

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

Buntingford Journal



Vintage cars in the N.U.T.S. display at last year's Classic.

Inside this month: The life of Alexander Strange; Herts Open Studios 2015; the Local Interview with Roger Jack; invitations to Buntingford Community Choir and Royston Choral Society; plus practical advice from the CAB on how to avoid scams.

60p

**September 2015
Volume 40, No.7**



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DIARY OF EVENTS – SEPTEMBER 2015

MONDAYS

- 10:30am – 12 noon **Iyengar Yoga** at URC Hall, Baldock Road (term time only). Contact Jen Harris on 01920 821288.
- 10:45am – 11:30am **Stretch'n'Grow** for children who are walking. At Seth Ward Community Centre. £2 per family. 01763 273008.
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm **Stay & Play** at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per family. 01763 273008
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm **Senior Citizens Club** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Bingo and an afternoon of socialising. For more information contact Jeanne Clark on 01763 274631.
- 4:30pm – 7:30pm **Rib Valley Trampoline Club** at Freman College (term time only). Contact Andrea Allen 07989 980038 or email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Cougars U9s** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email: secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm **Shotokan Karate** at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Peter Deacon on 01462 642922.
- 6:45pm – 8:15pm **Tai Ji** at URC Hall. Contact Steve Burton 01279 777032 / 07968 052716
- 7:00pm **Bridge** for experienced players at Buntingford Bowls Club. £2.50 per session. Contact Eddie on 01763 273640 or 07976 896718.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm **Pilates** at Layston School. Contact Jacqui 01763 273815 / 07956 647806.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm **Abs (body toning)** at Fit Together Gym. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm **Buntingford Community Choir** at Millfield School, Monks Walk. No need to read music, no auditions, just bring your enthusiasm! For info see www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk or email: info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk
- 7:30pm – 9:45pm **Buntingford & District Youth Club** for young people aged 13–19 years, at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Danny Band on 07879 853849 or email: danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk.
- 8:15pm **Circuit Training** at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01920 823677.

TUESDAYS

- 9:15am – 10:15am **Badminton** at Seth Ward CC, £2.50 per session. 01763 273712.
- 9:30am – 11:00am **Tuesday Toddlers** at URC Hall, Baldock Road. £2 for first child, then 50p for each additional child of same family, includes drink and snack. Term time.
- 10:00am – 11:30am **Under 1s Group** at Buntingford Bowls Club. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 10:00am – 9:00pm **The On Site Massage Clinic** at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Contact Kate Smith MBRCp on 07720 298306 or visit www.onsitemassageclinic.co.uk.
- 10:45am – 11:30am **Cheeky Chimps** (2 separate sessions) at Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 11:45am – 12:30pm £2 per family. 01763 273008.
- 3:30pm – 9:00pm **Dance classes** with Buntingford Dancing School, at Freman College. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U15s Whites** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area.
- 6:15pm – 7:15pm **Cougars U10s** training, St Edmunds School Floodlit Astro Turf.
- 6:15pm – 7:15pm **Cougars U12s Blues** training, St Edmunds School Floodlit Astro Turf. For more info on Cougars training, email: secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk
- 7:00pm – 7:45pm **Strength & Stretch** at Layston School. 20mins strength / 20mins stretching. Contact Jacqui 01763 273815 / 07956 647806.
- 7:00pm – 8:15pm **Grade 5 Ballet Lessons**, Layston School. Philippa 01763 271010.

WHAT'S ON

7:30pm

Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.

7:30pm – 8:30pm

Cougars U13s training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area.

8:30pm – 9:30pm

Cougars U16s training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more info on Cougars training, email: secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk

WEDNESDAYS

9:30 – 11:15am

Great Hormead Baby and Toddler Group at Great Hormead School Hall. Term time only. From 0 to 4 years. Toys, activities, arts & crafts and singing. £1.50 for first child, 50p for additional children, includes a drink and snack. Contact Annabel on 07787 562265, or just turn up.

9:30 – 11:30am

Barkway Parent and Toddler Group at Barkway Village Hall. Children 0–4 years. Singing, stories and activities; tea, coffee, juice and snack provided. Contact Kim Semple on 07964 151288.

10:00am – 11:00am

Story Sacks at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per child 01763 273008.

10:30am

BALFF 10-week course started 14 January, 'Current Affairs', at the Community Centre, Luyne Rise. Coffee served from 10am. For details contact Julia Peacock on 01763 272584.

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Cougars U14s training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Circuit Training for 50+ at Seth Ward CC. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.

6:30pm – 7:30pm

Freestyle & Shotokan Karate at Fremman College. Contact Sensei John Srinivassan, Mushin Academy of Karate, 07722 071408.

7:00pm – 8:00pm

Cougars U15s Blues training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.

7:30pm – 8:30pm

Body Circuit classes at Seth Ward CC. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.

7:30pm – 8:15pm

Boxercise/Tae Bo session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.

7:30pm

Slimming World Group at Millfield School. Tel: Glenda McLellan on 01462 894351 / 07983 224121 or email glendakmclellan@gmail.com

8:00pm

Horizon Divers at Fremman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.

THURSDAYS

9:30am – 11:00am

Anstey Toddlers at Old School House, Anstey. Arts & crafts, free play and singing for toddlers & babies with their carers. £1 per family. Term time only 01763 273008.

9:30am – 11:00am

Bramble Hill Stay & Play at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford. Term time only. £1 per family. 01763 273008.

11:00am – 12:00pm

Fitness for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. £4 per class. Eileen Dixon 01763 257474 / 07966 222272, email: eileensaerobics@hotmail.com

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Baby classes run by the **Best Start Club** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane. **Magical Musical Playdays**, for 1 to 3 years olds, start at 1:00pm; followed by **Baby Signing classes**, for 0 to 16 months, at 2:00pm. Contact Laura Sheriff on 07801 796334. Email: laura@thebeststartclub.com.

4:30pm – 6:30pm

Drama workshops 15–18 year olds, with Stagefrights Theatre at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Dave 01438 232181; email: stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Cougars U7s & U8s training at Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email: secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS – SEPTEMBER 2015

- 5:30pm – 10:00pm **Buntingford Swimming Club**, Freman Pool. Adelaide Boon 07710 550050.
 7:30pm **Buntingford Karate Club**, Edwinstree Gym. Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
 8:00pm – 9:30pm **Badminton Club** at Seth Ward CC. Contact Liz James on 01763 274010.
 8:00–10:00pm **Buntingford Dramatic Society**, Benson Hall.

FRIDAYS

- 9:15am **WeightWatchers** at Benson Hall.
 9:30am – 10:30am **Badminton** at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.
 10:00am & 11:00am **Baby & toddler 'Rhyme Time'** at Seth Ward. £1 first child, 50p for additional children to include tea & coffee. Contact Bramble Hill 01763 273008.
 10:00am – 9:00pm **The On Site Massage Clinic** at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Contact Kate Smith MBRCP on 07720 298306 or visit www.onsitemassageclinic.co.uk.
 11:00am – 12:00 **Drop-in Breastfeeding Support Group** at Bramble Hill, 01763 273008.
 11:00am **All Abilities MultiSports** at Benson Hall. Contact Jacqui on 01763 273815 / 07956 647806.
 3.30pm – 8:00pm **Dance classes** with Buntingford Dancing School, at Freman College. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Cougars U11s** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email: secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.
 5:30pm – 8:00pm **Friday Project, Buntingford & District Youth Club** for young people aged 13–19. A range of activities at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Danny Band on 07879 853849 or email danny.band@hertfordshire.gov.uk.
 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Cougars U12s Whites** training, Norfolk Road Floodlit Multigames Area. For more information email: secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.

SATURDAYS

- 8:30am – 2:45pm **Dance classes** with Buntingford Dancing School, at Freman College and URC Hall, Buntingford. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
 9:15am – 2:00pm **Musical Theatre School** for 4–14 year olds at Seth Ward Comm Centre. Call Anna 07545 788433 or email stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk.
 10:00am – 11:30am **3rd Sat** in the month, **Dad's/Male Carers Group** at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford. £1 per child. 01763 273008.
 10:30am – 11:30am **Cougars U6s** training, Buntingford Community Centre (on grass). For more information email: secretary@buntingfordcougars.co.uk.
 11:am – 2:00pm **1st Sat** in the month, **BuntsBoutiqueFair** at Benson Hall. Crafts, Food, Art & Gifts. Refreshments. Charity Raffle. Free squash & lollypop for children!
 2:15pm – 4:15pm **Drama workshops** 6–15 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Dave 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk.
 2:00pm – 4:00pm **Police Surgery** at Buntingford Police Station, Baldock Road.

SUNDAYS

- 2:30 – 5:00pm **Cromer Windmill** open to the public till mid-Sept. Also on 2nd and 4th Saturdays in each month and on Bank Holidays.
 4:30 – 7:30pm **Starting 2nd Aug & 6th Sept, 4-week Hypnobirthing Courses** with Breeze Birthing at The Coffee Shop. Contact sammy@breezebirthing.com.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 1 st	8:00pm Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society at Benson Hall.
Wed 2 nd	7:45pm Buntingford Gardeners' Club at URC Hall, Baldock Road (see page 47).
Sat 5 th	10am–4pm The Buntingford Classic (see page 11).
Sat 5 th	11am–2pm BuntsBoutiqueFair at Benson Hall.
Sat 5 th	9am–1pm Big Braughing Garage Sale in aid of St Mary's (see page 15).
5 th to 27 th	Herts Open Studios 2015 (see page 26).
Sun 6 th	From 11am R.A.T.S. Dog Show at G&M Growers, Upper Caldecote, Nr Biggleswade SG18 9BU.
Thurs 10 th	7:45pm Buntingford W.I. at URC Hall (see page 45).
Fri 11 th	7–11pm Tapas Night with live music at Buntingford Coffee Shop. For info & tickets (£20pp) enquire at the Coffee Shop or call 01763 273940.
Mon 14 th	1:30pm U3A Monthly Meeting at Seth Ward CC (see page 41).
Tues 15 th	6:30pm Open Meeting at Buntingford Library (see page 22).
Tues 15 th	8pm Royston Choral Society Open Rehearsal (see page 29).
Wed 16 th	2:30–4pm BALA Cream Teas at Benson Hall (see page 44).
Fri 18 th	8pm Buntingford Railway & Local History Society , meet at The Crown. 'The History of Mangapps Railway Museum' with John Jolly.
Fri 18 th & Sat 19 th	7:30 for 8pm Buntingford Dramatic Society presents 'Boeing Boeing' at Benson Hall (see page 27).
Sat 19 th	From 11am Harvest Fayre at Edwinstree School (see page 39).
Fri 25 th	From 1pm Anstey Annual Country Fun Day (see page 35).
Fri 25 th & Sat 26 th	7:30 for 8pm Buntingford Dramatic Society presents 'Boeing Boeing' at Benson Hall (see page 27).
Sat 26 th	7pm till Late Barn Dance at Freman College in support of Buntingford Scouts (see page 40).
Sun 27 th	12noon Lynsey Ivison Sponsored Bike Ride (see page 36).
Wed 30 th	Muscle Help Foundation Charity Dinner in Cambridge (see page 48).

OCTOBER

Sat 10 th	7 for 7:30pm The Big Autumn Quiz at Benson Hall (see page 33).
Sat 10 th	7:30pm The Overtures at Freman College (see page 21).
Sat 17 th	7:30 for 8pm Quiz Night at Layston School (see page 37).
Sat 17 th	9am RBL Trip to National Memorial Arboretum (see page 21).
Sat 24 th	Buntingford Choir Gala Performance at Freman College (see page 28).

If you would like to advertise your event in *The Journal*,
please contact **Christine Noble** on **01763 273095**
Or email: **Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk**

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE STATION:

Baldock Road, Buntingford
Police surgeries:

Non-emergency telephone: 101

In emergencies dial 999

2–4pm on Saturdays at Buntingford Police Station

GAS:

ELECTRICITY:

WATER (Veolia):

SEWERAGE (Thames Water):

FLOODLINE:

Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999

Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838

Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325

Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800

Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188

Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60

DOCTORS:

The Medical Centre – White Hart Close

Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)

Orchard Surgery – Baldock Road

Tel: 01763 272410 (After hours: 272411)

**B A S H (Buntingford Action
 For Social Help):**

Providing transport for hospital and doctors

appointments. Tel: Jane Winter 01763 271484

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RAPE,
 RACE or HATE CRIME:**

Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554440

(in emergency, dial 999)

LOCAL COUNCILS:

Buntingford Town Council – 01763 272222

East Herts District Council – 01279 655261

Housing – 01279 714714

Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852

For emergencies out of office hours: 01279 655261

Adult Care Services – 0300 123 4042

Children's Services – 0300 123 4043

Hertfordshire Highways – 0300 123 4047, or report

faults online: www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:
 High Street, Buntingford

Opening times: Mon & Thurs 09:00 – 18:00

Tues & Fri 14:00 – 18:00

Saturday 09:00 – 13:00

Telephone enquiries – 0300 123 4049

Option 1 – Renewals 03:00–23:45 every day

Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri

08:00–20:00, Sat 09:00– 6:00

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:
 The Manor House
 Market Hill, Buntingford

Opening times: Monday 10:00 – 16:00

Tues & Wed 10:00 – 13:00

Telephone advice: Mon to Fri 10:00 – 16:00

Call 03444 111 444

**HOUSEHOLD WASTE &
 RECYCLING SITE:**
 Watermill Industrial Estate,
 Aspenden Road

Opening times: Mon to Fri 17:00 – 20:00

Sat & Sun 10:00 – 13:00

EDITOR'S LETTER

We're coming up to one of my favourite days in the Buntingford calendar – the Classic Car Show. It's always a really good day and this year should be no exception. So fingers crossed for good weather and a good turn-out.

In June Buntingford said goodbye to Ken Jack's and I have no doubt that many of us are going to miss such a useful shop on the high street. Chris Kell managed to talk to Roger Jack just before he shut up shop for good and he is the subject of this month's Local Interview on page 24. I am sure you will join me in wishing him well.

In the wake of the 400 year celebrations of St Peter's Church, Sheila Ormerod felt readers might be interested to know more of Reverend Alexander Strange, the man who was inspired to build the church. Her account of his life is on page 16.

Brian Thompson continues the campaign to keep the library on the High Street and has sent in a brief update which you can read in the Letters Pages. Buntingford In Transition have also joined in the fight with some interesting new ideas and have called an Open Meeting on Tuesday 15th September; details in the article on page 22.

Several of the local schools have not contributed their usual articles this month because they have been enjoying the long summer break. As it happens, this is just as well because I have had so many full-page posters sent in promoting various events – from the Scouts Barn Dance to the Big Autumn Quiz to the Buntingford Community Choir – and for once I have had room to use several of them in full. Don't miss the latest offering from the Buntingford Dramatic Society (page 27).

September is Herts Open Studios month, when local artists around the county encourage the public to visit them in their studios and see them at work. Among the 200 or so artists taking part is Sue Nicholls who lives in Buntingford and is planning several 'open' sessions in her garden hideaway. For more information see page 26.

Finally, among several local charities advertising their events this month I would just like to mention The Lynsey Ivison Trust who are organising a sponsored bike ride on the last Sunday in the month. If you could get on your bike to help them raise funds, see page 36.

Christine Noble

Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading

**Editorial copy deadline for the October 2015 Journal
is Saturday 12th September 2015**

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

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

**The Buntingford Journal is published by, but is editorially
independent of, the Buntingford Civic Society.**

Letters & emails to the Editor

Dear Christine

Brian Thompson's piece in the July/August issue on the origins of our market is splendid stuff, and I'm sure that Philip Plumb is looking down and beaming approval. Except, that is, for one small point, namely the presence of a village at Layston. Brian writes of one, but Philip was positive that it never existed. He maintained that Layston church was built to serve the scattered manors and homesteads in the area, and that it was later adopted by Buntingford when that settlement arose. Chauncy, in his "The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire", writes of there being a "Vill" there in earlier times, but that was actually an administrative unit under the feudal system, and not necessarily a village. It could be just a farmstead or a manor. Brian also writes of the situation of the market, with the East-West road making a dog-leg through it, as being fortuitous. Philip considered this to be a deliberate arrangement and typical of a medieval market, as it meant that all travellers, whether North-South or East-West, had to pass through the market and pay their tolls. Please – more from Mr. Thompson's keyboard in the tradition of Philip's much lamented articles of yesteryear!

Best regards, Robin Webb

Dear Christine

Readers may have noticed that we have revived the campaign to save our library in the High Street. As I warned previously, County Hall seem hell bent on moving it to the fire station regardless of the views of the people who actually live in Buntingford and use the library here. So we have to make more noise. There has been a good article in our local edition of the Mercury, which I hope residents will have noticed, and emails are being sent to Teresa Heritage, who has taken over from France Button as the Cabinet member for libraries, and to Andrew Bignell who heads the County Library department.

What I think Buntingford folk will find totally unacceptable is that all the new housing development around the town has produced enough s106 money to ensure that the library in the High Street can fulfil the County's ambition to create a bright, welcoming, tech-enabled building without having to move it to the fire station. The question they have to answer is why are they spending tax-payers' money (our money) when they can use developers' money? The short answer is that Herts County Council has not signed up to using s106 money for community benefit. Is not that a disgrace! I hope your readers will be angry enough about this to sign the petition which is in most shops and on-line; and log on to our Facebook site: Save Buntingford library. The response from our town to the original County proposal to downgrade our library to Tier 3 was of such magnitude that County Hall had to change their opinion. Lets do it again!

Regards, Brian Thompson

P.S. Thank you for forwarding Robin Webb's email. I am glad my piece was appreciated. His point about the existence of Layston is a moot one: if there was not a settlement there, the name must have originated somewhere. In his essay 'Aspects of the history of Layston parish', Philip Plumb says that Chauncy, in the 1826 work 'Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire', states that the Saxons in old time erected the Vill of Layston in the fields about a mile distant from Aspenden towards the East, where nothing more remains than the Church. Robert Clutterbuck, in 'The history and antiquities of the County of Hertfordshire 1815-1827', says that at the beginning of the 19th century it was possible to trace the foundations of houses which had once stood near the Church. And John Edwin Cussons in his 'History of Hertfordshire 1870-1873', claims there had once been a village called Layston. All three suggest this village was abandoned when its inhabitants moved

down the hill to the newer settlement of Buntingford and this is included in 'The Deserted Medieval Villages of Hertfordshire' by Rutherford Davis, 1973.

Dear Christine

A big thank you to all who came and visited the church on the Civic Society's Heritage Day back in June – amazingly we had at least 370 people through our doors! We had printed out disclaimer sheets for people to sign as it is such a building site, but we ran out of room and had to get some visitors to sign in the margins in the end ... On the way over we were making bets with each other on how many people might come and those bets ranged between 30-70 people – we were only 300 out! We have always felt that it is important to show what we are doing with the church and how we intend to look after it in the future, so it was lovely to have an opportunity to reach so many. The big question of the day was 'Where is the kitchen going to be?' so, if I didn't manage to answer that one for you, then it's in the nave on the left as you come through from the porch.

Many people on the day promised to look through their old photos and family records to see if they can find any more information on the church – someone must have taken photos of their children at the open air services, and I would love to see some wedding photos from there too ... Perhaps I will be able to put together another article soon to share some of these. I was pleased to see a number of people visiting who had strong objections in the beginning, it's nice to know that we have been able to reassure those that care about the church that we are doing a good job of preserving and protecting what was there, as well as integrating the new elements in a sympathetic way, to use the language of Grand Designs! I look forward to next summer when we should be fully functional and will hopefully be able to be part of any future events within the town.

Mandy & Martin, St Bartholomew's Church

Dear Christine

I have just returned from attending Layston School's sports day. What a great sports day. Proper races, real competition with winners and losers. Just like the real world with the children and parents alike loving every minute of it. Other schools take note! Again, well done to the children, teachers and helpers at Layston School.

Ashley Cantor, Fairfield

Dear Christine

Please consider printing my extended letter to the Town Council in response to the Phoenix Shared Space proposals, which I cannot get enthusiastic about as they seem so superfluous to the needs of this place. At the last election I stepped down as a Town and District Councillor for Hertford having served for 12 years. My wife and I elected in 2012 to downsize and move to Buntingford and from the very first week in our new location we were enamoured of the town's friendliness and community spirit.

I believe we are missing the boat with the Phoenix Shared Space proposal.

A few months past Buntingford Council set aside £10,000 for a proposal to tart up our streets, but the booklet from Phoenix confirms my fears that it seems to be missing the point without thought of what is to come over the next 10 to 15 years. The last thing this town needs is shared space. What is wanted is a coherent strategy to cope with increased traffic, pedestrians and shoppers while protecting the historical town centre.

Further to the debacle of our district plan, Buntingford will have inflicted upon it well over 1400 new homes. At the current rate of construction, within 5 to 7 years the housing stock will have increased by two thirds of the number here today. Of these new houses 20% may be 'affordable', but most will be out of reach for many and occupied by commuters working in Cambridge, Stevenage, Welwyn, Stansted, the M11 Corridor, or beyond.

With public transport at an all-time low, most new residents will drive and this growth will lead to an estimated 42,000 *extra* vehicle movements every day within the locality.

With respect, the Phoenix Share Space booklet does not cover any constructive proposals for infrastructure to support the amount of residential development. It makes no mention of water, sewage, public facilities, education, health and the like – and none of these are on the horizon in the District or County Councils Plans in any meaningful way. Take a very mean average such as increased water use daily amounts to 56,000 flushes, baths or showers; demand on schools will increase to around 280 new pupils every ten years. Health, doctors, care workers, social services, policing, will require 50 additional personnel, plus social housing.

We should be looking to find ways of how Buntingford's people will cope with the increases inflicted upon the town by the target-driven decisions of politicians and by developers making money at the expense of community identity. Buntingford needs its central core protected by the safeguarding of the High Street, not just removal of bollards and a few more parking bays. We have a High Street worthy of saving with many small traders who have found a niche in our midst without those out-of-town shopping centres that could well be inflicted upon us if we let it happen. Just look at the County Town of Hertford, dying on its feet. We must not let Buntingford go the same route.

My personal opinion of this Shared Space proposal is that it's unwanted window dressing with no proper aim to protect the very heart of our town. A concise Town Plan needs to be pulled together to look at environment, education, health and wellbeing. Some items that immediately spring to mind to safeguard our town include:

- Use of 20/25mph speed limits throughout, just like in Continental towns, and more enforced speed-calming measures on all roads in and out of town.
- Implement a south to north one-way system in the High Street, and keep or increase the pavement bollards to protect pedestrians.
- Create more on-street parking on the west side of the High Street, with double yellow lines on the east side to ensure a free flow of traffic and encourage off-street parking by improving signs and access to the existing car park.
- The Northern Gateway: Ermine Street, where 200 new homes are to be built, needs a new roundabout access directly onto the A10 to keep commuter traffic out of the town centre. Ermine Street itself needs radical re-thinking to encourage traffic to use a northern route out of the town. The Southern Gateway: encourage residents to commute around the town by the A10, unless going to the central core.
- Hare Street Road, Baldock Road and to and from the proposed Aspenden Road development all require detailed thought on traffic management.
- Buntingford is a rural community and vehicles will always rule our lives. Instead of decorative bricks and a few new colourful signs, we need radical thinking on how to preserve this old town and not sink into another characterless conurbation.
- Finally, with the A414 through Hertford being the only defined east to west cross-route for traffic in the county, the A507 Baldock Road will become used more and more, thus increasing traffic through the town unless it is encouraged to use the by-pass.

BUNTINGFORD must be saved before it is too late. I would urge the Town Council and local people to look at constructive ideas beyond the window dressing that Project Phoenix in its current form indicates.

Sincerely, NIK Wilson, Woods Way

Editor's Note: Some cuts have been made to the original letter here for space reasons.



Saturday 5th September 2015

It's that time of year again and members of the Chamber of Commerce are busy with their final preparations for this year's **Buntingford Classic Car Show**.

The event promises to be as good and enjoyable as ever with its wide-ranging mix of classic cars, bikes, hotrods, kit cars and 'unusual' vehicles. Some of the attractions this year include several Ferraris, a Lamborghini, a 1938 Buick and a 1951 Bentley. Many classic American cars will also be on display.

There will be the ever-popular 'show within a show' in the Old Grammar School front garden (many thanks to the new owners), where NUTS (the Nostalgic and Unusual Transport Society) will be displaying classic and vintage vehicles – some of them over 100 years old. Local race preparation specialists Blakeney Motorsports have also promised to add something special to the show once again. One of last year's offerings was a car that held the world land speed record in the 1920s – they will have to do some to beat that!

Many bands will be performing in locations up and down the High Street with most of our hostellers providing live entertainment throughout the day and into the evening. The usual barbecues and hog roasts will be available for those with an appetite for food as well as cars.

The show commences at 10.00am and will run to 4.00pm. Do come along to support the event and the Town and enjoy a fantastic day. It is definitely a date not to be missed!



SIR OLIVER HEALD QC MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR NORTH EAST HERTFORDSHIRE

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Email: oliver.heald.mp@parliament.uk

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If you require further details please ask a member of staff or email Kay or Carolyne at info@thebuntingfordcoffeeshop.co.uk

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



Buntingford Civic Society

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk



Ah well, the summer is nearly over, the nights are drawing in and some mornings you get that autumnal feel, but hey we still live in a great little town. This month I thought I would talk a little about a subject that is close to my heart – looking out for your neighbours, especially the older ones. I have recently gone through what in my mind is an extremely traumatic time for which you get no warning or training. We constantly hear on the news about the plight of the elderly who live alone, maybe with a visiting carer to help with their day to day living. The worst thing is the loneliness, especially if you are not able to get out to enjoy the many activities and clubs that our town has on offer for older residents. It becomes increasingly difficult if dementia sets in, causing confusion and disorientation.

Just spend a little time imagining what this type of day would be for you. Wake up, probably early, and wait for your morning carer to come and help you wash and dress, and do your breakfast – normally this would take 30-60 minutes dependent on the care package. You are then left on your own until maybe you have another 15 or 30-minute care visit to give you lunch. Again you are left on your own until you may have a 30-minute evening care visit to assist in getting ready for bed and maybe giving you a snack. If there is a trace of dementia you may wake up in the night not knowing where you are and panic because there is no one to ask or reassure you. You may even ring 999 in desperation. On a normal day that would mean being alone for at least 22 out of 24 hours, every day and every week of the year. OK perhaps if you like being alone.

So my message is this. I know we all live busy lives but if you live next to an elderly person, give them a knock, ask if everything is OK, have a cup of tea and a 20-minute chat. I know from experience how much difference this can make to a person's life.

A brief up-date on the Planning situation: The decision by the Secretary of State on the appeals for Areas 2 & 3 South of Hare Street Road and Aspenden Road East has been delayed until November. Wheatley Homes have yet to start on Area 1 South of Hare Street Road, but Taylor Wimpey are progressing with their development. Fairview have finished demolition of the Sainsbury Depot and what a difference it makes to the landscape, especially approaching from the south. We have no news on the Bovis application and still await news of the progress on the 'Pigeon Land' north of the town. For those of you who use our **footpath network**, I recently guided a party from the Hertfordshire Local Access Forum around the town pointing out how the landscape is or will be changing on all sides of the town. I am working with HCC Rights of Way with a view to increasing the number of footpaths around the town and linking the existing ones.

Our Civic Day in June was quite a success with 56 people in all joining Robin Webb, Ken Durrant and myself on an historical walk around the town. Our thanks to Robin for his time and effort and to Gillian Johnson and family for allowing our groups of walkers to view the cells and exercise yard in Peel House, the Old Police Station and Magistrates Court. We would also like to thank Mandy and Martin for opening St Bartholomew's Church to the public. We understand they had over 300 visitors!

Finally, our best wishes for a successful Classic Car Show go to the organisers who work so hard both before and on the day. I for one will be there, hope you will be too.

Graham Waite, BCS Chairman



Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

Minister: Rev Duncan Goldie
The Manse, Meeting Lane, Melbourn,
Cambs SG8 6AN Tel: 01763 260747

Secretary: Peter Godbert
buntingford.urc@virginmedia.com
Tel: 01763 281359

Services and Junior Church at 11:00am every Sunday

September	6	Morning Worship	Mrs Faith Paulding
	13	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	20	Harvest Festival	Rev Derek Newton
	27	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
October	4	Morning Worship	Rev Prof David Thompson

Tea and coffee is served in the hall following the morning service.

Sat 5th Sept: Buntingford Classic Car Show – Our 'Pit Stop Café' will be open 11am to 4pm in the Church Yard or in the Church, depending on the weather.

Sun 20th Sept: Christ Church annual Harvest service, led by Rev Derek Newton, will be followed by a Bring & Share Lunch in our Hall.

REGULAR EVENTS

Junior Church – Sunday at 11am during term time, for young people and children.

Bible Study meeting – Second Wednesday of each month in the Hall. Lunch from 12:30pm (*bring your own food, tea & coffee provided*), followed by Bible Study at 1pm finishing prompt at 2pm. **All are welcome.**

Bright Hour – Next meetings are on Tuesdays 1st and 15th Sept at 2:30pm in the Church Hall. A time for fellowship with prayers, hymns and activities.

Coffee & Company – Every Thursday from 10:30am for anyone wanting fellowship and time for a chat.

Lunches organised by Christian Aid – First Friday of the month, 12:30 to 2:00pm.

www.buntingfordurc.freeseve.co.uk



ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Father John White

HOLY MASS is celebrated each **Sunday** at 9:15am
Holy Days at 10am and 8pm; **Weekdays** at 9:30pm
Saturdays at 10am

CONFESSIONS are each Saturday from 10:30 to 11am



United Benefice of
St. Mary's – Aspenden
St. Peter's – Buntingford
St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill
Church of England



Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072

There is a full and varied pattern of worship across the three churches: St. Peter's in Buntingford has a more contemporary style; St. Mary's in Aspenden has a more traditional style; St. Mary the Virgin in Westmill has a more liturgical style.

Everyone is welcome at any of our churches.

Services for September 2015

Sun 6 th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	10:00am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 13 th	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Morning Worship
	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
	4:00pm	St Peter's, Buntingford	Bereavement Service
Sun 20 th	9:30am	St Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 27 th	9:30am	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Harvest Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St Peter's, Buntingford	Harvest Festival

Please join us at St Peter's at 4pm on Sunday 13th Sept for a special 'Service of Remembering' to remember those we love who have died.

Everyone is welcome at this service, whether your loved one died recently or a while ago, whether they lived locally or not, and regardless of where their funeral was held.

Please bring along a single flower to represent each person you are remembering; these will be laid on the Altar during the service and made into an arrangement afterwards.

The service will be followed by refreshments, please do also stay for these.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BRAUGHING
BIG BRAUGHING GARAGE SALE
SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER, 9AM TO 1PM

OVER 20 GARAGES/STALLS TO BROWSE

**MAPS OF GARAGES/STALLS, BACON BUTTIES,
TEA & COFFEE AVAILABLE AT :**

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL 9.00am to 12.30pm

All monies raised go to Friends of St. Mary's Braughing Restoration Trust



Fundraising
Committee

Reverend Alexander Strange

What do we know of the man behind the construction of St Peter's Church?

Alexander Strange was born in London in 1580, the son of a Doctor of Law. In due course he went to Sidney Sussex College in the University of Cambridge, where after taking his B.A. he read theology. He must have done this in his early teens since before coming to Buntingford in 1604 he already had been a curate in Witham, Essex, where he was ordained, and Rector of Abbess and White Roding. Then, at the age of 24, he came to Buntingford and moved into the Vicarage at the bottom of Hare Street Road, part of which still stands. He lived there with his books and musical instruments until his death 46 years later.

We know quite a lot about Rev. Strange's time here because he kept a Memorandum Book, in which he wrote details of his work. From the start he was troubled by the fact that the parish church was at a considerable distance from the town and could not be reached when the Rib was in flood. So he set about collecting the money to build a chapel of ease in the centre of Buntingford and the foundation stone of St. Peter's was laid 11 years later in 1615.

An important part of his job was the giving out of money from the Poor Rate and the town's charities, which he did at church on a Sunday, thereby ensuring that the recipients attended the service. He was particularly incensed that immigrants were taking this charity, which was intended to be reserved for those born here. In a piece entitled 'Advice', apparently aimed at the more substantial local citizens, he castigates them for their greed in letting out properties to newcomers thinking only of the rent they would receive and forgetting about the rates they would have to pay when the tenants became paupers. Of these immigrants he had a very poor opinion, describing them as lazy and dishonest. Usually they had many children, some too young to work. When he preached the Assize Sermon at Hertford in 1608 he described the unemployed as idle and given to fornication, drunkenness and thievery. Where did these undesirable immigrants come from? From the neighbouring villages – Aspenden, Hornead, Wyddial and so on.

A vicar was expected to help settle disputes in the parish. One difficulty arose when four substantial farmers at Corneybury, Alswick. Owles and Bridgefoot (known as Uplanders) objected to paying the same rates as the townspeople, saying that they did not enjoy the amenities of the town. Various attempts were made to find a compromise but in the end the Uplanders gave in and paid up.

What more do we know about this industrious vicar? In due course he had a curate to help him. He became a Prebendary (honorary canon) of St. Paul's Cathedral. He was largely responsible for the foundation of Buntingford grammar school, working with Mrs. Elizabeth Freman according to some authorities. In 1622 Thomas Fuller, in his 'Worthies of England', described him as "little in stature but eminently great in mind". He was known and admired as a powerful preacher. A brass in the chancel of St Peter's depicts him standing in a three-decker pulpit with a bible and an hour glass. Sermons were a source of entertainment at the time and there are stories of them lasting two hours, but surely his sermon lasting three hours by request of the congregation must be a record. Copies of three of his sermons are preserved in the library of the Middle Temple.

Alexander Strange was always something of a hypochondriac. He had a bad foot and consulted a lady who had treated Charles II successfully. She prescribed bathing it in port wine! He always feared dementia and sadly he finally succumbed to this. He died in December 1650 and according to Thomas Fuller was buried in the chancel of St. Peter's.

Sheila Ormerod



The Hundred Parishes Society

The Society has now completed the website introductions to all 100 parishes. The very last to go on was Barkway, with an entry illustrated by several photographs including this one, originally published as a postcard in 1904, which inspired me to go there and take in the scene in person.

More than a century later, the view down the main street is still clearly recognisable – except that there are now pavements and the once-empty road has parked cars – and the stroll through the village was most pleasant .



Our website currently has details of 20 walks that can be downloaded to help anyone explore the area. They all start and finish at a railway station on the line from Cambridge to London Liverpool Street or on the spur to Hertford East. Fifty years ago, there would have been far greater scope for walks from and between stations. More than twenty parishes had a train station then, compared with just seven today. A spate of line closures followed recommendations made in the 1960s by the British Railways chairman Dr Richard Beeching: a third of Britain's rail track was deemed uneconomic because passengers and freight were migrating from rail to road.

Our area was particularly affected by these rail closures: in the north the line from Cambridge via Linton to Haverhill and the branch line from Audley End through Saffron Walden to Bartlow were lost; in the west, the Buntingford line was closed; and in the east the route between Bishop's Stortford, Dunmow and Braintree was axed. On the plus side, the closure of so many stations probably constrained future expansion and thereby helped the Hundred Parishes retain its rural characteristics. Whilst the rails have been removed, the routes are still largely visible on maps and on the ground, with the Dunmow track finding new life as the Flitch Way for people on foot, cycle or horseback.

Ken Macdonald, Secretary, The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

As a request for an election was not received, the Town Council has now co-opted Lee Morrison to the Council. We welcome Lee and hope he enjoys his time as a Town Councillor.

Many people will be aware that regrettably we had to authorise the removal of the beautiful Blue Cedar tree in Layston Court Gardens. This was not a decision taken lightly, but having been told that the tree was extremely dangerous, we had little choice but to remove it. When everything settles down, we will consider a suitable replacement.

We have recently commissioned a full survey of all of the trees in the gardens and there will be some tree surgery undertaken as a result of this survey.

Responses from the Project Phoenix survey have now been collated and results show that the High Street is top on the list of peoples concerns, followed by the Market Hill/Baldock Road area. The Team will now concentrate on those areas. Residents and Shopkeepers will now be surveyed to identify any particular concerns.

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE, Town Clerk

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

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

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk Twitter: @buntingfordtc

Town Council meetings for September 2015

Thurs 3 rd Sept	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 10 th Sept	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 24 th Sept	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Full Council

All meetings will be held at The Manor House. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please check the website for further details.

East Herts Council is pleased to announce a second

funding round for its popular **Community Capital Grants Scheme**.

Up to £8,000 is available for projects that improve community facilities such as village halls, allotments, playing fields, play areas and any other community asset that is run by volunteers. All voluntary and community organisations are eligible to apply, as are Parish and Town Councils. To check out details and download an application form go to <http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=10144>. To see what we have funded in the past go to <http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=31723>.

The deadline for applications is 7th September 2015, but if there is budget remaining we may have another round. If you would like to talk about your project please contact me, Claire Pullen, on 01992 531459 or by email claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk. I work part time so if I'm not available contact my colleague Tracy Matthews on 01992 531616.

News from Your District Councillor

Community Sport & Physical Activity for the Over 50s

Calling all Over 50s who'd like to get off the sofa and try something new, have fun and feel better for it. East Herts Council are hosting a free 'Come and Try' taster event at Wodson Park in Ware this November, and you don't need to be sporty or athletic to join in. Whether you'd like to have a go at a traditional sport such as tennis or table tennis, or something more unusual such as archery or walking football, the event will be offering it all. Badminton, short mat bowls, exercise to music and yoga or Pilates are all likely to be on offer too. Professional coaches will help you make sure you're doing the right thing and will be on hand to give you lots of tips. With a free healthy lunch as well, it's a day not to be missed! So save the date – **Wednesday 4th November, 10am-4pm**. To find out more or to let us know if you'd like to come, call East Herts Council on 01279 655261 and ask for the community engagement team or email Claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk



What next? We are planning a three-year programme with lots of classes and activities for the over 50s in towns and villages across the whole of East Herts. Keep a look out in Link Magazine and in the local press for more information.

Public Transport

Sir Oliver Heald MP has been in discussion with Herts County Council (HCC) regarding the lack of public transport in Buntingford, and has asked the Council to consider a light rail system. This could possibly connect Buntingford to towns with main rail stations such as Baldock or Stevenage, or to the south at Hertford, Broxbourne or Cheshunt. Investing in rail – even light rail – is a hugely expensive, complex and lengthy process. There would need to be a very strong business case, which in turn would depend on future levels of housing and jobs growth that might be enabled in the area.

HCC is currently developing a long-term transport vision for Hertfordshire, and a key issue is whether that should be focused on more road building/improvements, or give priority to sustainable/public transport measures. This needs to factor in projected housing numbers, the likely numbers emerging from London's housing needs and the distribution of that growth across Hertfordshire's towns and villages through to and possibly beyond 2050. There will be a stakeholder consultation on options this autumn and I encourage Buntingford organisations to contribute. HCC are also developing a new Transport model for Hertfordshire that will enable them to test different levels of growth and transport options, to help prepare a robust case for future funding.

Another possible opportunity is Cross Rail 2. Preliminary work is underway by TfL (Transport for London) and there will be public consultation later this year. Derrick Ashley, Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Environment, has been invited to join the Mayor of London's Growth Commission for Cross Rail 2. A key issue is where Cross Rail 2 might serve and terminate in Hertfordshire – current options include Hertford East and Broxbourne or Hoddesdon, but an extension to Buntingford could be promoted for consideration if the relevant parties can reach an agreement on the

principle. It's imagined, though, that any such proposal would need to be accompanied by a very significant new housing 'offer' to make the scheme economically viable.

Xmas Lunch for the Over 60s

As part of the East Herts Ageing Well initiative, I am organising a festive Xmas lunch and entertainment for our senior citizens on **Saturday 19th December from 1pm** at the Seth Ward Community Centre. Senior citizen organisations and individuals from Buntingford and surrounding villages are all invited, but numbers will be limited so to express an interest or for further information please contact me (details below) or the Town Council office 01763 272222. Transport will be provided if required. I am particularly keen to invite those who are lonely or isolated. If you know of a neighbour or relative who I can personally invite, please let me have their details.

Cllr Jeff Jones, 01763 274800, Jeff.jones@eastherts.gov.uk

Buntingford Conservatives

A Buntingford Conservatives branch is being formed and I am calling on like-minded people to come and join us on Wednesday 7th October at 7.30pm in the back room of The Crown, for an informal social gathering and to discuss ideas. It is proposed that we meet four times a year with guest speakers and social outings. If you are interested please contact jeff@jeffjonesphotos.com or just turn up on the night.



Scoots now hire bikes from £5 a day!

We have three hire options, so if you or anyone you know is struggling with their transport, please inform them about Scoots.

CDA Herts is pleased to announce our new Scoots Hire Scheme. We can now help anyone over the age of 16 anywhere in Hertfordshire. All you need is a provisional licence, we can take care of the rest.

**Our three hire options are as follows:
50cc scooters - from £5 a day
125cc scooters - from £6.43 a day
125cc motorcycles - from £7.28 a day**

All bikes include fully comprehensive insurance & breakdown recovery. Scooter equipment and training bundles available for an additional fee.

For more information about our hire scheme or any of the transport options that Scoots can provide. Please visit: www.scootsw2w.org.uk

CDA Herts is the rural Community Champion for Hertfordshire

We are the only county-wide voluntary and community sector organisation focused on rural issues, in fact we are the Rural Community Council for the county. We advocate on behalf of rural communities in Hertfordshire locally, regionally and nationally, bringing together both people and communities.

BUNTINGFORD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Present



At Freman College
Tickets £17.50 in advance only

**From Kirkhams
Newsagent and
Nisa Supermarket &
Post Office, or ring
01763 272177**

Licensed Bar • Limited seating available

Saturday 10th October 2015

Doors open 7.30pm

The Royal British Legion Buntingford Branch

QUIZ NIGHT

at Benson Hall, Buntingford, on

Saturday 24th October, 7 for 7.30pm

Fish / Chicken & Chips • Licensed Bar & Raffle

Tickets £10 – To book contact Di on 01763 848481

All profits to the Poppy Appeal



The Royal British Legion Buntingford trip to the
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM
in Staffordshire on 17th October 2015

The coach will leave Buntingford at 9am and get back at around 7:30pm. The cost depends on how many people want to go – the more the merrier and the cheaper it will be. If you would like to go please call the trip organiser, **Peter Branagan**, on **01763 272364** to book a place.



WHAT DO YOU WANT BUNTINGFORD TO LOOK LIKE IN 2050?



BUNTINGFORD IN TRANSITION *NEWS*

We have now had four meetings of the Transition High Street group and at all of them we have discussed how central the Library is to our vision for the High Street in 2050. It is the social and cultural hub of our High Street community – and the staff there are like friends to the whole community, especially its oldest and youngest members. So imagine how

dismayed we were to hear that, behind our backs, Herts County Council were planning to move the library to a smaller site muddled in with the Fire Station!

Further, we now hear that they will make the staff apply for their jobs again, and appoint a new Library Manager and Deputy to supervise them – which, given the current staff's long experience, is an unnecessary waste of tax-payers' money. It is clearly a ludicrous, ill-considered plan. From a health and safety point of view alone, it is madness: imagine a crocodile of children turning up for Story Time and a Fire Engine having to roar out on an emergency call? It's an accident waiting to happen! Economically, it takes away a major commercial and cultural magnet for the town: 83% of library visitors say they also shop in the town. And culturally, it rips an important asset from the heart of our town.

But the County Council appear to have made up their minds: they have a grant from the government to “explore the co-location of up to four libraries with retained fire stations in small villages and towns for the mutual benefit of both services”. And according to the Fire Station staff, they have already been round to measure up the site.

We have to fight back! As Buntingford Town Councillor Teresa Bonner said when she met with us: “It's as though the County Council staff come into work and think: ‘How can we really wind up the residents of Buntingford this morning?’” They came up with the unwanted plan to impose charges in our Car Park. They drag their feet on the District Plan so we get hundreds of new houses the infrastructure cannot support, and now they plan to move our library. And these are the people we elected to serve our interests!

Buntingford in Transition has discussed many plans for the Library, including:

- developing the space at the back of the Library into a new boutique film club, showing classic and modern films for audiences of all ages;
- supporting the Youth Council's idea for having a new business incubator there;
- hosting talks and events in the new cinema room;
- having an exhibition of what we think Buntingford will look like in 2050?

So – we are calling an **Open Meeting** at the Library on **Tuesday 15th September at 6.30pm** to brainstorm others' ideas for how we can keep our library on the High Street and use it more and better. We have also started a petition, already signed by more than 200 people.

To help maintain the Library as the wonderful, fully-staffed book and video lending facility that it already is and expand its services to host a variety of new community-building activities, we invite you to do THREE things:

ONE: Sign the ‘Keep the Library on the High Street’ petition. It is in most of the High Street shops and online at: <https://www.change.org/p/hertfordshire-county-council-keep-buntingford-library-on-the-high-street>

TWO: Come to our Open Meeting at the Library on **September 15th** and brainstorm how to prevent HCC from moving it, plus plans for developing it.

THREE: Visit the Buntingford in Transition stall at BuntsBoutiquefair, 11am to 2pm, on the first Saturday of every month and meet Madela, our founder, and have a chat with her about what we do and how you can get involved in creating a better, more sustainable Buntingford in the future.

David Woollcombe



FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

Sat 5th Sept – A CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S REIGN

7:30 for 8pm. Ware Brass Band at United Reform Church, Bishops Stortford. Organised by Stort Valley Rotary. Tickets £15 (to include glass of wine & nibbles) from Gwenda Deal 01279 863194 or Tourist Information Office 01279 715001.

Thur 10th Sept – ISABEL HOSPICE AGM AT VAN HAGE, GREAT AMWELL

7pm. All are welcome to come along to hear about our year and our plans for 2016 and beyond. No need to book, but if you can let us know you are coming we can plan for refreshments. Call 01797 382500 or email: enquiries@isabelhospice.org.uk

Fri 11th Sept – LADIES CHARITY GOLF DAY, WHEATHAMPSTEAD

8:45am at Mid Herts Golf Club, Gustard Wood. Coffee, golf, and two-course lunch, followed by presentation of prizes. Limited to 100 players. Max 36 handicap. Entry: £116 per pair. Enquiries Jan Leggetter 01438 716079.

Sat 12th Sept – JUMBLE SALE AT THUNDRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

2pm. Come and grab a bargain! Entry 20p.

Sat 19th Sept – SUPERHERO STARLIGHT 10K WALK, WARE

Join us as your favourite Superhero character for this fun 10k walk from Chauncy School, along the riverside to Hertford, then back to Chauncy. Advance entry £15 per adult, £10 per child (on the night £20 adult, £15 child). Every walker gets a free superhero mask, plus there'll be medals, goody bags and prizes for the best dressed Superheroes. Ring 01707 382500 or go to www.isabelhospice.org.uk

Sun 27th Sept – CHAIN WALK ACROSS EASTERN HERTFORDSHIRE

9am. Ten scenic walks that all link together, each with a stop for a lunch (optional, not in entry fee), over a variety of distances from 1.5 to 20 miles so you can pick one that best suits you. New routes this year include Hatfield House and Benington Lordship, and this year's 20-mile Chain Walk Challenge is from The Star, Standon, via Jacoby's, Ware, and back to The Star. £5 entry fee, plus walkers please raise as much sponsorship as you can! The person who raises the most will win a prize kindly donated by GO OUTDOORS in Harlow. Please sign up online at www.isabelhospice.org.uk or call 01707 382500.

See the website for full details of these and other fundraising events, including the **2016 Vietnam Challenge**. Are you up for it?

www.isabelhospice.org.uk

The Local Interview: **Roger Jack**

The last day of a shop is always sad: bare windows, gaps on the shelves, boxes ready to shift the remaining stock, and a 'Goodbye' every time anyone leaves the store. On Saturday 20th June 2015, Buntingford said 'Goodbye' to the hardware shop we knew as Ken Jack's. Roger Jack and his shop assistant Chris served their customers for the last time and finally closed the door.

The 20th June 2015 was also the day before Father's Day, and Roger had his own reasons to be thoughtful. Ken Jack, Roger's father, opened the main Hoddesdon hardware store in 1955 and Roger and his brother Keith took over when Ken retired, despite their Dad saying he "didn't want the boys to go into the business because shop-keeping is a dead-end". They proved him wrong and the Buntingford shop has been successful for over 20 years, staffed mainly by Andy, Jenny and Jean.



Roger says that if he were a younger man he'd be looking to take on another shop in Buntingford, not closing one down. "Buntingford is full of potential. It's a lovely town to have a business in. The people are very supportive of their town and they're all very pleasant. We've very much appreciated that." But Roger is 66 and wants to cut down on his personal workload. He hopes that customers in Buntingford will come to his shop in Rye Road, Hoddesdon, a 30-minute drive away.

Whilst the interview is taking place in the shop, we are frequently interrupted by customers making last-minute purchases. The main thing I hear is "You can get everything here", followed by "I'm really sorry to see you go." We take a pause whilst Roger attends to a customer and remembers what she bought last time, much to the surprise and satisfaction of the customer. I ask if he makes an effort to remember but he says: "You just get used to it. You don't consciously try."

I ask a bit more about why he's finishing now, particularly as the Buntingford shop is a going concern. Roger says: "It's just time to stand back. The days of children following in the family footsteps have gone. We've been fortunate, I've always enjoyed it – I started in the shop on Saturdays when I was 14 in 1965 – but when I retire completely, as far as our family is concerned that will be the end. I don't get sad over things like that. Shop-keeping is very hard work, a very difficult and fraught way of making a living." His brother Keith retired some years ago, so Roger has been running the business on his own for a while.

Another customer comes in and asks for something difficult to get hold of. Roger goes straight to the item he wants. When the man hears that this is Ken Jack's last day, he is forlorn. "I've come all the way from Wales, visiting relatives. I've got exactly what I want here – I couldn't get it at home. And nice service too. What more could you want?" Others chime in and say, "Everyone uses this shop because it's so practical. With all the people moving into new houses, Ken Jack's would have been just the thing for

them. It's a really sad day ... an old-fashioned type of shop where everyone's so helpful. A sad day for Buntingford."

But there's been another story running alongside Roger's life as a shop-keeper. In May 2009, his youngest son Sam was wounded in combat in Afghanistan. Roger doesn't want the story sensationalised, but it must have been terrible to get the message that his son had been "very seriously wounded". He had been shot in the head through one eye, and he arrived back in the UK in a coma. No-one knew whether he would survive or not. The bullet had fragmented causing "serious and significant brain damage".

Roger says that, against all the odds, Sam has emerged six years later able to live an almost normal life. At first it was a lot of surgery, all through the NHS, and then 15 months of recovery at the Military Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court. "He has progressed beyond any hope we were given when it all started." As a result of this experience, and the support he and the rest of the family have received from army charities, the shop often had posters up to help fundraise for *Help for Heroes* and *SSAFA (The Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Families Association)*. He is very thankful for all the help the family have received over the last six years. It's another reason why Father's Day is special to him.

Meanwhile Chris, the Saturday boy, is clearing up as the day reaches its end. He is going to be looking for work to replace his Saturday job. But he is not the only one who will be sorry that "the shop that has everything" has closed. It will take a while for the people of Buntingford to get used to Ken Jack's just not being there anymore.

Chris Kell

Royston and District Ramblers Group

Walks for September 2015

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Tues 1st | Sawston, 6 miles, leader Margaret 01763 256788 |
| Thurs 3rd | Comberton, 7½ miles, leader Alan 01223 835908 |
| Sun 6th | Sandon, Chipping, 10 miles, leader David 01763 242677 |
| Tues 8th | Balsham, 5 miles, leaders Bob & Kathy 01763 246988 |
| Thurs 10th | Heydon, 6 miles, leader Alan 01223 835908 |
| Sun 13th | Coton, Dry Drayton, 10 miles, leader Alan 01223 835908 |
| Tues 15th | Melbourn, 5 miles, leader Ray 01763 261127 |
| Thurs 17th | Barrington, 5 miles, leaders Bob & Kathy 01763 246988 |
| Sun 20th | Bassingbourn, Abington Pigotts, 10 miles, leader Margaret 01763 256788 |
| Tues 22nd | Barrington, 5 miles, leader Ray 01763 261127 |
| Thurs 24th | Standon, 5 miles, leader George 01763 242281 |
| Sun 27th | Berden, Arkesden, 12 miles, leader Paul 01763 244038 |
| Tues 29th | Abington Pigotts, 6 miles, leaders Jackie & Viv 01763 246700 |

Unless otherwise stated:

Tuesday & Thursday are morning walks, Sunday walks are all day.

For meeting points and starting times, contact the walk leader or visit the website:

www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk

Click on 'Groups' and then on 'Royston' to find full details

Local artists sparkle for Herts Open Studios Silver Anniversary

Back in 1990, the Hubble stargazing telescope was launched into space, while closer to home that same year the Herts Open Studios arts festival began – an event that has now been celebrating Hertfordshire's very own creative stars for 25 years. Every year, around 200 artists and craftspeople living or working in Hertfordshire open their studio doors in this popular county-wide event. It is expected around 12,000 visits will be made to their studios this September.



Organised by Herts Visual Arts and their dedicated volunteers, Open Studios introduces artists to the public and gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity in action. The interaction with visitors can be a catalyst for new ideas, so visitors are encouraged to talk to the artists about their work, ask questions, or even have a go.

Herts Open Studios runs from 5th to 27th September and is **FREE**. For information on participating artists and their studio opening times visit the Herts Visual Arts website at www.hvaf.org.uk, or pick up one of 25,000 colour brochures giving details of all artists, with examples of their work, in libraries, museums and tourist information offices across Hertfordshire. You can email Herts Visual Arts at openstudios@hvaf.org.uk, or ring **07813 100651**, or follow them on Twitter @HVAF and Facebook – HertsVisualArts.



Visit my working studio in Buntingford when I will be opening my doors as part of **Herts Open Studios 2015**.

A chance to take a 'sneek peek' into my garden studio, where I will have a selection of artwork on display and for sale. I will also be available to discuss commissions. I will be demonstrating some of my techniques and there will be some children's art activities to try out as well (no age limit!). **Herts Open Studios** starts on **5th Sept**, the same day as the **Buntingford Classic Car Show**.



Sue Nicholls, 66 Baldock Road, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9DH

***Sat 5th/*Sun 6th Sept *Sat 19th/*Sun 20th Sept *Sat 26th/*Sun 27th September**
***12-4pm *1-3pm (or by appointment) Refreshments available**

For more info visit: www.suenichollsdesigns.co.uk

email: suenichollsdesigns@suenicholls.demon.co.uk or phone: **07810 564432**

Buntingford Dramatic Society
proudly presents

BOEING BOEING

by Marc Camoletti

Translated by Beverly Cross
and Francis Evans

*The Benson Hall, Buntingford,
Herts, SG9 9HT.*

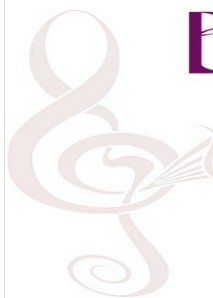
Friday 18th, Saturday 19th September
Friday 25th, Saturday 26th September

Doors Open 7:30pm
Curtain Up: 8:00pm
Licensed Bar

Tickets: **£13** includes continental supper
Box Office: The Cellar, High Street,
Buntingford
You can book online
www.buntingforddrama.org
Telephone: 01763 271727

Tickets £13
Including supper





Buntingford Community Choir

“On **Monday** night in Buntingford Town,
The people gather to sing.
At **Millfield School** at **7.30pm**,
Come along if singing's your thing!
There are no auditions, we sing out our hearts –
Sometimes as many as four different parts!
If you've seen us perform and our style you admire,
Please come and join us -
The Buntingford Choir!”

Forthcoming Events:

As well as our weekly Monday rehearsals we are regularly invited to take part in local events:

The Buntingford Classic Event Saturday 5th September 2015.

The Choir will be performing some of our favourite popular songs from the last few decades at approx 2pm on the main stage in the High Street.

Gala Performance – A Night at the Musicals

Saturday 24th October 2015 - Doors open 7.00pm. Performance 7.30pm

We are delighted to invite you to our main bi-annual performance at Freman College, Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford, SG9 9BT.

The Choir will be performing a wide variety of well loved songs from the most popular musicals of recent years such as Evita, Fiddler on the Roof, Oliver!, Les Miserables and some lesser known productions such as Fiorello and Rent.

Tickets £5.00. Box Office, The Cellar, High Street, Buntingford

Charity raffle to be drawn during the interval – refreshments available.

www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk

An award-winning conductor has joined Royston Choral Society – and so can you!

Royston Choral Society is delighted to welcome Andrew O'Brien as its new Musical Director following the retirement of David Boarder after 17 years with the choir.

Andrew took Heath Mount School Junior Choir to win BBC School Choir of the Year 2012 (right) and one of his pupils won BBC Chorister of the Year 2013. Commenting on Andrew's 14 years as Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square, Bishop Michael Marshall said: 'I have been astounded by ... his unique ability to draw out others' gifts for making music – not least an ability to sing of which they had been unaware.'



Andrew has already chosen the work for his **First Concert** with RCS on **21st November**: "As my first work with Royston ... I have chosen **Brahms' Requiem**. This is not your average setting as it is written in German and not Latin. The setting of the words is simply sublime and the choral writing is particularly stunning. There are moments where the listener is transported to another world. I adore this work and it is a piece I know the choir has never performed in its 40 history. I cannot wait to get started ..."

There could not be a better time for aspiring singers to join RCS and benefit from this talented conductor's expertise. RCS has members from around the district, some with much musical expertise, others with less, but all sharing enthusiasm for singing. Just come along to the next free **Open Rehearsal** on **Tuesday 15th September**, 8pm at Royston Parish Church, and join in for the evening. You will not be asked to sing on your own. The ability to read music is helpful but not essential. Being able to blend with others in your voice part is more important. Membership fees are modest. There is a small charge for refreshments and a popular, optional, 100 Club. Members often meet for a drink after choir and get together for a meal a couple of times a year.

For more information visit www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk, look out for RCS leaflets in libraries, or contact the RCS Chairman, Heather Howard, on **01763 249058** email heather@lemonyellow.org

National Air Ambulance Week

Herts Air Ambulance are encouraging local schools to take part in **Go Red** between Monday 21st and Friday 25th September to



raise awareness and much needed funds for this vital charity. There are many ways schools can take part, such as a red themed non-uniform day with pupils donating £1 to HAA, or arrange a sponsored activity such as a Red Fun Run. Or perhaps a red themed cake sale with children bringing in strawberry jam tarts or red iced fairy cakes. Or set a healthy food challenge – see how many red foods children can identify and eat during NAA Week and ask a family member to sponsor their child. The Charity has teamed up with Heart Radio to give away a fantastic prize for one lucky school – you can find out more at www.heart.co.uk/harlow. To register to take part and get a FREE fundraising pack visit HertsAirAmbulance.uk.com or call 0345 504 0055.

FIGHTING OVER YOUR CHILD?

Don't make a drama out of what is already a crisis

You may have seen in the news recently, the case of Rebecca Minnock, who ran away with her 3 year old son Ethan after a Court ordered he should live with his father. Briefly, the Court found that Rebecca had invented allegations against the father, in an attempt to prevent him from seeing Ethan. To put an end to this, the Court ordered Ethan should live with his father, but still spend time with his mother. Rebecca was unhappy – but instead of using the formal legal channels to try and appeal the decision, she went into hiding with Ethan in the hope of attracting media attention to put pressure on the Courts to change their decision.

The problem was the media did not have full details of the case – because court proceedings relating to children are quite properly confidential. This meant that Rebecca was able to manipulate public opinion for a time – until the full facts of the case came to light. Ethan has now been returned to the care of his father, and it is left for the Court to decide what arrangements should be made for the future.

The father decided not to press for Rebecca's committal to prison for flouting the court order. However, one of the senior judges dealing with the case made it clear in his judgement that "any idea that this sort of action will go unnoticed by the Court is wrong ... I make no concealment of the fact that I would have sentenced her to immediate imprisonment." This shows us just how seriously judges take a breach of a court order – particularly when the welfare of a young child is involved.

You may think these facts sound extreme and read like the script for a Hollywood movie. However, cases like Ethan's are considered by judges in the family courts every day. There are commonly disputes between separating parents about where a child should live, how much time they should each spend with the child, and even detailed issues like which school the child should attend.

These disputes don't need to end up in court or be splashed across the news headlines. It is best wherever possible to come to an agreement amicably – so try mediation or the Collaborative process to get help with talking through the issues before you consider making a Court application. These other options can save you time, money and stress.

If you would like more information on Child Arrangements, Mediation, or general Family Law issues, please contact: clare.pilsworth@curwens.co.uk

www.curwens.co.uk

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

A CUT ABOVE • BASRA'S SUPERMARKET • THE CO-OP
DELISSIMO • MARK DOEL • PIGGOTTS
THE FOX AT ASPENDEN

EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Telephone:

08444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



Scams!

I've had a letter offering me the opportunity to invest in fine wine. The returns look really good and I'm tempted, but my friend says not to trust a letter in case it's a scam. How can I tell if it's genuine?

While there are lots of legitimate investments out there, your friend is right to warn you. Letters and cold-calls from unknown companies can be a scam. Investment opportunities can ask for large sums and you need to be completely confident before you put your money in.

First, do your research on the company. Investigate their website thoroughly and pay attention to where the company is registered. If it's outside the UK, be on your guard – if it is a con, it will be difficult to get your money back. You could also look for industry bodies that oversee the sector to assist you with investment advice.

Next, check if the offer is realistic. Do some comparisons among similar companies for what the usual return is. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Finally, look out for high-pressure sales tactics. The literature may ask you to contact them by phone. If a salesperson puts pressure on you to complete the deal straight away, or tells you not to tell anyone about it, it could be a scam.

Scams are schemes to con you out of your money. They can arrive by post, phone call, text message or email, or a scammer may turn up at your home. It could be a scam if:

- the call, letter, email or text has come out of the blue
- you've never heard of the lottery or competition they are talking about and didn't buy a ticket
- you are asked to send money in advance
- you are told you have to respond quickly so don't get time to think about it or talk to family and friends before you decide
- you are told to keep it a secret.

For advice or to report a potential scam, get in touch with the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **03454 04 05 06**.

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BUNTSBOUTIQUEFAIR

AFFORDABLE **CRAFTS • FOOD • GIFTS • ART**

1ST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH - 11.00AM-2.00PM - BENSON HALL - BUNTINGFORD

Back to School Tips for Children



Over a third of parents say their child has suffered back pain, with schoolbags being a common trigger. The amount of items a child needs to carry seems to increase all the time, and despite most people knowing that a rucksack is the best type of bag to use, most children carry a one-strapped shoulder bag which can cause a number of problems. Here are some tips that can help your child prevent backache occurring:

- **Keep it light** – Check that your child is only carrying the essentials for that day.
- **Choose the right bag** – A rucksack is the best option as it is carried over both shoulders and the weight is evenly distributed. If children prefer a one-strap bag encourage them to carry it across the body and alternate which shoulder they use.
- **Footwear** – Soft-soled shoes that are supportive and have good grip will make it easier for a child to carry a school bag.

We hope this helps, but remember we are always happy for you to call in personally and seek advice on back pain. We treat all ages and are happy to discuss treatments with you. Call us on **01763 87 80 87** or pop in to see us at **58 High Street, Buntingford**.

art@gravellybarn

presents

Decorative Downsizing!

We are delighted that Jan Marques has kindly offered to sell some of her prints and paintings from Cockhamsted in aid of our chosen charities **Breast Cancer Now** and **Mesothelioma UK**. Jan says: *"David and I and our children lived at Cockhamsted for nearly 46 years. There was a lot of wall space to fill, and these pictures are ones that I cannot find a spot for at Bell House. I hope someone will enjoy them and help our charities..."*

Exhibition open from 10.30 - 4.30

Friday 2nd October and Saturday 3rd October

at Gravelly Barn, Braughing, SG11 2RD

Come and join us for the exhibition and also enjoy a soup lunch on Friday 2nd, or delicious cakes and refreshments on Saturday 3rd.

Soup lunch 12.00 - 2.00 Friday 2nd October

£5.00 includes homemade soup, bread, tea or coffee

Refreshments available both days

We are also delighted to say that our Summer Art and Music exhibition raised £3500 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Razed Roof.

Buntingford Twinning Association

Presents

THE BIG QUINN AUTUMN



LUYNES - BUNTINGFORD - OLVEGA

**The Benson Hall
Buntingford
(opposite The Coop)**

**Doors Open
7.00pm for
7.30pm start**

**Either bring a
Team Of Six
or join a Table on
the Night**

**Licensed
Bar**

**Tickets £10
(Including Fish & Chips)**

**available from
Ann Brunt on
01763 272961**

**Saturday
10th
October**

**Email
brunthome@onetel.com**

ANSTEY FIRST SCHOOL



The school year to July 2015 was a very exciting one at Anstey. We were very busy learning new things and visiting interesting places and all of our pupils worked hard to live up to the new Anstey school motto of “Be the Best You Can Be” and to remember the school values of respect, resilience and responsibility. Everything we do at Anstey has our values and motto at heart.



All our pupils have enjoyed working outdoors. We held an “Out of the Classroom” day where we did all of our learning in the outdoors and created art pieces in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. Another exciting day was when we joined Puller Primary School for a science and engineering day, taking part in a science workshop funded by the Institute of Engineering Technology and the Institute of Mechanical Engineering. Years 3 and 4 enjoyed a workshop on Super Heroes (and their powers) and Years 1 and 2 had an afternoon of Izzy’s Journey – different forms of transport and what powers them. These workshops were extremely well organised and engaging with the result that Year 3 and 4 children were very animated on the subject of gravity guns and lasers, while Year 1 and 2 children were excited to ride a hovercraft ... yes, I did just say RIDE a hovercraft!



Our school has had a tremendous season on the sports field. We won the interschool Rounders event at Freman College and on 2 July took part in the Schoolympics at Royston Meridian. As ever, we were the smallest school there, competing against some much larger, two-form entry schools – our entire Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 class were 8 in total – yet we came away with gold medals in fencing and cricket and a bronze (placed overall) for our all girls’ athletics team. (See photos, left.)

Following on from the relaunch of our reading scheme we wanted to make sure that the whole

school had the chance to be involved in the fantastic summer reading challenge, so just before the end of term we packed in a last visit to the lovely Buntingford Library.

We are undergoing consultation with a view to some structural changes in the new school year when it is hoped that we will lower our admission age to 2 years, enabling us to offer early education for 2 year olds in a setting that meets the needs of local families. More news on this in the next Journal.

Headteacher Mrs Myers would like to thank everyone – staff, families, governors and community volunteers – who supported our lovely school over the last year. When we return in September we will continue working hard to make Anstey First School the very best that it can be.

Finally, our **3rd Annual Country Fun Day is on 25th September, from 1pm**, with lots of free activities for children of all ages. There'll be pets to pet, a dog agility display by Dog-Ease – bring your own 4-legged friend to try their paces. Adults, children and pets are all welcome. Refreshments will include campfire-toasted marshmallows!

Anstey First School is a very small school in a wonderful setting with our own pre-school, wrap-around care, community room and holiday play scheme.

If you would like to find out more about us or want to offer your services as a volunteer please do not hesitate to call 01763 848 346.

What a busy month July was at Leapfrogs, with all our end of term activities. We finished the year with our combined Sports Day picnic and Leaver Celebration. We were sad to see all our leavers move on and hope they have a wonderful time in their new schools. During the holiday time at Leapfrogs we have been busy preparing for September when we shall welcome all our new little ones.



In the new term our topic will be 'Ourselves', which will give us the opportunity to investigate ourselves and our families. We'll find out about what we like to do and our favourite things. And we'll find out about our Mummies and Daddies and what they do and what we would like to be when we grow up. I think I'd like to be a Doctor. No, actually a Train Driver ... Oh no, I think a Zookeeper. No, no, definitely a Princess. How about you?

For more information please contact **Gail on 01763 289942** or email leapfrog-preschool@btconnect.com



Bramble Hill
Children's Centre

**Bramble Hill Children's Centre
is based in Mill Close, Buntingford,
next to the Community Centre.
We offer access to services for
children under five years of age
and their families.**

Our new 'What's on Guide' is now available and includes details of all the sessions we run. It also has useful local information for parents and carers. Let us know if you would like one sent to you by email or post.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help at our sessions. If this is something you might be interested in then please give us a call.

There are loads of ways you can keep up to date with what's happening at the centre – search 'Bramble Hill Children's Centre' on Facebook and 'like' the page, call us on **01763 273008**, or email us at roystonbuntingford.cc@oneymca.org.uk to be included on our mailing list. There's info on our web pages too at:

www.oneymca.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you

Oh Woe, Oh No

Our town is just changing too fast
Our death knell is sounding at last
Houses here houses there
Which just doesn't seem fair
As we bought into Buntingford's past.

We chose to reside here for sure
As the town has its history and more
The town's so alive
And the kid's seem to thrive
But I wish it was back as before.

We've been lucky tis true up till now
But we have to live here and now
Will our taxes go down
As newcomers hit town?
Will this cause yet another big row?

I'm one of the 'quiet life' brigade
My wee pittance was earned not just paid
Is it too much to ask
Once retired from my task
That the Government would cancel this
raid?

One wonders if palms were well greased
Or if MPs were taken to feast
Thank the Lord for free speech
Is it too late to reach
For the commonsense answer at least?

Sandra

Jumping Scrumping Tillie!!

'Tis the time of year when apples do drop,
The tree lets go and they fall ... kerplop!
Tillie our boxer dog finds these most fun,
She can chase them, toss them, push them
and they run!

Best of all about this seasonal treat,
Worn out after playing, she can then eat!
But then Tillie's tummy was not so glad,
As the fruit that she ate caused aching
sooo bad!

So we pick up the fallen to keep her from
harm,
Then she whinges and whines ... all part of
her charm.

BUT this canny doggie had a trick up her
jumper,
And jump up she did ... she turned into a
scrumper!!

The tree is so loaded, the boughs hang
down low,
Tillie looked up and thought "I'll have
them you know"!

She jumped on her back legs and hung on
to the fruit,
Picked with her teeth and rushed off with
her loot!

I felt really mean to take it away ...
She so enjoyed her first scrumping day!!!

Teresa Bonner

**The Lynsey Ivison Trust is holding
an 18-mile sponsored bike ride on
Sunday 27th September.**

We will be starting from the Jolly Sailors in
Buntingford at 12 noon. If you would like to
take part please contact **Lauren Ivison** on
07771 601493 for a sponsorship form or
email her at: **laurenivison@btinternet.com**



*The Lynsey Ivison Trust is a charity that raises money to send very sick
children to Centre Parcs for special holidays with their families.*

Friends of Layston School



**Saturday
17th October**

At

**Layston C of E First School,
The Causeway,
Buntingford**

**Doors open 7:30
for 8:00pm Start**

**£8:00 per ticket - including Ploughman's Supper
Licensed Bar**

Maximum 8 persons per team

Prizes for each member of the winning team

**Tickets available from email:
friendsoflaystonschool@hotmail.com**



Friends of Ardeley School



**Present their
Annual
Fundraiser**

**On Saturday
17th October**

**At Cottered
Village Hall
(SG9 9QL)**

Doors Open 7.30pm

£5 entry. Food and drink on sale.

Prize for Best 80s Outfit (Boy and Girl)

Call School Office 01438 861284 for more information



Edwinstree Middle School



As the summer term drew to a close and another school year ended we had, as usual, a very busy few weeks. Ten ex-Edwinstree pupils from Freman College joined us on work experience. They spent the week helping in classrooms and in the P.E. department. It was lovely seeing them again and we wish them well with their continued studies.

A **World War II Day** took place, pupils came to school dressed in period clothes (below, top), thanks to everyone at home who helped with the costumes. Staff also dressed up and looked resplendent in their outfits. Among the lessons taking place during the day, pupils wrote letters as if they were evacuees, made posters for recruiting Land Army girls and had a 'Make Do and Mend' session. After school a concert was held, with parents, grandparents and friends in the audience. We were also delighted to welcome guests who were pupils of Buntingford Senior School during the war years together with Mrs Mayes who was one of the girls evacuated from a North Hackney school. They were able to view all the work that had been completed during the day as well as original artefacts on display. The choir and orchestra performed 'Keep the Homefires Burning', 'Land of Hope and Glory', 'In the Mood' and other wartime favourites. There were also readings, poetry, Lindy Hop dancers and drama (below, bottom photos). The event culminated in a wonderful rendition of 'We'll Meet Again' performed by soloist Ella Markey. The day, organised by Miss Bustard with the help of pupils from Edwinstree's Historical Society, was a great success and was enjoyed by all.





The unseasonal weather luckily held for our **Sports Day** (above and left), which had a new format involving all pupils across all abilities. The overall winners were Quin, followed by Stort, Rib and Lea. New sports captains have now been appointed for the new school year, they will all be hoping for success next year.

Our annual **Celebration Evening** was held for our Year 8s on the penultimate day of school. They were all given a commemorative scroll and a book of photographs from their time at Edwinstree. Parents and staff joined pupils to watch the presentations and the evening finished in the Millennium Garden with refreshments

kindly provided by our Edwinstree School Association. **Prize-giving** took place on the last day with awards given to Year 8 students. Among the winners were Gabriela Chudzik and Gabriel Ba Tin (R.E.), Chloe Hatton and Jamie Walker (Maths), Ellie Burnip and Matthew Pooley (Design), Louise Adams and Harrison Coldicott-Stevens (Sport), Jasper Eaglesfield and Calypso Powell (Music), while the Sacha and Marie Lozeau Award went to Jason List. We wish all of our leavers Good Luck as they continue their school lives at their new schools and colleges.

Edwinstree School Association will be holding a **Harvest Fayre** on **Saturday 19th September** starting at 11am. Please come along and support them, we are extremely grateful for all the hard work they do for the school. As well as providing refreshments at recent school events, they have also paid for new stage lighting and play equipment.

Our new Year 6 are going to Shropshire at the end of the month to take part in their much anticipated residential visit to Manor Adventure in the Corvedale Valley. Everyone always thoroughly enjoys this week away and many will be trying out new skills – kayaking, high ropes, climbing wall, crate stacking and many other activities. A visit to the Blists Hill open air museum is also on the itinerary.

Open evening this year will be taking place on **Thursday 8th October** at 6.15pm, everyone is welcome. We now look forward to starting a new term, welcoming our youngest pupils into Year 5, we hope that they enjoy their four years with us.

Diane George

The background of the poster is a photograph of the interior of a large wooden barn. The wooden beams and rafters are visible, creating a rustic atmosphere. At the top, a string of colorful triangular bunting in yellow, blue, and red hangs across the frame. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of several couples in traditional country or western attire, performing a line dance. The text is centered in the middle of the image, with a white glow effect behind it.

BARN DANCE

CHARITY FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR ALL
IN SUPPORT OF BUNTINGFORD SCOUTS

SATURDAY 26TH SEPT

AT FREMAN COLLEGE, BUNTINGFORD

WITH DANCE CALLER

PETER SKIFFINS

OPENS 7PM TIL LATE DANCING FROM 8PM

ADMISSION LICENCED BAR

Adults £12 Kids FREE **AND HOG ROAST**

BIG RAFFLE DRESS CODE

COUNTRY AND WESTERN

TO BOOK Gemma Perryman on 01763 274059
Jo McNamara on 01763 273335

TICKETS CONTACT: or email jo.mcnamara@yahoo.co.uk



Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month, at the Seth Ward Community Centre, Luynes Rise, SG9 9SG, doors open at 1.30pm. On

Monday 14th September Honour Ridout will be telling us about 'Hidden London'. Our AGM is on 12th October when we are again tempting members with cakes, wine & nibbles and this year we are very pleased that the National Chair, Barbara Lewis, will be giving a talk on her new Awareness campaign.

We have over 40 interest groups on offer, so there are plenty of opportunities to exercise both brain & body and all of them offer a great way to meet new friends and share new experiences. See our web page www.buntingfordu3a.co.uk or phone Val Reedman on 01763 272135 for more details.

BUNTINGFORD AND DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

C.I.U affiliated — 6 Church Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AS

Tel 01763 271889 www.lemonrock.com

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SPECIAL OFFER: JOIN NOW FOR JUST £15 (no joining fee). Ask for membership form at the bar.

FOR YOUR DIARY:

5th Sept — Our charity presentation night to BASH, Buntingford Cricket Club, Cougars U7s and Westmill Football Club

31st Oct — Halloween Fancy Dress Disco

ENTERTAINMENT FOR SEPTEMBER

5th Sept — NO RUSH

12th Sept — No entertainment, but FREE Pool, Snooker and Juke Box.

19th Sept — TEQUILA

26th Sept — ALMOST ABBA — ABBA Tribute and 70s

Entertainment starts at 9pm unless otherwise stated. No prams or pushchairs on an entertainment night unless it's a family/disco night and no children under 9 years on a Saturday special.

MEMBERS FREE, GUESTS £1 or £4 on Special Entertainment night.

CHECK OUT our Facebook page and website: www.lemonrock.com

Who Killed Chicken Licken?

A Reichenbach moment

As the leaves on the trees around Chicken Clegg's estate turned that lazy dark green of following a late summer heat, a light mist spread gossamer like across the water meadows with dew-kissed cobwebs glistening with the golden light of dawn. Chicken Clegg stood magnificent on the terrace, bedecked in his Persian silk dressing gown with his tasselled pillbox hat at a jaunty angle reflecting his avuncular mood. From inside the drawing room behind him, strains of 'Wonderful Land' rose to a crescendo causing him to stand just that little bit more ramrod style.

However, his reverie was soon to change and just as he was raising the porcelain coffee can with its heraldic device (crossed chicken thighs over golden eggs) to his lips, he caught sight of a small mound lying on the otherwise pristine verge. Peering over his 18 carat gold half-round spectacles, now clouded by the warmth of the Blue Mountain brew, he tilted his head trying to ascertain what was afoot?

Just then, as a light zephyr momentarily lifted the white cloud hovering above the lawn in front of him, Chicken Clegg espied a terrible scene. He made the few paces towards the small feathered bundle, his brushed velvet slippers and the ankles of his Egyptian linen pyjama bottoms immediately being soaked by the dew on the grass. There at his feet was Chicken Licken, queen of the world famous Clegg flock, the small brown feathered bundle now deathly still, a minute crimson bruise barely visible above the glazed eye.

Chicken Clegg was stunned. What villain had caused this horrendous crime? Gently Clegg lifted the small body and carried it back into the mansion. He walked slowly into the commodious kitchen and stood transfixed until Mrs Chicken Clegg stopped mixing yet another industrial size batch of lemon drizzle cake mix.

"What has occurred Clegg?" she asked, wiping her hands on her apron decorated with tennis motifs. She turned down the CD player on the worktop, the disk was half way through Cliff's greatest hits.

"Somebody has bashed Chicken Licken on the head and she is now a dead chicken!"

"Who could have done such a thing? There are no American dentists close by are there? Could it be the much trumpeted Rustic Roaster, he is always looking for specialty fare?" she inquired further. "Wasn't it last week he did that Ostrich, Egret, Osprey and Swan casserole that I heard so much about in the weekly foodie magazine, 'Road Kill Rules' – the section under Maniac Menus?"

"Very toothsome I am sure, but not as good as his Dolphin and Hedgehog pasties," Clegg responded.

"Well what are we to do Clegg, she was our best layer?"

"I am going to find out who carried out this dastardly deed," Clegg declared, and with that he retired to his quarters in the west wing of Clegg Towers accompanied by the strident tones of 'Ghost Riders in the Sky'.

For many days and a few nights Clegg stalked the Sylvan slopes of his estate armed to the teeth like some Corsican bandit following every lead he could. He had a deep suspicion that the black crow that had stood sentinel upon the main henhouse for years might have had a hand in the deed. After all, Clegg had heard that the black-feathered devil was one of the confused Cameron's familiars and had the bold Dave's ear. Indeed, so they say, the spiteful avian's constant reporting back to the Eton mess accounted for the jug handle appendages either side of his doughboy's countenance.

Clegg roamed further, even to the wild tundra of the lands east of the metropolis where it is said that basic clay can be turned to gold if you know the right people. Moreover, it is said that a race of serpent-tongued folk do dwell there within hastily erected hovels eagerly enticing the witless and intellectually maladjusted into their encampment with siren calls of deals and promises of social upward clambering, if only they would sign their life away.

But every enquiry came to nought, as “disappointing” as a planning appeal meeting, so Clegg laboured long even unto the new Lido arrangements and yachting marina where the twin rivers of Lepus Platea and Snails Mead meet and during the monsoon children can be seen splashing in the shallows, whilst Clarksonesque idiots test their giant Teutonic manhood extensions by engaging four-wheel drive and rushing headlong through the waves.

In desperation did Chicken Clegg consult things electronic in an attempt to ascertain any other reason for Chicken Licken’s sad demise, but the symptoms only suggested that some form of Fowl Pest might be the guilty culprit, and for the life of him he couldn’t see that the developers had committed such an act as there was no money in it!

Depressed by the whole affair he withdrew to his bedchamber and could not be coaxed out, not even for a piece of Mrs Clegg’s Victoria sponge. His Stratocaster tremolo arm went limp and he only changed his signature woolly jumpers twice a day.

Then one day Camera Foggy and Compo Smallpiece visited him and whilst helping him demolish a rather nice 20 year old malt Foggy asked “What was the weather like that night?” (Foggy likes things scientific). Without waiting for a reply he went on, now warming to the subject.

“As I recall it was the night of the great Hertfordshire Storm, where the roads did run like rivers and there was much wailing and lamentation around the camp fires (well those that weren’t washed away).” Foggy paused for effect. “There were even reports in the ill-named local newspaper (wherein facts and evidence never get in the way of a story and lately they are reticent to criticise the hand that feeds). There were hailstones like cannon balls crashing through all in their path and taking on apocalyptic proportions.” (Foggy has always had a propensity to talk up the job!)

“That’s it!” Clegg leaped from his inclined position on the damask covered chaise longue. “Eureka!” he cried.

“You reeker?? What? I had a bath last Friday fortnight so it can’t be me!” protested Compo.

“No, don’t you see? Chicken Licken was struck by a hailstone and killed, the evidence just melted away.”

“Not an American dentist then? The sky really did fall in?”

One for Sherlock Holmes perhaps? Keep smiling, it will get worse folks!

Vyse 2015



B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips for September 2015

Thurs 3 rd	9:30–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Mon 7 th	10:30–3pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots, Waitrose etc.	£6
Tues 8 th	10:30–2:30	Country Homes & Gardens and Bury Lane Farm Shop, Melbourn – Cotton Traders, Shoes, Edinburgh Woollen Mills, Plants, Deli etc.	£4.50
Thurs 10 th	9:30–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£4
Tues 15 th	11:30ish	Pub Lunch – George IV, Baldock	Bus: £4
Thurs 17 th	9:30–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Tues 22 nd	9:30–3pm	Southend-on-Sea – Seaside, Shops etc.	£13
Wed 23 rd	2:30pm	'What the Butler Saw' at Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage. Tickets: £17.50	Bus: £4
Thurs 24 th	9:30–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£4
Fri 25 th	10:30–2:30	Letchworth – drop off at Morrisons	£5
Wed 30 th	11:30ish	Pub Lunch	Bus: £4
OCTOBER			
Thurs 1 st	9:30–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Tues 6 th	2:30pm	'Truly Andrews' at Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage. Tickets: £13	Bus: £4
Sat 17 th	2:30pm	'Sleeping Beauty' ballet at Gordon Craig. Tickets: £20	Bus: £4

To book a seat or for more information call:

01763 273623 or 01763 271708

CREAM TEAS

£5 including a raffle ticket

Wednesday 16th September, 2.30–4pm

at Benson Hall, Buntingford

Proceeds for the BALA Minibus

BUNTINGFORD W.I.

David Wass was the speaker at our July meeting with a talk entitled 'A Humorous Police Career'. David was born in Derbyshire where his career choice was sheep farming or mining, so he decided to go to London and join the Metropolitan Police Force; he stressed that this is totally different to the Metropolitan Police Service.

During his 16 week training course, at no time did anyone mention 'health and safety', 'human rights' or 'equality' – they had to treat everyone the same. They also had to learn the Law, word for word, because (he said) until you know it you don't know how far you can bend it! David's first post was to Holloway, earning £5 per week, and walking the beat. They had to make one arrest a day, mostly drunks. In those days everything shut down after 10.30pm and the policeman was on his own, no means of communication, just a pocket book, pen and whistle.

Women at that time had to be 21 and 5'9" tall before they could apply to be a WPC and they had 6 weeks more training than men, learning finger printing, immigration law and child care protection. All this for nine tenths of a man's pay (so much for 'equality!'). David told us how he came to meet his future wife, which involved the staircase of a bus, black tights and a glimpse of her non-regulation underwear! Luckily she was a WPC because otherwise he would have had to apply for permission to marry someone outside the Force.

David said he had to develop a black sense of humour when he joined up and he told us many funny stories of events throughout his career – too many to mention here! He was a brilliant speaker who kept us thoroughly entertained and I never once saw him refer to any notes!

Our August meeting was an afternoon Garden Party at the home of our President, Pat Webb, and it was just our luck that the heavens opened just as it was due to start. Luckily we sat inside a very cosy marquee listening to the rain and enjoyed ourselves anyway with good company, tea and cream scones. Typically, the rain stopped when it was time to go home!

As part of the ongoing Centenary Celebrations, all WIs are designing and producing a pub sign to be shown at the Arts & Crafts Exhibition in Harrogate later this year. We are proud of our entry, The Swan (right), which was designed and hand-stitched by one of our members, Mercy Wilson. She was only able to work on it for about an hour a day and it took her four weeks to complete.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th September when our guest speaker will be Gary Fisher talking about 'The Queens of Henry VIII'. We meet at the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road at 7.45pm – visitors are always welcome. For more information about Buntingford WI telephone Pat Webb on 01763 271305.



Val Hume



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



The new season began on 15th August and by the time this issue of the Buntingford Journal hits the shelves we will already have 5 matches under our belt.

Prior to the big kick-off our squad has been training on a weekly basis and we have been busy registering players ready for the start of proceedings. I am pleased to report that the vast majority of our squad is staying with us, only a few are leaving for pastures new. As always we have attracted a couple of new players, but true to his word, First Team manager Richard Masters has not drafted in a batch of new faces, preferring to work with the existing squad, looking to improve them both individually and as a unit. It is evident that the lads are enjoying the new training sessions, particularly as each one involves plenty of work with the ball – shuttles are conspicuous by their absence!

Our First Team had 5 pre-season friendlies lined up. The first, against Harpenden Town, saw the team put in a good performance, losing 2-1. The second, against Takely, was a high scoring affair, and with the scores level at 4-4 and just 10 minutes left Buntingford were holding their own against a team from a higher league. Unfortunately 2 goals from Takely at the last knockings saw Buntingford suffer another defeat.

The first victory for Richard Masters' side came the following week with a 3-1 win over Fowlmere, a match during which Buntingford rarely looked troubled and won comfortably. Unfortunately the next two friendlies were postponed, meaning that there were no further opportunities to improve match fitness.

The first game of the league season was at The Bury against Sandridge Rovers, who finished sixth in the Herts Senior County League Premier Division during the last campaign. Town were slow out of the blocks and conceded two well-taken goals in the first 12 minutes. The rest of the half saw the opposition squander a number of further chances, with Buntingford chasing shadows. The second half was altogether different, with a much improved performance from the home side, but we still failed to hit the back of the net. Sandridge scored a third in the last minute to close the match off at 3-0.

Whilst this was a disappointing start to the season there were plenty of positives on display and the hope is that we will be able to build on these quickly. Unfortunately the first few fixtures of the season are all going to be tough. Notably, following the Sandridge game we will face Letchworth Garden City Eagles, who finished second last season, Standon & Puckeridge who always give us a hard time, and on 5th September we will be up against last season's champions, Belstone. The odds are stacked against us!

So, it is going to be a long hard season. However, if we can survive the first couple of months and get some points on the board I am confident that we will eventually be able to hold our own in this division and build on the potential that we have within the club.

Chris Thurgill
Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

If you would like to advertise your event in *The Journal*,
please contact **Christine Noble** on **01763 273095**
Or email: **Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk**

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS' CLUB

August saw the return of a popular speaker, Jacqueline Aviolet. She is very much a speaker where light the blue touch paper and whoosh she's off! Anyway, Jacqueline started her horticultural life a quarter of a century ago growing plants in her back garden, progressing to selling various plants at markets, her speciality being Hardy Geraniums. These plants, not needing a rich soil, are very good for beginners or experts alike. Go on give them a go.

Growing plants is the "best job in the world", says Jaqueline, her enthusiasm coming across all the time. When she first came to BGC I recall she would often go off on a tangent, so would have to be reminded what her talk was about! However, she is very amusing so can be forgiven her digressions. Her daily routine consists of watering the plants from 9am, during which time she makes phone calls and listens to the radio, potting up, taking cuttings, dividing plants or de-budding, interspersed with food and drink. Her nursery is not open to the public but sells via the internet. An entertaining evening was had by those able to attend. Thanks Myra for the notes, I was absent myself.

Last month I attended Tatton Park Flower Show and what a great show it was, though very tiring. There are never enough places to sit down at these garden shows – I suppose the organisers want us to spend the whole time looking and buying all the various gadgets, plants and gizmos on display! There's always something new to see and inspiring ideas for making changes in your own patch.

One of the best things about going to gardening events is that you meet such nice people, just like at our garden club here in Buntingford. Why not come along and join us? We meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the URC Church Hall, opposite the post office, at 7.45pm. All welcome. Look out for our notices around the town.

Heather Pope

Club enquires to our Chairwoman Janet Murrells on 01763 274341



An opportunity to visit older houses that have been transformed into homes of the future

This September you can get the inside story on some exceptional home improvement projects as **SuperHome Open Days** return. SuperHomes are older houses refurbished by their owners for greater comfort, lower bills and reduced carbon emissions – at least 60% less! They are some of the UK homes most improved for energy use, making them fit for the future. Most have superior insulation; many have alternative heating sources; some produce their own energy. You can learn about a range of installed technologies, from heat pumps, solar panels and wood stoves to water saving devices, advanced ventilation, triple glazing and all types of insulation. Tours and Q&A sessions will let you discover what worked and get frank feedback from the owners on anything that didn't.

More than 50 refurbished Victorian, Edwardian and post-war properties are open free to visitors this month. Most will open during Heritage Open Days (10-13 Sep) and Open House London (19-20 Sep). SuperHome Open Days are coordinated by the National Energy Foundation. To find out more about the SuperHomes nearest to Buntingford, or to pre-book a place on a free tour, visit www.superhomes.org.uk

The Muscle Help Foundation Charity Dinner

Buntingford-based national charity The Muscle Help Foundation (MHF) has teamed up with Robinson College, Cambridge, for the **#powerof657 Charity Dinner** on Wednesday 30th September. Guests can look forward to an exceptional evening of fine dining in the heart of Cambridge – a sumptuous three-course dinner with matching wines and a special auction of luxurious prizes, the proceeds of which go directly to MHF. This gala evening precedes clic+2015 event which takes place at the college the following day.

MHF is a multi-award winning charity delivering amazing experiences, 'Muscle Dreams', for children and young people with the muscle wasting disease Muscular Dystrophy (MD) and allied neuromuscular conditions – the disease affects some 70,000 people across the UK. The family charity works tirelessly to make these highly personalised 'Muscle Dream' experiences a reality, whether it's interviewing movie icon Al Pacino, spending time in the great outdoors with Ray Mears, or hanging out with racing driver Lewis Hamilton.

#powerof657 is the charity's latest campaign. The aim is to reach a total of 657 'Muscle Dreams', one for every muscle in the human body, and this number is also reflected in charity's new tiered donation levels: £6.57 is the preferred minimum donation, while sponsors are encouraged to donate £657, or set-up a #powerof657 challenge to raise £6,570 in return for headlining one of its programmes. To date, 202 Muscle Dreams have been delivered. Michael McGrath (right), the charity's founder and CEO, said: "I am delighted to be taking part at this year's clic+2015 event at Robinson College ... [and] we're thrilled to be the sole beneficiary from the #powerof657 Charity Dinner. I'm confident by the end of the evening every guest will not only be a #powerof657 advocate but will also want to join our Muscle Warrior tribe in supporting future activities." Among many distinctions in his career, Michael is the only disabled person in the world to have successfully led expeditions to both the North and South Poles.



Tickets for the dinner are £50+VAT and can be purchased, along with accommodation for the evening, from the clic+2015 website: <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/clic2015/>

www.musclehelp.com

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