrate 'World Mental Health Day'. We will be joining thousands of schools, offices and communities to raise awareness of the work of 'Young Minds'. Young Minds support young people to know that they are not alone with their mental health.

To support 'Hello Yellow' children and staff are invited to come to school wearing something yellow. The children will be taking part in bite size mental health and wellbeing activities that will promote 'Young Minds'. We look forward to seeing a sea of yellow, which will brighten up everyone's day!



EYFS Provision at Millfield

We offer an Early Years Foundation Stage provision for both Nursery (3 to 4 year olds) and Reception (4 to 5 year olds) children. We are proud to provide nurturing and enriching indoor and outdoor EYFS learning environments, which help to motivate and develop a love of learning. If you are looking for a Nursery or Reception place for your child for September 2024, please come and visit us.



We are holding the following school tours for prospective parents/carers this term:

- Tuesday 10th Oct 2023 at 9:05am
- Friday 24th Nov 2023 at 9:05am

WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

2nd -8th	Seed Swap at the Library (p.6)
Wednesday 4th	Gardener's Club (p.17)
Thursday 5th	Children's Poetry Competition at the Library (p.6)
Saturday 7th	United Benefice Quiz Night (p.23)
Monday 9th	u3a Monthly Meeting (p.20)
Monday 9th	Civic Soc Meeting (p.4)
Tuesday 10th	History Soc (p.28)
Thursday 12th	Buntingford W.I. "Adventures of a Ghost Hunter"(p.16)
Tuesday 17th	Homestart AGM (p.30)
Thursday 19th	Digital Workshop at the Library (p.6)
Friday 20th	BALA Coffee Morning (p.44)
Saturday 21st	Buntingford Community Choir at St Peter's Church (p.19)
Friday 27th	Braughing Get Together Beetle Drive (p.19)
Friday 27th	Buntingford Live! Comedy Night (p.10)



LOOKING AHEAD

4th November	Dinosaur Show at the Library (p.6)
12th November	Remembrance Sunday (p.4/5)
18th November	Photography Soc: Annual Exhibition (p.17)
18th November	Family Race Night (p.37)
1st December	Buntingford Live! Late Night Shopping Evening (p.4/5)
9th December	Buntingford Live! "Whose Wine is it Anyway?"(p.11)

To list your event on this page please email: journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

I do my best to pull out events from articles in this publication but some things may get missed, to ensure inclusion on this page, please email me.

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	SATURDAYS:
<p>From 8.30am: Buntingford Market on Market Hill</p>	<p>7.30–9pm: Braughing Sing Community Choir in Jenyn's School Hall</p>	<p>Buntingford Meditation We now meet online at 8 pm on a Wednesday evening, and once a month in Saint Peter's Church.</p>	<p>10.30am–12.30: Coffee & Company in the Church Hall (p.24)</p>		<p>10am: Walking Football at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields</p>
<p>10–11.45am: Chatter Table at the Manor House – 1st & 3rd Mondays (p.5)</p>		<p>If anyone is interested in joining the group the best way is to contact me via the website - www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation New meditators are welcome and guidance is given on how to meditate in the sessions.</p>	<p>2–3pm: Mind & Music at Standon & Puckeridge CC</p>		
EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY:					
<p>10.30–11am: Baby Rhyme Time (songs, rhymes, actions and puppets, for ages 6 weeks to 3 years)</p>	<p>10.30–12.30: Chatter table (jigsaws, magazines, refreshments included)</p>		<p>10.30 – 11am: Story Time (storytelling with props, for ages 2-5 years)</p>	<p>4:00-5:00pm: LEGO club (£3 per child, ages 6-12)</p>	
<p>11.45am–12.45pm: Forever Cycling at the Community Centre -1st & 3rd</p>		<p>12:30pm: Lunch, Laughter & Light FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH (p.24)</p>			
<p>1.30 for 2pm: Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club at URC Hall (p.19)</p>					
<p>7.30–9pm: Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School (p.19)</p>					

BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR THE LESS ABLE (BALA)

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus Trips October/November 2023

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

	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
OCTOBER			
Thu 5th	10-2:30	St Neots (Market Day)	£9
Mon 9th	10-2:30	St Ives	£8
Wed 11th	11:30	Pub Lunch	£5
Wed 18th	10-2.30	St Albans	£8
Tue 24th	10:30-2	Saffron Walden (Market Day)	£6
Thu 26th	10-12	Tapps Garden Centre (local family run, Nursery, House Plants and Gifts, Café with scones/ cakes baked daily)	£4
NOVEMBER			
Thu 9th	10.30-2	Scotsdales – Christmas is coming!!!	£6.50
Tues 14th	10-3	Cambridge	£7.50
JANUARY			
Thu 11th	10:45	PANTO – Cinderella at Milton Keynes 1pm matinee. (Front row, circle. Level access) Must book by 15/11/2	Bus £13 Ticket £32.50

To book a seat or for more information: 07870 638 480
(please be prepared to leave a message)

BALA COFFEE MORNINGS

Friday **20th October 2023** - 10 - 11.30

Friday **17th November 2023** - 10 - 11.30

Sausage rolls, cakes, raffle at URC Hall, Baldock Road

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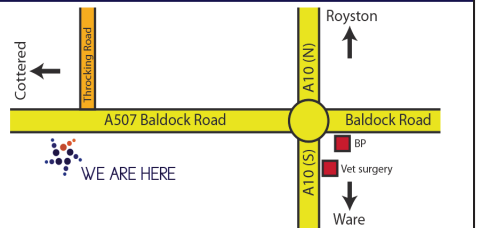
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Monday 7:15pm The Scout Hut, Buntingford (with Cardio HIIT £10)
Wednesday 7:15pm The Scout Hut (£6 or with strength HIIT £10)
Thursday 10am Seth Ward Community Centre
Friday 10am The Scout Hut (£6 or with Full Body Workout £10)

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

Variety Full Body Workouts

Cardio HIIT Monday 6:30pm Scout Hut, (£6 or £10 with Pilates at 7:15)
HIIT Tuesday 6pm / Sunday 10am via ZOOM
Strength HIIT Wednesday 6:30pm Scout Hut (£6 or £10 with Pilates)
Full Body Friday 11am Scout Hut (£6 or £10 with Pilates at 10am)

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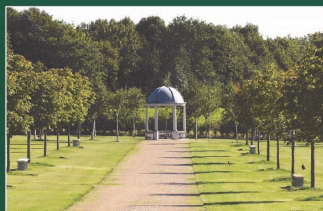
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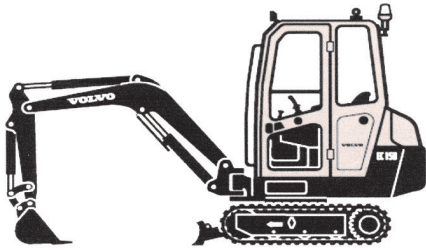


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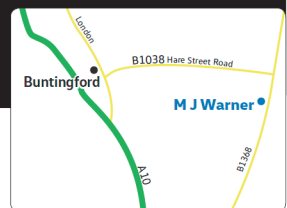
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Buntingford Swimming Club is a coaching club and is now looking for new members of all age groups from September 2023.

We are looking to recruit new members of all ages (between 8 and 17) to our small, friendly, non-competitive swimming club based at the Ward Freman pool in Buntingford, and we are affiliated with Swim England Hertfordshire.

The aims of our coaching club are to develop swimmers' skills and strokes and impart good practice and safety in the water. We meet weekly, with training split into 2 groups of 1 hour each on Thursday evenings between 7pm – 8pm and 8pm and 9pm, in term time only.

Coaching is provided by trained volunteers and older club swimmers help out with the younger ones.

New swimmers who would like to join us need to be at least Swim England Learn to Swim stage 7 or equivalent. For further information or to arrange a trial, please visit our website at www.buntingfordsc.co.uk and on the home page please click on the link "register for a trial" and we will be in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.



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

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Buntingford 2023

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When: Last Tuesday of each month,
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25th Jul	29th Aug	26th Sept	31st Oct	28th Nov	No meeting in Dec

One of our Carer Support Advisors will provide 1:1 appointments at the February, May and September 2023 meetings.

A programme of speakers will be planned as requested - find out about these on the Carer Support Hubs page on our website or contact us.

There are also monthly groups in Ware (last Friday of the month) and Royston (first Thursday of the month) contact us for details.

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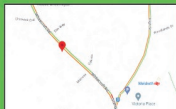
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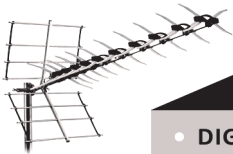
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