

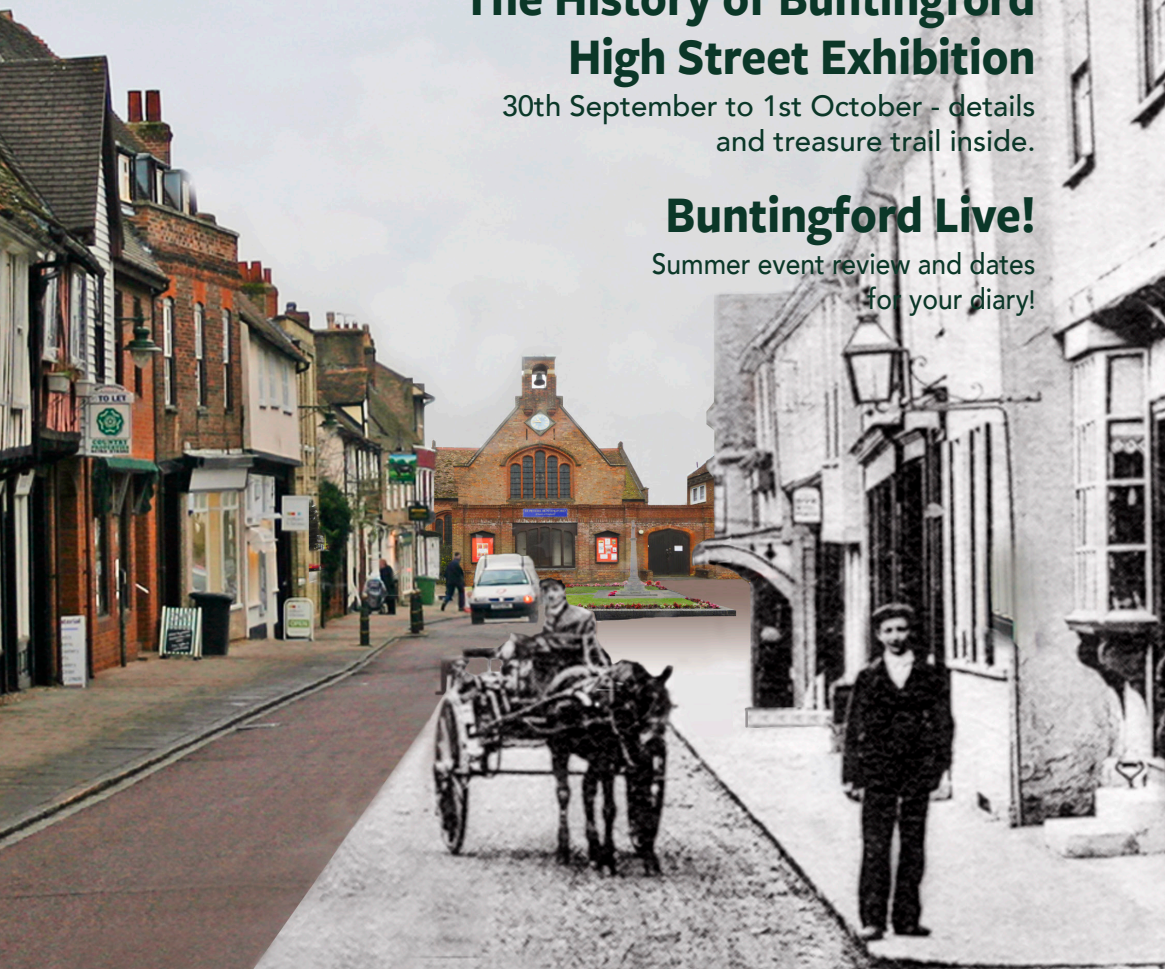
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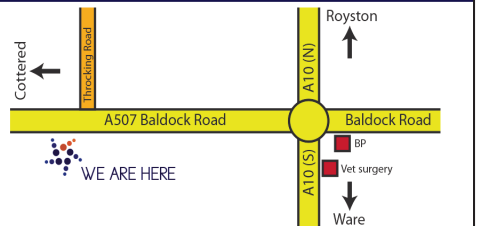
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LETTER FROM

The Editor

It is so lovely to get to know Buntingford a little bit more now that I am your Editor.

And what a lot that goes on!

Amongst so much else, I certainly plan on attending the Sandon Fete; with all the traditional entertainment and animal magic, it sounds like a lot of fun!

The History Society have been hard at work on the *History of Your High Street from the 1840's Onwards* exhibition at the end of the month - you can see that I used their poster as the front cover this month as it is a great picture and it really does look set to be fascinating. There is a quiz for children to do too, on page 31. And the Classic Car Show as well – and so much more. What a wonderfully busy town.

Thank you to everyone for all your positive feedback on the last issue and for all your kind and welcoming words. It's always quite a big task taking over a new magazine initially so your kind words are very much appreciated!

This issue has been a little bit of an extra challenge as I came down with the dreaded Covid in June, right after I sent the July/August issue to print! First time for me, so I have done well to avoid it so far, but it's still very much at large I'm afraid and it hit me hard! I'm still not fully recovered so apologies for any missed typos or craziness that may have resulted from my foggy head.

Am off to Devon in a week to have a proper rest so hopefully will be fighting fit for the October issue!

Anne

BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 2023

EDITOR

Anne Wright

journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

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

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EDITORIAL DEADLINE

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

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

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

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

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



WHAT'S ON

- | 7 Buntingford Classic Car Show
- | 26 Homestart Events
- | 28 Sandon Fete
- | 37 Buntingford & Stortford Hybrid Studio
- | 39 Braughing Get Together
- | 40 What's on Roundup
- | 42 BALA

FEATURES

- | 10 Buntingford Live Events Review
- | 14 Buntingford Cougars
- | 24 Short Story from the Writer's Group
- | 25 Goodbye to Finn the Police Dog
- | 30 Buntingford Local History Group
- | 33 They Matter
- | 34 Hundred Parishes

REGULAR ARTICLES

- | 4 Buntingford Civic Society
- | 5 Buntingford Town Council
- | 8 County Councillor News
- | 15 WI
- | 15 Photographic Society
- | 16 Church News
- | 20 Medical Practice News
- | 21 Community Choir
- | 21 Gardening Club
- | 22 Friends of Rib & Quin
- | 28 Senior Citizen's Club
- | 32 U3A
- | 36 Attend2Health News
- | 38 Standon & Puckeridge Tennis
- | 39 Barkway Park Golf

ON THE COVER

The History of Buntingford High Street Exhibition Poster



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September is nearly upon us, although it may already be here if you read this article in September. I hope you have been able to get away and enjoy time with your family members, children and grandchildren or have just stayed at home and enjoyed what is on offer locally.

The coming months will be very busy as we will be working closely with our Town Councillors, District Councillors and County Councillor, along with other interested parties, to deal with the planning applications that have recently been received or are in the pipeline. The total number of dwellings proposed, if all applications are approved or allowed at appeal will be in the order of 618 in addition to the already approved 58 at Buntingford North. Rest assured that the BCS will strive to get the best for the town and its residents, but effectively it is EHDC Planning that is the body that has the ultimate say and are the decision makers. It should also be borne in mind that even if an application is refused by EHDC, the applicant can appeal against the decision, and it will then be dealt with by a government appointed Planning Inspector who may well overturn any decision by EHDC Planning. We will keep you updated on progress.

On a brighter note, we have the Classic Car show on the **2nd September**, always a great event that attracts people from all over.

Those of you that use London Road to exit the town may have noticed that the Planter that was located by the entrance to the Cougars Field has been moved to the southern side of the entrance to the BP garage, it will be planted up in late September early October.

Back in mid-July the Executive Committee had a farewell and thank you lunch with Christine Noble, ex-Journal Editor. At the time of writing, Christine still awaits a moving date and we will miss her, but change is inevitable and my thanks go to Anne Wright our new Journal Editor for the great job producing the July/August copy.

Just a reminder, we have a facebook page: www.facebook.com/buntingfordcivicsociety

and a website:

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society

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



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Following on from the installation of the pump track, Councillors have agreed to install several new bins and two inclusive picnic benches in the pump track area and two seating benches in other areas of Norfolk Road Playing Field. We have received observations of young cyclists riding along the footpath bordering Edwinstree School and riding straight into the road. The Town Council is currently seeking permission from Herts Highways to place a barrier at the end of the footpath to prevent this whilst still enabling wheelchair users and buggies to navigate the path.

The Town Council has written to Thames Water asking to meet with their representatives to discuss the capacity of the sewage pipes in the town and their ability to cope with the increased number of dwellings in the town.

The Town Council was saddened to hear of the passing of Retired Police Dog Finn, who was awarded the Freedom of

the Town for his bravery and service to animal welfare. Finn put Buntingford on the map when he appeared in Britain's Got Talent some years ago. Our thoughts are with his human family.

The visit of the Funfair in June was deemed by the Council to have been successful, with just one complaint received regarding noise. The Council has agreed that the Fair may visit next year and will then be reviewed on an annual basis.

The popular Chatter Table continues on the first and third Monday of the month at The Manor House 10am to 11.45am.

Details of the September Council meetings below.

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

Jill Jones PSLCC Cert HE -Town Clerk

Town Council meetings for the month of September are:

Thursday 7th September 7pm Amenities Committee.

Thursday 14th September 7pm Planning and Resources Committee

Thursday 28th September 7pm Planning Committee and Full Council.

All meetings held at The Manor House.

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

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

LETTERS & EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

Write to us at: journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Dear Anne
The rebuilding of London Road is complete. The next phase is the High Street, and we are told that work will start there "early in 2024". This means that detailed plans will already be well advanced. Yet we have not seen even an overview of the scheme, as part of the "consultation process", and will not do so until sometime in the autumn.

In the last issue of The Journal Cllr Jeff Jones hinted that the High Street might become one-way. Whatever the changes turn out to be, and whether or not they solve the perceived problems of the High Street, they are likely to have a significant impact on the surrounding roads.

Any plan for a major project affecting the centre of our town for the coming years should be properly displayed – perhaps in the Manor House or the Library – with a genuine consultation of residents and with details of the plan open to change. It would be unacceptable for HCC to

impose an unwelcome scheme on the town with the excuse that "it's too late to change it now".

Best regards, *John Sandell*

Dear Editor,
May I say, through the pages of the Civic Society journal, what a pleasure it was to view the interior of Layston Church (with what seemed to be most of the population of Buntingford) at the recent Open Day. My wife and I viewed the Church at an earlier open day some years ago when the work was nearing completion, although the building was still very much work-in-progress, and the kitchen was not in existence at that point.

What a beautiful job has been done, with such a very high standard of craftsmanship and imagination.

Thank you Mandy and Martin, you are justifiably proud of your creation.

Bill Hooper.



FOXTON SCARECROW FESTIVAL

- Saturday 7 October, 12.00 to 5.00pm

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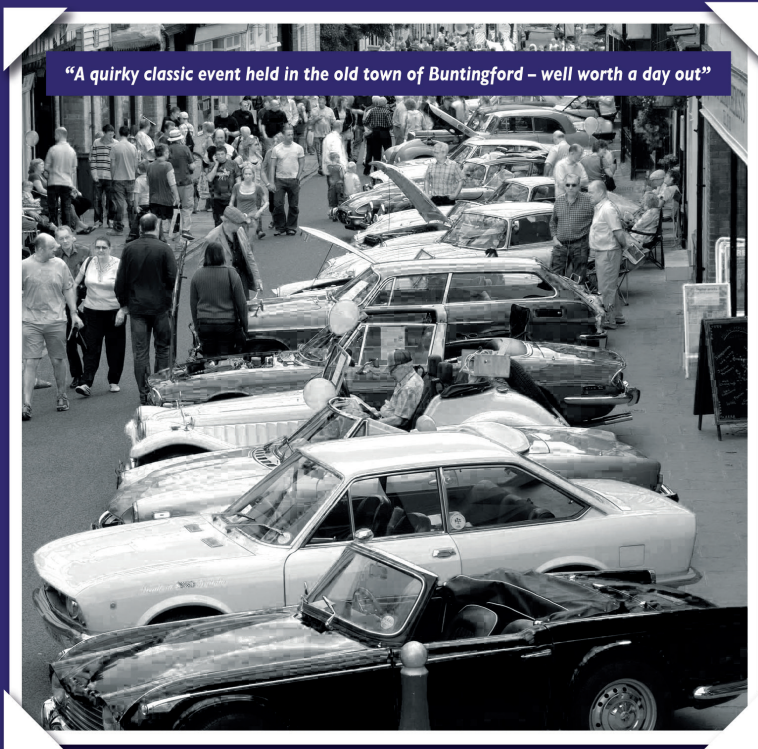
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Cllr Jeff Jones, Hertfordshire County Councillor, Buntingford
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Hertfordshire County Council is using a new type of asphalt product made from recycled tyres to repair potholes in a quicker and cleaner way.

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Roadmender asphalt is being used following the allocation of £3.9m from the Government's Pothole Fund, which will fund up to 20,000 additional pothole repairs across the county. To the end of July, the funding had led to over 2,500 potholes being filled at 679 locations. Work is being phased, so will be taking place at different times across the county this year.

The county council's highways team are continually looking at modern and innovative ways to improve current processes and will shortly be trialling the new JCB Pothole Pro.

As the council moves towards making its operations carbon neutral by 2030, the highways team are also working on how they can use all electric vehicles, plant and tools across their works projects.

Like many counties across the UK, Hertfordshire's roads suffered exceptional damage due to snow and ice during the last winter, followed by heavy rainfall in the spring. This has led to more potholes, with a +32% increase in reporting year on year to May 2023.

Each year Hertfordshire County Council fixes around 20,000 potholes across the county, and with the extra funding expect to repair 40,000 this year.

To let the County Council know about a problem on a road, pavement or footpath go to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults

Buntingford Library

I have been made aware that the so called "Friends of Buntingford Library" have once again contacted HCC Library Service questioning the refurbishment of Buntingford Library with use of s106 developer contribution funding. The self-appointed group who claims to represent "most of the residents of Buntingford", has for many years tried to block progress on a refurbished and up to date facility for residents to enjoy. They had grand ideas of an Arts & Learning Centre, as opposed to a High St Library.

Last year I successfully convinced HCC to match-fund the available s106 contributions. This would have made available nearly £700,000 for the improvement works. Following hectoring toned correspondence from "Friends of Buntingford Library" HCC Library Services had had enough and withdrew their offer of match funding. We were then left with only £326,000 to spend on the refurbishment.

Despite this setback, the resulting works has given us a warm, welcoming, bright, modern, flexible library facility with wonderful staff, for us all to enjoy. Of course, we could have had much more....

Perhaps "Friends of Buntingford Library" could consider USING IT.....NOT ABUSING IT!

Walking Football

Buntingford Town Walking Football are keen to attract new members at our Saturday morning sessions at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields. If you are over 50, keen to stay active, and enjoy playing the "beautiful game", come along at **10am Saturday mornings** and give it a try. The first session is free and then £3 for future sessions. There is a mixture of ages and abilities, ranging from 50 years to our oldest member 73 years. Come along and "give it a try".

Councillor Advice

I receive many requests for help and advice on County Council matters. I now hold monthly Councillor Surgeries for face-to-face informal meetings. With a Town Councillor present this gives residents the opportunity to discuss, informally, any concerns you may have in the town. These surgeries are by appointment and are available by calling the Town Council on 01763 272222 where full details will be given. I am always available by phone or email on the contact details below.

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

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



buntingfordlive.org
enabling creative events

The earlier events this year focused on encouraging young musicians to have opportunities to perform live to a range of audiences.

Examples of this were the BOTBs competition which was open to all 12-18 year old pupils in Hertfordshire schools and colleges, both state and privately run.

A Concert and Workshop given by the prestigious Maggini String Quartet for the music students at Freman College & Edwinstree School.

Events since the last publication of the Journal

Friday 16th June Westmill Church 7.30pm

Music for a Summer Evening with Haileybury College.

A packed audience filled the beautifully flower be-decked church in this pretty nearby village, to enjoy a wonderful selection of solo and ensemble works



given by a group of talented young students, brought by their Director of Music, Simon Bland, from this Hertford Heath College which has a long-standing tradition of producing fine musicians.

The evening was further enhanced by a long interval when the audience spilled outside to enjoy the warm sunshine whilst indulging in drinks and nibbles. There was no charge for this concert but donations were shared by the Church and 'Buntingford Live'.

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

Christine Stuart-Taylor, support@buntingfordlive.org



Standon Calling Festival 20th – 23rd July

BOTB's Competition Winners 'Quote Book', from Tring School, enjoyed their first prize win of an appearance on the Laundry Meadow Stage at Standon Calling.

They loved every minute and were rapturously received by their growing number of fans.

Alex Trenchard, the Director of this Festival came to head up our judging team at the final of our BOTBS Competition, held here in Freman College in March. The judging was extremely difficult because the standard amongst the six final bands was very high. He was



delighted to award them first place in this close-run contest, which of course led them to this wonderful opportunity. As an extra prize, they were given the experience of spending a day of recording and mastering a disc of their recent composition, 'Anything for You' with Martin Gimson, who runs The Music Bunker, his recording studio in Braughing. This is available to hear on Spotify. Remember, you first heard about them through 'Buntingford Live'!

Friday 11th August 7.30pm

The ancient tradition of storytelling was brought to The Crown by Eve le Fey and Richard Wood with the promise of "the weird, the wonderful and the unbelievable".

A highly enjoyable evening took the audience to lands where mice defeated an invading army, a daring polar bear rescue and the ghostly tale of a novice monk at a remote monastery.

The atmospheric tale of a selkie, half seal and half human, was absolutely spellbinding!

The African myth of the spider god Anansi who managed to outwit a tiger was a final reminder that it is better to be smart than strong.

We look forward to more story telling sessions...perhaps mid-winter on a wild night in front of the pub fire!

**Saturday 12th August 10-11.30am
Author Talk, The Library**

An enthusiastic group of our town's Writers' Group, led by Chris Kell, gathered to spend a fascinating morning listening to Henry Lytton Cobbold's disarming talk about his life as a screen-writer, film equipment supplier and location manager for his family home, Knebworth House, where over 90 films and TV series' have been shot.

Henry said that he is addicted to romance. He quoted his great-great-great Grandfather, Edward Bulwer Lytton, who wrote "Anyone lucky enough to tread the stately chambers and corridors of Knebworth every day would find it impossible not to write romances".

Having travelled widely and experienced a working life in the film industry in the UK and the States, he was summoned by his father to run Knebworth. Recently he has completed a wonderful biography about his colourful life and turbulent years in the film industry. If you are interested in purchasing his book please contact Chris Kell. Her mobile is 07816 935 396.

**Saturday 12th August 12noon-6pm
Summer Garden Party at 100 High Street**

Neil & Sharon Davey, our generous hosts, opened their wonderful garden for 'Buntingford Live' to hold this fantastic fund-raising event right in the centre of our town. Tickets were completely sold out a month before and everyone who came had a marvellous afternoon with musical entertainment, an amazing magician as well as a Ricky Gervais look-a-like circulating around the tables





keeping everyone amused! The BBQ was excellent and plentiful, and the bar was kept very busy! Even the weather was on our side with an early light shower of rain disappearing and the sun shone for the rest of the afternoon on 'this glorious 12th August'.

It certainly was a busy weekend for 'Buntingford Live'!

All profits from this will be reinvested in future local events.

Some dates already in the diary are:

Friday 27th October: Comedy Night 7.30pm at Seth Ward Community Centre

Friday 1st December: We'll be involved in a Publicity drive in the High Street on the Late Night Shopping Evening. Watch

this space!

Saturday 9th December: 'Whose Wine is it Anyway? 7.30pm Seth Ward Community Centre

More details will be available soon on Social Media Platforms and in the October edition of the Journal.

Coming soon A Dance Day, A Barn Dance, the launch of our Annual BOTBs Competition 2024 for young musicians in Hertfordshire, A Quiz and Auction of Promises and much more. Watch this space!

If you have suggestions or would like more information please contact

*Christine Stuart-Taylor: 07990 572 543.
Or visit our website: buntingfordlive.org*



BUNTINGFORD COUGARS

www.buntingfordcougars.co.uk

It's been a while since we gave a good update on Buntingford Cougars and what better timing than the start of the brand new season. The club continues to go from strength to strength in terms of numbers – we are at ~450 members now and run teams across all age groups from U7s up to U18s plus Cubs and U6s getting ready for matches.

A massive thank you to the tireless work behind the scenes to all involved in getting all the teams and players registered and ensuring new kits for them all – a special call out to Helen, Sandra and Sue who put in extensive hours but also the dozens of coordinators, coaches and committee members as well. This all takes place over the summer months so that we are ready for matches in early September.

A few changes as we get to the start of the 2023/24 season. Firstly, we are updating and modernising the club badge – we hope you all like it! It goes on our new modernised kits as well. Still with the classic blue and white stripes but really cool fade on the colours – keep an eye out for photos throughout the season on our Facebook page and....

...our brand new website! As a club we are excited to launch our new website, a dedicated resource for all club members and families. It's streamlined to offer easy access to club rules, procedures, training information, match day details, and dedicated pages for each age group. As a valuable tool for parents, players and coaches alike, the website emphasises the Cougars' commitment to clarity, organisation, and community involvement.

Visit www.buntingfordcougars.co.uk to explore all the features and stay connected with the latest club news.

What else is new? Well, our first Girls team in quite a few years has been started up. Whilst we have lots of girls playing football in our mixed teams it is great that we have been able to set up a dedicated team (at U12s) to capture the genuine passion and interest in the game. We were able to take an U8s side up to the Royston Town tournament in July (pictured) so we know we have some incredibly talented girls playing - hopefully in the next few years we will open up girls teams in multiple other age groups as well.

A quick ask of the journal readers – we are on the look out for a new Club Treasurer and Fixture Secretary to be in place for the 2024/25 season. If you would like to contribute to a fantastic grassroots club please do get in touch.

And with that, it is on with the football. Hopefully a fulfilling and enjoyable season ahead!



WARE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Barbara Norris www.wareps.org.uk

The Club's new season commences on **Wednesday 6 September** at Thundridge Village Hall, Cambridge Road, Thundridge SG12 OTU from 8.00pm - 10.00pm.

The first evening sees a lecture by Chris Forster entitled "The Journey after APPE". New members are always welcome and the first 3 evenings are free. Further details about the programme are on the Club's website www.wareps.org.uk

On **Saturday 18 November** there will be the Annual Exhibition of the Club's work at Thundridge Village Hall 10.00am - 4.00pm. There will also be an exhibition of hand embroideries by members of Standon Embroidery Group and Hertford U3A. Admission is free. Refreshments will be available.

Finally, make a note in your diary for 2024 for **Sunday 14 April** when the Club will be celebrating its 60th anniversary at Ware Drill Hall with a lecture by Charlie Waite, FRPS, one of the world's leading Landscape Photographers.

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

BUNTINGFORD WI

Val Hume

Sadly, we have had to take down the colourful bunting which brightened up the town but it will be washed and sewn into dog blankets for a local veterinary surgery. We are now starting work on our annual wreath for the War Memorial (which will be slightly different this year) and also thinking about our Christmas project for displaying in the Library.

The speaker at our July meeting was Sherry Hostler on 'Making Crime Pay'. In case you didn't guess, she is a crime writer and her first book is 'Hyptionic', a psychological thriller which was no. 2 in the Best Sellers Chart. It took her 18 months to write and she took us through the various stages before her book was published. She also gave us a light-hearted quiz, including 'what percentage

of killers are female? (16%) and 'what is the most common way that women kill? (Poison).

In August we held our annual Summer Garden Party in the beautiful gardens of Pigs Nose Cottage and, on one of the hottest days in August. It was lovely sitting in the shade of the marquee with a refreshing occasional breeze to keep us cool!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday September 14th at the URC Hall in Baldock Road at 7.30 p.m. and our speaker is Aruna Mene, who will take us 'Around the World in 50 Fabric Collages'. If you are new to Buntingford (and even if you're not!) just turn up on the night and come to see what Buntingford W.I. is all about.

*If you would like further information about us you can telephone our Secretary, Pat, on **01763271306**.*



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

UNITED BENEFICE OF ASPENDEN, WESTMILL

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright



CONTACT DETAILS

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

email: unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com | 07484 345 027

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

[unitededbenefice](https://www.instagram.com/unitededbenefice) | [UnitedBeneficeABW](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedBeneficeABW)

OUR SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday 3rd	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 10th	9:30am	Harvest Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Harvest All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Harvest All Age Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 17th		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Saturday 23rd	3:00pm	Harvest Coral Thanksgiving Services	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
Sunday 24th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
		No Service	St Mary's Aspenden
	11:00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford



Morning Prayer

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

Every Tuesday
and Thursday

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

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



Starter Course coming soon

A 6 session course to help people discover Christian Faith. In a style that is down to earth, honest and aims to be fun and enjoyable and is held within small groups, For further details for our next course please visit our website for updates.



**United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill**

Gather the gang and get competitive!

QUIZ NIGHT

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

Saturday 7th October

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

Tickets £10 per person
Includes supper
bring your own drinks

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

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



**United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill**

Buntingford Classic Car Show

**Saturday 2nd September
10am to 4pm**

Visit our Wedding Display
at
The Old Grammar School,
Layston Court
20 High Street, Buntingford

on behalf of St Mary's Aspenden,
St Mary the Virgin Westmill & St Peter's Buntingford

Our ministry team & church members
will be delighted to meet you



**St Mary the Virgin
Westmill**

Thanksgiving Service for Harvest

**Saturday 23rd September
3pm
St Mary the Virgin Westmill**

An informal service with songs and poetry to
celebrate the season
with a visiting choir



**United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill**

Harvest Festivals

Sunday 10th September

Come and celebrate harvest with us at

9:30am St Mary the Virgin Westmill - Sung Eucharist

9:30am St Mary's Aspenden - All Age Worship

11:00am St Peter's Buntingford - All Age Worship

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUNTINGFORD

Harvest festival is a moment in our year to stop, look and truly wonder at what earth has given. We are incredibly blessed, and we so easily forget it. The fruit of creation is indeed very good.

Being surrounded by fields and farms, crops and livestock, we appreciate the agricultural year, the ploughing of land, the sowing, growing of crops, lambing time, we see how hard farmers work and more and more, we are understanding the cost of food production. I imagine we have all taken our food for granted, at times, where it has come from and the work that has gone into it.

Harvest helps us to engage with God's creation. At the beginning of Genesis there is the first creation story, of the seven creation days. The message of it is, God created it, God proclaimed it as good, and on the seventh day, God rested.

The sabbath was blessed by God, it is holy space, time for the land and the people to rest and recover.

Ceasing from labour and production is central to God. We are becoming increasingly aware of the damage to ourselves and creation because of ceaseless production, regardless of our faith or spirituality.

Sabbath, ceasing from labour, production and consumption is necessary for both us humans and all creation. We need it, the earth needs it. The earth cannot pour forth its harvest if we wear it out.

My favourite learning about sabbath rest was in Oban in the west highlands of Scotland. Whilst holidaying there some years ago, we visited the distillery for a



tour. Here we learned about the making of the whisky, what elements went into it to give it its distinct flavour.

We saw the enormous copper stills in which each drop of whisky passes through.

And here they have a sabbath moment.

They had previously tried full time production, 7 days a week, but the resulting whisky was tainted and bitter.

The copper of the stills needed a day off, sabbath rest and recovery to make the whisky as it should be.

The distillery cannot expand because it was built in 1794 and the town has grown around it. They cannot create new premises elsewhere because it cannot be named Oban whisky and they cannot run the two stills non-stop because it affects the whisky. Therefore, they know the limitations in the production of whisky.

As humans, we too easily push creation to slavery. What was created to be enjoyed and loved, we too easily use for our own ends, the result is exhaustion.

Sabbath rest restores. In our human bodies just as in whisky stills and for the land.



The
United
Reformed
Church

CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA

www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

 [URCbuntingford](https://www.facebook.com/URCbuntingford)

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

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

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

September	3	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	10	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
	17	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	24	Harvest festival	Rev Sue Fender
October	1	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUNTINGFORD

Regular Events

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

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

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

9am to 9.30am – all are welcome

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

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

BUNTINGFORD & PUCKERIDGE MEDICAL PRACTICE

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Jenny Dingley, PPG Member

As many of you will know, the current lease for the Buntingford Medical Centre expires in January 2026. Since 2014 the Partners have been seeking a permanent solution to this deadline which would also enable the expansion of facilities necessary to meet the demands of an increasing population, advances in medical care and to fulfil the vision of the practice to offer a family centred, local, and high quality provision. During the last nine years, the Practice has worked tirelessly to explore options for redevelopment. They had engaged back in 2014 with the developers of the Sainsbury site to the south of the town to develop a new surgery which would have been completed by 2018. Unfortunately, at the time NHS England would not commit to the rental costs associated with the scheme and the opportunity was lost. Whilst frustrating the GP partners have continued in their aspiration to find alternative sites on which to locate a new modern facility. The size and cost of this project is considerable. There is no capital funding available from the NHS to meet these costs and therefore the funding for the building and grounds come from investment from the GP Partners at the surgery. It is hoped that in so doing it will create a building that will be able to take on the challenges within primary health care in Buntingford for the next 30 years or more.

The identified new site is less than a mile from the current surgery and will be situated on the north side of the Hare Street Road on the outskirts of the town. It will not, obviously, be completed overnight and the January 2026 deadline is very tight although a short extension to the existing lease may be possible. Capacity, access, services,

staffing, parking and financial viability are all important factors needing careful consideration and a recent survey of patients who have recently used the Buntingford surgery has given much information about what is valued and what patients would like in an ideal world. The new facility will still be part of the town and will also take traffic away from the very busy Bowling Green Lane.

More space will mean more doctors and clinical staff along with an increase in training post capacity. Enhanced health support with additional services like physiotherapy, new clinics and maybe even some imaging services that we currently have to travel to a local hospital to access are anticipated. There is also the possibility of future expansion as and when the need may arise and the current issues regarding parking will be largely resolved. Clearly negotiations are at an early stage and meetings with the Town and District Councils are booked into the calendar to discuss the proposals. A public consultation will be timetabled with the date to be announced in due course.

Finally, other matters....patient registrations continue to rise and over the eight weeks to 9th July nearly 12,000 on the day appointments were offered with an average of 200 referrals to secondary care and community services each week. Dr Emma Wright has sadly relocated due to an extended commute and she has been replaced by Dr Nigel Smith, a very experienced long term locum. A new GP trainee, as part of their final year of training, is also joining the practice.

Exciting times ahead for the Buntingford site and we wish the Partners and staff every good wish in their drive to provide first class medical care in surroundings suitable for the next 30 years and beyond.



It has been more than a year since the choir have sung in public. There have been some disappointments and cancellations along the way. But finally we are pleased to announce that the choir will again be singing live in Buntingford. The committee are planning and the choristers are practicing for a lunchtime concert at St Peters' Church in Buntingford. The date has been set for **Saturday 21st October**. Hopefully I will be able to give all the details in the next edition of the journal. The performance will be free with a Voluntary Charity collection.

If you would like to come along and hear your local Choir please add the date to your diaries.

New members are always welcome. There are no auditions, and you don't need to be able to read music. Anyone (over 16) with or without singing experience can come along and join in with us. We meet at 7.30 on a Monday evening at Millfield School and we only charge £4.00 a week.

If you are interested in joining the Choir or would just like a free trial evening please contact us via e-mail on the details above.

BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

Lesley Lowers

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 6 September
At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road
Doors open: 7:45pm for 8pm start



Have you been busy in the garden or allotment this year? If so, why not come along to our annual show on 6th September where our members show what they have produced. There are numerous categories to cater for all with prizes up for grabs. The show is very colourful and popular. See what you can grow for next year!

We currently have over 40 members and over a cup of tea or coffee, we catch up

and help each other out with gardening tips, whilst sharing common interests. We have speakers giving talks on a variety of subjects, quizzes, outings and the annual show.



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

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

For any more information, please contact the Secretary telephone 01763 271885.

Please come along!



The FORQ executive love these summer months as it gives us the chance to get out and about more and meet up with our supporters and new people interested in the state of our lovely rivers.

Despite the slightly inclement weather we had a great day at Braughing Fair and Wheelbarrow Race in early July. Riverfly Monitors Andy Ayres and Toby Spencer did a Riverfly Monitoring Demonstration. We also showed how we test for nitrates, nitrites and phosphates, all indicators of the water quality. Lots of people popped by the stand and we had some really interesting discussions on the issues and possible solutions.

The level of new house building, particularly in Buntingford and Ware, was top of peoples list of concerns. The recent widespread publicity on sewage in the country's rivers and seas is making many more people aware of the poor state of the rivers and coastline and people clearly want change.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to taking part in "A Picnic For Change" on 20th August on Hartham Common in Hertford.

Pauline Ayres, Communications FORQ

Riverfly Monitoring continues but in Buntingford it is increasingly difficult to do monitoring as the state of the river is so poor and at our monitoring sites there has been little or no flow for some time. Therefore, reluctantly the decision has been made to reduce the amount of monitoring we are doing, we will reduce the sessions from monthly to bi-monthly.

Elsewhere the Riverfly Monitoring is more positive. There are signs that the Quin through Braughing is recovering from the mass fish die off we had. Recent sessions have found small bullheads and sticklebacks, which is great news and probably explains why Braughing Bird Watching group have reported seeing a kingfisher along the river again. In fact at one Riverfly Monitoring Session, in Jack's Field Braughing, a kingfisher flew over the head of monitor Andy.

Members of FORQ's Riverfly Monitoring team will be attending the quarterly steering group meeting of Riverfly Monitors organised by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.



BRAUGHING FAIR AND WHEELBARROW RACE



A great time was had by all on Saturday 8th July for the annual Braughing Fair and Wheelbarrow Race. It never fails to be a fun day for everyone. Even a couple of short showers did not dampen the spirits. We estimate 2,500 attended and helped make it a successful day.

What other village can boast such a wonderful day for messing around in

wheelbarrows and water, dressed up as Absolutely Fabulous, Donald Trump or Polo players? Thank you to everyone who entered into the races, and the spirit of the event. The fancy dress creations were excellent, and the barrows dressed up imaginatively too.

The dog show was just the place to show off people's four legged family members and raise some money for the local dog rescue charity, RATS. Thank you to everyone who entered.

The falconry display was a highlight as usual as well as being very informative about the habits of the birds of prey. The light shower didn't seem to bother the birds, or the spectators.

The stalls in the field were busy and raised much needed funds for their businesses or local charities and some provided delicious food for everyone. The bar (expertly run by Friends of Jenyns School) provided a focal point for people to get together over a drink, meet old friends (and make new ones) and sit and have a catch up in a beautiful English village.

We are once again indebted to the owners of the fields which hold the fair, car parks and dog show and to all our sponsors for providing much needed funds to enable the day to go ahead.

This annual event, the village's biggest day of the year, could not go ahead without all the volunteers who turn up each year to help the Committee members. You know who you are! Some help mark out the field; put up gazebos; put up banners and posters; road closed signs; help Friends of Jenyns with the bar; take registrations for the dog show; marshal the entry points and the race route; show stall holders to their pitches; bake cakes for the village hall and much, much more. Then, on the Sunday, take it

all down again; turn up early to sweep up 3 tons of sand; litter pick all the fields and help take everything back to be stored for next year. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

Although we haven't got the final figures in yet, we believe that this year's event raised an estimated £10,000 for local organisations and charities with beneficiaries including Jenyns school, St Mary's Church, Braughing Cricket Club, Buntingford scouts (who ran the car park), the Mesothelioma Society and RATS (a dog rehoming charity). The money raised for the school has been put towards Little Wandle reading books for all year groups at Jenyns, plus the whole school has enjoyed a day out to Paradise Wildlife Park.

In addition, the overall event made about £4,000 profit and this will be used (provisionally), together with unallocated profit from the previous 2 years (about £10,000 in total), to provide one or more of the following:

- New/replacement benches for the children's playground.
- Improvements to the community centre kitchen.
- An open-air cinema event.
- An EV charger at the community centre.

We hope that you will agree that this is a huge amount of money to raise for the community and charities!

If you would like to be a beneficiary of the event next year, please contact the wheelbarrow race committee at **info@braughingwheelbarrowrace.com** Planning has already begun for the 2024 event, please put the date in your diaries - **Saturday 13th July 2024.**

BFWR Committee

Mary Godfrey

Strawberries

The day had finally arrived we were off to Cornwall.

I was so excited I wanted to show Jonathon my treasured memories of childhood holidays of secret coves and sandy beaches.

Jonathan had chosen the route that we would take.

"The A303 would be best" he told me, "because we will pass by the ancient monument Stonehenge."

At both 23 years old we were young but believed we knew our minds.

Jonathon was an Archaeology student and I had achieved my degree in History and Antiquities

We were both fascinated by history and that had brought us together.

He had asked me to marry him and I had excitedly accepted. I loved this Man I had simply loved him almost at first sight.

He had declared passionately.

"Stephanie, I will love you forever, for all eternity until the end of time." What a truly romantic man he was.

And me wearing my new engagement ring, I thought all my dreams were coming true.

It was a glorious day in June and once we got beyond Ilchester the road quickly became blocked by slow-moving traffic.

Finally, Stonehenge came into view on our right side

We were both awestruck at the majesty of it.

On either side of the road, there were strawberry sellers and Jonathon told me that we would just get a couple more miles behind us and we would stop and buy some and get a better view of Stonehenge.

I must say they looked very inviting and I couldn't wait to sample some of those delicious strawberries.

Then the car became overheated and the temperature on the dashboard dial rose alarmingly.

Suddenly a rush of smoke came hissing in a cloud of scolding vapour from under the bonnet,

We had caught alight! The flames were quite frightening.

Jonathan leapt out of the smouldering car and raced around to my side and helped me scramble out.

With the help of other drivers, we managed to push the car into the next layby where there was a strawberry seller.

"We at least won't go hungry" I told him eyeing the strawberries, while we waited for rescue.

As we waited for help to arrive the sun beat down there was no shade to be found.

We enjoyed the lush red strawberries They never tasted so good.

To keep us amused the strawberry seller told a good story or was it a myth?

He explained "legend has it that Merlin the Wizard from Arthurian times had brought the standing stones from Ireland in the 6th century."

Jonathan was fascinated. How did this Strawberry seller know so much about it?

FINN THE POLICE DOG

He went on to tell us the story of the fair Persephone who was believed to be a Goddess. With her long golden hair and how she bore the birthmark of a strawberry on her body.

He went on to say "Myth tells how one day she would return and, on that day, the majestic Monument Stonehenge would crumble and fall."

At that moment the ground beneath our feet began to tremble and shake.

We looked at each with fear in our eyes.

Suddenly there came a loud deafening rumble and we were thrown to the ground

Startled and fearful we could see that Stonehenge was collapsing.

Onlookers came rushing to witness the spectacle.

After several minutes the magnificent monument had turned into a heap of smouldering rubble.

Suddenly, fearfully we were in each other's arms.

Jonathan held me in his embrace his arm was around my shoulders to expose the red nevus strawberry birthmark that I had been born with.

Jonathan stared at me in wonder.

"Persephone, my love, you are a Goddess!"

I appraised his loving gaze and a great realisation came upon me.

And then I knew this was my destiny, where I was going Jonathan could not follow

The End.



Local Buntingford resident police dog who was hailed a hero after being stabbed while protecting his handler has sadly died.

Finn the German Shepherd nearly died in 2016 while protecting PC Dave Wardell from a suspected robber in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Despite the severity of his wounds, Finn refused to let go of the suspect. The blade missed his heart by millimetres.

His story inspired a change in law - called Finn's Law - which came into force in 2019 as an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act 2006, giving greater protection to service animals.

PC Wardell's dog training colleagues announced Finn's death on Friday evening.

Fabulous Finn Dog Training tweeted: "It's with pain and sadness that I am writing this post on behalf of Dave.

"Our beautiful, brave, Hero Finn passed away peacefully in his sleep last night.

He was so loved by everyone and will be missed incredibly." Finn was aged 14.

Our thoughts are with Finn's family at this very difficult time. Finn, your legacy will live on, may you stand down with pride."

You may have also seen Finn and Dave on the TV programme Britain's Got Talent, where they got through to the final.



www.hsrsc.org.uk

events@hsrsc.org.uk | 01763 262 262

Tracy Aggett

Home-Start Literary Lunch - Thursday 21st September, the Old Bull, Royston – buffet lunch at 12.15pm followed by a chat between Jude Simpson and author Kate Moore til 2.15pm.

There will be an opportunity to ask Kate questions during the event and she will sign any books you may wish to purchase.

Kate Moore is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Radium Girls* and *The Woman They Could Not Silence*. After graduating from the University of Warwick with a degree in English Literature, she embarked on a career in publishing, rising to become an editorial director of Penguin Random House UK. In 2014 she went freelance as an author, editor and ghostwriter, penning numerous Sunday Times bestsellers, before publishing her best-known book, *The Radium Girls*, winner of the 2017 Goodreads Choice Award for Best History. Her latest book is *The Woman They Could Not Silence*, runner-up for Best

History in the 2021 Goodreads Choice Awards for Best History, among other accolades.

"In this thrilling and carefully crafted book, Kate Moore tells the shocking story of how early twentieth-century corporate



QUIZ NIGHT!

Saturday, 30th September

arrive by 6:45 pm for a 7:30pm start

at

Meldreth Village Hall

**Teams of up to 6 people welcome
(and don't forget to give your team a quirky name!)**

*Can't get a team together but still want to join in the fun?
Contact us and we will include you in a team!*

Tickets £13.50 per person (includes fish & chips supper)

Reserve your tickets by 15th September!

**Telephone 01763 262262 to book your tickets
or email events@hsrsc.org.uk**

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire
Charity No. 1105385

Find out
more here



SCAN ME

and legal America set about silencing dozens of working-class women who had been systematically poisoned by radiation... Moore [writes] so lyrically... FIVE STARS." Daily Mail

Tickets are £15 to include your buffet lunch and available by calling the Home-Start office on **01763 262262**, emailing **events@hsrsc.org.uk** or book online here

Purchase your ticket here – Literary Lunch with Kate Moore – The Old Bull Inn, Royston, **Thu 21 Sep 2023 12:15 PM - 2:15 PM** (tickettailor.com) please remember to let us know of any dietary requirements when booking.

Home-Start Quiz Night – Saturday 30th September – from 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start at Meldreth Village Hall

Teams of 6, fish, chicken, sausage or veggie option with chips for supper. Tickets £13.50 per person. Licensed bar and raffle. To book your team, please call our office **01763 262262**

or email **events@hsrsc.org.uk**



Literary Lunch



Jude Simpson
in conversation with

Kate Moore

Author

**on Thursday, 21st September at
The Old Bull Inn, Royston, SG8 9AW**



Kate Moore is a *New York Times* and *Sunday Times* bestselling author who writes across multiple genres.

Her best-known book is *The Radium Girls*, which won the 2017 Goodreads Choice Award for Best History. Her work has been selected for numerous honours including Emma Watson's book club, Our Shared Shelf.

Her latest book is the critically acclaimed *The Woman They Could Not Silence*.

**Buffet lunch from 12.15 pm
Chat and Q&A from 1.00 - 2.15 pm**

Telephone **01763 262262** to book your tickets
or visit **www.hsrsc.org.uk/events**

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire
Charity No. 1105385

Find out
more here



SCAN ME

ANIMAL MAGIC AT SANDON'S FETE

Gay Ayton

From milking the cow to playing splat the rat or horses' tails and entering the dog show, visitors to Sandon's fete will find a wide range of animal themed activities and entertainment for everyone to enjoy.

This annual social event will see the return of the popular dog show with 12 novelty classes to encourage dogs of all kinds to enter and compete for the unusual awards such as waggiest tail and scruffiest dog alongside classic categories like handsomest dog, best puppy and prettiest bitch. Entries on the day £2.00 per dog per class. Rosettes and prizes to the top 3.

The Fete will be opened by Sandon's recent bride followed by entertainment from the Sandon JMI children.

Along with the back to front bike race, space hopper races there will be a range of traditional and more unusual stalls to test skills and try your luck; high striker, football wall, the tin can alley, coconut shy, teddy tombola as well as face painting, the bottle stall and the Grand Draw offers £100 cash as first prize as well as bountiful hampers to win.

Villagers contribute delicious homemade marmalade, chutneys, jellies and jams that are always eagerly sought out on the produce stall as are plants and cuttings and other culinary delights made with the abundance of summer and autumn produce.

Throughout the afternoon visitors will be able to enjoy scrumptious homemade cakes and cream teas as well as a BBQ. There is also a licensed bar for a pint and a glass of Prosecco is always popular.

The church will be decorated with stunning flower arrangements created by

skilled arrangers from the village depicting the theme with displays such as Peter and the Wolf, Carnival of the Animals, Winnie the Pooh and Jungle Book.

All monies raised at the fete will go towards All Saints' Church, Sandon.

The fete is held on Sandon's village green and in the village hall, SG9 0QX from 1.00-4.00pm on **Sunday 17th September 2023** and there is free parking.

BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

**ARE YOU NEW TO
BUNTINGFORD?**

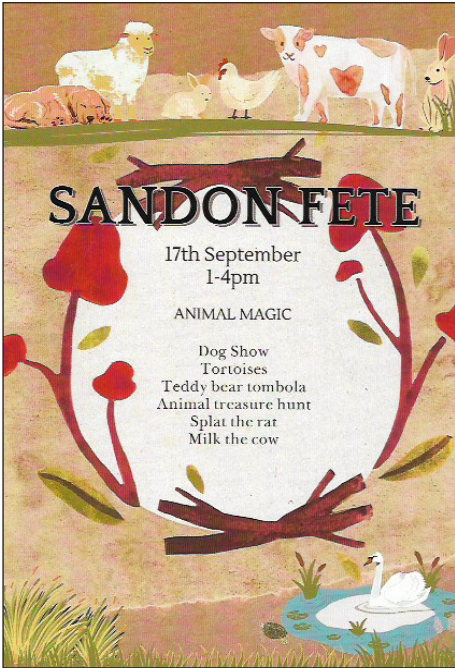
**ARE YOU A SENIOR
CITIZEN?**

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

We meet every **Monday afternoon from 1.30 for 2pm start** at the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road (opposite McColls) for an afternoon of chat, tea/coffee and Bingo with lots of laughter and fun. Also trips to the seaside and places of interest.

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

For more info call Val on 01763 272 019



BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

COMEDY NITE ADULT HUMOUR

**Friday
October 27th**

Bunters Suite,
Seth Ward
Community Centre

**Dan Evans
Otiz Cannelloni
Peter Jones
(Australia)**

Your host for
the evening
Tom Toal

**TICKETS
£15**

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

For tickets, please visit:

buntingfordlive.org
enabling creative events



BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Carol Emery

buntingfordlocalhistorygroup@hotmail.com

Everyone at the Buntingford Local History Group has been beavering away on our project of the History of our High Street. We have amassed a huge amount of information and photos for the exhibition. We hope that we have got everything correct but will apologize in advance if we have made any mistakes in when different businesses were in each shop. Unfortunately, memories do fade over time and some shops changed hands so often it's difficult to remember who was in where and when. If when you come to the exhibition, please let us know if you think we have got anything wrong.

We have also devised a quiz for the children to do, copies of which can be obtained from the library or from the Facebook page of Spotted in

Buntingford. There is also a copy here in the journal on the page opposite. The prize will be two £10 vouchers for The Entertainer Toy shop, one for under 7's, the other for up to 16's and it will be the first correct entry in each age group to be drawn on the 10th October at our monthly meeting. Post your completed entries in the quiz box in the library by the 7th October.

The exhibition is on Saturday 30th September and Sunday 1st October between 10am and 4pm in the Manor House on Market Hill. Entry is free and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible especially the people who are new to the town now, is the chance to see how the shops have changed over the decades.

TREASURE TRAIL

See questions on page opposite:



Rules for the Competition

1. The competition will close on the 7th October 2023.
2. Entries to be posted in the box in the library.
3. The entries will be judged in 2 age groups, up to age 7, and up to group 16.
4. Make sure you put your name age and contact details on your entry form.
5. Prize will go to the first correct entry pulled from each age group.
6. Judge's decision is final
7. Prize is a £10 voucher for Entertainer Toy shop.
8. Entry questions will be printed in September's journal and Spotted in Buntingford Facebook page.

TREASURE TRAIL



Discover Buntingford High Street on this Treasure Trail

West Side (odd numbers – head north)

1. What is the time at number 37?
2. Is this building fit for a queen?
3. If you visit the shop with the plasterwork showing Millennium 2000 what could you buy? (2 points)
4. The Dentist occupies an interesting building. Look carefully near the arch work. What was it called in times gone by?
5. Number 71 was once the Doctor's House. What colour bricks is it made of?
6. Lavender Cottage has a special mark above the front door called a firemark. This meant the fire brigade would know they had paid an insurance and would come and put a fire out. What is the number of the firemark?
7. What is the name of the building at number 87? What do you think it was in the past? (2 points)
8. What is unusual about the five panels in the front bay window at number 89?
9. The Old Police Station was named after Sir Robert Peel who founded the modern police force. What colour is the front door?
10. The building at number 117 now occupied by The Tile Shop was built by which organisation?

Name: _____

Email _____

Age:

East Side (even numbers – head south)

11. 100 is known as a century. Who lived here?
12. Describe the plaque / sign on Gilpin House (3 points)
13. What is unusual about the upper storey at number 66?
14. Number 56 is an interesting building. What is the name of the special plasterwork above the door under the first floor window?
15. The White House is a landmark in the High Street. How many windows are there at the top?
16. There are many old shops in the High Street. Buntingford Television which sold electrical and white goods used to occupy the site of the Optician's. When was the latter established?
17. Charity Shops play an important part in the community. Can you name the two charity shops and give the numbers of the buildings they occupy? (2 points)
18. Why is St George's Mews so called (what used to be on this site)?
19. The Take Away House and The Peppermill occupy some of the oldest buildings in Buntingford. What architectural style of building are they?
20. The Black Bull is a long-established pub in the town. There are four distinctive lamps on the front. What letters are etched on them and what do they stand for?



Jean Cook

(Below) Alan & Anita with u3a members who worked at the Buntingford Depot at the same time

It was a packed house to welcome the speaker for July - Alan Charles who, with his wife Anita and two sons, used to live and work in Buntingford. His subject was the Sainsbury's Depot at Buntingford where he was a driver from 1968 – 2002. Alan has amassed a huge archive of photos, documents, press cuttings and souvenirs of the depot and brought an interesting collection of slides showing the changing lorries and their liveries over the years and the different departments of the depot. He spoke of the Cheese Girls - the young mums who worked in the evenings in the cheese department; Vicarage Road originally nick-named the Sainsbury's Estate as the first occupants were all Sainsbury employees and the great social life provided by the company for the employees. Above right is a photo of Alan and Anita with u3a members who worked at the depot at the same time.



Not every group stopped in August and two groups that always carry on are Bridge and Mah Jong. This year they have continued their weekly meetings at The Bury alongside the building of the New Buntingford First School. They have shared the car park with workmen of all trades and vans of all sizes which has been great fun at times!! Below are photos of both Groups in front of the school just before it was finished.

On **Monday 11th September** our speaker will be Steve Dimmer "Oh Matron! A History of the Carry-On Films." One of the most enduring and popular of film comedies is the Carry-On films. 32 films were made between 1958 and 1992 and their reputation for bawdy fun has never disappeared. Steve Dimmer takes us through the rise of this beloved series, looking at the lives of some of the main players as well as showing clips from some of the most successful. We'll also examine why the films began to lose their popularity and the legacy these hilarious comedies have left behind. If you have a funny bone, this talk is definitely for you!



(Above) Bridge Group in front of new school

(Below) Mah Jong Group in front of new school



THEY MATTER

Pat Furness, Councillor BTC



Did you know that there are over 200 subtypes of dementia, the umbrella term for a range of progressive and degenerative conditions affecting the brain? Whichever one a person suffers from, their brain cells will be impaired and their ability to think, speak and function as they used to will be seriously impacted over time. Memory loss, confusion and understanding are all affected, to the extent that simple tasks like fastening buttons, using zips, tying laces become impossible.

Families have to find ways to support their loved ones as they gradually slip away from them, forgetting names and faces in many cases. Perhaps you know someone who is struggling with this, either to cope with day-to-day skills or supporting a loved one.

Through the local U3A, a group of Buntingford women first came together in 2017 to do what they could to help such families. Meeting on the last Monday of each month the group has a regular attendance of twenty. You might not have heard of them or know anything about what they do. They understand how important it is for self esteem to manage the simple tasks associated with dressing and coping with everyday items. Determined to ensure dementia

patients are not forgotten they chose the name *They Matter*. Beautiful fabric mats which comprise a number of simple objects to aid manual dexterity and cognitive awareness: zip pulls, pocket fasteners, buttons, beads and tactile elements are created to reawaken older memories- the furry toys of their children and grandchildren, the squeaky elements of pet and children's toys and such like. Each mat is unique. Crafted with skills many of us no longer possess- knitted, crocheted, embroidered, needlepoint, cross stitch and fine embroidery, using fabric and items donated, bought or re-purposed. It's amazing what they have come up with. Care home residents across East Herts and beyond have benefited, though those at home could also receive one. Beginning with Nevett's, across the region, stretching from Buntingford to Letchworth, Ware and S. Cambs to date 27 care homes have been grateful for this support. Enquiries are always welcome.

While the object of the group is to provide free mats for those in need, there is a second benefit: it is a warm social group where like minded women can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and share in creating something special. Skills are learned, ideas swapped and creative minds flourish. New members, even those with limited skills will be welcome. There are lots of teachers!

Donations of any ribbons, craft materials, little toys in clean condition please, or larger donations of fabrics are always welcome. While the group is not allowed to sell their products directly, donations can be made.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

Residents living in the countryside of the Hundred Parishes are fortunate that the intrusive sounds of human activities are less when compared to those living within built up areas, close to main roads or railway tracks or beneath regular flight paths. Even within our homes our ears are subjected to a cacophony of sounds: TV or radio programmes, ring tones, the hum of machines, barking dogs or noisy neighbours. Rarely are we surrounded by silence!

Appreciating tranquillity is an essential aspect of being in the countryside, where it should be possible to scan attractive views of verdant landscapes or cloudy skiescapes, hear natural sounds and catch glimpses of wildlife without intrusive background noises. Evidence gathered over the past 15 years reveals that tranquillity is not just a pleasurable experience but is essential for human health and well-being, reducing stress levels and lifting spirits.

In the early 1990's concerns were raised about the harmful levels of intrusive noise in daily lives. The Countryside Commission and the Council for the Protection of Rural England worked together to produce an Intrusion Map which highlighted areas that were most affected by human-induced noises. Since then, research has been undertaken by CPRE and others to develop suitable methodology for measuring noise and evaluate the visual impact of developments on landscapes.

In 2012, tranquillity gained recognition in national planning policy. Now studies are prepared to evaluate Landscape Character Areas and their Sensitivity to



Change, and these are included in the reports prepared for Local Plans. They must include appropriate mitigation measures to help reduce intrusive noise to acceptable levels.

The walk descriptions listed on the Hundred Parishes website provide opportunities to appreciate the tranquillity of this part of the country, to hear bird song, sense the wind in the trees and view some wonderful rural landscapes.





Hatfield Broad Oak



Saffron Walden



Little Easton



Manuden



Matching



At Attend2Health we have a new therapy called EMDR Therapy which stands for Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. Stuart Willis is an EMDR and Hypnotherapy specialist.

Having personally experienced the amazing power of EMDR Stuart knew immediately that he wanted to become an EMDR practitioner and help others with a multitude of issues.

Some of the Benefits of EMDR include...

It's an extremely fast and effective type of therapy which is totally natural.

As well as treating hundreds of conditions it can also be used to improve areas of your life, such as sport performance, business performance & social skills.

As you don't have to disclose or even talk about any potentially private or embarrassing issues the therapy can be extremely private

- Stuart uses all the latest dedicated EMDR equipment - ensuring fast and efficient results.

- Whilst EMDR is a more expensive therapy, its results are usually much quicker, hence saving you money in the long run. The first session costs £195 but you typically only need a couple of sessions to see results. Follow up appointments are £145.
- EMDR works by using Bilateral Stimulation (what we do during REM sleep every night)
- EMDR is recommended by NICE and the World Health Organization.

EMDR is recognized as an effective treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and has also been used to address a range of other mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, and phobias. For more information please call Stuart on **07885 200490** or email **Stuart@newyou.world**.

Self Defence Classes



17th and 24th September
£95

Attend2Health is also running self defence classes on the **17th and 24th September**. £95 for the course. Please call **01763 87 80 87** for more information.

Buntingford & Stortford Hybrid Studio



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

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



WWW.JACQUI-SMITH.NET

07956 647806



Our last **Move, Meditate & Relax** session on is **September 12th**.

These 2 hour workshops are run by Community Initiative and cost just £5 to attend.

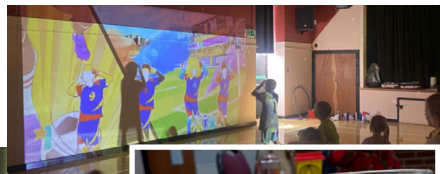


Our last session we collected donations for Ricki Schelser who will be trekking Kilimanjaro in 2024 and passed on £124.00 towards his trek in aid of The MS Trust

Summer **HAPpy Kids Camps** were a blast and the children enjoyed themselves each week. Next sessions will be at Christmas.

Arts & Crafts Workshop

Candle Holder Making Session in the summer & in the Autumn Christmas Cards making.



Full Class Listings:



Want to come to an Exercise Class or fancy one of our workshops then contact us theteam@jacqui-smith.net | 07956 647 806
Jacqui Smith Personal Trainer & Chair of Community Initiative Charity

STANDON & PUCKERIDGE TENNIS CLUB

Diana Foster

The weather is still good enough for you to find your tennis racket and come to the Community Centre for a game. We have three excellent courts that have recently been refurbished.

We held the Memorial Cup, in memory of Vic Hubbard. This was played as a Dutch Doubles competition and the winners were Pauline John and Kieron Debnam.

The Club Championships were held on 8th July. In the Men's Singles Kieron Debnam beat Kyle Buckling in a championship tiebreak. The Ladies Doubles was won by Diana Foster and Penny Hardy who beat M and Alice Beckley. In the Men's Doubles Kieron Debnam and Will Littleford beat brothers Kyle and Ali Buckling, again in a championship tiebreak. The Mixed Doubles was won by Mandy Minichiello and Ali Buckling, who beat Diana Foster and Kieron Debnam. We also held a Plate competition and the winner of the Men's Doubles were Paul Howard and Brian Gibson who beat Mike Fuller and James Woodward and in the Ladies Doubles Sinead Finn and Holly Beckley beat Claudia Chalkley and Sally Bradshaw.

The Junior Championships were held the following weekend and the winner of the Girls 8 and under was Ellie Blanchard, runner up Jessica Devonshire. The boys 9 and under was won by Leo Thompson, runner up Jude Bowditch. The mixed 10 and under was won by Ben Howard, runner up Cole Thompson. The boys 10 and under winner was Reggie Thompson, runner up Patrick Reville. The girls 12 and under winner was Georgia Blanchard, runner up Evie Bliss. The boys 14 and under was won by Fletcher Debnam with Reggie Robinson as the runner up and the boys 16 and under was won by Matthew

Farrar with Charlie Burgess as runner up. There was a Plate Competition for the boys 13 and under and that was won by Alfie Sanchez with the runner up Zac Allen. Congratulations to you all.

PAY TO PLAY is available to all if you just want to book a court. £8 per hour or £4 for juniors. We even have availability at weekends. Contact Sally Bradshaw on 01920 821 152.

COACHING: our Head Coach is Cliff Devonshire, who is LTA level 4 performance coach. Cliff has introduced programs for all types of players from junior to experienced club members, these are run term time only. For more information please contact Cliff on 07709 355 655 or email him at clifforddevonshire@hotmail.com

ADULT TENNIS: Wednesday morning 10 – 12 and Friday afternoon from 1.45pm. Contact Sally Bradshaw on 01920 821152. These sessions usually attract around 8 players of varying ability. We play doubles and change round regularly which gives an opportunity to play with different people.

CLUB NIGHT: Tuesday 6pm also Sunday morning from 10am. All members are welcome. There is a WhatsApp group to ensure there will be players there.

We have the following teams:

We have two men's teams in Hot Rackets. The first team are in Division 1A and having played all their matches they are currently at the top, however three other clubs still have to play some more matches. The second team are in Division 5B and are also currently top but all the teams have a couple more matches to play. We have one men's team playing in the Essex Small Clubs League as well as a

BRAUGHING GET TOGETHER

ladies and a mixed team. The ladies also play in the over 60's Hertfordshire Winter League.

Contact Diana Foster 07778 031430 for more information on any of these.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME: Special rates for parent/child/family memberships, for details contact Sally Bradshaw 01920 821152.

BARKWAY PARK GOLF CLUB

July has been the busiest month of the golfing year with matches, competitions and championships coming thick and fast. The course is in terrific condition and has generated the admiration of visiting teams and members alike. The green-keeping team led by Joe Graves deserve all the plaudits they have received.

The club championships were held in the middle of the month in some very testing weather conditions. The ladies champion for both the scratch and handicap competition was Kay Eardley, the men's champions were Graham Locke (scratch) and Gary Wright (handicap) and the senior's champions were Simon Hughes (scratch) and Trevor Scott-Hibberd (handicap).

Earlier in the month saw Captain's Day and Chief Barker Day which were not only very sociable and enjoyable occasions, but also produced some good golf as well as raising some sizeable donations to their nominated charities, British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research respectively.

The club is thriving and welcomes new members. Enquiries should be directed to the clubhouse tel: **01763 848 215**.

Following our summer recess, Braughing Get Together is back in business starting with:

Friday 22nd September 2023

"What the Butler saw" - a talk by William French, recalling his adventures as Butler to the Royal Family and to stars.

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

Friday 27th October 2023

Our ever popular Beetle Drive.

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

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



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

Alswick Hall

Hare Street Road, Buntingford, SG9 0AA

Sunday 24 September
12 - 4pm

Adults £8 Children free
Hog roast and home-made teas.
www.alswickhall.com/gardens

 WHEELCHAIR ACCESS  DOGS WELCOME  PLANTS FOR SALE  TEAS  ACCEPTED



More information at ngs.org.uk

Image credit: Alswick Hall

WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

- Wednesday 6th** Photography Soc:
Lecture by Chris Forster
"The Journey after
APPE" (p.15)
- Wednesday 6th** Gardening Club Annual
Show (p.21)
- Sunday 10th** Harvest Festival (p.17)
- Monday 11th** u3a Monthly Meeting
with speaker Steve
Dimmer "Oh
Matron!" (p.32)
- Thursday 14th** Buntingford W.I. Around
the world in 50 Fabric
Collages (p.15)
- Friday 15th** BALA Coffee Morning
(p.42)
- Sunday 17th** Sandon Fete (p.28)
- Sunday 17th** Attend 2 Health Self
Defence class (p.36)
- Wednesday 20th** BALFF - The Music of
Disney Course
- Thursday 21st** Homestart Literary Lunch
(p.27)
- Friday 22nd** Braughing Get Together
"What the Butler Saw"
(p.39)
- Saturday 23rd** Thanksgiving Service for
Harvest (p.17)
- Alswick Hall Garden
Open Day (p.39)
- Sunday 24th** Attend 2 Health Self
Defence class (p.36)
- Saturday 30th** History of the High
Street Exhibition (p.30)
- Saturday 30th** Homestart Quiz Night
(p.26)



LOOKING AHEAD

- 7th October** United Benefice Quiz
Night (p.17)
- 21st October** Buntingford Community
Choir at St Peter's Church
(p.21)
- 27th October** Buntingford Live!
Comedy Night (p.13)
- 27th October** Braughing Get Together
Beetle Drive (p.39)
- 18th November** Photography Soc: Annual
Exhibition (p.15)
- 1st December** Buntingford Live! Late
Night Shopping Evening
(p.13)
- 9th December** Buntingford Live! "Whose
Wine is it Anyway?"

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

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

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	SATURDAYS:
<p>From 8.30am: Buntingford Market on Market Hill</p>	<p>7.30–9pm: Braughing Sing Community Choir in Jenyn's School Hall</p>	<p>Buntingford Meditation We now meet online at 8 pm on a Wednesday evening, and once a month in Saint Peter's Church. If anyone is interested in joining the group the best way is to contact me via the website - www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation New meditators are welcome and guidance is given on how to meditate in the sessions.</p>	<p>10.30am–12.30: Coffee & Company in the Church Hall (p.19)</p>		<p>10am: Walking Football at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields (p.9)</p>
<p>10–11.45am: Chatter Table at the Manor House – 1st & 3rd Mondays (p.5)</p>			<p>2–3pm: Mind & Music at Standon & Puckeridge CC</p>		
EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY:					
<p>10.30–11am: Baby Rhyme Time (songs, rhymes, actions and puppets, for ages 6 weeks to 3 years)</p>	<p>10.30–12.30: Chatter table (jigsaws, magazines, refreshments included)</p>		<p>10.30 – 11am: Story Time (storytelling with props, for ages 2-5 years)</p>	<p>4:00-5:00pm: LEGO club (£3 per child, ages 6-12)</p>	
<p>11.45am–12.45pm: Forever Cycling at the Community Centre -1st & 3rd</p>		<p>12:30pm: Lunch, Laughter & Light FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH (p.19)</p>			
<p>1.30 for 2pm: Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club at URC Hall (p.28)</p>					
<p>7.30–9pm: Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School (p.21)</p>					

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Minibus Trips September/October 2023

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

	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
SEPTEMBER			
Tue 5th	10-2.30	Saffron Walden (Market Day)	£6
Mon 11th	9.30-3	Southend (last trip of the season)	£13
Wed 13th	11:30	Pub Lunch	£5
Fri 22nd	9:30-12:30	Hitchin (Market Day – General and Antiques)	£6
Tue 26th	9:30-12:30	Stevenage – Roaring Meg (M&S, Hobbycraft, Boots, TKMaxx/Homesense, Costa plus Dunelm/The Range by agreement with driver)	£5
Thu 28th	9:30-12:15	Harlow Graden Centre	£7
OCTOBER			
Thu 5th	10-2:30	St Neots (Market Day)	£9
Mon 9th	10-2:30	St Ives	£8
Wed 11th	11:30	Pub Lunch	£5
Wed 18th	10-2.30	St Albans	£8
Wed 23rd	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5
Tue 24th	10:30-2	Saffron Walden (Market Day)	£6
Thu 26th	10-12	Tapps Garden Centre (local family run, Nursery, House Plants and Gifts, Café with scones/cakes baked daily)	£4
NOVEMBER			
Thu 9th	10.30-2	Scotsdales – Christmas is coming!!!	£6.50

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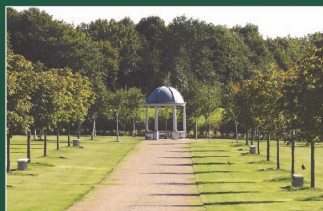
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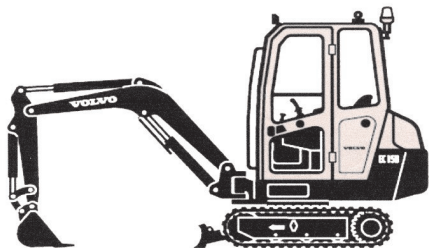


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The aims of our coaching club are to develop swimmers' skills and strokes and impart good practice and safety in the water. We meet weekly, with training split into 2 groups of 1 hour each on Thursday evenings between 7pm – 8pm and 8pm and 9pm, in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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you soon.



Buntingford Civic Society

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



WHO ARE WE?

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

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

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

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Done River Rib cleans

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

Were actively involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan

Arranged four Buntingford in Bloom competitions our fifth in 2020 cancelled due to the pandemic.

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

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

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

TO JOIN PLEASE SEE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON OUR WEBSITE
www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

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Carers in Hertfordshire Support Hub

Buntingford 2023

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

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

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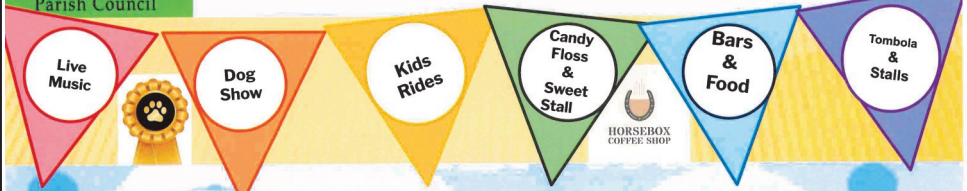
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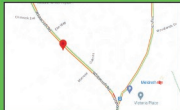
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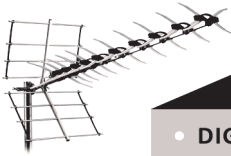
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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A 10 Pet Services.....	A7	J ournal Advertising.....	A25
Ace of Herts, Cumberlow Compost.....	A11	J P Services.....	A10
Andrew Coates - Garden Design.....	A7	Judkins Solicitors.....	A32
Apple Computer Specialist.....	A14		
A R Services.....	A8	John D K ilby & Co.....	A2
Attend2Health.....	A16		
Attend2Health.....	A22	L ayston Grove Care Home.....	A36
Austin's (Funerals & Memorials).....	A9	Layston Pre-School.....	A15
		Linden Flooring.....	A17
		Locks Stock and More.....	A27
		Deborah Loweth Chiropodist.....	A14
B & M Installations.....	A22		
Buckland and Chipping Harvest Fayre.....	A26	The M anor House.....	A35
Buntingford Chamber of Commerce.....	A32	Marketing Zone.....	A8
Buntingford Civic Society.....	A20	Meeting House Boarding Kennels.....	A3
Buntingford Dancing School.....	A10		
Buntingford Food Bank.....	A31	N ationwide Supplies.....	A6
Buntingford Heating.....	A23	NCS Property Maintenance.....	A10
Buntingford Karate Club.....	A5		
Buntingford Swimming Club.....	A19	O venClean.....	A32
The C age Barbers.....	A2	P aul Wainwright Painting, Decorating and Handyman....	A4
Carers in Hertfordshire.....	A24	Personal Trainer (Jacqui Smith).....	A7
Cam Valley Orchards.....	A4	Poulton's - Building Materials & Aggregates.....	A21
Ceramic Tiler (Mark Addison).....	A35		
Chiropodist (Deborah Loweth).....	A14	R B Taxation Services.....	A35
Church Lane Creative.....	A7	Reboot IT Solutions (Computer Services).....	A12
Andrew Coates Garden Design.....	A7	Reed First School.....	A5
Collins Roofing Ltd.....	A23	Riverside Taxis.....	A3
Complete Garden Service (Gregg Pettitt).....	A35	Rome Joinery Ltd.....	A22
Computer Services (Reboot IT Solutions).....	A12	Rose Yoga—Jane Nunn.....	A11
Country Maids.....	A30		
Crossfit Buntingford.....	A5	S . J.S.Plumbing & Heating.....	A30
Curwens Solicitors.....	A25	Soggy Doggy Grooming.....	A17
D eans Furnishers.....	A29	T een Spirit Coaching.....	A14
Design Nation.....	A17	SJ Tokely Ltd, Mechanical Engineers.....	A13
P J Deards, Plumbing and Heating.....	A28	Touch of Glamour.....	A28
Digital Champions - Community Alliance.....	A27		
Digital Skills Group Buntingford.....	A33	Jane W alker-Personal Health and Fitness Coach.....	A4
DQR Wills and Probate.....	A12	Philip Walker- Motor Vehicle Engineer.....	A22
		MJ Warner.....	A12
The E arth's Richies.....	A28	John Littleford - Web Designer.....	A5
East Herts Foot Health Clinic.....	A14	Webb Scaffolding.....	A15
Eileen's Fitness Classes.....	A11	Willow Landscapes.....	A13
P S Eveleigh, Plastering Contractor.....	A8	Wills & Power of Attorney - Kate Bennett.....	A4
		Peter Worby, Antique Restoration and Cabinet Maker....	A28
H earing Advisory Service.....	A27		
Hertford TV Service.....	A28		
Hormead Cars - Dean Bye.....	A14		
Anthony Howes - French Polishing.....	A30		
Suzanne Hoy MBACP Counsellor.....	A5		
Humbleline Graphic Design.....	A15		

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