

March 2009
Volume 34, No. 2

Buntingford Journal



Church Street, Buntingford

40p

Make sure of your copy of the Journal.
Join the Buntingford Civic Society

CONTENTS

B A L A	12
Be ready for anything	46
Braughing Music Society – Jazz The Dixieland All Stars	13
Buntingford and District Social Club	28
Buntingford and District Youth Club	22
Buntingford Dramatic Society	15
Buntingford Carnival Committee presents The Overtures	17
Buntingford Citizens Advice Bureau	43
Buntingford Civic Society – AGM	42
Buntingford Civic Society – 'Have a Voice'	18
Buntingford Dancing School Show – Cinemotion	11
Buntingford Gardeners Club	15
Buntingford Town Council	33
Buntingford Town FC	16
Buntingford Twinning Association – An American Square Dance	39
Buntingford W I	47
Christ Church United Reformed Church	31
Dates for your diary	5
Disco	42
Editorial	7
Edwinstree Gig Night 2009	11
Edwinstree Middle School	20
Energy saving light bulb myth buster	38
Gardening year – March	23
Hertbeat Radio – Free radio advertising for Buntingford	24
Hertfordshire Constabulary – Deaf or Hard of Hearing?	12
Isabel Hospice events	19
Just up your street – Hemingway's	14
Lavinia Baker	10
Layston C of E First School	25
Letters to the editor	8
Meet your local PCSO, Amanda Higham	24
Memories of my childhood in Buntingford – part 8 by Peter Wonnacott	36
Millfield First and Nursery School	44
Out and about in March	6
Poets Corner	40
Police Matters	41
Quiz Night on behalf of Edwinstree Middle School	13
Snow Joke – Vyse	26
St Mary's Aspenden – South door renovations	31
St Mary's Aspenden, St Peter's Buntingford, St Mary's Westmill	30
St Mary's Church Reed – Trio Flautando	25
St Richard of Chichester	30
Susan Bradfield – Professional Make-up Artist	21
Tasha's tales	32
The Night Sky in March	34
The Ramblers	29
The Royal British Legion Quiz Night	47
Useful local information	2
U3A in Buntingford	45
Ware Operatic Society – Orpheus in the Underworld	48
What's on in March	3

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE STATION:	Baldock Road, Buntingford Non-emergency 0845 33 00 222
Saturday Police surgeries:	First Saturday of the month, 10:00am – 12noon in the Manor House
GAS:	Emergency (gas leaks) telephone 0800 111 999
ELECTRICITY:	Emergency (power loss) telephone 0800 7838 838
WATER (Three Valleys):	Emergency telephone 0800 376 5325
DOCTORS:	The Medical Centre – White Hart Close Telephone 01763 271362 (24 hours) Orchard Surgery – Baldock Road Telephone 01763 272410 & 272411 (after hours)
FAMILY PLANNING:	Clinic every Wednesday 6:30pm – 8:30pm at The Medical Centre. Telephone 01763 271763
B A S H (Buntingford Action For Social Help):	Providing transport for hospital/doctors appointments, telephone Jane Winter 01763 271484
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RACE, HATE or RAPE CRIME:	Confidential Information Help-line, telephone 01992 554440 (in an emergency, dial 999)
LOCAL COUNCILS:	East Herts District Council – telephone 01279 655261 Housing – telephone 01279 714714 Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852 Buntingford Town Council – telephone 01763 272222 Hertfordshire Highways – telephone 01438 737320
BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:	Telephone: 01438 737333 (enquiries) 01438 737373 (renewals) Mondays: 09:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 18:00 Tuesdays: 09:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 18:00 Wednesdays: CLOSED ALL DAY Thursdays: 09:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 18:00 Fridays: 09:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 18:00 Saturdays: 09:00 – 13:00 CLOSED
BUNTINGFORD CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:	The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford Telephone 0844 848 9700 Mondays: 10:00am – 4:00pm Tuesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm Wednesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm Telephone advice available Mon – Thurs, 10:00am – 4:00pm
HOUSEHOLD WASTE SITE:	Watermill Industrial Estate, Aspenden Road Open: Mondays – Fridays 5:00pm – 8:00pm Saturday & Sunday 10:00am – 1:00pm

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH?

Look in the BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

MONDAYS

- 10:15am – 11:30am 'Little Stars' Music Group at Buntings Nursery – every two weeks. Contact Michelle on 01763 272868.
- 10:30am – 12 noon Iyengar Yoga Classes at URC Hall – term time only. Contact Jen Harris on 01920 821288.
- 11:00am Light exercise and mobility for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01799 550190.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Shotokan Karate at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Peter Deacon on 01462 642922.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm Ladies Exercise Class – Gymball at Benson Hall. Contact Jacqui on 01763 274681.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Abs (body toning) session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:45pm – 9:00pm Buntingford Adult Learning for Fun. A 5-week course, 'It's a mathematical world', tutor Brian Catlow – Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 8:15pm Circuit Training at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01920 823677.

TUESDAYS

- 9:15am – 10:15am Badminton at Seth Ward Community Centre – £2.50 per session. Contact 01763 273712.
- 9:30am – 11:00am Tuesday Toddlers at URC Hall. £1.50 includes drink and snack. Term time only.
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm Leapfrogs Pre-school (Great Hornead). Cookery sessions for ages 2 to 5 years – £6.75 per session. All welcome – it is not necessary to be attending the pre-school, however booking is required. Please call 01763 289942. Term time only.
- 7:00pm – 8:15pm Grade 5 Ballet Lessons, Layston School. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.

WEDNESDAYS

- 9:30am – 11:45am Hornead Mother & Toddler group, term time and half-term in Great Hornead Village Hall. £1.50 for first child and 50p for subsequent children. Refreshments provided. Small, friendly group. New faces always welcome. Contact Sarah Cockerton on 01763 289513 or Stacey Weston on 01763 289880.
- 10:00am for
10:30am – 12noon Buntingford Adult Learning for Fun. 'The French Revolution', tutor Dr Rosemary Williams – 10-week course at Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 5:30pm – 7:00pm Cougars under 11s football team training sessions at Norfolk Road. Contact Mark on 07801 419800.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Circuit Training for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01799 550190.

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH?

Look in the BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

WEDNESDAYS

- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Boxercise/Tae Bo session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm Ladies Exercise Class – Circuits at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Jacqui on 01763 274681.
- 8:00pm Horizon Divers at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.

THURSDAYS

- 9:30am Body Toning at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01799 550190.
- 9:30am – 11:00am Little Ones Mother & Toddler Group at Scout Hut. Contact Jean on 01763 272081 or Clare on 01763 273019.
- 11:00 am Light exercise and mobility for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01799 550190.
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm Leapfrogs Pre-school (Great Hornead). Art sessions for ages 18 months to 5 years – £6.75 per session. Alternatively parents may stay with their child 1:30pm – 2:30pm for £4 a session. (Under 2s must be accompanied by a parent/carer). It is not necessary to be attending the pre-school, however booking is required. Contact Kim Semple from Little Artists on 01763 289942.
- 2:15pm – 2:45pm Story-time for under 5s at Buntingford Library. Singing, stories, a sweet or biscuit and a picture to colour.
- 5:30pm – 10:00pm Buntingford Swimming Club at Freman Pool. Contact Alan Bowell on 01920 821722.
- 6:15pm – 7:00pm Jazzercise Class at Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 8:00pm – 10:00pm Badminton Club at Seth Ward Community Centre.

FRIDAYS

- 9:30am – 10:30am Badminton at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.

SATURDAYS

- 9:00am – 12:30pm Ballet Classes at Layston School for children aged 3 – 18 years. Contact Philippa on 01762 271010.
- 12:00pm – 2:00pm 6 – 10 year olds
2:15pm – 4:15pm 11 – 15 year olds
Stagefrights Theatre Club, United Reform Church Hall, Baldock Road. Contact 01767 260374.

MONDAY – THURSDAY

Buntingford Heritage Centre open 10:00am – 4:00pm (subject to Town Clerk's office being open). A permanent display of Buntingford's past.

MONDAY – FRIDAY

Councillor John Warren Surgery at the Manor House. Contact 01763 273344 for an appointment.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Tuesday 3 rd	8:00pm Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society – Benson Hall. Enquiries 01920 438482.
Wednesday 4 th	7:45pm for 8:00pm Buntingford Gardeners Club AGM at URC Hall.
Friday 6 th	7:00pm Buntingford Scouts AGM at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane.
Saturday 7 th	10:00am – 12noon Police Surgery at the Manor House.
Monday 9 th	2:00pm U3A Buntingford monthly meeting. Seth Ward Community Centre. See page 45 for full details.
Wednesday 11 th	12:30pm – 2:30pm Buntingford WI Spring Lunch. Soup and roll just £1.50 at Benson Hall. All welcome. See page 47 for full details.
Thursday 12 th	7:30pm for 7:45pm Buntingford WI at URC Hall. 'Where we came from and who we are' by Rory O'Brien.
Thursday 12 th	8:00pm British Legion. All members welcome at the Crown PH.
Friday 13 th	7:00pm for 7:30pm start. Co-op Buntingford Quiz night at The Bury. Proceeds go to Edwinstree Middle School. See page 13 for details.
Saturday 14 th	2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – bingo at Benson Hall.
Saturday 14 th	8:00pm – 11:30pm Buntingford Town Twinning Association present An American Square Dance at Freman College. See page 39 for details.
Wednesday 18 th	10:30am – 12noon BALA Coffee morning at Benson Hall.
Friday 20 th	Disco at Seth Ward Community Centre for 13-17 year olds. See page 42 for details.
Friday 20 th	7:00pm – 10:00pm Edwinstree Gig Night, Edwinstree Middle School. See page 11 for full details.
Friday 20 th	8:00pm Buntingford Railway & Local History Society at The Crown PH. 'An Enthusiast's Story' by Grahame Ainge.
Wednesday 25 th	2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – bingo at Benson Hall.
Wednesday 25 th	7:00pm for 7:30pm Buntingford & District Flower Club 'Spring Symphony' by Alan Smith, at Benson Hall.

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARCH

Tuesday 3 rd – Saturday 7 th	7:30pm Ware Operatic presents Orpheus in the Underworld. (Saturday matinee 2:30pm) See page 48 for full details.
Saturday 7 th	10:00am – 12noon Great Horstead Farmers Market, Village Hall.
Saturday 7 th	7:30pm Recital of 18th-century music by French and English composers performed by Trio Flautando, at St Mary's Church, Reed. See page 25 for details.
Friday 13 th and Saturday 14 th	Buntingford Dancing School Show – 'Cinemotion', at Broxbourne Civic Hall. See page 11.
Saturday 14 th	9:30am – 12noon Sandon Growers Market.
Saturday 14 th	7:30pm Music@St. Mary's Church, Braughing, Jazz – The Dixieland All Stars. See page 13 for details.

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday 3 rd April	7:30pm for 8:00pm Royal British Legion Quiz Night at Benson Hall. See page 47 for details.
Wednesday 22 nd April	7:30pm Buntingford Civic Society AGM at Benson Hall.
1 st , 2 nd , 8 th and 9 th May	Buntingford Dramatic Society – 'We did it our way', a variety show with a difference.
Saturday 16 th May	The Overtures are performing at Freman College. Tickets £12. See page 17 for full details.
Saturday 6 th June	Youth Council's 'Buntingford's got Talent'.

If you would like to have your event in these diary of events pages, please contact **Aliya Chowney** on **01763 272040** or email: aliyachowney@btinternet.com

Please note: The Civic Society also provides a diary for local organisations to enter their events to ensure they do not clash. This is now in the Manor House.

EDITORIAL

I am pleased to report that I have received 13 essay entries for our essay writing competition. I was panicking a bit (a lot actually) when, one week before the competition deadline, I had received the grand total of 0 entries, yes that's right, zero. So you can imagine how delighted (and relieved) I was, when in the final six days they started to roll in. The panel of judges are busy evaluating them as we speak and the winner and two runners-up will be announced in the next edition of the Journal. I must say they make very interesting reading, all bringing up local issues of one sort or another. The biggest issue this age group have is the lack of amenities for the youth of Buntingford. I will report on these in more detail at a later date and hopefully some of their issues can be taken on board by people who can make a difference.

The essay writing competition has stirred up some interest with other Civic Societies, and I was invited by the Civic Trust to join in a live web discussion, on Wednesday 18th February, to answer questions regarding this initiative from Civic Societies around the country. One hundred and fifty people visited the forum during the hour we were live and I answered as many questions as I could. It's really good that people are interested in what we do in Buntingford, and would like to try similar things.

Once again we have a very full edition of the Journal and I have tried to accommodate everyone who has sent in their contributions. Apologies to those of you who would have liked 'bigger' adverts for upcoming events, but you have all got a mention.

Please note that Joyce Jackson will no longer be the contact for the diary of event pages. We've had a discussion and it seems logical for this to be passed to me. Joyce and I will liaise closely over the coming months to try and ensure a smooth handover. Thank you Joyce for all your hard work.

I would also like to mention that I am due to be changing my broadband provider, and so if everything goes to plan, my new email will be **aliyachowney@btinternet.com**. The changeover should take place at the end of February. I will endeavour to confirm receipt of any articles emailed to me and suggest that if you don't receive confirmation, give me a call.

**Deadline for the April Journal is
Tuesday 17th March 2009**

Many thanks to Christine Noble for proof-reading

Copy: Aliya Chowney, 5 Longmead, Buntingford SG9 9EF (01763 272040)

new email: aliyachowney@btinternet.com

Advertising enquiries: Bob Jackson (01763 271463) email: henryjack@msn.com

Diary entries: Aliya Chowney (01763 272040) email: aliyachowney@btinternet.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

by post

These last few weeks have been very sad. In December my last sibling Sam died, then on 26th January I had a telephone message to say Lavinia Baker had died; she was my cousin.

My dad, Ernest Smith and Lavinia's dad, Bill, were brothers. We lived in one side of the big house at Throcking Hall; Lavinia and her family lived in the other side.

Dad was the Bandmaster in the Buntingford Town Silver Band and Uncle Bill played the cornet. Sam also played in the band, but stopped when he went in the RAF to do his National Service.

When I was only young, Uncle Bill became very ill, but didn't realise how ill he actually was. I remember being asked to go to Buntingford, on my bike, to get a jar of Bovril that he had asked for. Unfortunately, by the time I got home, he had passed away.

George, Lavinia's brother, lived next door to my best friend, Mavis Kirkwood, at Throcking. He and his wife used to go into Mavis's after tea to watch the TV. This was in the early 50s and they were the only friends we had who owned a TV.

Lavinia got married at Throcking Church. She walked to the church and Doris, her sister, said she did look lovely.

After Lavinia's dad passed away, Lavinia and her mother moved down to Buntingford. Sam came out of the RAF and went back to work at the K L in Letchworth and we moved into the other side of the house in Throcking Hall, as it was bigger than our side and we needed more room as there were nine of us.

After Lavinia and her mother left I did not see them again. We stayed at Throcking until I was 17 when we moved to Greenways.

They were very happy days on the farm and I was so sad when we left and I never knew the reason why we moved. My sister Mary, her husband Clifford and their children stayed at Throcking Hall for a while before moving to Greenfield, Throcking.

I look back with fond affection on my life at Throcking with all my family, but sadly I am the only one here today. I have put such a lot down on paper for my grandchildren, so that in years to come they can read about their Grandma and all her family.

Joan Boyle (nee Smith)
Oldham, Lancs.



Dear Sirs

by email

Did he walk or was he pushed?

Well, he was there at lunchtime on Tuesday but by teatime he was gone! Did our snowman have magical powers and go off exploring while he still could, or did someone think it was fine to dismember him and take him somewhere else?

My grandchildren, their mother and we, their grandparents, spent an enjoyable couple of hours on Monday afternoon building our friend, the snowman. He had large buttons down his front, large goggle eyes, carrot nose and mouth etc. He looked the part and we were interested to see how long he would last at the entrance to our house.

Knowing he was standing there in the morning, imagine my surprise when all that was left was a small pile of snow in the afternoon. The bulk of it was missing. I wonder why it is that anyone should think it is fine to destroy someone's handiwork?

In the summer my grandson nurtured a pumpkin on the allotment. So during the week before Halloween we went to cut it. Someone had got there before us and all that was left was the stalk! How do you explain these things to a four and seven year old? They were very upset.

This may all seem very trivial but there is something very wrong with the way society is going if we are not instilling into people from a young age that they should show respect for others.

Marilyn Cantor
Fairfield – Buntingford



LAVINIA G E (VIN) BAKER



On Monday 26th January, Mrs Lavinia Baker of Archers, Buntingford, died at the age of 89. She was known to many as Vin or Vinnie and will be sadly missed.

Lavinia Baker (nee Smith) was born in Baldero Cottages, Baldock Road, Buntingford in 1919, the fifth of the six children born to William and Gertrude Smith. She attended Buntingford C of E School, which is now known as Layston School. The family later moved into Throcking Hall farmhouse where she lived until she moved to her home in Archers in 1948.

Lavinia joined the Buntingford Guides in 1930 and later became one of the first six Rangers; this period was the beginning of her sixty-year's contribution to voluntary work in the community.

Lavinia's connection with the British Red Cross Society started when the Rangers received First Aid training and during this period she worked part-time at Hertford Hospital. By the time the Second World War started, Lavinia was a full-time member of the Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment and spent the war years nursing at Haymeads Emergency Hospital, which is now the Herts & Essex Hospital at Bishop's Stortford.

Nursing staff were accustomed to regular ambulance trains, full of wounded servicemen, arriving at the hospital. The wards contained a mixture of allied service personnel and civilians, as well as German and Italian prisoners of war. From 1942 onwards, wounded American aircrews from local bases were also admitted.

In 1944, Lavinia married Reg Baker while he was on a 48-hour leave from active flying service with the RAF in the Far East. After the war, they made their home in Buntingford, with sons Christopher and Peter. By this time, Lavinia had resumed local Red Cross work and was initially Assistant Cadet Officer, then later Cadet Officer, of the Buntingford Unit. Many dozens of girls, then from 1965, boys too, came under her instruction. In September 1968, great areas of Buntingford and its surrounds were flooded. Lavinia was instrumental in co-ordinating the Red Cross response by providing equipment, food, clothing and shelter to local people, then organising and assisting in the mopping-up operations in the aftermath. Lavinia was made a Life Member of the British Red Cross Society and was awarded its Badge of Honour for her life-long achievements.

Generations of local people will also remember Lavinia for her work for almost 25 years with the Hertfordshire County Dental Service, which provided dental care for pupils at 13 schools in and around Buntingford. After retirement, Lavinia continued her voluntary work into the 1990s by undertaking a course in Macmillan Care and helping at the Isabel Hospice at the QE II at Welwyn Garden City, and was a member of the local fund-raising committee.

Illness and failing eyesight in recent years curtailed her active role after sixty years of voluntary service to the community.

Lavinia Baker is survived by her two sons and two grandsons, James and Marcus.

(Adapted from an original article by Val Hume with her kind permission)

Edwinstree Gig Night

March 20th

7pm – 10pm

Edwinstree Middle School

Bands "ARC" and Edwinstree bands

Adults £3 • Children £2

Amanda Mitchell, Head of Music at Edwinstree, said "The children involved in last year's Gig Night had such a good time that there is already quite a bit of excitement about the event this year. It was a fantastic experience for all the Edwinstree performers to share the stage, and equipment, of a semi-professional adult band. Some of the funds we raised for the school have already been used to buy equipment for our Samba band."



Kate Baxter performing at the Gig Night 2008 ➡

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

The Buntingford Dancing School Show

'Cinemotion'

Friday 13th March at 5:30pm

Saturday 14th March at 2:00pm and 5:30pm

Broxbourne Civic Hall



Approximately 180 children will be taking part in Cinemotion, and the majority come from Buntingford and the surrounding villages. The performances are all inspired by the world of cinema, with children dancing and singing to well-known musical excerpts from the movies.

Tickets on sale from 28th February. Contact Philippa McMeechan for more details on 01763 271010.

Please take a look at the new website www.buntingforddancingschool.co.uk.

B A L A
Buntingford Action for the Less Able
Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips for March 2009

Thurs 5 th	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town centre	Bus £4
Mon 9 th	10:30am – 3:00pm	Cambridge – shopping	Bus £7
Wed 11 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	Bus £4
Frid 13 th	10:30am – 3:00pm	Brookfield Centre – M&S, Boots etc. (also Easier Living Mobile Exhibition)	Bus £7
Thurs 19 th	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town centre	Bus £4
Tues 24 th	10:30am – 2:00pm	Letchworth – drop-off at Morrisons	Bus £5
Thurs 26 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	Bus £4

April 2009

Thurs 2 nd	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town centre	Bus £4
Sat 18 th	2:30pm	Performance 'Beauty & the Beast' at Gordon Craig. Tickets £15	Bus £4

**To book a seat or for more information
phone 01763 273623 or 01763 271708**

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 18th March

Benson Hall

10:30am – 12noon

Coffee ★ Raffle ★ Cakes ★ Bric-a-Brac ★ Marmalade ★ Tombola

Proceeds for the mini-bus



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING?

If you or someone you know is deaf or hard of hearing, there is an emergency text messaging service that is now in use to allow you to contact the Emergency Services.

To use this service, text **07786 207 091** stating which emergency service is required – Police, Fire or Ambulance, where they are needed and what the problem is.

PCSO 6666 Amanda Higham
Buntingford Safer Neighbourhood Team

Braughing Music Society

Music @ St. Mary's Church, Braughing

Saturday 14th March at 7:30pm

Jazz – The Dixieland All Stars

A top quality group of professional jazz musicians come together to perform a fantastic programme of Dixieland jazz. Led by John Bridge on trombone, band members' credits include the BBC Big Band, Diana Ross, the Midnight Follies Orchestra and the Pasadena Roof Orchestra. The Band performs at events ranging from concert halls to open air fetes, and aims for high quality and thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

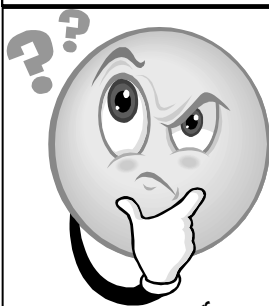
Tickets: £12, £10 or £15 on the door. Children – free

For further information and tickets please email, telephone or fax:

Telephone: 01763 289073

bookings@braughingmusicsociety.co.uk

Visit our website: www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk



Licensed bar

Co-op Buntingford are organising a **Quiz Night**

Friday 13th March 2009

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

at The Bury

(former Sainsbury depot)

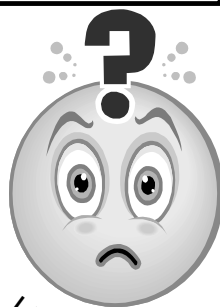
Teams of up to a maximum of 8

£6 per person (includes ploughman's)

**Contact Deb on 01763 274321 or 01763 271522
to register your team now**

All proceeds go to **Edwinstree Middle School**

(This event was postponed from last month due to bad weather)



Licensed bar

Just up your street

The proprietor of Hemingway's gentlemen's grooming, Janet Hemingway and her son, Allister, had the ambition to open a quality gentlemen's hairdressing salon for many years. Allister is a master barber and worked for many years at the Royal barber, Geo F Trumper of Mayfair. He is a shaving specialist and has represented Trumper's at international trade fairs and has also worked with Gillette, both in the UK and in New York. Allister has appeared on television demonstrating shaving techniques and in 2004 received the National Hairdressing Federation award for 'Hairdresser to the Male Celebrity of the Year'.



After living in the Buntingford area for ten years, the opportunity arose to purchase 39 High Street. It was an excellent time to turn their ambition into reality, as the building was exactly the right specification they needed. It is located in a conservation area and ideally situated to serve Buntingford and the outlying towns and villages. So in August 2007 the business opened its doors and since then has built up a regular clientele, with customers from as far a field as Sawbridgeworth, Much Hadham, Royston, Clavering and Baldock.

The building itself dates back to Tudor times, although it now has a Victorian frontage of beautiful Cambridgeshire brick and the internal structure is lathe and plaster. In its past life, the building has been a public house, 'The Star of India', a greengrocers, a barbers and a furniture showroom.

Janet says, "We have attempted to create a high quality, family friendly salon, where mothers as well as fathers and their children feel welcome and can relax.

"We offer our own exclusive range of Badger shaving brushes and razors; Geo F Trumper shaving creams, aftershave etc., as well as Kent combs and brushes. American Crew products are also available. For that special gift we supply Shaving and Gift Vouchers redeemable in the salon. Bookings are quite popular for clients who wish to have their shave or haircut guaranteed at the time of their choosing, but walk-ins are also available, particularly on weekdays.

"We very much look forward to having a long relationship with Buntingford and aim to give every assistance to the well being of the Town centre, so that it is able to provide a welcoming and comprehensive range of services for many years to come."

So, if you fancy a really close shave or just a quick trim, give Allister a call on 01763 271 842, or just drop in to 39 High Street which, of course, you will find '**Just up your Street**'.



Allister at work

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS CLUB

The February meeting of the Gardeners Club was an excellent evening. It was a pity that snow and ice on untreated side roads and pavements prevented a number of members from attending the talk. It was really very good, so much so that we are thinking of asking Mr Skerry to talk to us again next year (the programme for this year is now complete), perhaps when the weather is more likely to be kind.

The members who did attend were told about a visit that has been arranged to Savill Gardens in Windsor, on Tuesday 12th May. If you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 4th March but would like to go on this trip, please call Roy or Marion on 01763 271578, who will be able to tell you more about the visit and add your name to the list.

As I have just noted, the Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 4th March 2009, at 7:45pm for 8:00pm in the URC Hall. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. We shall be able to tell you much more about the plans for visits, speakers etc. for the coming year, so please do come along.

Sue Iles has decided to relinquish her post as Secretary after a number of years. She will be sorely missed, by me in particular.

The competition this month is a daffodil, and hopefully there should be some out by then, provided the snow and ice does not come back.

See you all on 4th March.

Margaret Howarth

Buntingford Dramatic Society

Many thanks to our wonderful audiences and all who helped to
make our recent performance

Cinders – the true story
so successful.

Special thanks go to Kirkhams newsagent
for their kind support as our box office.

Our next show will be on the 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th May 2009

'We did it our way'
a Variety Show with a difference!

For details visit www.buntingforddrama.org



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



Since my last Journal entry we have not seen much football at all. Of the seven Buntingford Town matches scheduled during the first half of February only two took place.

Usually, at this time of the year, games are called off because of heavy rainfall. Since the start of 2009 we have seen both rain and snow, and the long-suffering pitch at The Bury just hasn't had the opportunity to drain properly or dry out. Training at both Baldock and the Norfolk Road facility has been impossible too, but I'm sure normal service will be resumed as soon as possible. Weather permitting!

Indeed, it was not only Buntingford who were affected, but also most of the teams in Hertfordshire. During the first fortnight of February just ten of the scheduled 45 Herts Senior County League fixtures took place; the League's fixture secretary now has a real headache! We can only guess how many double-headers and evening kick-offs we will have to cater for over the next two months.

Of course the lack of football does not mean that we have been idle. The club still needs to run even if action on the pitch is sparse. Thanks to our fund-raising efforts we have now purchased some more match balls, training balls and other equipment. This would not be possible without all the support we get from our sponsors and website advertisers, and of course those of you who attend our quiz nights and other fundraisers – thank you.

I recently received an e-mail from a former player, Mike Baldwin, who played for the club some 35 years ago. He would like to get in touch with other players he knew at the time; if anyone remembers Mike and wants to contact him, just let me know via our website and I'll pass your details to him.

Requests such as these remind me of the club's longevity. When I became Chairman at the end of last season, I was fully aware of the responsibility I was taking on – Buntingford Town FC has been in existence for over 110 years now and that is a lot of heritage to be proud of. Perhaps one day I will get round to documenting the club's history – we'll see!

Forthcoming fixtures (check our website for updates).

Date	Team	Opposition
Sat 28 th Feb	First Team Reserves	London Lions Sarratt Res.
Sun 1 st Mar	Veterans	Standon & Puckeridge Vets
Sat 7 th Mar	First Team Reserves	Metropolitan Police Bushey Baldock Town Letchworth Res.
Sun 8 th Mar	Veterans	Standon & Puckeridge Vets

Chris Thurgill
Chairman, Buntingford Town FC



**BUNTINGFORD CARNIVAL
COMMITTEE**



Presents



at
Freman College, Bowling Green Lane

Saturday 16th May 2009

7:30pm for 8:00pm

Licensed Bar

Tickets £12 *in advance only*, available from:
Bell House Gallery • Basras Supermarket •
Town Council Clerk's Office or telephone 01763 272177

Limited seating available



CAN YOU OFFER A WORK PLACEMENT TO ONE OF OUR STUDENTS?

We are very keen to hear from any local businesses, (or further a field), who would be prepared to offer a work placement for one of our students, from 8th – 12th June 2009.

This is especially important this year, as the current economic climate has lead to a reduction in placements available, and we want to ensure all our 1 Year students have the opportunity to attend a placement.

Please contact Ms Jones on 01763 271818 if you think you can help.



BUNTINGFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

'HAVE A VOICE' – A Full Agenda

The Civic Trust AGM was an impressive occasion mainly due to the keynote presentation by the Chairman, Philip Kolvin. He outlined the successes of the Trust, and did not pull any punches on the challenges the movement faces in these difficult economic times.

The successes include:

- The new Trust website (access through buntingfordcivic.org or civictrust.org).
- The increased diversity and geographical spread of Heritage Open Days.
- The development of the new Purple Flag scheme (a new international standard for the management of town and city centres at night).
- Meeting the Government targets for Green Flag awards.
- Responses on a range of subjects such as the Planning White Paper, Housing Green Paper and Tree Preservation Order procedures.

The challenges are related to the contraction of sponsorship from the private sector and the urgent need to restructure the Trust, to capitalise on its 700+ societies and c.250,000 membership, to have a real influence at national level. The President, Griff Rhys Jones, has launched an appeal for funds, and members would have received information on this with last month's Journal. In support of the appeal, Buntingford Civic Society donated £300 on behalf of members and Journal readers.

To return to local matters – please make a note in your diary that our AGM will be held on Wednesday 22nd April, at Benson Hall. This is the opportunity for you to come forward and offer your services to the Society and the Town. The spring will also be time to renew membership and we will be seeking permission, under the terms of the Data Protection Act, to hold your email addresses in order that, from time to time, the Society can consult you regarding key issues impacting on Buntingford and surrounding villages. You only need to look at the East of England plan on the Go-East website to know that there are many topics on which you may wish to express an opinion.

As we go to press the severe winter weather appears to be easing, but it has certainly left its mark in damage to roads and pavements. If there is a particularly bad pothole that you know about, please report it to Hertfordshire Highways on 01438 737320 or 01923 471320, or via www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults and copy our Town Council.

The Civic Society, together with residents from Greenways and the Willows, recently attended a meeting of the East Herts Council Development Control Committee, in order to object to the granting of outline permission for the development of 50 houses on the land between Greenways and the A10 bypass. Our objection was based on the fact that:

- a) The development was outside the Town boundary and in an area of Rural Land outside the Green Belt and contrary to the policies of the East Herts Plan.
- b) The development was not necessary to meet the requirements of the East of England Plan.

While a) was acknowledged by the Council, the Planning Officer maintained that the Council had an obligation to find a supply of building land to meet the requirements of the East of England Plan. This swayed the Committee and outline planning permission was granted (on an eight to seven vote) subject to certain terms and conditions. It is now up to the people of Buntingford to ensure that these terms and conditions are applied and that the vast majority of trees and hedgerows subject to a preservation order, are retained.

Finally, we will see Budgens in our High Street this month – we wish them every success and look forward to a positive contribution to the Town. High Street trading is so important in terms of employment and competition and sustainability of the community.

Derek K Cooper, Chairman

ih Isabel Hospice
Local Care for Local People since 1982



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 2nd March 2009 19:15 – 23:00

A Night to Remember – Join us in a beautiful starlit marquee in the grounds of The Laurels, Ware Park, Ware, for a relaxing evening of dinner and entertainment. World-renowned mind reader and psychologist, Graham P Jolley, will entertain us. Tickets are £55 per person, which includes dinner. Telephone Barbara Doherty on 01279 842140 or email barbara.doherty@tiscali.co.uk.

Friday 6th March 2009 19:30 – 23:00

Casino Night – A casino night in aid of Isabel Hospice at Wodson Park, Ware. Organised by Michaela Keates. Tickets £20, please call 07708 366564.

Saturday 7th March 2009 14:30 – 16:30

Isabel Hospice Jumble Sale – Thundridge Village Hall at 2:30pm. Contact 01920 462992 for details.

Sunday 8th March 2009 09:15

Big Fun Walk, London Parks – Once again the North London Hospice has invited Isabel Hospice supporters to participate in the beautiful 7.5 mile Big Fun Walk across the parks of London. The walk takes in Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Wood, Parliament Hill, Belsize Park, Primrose Hill, Regents Park, Green Park, St James Park and finishes at Westminster for tea and jazz. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Dogs welcome. Check in is at 9:15am at East Finchley underground station for those wishing to walk with Isabel Hospice Group. Registration forms are available from Renee Friend on 01279 755320.

Saturday 28th March 2009 19:00 – 23:00

Quiz Evening – A quiz evening being organised by North Mymms group at Memorial Hall, Welham Green. Light refreshments are available, but bring your own drink and glasses. Contact Fran on 01707 265333 or Meg on 01707 658531.

The Isabel Hospice Head Office has moved from Griffin House in Welwyn Garden City to 61 Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 1JR. Our new telephone number is 01707 382500. The In-Patient Unit and Day Hospice have not moved.



EDWINSTREE MIDDLE SCHOOL

We have had an interesting and varied February, with pupils from all Year groups participating in a Samba workshop; *Shaking up Shakespeare* with actor Anthony Glenn; a Technology day – making bird boxes; an after school yoga class to celebrate 'Feelin' Good Week' and a Valentines Assembly.

Now we are into a new month and we are celebrating World Book Day, when all the children (and the staff) have the opportunity to dress up as their favourite character from a book. The event last year was extremely successful, with some brilliant ideas and wonderful costumes (as photos below show).



Also in March, our Year Seven pupils are going on an educational visit to Boulogne for the day, where they will be practising their French language skills and have the opportunity to experience the French culture.

At the end of the month, Year Eight students are going on a five-day visit to France, staying in a château in southern Normandy. They will be visiting Mont Saint-Michel, St Malo, Fougères Castle, St Hilaire Market and a cheese farm.

The roles for *The Keymaster*, our Year Five Easter production, have been cast and everyone is busy learning their lines.

Rehearsals for our second 'Gig Night,' taking place on Friday 20th March, are also going well. (See page 11 for details)

Unfortunately the Quiz Night had to be cancelled due to the wintry weather conditions, but the Co-op has kindly re-arranged it for Friday 13th March. (See page 13 for details)

Diane George

SUSAN BRADFELD – PROFESSIONAL MAKE-UP ARTIST

August 2007 was a big time for change for Susan Bradfield and her family. It was the month that they finalised their move from Stevenage to Buntingford. Moving to Buntingford was always on the cards as two of her sons already attended the local schools and her youngest was due to start at pre-school. It made sense to make this move as Susan and her husband wanted their children to be able to walk to school and be able to socialise with their friends from Buntingford. "We have always loved Buntingford, my Nan and Grandad lived in Hare Street and my Aunt and Uncle still live in the area."

Not only did they move in August 2007, but it was also the time that Susan's business took a huge leap too.

Already working as a successful Professional Make-up Artist, Susan applied to join the regional team of celebrity make-up artist, Daniel Sandler. Daniel has worked with the likes of Naomi Campbell, Kate Moss and Yasmin Le Bon. Within half an hour of applying for the position by email, Susan received a call asking her to attend an interview with Daniel Sandler at Harrods.



Susan had to go through a tough selection process to be chosen for the team. When she attended her interview in London, she had to apply make-up to a model and show Daniel her portfolio. There were also further interviews with other members of his management team. "It's a privilege to be chosen", Susan said. "I was unbelievably nervous and was overwhelmed when I was called to say I had been selected!"

To complete her training, Susan was personally trained by Daniel Sandler himself. He also gave her some top make-up tips, showing her how to apply them using his range of cosmetics, which are available for all her clients to buy.

The Daniel Sandler range of products is sold exclusively in the Urban Retreat at Harrods, but the idea of having a regional team, was to bring his make-up and expert knowledge for applying make-up to women all over the country.

Susan has already had a successful time since joining the team. As well as being one of the leading wedding make-up artists in Hertfordshire, Susan has also worked at the 2008 London Fashion Week; three films; GHD Awards 2008; GHD National Tour 2008 and as Make-up Artist at the regional finals of the L'Oreal Colour Trophy 2008.

As well as working on the fashion circuit Susan is also available for 1-1 and group make-up lessons, weddings, special occasions, fashion/photographic make-up, TV and film.

Susan says, "I am so lucky to have the job that I do. I create individual make-up looks for such a wide range of people, whether it is for the catwalk, photo shoots, brides or make-up lessons. Not one job is the same and I have met some amazing people and made some lifelong friends. The beauty of working for myself is that I can still be there for my family. I have a husband, three children and a new dog, so family time for me is very important. I still do school runs, walk the dog and then go on to see clients. It can be crazy at times but I wouldn't change it for the world."

For more information or to book an appointment, contact Susan on 07903 880524 or email susan.bradfield@sky.com and take a look at her website www.susanbmakeup.co.uk

buntingford & district youth club

Buntingford & District Youth Project runs on a Monday evening from 7:30pm until 9:45pm, and is for young people aged 13 to 19 years. The project is run by the HCC Youth Connexions department, in co-operation with the project management committee. The aim of the project is to provide young people with a safe place to meet and socialise whilst learning life skills and experiences from which they will gain positive outcomes. Monday evenings regularly attract 25-40 young people who engage in organised activities, including cooking, drug and alcohol awareness, music rap workshops, weights and fitness sessions, beauty awareness, sports, sexual health awareness, arts, crafts and outdoor activities.

The project has recently set up a young people's committee and as this develops they will have a greater input into decision-making. The sessions are led by one of the full-time youth workers in the area – Russell Cairns. He oversees the project and ensures that all sessions are supervised by a team of trained and experienced staff, who get to know all the young people well. The young people would like more than one night a week at the Youth Project and consideration is being given to a second night, but this development is not imminent as it is dependent on accessing additional funding to run the sessions and on availability of staff.

Another crucial area where the project needs support is from adults willing to join the management group. This would involve volunteers coming along to an evening meeting every month or two and carrying out a few actions in between from time to time. Involvement in the management group is not an onerous task but is very satisfying. We gratefully acknowledge the help and support that we have recently received from Buntingford Town Council, Buntingford Social Club and St. Richard's Church Wednesday Bingo Players.

For more information please contact **Russell Cairns on 07889 288944.**

To advertise in the
Buntingford Journal
call Bob Jackson on

01763 271463

LOGS FOR SALE

Cut to size by request

Delivered to your home

Hay and Haylage



Please contact John on:

Tel: 01763 272516

Mobile: 07773 845648



GARDENING YEAR MARCH



Last March I was complaining that our winters were getting warmer and therefore garden pests were more numerous in the spring. Well let's hope, following this very cold and snowy winter, that garden pests are much reduced this year. Writing this on the 8th February, I must presume that, when you read this article in March, you can now see your garden through the snow and that frosts are much reduced.

General tasks

- Give your flowerbeds a good tidy. Weed and fork over the soil.
- Jet-wash or scrub slippery patios, paths and decking.
- Kill weeds on paths and renew pointing between slabs if necessary.

Vegetables

- Plant onion sets, shallots and early potatoes near the end of the month.
- In an unheated greenhouse or cold frame, sow lettuce, leeks, broad beans, spinach, onions and peas to give them a head start over outdoor sowing.

Trees and Shrubs

- Prune hybrid teas, floribunda and standard roses if frost free.
- Move any deciduous trees and shrubs by early March.
- Feed wisteria with liquid rose fertiliser this month and again in June.
- Prune buddleia davidii, fuchsias, willow and deciduous ceanothus.
- Tidy overgrown climbers.

Lawns

- Begin mowing if the weather is dry, with the mower blades set high.
- Lay turf before the end of the month and re-cut lawn edges.

Flowers

- Divide overcrowded perennials.
- Plant new alpine and generally tidy the rockery.
- Plant lily bulbs and gladioli corms.

Ponds

- Begin regular feeding of fish if they are active and the weather is warm.
- Later in the month put pumps and lights back into the water.
- Remove any protective netting and plant debris left from last season.

Top Tips

- If you have long-term residents in pots, such as box or bay, remove the top few centimetres of compost and replace with fresh.
- Lift and divide ornamental grasses and herbaceous perennials to double your plants at no extra cost.

Brian Lemay
brian.lemay@talktalk.net



Free Radio Advertising for Buntingford!

If you are running an event in Buntingford or in the surrounding villages, such as a Village Fete; School PTA Event; Town Carnival; Christmas Shopping Night etc., let me help you advertise it with a free shout on our local radio station – Hertbeat FM 106.9FM! *(Please note that this is not for private business advertising.)*

Hertbeat FM has a weekly audience of over 50,000 people in Stevenage, Hertford, Ware, Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, Hitchin and Letchworth – and everywhere in between. Almost half the listeners have children. Imagine how much exposure we can give Buntingford and how much more trade we can bring to our town.

All you need to do is send me the event details – the date; time; entrance price; key selling points etc. I will pass it all on to Hertbeat FM, who will then tell all of Hertfordshire about it.

Contact me by phone on 07931 619161 or via email at helen@playmoderntennis.com.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Helen Littleford



MEET YOUR LOCAL PCSO, AMANDA HIGHAM

If you have any issues you would like to talk about with me,
your Police Community Support Officer, or you just want to say hello,
I will be at the specified venues as listed below.

Date:	Time:	Venue:
Tuesday 3 rd March	12:00pm – 1:00pm	Village Hall, Meesden
Wednesday 4 th March	1:00pm – 1:45pm	High Street, Hare Street
Tuesday 10 th March	3:15 – 4:00pm	Village Hall, Brent Pelham
Wednesday 18 th March	10:00am – 10:45am	outside Anstey Church
Wednesday 25 th March	1:00pm – 2:00pm	Community Centre, Puckeridge

I look forward to seeing you.

Your events on the Web!

If your charity, school, society or clubs events are being advertised in the Buntingford Journal, we are now able to offer you an **additional** feature. The Buntingford Civic Society have set up an events section on their website, at www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk, to post upcoming events, replicating those published in the Journal. This should mean that your event advertisement will get seen by a larger audience, resulting in increased attendance.

For more information, please contact **Aliya Chowney on 01763 272040**



LAYSTON C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

CANDLE MAKING

This week we have been thinking about Jesus being 'the light of the world' and that the darkness can't overcome the light. The whole school have been busy making candles.

In reception class we made candles of different shapes, we cut them out and painted them. We made our flames with tissue paper. Year 1 used marbling inks and there are some 3D candles too. We are going to put them on the wall in the hall. Everyone has made candles so there will be 140 candles on the wall – it will look great!



By Harry Western and Thomas Ryman

St Mary's Church, Reed

Saturday March 7th at 7:30pm

Trio Flautando

A recital of 18th century works by French and English composers
performed by Trio Flautando

Evelyn Frank – flute, Helen Liebman – cello, Stephen Knight – harpsichord



Tickets £8.00

For further information please phone

01763 271912

Buntingford Journal is published by, but is editorially independent of, Buntingford Civic Society. It is delivered free to members of the Civic Society or it can be purchased from:

**A CUT ABOVE • BASRAS SUPERMARKET • MARK DOEL • CO-OP SUPERMARKET
HARE STREET SHOP & FILLING STATION • KIRKHAMS • PIGGOTTS
DELISSIMO • WESTMILL TEA ROOM • COUNTRY FLOWERS**

SNOW JOKE

By the time this article is read I trust the snow of early February will be but a distant memory. Indeed, inclement weather always is more enjoyable when you do not have to suffer it, and distance seems to highlight the more dramatic and pleasurable aspects.

During this most recent arctic visitation I, along with numerous other wrinklies, couldn't help but regale anybody who would listen, with tales of the big freezes of '62/'63, '69 or even '47! "This is not snow mate, it's just a flurry. If you had been there in '63 you would have seen real snow!" Flurry or not, it seemed to have an affect on most of the population in one form or another.

I was heartened by the reaction of so many local people who took time to make sure elderly neighbours were taken care of by way of shopping and the like. The children certainly took full advantage of any school closures throughout the country, which seemed to be triggered by the first flake hitting the ground. This seems yet another by-product of the dubious legislation that allows people to choose where they send their offspring to school, rather than the logical course of going to the nearest school. Sorry, but it's a particular hobbyhorse of mine. Keeping children at schools within the community always has more to commend it than the alternative, on any level.

Fortunately, the high standard of local academia ensures that most of the local children stick locally and are able to walk to school, with only those living in the outlying countryside being at a disadvantage. But it was ever thus, back in the days when we were expected to walk the odd couple of miles, even in poor conditions, you just started out earlier and all in short trousers, of course.

The other observation I found intriguing was the lack of Chelsea tractors on the roads, many of which were purchased for the sole purpose of getting little Johnny to school if it snows? Yet every time the white stuff falls, the schools shut? Still, I am being churlish and should be more accepting of people's reasons for having these great beasts that clog our car parks and appear to be treated as an extra room on wheels, wherein phone calls, make-up application and the like are de rigueur.

The other thing that struck me as odd in these days of the 'net', the 'information super highway' and 'working from home' – there were a lot of people out and about enjoying the winter wonderland. Still perhaps they were on a tea break? Yea, right.

Although I do know that numerous dedicated souls made the arduous trek across ungritted roads, especially those in under-acknowledged essential services, and for that we should be thankful.

Continuing along the wrinkly path, I seem to remember in previous big freezes, snow was not an excuse for being off work or school for that matter. Indeed in the winter of 1962/63, I spent most of it around the Hereford area where, I recall, being cold and wet continually for three months, but any dissension was frowned upon big time. "Good boots lad, that's what you need and keep your head covered, don't stand there shivering, move" was the answer to snowdrifts and sub-zero temperatures and heaving heavy stuff about", accompanied by lots of shouting.

Further back in 1955, my pals and I built an ice/snow fort in the school grounds, and we asked if we could come back after lessons and camp in the fort. The teachers thought it a great idea and returned as it got dark to see if we were okay, then left us to it. Could that happen today? I fully appreciate that Elf and Safety have eliminated many of the dangers that caused so much consternation in the past and occasionally resulted in real tragedy, but have we taken away the resourcefulness that was inbred in children?

Further curmudgeonly machinations prompt me recall other tales from yester-year, which fills me and other wrinklies with sadistic delight. "Cold! I say it was. I use to wake with snow on my bed", was a tale I heard during the recent cold snap. Then, Monty Python like, and not to be out done, another chipped in "Used to walk five miles to work each day and was never late".

I never let an opportunity pass where I can remind my children of what a tough lot we are, and the weather allowed an opportunity to retell an episode from my courting days. This is always received with deep sighs and a tendency towards glazed expressions by the 'captivated' audience, the captivated bit is because I am paying the bill for the meal this time and pudding hasn't arrived. I recall that during the 'big one' I had already walked five miles to work and back that day, then after a break for a meal and change of clothing, set out on another three-mile hike for an evening with the beloved.

Despite my privations, on arriving an unheard of 15 minutes late, the object of my affection was still 'doing her hair' (the beehive effect was all the rage). Eventually we set out, on foot in the snow, for an evening of dancing some one-mile away. (It was in a hall, not in the street.) After an enjoyable evening, we retraced our steps, although by now I was feeling the effects of a long day. Thinking the beloved would recognise the Herculean effort I had made to spend the evening with her, I was expecting a coffee and a cuddle at the very least. But on attaining the doorstep, I was told that she had an early start and "better not come in, as we might wake the parents up". Somewhat crestfallen, I made a brief farewell and before I could step away from the door, it was shut firmly in my face. So firmly, in fact, that the heap of snow that was on the porch crashed down avalanche-like, on top of me, and so I set off for the long march home, muttering as I went.

Therefore, when I hear tales of current hardship, when life and the elements have conspired against us, and when perhaps a poor young soul didn't make it to the nail bar or gym session, or some thrusting turk didn't make it to his office so he could reap more havoc with my pension, I sometimes have to smile inwardly, like all us oldies do.

There is no doubt that in days of yore we were accustomed to hardship and extremes of climate, toughened by the lack of central heating, double glazing or fitted carpets, and by cars without air-con and clothes that weighed a ton when wet. But there was a spirit of toughness and stoicism that seems to be lacking today. Even pride and self-respect in beating the elements seems a long-lost art. But I am bound to say that, given the choice of being in a warm centrally heated home rather than a drafty freezing house, where to keep warm you went to bed in all your clothes – I am on the side of the softies.



Vyse



BUNTINGFORD AND DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

C I U affiliated

6 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS

Telephone 01763 271889

www.buntingfordsocialclub.com

www.lemonrock.com/buntingfordanddistrictsocialclub



STARTING 20TH MARCH AND APPROX. EVERY FIVE WEEKS – GOLF

1st golf day at Barkway

To come and have a great day, please put your name up on the list at the Club

BIG CASH BINGO EVERY MONDAY

Guaranteed £100 minimum snowball prize

ALL WELCOME – start time 8pm

Let's give you a reminder of events

ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS SHOWN, TIMES PERMITTING

There is a quiz on every 2nd Tuesday in the month

🎵 **Live entertainment on Saturdays except**

2nd Saturday in the month 🎵

Plus: Darts ▪ Pool ▪ Snooker ▪ Wii machine ▪ Sky sports and Setanta

We have Club Knockouts for Darts, Crib, Pool, Snooker and Wii Bowling

AND DON'T FORGET, WE SELL THE CHEAPEST PINT IN BUNTINGFORD!

New members always welcome and for any of you lapsed members, you are always welcome to rejoin at anytime.

FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday 16th May – BOYZALLOUD

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT (*Subject to change*)

7 th March	Micaelia Baptiste and her band (Soul Funk)
14 th March	No entertainment but free juke box, pool and snooker
21 st March	Believers
28 th March	Phase
4 th April	Gold

MEMBERS FREE, GUESTS £4 WHEN ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED OR £7 SPECIAL NIGHT

To see more information about the bands go to:
www.lemonrock.com/buntingfordanddistrictsocialclub

get more out of walking with the Ramblers

Royston and District Group

Walks for March

Sunday 1 st	Hitchin, Preston – 10 miles (Leader Chris 01763 246221) Meet at Royston Town Hall car park 9:30am or Hitchin St Mary's Square car park 10:00am
Tuesday 3 rd	Morning walk Great Chishill – 5½ miles (Leaders Janet & Graham 01763 838300) Meet at Heath Sports Centre car park, Baldock Road, Royston 9:30am or Great Chishill Village Hall car park 10:00am
Thursday 5 th	Morning walk Brent Pelham – 5½ miles (Leader Mike 01763 274679) Meet at Heath Sports Centre car park, Baldock Road, Royston 9:30am
Sunday 8 th	Buntingford figure of eight walk – 6 miles + 4 miles (Leader Mike 01763 274679) Meet at Royston Town Hall car park 9:30am or Buntingford High Street car park, Bowling Green Lane (behind Somerfield) 9:50am
Tuesday 10 th	Morning walk Ashwell – 5½ miles (Leader Roger 01462 453752) Meet at Heath Sports Centre car park, Baldock Road, Royston 9:30am or Ashwell, by museum 9:45am
Thursday 12 th	Morning walk Hildersham – 5½ miles (Leader Judy 01223 835126) Meet at Heath Sports Centre car park, Baldock Road, Royston 9:30am or Hildersham, Pear Tree ph 10:00am
Sunday 15 th	Debden figure of eight walk – 6 miles + 4 miles (Leader Lesley 01763 273463) Meet at Royston Town Hall car park 9:30am
Tuesday 17 th	Morning walk Rushden – 5½ miles (Leader Hazel 01763 848349) Meet at Heath Sports Centre car park, Baldock Road, Royston 9:30am or Moon & Stars ph Rushden
Thursday 19 th	Morning walk Chrishall – 5½ miles (Leader Mark 01763 838409) Meet at Heath Sports Centre car park, Baldock Road, Royston 9:30am or Red Cow ph Chrishall 9:50am
Sunday 22 nd	Brent Pelham, Clavering – 10½ miles (Leader Paul 01763 244038) Meet at Royston Town Hall car park 9:30am
Tuesday 24 th	Morning walk Langley, Essex – 5½ miles (Leader Mike 01763 274679) Meet at Heath Sports Centre car park Baldock Road, Royston 9:30am or Bull ph, Langley Lower Green 10:00am
Thursday 26 th	Morning walk Standon – 5½ miles (Leader Bob 01763 271170) Meet at Heath Sports Centre car park, Baldock Road, Royston 9:30am or Standon High Street 10:00am
Sunday 29 th BST begins	Buntingford, Aspenden – 10 miles (Leader Bert 01763 244509) Meet at Heath Sports Centre car park, Baldock Road, Royston 9:30am or Buntingford High Street car park, Bowling Green Lane, behind Somerfield 9:45am
Tuesday 31 st	Morning walk Eversden – 5½ miles (Leader Lane 01763 261565) Meet at Heath Sports Centre car park, Baldock Road, Royston 9:30am

ST. MARY'S – ASPENDEN
ST. PETER'S – BUNTINGFORD
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN – WESTMILL

Church of England

Curate Rev. Glyn Howdle (01920 469632)

Office 01763 271552

Other Ministries include: Kidzone

Small groups (meeting for Bible study, prayer and fellowship),

Men's group, Mothers' Union

There is a full and varied pattern of worship across the three churches

SERVICES FOR MARCH

1 st	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin – Westmill	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	All Age Family Worship
4 th	9:30am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Said Holy Communion (BCP)
8 th	9:30am	St. Mary's – Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Morning Worship
	5:45pm	Nevetts	Songs of Praise
15 th	10:15am	St. Mary's – Aspenden	United Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Family Praise
22 nd	10:00am	St. Mary's – Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St. Peter's – Buntingford	Holy Communion
29 th	10:15am	St. Mary's – Aspenden	United Family Service
		St. Peter's & St. Mary's Westmill are closed	

ST. RICHARD OF CHICHESTER

Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford

Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Father Ian Dickie

HOLY MASS is celebrated each:

Sunday at 9:30am and 6:30pm

Saturday at 6:00pm at Furneux Pelham

Holy Days at 10:00am and 8:00pm

Weekdays at 9:15pm

CONFESSIONS are each Saturday from 10:30am – 11.15am





CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

BALDOCK ROAD

BUNTINGFORD

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

SECRETARIES: Gwen & John Edwards
'Great Stones'
Hare Street
Buntingford
Herts SG9 0AD
Tel: 01763 289460

MORNING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00am

March	1	Morning Worship	Mrs Janet Bothams
	8	Holy Communion	Rev Prof David Thompson
	15	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
	22	Mothering Sunday	Mrs Rosemary Scarrow
	29	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie

LENT GROUPS 2009

This year's Churches Together Lent course will start on Wednesday 4th March and will last for five weeks. The material to be used is from the York series that we have used before and is called '**These three: Faith, Hope and Love**'. There will be two meetings each week and the details of these are:

Wednesdays 12noon for 12:30pm, finish at 2:00 pm (*bring own lunch; drinks provided*)

Wednesdays 7:45pm for 8:00pm, finish at 9:30pm

At the end of the course a Celebration Supper, similar to previous years, will be held on Friday 3rd April at 7:45 pm at Christ Church.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Junior Church meets at 11:00am every Sunday during term time and welcomes all children and young people.

The Bright Hour – a time for fellowship with prayers, hymns, activities and regular visiting speakers – meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm in the Church Hall.

Coffee & Company, organised by '**Churches Together**', is held in the Church Hall every Thursday morning from 10:30am for anyone wanting fellowship and time for a chat.

Lunches organised by Christian Aid are held in the Church Hall from 12:30pm to 2:00pm on the first Friday of the month.

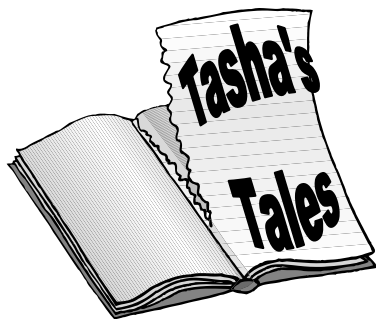
Visit our website at www.buntingfordurc.freesevice.co.uk

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ASPENDEN South Door Renovations

Renovations to the porch over the south door commenced on 9th January and are scheduled to last for approximately 12 weeks. During this time services will be conducted as normal, but access to the church will be via the west door, in the Bell Tower.

The Churchwardens and PCC apologise for any inconvenience caused but if you have any problems or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Clive Alexander, Churchwarden
Telephone 01763 271012



Last month, I told you about my Grandad getting a goat from my Nan for Christmas, as my Grandad wouldn't give my Nan any ideas of what he wanted (other reasons as well), and only kept saying what he didn't want. So my Nan went to the organisation Oxfam and bought a goat to send to a family in a faraway country. The family

the goat was sent to are in need of necessities such as food, water, money and shelter. A single goat can provide all of those things; milk to drink and make cheese and other kinds of food, to keep or to sell to make money. The money they get for the goat's milk, they can spend on buying other food and shelter and other things. All this comes down to **ONE** goat!

My Grandad's reaction when he received his present was really, really funny. He couldn't believe what my Nan had done, but in our family Christmas 2008 will be remembered for years to come, that Grandad got a **GOAT**! Even though my Grandad didn't benefit, the family that were in need did.

Manic Mad March

February 25th is the first day of Lent this year. Lent is when Christians fast and say prayers from dawn to dusk, as it represents the forty-six days that Jesus spent in the desert, where in the Bible it says that Jesus 'endured temptation'. Different Churches calculate the forty days differently. A lot of people nowadays give up one or two things for Lent, such as chocolate, junk food or spending less time watching the TV.

So are you going to give up something?

From my calculations, I think that Lent (this year) is:

25th February – 11th April

Look out in the next issue for

Amazingly Affectionate April

Hope you enjoyed your pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!

A Happy Birthday to my Sister and Dad in March!

Thanks to Beccah Harpin for her contributions



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

Amazingly, the Town Council managed to hold all of its meetings throughout the recent bad weather conditions. There was a point when we may have all been camping out in the Council Chamber!

A recent press article suggested that the Town Council is wasting money on improvements to the Manor House. The Council would like to put the record straight and say that all works undertaken at the Manor House are justified. The Council occupies a small part of the property with the remaining rooms commercially rented to local businesses. Wherever possible, the Council sources local companies to undertake any work we require, as we did in this instance. We make no apologies for this, as we believe it is good practice to attempt to stimulate the local economy.

We now have a definite date for the Youth Council's 'Buntingford's Got Talent', the 6th June 2009. Publicity will shortly be appearing asking for local people to put themselves forward to perform in our own version of the 'X Factor'. Please support the Youth Council in this community event.

Unfortunately, the football pitches have been out of action throughout much of the recent bad weather. A decision is always taken by the centre manager in consultation with the local football clubs.

Notification will shortly appear of the Annual Town Meeting. This is a meeting of the electorate and not the Council, your chance to have a say on what happens in Buntingford.

Jill Jones MILCM
Town Clerk

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH	
Tuesday 3 rd	Youth Council – 4:00pm
Thursday 5 th	Amenities Committee – 7:30pm
Thursday 12 th	Planning Committee – 7:30pm
Thursday 12 th	Resources Committee – 8:00pm
Thursday 26 th	Planning Committee – 7:30pm
Thursday 26 th	Full Council – 8:00pm

All meetings will be held at The Manor House
All members of the public are welcome to attend
Office hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm, closed Fridays

Tel: 01763 272222
email: btc.manorhouse@btclick.com
www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk

THE NIGHT SKY IN MARCH

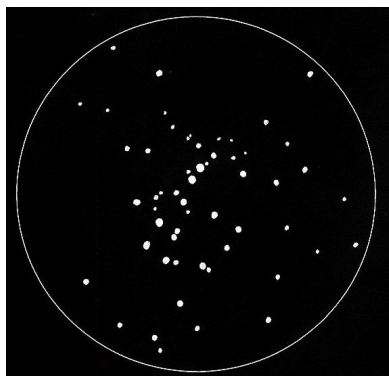


Venus, having illuminated our early evening skies so exquisitely for the past two months, continues its dazzling performance again this month in the west. If you haven't taken a good look at our sister planet, then be sure you do early in the month, as it drops towards the horizon dramatically as the month progresses and will be out of sight as darkness falls at the end of the month. Telescopically Venus will appear as a beautiful slender crescent; very steadily held binoculars offering 10x magnification or greater will also show this dramatic phase.

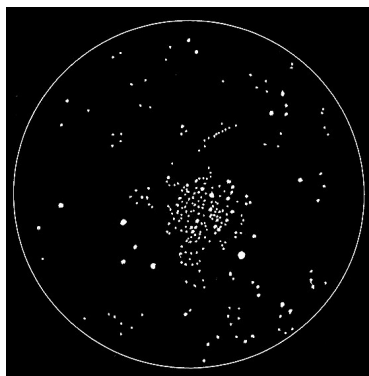
Saturn is well placed for observation just about all night long this month, lying below the haunches of Leo the Lion. The only other planet affording us an opportunity to observe it this month is Jupiter. The second largest body in the solar system after the Sun, Jupiter is visible just before dawn low in the western sky. A crescent moon is close to the planet around 5:30am on the 22nd and to the planet's left at the same time on the 23rd. If you are keen to get a look at Jupiter, then these two mornings are your best chance to pick it out.

The small constellation of Cancer the Crab is high in the south at 9:00pm. This constellation holds two beguiling open clusters of stars; the difference between them is as remarkable as their individual beauty. The brighter, and by far the showier of the two, is known as the 'Beehive' cluster. Catalogued in less colourful terms by astronomers as M44, it is easily visible as a hazy patch to the unaided eye, providing you have skies reasonably free from light pollution. Known since antiquity, the cluster lies at a distance of 515 light years (ly). Galileo, with his primitive telescope, noted 40 stars. In a small modern telescope it should be possible to see some 200. The view in binoculars is most impressive, with a number of the brighter members showing strong coloration.

Approximately two binocular field of view spans below the Beehive cluster, we find a considerably smaller and more delicate gathering of distant suns. It appears diminutive, as it lies more distant, at 2,600 ly. Being considerably more discreet than its showy neighbour, this cluster hasn't been given a descriptive name and is just labelled blandly as M67. Perhaps you could think of an interesting name for it when you observe it? With binoculars you can do little more than detect this cluster, but even a modest telescope using a power of a 50x or more, will show stars in profusion, tightly grouped. This cluster is my favourite of the two. Which do you prefer?

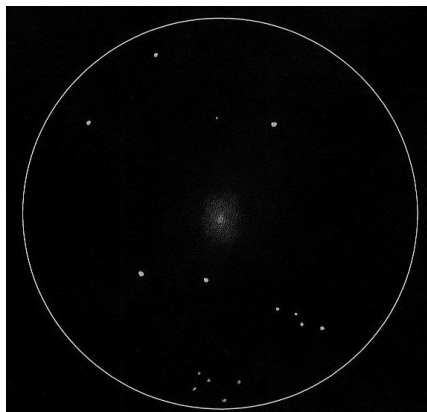


M44 the 'Beehive' cluster



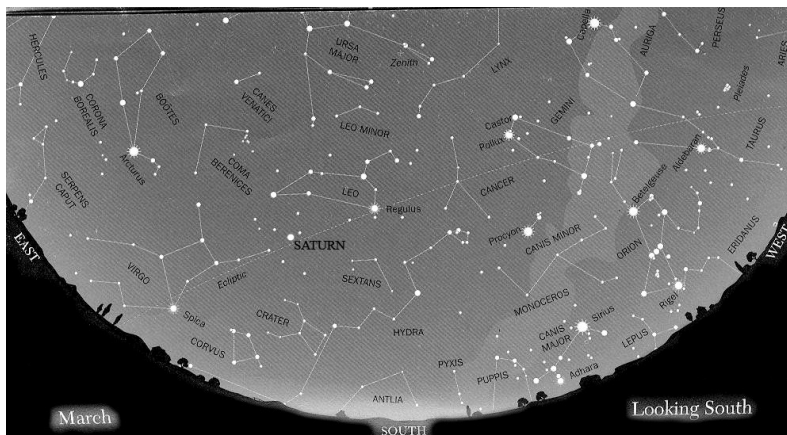
M67 is five times more distant than M44

I have made a number of observations of Comet Lulin at the time of writing in early February, and its brilliance certainly appears to have matched expectations. This is a relief as comets are notoriously unpredictable, which is one of the reasons they are so fascinating to observe. On the 5th you have an excellent opportunity to find Lulin close to the Beehive cluster, described on page 34. It will be an easy object to spot in binoculars as a round fuzzy patch. Once you have located it, try following it for a few nights – you will be surprised at how quickly it moves against the background stars.



I made this sketch of Comet Lulin using a small 80mm telescope

There are no known meteor showers during March, but there is always the chance of spotting what is known as a 'sporadic' meteor. The darker the skies you are under, the easier they are to detect, so you see them more often.



Use this chart to find the objects described in this month's Night Sky

Until next month I wish you clear skies to enjoy the planets, star clusters and a passing comet.

Dale Holt is always pleased to hear from you at
chippingdale.observatory@btinternet.com

MEMORIES OF MY CHILDHOOD IN BUNTINGFORD

(part 8)

By Peter Wonnocott

Another project undertaken by the Aylott family was the use of a binding machine pulled by a tractor, because not being too much of an arable farming concern, they never invested in a combine harvester for obvious reasons. This binding machine would produce sheaves of corn that would duly be deposited on the ground alongside the binder as it worked its way around the field. 'Extras' would then be commissioned to stand the sheaves upright in small clusters around the field, to keep them dry until such time as a large threshing machine could be used to separate the corn grains from the husks, which would automatically be put in sacks. The corn stems that were left would be stacked into a haystack construction, alongside the threshing machine.

I particularly liked it when the Scott farm employees were at work in the fields above my garden at home, because they always favoured the use of the Fowler Field Marshall crawler tractors. These were rugged single cylinder diesel powered units, which gave off a distinct exhaust bark, especially when they were working hard ploughing (quite a powerful machine for their size). If, for some reason, I turned up just as the farmhand was uncovering the protective tilt from the machine ready to start work, he would exclaim "Ah! Just the person I need to help me", referring to me. "You can give me a hand to start this machine." Now, these tractors had no electric starter motor on the engines, as most have today, and there were two ways of starting these particular ones. One way was to use an explosive cartridge, which had to be screwed securely into a part of the engine. Striking the end of the securing component would cause the cartridge to explode in the engine, allowing the piston to start the rotation of the crankshaft, which the engine's own momentum would take over and keep it running. Now this method the Scotts didn't favour, because of the cost of the cartridges every time the engine was started. The other way of firing the machine up was by inserting a special piece of rolled up card, which you set light to and placed, still smouldering, into where the cartridge would have been put. This allowed the pre-warming of the cylinder and then a huge starting handle would be inserted into the large flywheel on the side of the engine. This also had a huge thread running round its circumference; a sprung-loaded knife-edged wheel with a cable attached to it, which raised the valve mechanism of the cylinder, thereby preventing compression, would be duly rested partway into the grooves of the thread. As the flywheel rotated with the starting handle and gained speed, the wheel would run off the thread of the flywheel, allowing full compression and culminating in the firing of the engine (provided you were turning the handle fast enough).

This is where I came in. I was another pair of hands on the handle that would ease the burden of the man trying to heave it round on his own. A well worthwhile effort, as I nearly always ended up riding on the machine for a long time throughout the day, as a way of thanks from the driver. Additionally I provided company for him, as he would otherwise be working in the fields all day with no one to pass the time of day with. A rather lonely situation in anyone's book, especially as the poor chap would be out in all weathers, braving the elements. The luxury of today's farm machines, with their warm cabs to protect you, was absent on most tractors in those days. Two of the farmhand's names I can recall as being David Pentecost and Frank Corbidge.

I also recall the annual events coming to town in the shape of the circus, which would usually be in a field on the outskirts of town by the vicarage. I personally only went to that

once or twice with my parents, as the smell that the animals produced on a hot day in the summer was more than I could stand.

The other one was the fair which was usually held in a field alongside the railway station, and was always a source of enjoyment for a lot of us. My personal favourite was the cakewalk, but we also enjoyed trying to win prizes on the coconut shy or the rifle range. It was a few days of different pleasure at a certain time in the year, although other events, at different times, included fetes etc. held at various large gardens and on the lawns of houses around the town.

Another comical source of amusement to me, whenever I re-call it, was one my father told me while working at his post of night watchman at the old army depot. Now, although dad would stand up for himself, he was only a lightly built man of small stature and was neither brave nor fearless. He would often come home from work telling us how creepy and dark it was when he did his rounds inside the compound. While touring the perimeter fence, he would be on edge at all the creaks and groans that emanated from the buildings in a high wind.

Part of his rounds included the few M.O.D. buildings opposite the main complex, situated on the edge of a field on the other side of the main A10 road. There was an unlit area, as far as external lighting went, so he would rely on the hand torch supplied to him to find his way round. Now one particular evening, as he ventured round these dark buildings, he heard a noise from round the rear of the buildings and called out "Who's there?", to which the only reply was a rather loud cough. Quickly beating a hasty retreat back across the road to the safety of the fenced compound, he sat wondering and worrying as to who or what it could be.

Enter PC West on his rounds, who dropped in for his usual cup of hot tea and a chat. On telling him of his experience across the road earlier, they both set out to investigate together. As they rounded the corner of one of the buildings, a noise could still be heard and PC West called out "Show yourself, you are trespassing on government property you know", and they both shone their torch beams in the direction of the noise, from where another cough sounded in the still night air. What they saw caused them both to fall about laughing at their fear of who or what it could be. A cow was merrily munching the grass inside the perimeter barbed wire fence, having somehow found its way through a weakness in the fence that normally retained them all in the field behind. On telling his mates of this scary event, his buddies proceeded to rib him for days after, about his so called 'dangerous encounter with the unknown'.

A couple more memories have just popped into my head, one being of my pre-school years around the time that Archers was being constructed. I seem to remember that a few prisoners of war were put to work, building the connecting road. Most of them were a jovial lot of fellows, often calling out and giving comments to whoever passed by within the vicinity. They were guarded by a soldier or two with rifles, one of whom, via an official, secured lodgings with us for a few days. I cannot recall his name nor where he came from, but for some strange reason, I still retain a photograph of him in his army uniform among my pictures, kept by my parents and acquired by me on their passing from this world.

To be continued

ENERGY SAVING LIGHT BULB MYTH BUSTER

Why use them?

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 80% less electricity, save you about £3 a year each, and last up to 12 times longer than old-fashioned tungsten bulbs.

What are they?

Think of them as compact versions of the strip lights used in work places since the 1950s.

Have they improved?

You can now get all shapes and sizes, fittings and levels of brightness, including 150W equivalent and dimmable options. A recent blind test of 761 shoppers found that 64% preferred the light from them.

Is it better to leave them running?

No, switching them on uses the equivalent electricity as leaving them on for a few minutes. Most now light instantaneously.

How should I dispose of them?

Use the service for the safe disposal of fluorescent tubes provided by your local waste and recycling centre.



Is mercury an issue?

Ironically, installing CFLs ought to help reduce the need for coal-fired electricity production – a major cause of global mercury emissions. A CFL contains about 5mg of mercury locked into its tube – this is harmless.

What should I do if I smash one?

Ventilate the room for 15 minutes. Put on your rubber gloves, brush the bits into a bag, seal it and drop it at your local waste and recycling centre next time you visit.

Are tungsten bulbs banned?

No. Manufacturers have agreed to withdraw them for sale, starting with 100W this year, 60W in 2010 and 40W in 2011.

Where can I find out more?

Contact the Energy Saving Trust on **0800 512 012**.



Buntingford
Twinning Association
presents

AN AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE

Freman College, Bowling Green Lane

Saturday 14th March 2009

8pm to 11.30pm

with
**The Fabulous
Pete Skiffins**

No expensive bar prices!
**Just Bring Your Own
Drink and Glasses**

*Come along.... and
dance the night
away!!*



Tickets £12.50 (including Supper)

Available from- Jean Cook- Tel 01763 271495

Poet's Corner

A MESSAGE TO THE POPULACE

My lords above protect us!
The Taxes are too much!
There's parking fees, oh woe is me,
The council is too tough.

Forget about Nigeria,
Walls more bullet-hole than brick.
Forget the kids in Kenya,
Where the water makes them sick
In China, people dare not ask
Or make their voices heard
As the Emperor's Militia
Will shoot at one wrong word.
The executions in Iran
With extreme prejudice
To read the local literature,
You'd feel a page was missed.

I am aware you'd want to talk
About the local strife.
But face it, we're the best-off
We've got an easy life.
Please, just think, before you moan
About the cost of fuel;
We have three-bedroom shelters
From a storm so strong and cruel.

by Melinda S

Spring

Be gone grey skies
And the snow too,
Welcome warmer days
With the sun shining through
I want to get up early
And sit in my garden to see,
All the birds feeding busily.
They get so tame
And come right up to me.

by Beryl Rhodes
Feb 09



'S...no Joke'

The snow came down and Buntingford closed ...
not a door opened and no-one nosed
any further abroad than the window upstairs ...
watching as snowflakes drifted down in pairs.

Snowy silence and virgin white ... all turned to ice or rain overnight ...
It melts away to slush on the land,
and it's just dirty water in the hand.
Not much to enjoy some might say,
In twenty years it will come this way...
have fun in the snow and remember your neighbours
and help dig them out as part of your labours.
Make sure they've got the staples in their larder
then make yourself cosy whilst it snows even harder.

by Teresa Bonner





REPORTED CRIMES FOR BUNTINGFORD AND SURROUNDING RURAL AREAS FOR PERIOD 01/09/08 – 31/12/08

For the above period, 215 crimes were reported for Buntingford and the surrounding villages, down from 252 during the corresponding period last year. Of these 68 are either detected, pending whereby a prosecution decision is awaited or have been 'no crimed' due to the investigation indicating that no crime was committed. This is an increase of six over the corresponding period last year and represents a 31.63% detection rate for the area, an increase of over 9% on the corresponding quarter last year.

Buntingford town had 86 reported offences, with those detected or pending currently showing 25, a detection rate of 29.06%, up from 20.95% for the same period last year.

Rural crime to the East of the A10 has reduced by six offences compared to the same period last year, with the detection rate increased by just under 3%. The rural area to the West of the A10 currently shows reported crime down by 13 offences compared to last year. However, the detection rate compared to the same period last year shows an increase of over 15% and stands currently at 35.7%.

The crimes consisted of vehicle crime, vehicle theft, theft from vehicle, burglary, attempted burglary, criminal damage and theft from shop, as well as other crimes. However, all were at the lower end of criminality, notwithstanding the personal impact any offence can have on its victim. The anticipated rise in fuel theft has not materialised to the degree feared, due in the main to owners taking on board advice given regarding increased security measures.

Currently, the policing year from 01/04/08 to date shows reported crime down by 14.2%, while detections are up 8.5% taking into account all crimes reported.

For the above period, 804 incidents were reported within Buntingford and its surrounding rural area, of which 279 related to the town itself. This is a decrease of 195 on the previous quarter.

These reported incidents included the above crimes, antisocial behaviour, incidents on roads, noise nuisance, as well as other less serious incidents.

EMERGENCY / CRIME OCCURRING NOW	999
Non-emergency number	0845 33 00 222
Inspector 913 Damien Kennedy	01992 533127
Sergeant 1714 Duncan Wallace	01992 533328
Rural PC 669 Kevin Gibbs	01992 533329
Rural PCSO 6666 Amanda Higham	01992 533329
Rural PCSO 6577 Jo Alston	01992 533330
Town PC 2232 David Miller	01992 533330
Town PCSO 6519 Sarah Brown	01992 533330
Town PCSO 6604 Francis Higgins	01992 533330
Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator	01992 531423
Jill Dockley	01992 533651



Extracts from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Rural News and Buntingford Newsletter. To receive a copy of the Buntingford Newsletter by email, please contact amanda.higham@herts.pnn.police.uk



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Buntingford Civic Society will take place on Wednesday, 22nd April 2009 at 7.30 pm in The Benson Hall, Buntingford.

*Following the business of the meeting, there will be a talk by **Inspector Damien Kennedy** of Hertfordshire Constabulary*

Light refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting.



Disco



Friday 20th March 2009

The Community Centre • Luynes Rise • Buntingford

13 – 17 year olds

Tickets £2 (available from Freman College and the Youth Club)

A disco is set to go ahead on Friday 20th March 2009, thanks to PCSO Sarah Brown securing funding through an initiative from East Herts District Council. All monies collected will be used for future local projects.

BUNTINGFORD CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

Telephone 0844 848 9700

email: bureau@buntingfordcab.cabnet.org.uk

Mondays 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesdays 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesdays 10:00am – 1:00pm

Closed Thursdays and Fridays



ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR MORTGAGE?

Unfortunately, this is a concern that is affecting many people at the moment. Here are some brief notes on how to tackle it. Take a look at what you are spending money on and ask yourself the following questions:

- Can I cut back on my spending without having to struggle?
- Can I get a better deal on my mortgage?
- Am I behind on any other loans secured against my home?
- Can I change the way I am paying off my other debts that are not such a priority, by talking to the people I owe money to?
- Would an agreed 'payment holiday' or changing to 'interest only' payments help me to pay my mortgage?
- Is my home worth more or less than the amount I borrowed to buy it?
- Is my loan regulated by the Consumer Credit Act and can I take action to reduce payments or extend the term of the mortgage in the short term?
- Do I have mortgage payment protection insurance (MPPI) that I can claim on?

If there is a problem and you cannot pay your monthly mortgage payments in full, you should talk to your lender immediately. Be honest with them about what is causing the problem. You won't be the only person in this situation and your lender will have some experience of how to help. If the lender doesn't hear from you and doesn't know why you are not paying, they are more likely to start legal action to repossess your home. However, if your lender knows you are trying your best to pay the loan, they should give you more time to sort out your money problems.

We have had some enquiries about the Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme which was announced in the media recently. There are several criteria that have to be fulfilled before anyone is eligible for this help. Firstly, you have to be imminently homeless because of repossession and in priority need, e.g. you have children living with you or you are disabled or vulnerable. If your household earns more than £60,000 a year, you will not be eligible. There is also a cap on the value of a property that can be considered. In the East of England this is £190,000. If your situation fits, then you *may* get assistance from your Local Authority *if* it is participating in the scheme.

For more information and help drop in to a CAB, where you can pick up a booklet from which this article has been taken, or talk to an adviser.



Millfield First and Nursery School



The last few weeks have been very busy ones for us at Millfield. We had to close our school for three days when the snow came but we all enjoyed having the chance to get out and have fun in the snow.

We have had a visit from Ofsted. We have not had the official report back yet, but both inspectors enjoyed visiting our school and chatting to us. The School Council had a special meeting with the lead inspector. When we know the result we will let you know.

KS1 have been walking around Buntingford taking photos of some of the lovely buildings. They have been making sketches from these pictures to create a very special library area. Mr Mike Smith, who is an artist, has been helping us with the project.

The Sports Partnership organised a Speed Stacking tournament. We took a team to the North Herts finals, which were held in Royston. We were the fastest school there and have now been invited to take part in the finals at Hatfield University, later this month.

Our Eco-Action team have started an Eco Shop. On the last Friday of each month they sell a range of stationery made from recycled materials. Lots of children came along to buy pens, pencils and notepads.

By Rachel, Polly, Kane, Kyle, Jasmine and Sidney (Assembly Committee)



Speed Stacking



BUNTINGFORD

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Sharing Leisure Activities
Life long learning
It is never too late to expand your
horizons

The U3A is coming to Buntingford

**The first Monthly meeting for all who want to join
is to be held
at the Seth Ward Community Centre on
Monday 9th March 2009 at 2.00pm**

U3A offers people who have partly retired or fully
retired the opportunity to share knowledge,
experience and talents with others and learn from
them in friendly surroundings

Come along and find out what it is all about

The U3A is a rapidly expanding movement all
over the UK and around the world

*Joining fee for period ending
31st December 2009 - £12.50*

*For further information contact
John Croll 01763 241690*





BE 'READY FOR ANYTHING'

A two-week radio campaign which called on people across the county to think ahead of an emergency and be 'Ready for Anything' took place in January and February this year.

Developed by Hertfordshire Resilience, the county's multi-agency planning forum, 'Ready for Anything' targeted the vulnerable at home – those people who are elderly and live alone, or who rely on support from a family member or professional care service, or those who are socially isolated.

The themes of the campaign cover bad weather and flu, which are highlighted as areas for attention on the county's risk register. Using scenarios of flooding and household emergencies, the radio adverts ask people to think about what practical and common sense things they can do to avoid problems in the event of a crisis which affects their home.

The campaign is also being supported by BBC Three Counties Radio, who are running a series of features on their breakfast show next week around flooding, flu and severe weather.

Richard Smith, Executive Member for Community Safety, said: "The authorities in Hertfordshire have plans in place to respond to emergencies, but it is important that residents think about simple things they can do now to prepare for an emergency such as severe weather, flooding and widespread influenza.

"The best items to have in your home in case of an emergency are: a torch; radio (battery powered); telephone numbers of family and friends and emergency help lines; bottled water; ready-to-eat food and a first aid kit.

"Simple things to prepare include making copies of financial documents and keeping them somewhere safe so you can access them in an emergency, and familiarising yourself with how to switch off gas, electricity and water supplies."

Have you befriended a vulnerable person, are any of your neighbours vulnerable or are members of your family vulnerable? A leaflet called 'Ready For Anything', providing information and guidance, is available at your local library. It includes useful tips, advice and contact information on issues such as:

- A Carer's Emergency Scheme
- The effects of flooding and how to prepare
- Vulnerable customer schemes offered by utility providers
- What to have in your home and car in case of an emergency
- Electric blanket and home fire safety checks

If an emergency happens, tune into your local radio station. The authorities will use local radio to update and advise the public.

The leaflet, plus further information, is available at:
www.hertsdirect.org/emergency or call 01992 555961 for a copy.

BUNTINGFORD W.I.

Only twelve members braved the raging blizzards on Thursday 12th February to get to our meeting, only to find that our speaker wasn't able to make it either. So we ended up having a chat, a cup of tea and an early night.

Hopefully we will have better luck this month, at our meeting on Thursday 12th March. Our speaker is Rory O'Brien and his subject is New Zealand, 'Where we came from and who we are'.

All our meetings are at the United Reformed Church Hall and start at 7:45pm. Visitors are always welcome.

Come along to Buntingford W.I.'s SPRING LUNCH

on Wednesday 11th March 2009
at the Benson Hall
12:30pm – 2:30pm

Enjoy a bowl of soup and a roll for just £1.50

Also available: teas, coffee, home made cakes,
books and raffle.

Everyone welcome!



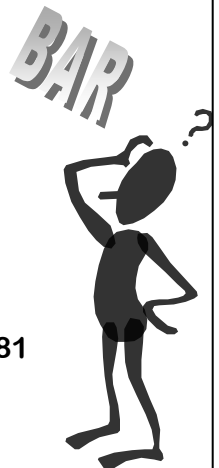
The Royal British Legion Quiz Night

3rd April 2009
7:30pm for 8:00pm
Benson Hall

£8 includes fish and chips
or chicken and chips

Tickets from Di Bamford on 01763 848 481
or Carole Warren on 01763 848 482

All proceeds to the RBL Poppy Appeal



Ware Operatic
presents
Offenbach's

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

an

Outrageous, Fizzy, Frothy,

**Operatic
Romp!**

**3 – 7
March
2009**

Comic operetta in three acts from the original by
HECTOR CREMIEUX and LUDOVIC HALEVY.
New book and lyrics by PHIL PARK. Music by
JACQUES OFFENBACK. Music adapted and
arranged by RONALD HANMER.
This amateur arrangement is presented by
arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD.
Director John Hebden
Musical Director Malcolm Dorling



Box Office 01992 531500

Have you enjoyed this month's Journal?

If so, why not have it delivered regularly to your door. Join Buntingford Civic Society and part of your fee will pay for your Journal and the remainder will go to the Civic Society whose efforts monitor the town we value.



BCS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I / We* wish to apply for family membership of the Buntingford Civic Society, at the annual subscription rate indicated below.

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Tel: _____

I / We* enclose £7 door delivery subscription / £12 postal subscription *

Signed: _____

Send to: Chris Eagle (Membership Secretary)
5 Monks Walk
Buntingford
Hertfordshire SG9 9EE

*delete as appropriate